

Scotland County

Monthly



MARCH 2007

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

County installs digital phone system

The Health Department, DSS, Register of Deeds, Tax Office and Covington Street are all now connected through a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone system. The Cisco IP Phone Series replaces an aging Centrex system.

"Instead of talking over standard phone lines, you can talk through a digital signal sent from computer to computer," said Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson.

All employees on the VOIP can contact one another by dialing four-digit extensions instead of the full number followed by the extension. "We never leave the County network," Patterson said.

The Sheriff's Department, EMS, Parks and Recreation, Cooperative Extension, Elections, Landfill, Veterans Services and the maintenance area of Public Buildings are not connected to the new system.

Patterson said, "Some departments will need a high speed cable connection to be on the network, so I would like to give this system time to mature before it goes into other departments."

Patterson added that the system would not go into critical areas like the Sheriff's Department and EMS, where 911 is used, until Sheriff Shep Jones and EMS Director Roylin Hammond feel comfortable with the conversion.

Phone tip

Looking for someone's extension?

1. Press "directories"
2. Press 4 "corporate directory"
3. Select first name, last name or number option
4. With first and last name option, depress the number pad one to four times to get to the appropriate letter
5. Press "search"
6. When the name appears, press the button to the right of the telephone icon

Landfill application placed on hold

An April 2 public hearing on a preliminary landfill franchise was canceled after a State committee recommended new guidelines that would increase landfill construction costs.

Negotiations between the County and Waste Management were put on indefinite hold pending action by the State Legislature on revisions to the 2007 Solid Waste Laws.

County Manager John Crumpton predicted the new rules would likely pass in the State House and Senate with very little change.

The recommended rules call for landfills to have two liners and a system to monitor leaks. "Construction costs across the State would increase by up to \$200,000 an acre," Crumpton said.

He added that the legislation would negatively affect operations at the County's construction and demolition landfill since sufficient closure and post closure costs have not yet accumulated.

In a letter sent to Senator Bill Purcell and Representatives Doug Yongue and Garland Pierce, Board of Commissioners Chairman J.D. Willis said, "The proposed rules will not only have an impact on the proposed Landfill Project, but also on the County's C & D Landfill."

"If the rules are passed as presented ... Scotland County's C & D Landfill would be forced to close four to five years earlier than the anticipated closing date. The closure would occur when the County's current landfill permit expires in 2008," stated Willis.

The Chairman said the new laws also would greatly increase the tipping fee at Uhwarrie Landfill, which accepts Scotland County's solid waste.

"The State in future years will now have a serious capacity problem and a significant cost issue for its citizens if the legislation is passed as currently written," the letter continues.

The proposal by Waste Management to develop a regional landfill in Scotland County became a divisive issue in the community.

Proponents claimed the revenues from a host fee would ensure economic prosperity for the County and attract business and industry.

Opponents disagreed, claiming the landfill would have a negative environmental impact on the community and hurt the County's image.

Local officials seek State assistance



Local officials traveled to Raleigh March 27 to meet with Commerce Secretary Jim Fain and Assistant Secretary Cleve Simpson. In light of recent industry closings and cutbacks locally, the officials asked for emergency assistance with economic development as well as job development and creation

Those who traveled to Raleigh were, from the left, City Manager Craig Honeycutt, Commissioners Guy McCook and Joyce McDow, Laurinburg Mayor Ann B. Slaughter, Commissioner Leon Butler, Chamber President Jim Frank Henderson and County Manager John Crumpton.

Horne's "trashy job" emphasizes enforcement and education

J.R. Horne's office is his truck.

It's equipped with the tools of his trade — a can of mace, a potato picker, disinfectant, binoculars, heavy-duty gloves, bug spray and a digital camera.

As the County's only Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, Horne travels up to 100 miles a day investigating complaints about illegal dumping and improper storage of trash.

He scans roads and bridges on his way to investigations and makes frequent stops to inspect areas where trash has been dumped. He'll tie a bright pink streamer at the site so he can return for further investigation. Horne pays particular attention to remote areas where there are creeks, bridges or dirt roads. "People think nobody will check it out or nobody will ever find it."

Horne works with offenders to develop a plan to clean up the trash. He prefers that method to taking offenders to court where a fine could range from \$250 to \$500. In Horne's estimate, the money would be better spent in the clean up.

Horne uses a "friendly enforcement" approach in his work. "You go on someone's property, address the problem, let them know what our ordinances are. Once they know what our laws are, we have them correct the violations. Otherwise, we have to go into stronger enforcement, the next avenue, which is the court."

He added, "It may not be cleaned up immediately due to the magnitude of the problem, but if they have a plan of work and they're making progress, than we work with them."

"When you talk about keeping trash, burning trash, junk vehicles on your property, a lot of people are not aware of the laws," he said.

Horne said much of the trash he finds can be recycled for free at any of the County's six recycle centers. "It takes a little bit of time and effort," said Horne, explaining why some people dump trash rather than take it to a recycle center.

Horne added, "It's a small percentage of people who do this. They need to get into the state of mind that if they recycle, they won't be filling up the landfill as much."

"My goal is to make a difference in the County. The Commissioners want to address the litter problem, and that's why I'm out here. We want to catch and stop anyone who is littering, dumping or burning trash illegally. We want to educate everyone on the issues of improper storage and the illegal burning and dumping of trash."

"I like what I do. I'm outside. But it's not fun. It's trashy. That's just part of the job," said Horne.



J.R. Horne prepares to leave a notice at a home where trash is improperly stored.



J.R. Horne investigates a site where illegal dumping is a habitual problem.

the Birthday list for April

2 Glenn Chatman (Public Works); **4** Buffie Hunt (EMS) and Faye Connelly (Public Works); **9** Melissa Nelson (EMS); **10** Charlene Mouzon (DSS); **11** James McLean (Transportation); **12** Michael Alford (Parks and Recreation) and Betty Smith (Health); **14** Jimmy King (Parks and Recreation), Bill Edge (Sheriff), Lakeisha Patterson and Ethena Locklear (DSS); **15** Melinda Salley (Health); **16** Tammy Cole (DSS), Erica Hall (Health) and Jerry Johnson (Elections); **17** Lorie Pierce (Baby Think It Over); **18** April Snead (DSS); **19** Charles Ellerbee (Public Buildings), Robert McRae (Transportation) and Charles Osteen (Public Works); **20** Sandra McNeil (DSS); **21** Patricia Campbell (Public Buildings); **22** Robert Britt (Sheriff), Madeline Peele (DSS Board) and Yolanda Alford (DSS); **24** Charles Watson (EMS); **25** Sandra Miller (Jail); **27** Tina Oxendine (Health); **28** Sandy McCrimmon (Transportation) and Sharon English (Cooperative Extension).

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since January 16, 2006: **Arline Swett, Denise Cox, Jason Jones** and **Leah Williamson**, part-time, EMS;

James Davis, Jail; **Davis Locklear, Earl Haywood** and **Gyivan Collins-Jackson**, Sheriff; **Davis Dalzlein**, temporary, Sheriff; **Leslie Scott**, Social Services; **Faye Connelly**, Public Works; and **James McLean** and **Robert Jones**, part-time, Transportation.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Fun activities and artistic pursuits will be the focus of two camps sponsored by Parks and Recreation this summer.

The first camp, which runs June 18 to July 13, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., provides a variety of recreation activities.

The camp, for children ages 6 to 12, includes visits to the Scotland Tennis Center, the Splash Pad at Scotland Yard, Rockers Roller Dome and Disc Golf at Scotland Place. Pay the \$10 pre-registration fee at Scotland Place by June 22.

A children's theatre camp, sponsored by ENCORE Theatre! and Parks and Recreation through Missoula Children's Theater, will be 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. July 16 to 21.

Two Missoula Children's Theater professional actor/directors will lead the week, which will conclude in two performances of **The Pied Piper**.

A total of 64 youth, grades 1st through 12th, are invited to participate. The first day of camp will be an audition for roles in the production. There is a \$25 pre-registration fee. Checks should be made payable to ENCORE Theatre! Pre-register at Scotland Place.

Post Scripts

Deborah Rogers, Health, welcomed her first grandchild, Yazmin Rhiana Locklear, February 1. ☘ Celebrating employment

anniversaries at EMS are: **Morrison Lockey**, 7 years; **Michael McQueen**, 6 years; and **David Flowers** and **John Deese**, 1 year. ☘ Congratulations to **Terry Byrd**, Soil and Water, who married Mitchell Williams February 24. ☘ **Cathy Graham**, Cooperative Extension, was selected to participate in the Spring 2007 Rural Economic Development Institute. The nine-day leadership program provides rural leaders with knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable economic and community development while managing the challenges of economic transitions in rural communities. ☘ Congratulations to **Hazel McPhatter**, Cooperative Extension, on the March 19 birth of twin grandsons Kevin Lee and Devin Lee Stephenson. ☘ **Gwendolyn McDuffie**, DSS, will marry Keitha Terry, Jr. April 28 at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Maxton. ☘ Scotland High freshman Royalonda Odom, daughter **Sarah J. McQueen**, DSS, attended the NC General Assembly Page Program in Raleigh, March 19 to 23. Royalonda was recommended by Rep. Garland Pierce. The Page Program is an opportunity for young people to participate in the lawmaking process and allows them to see how bills are introduced, discussed in committee meetings and voted on by the Senate and House before being delivered to the Governor's desk for signature. Pages are responsible for attending daily Senate Sessions, delivering messages and passing out bills, amendments, substitutes and other documents as requested by the Senators. Program participants must be in good standing academically and have prior approval granted by the principal if pages serve during the school year.

Our condolences to **James Ellerbee**, Public Works, on the death of his father.

Message from the Manager

Last week I met with a North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Risk Management Pools representative. He was auditing the County's Risk Management Policy to see where we stood in our efforts to reduce accidents and injuries in the work place.

The good news is accidents and injuries are down considerably, which is very important as we head into renewal season for Property and Liability and Workers Compensation insurance.

Even with good news, though, we still have opportunities to improve our Risk Management programs. Improvement starts with the individual employee.

Safety must be the most important priority for all employees every day, and safety issues must be addressed every day. Please bring up safety as a topic in your department meetings.

Identify areas in safety that need improvement, and bring them to the attention of your supervisors and managers.

The last few weeks have been busy. Review of Department budgets has begun. The Commissioners will receive the proposed budget for review by the end of April, which is ahead of schedule. So the Commissioners will have ample time to consider requests and review each Department budget in detail. Thanks for the hard work in getting the documentation needed for this process.



John A. Crumpton

Class draws participants from five counties

by **Roylin Hammond, EMS**

Local government employees and emergency responders gathered last month to attend a 24-hour Incident Management System 300 Level class.

The 41 attendees overwhelmed Laurinburg Fire Department's North Fire Station training room for the three-day class taught by Woody Mashburn, Area Eight Coordinator for North Carolina Emergency Management.

Completion of the course is one of the requirements for agencies and local governments to comply with National Incident Management System (NIMS) set forth by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The course was attended by administrative staff from both Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg. There were also personnel attending from the City of Laurinburg Finance, Public Works and Consumer Billing Departments, Laurinburg Fire Department and Scotland County's Sheriff's Department, Health Department, EMS and 911.

Hoke County Sheriff's Department, Richmond County Sheriff's Department, Spring Hill Fire Department, Cumberland County Fire Department and North Carolina Forestry Services staff from Scotland, Richmond and Moore counties also were represented.

The course was sponsored by Scotland County Emergency Management.



Attendees overwhelmed Laurinburg Fire Department's North Fire Station for the Incident Management System 300 Level class.

Please pay attention to the goings on in Raleigh. The Legislature is reviewing quite a few laws that could have a significant impact on the County. The NCACC tracks these laws on its webpage.

I encourage each of you to go to www.ncacc.org and click on the Legislative Updates to review laws under consideration that will affect County government.

First Carolina Care health insurance is expected to increase 12 percent, which is not bad considering the County's claims are running 20 percent above premiums.

Spring is an ideal time to think about getting in shape and getting healthy.

All of us must do a better job of taking care of our health and stop the insurance premium increases by living healthier.

Please take time to exercise. The new walking path at the Sports Complex is a great place to get out and exercise.

Getting healthy and staying healthy enhances our personal life and increases work productivity.

District Court gets functional change

A portion of District Court was redesigned to eliminate bottlenecks and provide the Judge with a better view of the courtroom.

Public Buildings staff took on the project at the request of the judges and Clerk of Court Whit Gibson.

The entrance from the judge's chamber was switched from the hallway side of the courtroom to the interior side so the judge could enter the courtroom and avoid the foot traffic.

Staff tapered the bench so the judge would have a better view of the entire courtroom.

Seating for the clerk and the witness was reversed and the floor of the witness stand lowered.

Public Buildings staff completed the project in four days.



Tim Matthew, left, James McQueen, center, and Ricky Locklear worked on the redesign. The judge's chamber entrance was reversed, and the door now swings in, not out.

News of Note

Healthy Carolinians Step into Spring

Healthy Carolinians will sponsor the Great Ex-STEP-tations Walking Program "Step into Spring" April 1 to April 28. All County personnel are invited to register, pick up a walking log and start walking for better health. A Community Walk will be held Saturday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Hammond Park. Registration is free, and forms are available at the Health Department, Parks and Recreation and 507 West Covington Street. Challenge yourself! Challenge each other! For additional motivation and support, Healthy Carolinians hosts a Lunch & Learn program the last Monday

of each month during lunch hour at the Health Department that focuses on health, physical activity and nutrition. Bring your lunch and join us!

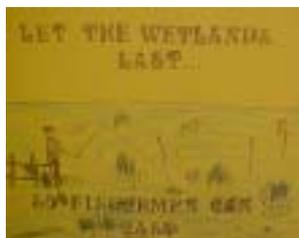
Wetlands are Wonderful, say students



Cayleigh McClendon: "Wetlands Not Wastelands."

Wetlands are Wonderful was the topic for the annual poster contest hosted by Scotland Soil and Water. The contest was open to all the grades from 3rd to 5th within the County.

Wagram Primary School and Shaw Elementary School participated in the contest. Cayleigh McClendon won the 3rd grade poster representing Wagram Primary School. Cayleigh



Zachary Drennan: "Let the Wetlands Last so the Fishermen Can Cast."

placed third in the Area VII contest. Zachary Drennan won the 5th grade poster contest representing Shaw.

EM Statistics

EMS Report for February:

Responded to 373 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 46 motor vehicle accident patients

Administered 104 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 24 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

386 EMS

294 Sheriff's Department

185 Laurinburg Police Department

54 Fire Department

659 hang-up calls

87 wrong numbers

39 open line calls

1,266 cellular calls

1,957 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

57 breathing problems

55 sick person (specific diagnosis)

46 traffic accidents

31 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

25 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 74 on 2/22

Temp (low) 21 on 2/21

Wind (mph) 26 on 2/4, 18

Rainfall (inches) .65 on 2/13

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Child Abuse Prevention Month begins

The DSS Children Services Unit will hold several events in April in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. April will kick off with Nickels for Christmas, a children's art contest and a Fun Day. The Fun Day will be 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 14. Community organizations will be on hand, such as EMS, Health Department, 4-H and Girl Scouts, to provide information and join in activities. For more information, call April Snead at 277-2525, ext. 3371.

Relay for Life hosts kick-off

The Scotland County Area Relay For Life will host its kick-off April 2 at the Dulin Center. Volunteers and teams are needed for the event. Relay's "Spring Fling" will be April 28 at the Highlands. Tickets are \$25 each and will cover food and beverage. For tickets, contact Kaye McMillan, DSS, or Lynda McMillan, Health Department. Tickets also may be purchased at the door. The Relay raised more than \$250,000 last year. The Relay will be held September 21 to 22 at Pate Stadium.

Spring Litter Sweep gears up

The State, by proclamation, identified April 14 to 28 as the Spring 2007 Litter Sweep roadside cleanup. Locally, the Chamber of Commerce organizes the event. Contact 276-7420 for dates and time.

Rabies vaccination clinics held

Pet owners can get their dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies at a reduced rate throughout the month of April. Academy Animal Hospital, Animal Care Clinic, Scotland Veterinary Hospital and X-Way Animal Hospital will perform the vaccinations for \$6.50 fee per pet.

NOTE: The Board of Elections has made available two more informational brochures — Voter Registration Drives and a Voter Guide. Both are available at the Elections office at the Annex and will be posted at www.scotlandcounty.org.