

NOVEMBER 2014



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

New technology-specific floor installed at transfer station

The landfill transfer station closed for three days so a new floor could be installed.

The new transfer station floor replaces the original one from 1997 at a cost of \$87,000.

While the floor was being installed, those hauling MSW (municipal solid waste) were redirected elsewhere.

The Commissioners received two bids for the floor, one for \$40,000, the other with an \$87,000 price tag.

Public Works Supervisor Bryant Higgins recommended the acceptance of the higher bid at \$87,000 from Leak & Associates from Monroe, NC.

Higgins said the lower bid called for the pouring of a standard six-inch concrete slab over rebar. "The new design (at \$87,000) is an overlay of unbonded floor, and it is a floor that floats separately above the old existing floor."

Higgins said Leak & Associates specializes in the unbonded technology, which is specifically designed for transfer stations. "Moore, Hoke and several surrounding counties have used the same technique and it's been successful for 7 to 10 years, which is a common timeframe for that floor."

Higgins explained, "This is a new technology where the floor is designed like a brake shoe. It's designed to wear and give you a certain amount of years based on the type of material you have."



Bryant Higgins shows where the anvil topping has been worn down.

[see Floor, page 3](#)

Second Halloween in the Park a frightfully enjoyable event

The candy selections might have run low, but that didn't seem to faze the more than 1,500 children and adults who attended the second annual Halloween in the Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said participation last year was closer to 1,000.

At \$2 a vehicle the entrance fee was a small price for the myriad activities that were going on from dusk to dark at the Morgan Recreation Complex.

The haunted trail that wound through Dragon Park was scream-worthy as monsters, werewolves, ghosts and ghouls surprised visitors at every turn.

The Happy Trail was a new event this year. Inspired by characters from the Wizard of Oz, the Happy Trail took participants



Candy, beads and trinkets were available for kids playing games.

Girl Scouts propose programs

Litter Sweep champions, Girl Scout Troop 1723, brought proposals to the Board of Commissioners on how to clean up the community.

The proposals are based on findings from first-hand experience. Since April 2013, Girl Scout Troop 1723 picked up nearly 8,000 pounds of trash along the roads as winning participants in four consecutive litter sweeps.

Troop members asked the Commissioners to open the landfill for a half day on Saturdays, hold organizations that adopt a road accountable, add another open day at the convenience centers, host a free day every six months and reduce the cost of disposing of trash.

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne is delighted to have the Girl Scouts in his corner as advocates for a clean community.

Horne said education and advocacy is the most effective way to combat littering.

He responded to the proposals. "The landfill is open Monday through Friday, but there is still a litter issue. It's people coming from fast food places and stores who are littering

and throwing litter out the windows."

Horne said the DOT is the authority on the adopt a road program. Horne said he alerts the DOT to heavily littered roads that have been adopted. "Those particular roads must be picked up, and they are held accountable."

There are budget restraints that make it difficult for the County to add hours to the landfill and convenience sites or host free days.

Horne said the convenience centers at one time were open

[see Litter, page 2](#)

along the yellow brick road on their way to the Emerald City.

And to complement the happy and the scary programs, storytellers delighted listeners with spine-tingling tales.

Newton credits growing popularity of the event to those who pitched in to make it the success that it was. "Halloween in the Park was a community-sponsored event."

"Special thank yous go to the more than 200 St. Andrews University student athletes who helped make this an outstanding fun and safe event," Newton said.

"Storytelling and Arts hosted two storytellers and the Young Professional Network, through the Chamber of Commerce, welcomed families to the event and helped behind the scenes."

[see Volunteers, page 4](#)

Intern gains public health experience

Brittany Robinson spent fall semester working as an intern with the Health Department. The UNCP student majoring in health promotions developed and designed the Baby Safety Awareness Month and SIDS Awareness Month bulletin boards at the agency as part of her internship.

Robinson also worked on several projects in support of initiatives coming out of health education and other departments.

One project included writing health-related articles for *The Laurinburg Exchange* for the Public Health Matters! The articles addressed SIDS and second-hand smoke.

Robinson participated in health programs on local radio, developed exhibits on Breast Cancer Awareness Month and domestic violence, offered technical support for healthy eating and physical activity at a local church, attended committee meetings and helped organize materials needed for outreach programs, among others.

One of her final intern projects was to deliver a presentation at the High School on domestic violence.

She worked 200 hours on her Health Department internship and gained valuable hands-on experience in public health. Robinson will graduate in December.



Brittany Robinson, left, and Carlotta Rivers stand in front of a bulletin board designed by Robinson.

ABC Store to start 2015 with new roof and first-ever makeover

The ABC Store will get its first major makeover, which will begin just after the holidays at the conclusion of the busiest time of the year, and continue into the next fiscal year.

With the exception of a few cosmetic touch ups, there has been no major work done to the store since it opened in 1969.

The ABC Board wants to change the store's appearance and give it energy efficient lighting and a trendier floor plan, one that attracts today's younger clientele and satisfies its more mature, seasoned customers.

The Board of Commissioners in October approved the spending of \$120,000 on the capital project with \$70,000 designated in FY 2015 and \$50,000 in FY 2016.

The money comes from the profits from the store, an estimated \$80,000 of which winds up in the County's general fund annually.

This is the first time the ABC Board has ever asked the Commissioners to use the profits for a capital project.

"We want to make sure the taxpayers realize that we are not spending County dollars," said ABC Board Chair Dee Hammond. "The money we asked the Commissioners for is the money we give them from the net proceeds of the sales minus the operation expenses from the ABC Store."

"This year we're going to put a new roof on because it is

Litter education is key

continued from page 1

seven days a week but it was not financially feasible. "We had to find ways to keep them running efficiently. But even when they were open for seven days, we still had a litter problem."

He added, "Extending landfill and recycle centers hours will not make our litter go away. There are irresponsible people who will still throw trash out the window."

Horne said the responsible people already use the recycle centers and landfill.

Education is key. Horne said, "It will take a generation of kids now to be taught not to litter. If mom and dad litter, the children litter, or if the children litter, mom and dad don't stop them."

Horne said the education effort must be communitywide. He credited the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee, the newly formed County clean up crew and Green School Jam as just several ways

in which the community is making an impact on clean up and education.

"It's great for the Girl Scouts to do what they're doing and to keep it on the forefront. That's good. We need that." Horne said. "We are working together on this to beautify our County."

leaking in certain areas," Hammond said. "Hopefully we will refurbish the entire inside in this fiscal year."

Hammond added, "In the next fiscal year we plan to purchase a more up-to-date, software-friendly computer system."

New shelving will be angled, the center door will be expanded to serve as an entrance and an exit and the check-out counter will be located left of the entrance. Energy-efficient, modern track lighting will be installed.

Hammond said the store needs modernization. "With the new generation coming up, they're looking for more pop when they come in to shop, and we need to get this store into the 21st century because young folks are now the ones coming in buying alcohol. I think they will be in here more once they see we're up to date."

"We'll do some upgrades to the parking lot and the landscaping once the store is refurbished," Hammond said.

Store Manager Bill Graves said the mission statement for the operation of ABC stores in the State says it best. "... to serve their localities responsibly by controlling the sale of spirituous liquor and promoting customer-friendly, modern and efficient stores."

The County will administer the project contracts with oversight by Public Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Mike McGirt.



ABC Board Chair Dee Hammond, ABC Store Assistant Manager Danny Robinson, center, and ABC Store Manager Bill Graves in the soon-to-be remodeled building.

Emergency group reactivated

Scotland County is re-forming its local emergency planning committee (LEPC) after nearly 20 years of inactivity.

The LEPC would be comprised of a community network that would respond in the event of some type of emergency such as a natural disaster or a localized emergency event.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said a reactivated committee would meet at least four times a year. "We want to make sure we know who all the players are and that we understand what's going on in our community in an effort to make it a safer place."

Yancy King, Emergency Coordinator for Area 8, NC Emergency Management, which includes Scotland, Hoke, Anson, Moore, Chatham, Lee and Montgomery counties, said there would be numerous benefits to Scotland County once the LEPC is activated and gets things moving.

"It helps to get together, know what other people do and what the capabilities and resources are and it opens the community up to the possibility of funding and grants, which were previously out of reach for lack of an active committee," King said.

"The LEPC focuses on more than just hazard mitigation, since there are homeland security issues that need to be addressed as well as getting people trained for community emergency response teams (CERT)," King added.

"Whenever something happens, you're going to have to rely on each other to start with," King explained. "Knowing what's available in your community and having those things pre-planned is essential because you need at least 72 hours to be self-sufficient. Don't look for assistance in the first 72 hours, the first 72 hours are going to be on you."

David Hesselmeyer, preparedness planner for public health for a five-county region, said, "When we have emergencies or disasters, it's something that takes more than just one agency. We have to make sure we're prepared as a county. We understand what each agency does and we build a good network within the community, too."

Hesselmeyer added, "It's better to join forces on one exercise in order to achieve the objectives that we all have. By doing that it is realistic. It's rare that any one agency would be able to respond to a disaster or emergency and handle it themselves."

"Communities that have active LEPCs are most prepared for an emergency response because there is an interest in exercise, planning and preparing for emergencies," Hesselmeyer explained.

"LEPCs strengthen communication and encourage learning. An LEPC works with emergency management to come up with action plans to address accidents involving hazardous materials passing through."

Hammond discussed the types and amounts of such materials traveling through the County. "We have a lot of things that come on the railroad and on trucks. They probably are our greatest hazards here. We don't have a lot of chemicals that exist in industry here in any volume that would be significant to affect a tremendous amount of the population, but it travels up and down the highway every day. We just need to be prepared for it."

The LEPC will hold its initial meeting in January 2015.

Transfer Station gets new floor

continued from page 1

Over the years the anvil topping, which is the uppermost layer of the transfer station floor, got worn through.

Higgins said the new material, in his opinion, is superior to the anvil topping and would yield 8 to 10 years of life.

Higgins said life expectancy of the new floor also would depend on the amount of usage it gets and the vigilance of landfill staff who operate equipment on it.

Likewise, the new floor would relieve wear and tear on heavy equipment operated at the transfer station minimizing the need for costly replacement parts.

The original floor design had a 10-inch slab



County Manager Kevin Patterson looks at the rebar, part of the process of installing the new floor.

poured and a two-inch anvil topping (a specialized, compact slick material designed to wear evenly) above that slab.

Higgins said the center of the transfer station where the heavy use occurs is where the anvil topping came up and eroded and chipped up.

The design directs rainwater away from the floor to prevent erosion and added weight to MSW.

A history of MSW processed at the transfer station

Since its inception in 1997, the transfer station has seen its municipal solid waste (MSW) tonnages increase to a peak throughout the 2000s before a drop in the past several years due to rising competition from private haulers in the region.

SCOTLAND COUNTY YEAR	MSW TO UWHARRIE TONS
1997-1998	14,779
1998-1999	23,348
1999-2000	21,069
2000-2001	21,714
2001-2002	27,392
2002-2003	27,232
2003-2004	27,262
2004-2005	26,562
2005-2006	25,860
2006-2007	29,235
2007-2008	24,718
2008-2009	23,841
2009-2010	24,248
2010-2011	19,803
2011-2012	17,746.06
2012-2013	16,363.80
2013-2014	14,245.62
TOTAL	385,422.39

Our condolences to ...

Teresa Gorden, DSS, on the November 2 passing of her sister, Linda Grooms Campbell.

The December birthday list

2 Kimberly Cheek (DSS) and Matthew Lowery (Public Buildings); **4** Scott Parks (Inspections); **5** Gyivan Jackson-Collins (Sheriff) and Wendy Stanton (DSS); **6** Tracie Patterson (EMS); **7** Guy McCook (Commissioner) and Yolanda McDonald (Jail); **8** James Nichols (Jail), Kevin Mauldin (Public Works) and Kimmy Cannady (DSS); **9** Robert Jones (Transportation) and Richard Goforth (Cooperative Extension); **10** Gina Paul (EMS) and Kendria Finkley (Library); **13** James Pegues (Sheriff); **13** Brandon Cribb (Sheriff); **15** James Brown (Tax) and Matthew Jones (EMS); **17** Kathie Cox (Health) and Latisha Manning (DSS); **18** Nicole Peek (Health); **19** Tiffeny Fields (DSS) and Louise Williams (Library); **20** Wanda Hassler (Health); **21** Teresa Gorden (DSS); **23** Barbara Ledbetter (DSS) and Hattie Ray (Elections); **24** Sandra Leonard (DSS); **26** John Alford (Commissioner); **29** Maisha McLaurin (DSS); **30** Tracy Lytch (DSS) and Maria Roberts (Health); **31** Justin McNickle (Parks and Recreation).

11k visit website in October

There were 11,183 visits to www.scotlandcounty.org in October. The average amount of time spent on the site was 2:06.

50 percent of visitors left the site without looking at additional pages. The average number of pages viewed in a single session was three.

Although most visits originated from within the United States, the website did attract visits from the United Kingdom, Philippines, India and Canada.

There were 5,931 new visitors and 1,306 return visitors.

Post Scripts

Welcome to the following Scotland County employees who were hired since August 16: **James Sweet**, Sheriff; **Rosemary McKeithan**, DSS; and **Christopher McKinnon** and **Jerome Bostick**, part-time with Transportation.

Volunteers credited with event's success

continued from page 1

"The staff of Parks and Recreation always pitches in and does a great job," Newton added. "Doris Ann Donovan (Senior Programs Coordinator) helped coordinate the event. She did several events of this magnitude at a parks and recreation department in Maryland, and we appreciate her talents in starting this event. Special thanks to Mike McGirt and the Public Buildings and Grounds staff. They helped put together the many activities, and we are appreciative of their efforts."

Newton and Parks and Recreation staff already are thinking ahead to next year. "In 2015, we need a few more activities for the children to participate in and definitely, 20,000 piece of candy was almost not enough."

She added, "Although we give away candy, we also provide lots of fun games and activities to get children moving and active while they are at the event."

If you have any suggestions for the 2015 event, please contact Parks and Recreation at 910-277-2585.



The Tin Man and the Tin Man's assistant found plenty of heart on the Happy Trail.



With Senator-elect Tom McInnis, center, are, left to right, Vice Chair Carol McCall, School PIO Meredith Bounds, Chairman Guy McCook and School Human Resources Officer Cory Satterfield

McInnis visits officials

Senator-elect Tom McInnis visited with County, City, School and RCC officials November 21 as part of a five-county listening tour to assess priority needs at the local level.

McCook said the role of the County becomes greater because of unfunded mandates, which is challenging since the County has limited control over revenue and the highest tax rate in the State. McInnis pledged to maintain health, safety and welfare of his district and preserve the entrepreneurial spirit.

Faith-based wellness programs discussed

The Health Summit CoreWork Group discussed several options to address obesity and cardiovascular disease in the County.

Although evidence-based strategies are already being implemented in the County with some degree of success, the group discussed methods to get buy-in from a larger sector of the population. For that, the Faithful Families Eat Smart, Move More Program was discussed at length. Faithful Families promotes healthy eating and physical activity in communities of faith.

The group also discussed adopt a park as a tie to implementation of any health and wellness initiative like Faithful Families. Adopt a park would encourage participants to schedule physical fitness activities at a park in their neighborhood and close to home.

Covington Street lobby gets makeover

The lobby at 507 West Covington Street looks a little different — warmer and more inviting perhaps.

Energy efficient lighting, a new ceiling and fresh paint aside, furniture has been arranged in such a way to make it a more comfortable place to sit and wait if that becomes necessary.

Coffee tables placed among the seats have reading material. Gone is the easel type table for filling out paperwork. It has been replaced with a flat-surface table.

All necessary forms are available in a slotted cabinet next to the table.



Inspections Director Thomas Milligan sits in the newly decorated lobby.