

APRIL 2014



# Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

## Spring Litter Sweep a success with record community participation

The 2014 Spring Litter Sweep was the biggest ever with 22 teams, a record number, participating and more than 150 people picking up litter along County roads. More than 7,100 pounds of litter was picked up during Spring Litter Sweep.

Participating teams were eligible to win a cash prize for collecting the most weight in litter. First place, King of the Mountain at \$200, was awarded to Southern Pacific Paranormal. The team picked up 2,287 pounds of litter.

Girl Scout Troop 1723 took second place for the \$100 prize after they picked up 1,848 pounds of litter.

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Bobby Horne, a member of the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee, said that vouchers and other small items from local stores were distributed to the first 100 volunteers.

"We wanted to make Litter Sweep a challenge but we also wanted to give volunteers something in return for their dedication and for going out there and trying to clean up our County," Horne explained.

Teams or individuals working as part of a team were able to gather litter at any time between Monday, March 31, and Saturday, April 5. Bags of litter were dropped off at any of the five recycling centers in the County for weigh in by 3 p.m. Saturday, April 5.

"We are very grateful for these two teams and all 22 teams who went out and picked up trash in our area," said Chamber President Tonia Stephenson.

## Creative raft enthusiasts prepare for 2014 Chalk Banks Challenge

The 2014 Chalk Banks Challenge and River Festival will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Chalk Banks Access Area at the Lumber River in Wagram. Contestants are invited to compete in raft, recreational canoe and kayak races.

The Festival also will feature a 5K Trail Run that will loop through the Chalk Banks Access Area.

The homemade raft race will be the highlight of the day. A Scotland County tradition, raft races will be divided into two classes: single person and group (two or more people).

All rafts must be homemade and may not be motorized in any way. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.

[see Challenge page 4](#)

**Happy 100th Birthday, Cooperative Extension!**

## EMS releases statistics, trends for 2013 calls

EMS ran 5,008 calls in 2013. "We're equally busy most every day, but Friday seems to be the busiest day for some reason," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. Lunch time is the busiest time for call volume.

Average CHUTE time (the time the call comes in and the ambulance is en route to the call) is 71 seconds. "We have a goal of two minutes, so we're under that," Hammond said.

Average response time for a call is 8 minutes, 10 seconds, with the destination for the majority of calls within the City of Laurinburg.

Scotland Memorial Hospital is the destination for EMS calls the majority of the time at 3,667.

"Periodically we do take patients away from the hospital, like to nursing homes," Hammond said.

"There are situations where EMS responded to a call and the patient chose not to ride," he added.

In 2013, that occurred 1,227 times. "They are no treatment, no transport calls and they average about 25 percent of EMS calls," Hammond explained.

In some cases, 91 in 2013, EMS performed treatment but did not transport the patient. Hammond said that is something new and EMS is actually charging patients for the treatment.

"Nine times out of 10, it's a diabetic reaction situation where we give medication, the patient regains consciousness, and they decide they don't want to go to the hospital. We charge them for the service and we anticipate this service will increase over time."

In location type breakdown, EMS goes to the home most of the time, 3,044 times in 2013, followed by street or highway 587 time and nursing home 389 times.

In breakdown by age, those who are 50 to 70 are the biggest clientele. "That's the baby boomers, and I don't expect it to change," Hammond said.

70 percent of the time EMS is going "hot" to what it considers an emergency. That means lights and sirens are used.

Hammond concluded, "The call volume has gone up a little bit each year, but we're still able to meet our call demands and not have too long a response time."



**Girl Scout Troop 1723 collected 1,848 pounds of litter for second place.**



**Governor Pat McCrory, left, was the featured speaker. Photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS**

## Public transit changes told at conference

Many upcoming issues were presented to the attendees at the 2014 Spring NC DOT Public Transit Association Conference in Charlotte. Gracie Rettig and Roylin Hammond were there on behalf of the Scotland County Transit System.

Among the issues proposed are changes in the requirements for approval for access and reimbursement to public transit systems throughout the State.

"A good bit of costly and time-consuming changes are on the horizon for local transit systems," said Hammond.

Attendees were treated to a banquet at the NASCAR Hall of Fame where Governor Pat McCrory was the featured speaker.

PTA Conference attendees toured the NASCAR facility, competed in the NASCAR simulator track racing and tested their skills as pit crew members.

## Free service assists more taxpayers

376 taxpayers received free service during the 2013 tax season, up from 2012 when 350 taxpayers were served.

The free service was made available through AARP Tax Aide, Parks and Recreation and Scotland County Memorial Library.

324 federal returns were e-filed compared to 310 in 2012. Total returns processed were 351, compared to 234 in 2012.

"This is the 15th year that Parks and Recreation has participated in the program," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton. "The partnership between Parks and Recreation and the Library is beneficial to the community as we are able to provide a much-needed service to our citizens."

Newton added, "The community should be very appreciative of those volunteers who come from Moore County to help our citizens. We certainly are glad they take the time for the training in order to provide service to our community."

## County health ranking slips in 2014

A national report on county health rankings released recently showed Scotland County fell to a 98 ranking from 83 in last year's report. The County ranked 96 in length of life and 95 in quality of life.

In Scotland County 28 percent were reported to have poor health compared to 18 percent in North Carolina. Low birth weight was at 13 percent compared to 9.1 percent in North Carolina.

In the area of health behaviors obesity is at 36 percent compared to 29 percent in the State. Access to exercise opportunities is 29 percent compared to statewide access at 65 percent.

In clinical care, access to a dentist was 5,474:1 and mental health providers at 1,277:1 compared to statewide access at 2,075:1 and 715:1, respectively.

Scotland County fell short in social and economic factors with high school graduation at 66 percent compared to the State's 79 percent.

There are 47 percent children in poverty compared to the North Carolina percentage of 26.

Physical environment issues that include air pollution, the quality of drinking water and availability of housing were on par with State percentages.

Halifax County ranked 99 and Columbus County was at the bottom at 100. Robeson County was ranked 97, Bladen, 91. Moore ranked 13, Hoke, 36 and Cumberland, 73.

Health Director David Jenkins said of the health assessment, "We look at the health assessment, look at our priorities and compare it to the data to see where we need to better serve the community and where we need to complement some of our programs."

Jenkins said of child health, maternity care, diabetes education, more outreach, postpartum newborn visits, "We're trying to find areas where we need to prioritize to make more of an impact in the community. That's what this data will help us do."

He added, "Obviously, we've got our work cut out for us." Jenkins stressed that social and economic factors impact the data.

Jenkins explained, "If you break down the data and see where you get the numbers from, it's just a combination of things. It's not just a public health thing, it's a community thing."

"It involves everybody in the community, all the physicians, the hospital, everything we're dealing with in Scotland County, loss of jobs, all of that has an impact on those rankings," Jenkins said. "Public health will definitely do its part to improve that scoring moving forward."

The Community Health Rankings for counties in all 50 states are compiled by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The National Center for Health Statistics, the Centers for Disease Control Behavioral Risk Factor Survey System, Medicare, the Health Resources and Services Administration are among the agencies that provide the data.

## the Birthday list for May

**2** James McQueen and Rebekah Oxendine (DSS); **4** Teresa Vick and Tosh McQueen (DSS); **8** Tonia Bailey (DSS); **9** James E. McQueen and Willie Peterkin (Transportation); **10** Mike McGirt (Public Buildings), Vanessa McNair (Transportation) and Michelle McRae (DSS); **11** Nancy Bostick (Administration), Trina Locklear and Stephanie Berry (DSS) and Felicia Faison (Health); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **14** Daniel McClellan (Sheriff) and Dontae Roland (EMS); **15** Roxanne Douglas (DSS); **17** Melanie Laviner and Scott Jacobs (Sheriff) and Morgan Richardson (Health); **18** Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner) and Rebecca Griffin (DSS); **19** Sarah Craig (DSS) and Keith Faulk (Public Buildings); **20** Tony Smith (Sheriff), Billie Phillips (Tax) and Christopher Littles (Parks and Recreation); **21** Bob Davis (Commissioner) and Carol Quick (DSS); **24** Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Miles Mack (Jail); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS) and Antoinette Gibson (Sheriff); **31** Wayne Mace (EMS).

## Register of Deeds digitizes documents

Documents at the Register of Deeds office are being digitized for safekeeping. The project has been a long-time goal for Register of Deeds Debra Holcomb. This is just the first phase, which includes digitizing documents dating back to 1967. "The importance of digitizing records is to secure them for future generations," Holcomb said. "If we had a fire or a flood and the records were destroyed, it would take a year or two to recreate the books, so it's important to have these records digitized in this electronic world." Records that were in Photostat form were enhanced for ease of reading. Records load quickly. Records are being redacted automatically so personal information like Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers will not be seen. Courthouse Computer Systems is handling the project.

## Transformation grant funds parks assessment

Scotland County Parks and Recreation with assistance from the Health Department was awarded a \$16,000 Community Transformation Grant. The funds will be used to update the 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to assess park locations and recreation features to ensure citizens have access to public parks, open space and recreation opportunities for active living and increased physical activity. "The information will be a valuable planning tool in evaluating features at current parks and possible general locations for future parks," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton. The Community Transformation program and Holland Consulting Planners from Wilmington will manage the grant funding and partner with the County in completing the grant. "This is beneficial as they are currently working with the City of Laurinburg on a pedestrian planning grant and are therefore somewhat familiar with our community," Newton explained.

## Mass medications preparedness class held

Emergency Management sponsored a Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness Training class for public health and emergency management staff. 38 public health staff from Scotland and Richmond counties health departments along with emergency management staff attended. The 16-hour course was taught by instructors from Texas A&M through the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). The course allowed participants to gain a better understanding of the processes involved in providing specific doses of medication to a large number of people in a short period of time. Instructors ended the training with a table-top exercise that required administering medication to 36,000 people in a 36-hour period. The training was an eye opening experience for all participants. RCC provided classroom space at the Honeycutt Center for the training.

## Library to host two special events in May

Author Lloyd Griffith will sign his book *The Kingdom of God* 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Scotland County Memorial Library. *The Kingdom of God* is the story of a journey to explore a holy dimension present in ordinary events and encounters. The journey begins with the armor of God: putting on faith, hope and love to hear and understand the language of the soul. On Saturday, May 17, the North Carolina Civil History Center Foundation will provide the opportunity for all Scotland County residents to digitally scan any Civil War-era and Reconstruction-era papers, photographs, letters, diaries or similar documents they might have in their possession. The service will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library, 312 West Church Street. For more information on either event, call 276-0563.

## Post Scripts

Welcome to those employees hired since February 16: **Shane Baldwin** and **Shirley Fairley**, Jail; **Reginald Drakeford**, Public Buildings; **Dustin Morrison** and **William McIlwain**, Sheriff; **Jenny Valdaliso**, **Kendria Pate** and **Tiffany Elliott**, DSS; and **Tod Bonello**, tempo-

rary, Sheriff. ❁ Congratulations to Commissioner **Bob Davis** on the April 2 birth of great-grandson Teddy Doyle "Trey" Norton III. ❁ **Alisa Freeman**, **Debbie Maske**, **Maria Roberts** and **Nicki Peek** brought the Health Department to Sunday in the Park April 6 with a booth that provided information on the many programs offered by the agency. Multivitamins were

given to qualifying individuals. Frisbees, hand fans and other items were given to children and parents. ❁ **Miriam Bounds**, **Lisa Tew** and **Angela Stephens** attended the

April 8 Wagram Primary Health Fair to offer information on immunizations, the diabetes management education program and other services provided by the Health Department. Multivitamins were given to qualifying individuals while hand fans and other items were given to children and parents. Stephens, Cooking Matters representa-

tive, encouraged Fair participants to sample healthy, nutritious snacks. Giveaways included cloth grocery bags filled with cooking utensils and nutrition information that will benefit kids and adults. ❁ Congratulations to **Phyllis Clark**, Health, on the April 26 marriage of her daughter, Maggie Clark to Adam Dixon. ❁ **Gracie Rettig**, Transportation, was elected to serve as one of 10 board members for the Public Transit Association in North Carolina. Rettig served several years ago and her hard work was remembered by her peers in re-electing her. Rettig is known throughout North Carolina for the good work she does for public transportation.

## Our condolences to ...

**Larry Herring**, Health retiree, on the March 29 passing of his father, Carlton Herring; **Amanda Martin**, DSS, on the April 1 passing of her grandmother, Anna Callahan; **Sharon Brandon**, Register of Deeds, on the April 3 passing of her father and **Linda Locklear**, Tax, on the April 23 passing of her father, Winford McGirt.



**The Health Department was ready to do business at Sunday in the Park.**



**The Health Department distributed information at the Wagram Primary Health Fair.**

## 6,000 pounds of paper collected at the shred event

More than 200 people took advantage of the March 22 free Community Shred to safely rid their homes of 6,000 pounds of potentially damaging personal information.

Scotland County Cooperative Extension, Extension and Community Association (ECA) and Walgreens sponsored the Community Shred in an effort to provide citizens an opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft.

Pro-Shred, a company that specializes in secure document management, provided the shred service. All of the shredded paper was relocated to a secure bailing facility to be recycled.

"We were very happy to bring back the community shred to Scotland County citizens this year," said Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English. "A special thank you to Walgreens for their co-sponsorship of this event and also many thanks to our ECA, 4-H and high school youth volunteers who helped the process run smoothly."



**Walgreens parking lot was the site for the annual shred event.**

## Challenge a day of fun, races

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New this year will be the addition of a Corn Hole Tournament for 16 two-member teams. Registration the day of the contest is \$10. There will be \$200 in cash prizes.

There will be a raffle for first prize, a \$300 Dick's gift card and second prize, a \$100 gas card from Nic's Pic Kwik. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.

Visit [www.chalkbanks.com](http://www.chalkbanks.com) for raffle ticket information and additional event information. Music, food vendors, canoe rides, games for kids, demonstrators and nature displays continue throughout the day.

### Chalk Banks Challenge schedule

- 8:30-10 - Canoe and kayak registration
- 10-11 - Raft and runner registration, corn hole registration (\$10 day of event)
- 10 - Festival Opens
- 10:30 - NCCRA Recreational Kayak K-1 State Championship
- 10:40 - NCCRA Recreational Canoe C-2 State Championship
- 11 - Raft races
- 11:30 - Corn Hole Tournament begins
- 12 - 5K Trail Run
- 12:30 - Kid's Olympics begin
- 1 - Art Contest winners announced and prizes awarded
- 2 - Awards and raffle drawing

## Operation Medicine Drop process 49,000+ dosage units

The March 22 Operation Medicine Drop collected more than 49,000 dosage units, an all-time high for the event.

Corporal Josh Byrd of the Laurinburg Police Department said, "Our totals were extremely high this year. We took in a total of 49,416 dosage units of medication. 1,270 were controlled substance. 27,916 were prescription medications, 240 veterinarian meds and 16,149 over the counter medications. 3,841 were unknown medications."

For those who missed the event or who just want to discard medications on a regular basis, the Laurinburg Police Department now has a permanent drop box, which will be available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The drop box, which also accepts syringes, is located in the lobby at the Police Department.

"Once a week we will unlock it, take the medications and dispose of them properly," Byrd said. "You do not have to remove labels off the bottles. They will be incinerated so your personal information will not be leaked out."

Safe Kids of North Carolina, an advocate of Operation Medicine Drop, assisted the Laurinburg Police Department with the paperwork required to get a permanent drop box.

## Older transit drivers praised

At a recent NC DOT public transportation conference, it came out in national surveys that historically senior citizens who are drivers in the public transportation system have had lots of experience driving in their lives.

"They're not in a big hurry about things," Said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. "They realize their cognitive skills are not quite as good as they used to be so they spend more time looking both ways and generally being more cautious."

Hammond added, "They have a much lower accident rate. Vehicle maintenance on the vehicles they drive is much lower because they're not doing jackrabbit starts and slamming on brakes."

"It's not conducive to them and it's obviously not conducive to the patient or the passengers who are on the vehicle," Hammond explained. "They're really an asset to us."

It was mentioned that in some services in North Carolina they had drivers as old as 83 with a perfect safety record.

"Scotland County's older drivers are dependable," said Hammond. There are eight individuals who are older than 65 who serve as Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) drivers.

"They have a different work ethic," Hammond said, explaining that the SCATS work day begins at 5 a.m. with the senior drivers who come in so they can pick up dialysis patients and get them to the dialysis center by 6 a.m.

"They come in. They do their job. They're very happy to be here," Hammond said. "They are part-time drivers who do this job because they want something to do."

He added, "They aren't necessarily doing it for the money, although it is helpful. All we do is ask them to do their job and it gets done, no problem."

**Don't forget to vote Tuesday, May 6, 2014**