

Scotland County

Monthly



JULY 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Days of operation at recycle sites reduced from four to three

Days of operation at the County's four Recycle Centers were wittled down from four to three, effective July 1.

The Recycle Centers will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday was indefinitely eliminated from the operation schedule.

"The original concept of the Recycle Centers was they would pay their own way," explained County Engineer Jim Blackwell. "At this point they are not paying their way."

Blackwell said Public Works conducted a study over the past year to find out what days residents used the Recycle Centers. "Friday was the day we had the least activity at the four sites," Blackwell said.

He added the new days of operation are permanent unless there is a significant change in activity at the Recycle Centers.

see Recycle, page 2

DSS, Health stage a tornado drill

DSS, the Health Department and clients of both agencies participated in a surprise tornado drill last month.

"We are in the midst of tornado season," explained Jan-Marie Mathews of DSS. "This drill was planned to enhance awareness of all employees of the correct procedures to follow in the event of the real thing."

Participants first had to move to the interior of the building away from windows that might shatter if there was a real tornado.

The second phase of the drill involved complete evacuation of the facility. Everyone waited a safe distance from the building until they received a signal to return.

Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers was on hand to view the event. Both Flowers and Mathews said the drill went very smoothly overall.

The DSS Safety Planning Committee, chaired by Mathews, was formed in 2003, at which time a Crisis Management Plan was created for events such as this.

"In the last few years the committee had not been quite as active as in the beginning," Mathews said. "We decided this year it was time to begin to refocus all employees to think 'safety' since there has been a significant turnover in staff over the years."

Mathews added, "It is our plan to hold other drills for fire, assault, bomb threat and other events in the future."

Mathews concluded, "Our overall goal — that the 'real thing' never occurs — is to be prepared as best we can."



At the Health Department, Lynda McMillan, left, helps evacuate people from the building.

Building a Children's Plaza will be A Walk in the Park

The campaign to build a Children's Plaza at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex and to fund continued expansion of the facilities has begun.



The campaign, known as *A Walk in the Park*, was launched by the Scotland County Recreation Foundation.

A Walk in the Park involves the sale

of commemorative bricks ranging in price from \$100 to \$350.

Each brick purchased will be used to build the Children's Plaza and will display text, names and even company logos, all dependent upon the level of donation.

Those who purchase a brick in advance will be invited to participate in the first official Laying of the Bricks ceremony September 13.

Campaign Chairman Jim Morgan said he is proud that he and his family are involved in the project and invites the community to join in the campaign for the children of Scotland County.

This is a great way to support the community as well as a memorable way to honor a family member or loved one.

Bricks can be ordered at Scotland Place, 1210 Turnpike Road, or on-line at www.bricksrus.com/order/walkinthepark.

Contact Parks and Recreation at 277-2585 for more information.

Park closure approved

The Board of Commissioners approved a recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to close Pinewood Park. Its outdated playground equipment will be removed.

The action comes after public input communitywide was received regarding the future of By-Pass and Pinewood parks.

There was little opposition to closing Pinewood Park but the few were in favor of By-Pass being closed.

"It is never a pleasant experience to recommend closing a park," said Advisory Board Chairman Guy McCook. "Pinewood is the least used facility in the Scotland County Park System."

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Storytelling Arts Center a venue for reading program



Young volunteers share the stage with Zelnick the Magician.

In the spirit of cooperation and partnership the Storytelling Arts Center on Main Street opened its doors to Scotland Memorial Library for a summer reading program.

The Library, as it does every summer, expected a large crowd of children accompanied by family members to attend its reading program, this one featuring Zelnick the Magician.

Several days before the event, however, the Library's air conditioning system stopped working.

Library Director Leon Gyles reached out to Jan Schmidt of the Storytelling Arts Center for assistance in providing temporary space large enough to accommodate everyone. The Center fit the bill.

With a little advance publicity, more than 400 people arrived at the Storytelling Arts Center to enjoy and be entertained by two performances by Zelnick the Magician.

The air conditioning unit was repaired in time for the Library to host Snakes Alive the following week.

the Birthday list for August

1 Willie Hunt (Public Works); 2 Jennie Lowe (DSS); 3 Amanda Chavis (Cooperative Extension); 4 Ed Cushman (Health), Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension) and Daniel Dockery (Planning and Zoning Board); 5 Mike McQueen (EMS); 8 J.R. Horne (Public Works); 13 Catherine Bailey (Health) and Latisha Lowery (DSS); 14 Joan Alford (DSS) and Kevin Strickland (EMS); 15 Dell Parker (Elections); 18 Nancy McPeck (Jail) and David Morrison (Cooperative Extension); 20 Stephanie Palmer and Andrea McLeod (DSS) and Rebecca Snyder (Health); 22 Towana Harrington (DSS); 23 David Flowers (EMS); 24 Michelle McQuaige (Jail); 25 Stephanie Bennett (EMS); 27 Shastity Small (DSS); 28 Tenita Bullard (IT) and Linda Harper (DSS); 29 Mitchell Johnson and Marcus Brown (Sheriff); 30 Kimberly McRae (DSS) and Gilbert Jones (Public Buildings); 31 Katherine Caulder (DSS).

By-Pass Park remains open

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McCook added, "With extensive needed repairs at Pinewood and the possibility of adding playground equipment at another park, we believe this closure would be a balance in reducing our maintenance needs as well as providing appropriate services to our customers."

Playground equipment will be placed at a nearby park at a later time so children will not be impacted by the change and will continue to have adequate play areas.

Recycle Centers closed Fridays

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"We regret that we had to go to three days," Blackwell said. "The centers were originally open six days a week."

"As activity slowed down, we had to cut back so the Recycle Centers could pay their way," Blackwell said.

Days and hours of operation at Palmer Road have not changed. They are Wednesdays and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m..

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since May 16, 2009: **Hannah Harling** and **Velma McNeill**, part-time at the Splash Pad. **Charles Nichols** transitions from Accountant to Deputy Finance Officer. The title gives Nichols preaudit authority along with County Manager Kevin Patterson and Deputy Finance Officer Nancy Bostick.

Leadership Scotland becomes familiar with local government



Commissioner Guy McCook meets with the Leadership Scotland Class 2009 to present an overview of County goals and objectives. McCook discussed the importance of workforce development, industrial and retail recruitment, strengthening the tax base and priority projects such as the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport runway upgrade and US 74 as an important corridor through Scotland County.

McCook was joined in the discussion and question and answer session by Commissioner Bob Davis, County Manager Kevin Patterson and Interim City Manager Dee Hammond.

This year's Leadership Scotland Class, which includes Library Director Leon Gyles, continued on to Raleigh where they met with State legislators.



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Coming April 1, 2010!**