

# Scotland County Monthly



JULY 2007

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Lights installed at softball fields

*Installation of 16 light poles is underway at the Recreation Center softball fields.*

*Project completion is expected well before the seven fall softball tournaments are scheduled to begin.*

*The Tourism Development Authority is funding the project over a five-year period using three percent of the six percent hotel occupancy taxes.*



## Health Department awarded accreditation

The Scotland County Health Department was awarded full accreditation status June 29. Scotland County is one of 30 counties in the State to become accredited.

The award was made by the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board.

Accreditation is an accountability system that can help local health departments determine current performance and capacity, identify areas for system improvement, strengthen State and local partnerships and assure that a strong public health system is in place to respond effectively to both day-to-day public health issues and to public health emergencies.

The accreditation system for North Carolina local health departments was established in 2005. The legislation requires that all local health departments achieve accreditation status prior to calendar year 2014.

The Health Department volunteered to participate in the mandatory accreditation process, one of a few that exist across the country. North Carolina is being viewed as a leader in this effort.

The focus of North Carolina's Local Health Department Accreditation is on the capacity of the local health department to perform at a prescribed, basic level of quality the three core functions of assessment, assurance, and policy development and the 10 essential services of public health.

The three components of the program include an agency self-assessment, a three-day site visit by a multidisciplinary team and determination of accreditation status, based on the site team report, by the

North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board.

One strength the site visit team noted in its report was that "staff is very dedicated and have contributed many years of service to public health."

*See accreditation, page 2*

## Health Fairs provide free screenings

FirstCarolinaCare (FCC) and Scotland County will host a series of Health Fairs for employees August 15, 22 and 24.

FCC, the County's health insurance provider, will offer free screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol. Bone density tests will be available for females age 40 and over.

The first fair will be Wednesday, August 15, at the Government Administration Building, 507 West Covington Street. The Health Education Room at the County Complex, 1405 West Boulevard, will be the site for the next two fairs, Wednesday, August 22 and Friday, August 24. The final fair will be held at the Sheriff's Department at the Courthouse Thursday, September 6. Health Fair times all four days are 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"The extended dates and locations provide all employees with an opportunity to participate," explained Human Resources Manager Susan Butler. "This will make it convenient for employees to attend one of the fairs."

Butler added, "Last year, we had 60 percent employee participation. FCC and the County want to improve on that percentage increasing participation to 75 percent. All employees are encouraged to focus on their health and well being and participate in the screenings."

A continental breakfast will be served on each of these dates since participants are required to fast for 12 hours prior to their appointment time. While fasting, participants can drink water and black coffee only and can continue taking prescription medications.

Door prizes will be awarded each day. Prizes awarded last year included a variety of sporting equipment along with a mountain bike with helmet for each fair date. The grand prize was an iPod. "You'll have to come this year to see what prizes are being offered," said Butler.

Contact [sbutler@scotlandcounty.org](mailto:sbutler@scotlandcounty.org) to make an appointment for your preferred time and date. Appointments will be made in 10-minute intervals.

Butler added, "Come get a free mini-physical. Immediate results will be provided. You can take the results to your doctor for your medical records. That will save you money in lab work co-insurance."



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## Sister City exchange program now allows law enforcement to visit Oban

When a handful of Scotland High School students made the annual pilgrimage to sister city Oban, Scotland, a Sheriff's Deputy went with them.

Deputy Larry Tunstall was selected to make the first-time-ever law enforcement/officer exchange where he immersed himself in the day-to-day activities of the police department in Oban. Sheriff Shep Jones, in cooperation with Scotland County Schools, coordinated the law enforcement exchange.

Tunstall shadowed Police Officer Jeremy Moore and was a guest at the home of Moore and his family during his 10-day visit. Moore, in turn, will visit Scotland County in October and stay with Tunstall and his family.

According to Tunstall, there are differences and similarities in law enforcement between Oban and Scotland County. Oban, for instance, is a single community, not a county with municipalities.

"There is even a police officer who works more as a game warden," said Tunstall. "He protects the sea eagle eggs and nests from poachers and helps replenish the eagle population."

Crimes considered serious are different, too. "Things that would excite them — stealing a car. Their level of crime, or what they would think is extreme, is like every day to us," Tunstall explained. "The first day I was there, they had recovered a stolen car, and they thought that was like a murder."

Stealing drugs and alcohol-related issues are what challenge the police force in Oban on a regular basis, said Tunstall. "They have more of a knife crime. We have a gun crime."

"They don't carry guns," said Tunstall. "There is only one gun in the department, and it's under triple lock. They couldn't bring it out at any time unless they needed it."

One day, Tunstall logged on to the *Laurinburg Exchange* website to give Moore some insight into life in Scotland County. "The day the paper came out the Pizza Inn got robbed and there was a murder. He (Jeremy) was blown away."

Tunstall commented, "It's a more laid back environment in Oban for the citizens and the officers and for the department as a whole. The community is not spread out. The officers walk a lot. Some use bicycles."

Tunstall visited Oban schools and was surprised by the students' perception of crime in the States. "They think American policemen as a whole are just like the ones they see in the movies. Maybe I curbed their perception of that."

Some of the police training surprised Tunstall. "A lot of the training is done out there in live traffic where they go in excess of 100 miles an hour, chasing each other up and down the road. Picture doing that on US 74 during the holidays. It sounds crazy, but it's safe the way they did it. I told them that would never work over here."



**Sheriff's Deputy Larry Tunstall walks the beat with Oban Police Officer Jeremy Moore. Photo courtesy of the Oban Times.**



**Oban today has a resident population of 8,500 and is the unofficial capital of the West Highlands — the "Gateway to the Isles." Photo by Larry Tunstall**

## Health agency awarded accreditation Livestock agent joins staff

*continued from page 1*

The report continued, "They emphasize patient education and responsibility along with prevention and treatment."

Quality Assurance Coordinator and Agency Accreditation Coordinator Donna Deese said, "The staff has been working diligently since January in preparation for accreditation, but we have been working toward it for a year or more."

Deese added, "We have a great staff at our agency and we take pride in this accomplishment. The citizens of Scotland County should also take pride in the quality service that their Health Department provides."

"Accreditation is simply a reinforcement of our continued efforts to meet the public health needs of Scotland County," Deese said.

Health Director Ron Sapp said, "Achieving accreditation status validates and reinforces what we already knew about our agency and services."

He added, "I am proud of our staff and our Board of Health for their professionalism in providing quality public health services to our community."

Randy Wood has joined Cooperative Extension as Livestock Agent serving Scotland and Hoke counties in the areas of swine, cattle, goats, horses, small animals, water quality, waste management and forages. He also will assist with the County Animal Response Team.



**Randy Wood**

Cash receipts from livestock sales in Scotland County were approximately \$10 million in 2006. Based on this need, Wood will provide assistance in the livestock critical needs areas of nutrient management, environmental regulations, profitability for producers and bio-security.

He brings 17 years of livestock experience to the agency. He earned a BS in Animal Science and a Masters in Extension Education from NC State University.

## the Birthday list for August

1 Cordella Walker (Health) and Willie Hunt (Public Works); 2 Jennie Lowe (Health); 3 Katie Joye (Health) and Amanda Chavis (Cooperative Extension); 4 Ed Cushman (Health) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); 5 Mike McQueen (EMS) and Gene Jackson (Public Buildings); 8 Emily Williams (DSS) and Bobby Horne (Public Works); 9 Lucile Bridgeman and Deloris McNeil (DSS); 12 Jason Byrd (Sheriff) and Jim McQueen (Public Buildings); 13 Catherine Bailey (Health); 14 Kevin Strickland (EMS) and Joan Alford (DSS); 15 Dell Parker (Elections); 18 Nancy McPeck (Jail) and David Morrison (Cooperative Extension); 20 Stephanie Palmer and Andrea McLeod (DSS), Michael Nobles (Sheriff) and Rebecca Snyder (Health); 22 Jeffery Cooper (Sheriff) and Towana Harrington (DSS); 23 David Flowers (EMS); 24 Michelle McQuaige (Jail) and Cecil Butler (EMS); 25 William Leggette (Health); 27 Shastity Small (DSS); 28 Linda Harper (DSS) and Tenita Bullard (General Services); 29 Mitchell Johnson and Marcus Brown (Sheriff) and Tim Matthews (Public Buildings); 30 Robert Wray (Sheriff) and Kimberly McRae (DSS).

## Sign up August 14 to donate blood

Scotland County will sponsor a Blood Drive August 14 in the Annex conference room, 231 East Cronly Street. The goal is 30 units.

Appointments will be in 15-minute intervals from 12:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. E-mail [sbutler@scotlandcounty.org](mailto:sbutler@scotlandcounty.org) to schedule a time to donate.

There is a need for all blood types with a special appeal for "O" type blood donors. As an incentive, there will be a drawing for two \$500 gift cards open to all those in the region who donate between August 1 and August 31.

## EM Statistics

### EMS Report for June:

**Responded to** 381 Medical/Trauma calls

**Treated** 32 motor vehicle accident patients

**Administered** 92 wellness/blood pressure checks

**Sold** 21 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**340** EMS

**300** Sheriff's Department

**223** Laurinburg Police Department

**46** Fire Department

**559** hang-up calls

**76** wrong numbers

**58** open line calls

**1,233** cellular calls

**1,952** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**64** breathing problems

**45** sick person (specific diagnosis)

**43** chest pain

**32** traffic accidents (patients)

**26** falls/back injuries (traumatic)

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 97 on 6/9

**Temp (low)** 59 on 6/8

**Wind (mph)** 35 on 6/4

**Rainfall (inches)** 1.26 on 6/3

*Compiled by Tommy Hatcher*

## SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Registration for Parks and Recreation **Football and Cheerleading** will be held July 30 to August 11, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Scotland Place.

Registration is for boys and girls ages 7 to 12 (as of August 1). Registration fee is \$12. Cheerleading uniform fees will be collected during registration.

Youth registering for the first time must bring their birth certificate. Minor and Midget football players must weigh in.

Additional information is available at [www.scotlandcounty.org](http://www.scotlandcounty.org) (click on Parks and Recreation) or call Parks and Recreation at 277-2585.

**Scotland Youth Soccer** registration will be held July 30 to August 11 for youth ages 4 to 13, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Scotland Place. Registration is \$12. First-time participants must show a birth certificate.

## New member appointed to Elections Board



William Bullard, second from right, was the newest Board of Elections member to take the Oath of Office July 17. He joins members Janna Wegner, third from left, and Joyce Hamby, center.

While Clerk of Court Whit Gibson administered the Oath, Board of Elections Supervisor Dell Parker, second from left, and outgoing Board of Elections member Dalores Ingram, right, were in attendance.

Wegner continues as Board Chairman in 2007. Hamby was named Secretary.

Board of Elections members are appointed to two-year terms by the State Elections Board.

## Soccer camp goes international



More than 80 children ages 3 to 16 participated in a week-long Challenger Sports Soccer Camp hosted jointly by Parks and Recreation and Scotland Youth Soccer. Coaches from Britain and Scotland provided the training.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since May 16, 2007: **James Nichols**, Jail; **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings; **Leo Ricks**, Lori Coher, Rosa Page and **Velma McNeill**, part-time at the Splash Pad; **Hiram Jones**, temporary with Inspections. **Tim Martin** transitions from DSS to finance technician with Administration.

## Groundbreaking celebrates new life for Central School

By 2009 the facade of Central School will look much like it did when it opened in 1909.

The interior will be updated, though, when the former primary school is turned into apartment units for the elderly.

Community leaders involved in the project turned out for a ceremonial groundbreaking, pictured, and to celebrate the future transformation of Central School into a viable structure once again.

Commissioner Joyce McDow, third from right, praised the community for its aggressive campaign to save the structure from demolition.

McDow spent her career as an educator with the Scotland County Schools and served as Central School's principal from 1996 until it closed in 2000.

Central School will have 31 one and two-bedroom units. Housing Authority Director Nancy Walker, pictured right, said by this time in 2008 the Authority would begin the process of moving individuals in to the units.

Walker thanked community leaders, citizens in the Central School neighborhood and City and County elected officials for their support of the project.

Opened in 1909, Central School was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Since it operated the longest of any public school in the State the historically significant structure was considered worthy of preservation.



## Luck can change with one storm

*Text and photos by Roylin Hammond, EMS*

Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans in late August 2005. More than 1,000 people lost their lives. Thousands of homes were flooded. Hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless.

23 months later, tens of thousands of people still are without homes and will never return to live in New Orleans. Many still live in travel trailers with little hope of returning to their homes. These photos taken May 2007 in the 9th Ward show many homes still not repaired, still unoccupied, still just like they were right after Katrina.

Scotland County does not have to suffer the same devastation if we are prepared.

Hurricane season starts June 1 and runs through November 30. Typically, the months of August, September and October hold the largest threat for North Carolina.

Scotland County has not been impacted by a major storm since Hurricane Fran in 1996. The County has been lucky, and luck can change with a single storm.

Being prepared means having a plan for disaster response for our families. Assemble a disaster kit that will allow our families to be self-sufficient for 72 hours. The disaster kit should include food, water, medication, money, flashlights and batteries, a manual can opener, a battery-powered radio, important papers secured, extra glasses — all the essentials necessary to survive for at least 72 hours with no help from anyone.

Both the Red Cross and Emergency Management can provide citizens with information regarding a disaster kit. Make one today so you will be able to tell your grandchildren how you survived a hurricane should one impact the area where you live.



## Students taught the three R's of trash

"Just remember me as the trash cop."

With that introduction Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne, pictured, captured the attention of a group of students enrolled in a summer school program in Gibson.

When Horne is not on the road following up on reports of illegal dumping and improper storage of trash, he is educating the public on the three R's of his world — recycle, reduce, reuse.

"A lot of the trash we generate can be recycled if you stop, look and think about it," Horne advised.

Horne held up examples of materials that can be recycled for free, including milk and detergent jugs, aerosol cans and glass of different colors. "Look at containers when you get home to see if they can be recycled." He added, "Paperback books are recyclable, so don't throw them away."

"The five recycle centers in the County accept household hazardous waste such as used motor oil, paint in the cans and old batteries," Horne said.

Horne asked the students to encourage their parents and relatives to bring recyclables to the centers and, while there, to select free, reusable items such as toys, clothing and household goods from the swap shop.

"Recycling saves landfill space, and it is a courtesy to the environment so you don't litter or pollute the earth."

"Recycling starts with you guys," Horne explained. "Someday you'll have children, and you'll want them to have a clean environment. You can be the example for the future."

For Horne, there is a fourth R when it comes to protecting the environment — report littering. "You see a lot of things I don't see," said Horne. "Everyone in here can be a trash cop."

