

# Scotland County

## Monthly



MAY 2008

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## County and City officials discuss expanded recreation opportunities

County and City officials hope to develop a plan with the schools where gymnasiums might be open evenings and weekends for community youth.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and school representatives will discuss the possibility of gymnasium use and present a plan to County and City elected officials at a later date.

The City Council asked the Board of Commissioners for assistance on expanding recreation options, particularly in Laurinburg, after City residents identified a need for more recreation options.

County Commissioners and City Council agreed that recreation in Gibson and Wagram and a limited use of the gyms at Sycamore Lane and I.E. Johnson should be reviewed.

Both boards suggested that National Guard Armory officials be approached, too.

The Armory is particularly desirable because of its central location in the City.



**Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, center, takes County and City officials on a tour of the Recreation Complex. On the steps are Council Member Tommy Parker, top left, and County Manager Kevin Patterson. Commissioners Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter are at the bottom of the steps.**

## Courthouse phone numbers change

Anyone trying to call the Clerk of Court the Public Defender or any of a dozen offices associated with the Courthouse and the Annex will get a digital recording informing them the number has changed.

The change in numbers will allow the Courthouse and Annex to standardize the telephone system statewide to conform with the installation of VoIP (Voice-over Internet Protocol).

The following Courthouse numbers will be useful: Clerk of Court, 266-4401 or 266-4402; District Attorney, 266-4500; Scotland Judges, 266-4575; Guardian ad Litem, 266-4530. Telephone numbers in the Annex are: Public Defender, 266-4550 and Sentencing Services, 266-4490.

## Splash Pad now open for business

The Splash Pad at the Recreation Complex is now open. Hours through June 16 are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

After June 16, the Splash Pad will be open 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. It will be closed Mondays. Fee is \$2 for 12 and older and \$1 for children younger than 12.

## Transportation workers take van rollover course

Every once in a while the Commissioners are asked to surplus a Transportation van and, when they do, EMS uses the surplus equipment to train staff on what to do in emergency situations.

In this case, transportation operators from Scotland, Hoke, Moore and Robeson counties took a course on how to evacuate injured in a van rollover scenario.

Although the training began with an educational video, the real work began at the staged scene of a rollover at Laurinburg Fire Station North.

It was there that EMS Director Roylin Hammond put drivers to the physical test using a surplus van that had been placed on its side.

Hammond described the van as "nothing but a tin can" that will easily crush when it runs into something.

He added that a van on its side is more of a challenge from which to escape.

"If the van was upside down, you could get out through the side doors or rear doors, but gravity is at work when a van is on its side."

Hammond warned that smoking would be a real hazard.

"Everything we've got here is gasoline, except for the vehicle. It's the vapor that ignites, so be careful not to smoke."

[see Rollover, page 3](#)

## Free Day runs smoothly

The annual Free Day last month was considered a success by County Engineer Jim Blackwell.

Blackwell said tonnage received was about the same as last year with more than 36 tons of municipal solid waste and nearly 30 tons of construction and demolition accepted at the five area recycle centers.

At the Patterson Road landfill, staff accepted 91 tickets for municipal solid waste and 129 tickets for construction and demolition. More than 200 tires were turned in as well.

"Free Day was very well-organized, and there were no long lines," said Blackwell.

"As always, the staff took care of the customers in a friendly and courteous manner."

## Soccer fields near completion



*Fine grading of the soccer fields took place the last week in May.*  
Photo by Jim Blackwell

Completion of the four soccer fields at the Recreation Complex is scheduled for mid-July.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell, who is overseeing the project, said that fine grading was completed the end of May, and installation of the storm drainage pipe is now underway.

Irrigation installation and sprigging and planting of the grass will complete the soccer fields and Phase II of the comprehensive plan for the Recreation Complex.

## News of Note

### Crime Stoppers makes presence known

Since the launch of Scotland Crime Stoppers in April, 11 arrests of the County's most wanted have been made as a result of 20 calls. Tips from citizens made the apprehensions possible. Crime Stoppers is a non-profit, community-based crime solving program working in conjunction with the police, the media and the public to help make the community a safer place in which to live. Crime Stoppers posts photos and descriptions of the area's most wanted fugitives. The Crime Stoppers web page <http://scotlandcrimestoppers.org/index.php> is linked from the Scotland County Sheriff's website and that of the Laurinburg Police Department. Crime Stoppers, Inc. is not affiliated with any law enforcement agency or government. It simply collects valuable information related to crimes in the community and passes the information along to the appropriate investigating agency. Should information provided from a tip lead to an arrest, the information provided will be evaluated to determine the amount of the reward for that information. Tips can be called in at 291-3333.

### Newsletter reverts to black and white format

The *Scotland County Monthly* will no longer be distributed in color. The color version of the newsletter will be available at [www.scotlandcounty.org](http://www.scotlandcounty.org). Just click on "newsletter" to access the month you would like to see in color. The color newsletter was discontinued for practical reasons since a black and white newsletter can be printed and distributed to County employees for a fraction of the cost of a color newsletter.

## Post Scripts

**Tosha McQueen**, DSS, attended the National Smart Start Convention May 7 to 9 in Greensboro. 🌀 Congratulations to **Kitty Johnson**, Health, on the May 6 birth of her fourth grandchild who just happens to be her first granddaughter. "McKenzie" Braden Allen's parents are Johnson's daughter Kristi Allen and her husband, Brad Allen. 🌀 Job well done for **Maternal Health**, including **Maternity Care Coordination Services** and **Women's Preventive Health**, for a very successful State audit May 13. State consultants described the audit as excellent. 🌀 Retired Veterans Service Officer **Bob Sanford** is a patient at the NC State Veterans Nursing Home in Fayetteville. Anyone who would like to send Sanford a get-well message can contact Susan Butler, Human Resources, or Mildred Williams, Veterans Services, for his address. 🌀 Celebrating anniversaries of employment at EMS are **Mac Tucker**, 15 years; **Ronnie Lynne Tunstall**, 14 years; **Kevin Strickland**, five years; and **Brandon Scott**, two years. 🌀 We wish a speedy recovery to **Dewey Oxendine**, Public Buildings and **June Hunt**, EMS.

Our condolences to **Patricia Brown**, Register of Deeds, on the recent death of her sister and to **Cordella Walker**, Health, on the May 21 death of her mother.

## DSS records review results in 100 percent pass rate



A review of more than 100 Social Services records last month resulted in a 100 percent pass rate in Work First Family Assistance, Adult Medicaid, Family and Children's Medicaid and the reception area in administration.

The review was conducted in April by the Division of Medical Assistance, Applications Monitoring Section.

In the above photo, left to right, Shekesha McPhatter, Administration; Anita Nelson, Work First Family Assistance; Joe Knott, DSS Director; Angelita Locklear, Adult Medicaid; and Nicole Yarborough, Family and Children's Medicaid; accepted a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of their respective units.

The yearly monitoring and review of the Scotland County Department of Social Services in Raleigh, designed to measure the agency's compliance, has been conducted for more than 15 years.

Scotland County DSS never achieved 100 percent in all categories, until now.

Knott credited the hard work, dedication and team work among DSS staff that resulted in a pass rate of 100 percent in every category reviewed.

## Community-based health clinic for veterans opens in Hamlet

The long-awaited Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) opened May 12 in Hamlet.

Located at 106 Jefferson Street in Hamlet, the approximately 6,000-square-foot of space was used previously for medical purposes and is leased by Sandhills Regional Medical Center.

Primary care and general mental health services will be provided to veterans primarily from Scotland, Anson and Richmond counties.

Veterans Service Officer Mildred Williams said the Clinic location will be more convenient for Scotland County veterans. "A lot of veterans find it difficult to drive or to find someone willing to drive them to the VAMC in Fayetteville. Although the veterans get travel expenses, it is not enough to cover the cost of the trip."

Williams added, "Sometimes veterans might have three appointments in one week. Since the bus station closed, the only source of transportation I could arrange to Fayetteville for them was through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in Richmond County."

"The DAV would pick veterans up at Pate's in Laurel Hill if there was room on the van," Williams explained. "It will be easier now for veterans to drive or to find someone to take them to Hamlet, and it will cut the cost of their transportation."

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**For enrollment information and specific questions about the Hamlet Clinic, call 910-822-7972**

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Veterans Affairs estimates that 2,400 veterans will seek care at the Hamlet Clinic. Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Emergency care will not be provided at the Hamlet clinic.

Veterans currently enrolled at the Fayetteville VAMC who live in close proximity to the Hamlet clinic will be given priority for care there. Those veterans who wish to receive care at the Hamlet Clinic must register with the Fayetteville VAMC.

see *Clinic*, page 4

## Junior Leadership class gets lesson on County operations



**County Manager Kevin Patterson, right, meets with the 2008 Junior Leadership group to discuss County services and mandates. Questions from the group focused on what drives the tax rate and promoting economic development. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Leadership for high school students helps foster and develop the potential of existing and emerging leaders of Scotland County.**

## Workshop prepares drivers for van rollover incident

*continued from page 1*



**Transportation operators Debbie Davis, Sharon Davis and Linda Jones, right to left, watch as Robert McRae evacuates EMS Director Roylin Hammond from an upright van.**

As Hammond escorted the drivers around the outside of the overturned van, he said, "There are things that could present a dangerous situation, things that you should think about."

Some of those dangers include the instability of a vehicle on its side and inhaling toxic vapors from a smoldering interior.

Hammond cautioned, "The only reason you should remove somebody from a vehicle involved in an accident is if the situation is a life threatening one."

If it is not life threatening, Hammond said it is better to wait for EMS whose trained personnel would go inside the van and perform spinal immobilization.

Hammond invited the drivers to walk into the overturned van. "This is a van you drive every day. When it is put on its side, it's different. You get a feel for what it's like in a foreign environment."

Hammond said drivers would have to take charge in the event of an accident, especially when bystanders step forward to help.

"Assess the scene. Take control of the scene and let yourself be guided by common sense."

He added, "Your job is to keep people safe, and don't move people unless there is imminent danger to life."

Hammond concluded, "Drive carefully, and keep the van upright."

"Unfortunately, you're not always in control of this because you're not the only person on the road," he added.

## Fence installed at communication tower

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

New security fencing was installed around the County's communication tower and radio building.

The old fencing was falling down and provided very little protection for the County's communication equipment.

The fenced area also was expanded and fitted with a larger gate to provide a secure area in which to store Emergency Management and Red Cross Disaster Response Trailers.

The fenced area is adjacent to the walking path around the new Recreation Complex. It is hoped that the new fence will deter any future visitors to the Complex from wandering into an area in which they might accidentally be injured or harmed on County property.



## the Birthday list for June

1 Lisa Locklear (Health); 2 Linda Locklear (Tax); 4 Andrea Anderson (DSS); 5 Dorothy Fields and Melinda McKoy (DSS), Stephanie Patterson (Cooperative Extension) and Barbara Mack (Health); 6 Leroy Davis (Public Buildings); 7 Bryant Higgins (Public Works); 11 Carolyn Allen (DSS); 12 Sharon Davis (Transportation); 13 Ronnie Lynne Tunstall (EMS); 14 Reginald Franklin (EMS), Kevin Rader (Sheriff) and Eva Locklear (DSS); 16 Annie Locklear (Health); 18 Scotty Kirkley (EMS); 21 Linda Holland (Administration) and Garrett Dial (EMS); 24 Pam Reed (DSS); 25 Annie Freeman (Cooperative Extension); 27 Bessie Bell (DSS), Jonathan Dunn (Jail) and Van McArthur (Health); 28 Mac Tucker (EMS) and Sheryl Primus (DSS); 29 Vicki Barnes (DSS) and Claire Graham (Health Board); 30 Randy Wood (Cooperative Extension).

## Hamlet health clinic services veterans

*continued from page 3*

Referrals for specialty care to Fayetteville VA Medical Center or to other VA sites will continue as appropriate for veterans seen initially at the Hamlet Clinic.

Representative Robin Hayes, a strong advocate for the establishment of the Hamlet clinic, was praised by officials during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Direct phone number to the Hamlet Clinic is 910-582-3536.

### Health Tip

Air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter may make you less cranky, but they may also make you fatter. If you're in a cool room in winter, for example, your body has to do more metabolic work to get your temperature up to normal. Nothing replaces a good old-fashioned workout for calorie burning, but lowering your thermostat setting a bit in winter and tipping it a smidge higher in summer may boost your baseline calorie burn.

Men can get bone problems like osteoporosis, too. An estimated 12 million men are at risk for the disease. Calcium and vitamin D help. So do weight-bearing exercises like lifting weights and hiking. Another thing you can do for your bones is eat crab salad, which is rich in zinc. When men with osteoporosis were studied, it turned out that many with brittle bones were low on zinc. You'll feel and see it in your body in the form of lethargy, slow wound healing, brittle bones and hair loss. **Source: [www.RealAge.com](http://www.RealAge.com)**

## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for April:

**Responded to** 347 Medical/Trauma calls

**Treated** 33 total traffic accident patients

**Administered** 81 wellness/blood pressure checks

**Sold** 12 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**339** EMS

**359** Sheriff's Department

**295** Laurinburg Police Department

**44** Fire Department

**688** hang-up calls

**81** wrong numbers

**58** open line calls

**1,463** cellular calls

**2,099** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**51** breathing problems

**44** chest pain

**39** sick person (specific diagnosis)

**33** traffic accidents

**30** falls/back injuries (traumatic)

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 86 on 4/26

**Temp (low)** 37 on 4/16

**Wind (mph)** 25 on 4/12

**Rainfall (inches)** 2.47 on 4/5

*Compiled by Tommy Hatcher*

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since March 16, 2008: **Timothy Haggans**, Public Works; **Katherine Caulder**, **Latisha Lowery** and **Tammy Kellogg**, Social Services. **Christopher Lee** and **Stephanie Bennett**, part-time with EMS.



## 4-H assists at children's event

Scotland County 4-H participated in the annual Sunday in the Park Festival April 20 where approximately 3,000 youth and families showed up during the course of the afternoon to enjoy fun activities and a wide range of entertainment. Scotland County 4-H volunteers provided tattoos and face painting, as well as a raffle for a Summer Fun 4-H Basket.