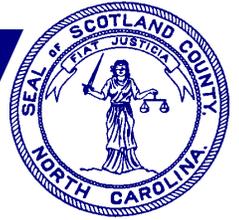


Scotland County

Monthly



MARCH 2009

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

County considers proposal to close Pinewood, By-Pass parks

Citizens will be invited to comment on a proposal to close Pinewood and By-Pass parks.

Once a hub of activity, the parks are rarely used as youth athletic programs become more centralized within the communities.

Meetings for public input will be held at each site in April.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board also will hear public input during its meeting in May.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will then make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners in July on whether to leave the parks open or close them based on information received.

Director Shannon Newton said Parks and Recreation is working toward centralizing its Laurinburg sports operation taking into account the opening of the comprehensive 40-acre James L. Morgan Recreation Complex on Turnpike Road.

Newton explained that By-Pass Park is no longer used for baseball and tee-ball. "It is primarily used for practice 15-weeks a year, yet the site must be maintained year-round."

Newton suggested the By-Pass fences and backstops could be removed and located to the Morgan Complex to create practice space.

The land could be turned back to the City of Laurinburg for cemetery use.

Pinewood Park is being considered for closure because the playground equipment is outdated. Replacing it with equipment that meets today's safety regulations could prove costly, Newton said. She added that Hammond Park would be the alternate location for play.

Newton stressed that public input is important since it was instrumental in the development of the Master Plan. How fields were done at the Morgan Recreation Complex were based on public input, as were renovations at Market and Hammond parks.

"If you have an opinion about the proposed closing of these parks, we want to hear it," said Newton.

If attendance at the public input sessions is not possible, there are other ways to make your opinions known.

Call Parks and Recreation at 277-2585 with comments or go to www.scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org and click the Contact Us link.



The last games played at By-Pass Park were in the summer of 2007 just before the Recreation Complex opened.

Elected officials discuss local needs with Congressman Kissell

County Manager Kevin Patterson and Commissioners J.D. Willis, Betty Blue Gholston and John Alford took full advantage of a recent business trip to Wahington, D.C., by paying a visit to Congressman Larry Kissell's office to discuss local issues.

Patterson and the elected officials were in town to attend the National Association of County Officials (NACO) Legislative Conference, an annual event that spans four days.

"It was a very informative meeting," Patterson said of the visit with Rep. Kissell.

"Congressman Kissell is very aware of Scotland County and very aware of its needs and the circumstances here," Patterson said.

Patterson said that Rep. Kissell has personally

discussed the County's high unemployment rate and economic issues with Governor Bev Perdue and also brought them to light on the floor of the House.

see Kissell, page 2

Shred event nets 9,000 pounds

More than 200 people from a three-county area brought boxes and bags of personal papers to the first ever community-wide Shred-It event March 21. By the end of the day, more than 9,000 pounds of paper had been turned into confetti.

"The truck was piled to the top with bits and pieces of paper," said Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English. "You'd never be able to reconstruct that."

Hosted by Cooperative Extension and the ECA, word of the big shred spread quickly throughout Scotland and Richmond counties and Marlboro County in South Carolina.

"People started coming at 8 a.m. before the Shred-It truck arrived at 8:30 a.m.," English said.

Although 10 a.m. was the scheduled start time, English said, "We went ahead and started early, and we had a real rush at about 9:30."

English added, "People who brought documents for shredding were so appreciative because many said they had accumulated paperwork over the years and they didn't know what to do with it. Some participants even left and returned with more."

Each person was permitted to bring up to 100 pounds or four large bags of paper.

see Shred, page 4

Transportation staff taught how to secure wheelchairs

Public transportation staff from seven counties learned firsthand how to properly secure a wheelchair in a public transportation vehicle.

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) hosted 47 participants from Stanly, Anson, Richmond, Hoke, Moore and Robeson counties for a half-day training.

Drivers from Century Care in Laurinburg also attended.

Chris Yarber, a SURE-LOK product specialist from Bethlehem, PA., a manufacturer of wheelchair securement devices, conducted the training.

"Everyone here learned how to secure a client in a chair and how to secure the chair to the vehicle," Transportation Coordinator Gracie Rettig said. "There are many people who don't know the correct way to do this."

Rettig said 2005 was the last time Scotland County hosted the training. She explained that there is only one company that trains drivers throughout the State.

Rettig said most of the participants were part-time drivers, many of whom were taking the training for the first time.

Knowledge of the correct securement procedure is critical to the safety of customers who use wheelchairs.

Rettig said SCATS transports at least a half dozen wheelchair-bound customers a day.

A video on proper wheelchair securement procedure was shown first.

A hands-on session followed so each attendee could practice securing a wheelchair, occupied by Transportation's Wanda Britt, to a platform similar to one in a public transportation vehicle.

"Everyone has to secure the wheelchair in order to receive certification," Rettig said.

"Gracie Rettig and Wanda Britt arranged for Chris Yarber to come down and provide the training at no cost to the County or to any of the drivers," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

He added, "Chris, Gracie and Wanda were all very pleased with the good turn out of participants."

SCATS attempts to hold some form of safety training for drivers each month" said Hammond.



Chris Yarber of SURE-LOK trains drivers and supervisors on safe wheelchair securement. Photo by Roylin Hammond

1 Mark Jackson (EMS); **2** Glenn Chatman (Public Works); **4** Buffie Hunt (EMS) and Faye Connelly (Public Works); **6** Shekeshia McPhatter (DSS); **9** Joy Davis (Library); **12** Michael Alford (Parks and Recreation) and Betty Smith (Health); **14** Lakeisha Patterson (DSS), Jimmy King (Parks and Recreation), Bill Edge (Sheriff) and Kisse Phy (EMS); **15** Melinda Salley (Health); **16** Erica Hall (Health), Jerry Johnson (Elections), Tammy Cole (DSS) and Alan Stewart (Recreation Complex); **17** Persephone Stewart (DSS); **18** April Snead (DSS); **19** Robert McRae (Transportation); **20** Sandra McNeil (DSS); **21** Patricia Campbell (Public Buildings); **22** Robert Britt (Sheriff), Madeline Peele (DSS Board) and Yolanda Alford (DSS); **23** Roger Alford (Jail); **25** Sandra Miller (Jail); **27** Tina Clark (Health); **28** Sandra McCrimmon (Transportation) and Sharon English (Cooperative Extension); **29** Debra Sandlin (EMS).

the Birthday list for April

Congratulations to **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings, on the birth of his third grandchild, **Alissa Delyn Mahar**. ❀ Our condolences to **Kevin Patterson**, Administration, on the death of his aunt.

Post Scripts

Commissioners visit Kissell in D.C.

continued from page 1

Local needs discussed included relocation of the Emergency Operations Center, proposed expansion of Scotland Place Senior Center and continued research into development of a water treatment plant at the WestPoint Stevens site.

Patterson also met with an economic developer from the office of Senator Richard Burr. "We talked a little bit more in depth about the WestPoint water treatment plant and other projects Scotland County has coming down the line including a potential energy project."

Although the meetings were beneficial, Patterson took a realistic view. "Federal funding still will be difficult to get because even though we're talking about billions of dollars, that money goes away in a hurry."

"Everyone was supportive of our ideas, and they were well-received," Patterson added. "But no one could give any guarantees."

Patterson also toured the White House. "It's a programmed tour where you see many of the same things one might see on the nightly news."

"You don't go off into the Oval Office or into the working areas," Patterson explained. "The President was there. You're just not allowed to go anywhere near where he is."



Left to right, Commissioners John Alford, J.D. Willis and Betty Blue Gholston pause for a photo on the steps of the Cannon Building in Washington, D.C., the location of Rep. Larry Kissell's office. The Commissioners, in town for a National Association of County Officials Legislative Conference, met with Congressman Kissell to discuss the situation in Scotland County and its needs. Photo by Kevin Patterson

Spring Litter Sweep planned

Community-minded citizens are being recruited to spend a few hours beautifying their communities, streets and highways.

Spring Litter Sweep volunteers are asked to pick up supplies — gloves, bags and safety vests — at Nic's Pik Kwik, 408 North Main Street, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday, April 17. Each person who picks up supplies will receive a free slice of pizza from Nic's.

Chamber of Commerce Image Committee members, hosts of the Litter Sweep, will be at the Nic's parking lot to answer questions and dispense additional information.

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne, an Image Committee member, said volunteers can collect litter sometime during the weekend.

Horne said, "Littering is a statewide and countywide problem. Litter can be found on state-maintained roads, county roads and private roads."



Unightly litter detracts from the appearance of any community. Photo by J.R. Horne

He added, "We appreciate every individual who comes out to show their support. Volunteers are important, and they do make a difference."

Chamber of Commerce Program Coordinator Matt Kendall added, "This is a great opportunity to get Scotland County looking clean and neat, especially before the annual Storytelling Festival of Carolinas the following weekend."

For more information contact Horne at 610-5262 or Kendall at 276-7420.

Library book sale is April 18

Scotland Memorial Library will hold a book sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Monies raised from the book sale will be used toward the formation of a Friends of the Library advocacy group. Anyone who wishes to donate books may do so during Library hours. Donated books can be placed in the book drop after hours.

FCC plans outreach on digital transition

The transition to digital television (DTV) will occur in June, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) wants consumers to be prepared. The FCC contacted government and community organizations for help in reaching consumers who risk losing television service after the switch. Many at-risk consumers, those who rely solely on over-the-air television broadcast, are elderly, in limited or low income households or are non-English speakers. The FCC plans to work with local agencies to ensure Scotland County consumers are ready for the transition. In April the FCC will conduct outreach in Scotland County. If you know of at-risk consumers please contact Ann Kurtzman at akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org or 277-3191.

EMS facility gets new kitchen

A new kitchen with updated equipment and appliances was installed at EMS replacing the original kitchen that was a part of the EMS building when it was constructed about 20 years ago. "The old kitchen was in need of new cabinets, a new sink and new appliances," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. He added, "We were fortunate to get Thomas Locklear to build new cabinets and counter tops, and we were also able to find some returned appliances at Lowe's that would fit into our budget."

Celebrate public health in April, enjoy the benefits year round

by Kathie Cox, Health Educator

The affect of public health is present everywhere, everyday. Yet citizens are not even aware of its reach into their lives. It is through the work of public health that food served in our restaurants is safe to eat, that our drinking walter is clean, that our children are vaccinated against dangerous diseases.

The Health Department wants residents to become familiar with these and the other benefits of public health in a community.

The agency will celebrate North Carolina Public Health Month in April and National Public Health Week April 6 to 10. The theme this year is *Public Health — Protecting Your Community*.

www.scotlandcountyhealth.org is a valuable resource.

Highlights include:

- How to get a well permit
- Questions for Animal Control
- Environmental Health fees
- Restaurant, lodging and child care inspections
- Clinical services provided
- Updated health-related news
- Who's involved in public health

"Public health is a quiet miracle, silently ensuring that our most basic and critical life needs are met," said Health Director Ron Sapp. "Since public health generally works to prevent problems, it often goes unnoticed. If people could imagine how chaotic and unsafe things would be without public health, they would appreciate the important role it plays in their daily lives."

The Health Department will be celebrate with a variety of activities including public service announcements, newspaper features and a variety of health-related presentations for the community.

Health Department staff have been working with and serving the public health needs of Scotland County residents for more than 65 years, providing clinical services, family planning, maternal health, child and adult health services, communicable and sexually transmitted disease services, environmental health, Women's, Infants and Children's Supplemental Nutrition (WIC) program, laboratory services, preparedness and response and health education programs that are critical to the well-being of the community.

To schedule a formal presentation about the quiet miracle of public health for your civic or social group, call Kathie Cox, Health Educator at 277-2440. County residents also are encouraged to attend regular meetings of the Board of Health to learn more about public health policy. Board of Health meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Health Department Education Room.

Big shred event called a success

continued from page 1

Extension, ECA and student volunteers greeted arriving vehicles, loaded bags and boxes of paper on to pushcarts and brought the material to the Shred-It truck.

"This allowed people to register and made the process run smoothly," said English. "Some wanted to go up to the truck and watch their paper being shredded."

Rose White-Hearn, an Outreach Specialist with the State Department of Justice, distributed tips on preventing identity theft, which is the fastest growing crime in the nation.

White-Hearn said the Department of Justice sends outreach specialists to community shred events because it is an effective way to spread the word on identity theft and how to prevent it.

Based on its success, English said there are hopes this might become an annual event.

"From a safety standpoint, this helps people rid their homes of potentially dangerous material," said English. "Environmentally, the shredded paper is shipped securely to a bailing facility and then shipped to a paper plant where the bails are recycled and made anew."

English added, "There is no waste and no dumping anywhere. We can feel doubly good about this. It was a win-win."



The Shred-It truck can hold up to 10,000 pounds of shredded paper.

Events in April focus on child abuse prevention

Scotland County DSS, along with the State, will recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Events scheduled throughout the month begin with the 3rd annual Family Fun day 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 4 at the Department.

DSS also will visit schools to educate students and professionals on signs of abuse or neglect and on how to make a report of abuse or neglect. An art/poetry contest will be sponsored in the school system.

A candlelight service will be held 6 p.m. April 23 at Scotland Place to honor those who fight to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

Each year statewide more than 100,000 children are reported as being abused or neglected. An underreported crime, child abuse leads to both short and long-term mental, behavioral, cognitive and health issues that affect the entire community. Child abuse is preventable.

Scotland County can prevent child abuse and neglect by supporting proven programs that help strengthen families and help parents create safe, nurturing home environments.

Power lines claims life of Bald Eagle

The Bald Eagle is the National Bird and it's protected by Federal Law. Harming one carries a serious penalty and a \$20,000 fine.

An unfortunate event March 12 put nature on a collision course with man-made technology that resulted in the death of a Bald Eagle in Scotland County.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond recounts the events of that evening:

"On March 12 at around 6 p.m., the Scotland County 911 Center received a call reporting that someone thought that there was an eagle on Highland Road near the Rostra Plant entrance.

"The Animal Control Officer on duty was responding to a horse incident at the time, so I responded to the call.

"Upon arriving at the scene, I found a Bald Eagle lying face down in the road. Unfortunately, the bird was dead.

"A North Carolina Wildlife Officer was called to the scene to confirm that the bird was in fact a Bald Eagle.

"While waiting for the Wildlife Officer to arrive, a Rostra manager drove up and inquired as to what was going on. He stated that the plant had experienced a power outage around 6 p.m., and they were waiting on Progress Energy to come restore the electricity.

"The dead eagle was in the road just under the three phase power lines that feed the Rostra Plant.

"When the wildlife officer arrived, the bird was turned over and found to have open injuries under its beak and throat area and also at the top of its right leg.

"Though not known for sure, it is believed the Bald Eagle may have flown into the power lines and been electrocuted.

"The Wildlife Officer took possession of the eagle to properly dispose of the bird."



Photo by Roylin Hammond

EMStatistics

EMS Report for February:

Responded to 343 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 28 total traffic accident patients

Administered 54 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 13 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

320 EMS

253 Sheriff's Department

255 Laurinburg Police Department

86 Fire Department

743 hang-up calls

70 wrong numbers

35 open line calls

1,546 cellular calls

2,059 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

51 breathing problems

46 sick person (specific diagnosis)

34 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

33 chest pain

31 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 75 on 2/8, 11

Temp (low) 20 on 2/5

Wind (mph) 26 on 2/11

Rainfall (inches) 1.23 on 2/18

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher