



# Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

## Mark Ward selected to lead economic development effort

Laurinburg native and banker Mark Ward will take on the role of Economic Development Director effective May 2.

A 1989 graduate of Scotland High School, Ward has worked in the Laurinburg banking industry since 1996, first with Wells Fargo Financial as a Branch Manager and then with First Bank as a Vice President Bank Manager.

In the past 20 years Ward managed loan portfolios exceeding \$40 million in volume per year, hired, trained and supervised staff in presentations, lending requirements and sales strategies and helped achieve profitability and market share growth for the banks with which he worked.

Ward attended the North Carolina Banking School at UNC-Chapel Hill. He earned a B.A. from UNC-Pembroke in criminal justice with a minor in sociology. He also took courses in organizational change and development, operations management, managerial negotiations, business ethics, organizational behavior and human resource management.



Mark Ward

## Dial 211 for referrals to service agencies

Free and easy access to health and human services, government agencies and disaster resources is just a three-digit phone call away at 211.

211 is administered by United Way in all 100 counties and operated 24/7 by two call centers, one in Durham, the second in Asheville.

The centers are staffed by trained, salaried specialists who provide the information and referrals. The 211 database features more than 19,000 resources accessible through the call centers as well as through the website at [www.211counts.org](http://www.211counts.org).

"We have a very vulnerable population who are self-initiating contact through 211," said Heather Black of United Way of North Carolina. "It is free, confidential and multilingual. Staff are trained on nationally-recognized referral standards."

Black described the flow of a call as more conversational, which allows the specialists to ask questions of the caller and explain why certain pieces of information are needed. "There might be benefits we can inform the caller about that they might not be aware of. We make sure we're providing appropriate referral and multiple referrals if necessary."

Black said there is a comprehensive quality assurance plan in place at the call centers, which consistently score in the 80th to 90th percentile, which is high by national standards. "I'm really proud of the call quality we have here in North Carolina."

In 2015, the call centers received just under 120,000 calls that resulted in more than 146,000 needs. "Often when someone calls with one need there might be two or three additional needs that the specialist will discover in that conversation."

Call center specialists are trained to help the caller problem-solve for the bigger needs. "We just have to figure out what that is."

Black said in the future there are plans to add text and chat to the call centers to reach other generations.

In 2015 the top five reasons people called, and it's reflective of national trends, included housing and shelter, utilities, health care, food assistance and mental health and addiction.

Black said, "We have the ability to collect and aggregate data on where barriers are in Scotland County, in the region or in the State so we can work at every level on how we're distributing resources in the State. So it's very important to drive that call traffic to 211."

## Soil and Water Conservation helps business secure grant to close lagoon

An inactive hog lagoon at Carmichael Enterprises was drained and closed thanks to the efforts of Soil and Water Conservation Director Amy Miller to secure funding for the project.



The lagoon, before being drained, covered roughly two acres of land. Photos by Amy Miller, Soil and Water

The hog operation at Carmichael Enterprises had been active since 1997.

Corporate changes would have required Carmichael Enterprises to transition its operation from baby pigs to a full-grown hog operation.

Weighing the additional costs Carmichael Enterprises would incur to accommodate the transition, the business chose instead to shut down the operation and contact Miller for assistance.

The effort began in August 2015 when Miller applied for a grant through the N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation as part of its Environmental Enhancement Program.

The remaining funds to complete the job were made available through the [see Lagoon, page 2](#)

## Poor health outcomes remain a concern for the County

There was little change for Scotland County in the County Health Rankings from 2015 to 2016. The County dropped from 98 in 2015 to 99 in Health Outcomes for 2016 compared to all 100 counties.

It did improve in length of life from 95 in 2015 to 94 in 2016. Quality of life took a dip from 97 in 2015 to 99 in 2016.

For the third consecutive year Scotland County remained 99 in Health Factors. It dropped significantly in Health Behaviors from 91 in 2015 to 99 in 2016.

Scotland County did show strength in three areas. The percentage of adults reporting excessive drinking was at 12 percent compared to 15 percent in the State. Only 10 percent of counties nationwide have a better value than this.

The ratio of population to primary care physicians in Scotland County is 1,390:1 compared to 1,410:1 in North Carolina. This places the County in the 90th percentile for the nation.

Female Medicare enrollees age 67 to 69 who receive mammography screening is at 71 percent compared to 68 percent in North Carolina. Only 10 percent of counties nationwide have a better percentage than this.

Scotland County remained 100 from 2015 to 2016 in Social and Economic factors, which takes into account high school graduation, some college, unemployment, children in poverty, economic inequality, children in single-parent households and violent crime among other factors.

Scotland County dropped from 84 in physical environment in 2015 to 97 in 2016. Air pollution, drinking water violations, severe housing problems, driving alone to work and long commute account for this category.

In the overall Health Outcomes Rank, Robeson County was 100 while Vance County ranked 98.

The Health Rankings are a collaborative project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The rankings indicate conditions that impact how well and how long residents' lives are connected to a multitude of factors beyond medical care with 30 factors ranked including smoking, high school graduation rates, income inequality, employment, physical inactivity, access to healthy foods and more.

The County Health Rankings show that where we live matters to our health. The rankings provide counties with an annual check-up of their health.

Nationally, rankings show that the healthiest counties in each state have higher college attendance, fewer preventable hospital stays and better access to parks and gyms. The report also looks at distribution in income and the links between income levels and health.

The health rankings are available online at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>.

**Taking five-minute breaks — whether you sit at a desk, do heavy construction work or anything in between — can have several benefits. Include some movement or stretch at your workstation. Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)**

## Make every day Earth Day



Scotland Soil and Water visited I. Ellis Johnson, Laurel Hill Elementary and Covington Street schools in anticipation of Earth Day April 22.

Conservation Director Amy Miller discussed ways to keep the earth clean and ways to recycle. She reminded the school children how important it is to take care of the earth.

The children made butterfly fans, butterfly puppets and butterflies out of coffee filters as Earth Day projects.

## Grants fund hog lagoon closure

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Ag Cost Share program. The funds from both grants totaled an estimated \$53,000.

Bio Green of Wilmington did all the work to closeout the lagoon that covered roughly two acres.

The process took around six months to complete.

The drained lagoon is being turned into cropland for corn and wheat.

Miller said going through the process of closing a lagoon was a first for her. She doesn't expect that to happen again any time soon since there are few hog operations in Scotland County. Most are concentrated in Sampson County.



**The lagoon is being drained in the top photo. Bottom, closure is complete as the lagoon is dam-breach and mulched.**



## Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments between February 16 and March 15: **Margaret English** and **Shakeanma McDougald**, DSS. **Mildred Williams**, Veteran Services, received an \$800 scholarship from the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers, which will help cover expenses for her attendance at the annual National Training Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

## 2016 Spring Litter Sweep 'bags' nearly 2,600 pounds of trash



*The Young Professionals Network, top, was named King of the Mountain for picking up 655 pounds of trash. Register of Deeds Page Pratt, a YPN member, is on the left. The Sheriff's Department, below, earned second place for picking up 420 pounds of litter. Sheriff Ralph Kersey and Patrol Lieutenant Ronald Ivey are second and fourth from the right, respectively.*



Nearly 2,600 pounds of litter was collected along Scotland County roadsides during the 2016 Spring Litter Sweep April 4 to 9.

The Young Professional Network (YPN) was crowned King of the Mountain for picking up the most trash earning the title, a certificate and \$200 for collecting 655 pounds of trash.

The Sheriff's Office picked up 420 pounds of trash for second place and a \$100 cash award.

In all, 15 teams, 157 people total, participated in Spring Litter Sweep. The teams ranged in size from a one-person anonymous participant to the 40-strong Smithfield team.

"We were really pleased with the participation we had," said Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne, who is a member of the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee, the event host.

"A lot of what I saw this time was bagged trash. We had a few big objects, a bed, a mattress, boards and tires, but we didn't see as much of the big objects that we've seen in the past," Horne said. "We still have people throwing out big items. We still have couches on the road, bed mattresses, chairs and other large items."

For people who throw trash out on the roadways, Horne has a message. "People don't have to throw things on the roadways. They can take large items to the landfill, and it is at no cost as long as you're a resident of Scotland County. People can take the small stuff to the recycle centers at no cost."

Horne is appreciative of the Spring Litter Sweep participation. "On behalf of Scotland County, the Chamber of Commerce and the Green Team, thanks to all who participated and supported the effort, including the media and all the people who spread the word about Litter Sweep."

Horne added, "Everybody should be aware of the litter around them. If you see people littering, call me or the Sheriff's Department. Be active and aware of what's going on in the community. We've all got to come together to educate people and especially children so they won't grow up in a littered environment."

## Scouts bid for badges with rocket science

A group of eight Boy Scouts from Bladen, Moore and Robeson counties spent a day constructing model rockets at Scotland County Memorial Library in order to earn a merit badge in space exploration.

Library Director Leon Gyles, a retired naval aviator, guided the Boy Scouts in their efforts, which also included information on nose cones, launch lugs, engine mounts and recovery wadding.

Later in the day, the group moved to the Morris L. Morgan Recreation Complex to launch rockets over the soccer fields.

Rockets were launched and their descents tracked from more than 300 feet in the air. Several rockets sustained lost and damaged wings and dislodged motors as a result of the launch.

Each Scout launched his rocket twice to fulfill the merit badge requirements.

## Our condolences to ...

**Evangela McArthur**, Health, on the March 25 passing of her father, Lee Hartless; **Felisa Lockey**, DSS, on the April 4 passing of her mother, Louise Brigman Grooms; **Falana Jackson**, DSS, on the April 13 passing of her father, Henry Calvin Monroe; the family of **Pat Wells**, DSS retiree, who passed away April 21; **Kim Brayboy**, Tax, on the April 23 passing of her father James "Bud" Everett Walters; the family of **Roylin Hammond**, EMS, on the April 24 passing of his son-in-law, Christopher Paul Wall.

## The May birthday list

**4** Teresa Vick and Tosha McQueen (DSS); **9** James McQueen and Willie Peterkin (Transportation); **10** Mike McGirt (Public Buildings) and Michelle McRae (DSS); **11** Stephanie Berry (DSS), Nancy Bostick (Administration), Felicia Faison (Health), Lindsey Pearson (EMS) and Jimmy Collins (Sheriff); **12** Crystal Billingsley (Register of Deeds); **13** Clinton Gooselin (Jail); **14** Daniel McClellan (Sheriff) and Dontae Roland (EMS); **15** Roxanne Douglas (DSS); **17** Laura Prevatte (Jail); **18** Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner) and Rebecca Griffin (DSS); **20** Billie Phillips (Tax) and Christopher Littles (Parks and Recreation); **21** Bob Davis (Commissioner); **23** Dustin Bryant (EMS); **25** Miles Mack (Sheriff); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health) and Miyaka Mackie (DSS); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS); **31** Wayne Mace (EMS) and Nadine Quick (DSS).

**Reduce mosquito breeding opportunities by emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths at least once a week. Clean up trash or leaves that may be around your home or in rain gutters. Tightly secure screens on all openings.**

## Duke Energy tree maintenance plan helps clear power lines

Tree and vegetation maintenance work is being performed around power lines in Scotland County this spring and summer in a collaborative effort by Duke Energy Progress, its contract crews and local officials. Crews will work to ensure safe and reliable electric service for citizens while striving to maintain the beauty of the local neighborhoods.

Trees growing near power lines can cause fires and be an electrical hazard to the public. During storms, trees and tree limbs can fall into power lines and cause power outages.

Beginning April 4, contract tree crews from Carolina Tree Care began to perform vegetation maintenance work around the Duke Energy Progress power lines.

The work will cover about 139 miles of power lines in Scotland County. The work is expected to be completed by the end of August, depending on weather and other factors.

The electric utility is working with customers and with community leaders throughout the company's service area to keep them informed of vegetation and right-of-way management activities in their area.

Door hangers identifying the planned work to be performed in the area will be left on each customer's door one week or more in advance of the crews arriving for scheduled pruning.

Duke Energy Progress has statutory rights granted by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and, in most cases, has also obtained easements and agreements with local communities and property owners that allow it to build and maintain its power lines. These rights and agreements allow the company to manage vegetation, including trees, that pose a threat to the reliability of the electric system.

When pruning yard trees, the company's standard approach for distribution lines is to not top or "round over" trees but to use professional techniques called lateral and directional pruning.

These methods are endorsed by all professional organizations in the tree-care industry as being the best pruning technique for the health of the trees.

Duke Energy Progress hires qualified, trained tree experts to clear electric lines on its systems. The company's policy is to dispose of small limbs and brush that are pruned in landscaped settings and to cut larger pieces of wood into manageable lengths for use by the property owner.

On non-landscaped sites, pruned vegetation and wood are cut down to a low profile and left to naturally decompose.

Disposal of vegetation resulting from storms and other emergency operations is the responsibility of the property owner.

Duke Energy Progress maintains more than 40,000 miles of overhead power lines. While it is not possible to completely eliminate tree interference along all of its overhead power lines, the utility expects the number of vegetation-caused outages to be reduced as a result of its work.

Customers who have questions related to this work may contact Duke Energy Progress customer service at 800-452-2777.

## Social workers recognized



Health Department Social Workers, left to right, Michirena Lowry, Felicia McCall, Betsey Ellerbe and Nicki Peek were recognized during National Social Worker Month in March. These ladies work with PCM (Pregnancy Care Management) to improve the health of mothers and babies and to ensure they receive the best possible care during pregnancy and after delivery and with CC4C (Care Coordination for Children) linking children to services that will meet the specific needs of the child and family. Text and photo by Kathie Cox, Health

## Chalk Banks Challenge schedule

The event is Saturday, May 14, at the Lumber River State Park in Wagram. More information is available at [www.chalkbanks.com](http://www.chalkbanks.com).

8-9: Trail run registration

8:30-10: Canoe and kayak registration

9: 5K trail run \*

10: Festival opens

10-11: Raft and runner registration

10:15: Recreational tandem canoe race (two-mile sprint)

10:30: Scotland County Elementary School cross-country championship (one-mile race) \*

11:15: Recreational solo kayak race (two-mile race)

11:30: Homemade raft race

12:30: Kid's Olympics

2: Awards

\* Contact Bill Cason at [cason1403@gmail.com](mailto:cason1403@gmail.com) or register at [www.chalkbanks-register.com](http://www.chalkbanks-register.com).

## Telecommunicators publicly thanked



Telecommunicators were recognized by the Board of Commissioners at the April 2 meeting where Chair Carol McCall, far right, read a proclamation declaring April 10 to 16 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Telecommunicators who were present for the recognition included, left to right, Kimberly Locklear, Sharon McIntyre, LaToya Williams, Manuel Campbell, Josh Medlin, Samantha Cameron, Mike Edge and Megan Bristow. Photo by Leon Gyles, Library.