

DECEMBER 2014



# Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

## Snead named DSS Director



The Scotland County Social Services Board appointed April Snead as the new Director of the Social Services agency. Her appointment became effective December 16.

Snead has worked with the Scotland County Department of Social Services since August 2002 and most recently served as Social Work Program Administrator since 2011.

"I think we made a very wise decision. April has been with DSS for over 10 years and she has done a good job in preparing herself for this position," said DSS Board Chairman Donald Rainer.

"She's held every job at Social Services except the director's job," Rainer said. "She was the best candidate for the job."

A Scotland County resident, Snead worked at the Robeson County Housing Authority for two years before she began her career at DSS as an investigator of child abuse and neglect.

**April Snead**

Snead replaces former Director Robby Hall, who accepted the position of Director of the Richmond County Social Services. James Clark served as Interim Director after Hall's departure.

## Diversion of rainwater an efficiency at transfer station

When the transfer station floor was put down at the landfill at a price tag of \$87,000, the design featured an efficiency that would save money for the public works operation.

"There's a ramp that's been built to ramp up to the inside of the building to the very eave of the building," explained Public Works Supervisor Bryant Higgins. "So now there is an area of separation and elevation where anything that's contaminated will be on the elevated part and any rainwater would be on the lower part. It's not able to run in."

Higgins added, "That's the point of separation from what's considered leachate by the State's law versus rainwater." (Leachate is water escaping from a landfill site which, if not collected, will contaminate the natural water sources.)

Higgins said when the transfer station slab was poured, there was a slope poured up to change the point of drainage where anything generated by storms or rain could be treated like rainwater and runoff water.

"Every time we have a rain event we don't have all this water running down to the floor of the transfer station like it has done in the past 10 or 15 years going. It would go down through the waste into the sump tank and we would have to pump it off," Higgins explained.

"We've cut that back about 75 percent because we don't have that now," he said. "The only thing you have is what's actually in the waste when it's brought in on the garbage truck that goes into the leachate contamination area that we have to pump and haul."

Higgins recalled the previous week of a rain event that lasted three days and three nights.

"Everything was fine. We didn't have any generation of rain water going into the waste pit. We didn't have to pump it out."

Higgins said the leachate waste is taken and run through the City of Laurinburg sewer treatment plant.

Higgins described how the new transfer station floor model created efficiencies in Public Works.

"We have a truck that I maintain. We have the driver and pumps to pump the tank. You're saving time and energy from those guys."

"Everytime it rained, you have to pump the tank," Higgins said.

"Now they can be doing something else. It's cut the workload back on the pump and haul operation," Higgins said. "So far the new floor looks great and is working well."

## Commissioners take oath of office



**Clerk of Court Philip McRae (right) administers the oath of office to recently elected Commissioners Carol McCall, left, Guy McCook and Betty Blue Gholston. This is the third consecutive term as Commissioner for McCook and the second for McCall. Gholston previously served as Commissioner from 2002 to 2010. McCook for the third consecutive year was appointed Chairman while McCall was appointed Vice Chair.**

## Our condolences to ...

**Miriam Bounds**, Health, on the December 5 passing of her brother, Horace Bertram "Bill" McInnis.

## Post Scripts

Welcome to the following Scotland County employees who were hired since October 16: **Rebecca Knight**, Jail; **Jerome Bostick**, Transportation; and **Gwendolyn Bennett**, part-time with EMS. ❁ Congratulations to **Kimmy Cannady**, DSS, who graduated from GardnerWebb University December 15 with a Bachelor's degree in human services. ❁ **Justin McNickle**, Parks and Recreation, earned certification from the National Association of Youth Sports as a youth sports administrator.

## Home for the seal



When County offices moved from Cronly Street to West Covington Street in December 2005 the seal from Cronly Street was tucked away for lack of an appropriate location.

All that changed when Inspections staff redesigned the lobby at Covington Street to give it a warmer, welcoming feel.

The 75-pound bronze seal was brought out from storage and placed above the bulletin board.

Public Buildings carpenter Jeremy Peele created a safe base for the seal and secured it to the wall.

Inspections Director Thomas Milligan said, "It looks inviting and that's the first thing they see. That seal on the wall really makes an impression when anybody visits the County on business."

## McGirt, Dial receive OSHA certification

Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt, pictured on the left, and Public Buildings Foreman Roger Dial received certification for attending a 10-hour OSHA course at Richmond Community College.

"We learned the proper use of ladders, platforms and a broad list of working on elevated surfaces to make sure the equipment is safe," McGirt explained.

He added, "The course gave us the knowledge to point out safety deficiencies any County buildings might have."

The two intend to relay with Public Buildings staff all they learned during weekly safety meetings. "OSHA is all about keeping employees safe," McGirt said.



## Tax-Aide volunteer preparers needed

The AARP Tax Aide staff this year is seeking additional volunteers to assist low and moderate income taxpayers by preparing and electronically filing their 2014 tax returns. This free income tax preparation service is co-sponsored by Parks and Recreation and Scotland County Memorial Library.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, an AARP Foundation program, helps low- to moderate-income taxpayers have more discretionary income for everyday essentials, such as food and housing, by assisting with tax services and ensuring they receive applicable tax credits and deductions. Last year, this free program assisted more than 350 Scotland County taxpayers.

Volunteers do not need previous tax experience. Training, leading to IRS certification as a tax counselor, is provided. General familiarity and comfort with standard computer programs and a facility for working with numbers are good indicators of success.

Once certified, counselors are expected to work one day a week from February through mid-April at Scotland County Memorial Library. Volunteers generally find participation in the program a satisfying experience because of the value they provide to grateful clients.

To volunteer or for additional information, contact the Leon Gyles at Scotland County Memorial Library, 276-0563.

## The January birthday list

**1** Clarice Holmes (Elections); **2** Johnny Walker (Sheriff); **3** Lakisha Williams (Parks and Recreation) and Debra Webb and Joan Walters (DSS); **5** Doris Ann Donovan (Parks and Recreation), Ronald Ivey (Sheriff) and William Mullis (Public Works); **6** Deborah Tardif (DSS) and Andre McMillan (Jail); **7** Bruce Clark (EMS), Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Transportation); **8** Deanna Carlyle (EMS); **9** Bryan Knight (Jail) and Lindsey Villela (Elections); **12** Michele Greene (DSS); **16** Betty Crowley (Jail) and Rosemary McKeithan (DSS); **20** Ann Locklear (Library) and Sandy Connor (DSS); **26** James Monroe (Sheriff); **27** Kimbrick Morris (EMS); **29** James Ellerbe (Public Works); **30** Willette Jones (DSS); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

## State drops two spots in health ranking

North Carolina dropped two spots from 35 to 37 in the 2014 United Health Foundation's Health Ranking for America. The study investigates health trends in obesity, smoking, diabetes and physical inactivity.

According to the study, although North Carolina has made some improvements, it still has a ways to go.

Its strengths include low prevalence of binge drinking, low incidence of pertussis and high immunization coverage among children. Challenges include a high percentage of children in poverty, limited availability of dentists and high prevalence of diabetes.

In senior trends strengths include high flu vaccination coverage, high prescription drug coverage and low percentage of low-care nursing home residents while challenges include high prevalence of teeth extractions, high prevalence of food insecurity and high percentage of seniors living in poverty.

Mississippi was last place. The foundation rated Hawaii the healthiest state.