

OCTOBER 2016

Scotland County, NC



The mostly-about-Hurricane Matthew edition

How we weathered the storm made the difference

by Kevin Patterson, County Manager

The effects of Hurricane Matthew are fresh in our minds. Power outages inconvenienced some people while others found their homes and possessions devastated by flooding and storm damage. Recovery will be slow but it will be assured in time.

This letter is one of thanksgiving. I want to take a moment to extend my appreciation for the efforts of those individuals who faced Matthew head on in order to protect our community and to assist in the recovery.

Yes, while the storm raged there were those who were out in it while most everyone else was being told to shelter in place.

We asked our law enforcement officers to patrol our community. We asked our paramedics to continue to respond to emergency medical calls. We asked our firemen to help DOT clear roads of fallen trees.

Even after Laurinburg's main power transmission line went down and restoring that power in a timely manner proved impossible, Laurinburg utility crews worked through the storm and days afterward cutting trees off power lines.

A man I had visited in the Reid Heart Center several years ago was out in the storm moving generators to ensure communications continued.

These men and women did not ask if it was safe for them to be out in the storm. They were out in the storm doing what was necessary to make it safe for others.

Our 911 Emergency Operations Center remained up and running throughout the storm. The job of a 911 communicator is difficult and stressful under the best of circumstances. In extraordinary times, 911 communicators work under the most trying of circumstances as the volume of calls escalate from those looking for answers and assurances that all will be well.

Hurricane Matthew prompted the activation of the Emergency Operations Center where three individuals in particular who are well-versed in crisis management worked for 72 hours straight.

I am also grateful for Scotland County's tremendous sense of community. Scotland County Schools and the Red Cross of Scotland County activated a shelter at the High School. We were fortunate that it only had to stay open for one day.

Thank you to Braveheart for providing much-needed back up to our Emergency Medical Services.

Thank you to Scotland Healthcare System for its continued sharing of information with the Emergency

[see Community, page 2](#)

Emergency Operations Center activated for Hurricane Matthew



The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated October 8 with limited staffing. Photo by Mike Edge, E-911 Center

There was very little storm damage to County facilities from Hurricane Matthew October 8.

Convenience sites at Sneads Grove, Livingston Quarters, 401 South and Wagram reopened October 11 so residents affected by the hurricane and power outage that followed could dispose of spoiled foods from their refrigerators and freezers. Tipping fees at the landfill were waived through Friday, October 14, for leaf and limb drop off.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said, "For people who have trees and limbs down, and it pulled electrical service away from the house, before an electrician can restore that service, you're supposed to get a permit in order to reconnect. This week we waived that permit fee."

Patterson explained that power was not restored to many residents as quickly as hoped because there were so many downed trees and limbs. "It took Duke Power a long time to get down all the secondary roads and easements before they could get everything restored."

Patterson said there was no loss of water to homes or businesses unless they were serviced by a well powered by electricity.

The force and path of Hurricane Matthew took the County by surprise. "We were expecting a wind event, a little bit of rain. It was forecast east of us and later it was expected to make a big loop and head towards Cuba," Patterson explained.

"It came up, stayed more easterly and then went out into the Atlantic. The forecasts have hundreds of models going on, and one of them might have been right," Patterson added.

He explained, "But the primary models where everybody thought that

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**Veteran's Day Ceremony
11 a.m. Friday, November 11, 2016
Legion Park, 1009 Atkinson Street, Laurinburg
Special presentation by the
All Veteran Parachute Team
follows the ceremony**

Numerous models made hurricane difficult to pinpoint

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cone was going were wrong. Saturday morning, while Hurricane Matthew was happening, we were watching those models shift every 15 minutes."

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said, "We don't know of a single Scotland County resident who had been injured or placed out of their home because of this storm."

Hammond said, "We've had people inconvenienced because they had no power but we hadn't had anybody who had been displaced."

He added, "We didn't have a significant amount of damage but we did have a significant amount of time and energy invested in emergency protection measures not only for Scotland County but for Robeson County."

After Hurricane Matthew there was an influx of traffic from Robeson County. Also 195 traffic was diverted through Scotland County because flooding issues on portions of the interstate resulted in its closure.

"All the agencies, organizations and governing bodies worked together to respond to this," said Hammond. "This is the biggest event we've had since Hurricane Fran (September 1996)."

Hammond added, "This is just an inconvenience compared to some of the things that have happened elsewhere in eastern North Carolina."

Hammond predicted the County might see an increase in the economy because of all the people coming through the County, particularly from the traffic diverted off I95. "Those who sell food and gas experienced a significant increase in sales. If there is a silver lining in a dark cloud, it probably will be a good thing for the County economically."

the November birthday list

2 Charles Blue (Transportation), Jessica Sadovnikov (Sheriff) and Curtis Garth (Jail); 2 Roylin Hammond (EMS) and Carol McCall (Commissioner); 3 Amanda Williams (Sheriff) and Chassidy Laws (Cooperative Extension); 4 Angelica Smiling (EMS) and Walter Ikner (Transportation); 7 Mary Hunt (EMS); 8 Brian Lowry (Health) and Joshua Medlin (E-911 Center); 9 Lendo Mason (Transportation); 12 Wayne Gay (Sheriff) and Judy DuBois (DSS); 14 Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); 16 Mary Bender (DSS); 18 Robert Sampson (EMS), Joy Nolan (Public Works) and Jonathan Smith (Sheriff); 19 Angela Townsend (DSS) and Burnard Thompson (Jail); 20 Deborah Starr (DSS); 22 Calacia Douglas (DSS); 23 Lori Habisch (DSS); 24 Adam Liles (Health); 25 Kathy Duke (Public Works); 28 Janna Williams and Carolyn Lewellen (DSS), Betsey Ellerbe (Health) and Haley Powell (Parks and Recreation); 30 Corrie Patterson (EMS), Balyn Krout (E-911 Center), William Lash (Public Works) and James McPhatter (Sheriff).

Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments between August 16 and September 15: **Gregory Tuck** and **William Cooper**, Jail; **Bradley Hatcher**, Public Buildings; **Darryl Ford**, **Jonathan Thrush** and **Sheronica Smith**, Sheriff; **Alecia Ratliff**, DSS; **Stephanie Smith**, part-time in Parks and Recreation and **Angela Taylor**, seasonal in Parks and Recreation.

Calls to 911 spike during storm

On Friday, October 7, the E-911 Emergency Communications Center received 108 calls, which is considered normal.

All that changed October 8. With high winds and rain from Hurricane Matthew E-911 received 675 calls.

"We had nine dispatchers working, which is one dispatcher more than our usual eight positions," said E-911 Center Director Mike Edge. "The one dispatcher would go on rotation to give the others a break."

"We had downed tree calls, power lines on fire calls and power outage calls," Edge said. "The faster the power companies got electric restored the fewer calls we received. People called multiple times wanting to know when their power was going to get back. There was nothing we could tell them as far as that because we weren't being told."

Calls to the 911 center tapered off Sunday and Monday to about 350, which, according to Edge is still double the calls the Center usually receives.

"On Tuesday we slowed back down to normal traffic once most power was restored," Edge said.

"We kept an extra dispatcher another two days before going back to normal staff."

Flu clinic available to employees



Nurse Judy Cauley administers the flu vaccine to Animal Control Officer Adam Liles. Photo by Kathie Cox, Health

The Health Department made the flu vaccine available to County employees and an estimated 100 took advantage of the service.

Although the flu clinic was held the first week of October there is still opportunity to get the vaccine while supplies last. An appointment would be necessary. Call 277-2440.

Community comes together during and after the storm

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Operations Center and for ensuring the uninterrupted provision of medical service to the community and to those from surrounding communities.

Thank you Scotland County residents. On occasion you had to wait in line patiently to receive a service or buy food or fill up with gas.

Rather than lose everything in your refrigerators and freezers, some of you organized neighborhood cookouts after the storm had passed. You fed families, friends and strangers. You opened your homes to friends and family who just wanted company during the storm and a warm shower afterward.

Thank you to those who took up disaster relief collections and to those who donated provisions, household supplies, non-perishable food items and money so our neighbors who lost much more than we did could make that slow transition back to normal.

All of you made our community a better place after the storm.



Public Health Nurses Rock! Here's a shout out to them for volunteering their time. They worked 12-hour shifts at the local shelters helping others affected by Hurricane Matthew. Thank you for all you do, from the left, Rebecca Dold, Maria Roberts, Debbie Maske, Judy Cauley, Alisa Freeman and Carlotta Rivers. Photo by Kathie Cox, Health

In the wake of Hurricane Matthew Graham sees the glass as half full

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew many Robeson County residents were displaced from their homes, Bryan Graham and his family among them.

"It's hard to sum it up into words. Anytime you're dealing with an unexpected loss it's tough to deal with," said the Parks and Recreation Director.

"That's why you have family. That's why you have friends to help you through tough times. We make the best out of it we possibly can." His family and church family have all been supportive.

Graham said his home had a lot of water damage but the homes on either side of his might be a total loss. "We had a significant amount of water damage but at the same time, we're fortunate. Four trees fell in the yard but none of them fell on the home."

He and his family are currently staying with in-laws in Pembroke.

During the hurricane Graham and his family witnessed the water rise to seven feet outside his home, which has an elevated patio about six feet off the ground.

Graham is confident his home can be salvaged. "I see the glass as being half full. While we were dealing with it, I was fortunate enough to go out to some shelters to help people who probably lost a lot more than I did."

"It was my pleasure to help my community and to help people who were more affected than I was." Graham concluded, "It's tough but we'll be alright."

Our condolences to ...

The family of **Augusta 'Kemp' Roper**, Public Buildings retiree, who passed away earlier this month; **Carolyn Walls**, DSS, on the October 5 passing of her mother-in-law Julia Walls.

Mobile units dispatched to WalMart after storm

The Department of Veterans Affairs dispatched two mobile units to Laurinburg to provide medical, mental health counseling services and medications for enrolled Veterans unable to receive services at Fayetteville VA Medical Center's Robeson County Community-based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) forced to close temporarily in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

VA dispatched the units to support the medical center's efforts to quickly restore services. "Robeson County has been hard hit by the storm and people all across the State are pulling together to help each other," said VAMC Director Elizabeth Goolsby. "Some of our veterans suffered significant losses so we want to provide some measure of comfort by making some of the services they're accustomed to accessible as soon as possible."

Veterans must show VA ID to receive services. The mobile medical unit (MMU) and mobile vet center (MVC) saw patients at their location in the WalMart parking lot.

Mobile medical units can provide primary health care appointments and walk-ups, physical exams, flu shots and other immunizations, prescriptions, labs and assistance in signing up for VA benefits.

Mobile vet centers are equipped with a confidential counseling space and typically provide readjustment counseling and information resources.

During disaster these vehicles also serve as part of the VA emergency response program.

5th year for Fall-O-Ween

The 5th Annual Fall-O-Ween attracted 55 youth to Wagram Recreation Center October 22.

The Center's gymnasium was decorated with fall and Halloween décor.

Activity booths manned by 20 volunteers attracted the children with a promise of fun, games and entertainment. In the photo is the "Extreme Recreation" Mummy Wrap Race.



Scarecrows a recycle topic

What better way to celebrate the change of season than to teach the younger generation how fall and recycling go together.

Conservation Director Amy Miller visited Sycamore Lane and taught 108 kids how to make scarecrows and pumpkins from recycled materials.

Patriotic save



Vincent Locklear salvaged a flag someone threw away. The flag is now flying high on the landfill compactor. Photo by Kathy Duke, Public Works

Employees share images of the area post Hurricane Matthew

As if the first three pages of this newsletter weren't enough, a request was put out to all employees to submit photos they took of the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew from a day of high winds and rain.

Thank you to the following employees for your submissions:

1. **Hammond Park.**
Photo by Samantha Ruiz, Administration

2. **The National Guard arrives in Lumberton.**
Photo submitted by Sandy Connor, DSS

3. **Midland Way, Laurinburg.** Photo by William Lash, Public Works

4. **East Vance Street, Laurinburg.** Photo by Pat Brown, Register of Deeds

5. **Anson Avenue, Laurinburg.** Photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS



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United Way giving options

The 2016 United Way Campaign is October 24 to November

18. There are various ways to give:

1. Monthly payroll deduction
2. One-time payroll deduction
3. One-time cash/check contribution
4. Specific partner agency
5. Fair Share, which is one (1) hour's pay per month. The Fair Share giver benefit means you get your birthday off, and it's paid.

United Way supports 19 Scotland County agencies. Donations to United Way are distributed among the 19 agencies all of which serve Scotland County residents.

Help for your pets is on the way in case of an emergency

There's a new program for pet owners compliments of the Sheriff's Department. "You can pick up a Pet Alert sticker at the Sheriff's office to put inside your home on one of the windows," said Sheriff Ralph Kersey.

"The sticker features spaces where you can write down how many dogs, cats, birds or other pets you have so if the Sheriff or the fire department shows up for a house fire or some other emergency, they will know you have animals inside your home so they won't be forgotten," Kersey explained.