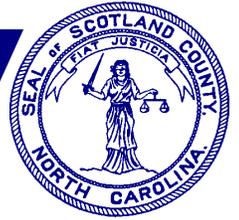


Scotland County

Monthly



JUNE 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

James L. Morgan Recreation Complex gets “covered”

Parks and Recreation, most notably the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex, was prominently featured in the Summer 2010 issue of NCRPA News.

The NC Parks and Recreation Association cover features two youngsters enjoying a cool time during the summer months at the Splash Pad.

The accompanying full-page story, penned by Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, follows inside on page 7.

In the article, Newton writes that partnerships and sustained, long-term community support were critical to the eventual construction of the Morgan Complex. “This is especially true in a small county,” Newton wrote.

She added, “Construction of a recreation complex, which had lingered on the back burner since the 1970s, was completed due to combined efforts of our state and local elected officials and strong community support.”

Along with the Splash Pad, the Complex includes combination softball/baseball fields, disc golf, walking track, picnic shelter, playground, soccer field, parking and a concession/restroom/press box.

Lighting for the four baseball/softball fields was made possible through the Tourism Development Authority. The provision of in-kind services from the County and City of Laurinburg resulted in cost savings in construction of the facility.

The Scotland County Recreation Foundation was reactivated so it could organize a capital campaign to continue momentum on the project.



Health rates increase, generic co-pays drop

Health insurance rates increased 10 percent effective July 1. Dental rates increased nearly 20 percent for the upcoming plan year.

Despite the increases there still is a silver lining in that co-pays for generic drugs will cost nothing.

Even the extended supply 90-day mail order for generics will have a zero dollar co-pay.

The County will continue to pay health coverage for the employee.

Coverage for employee/spouse increases from \$356 to \$392 monthly. Employee/one child rates increase from \$142 to \$157 and employee/children increases from the old rate of \$213 to \$235 as of July 1. The monthly family rate increases from \$607 to \$668.

Dental coverage will increase from \$12 to \$14 for employee, \$29 to \$34 for employee/spouse and employee/child(ren) and \$36 to \$42 for family.

The Health insurance carrier for the County will continue through the NCACC County Health Plan administered by CIGNA.

The 10 percent health insurance rate increase is consistent with the medical trend.

2010-11 budget allows for bonus leave but no cost of living increase

The Board of Commissioners on June 21 approved a \$41.6 million budget that provides no cost of living increase to employees for the second consecutive year.

It does, however, provide 24-bonus leave as it did in 2009-2010. The bonus leave will be taken by most employees the three days after Christmas and before New Year's. Essential employees will schedule their bonus leave with supervisor approval.

The \$41 million budget also holds the tax rate steady at \$1.02 per \$100 property valuation and includes nearly \$14 million in local school funding.

County Manager Kevin Patterson praised departments for doing all they could to keep their budgets flat from the previous year.

21st Century Communities look ahead

Three public input sessions will give residents opportunity to help determine the direction the County takes in the next five years in the areas of infrastructure and economic, workforce and community development.

The sessions are scheduled at The Highlands on Tuesday, July 13, Wagram Town Hall on Thursday, July 15 and Scotland Place on Thursday, July 29. All public input sessions are 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Citizens will be able to review the strategies in each area, what entities will take the lead in ensuring successful outcomes and where the funding sources might be.

The public input sessions culminate a two-year process that began in 2008 when Scotland County was identified as a 21st Century Community by the NC Department of Commerce. The completed visioning plan is designed to strengthen the County's economic standing and quality of life for its residents.

After comments from the public are incorporated into the visioning plan, it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Lowery thanked for act of kindness

Social Worker Robbie Lowery came to the rescue of a person stranded in the DSS parking lot. Lowery went home and returned with a gas can.

For this, Lowery was honored as the second recipient of the thankyou@scotlandcounty.org program.

Lowery was recognized at the June meeting of the County Commissioners. He was presented with a Scotland County logo jacket, a gift certificate and a framed thank you note.

"Robbie took the time to assist a person who had run out of gas in front of the DSS building. He went home, got his gas can and poured gas into the person's car," wrote Willette Jones, DSS.

The "Thank You" submission was made by Jones and submitted to the DSS Management Team.

A review committee of department heads selected Lowery as recipient of the 2010 first quarter thank-you award from a pool of about 40 employees who were thanked by fellow co-workers for something special they did to support someone else or for going the extra mile in performance of their job.

An employee is selected quarterly for showing kindness on the job, performing excellent customer service that stood out or for devoting extra effort to help someone else, whether it be a fellow employee or a customer.

Human Resources Manager Susan Butler asks employees to be specific when thanking a fellow employee for something he/she did. "It's great to know that an employee made somebody else's day or made someone's job easier, but it means so much more when the review committee knows why or how," Butler explained. "It helps the committee choose the best candidate for recognition."

Butler also recommended that people thank individual employees rather than a group of employees since the honor is bestowed on one person a quarter.

Other employees thanked from January to March 2010 were: **Jeff Cooke**, Sheriff; **James McQueen**, DSS; **Gail Wright**, Administration; **Jan-Marie Mathews**, DSS; **Patricia Campbell**, Public Buildings; **Amanda Cooke**, Tax; **Roger Dial**, Public Buildings; **Angela Townsend** and **Lisa Harper**, DSS; **Amy Richburg** and **Martha Norfleet**, Soil and Water; **Ann Kurtzman** and **Susan Butler**, Administration; **Tryon Jacobs**, DSS; **Sandra McNeil**, DSS; **Charles Nichols**, Administration; **Teresa Vick**, DSS; **Debbie Tardif**, DSS; **Barbara Ledbetter**, DSS; **Jannett Garcia**, Health; **Vicki Barnes** and **Tammy Cole**, DSS; **Kitty Johnson**, Health; **Larry Herring**, Health; **Ron Sapp**, Health; **Judy McMillan**, Health; **Melinda Salley**, Health; **Miriam Bounds**, Health; **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings; **Tina Ellis**, Health; **Persephone Stewart**, DSS; **Eva Locklear**, DSS; **Brian Lowery**, **Larry Herring**, **Danny Sprouse**, **Ed Cushman** and **Adam Liles**, Health.

Commissioners put an end to landfill talks

In two swift actions, the Board of Commissioners June 7 put an end to any further talks about placing a landfill in Scotland County.

A motion introduced by Chairman J.D. Willis was unanimously approved by the Commissioners to halt all operations and resources as it relates to expanding the existing landfill or locating one anywhere in the County and to channel efforts into resources that would support the community.

The action was immediately followed by a resolution read by Commissioner Bob Davis that stated, "The Scotland County Board of Commissioners has determined that it is not in the best interest of the County or its citizens nor is it consistent with protection of public health, safety and welfare to allow for or engage in more expansive plans for local disposition of waste generated on a regional, multi-state or national basis."

It also was stated in the resolution that the County would terminate all efforts to condemn additional property in the vicinity of its existing Patterson Road landfill and discontinue the employment of engineering firms, outside legal counsel and all other firms engaged to assist with the condemnation and/or more expansive plans for disposition of waste.

Willis, just prior to making the motion to end landfill talks, said there are few opportunities for counties to generate revenue. The landfill was one of those opportunities. Other ways to generate revenue are through recruitment of more businesses and industry or raising property taxes.

He added that the County must have a plan for disposal of its municipal solid waster (MSW), even if it means paying to transport it out of Scotland County to another location.

Landfill opponents contended the County would have a negative image with a large MSW operation, and the presence of a landfill would make industrial and residential growth more difficult to achieve. Opponents also contended that no amount of revenue would be worth the potential damaging environmental impact a landfill would have on the community while in operation and in the longterm, after closure.



Chairman J.D. Willis, left, presents a Scotland County logo jacket, framed thank you note and gift certificate to Social Worker Robbie Lowery.

the Birthday list for July

1 Melissa Tomas (Cooperative Extension); **2** Karen Leviner (DSS); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin (Administration); **6** Paula Gill (EMS); **7** J.D. Willis (Commissioner); **9** Amanda Martin (DSS); **10** Denise Locklear (DSS); **11** Heather Moody (DSS); **12** Preston Jackson (Sheriff); **15** Arline Swett (EMS); **17** Joshua Hayes (EMS); **19** Christopher Lee (EMS), Billy Bostick and Josephine Thompson (Public Buildings), Tina Ellis (Health) and Ashley Gibson (DSS); **21** Brandon Butler (EMS); **25** Mildred Williams (Veterans Service) and John Storey (EMS); **26** Amy Richburg (Soil and Water), Jeffrey Wood (DSS), Tina Strickland (Jail) and Tyquane White (Sheriff); **28** Vincent Locklear (Public Works); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration), Miriam Bounds (Health) and Tara Crowley (DSS); **30** Wanda Britt (Transportation); **31** Jan-Marie Mathews (DSS) and Judy McMillan (Health).

Congratulations Class of 2010

High School

DSS: Kellie Catherine Carthens, niece of Willette Jones, Scotland High School. **Demetria Monique Purvis**, daughter of Michelle Lynn McRae, Marlboro County High School, Bennettsville.

Tax: Nikeya Sharron Dudley, granddaughter of Catherine Stubbs, Scotland High School. Nikeya will attend Campbell University in the fall. She will study Clinical Laboratory Research. **Arron Trae Phillips**, son of Billie Phillips, Scotland High School. Arron will attend UNC-Pembroke in the fall. **Gabrielle Lowery**, granddaughter of Linda Locklear, Lowery's Christian School. Gabrielle will attend Robeson Community College where she plans to study Cosmetology.

College/University.

Administration: Roxanne Kurtzman, daughter of Ann Kurtzman, Master's in Speech-Language Pathology, Appalachian State University, Boone. Roxanne is interning at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, VA.

Cooperative Extension: Ryan Norton, nephew of Sharon English, Bachelor's degree in Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ryan plans to attend law school in the fall.

DSS: Dr. Roger Musashi Reeder, nephew of Kim Villanueva and great nephew of Sandra Leonard, graduated from Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Buies Creek as a Doctor of Pharmacy. He will begin post graduate residency at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton this summer.

Health: Samantha Noelle Cox, daughter of Kathie Cox, graduated from ECU/Pitt Community College. Named to the Dean's List, Samantha received a degree in Business/Medical Office Administration. She plans to attend Cape Fear Community College, Wilmington, to pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene. **Laquanda T. Leaven**, daughter of Frances Moody, Master's in Industrial Engineering from AT&T State University, Greensboro. Laquanda plans to pursue a Doctoral degree in Engineering in the fall.

County welcomes ADCUT

Advanced Cutting Technologies, Inc., will relocate its company to Scotland County in the vacant Forster Textile Building near the Laurinburg Maxton Airport.

"Scotland County works behind the scenes continually to attract new jobs and investment to the community," said Chairman J.D. Willis.

"The location of ADCUT to the County is a direct result of that effort," he added. "We look forward to ADCUT operating in a business friendly community like Scotland County."

Willis credited Economic Developer Greg Icard in assisting the company in finding a new location in Scotland County.

"The County continues to diversify its industrial base with the addition of ADCUT as well as provide opportunities for employment for Scotland County residents," Icard said.

ADCUT provides water jet cutting services for a wide range of materials for cutting and engraving. The company has been in business more than 15 years.

Patterson, Icard engage in special operations exercise

County Manager Kevin Patterson and Economic Developer Greg Icard experienced firsthand a command brief, range and assault demonstrations, modular static displays, a military free fall demonstration and a noncombatant evacuation operation.

The daylong exercise was part of United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) 2010 Capabilities Exercise at Ft. Bragg.

The exercise gives community members a greater perspective on the capabilities and training of the U.S. Army Special Operations Forces.

USASOC is made up of seven component subordinate commands (CSCs) and component subordinate units (CSUs), which are the U.S. Army Special Forces Command, U.S.

Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, 75th Ranger Regiment, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, 528th Sustainment Brigade and the 4th Psychological Operations Group.

All groups work together in a combined effort and can operate anywhere in the world.



Greg Icard eyes a target 400 meters (1/4 of a mile) away using a 308 bolt action sniper rifle.

News of Note

Free canner gauge testing offered

If you plan to do some canning this year, make sure to test your canner gauge first. It should be tested every year. Cooperative Extension will help you get off to a safe canning start by offering free canner gauge testing at the Extension office at 231 East Cronly Street. To schedule an appointment, contact Sharon English, Family and Consumer Science Agent, at 277-2422. Bring your canner lid with the gauge to be tested attached. Cooperative Extension also will check the canner gasket to make sure it is in proper working order. In addition, the most recent materials on home food preservation will be available. Canning is easy and safe, but it is not the place for creativity. Only use scientifically tested recipes, instructions and recommendations for home preserving foods. Make sure you follow safe guidelines for each food item to be canned. Freezing is a safe method to preserve food, so when in doubt, freeze it. Be safe and test your pressure canner gauge before canning.

Tennis Center seeks donation of useable items

If anyone is in the process of doing a late spring cleaning and/or just looking for an excuse to get rid of some old, useable items around the house, donations of lawn/patio chairs, vacuum cleaner, brooms, rakes, picnic tables would be much appreciated. Anything useable for use in or around the Tennis Center will be accepted. Also, anyone who has an old golf cart in running condition and is interested in donating it for rolling the soft courts, please contact the Tennis Center 277-2592.

DSS supervisors **Wendy Stanton, Jennifer Byrd, April Snead** and **James McQueen**, pictured left to right, completed the extensive Frontline Leadership training course in Raleigh. Each supervisor completed a total of 42 hours of classroom training as well as work assigned outside of the regular classroom hours. The class, sponsored by North Carolina Office of State Personnel, Human Resources Development Group, concentrated on leadership philosophies, developing self growth and managing teams effectively. All management staff at the department now have successfully completed Frontline Leadership or other approved comparable leadership training. ✂ We wish a speedy recovery to **Ernest Stephens**, Inspections, and **Guy McCook**, Commissioner.



Our condolences to **Randy Wood**, Cooperative Extension, on the June 6 passing of his father, Roy Wood, and to **Rhonda Saffel**, Tax, on the June 16 passing of her father, Ronald Lee Anderson.

Critical incident indicators discussed at workshop

DSS hosted two training sessions to better prepare County employees for a critical incident.

Laurinburg Police Department Trainer Fred McQueen said a critical incident is any event that may cause a disturbance in normal activities and may cause or result in injury or death.

A critical incident does not necessarily involve a gun, McQueen said. "It could be someone's hands, a stick or any type of implement that could be used as a weapon."

McQueen urged employees to maintain a heightened awareness of their surroundings and look for indicators that could lead to a critical incident. "It could be unusual items in or around your building, people loitering in a parking lot, a disturbance or people who demand to see a specific person and will not be appeased by seeing another worker."

A critical incident might originate with a former employee, a dissatisfied customer, a disturbed client or spouse/partner of an employee or client.

McQueen warned that normal household items can be made into destructive items and instructions for making those destructive items can easily be found on the internet.

If a critical incident does occur, McQueen stressed that the person calling 911 to report the incident give their name and address. "This is so the dispatcher knows it is not a prank call."

"Describe the type of incident, description of assailants and how many there are, their location on the property and the type of weapon being used," said McQueen.

2009 EMS statistics reported

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

EMS responded to 4,713 requests for service in 2009 with an average response time of 8.6 minutes.

The five leading complaints continue to be general sickness, respiratory issues, traffic accidents, chest pain and falls. The top five complaints represented 54 percent of the total call volume at EMS.

In 2009, 66 percent, or 3,141 responses, were made to residential locations; 482, or 9.7 percent of responses, were to traffic accidents; and 9.2 percent, or 436 responses, were to businesses or industrial locations.

The four 911 EMD dispatchers received a total of 27,091 calls on the four 911 trunk lines in 2009 plus another 18,116 calls on two administrative lines for a total of 45,207 calls.

The dispatch staff performed 996 walk-in blood pressure checks and made 147 blue reflective 911 address signs for other walk-in clients. Dispatch staff recorded 2,176 transport trips and times for Braveheart Medical Transport, contacted Animal Control staff for after-hours calls 341 times and paged 31 National Weather Service Bulletins in 2009.

Dispatchers also logged the 406 medical transports that were performed by the FirstHealth ambulance and crew stationed at Scotland Memorial Hospital from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) transported 30,761 riders in 2009. Funding sources provided to SCATS allowed for the transportation of 2,662 riders aged 60 years or above, 3,996 elderly or disabled clients, 6,481 riders that were Medicaid recipients and another 2,068 riders that were part of the Work First Program.

Outside funding along with the one dollar charge per day per rider allowed 15,438 riders to travel on the two 12-mile fixed route loops around Laurinburg.

SCATS drivers also transported patients to the two dialysis clinics in Laurinburg 4,114 times in 2009. SCATS office staff received 18,331 telephone calls requesting either transport service or system information.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since May 16, 2010: **Darryl Locklear**, DSS. Congratulations to **Mitch Johnson** who transitions from Captain to Chief Deputy in the Sheriff's Department. Johnson replaces Steve Smith, who accepted a position with Richmond Community College.

Class gets intro to local government

Commissioners Guy McCook, pictured left, and Bob Davis discussed economic and workforce development, water projects and the budget with the 2010 Leadership Scotland class. The two were joined by County Manager Kevin Patterson, City Council Member Tommy Parker and City Manager Ed Burchins.

Leadership Scotland, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, introduces up to 12 participants annually to the public, private and service sectors of the County as well as its culture and history.

By enrolling, participants commit to one day a month for 11 months to gain knowledge on the ins and outs of Scotland County.

The Leadership Scotland group traveled to Raleigh to meet with State legislators immediately following their session with local officials. Children's Librarian Rebecca Anthill was among the participants in the 2010 class.

