

Scotland County Monthly



JUNE 2006

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

DSS, Health Department soon to be tobacco-free

The Health Department and Social Services will celebrate a symbolic Independence Day when both agencies become tobacco-free July 4.

The two agencies aligned themselves with an initiative developed by the Scotland Health Care System, which also will become tobacco-free the same day.

That means staff and clients at the social services and public health agencies will not be permitted to smoke within 50 feet of the building at 1405 West Boulevard.

DSS Director Jan Elliott said staff will have a location away from the building set up for smoking. "It will be a personnel matter if staff fail to heed the restriction."

Elliott said DSS supported becoming tobacco-free because many clients would smoke at the entrance to the building. "You have to walk through the smoke to get in, and when the doors open, smoke enters the building."

"It is a health issue for our visitors and our staff," she added. Many of our clients have health issues or are pregnant. They don't need to be exposed to the smoke."

Elliott agreed that enforcement among clients would be more of a challenge. "It will be harder even with signs and moving the ashtray."

Few employees at either agency are affected by the new arrangement. Elliott reported that several employees quit smoking over the past few months.

The Board of Commissioners in March endorsed the tobacco-free proposal.

A State Session Law exempts certain local departments and social services from the law governing smoking restrictions.

Splash Pad gives relief from the heat

As temperatures sizzle, the Splash Pad offers welcome relief for youth and adults alike.

Open June 10 through August 6, water play sessions are 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Sunday play sessions are 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Splash Pad will continue with a reduced schedule August 12 through Labor Day when it is opened Saturdays and Sundays only. Play sessions will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Fees for each session are \$1 for children 12 and under and \$2 for out of County visitors and \$2 for children 13 and older and \$4 for out of County visitors. A season pass is \$25.

The Splash Pad is available for private parties before 12 p.m. and after 6 p.m. Fee is \$50 per hour.

With the exception of private parties, no outside food is permitted.

The Splash Pad will be open July 4 and Labor Day.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 277-2585.



Cost of living increase approved by Commissioners for FY 2006-2007

A 3.5 percent cost of living increase will be included in employee paychecks July 31.

The increase was part of a \$28,508,578 total general fund expenditure approved June 5 by the Board of Commissioners. It represents 54.7 cents of the \$1.10 tax rate designated for general government.

Also in the approved budget is \$9,855,913 for local school expenditures, which represents 55.3 cents of the \$1.10 tax rate.

The Commissioners instructed County Manager John Crumpton to present a budget for the coming fiscal year with no increase in the tax rate.

Crumpton said strong tax collections and sales tax revenue and funds that remained from lapsed salaries helped in achieving the directive.

Additionally, Crumpton praised the Board of Education for its offer to accept less than the required amount of local school funding it would have been eligible to receive.

The Board of Education instead agreed to \$470,000 in local current school expense, a five percent increase over its FY 2005- 2006 funding, rather than the nine percent increase at \$890,000 required by the school funding formula.

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Tennis Center posts summer schedule

Tiny Tots (ages 3-5)

45-minute lessons 9:30 a.m. Saturdays

July 15, 22 and 29

August 5, 12 and 19

\$25 for 4 weeks, \$30 for 5 weeks

Summer Camps (ages 6 and up)

July 17-20, 24-27

August 7-10, 14-17

Classes 10 a.m. to noon

\$50 fee includes

lesson, drink, snack and t-shirt

Advanced Drills (Tournament and Competitive Players)

July 11-13, 18-20 and 25-27

August 1-3, 8-10 and 15-17

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

\$30 per week

Fit Tennis

(Adults — Beginner to Advanced)

Mondays in July and August (not July 3)

\$8 per class 7 p.m.

Have fun and burn calories too!

Message from the Manager

If you've been watching the recent Commissioners meetings you would know there has been much talk about the future of the County.

Looking forward is what the Commissioners must do to establish a foundation for economic growth and a high quality of life in the County.

A lot of negative issues have been brought up at these meetings — namely a rising tax rate and loss of industrial jobs. I have even been accused of being too negative. So let's talk about the positives.

For the third consecutive budget year, the County has been able to hold its tax rate at the same rate. The Commissioners also were able to give employees raises and approve much needed capital for our departments.

Creating financial stability is a great achievement for the County. Our fund balance is strong. Financially, your County government is in a great position. Despite some losses of jobs in the industrial sector, a couple of local industries — Arvin Meritor and Kordsa — announced major new investment in their facilities. Both are adding jobs.

The County is investing in the quality of life for its citizens. Work is moving along well on the new Recreation Complex. Water is being extended to new areas of the County. The County is closer to getting a new Richmond Community College Campus in Laurinburg. All of these investments will help attract new citizens to the community.

The County is working well with its partners at the School Board, the City of Laurinburg, East Laurinburg, Wagram and Gibson.

The recent decision by the School Boards to ask for less money than the schools were entitled to receive under the school funding formula shows its understanding of the County's tax situation.

The County recently helped the City by increasing payments to the municipality for water services and fire district services.

A contract with Wagram was recently signed where the County would handle that municipality's tax collections.

Scotland County continues to offer help to the municipalities when they are having difficulties.

There **are** many good things going on in the County. Due to public nature, people tend to focus more on the negatives.

Problems that we confront everyday are considered negative. They don't have to be, but that's how they are turned.

As the Commissioners move forward, they will address several long-term issues.

The County must address its long-term financial status, its long-term land use planning needs, its long-term capital needs and the economic well being of the community.

Hopefully everyone will be able to stay on the positive side, because that is what is necessary to make this community vibrant and successful.



John A. Crumpton

the Birthday list for July

2 Karen Leviner (DSS); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin (DSS); **6** Cecil Holmes (Parks and Recreation); **7** J.D. Willis (Commissioner); **9** Helen Hardwick (Elections) and Rose Celeste (DSS); **10** Chris Coleman (Sheriff) and Denise Locklear and Ebonie Williams (DSS); **14** Linda Graham (DSS); **18** Kimberly McLamb (Health); **19** Billy Bostick (Public Buildings) and Pat Lathrop (EMS); **21** Jenny Church and Charles Brown (DSS); **23** Elaine Harrison (DSS); **25** Mildred Williams (Veterans Service); **26** Jeffrey Wood (DSS); **27** Dave Raley (Health Board); **28** Ken Smith (Jail), Delores Baxley (Parks and Recreation) and Vincent Locklear (Public Works); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration) and Miriam Bounds (Health); **30** Wanda Britt (Health); **31** Jan-Marie Mathews (DSS) and Judith McMillan (Health).

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since April 16, 2006: **Matthew Locklear** and **Terri Tacquard**, EMS; **Alton Ferguson**, Public Buildings; **Dixie Whelpley**, Revaluation.

Twist and shout!



Cooperative Extension staff hosted the South Central District Administrative meeting. With the theme Destination: Summer Fun, Extension Directors from 14 counties as well as NC State University administrators mixed business with pleasure. Janine Rywak, Anson County Extension Director, and Clinton McRae, Richmond County Extension Director, enjoy a hula hoop exercise during a break from the business portion of the meeting.

Annex gets new sign



Innovative Solutions workers install the sign.

A new sign went up in front of the Annex on Cronly Street that will help the public better locate some of the County offices they're searching for.

Innovative Solutions in Laurel Hill created the sign, which will be lit in the evenings.

It replaces an old, outdated sign, which was difficult to see from the street.

The sign, plus the relining of the Courthouse and Annex parking lots, were some recent capital projects completed this month.

SCATS staff enhance their traffic safety skills



Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) staff learned the Five Keys to Safety after attending the Smith System Advanced Driving Traffic Safety Seminar.

The Smith System involves both classroom and hands-on field training for drivers. The course stresses Five Keys to Safety, all of which deal with being an alert defensive driver, being alert to your surroundings, keeping your eyes moving, ensuring others see you and leaving yourself an out from a potential accident situation.

Vincent Brown and Brian Patterson, both employees of larger transit systems in North Carolina, taught the course.

While the Health Department education room was used for the classroom portion of the course, the real test came when each SCATS driver had the opportunity to practice the skills taught in a hands-on, over-the-road driving situation.

SCATS staff who received completion certificates were, front row from the left, Wanda Britt, Linda Jones, Sharon Davis and Debbie Davis; and back row, Roylin Hammond, Robert McRae and Stacy Shannon.

Congratulations Class of 2006

High School:

Administration: **Drew Crumpton**, son of John Crumpton, Hoggard High School, Wilmington, NC. Drew will major in Chemistry at NC State University.

Cooperative Extension: **Tequan McPhatter**, son of Hazel McPhatter, Scotland High School. Tequan plans to attend North Carolina A & T State University. **Ryan Norton**, nephew of Sharon English, Scotland High School. Ryan plans to attend UNC-Wilmington.

DSS: **Heather Nicole Reed**, daughter of Pam Reed, Scotland High School. Heather plans to attend UNC-Pembroke in the fall.

Health: **Charles Andrew Cox**, son of Kathie Cox, Scotland High School. Drew will attend Pitt Community College. **Kacey Marie McLamb**, stepdaughter of Kimberly McLamb, Scotland High School.

College/University:

Administration: **Angela Norris Rabon**, granddaughter of Anne Tindall, MS in Accountancy from UNC-Wilmington.

Cooperative Extension: **Kathryn L. Morrison**, daughter of David Morrison, UNC-Chapel Hill with a BS in Environmental Studies.

DSS: **Catisha Marie Freeman**, daughter of Jeannie Freeman, *cum laude* from Richmond Community College RN Program. Catisha accepted a position the the med/surgical floor at Southeastern Medical Center in Lumberton.

Heather Noel Purvis, daughter of Jan-Marie F. Mathews, University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a BA in English Education. Heather also was recently inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. **Megan Elliott**, daughter of Jan Elliott, University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a Bachelor of Social Work. **Erica Denise Fields**, daughter of Dorothy Fields, with honors with a BS in Accounting from Fayetteville State University. Erica will be employed as a Naval Auditor with the Naval Audit Service in Washington, D.C.

Health: **Laura Virginia Salley**, daughter of Melinda Salley, *summa cum laude* with departmental honors with a BA in Chemistry from Hollins University, Roanoke, VA. Co-first in her class, Laura will enroll in the pharmacy program at UNC-Chapel Hill in August. **Hal M. Hunt, Jr.**, son of Tina Oxendine, with a BS in Health Care Management from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Avian flu a community forum topic

When it comes to avoiding the flu we forget to do the simplest things — wash our hands, cover our mouths when we sneeze or cough and avoid close contact with others when we don't feel well.

Dr. Keith Henderson shared this information during a community forum on avian flu. "All influenzas begin as an avian disease. When you hear 'avian influenza,' don't panic. Every flu you ever had had its origins in a bird."

Dr. Henderson, Team Leader for the Public Health Regional Surveillance Team, said avian flu H5N1 is most talked about because it is a novel virus for humans. "What has everybody scared is what if humans could get it."

Dr. Henderson said it has not been confirmed that the virus has been transmitted from person to person. "Only those who were in close contact with chickens or ducks get the disease. Right now there is no evidence of sustained human to human contact."

Close human contact means plucking and preparing diseased poultry, handling fighting cocks, playing with poultry and consumption of ducks blood and possibly undercooked poultry.

Dr. Henderson assured, "The poultry industry is on this big time. Their surveillance system is impressive. Without them, we'd be in big trouble."

He added, "You've been under the threat of a pandemic (an epidemic over a wide geographic area and affecting a large proportion of the population) your entire life, and you probably didn't know about it."

"Raising people's awareness about this is important because we'll be better prepared," he said. "The more thoughtful we are, the more pre-planning we make, the better off we'll be and the less mistakes we'll make."

News of Note

Fees increase at recycle centers

Fees by weight increased and in some cases doubled at the recycle centers with the June 5 passage of the FY 2006-2007 Budget Ordinance. The increases will take affect July 1 and will be posted at all centers. County Manager John Crumpton explained the fee increase at the manned convenience centers would curb a loss of revenue and help build up a reserve for the post closure at the landfill.

County switches to SunCom

The County switched cellphone service from Verizon to SunCom, which is expected to produce an annual savings of \$5,000. 58 County employees who are assigned cellphones for on-the-job use received their new units in late May. Phone numbers did not change. Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson said he has received feedback about deadspots. Patterson said just as employees did with the previous provider, it's a matter of learning where those deadspots are.

Elected officials honor baseball team

The win of the 4A State Championship Title by the Scotland High School baseball team was recognized by the County Commissioners and Laurinburg City Council through a joint proclamation. The baseball team, through this particular win, broke a long standing record held by the 1977 team. The proclamation was presented to Coach Tommy Britt on behalf of the team.

Accrued paid leave policy clarified

Since the June 5 approval of the updated Personnel Policy, there have been some question on how the accrued paid leave for new hires will be administered. The waiting period for the taking of accrued paid leave for new hires was changed in the new policy from six months to three months. Once the new employee meets the three-month waiting period, the employee may take the paid leave, even if they were hired prior to the June 5 effective date of the new policy.

New clinical services schedule set

Effective June 26, clinical services at the Health Department are as follows: General Clinic (immunizations, skin tests, blood pressure checks, etc.), Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; STD, Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Pregnancy Testing, Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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.

Murray honored

The Board of Commissioners recognized Jane Murray for 18 years of service to the County.

The recognition was made during the June 5 meeting of the governing board. June 9 was Murray's last day as Health Director, having accepted a position with Scotland County Schools.

Murray served as Health Director since April 2001. Prior to that, she worked for the County's home health agency.

Murray assumed a new position with the schools as Director of Student Support Services. Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson will serve as Interim Health Director until a new Health Director is hired.



Chairman J.D. Willis presents Jane Murray with a plaque of appreciation.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for May:

Responded to 416 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 70 motor vehicle accident patients

Administered 70 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 44 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

350 EMS

305 Sheriff's Department

194 Laurinburg Police Department

25 Fire Department

555 hang-up calls

108 wrong numbers

53 open line calls

1,143 cellular calls

1,943 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

70 traffic accidents

52 breathing problems

49 sick person (specific diagnosis)

36 chest pain

35 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 95 on 5/26

Temp (low) 45 on 5/2

Wind (mph) 31 on 5/18

Rainfall (inches) 1.12 on 5/7

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

New ambulance set for service

A new 2006 AEV Ford E450 Type III ambulance is expected to be put into service July 1. This is the second new ambulance for Scotland County EMS.

The vehicle was approved for purchase by the County Commissioners during their February planning retreat. The vehicle was actually delivered a month ahead of schedule.

Before the unit is put into service EMS staff must first change out equipment from an older 1991 Ford E350, which the new unit will replace.

Once a radio is installed and the NCOEMS regional coordinator inspects the unit, it will be ready for service.

