

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JANUARY 2004

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Ice storm paralyzes County



An ice storm that began early January 25 paralyzed most southern states and caused the two-day closure of Scotland County offices, the Courthouse, schools and most businesses and industries. EMS Director Roylin Hammond advised citizens to stay home. Through a regularly recorded message on WLNC Radio and in local media, Hammond warned of the slick, black ice covering primary and secondary roads in the County. Black ice is particularly deceptive and dangerous to motorists because it is rarely visible on asphalt. There were several accidents, but no major power outages in the area.

Sand volleyball and kick ball added to adult athletics

Volleyball and kick ball, both gaining in national popularity, will be added to the adult athletics program this year.

The tennis courts at Presbyterian Park currently are being transformed into a sand court in preparation for co-ed adult volleyball this summer.

Presbyterian Park courts have deteriorated over the years and fewer people were using them as the popularity of tennis declined. Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the transformation to volleyball courts is a good solution.

Once the ground has been leveled, a four-inch base of sand will cover the surface. The work is being done by the Public Buildings staff, and cost is nominal.

see Volleyball, page 2

**Completion of the
Scotland County Monthly was delayed
because of the recent ice storm.**

Participants begin the New Year with Great Ex-STEP-tations

Nearly 100 people "stepped" into the New Year by registering for Scotland County Great Ex-STEP-tations, a program sponsored by Scotland County Healthy Carolinians Physical Activity and Nutrition Committee (PAN Committee) to promote better health through walking. Registration kicked off January 8 at Scotland Memorial Hospital's Healthy Resolutions Fair.

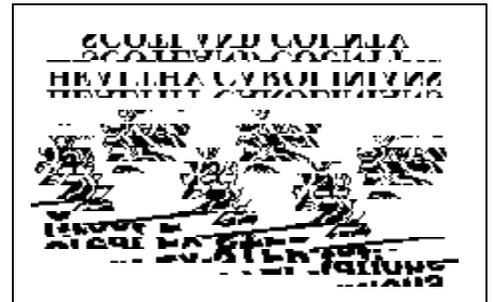
A step-counter worn by participants motivates them to increase their physical activity. The program spans a three-month period, and participants set their own walking goals.

Barbara Mack, Chair of the Physical Activity Committee, said, "Most people average 3,000 to 5,000 steps a day in normal activities. They increase their goal in increments with the ultimate goal of reaching at least 10,000 steps a day."

Mack explained the positives associated with increased physical activity. "It can lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes as well as other chronic diseases. This is an opportunity to get the community to move more."

She added, "Participants with a chronic disease, chest pain or shortness of breath are encouraged to see their medical provider before physical activity is increased."

Each registrant receives a packet that includes a pedometer (step counter) and a walking log with guidelines on setting goals and tips on making lifestyle changes that will help them move more.



Registration is \$10, which sustains the program through future phases that will occur seasonally. Participants will receive a Great Ex-STEP-tations t-shirt at the conclusion of the three-month program. Additional registration dates and times will be announced.

Healthy Carolinians Project Coordinator Andy Kurtzman thanked the sponsors who helped get the program started. They are Scotland Memorial Foundation, Scotland County Health Department, Dr. Bill Stroud and Dr. Kurt Jute.

"The program is a great way to kick off the New Year or any time of the year," said Kurtzman. "The walking promotion only benefits those who take the first step."

"Get outdoors, visit your neighborhood and the local walking trails, and do something with family and friends," he said. "We look forward to hearing the success stories of participants."

For further information about Scotland County Great Ex-STEP-tations, contact Andy Kurtzman or Barbara Mack at 277-2440.

Layers define characteristics

Characteristics and attributes unique to Scotland County are defined in map layers on GIS, the Geographic Information Systems site at www.scotlandcounty.org.

Map characteristics located in eight categories shown on the left include Base Layers, Municipal Data, Environmental, Infrastructure, Planning, Political, Transportation and Image Backgrounds.

The layers are located to the right of the Scotland County map on the GIS website.

First, click on a group layer name to reveal all the layers in the category.

Then click check-box to turn on/turn off layer.

To display changes, click "Refresh Map."

To identify layer attributes, click on the layer name, and it will be highlighted.

Select the identify tool, which is the "I" in a circle at the bottom of the Scotland County map.

Click on the data on the map to identify the attributes. A box will appear at the top of the screen, which provides the appropriate information.

The list to the left is a display of all the layer possibilities available to those who visit the GIS site.

Most layers are self explanatory. Others might seem somewhat vague. For instance, Hydrography Lines and Polygons under the Environmental category display streams, lakes and pools of water, both natural and manmade.

Under Image Backgrounds, USGS Topo is United States Geological Survey.

24k is the standard topography layer while 250k provides a broader view for regional calculations.

And Feb 2000 Orthos is a tool that assists users in producing accurate maps.

Notes from the County Manager



Scott Sauer

Greetings. This is the third consecutive year dangerous winter weather conditions have caused Scotland County government to close all offices.

There are few exceptions to the closure. EMS staff are on duty 24/7 as are Sheriff's Department and Jail employees. Depending on feasibility based on weather conditions, the Public Buildings staff often is on the job clearing sidewalks and parking lots at public facilities so they will be safe for citizens.

Staff in these departments are identified as essential personnel. The health, safety and welfare of Scotland County citizens and visitors depend upon their being on the job around the clock regardless of the prevailing hazards or risks.

I would like to thank these departments for their dedication and commitment to service. It's comforting to know there are people always working on behalf of the citizen and prepared to respond to the needs of a community when the unexpected occurs.

the Birthday list for February

1 Betty Blue Gholston (Commissioner); **2** Reggie Morrison (EMS); **3** Lisa Tew (Health), Woodrow Walters (Sheriff) and Anna Smith (EMS); **8** Al Blades (Parks and Recreation) and Katie Harris (DSS); **12** Mary Alford (DSS), Bobby Freeman (Sheriff) and Tequilla Smith (Jail); **13** Karlene Quick (DSS) and Charles Williams (Administration); **14** Yvonne Deberry (DSS); **15** James Murphy (Sheriff); **16** Patricia Brown (Register of Deeds) and Tony McQuage (Inspections); **17** Joe Knott (DSS); **18** Celeste McRae (DSS), Clyde Smith (Sheriff), Joel Floyd (EMS) and Kenneth Perry (Jail); **19** Sandra Skamperle (DSS); **20** Teresa Jacobs (DSS), Glen Lockey (Public Works) and Mike Edge and Heather Brock (EMS); **22** Amy Inniss (DSS); **24** Ann Kurtzman (Administration); **25** Frances Moody (Health) and Jim Blackwell (Public Works); **26** Robin Quick (Health); **27** Shirley Howell (Sheriff); **28** Jarrod High (Jail).

Volleyball preparations underway

Continued from page 1

Co-ed adult kick ball, slated for the fall, follows the volleyball season. Kick ball is similar to the way softball is played. In kick ball bats and gloves are not used, just the bases. The game has seen a resurgence in popularity.



Sand will cover the courts at Presbyterial Park in preparation for adult volleyball.

Athletic Director Al Blades explained, "Kick ball is one that can be played by just about anyone. There is a certain amount of sentimentality attached to it because it reminds people of their childhood."

Sand volleyball season begins May 24, and kick ball begins August 9 at Jaycee Park on Gill Street.

County's mobile home recycling program viewed by other communities as a model

Public Works Supervisor Steve Edge and County Engineer Jim Blackwell in August discussed specifics of Scotland County's mobile home recycling program during the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners annual meeting. Considered a model program, Blackwell has received numerous inquiries from other North Carolina counties and communities up and down the eastern seaboard from as far away as Connecticut and Vermont who wish to develop a similar program.

by Jim Blackwell, County Engineer

Abandoned mobile homes come in all shapes, sizes and numbers. They might be found in groups where an entire mobile home park was vacated or in single units located at the end of a long dirt road. Normally the last resident in the mobile home didn't own it and could care less about it.

Problems with these abandoned structures are fairly apparent and numerous. Unightly and unsanitary, they attract rodents and snakes, and they provide a sanctuary for illegal dumping by some of our less environmentally correct citizens.

After a few mobile home parks were abandoned, Scotland County staff realized no mechanism was in place to deal with abandoned mobile homes that didn't require a great deal of red tape and time. A task force of department heads, which included the Sheriff, Planning and Solid Waste directors and the County Attorney, developed a plan to correct the problem.

The plan had to be cost neutral so no tax dollars would support the project; legal using General Statutes and local ordinances along with civil, financial and criminal penalties; and environmentally safe through proper disposal and recycling of home and debris at the Scotland County Landfill.

Scotland County Local Ordinance #28 and a protocol for administering the local ordinance was a result of the task force efforts.

Here's how it works. The Planning Department receives all complaints and gives written notice to the last registered owner of the mobile home and to the landowner on which the mobile home resides that the structure is in violation of the ordinance.

If the owner does not correct the violations within 30 days the Solid Waste Enforcement Officer serves the owner with a summons and a court date. This normally gets positive, voluntary actions from the owner. *(The County has a unique relationship with the Sheriff's Department in which the Sheriff assigns a full-time sworn officer to the Solid Waste Department to enforce solid waste regulations, illegal dumping and other special assignments. The officer takes work assignments from the Solid Waste Director and is fully funded through the Solid Waste Program).*

Otherwise, the mobile home is delivered at the owner's expense to the Scotland County Construction and Demolition (C & D) landfill for final disposition. The mobile home is weighed and charged a tipping fee for C&D waste and parked in an area near the working face of the landfill.

Since some parts of the mobile home being dismantled could be recycled, the task force successfully applied for a grant from the State Department of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance to purchase recycling equipment.

Recycling a mobile home is a straightforward process, which can be accomplished with mostly unskilled workers. In most instances community service workers can perform the majority of the work. It takes two men roughly six hours to completely recycle a mobile home.

The mobile home first is placed near the working face of the C&D landfill for easy transport of remaining debris from the demolition to the landfill. The aluminum siding and frames from the structure and wiring and appliances are then removed. The metal roofing is stripped off, and the wood framing is removed by the track hoe leaving the steel frame. The recyclables are sorted and moved to a storage area, and the remaining debris is pushed onto the working face for landfilling.

The program is cost effective, and the major revenue source is the tipping fee, which is the case in almost all solid waste programs. The revenue from the sale of recyclables is not stable or significant. The expenditure cost is for labor to dismantle the mobile home, which results in a slight net gain in revenue, which allows the County to break even.



Abandoned mobile homes like the ones pictured above are perfect candidate structures for recycling.



If an owner does not correct violations within 30 days of notice by the County, the owner is then served with a summons and a court date.



A worker removes aluminum siding and window frames for recycling while the remaining debris is winds up in the landfill.

Photos by Steve Edge, Public Works Supervisor

Post Scripts

In Health Department news: Congratulations to **Winnie Lail** RNC on her December 20, 2003 marriage to Donnie Robinson. **Barbara Mack's** son Ben graduated from NC State on December 17 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business. Welcome to **Lucy Walters**, Nutritionist in the WIC program. Best wishes to **Stephanie McDonald-Patterson** in her future endeavors as a health educator. Congratulations to **Tina Hunt** RN on her marriage to Michael Oxendine January 24. **Donna McQueen** in Billing was named November Employee of the Month and **Tessie Cousar** in Management Support was named December Employee of the Month. The Board of Health welcomed new members **Dave Raley** (Engineer), **Hattie McCallum** (Registered Nurse) and **Dr. Olivia Guzman** (Veterinarian) and **Rev. Otis McMillan**, who was reappointed for a second term. Congratulations to **Rachel Peguese** on the January 9 birth of her granddaughter Jasmine Tyneice Joyner to daughter Jessica. Condolences to **Pearlene Leggett** on the recent death of her father. ☞ Congratulations to Planning Director **Marcus Norton** on his January 31 marriage to Janet James. ☞ **Hazel McPhatter** with the Cooperative Extension Service graduated a group of youth at Wagram Primary Scotland Scholars for attending six classes on eating healthy, fitness and safety. ☞ We extend a speedy recovery wish to **Tenita Bullard** of DSS. ☞ Celebrating anniversaries of employment at EMS are **Pat Lathrop**, 24 years; **Mike Edge**, 17 years; **Lee Chavis**, 7 years; **Anna Smith**, 2 years; and **June Hunt** and **John Ball**, 1 year. ☞ We extend our sympathy to **Steve Edge**, Public Works, on the death of his grandmother.



Brad Allen presented the County with a specially designed throw, which celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Lumber River Council of Government's designation as an Area Agency on Aging. Scotland County is a member of the LRCOG, and Allen is its Aging Program Administrator.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for December:
Responded to 436 Medical/Trauma calls.

Treated 71 motor vehicle accident patients.

911 Report Highlights:

Received 1,588 total calls
383 EMS

276 Sheriff's Department
100 Laurinburg Police Department

44 Fire Department
410 hang-up calls

98 wrong numbers

97 open line calls

775 cellular calls.

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since November 16: **June Hunt**, full-time with EMS and **Pierre Lee** and **Tanya Gibson** part-time with EMS; **Jarrold High**, Jail; **Elizabeth Shutt**, DSS; and **Hope Hatcher**, Tax.

ECA recognitions made

The following recognitions were made during the recent Scotland County Extension and Community Association (ECA) annual achievement program and awards dinner. Those members recognized demonstrated productivity in the previous year in the areas of exercise, reading, perfect attendance and volunteer hours.

The VEEP Award went to Charlotte Thompson of the Town and Country Club and is given annually to a member who has contributed the most time to the ECA during the year. Thompson received a \$25 check and will go on to district competition.

Creative Minds, recognized as Club of the Year, received a \$50 check. A relatively new club, Creative Minds was honored for its hard work and its willingness to help out and to do anything in order to make the organization successful.

Installed as 2004 officers and issue coordinators were Myrtle Ware, President; Mozelle Parker, Vice President; Celeste Lewis, Secretary; Majorie Sharpe, Treasurer; Jean Nadean, Historian; and Donna Faulk, Advisor.

Issue coordinators include Sue Bruce, Family; Midge English, Global; Ida Stewart, Environment; Charlotte Thompson, Special Reports; Norma Jones, Health/Wellness; and Sharon English, Community Outreach.

The newest club Living Stones, new club members and guests of ECA members also were recognized.

The Lifetime Membership Award went to Juanita Bowen for



Back row, left to right, Donna Faulk, Sue Bruce, Midge English, Charlotte Thompson, Sharon English. Front, left to right, Myrtle Ware, Mozelle Parker, Celeste Lewis, Norma Jones.

her numerous contributions to the ECA Association in doing all that is necessary for the ECA to run smoothly.

Club presidents who help make the ECA a vital organization include Midge English, Central Friendship; Charlotte Thompson, Town and Country; Celeste Lewis, Wagram; and Faye Barton, Creative Minds. **Text by Donna Faulk. Photo by Pam Riemer.**

Scotland County Monthly is published by the County Manager's Office to provide news and information to employees.

Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Contact 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.