

FEBRUARY 2014



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Snow and ice blanket County, but the worst scenario avoided

Scotland County might have escaped the worst in the midst of the most recent winter weather event, but snow and ice accumulation caused communitywide closures that lasted several days.

"The County did receive several inches of snow, but if we had received the predicted three-quarters inches of ice, that would have been a major issue," said County Manager Kevin Patterson.

"With ice, power loss is expected at one-quarter of an inch. Power issues are widespread at one-half an inch and, at three-quarters of an inch, Scotland County would have been without power along with the rest of the region," Patterson said.

The worst-case scenario never materialized. The County wound up with one-quarter of an inch of ice.

"The worst of the weather wound up east of us," Patterson said. "The National Weather Service predictions were in line with everyone else around us. We just happened to be less severely hit."

Patterson said although he heard of some minor road accidents, most people apparently prepared early and stayed at home until early Friday when traffic returned to near normal.

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Wagram Recreation Center to offer senior programs

Parks and Recreation staff will develop a plan to modify programs offered at the Wagram Recreation Center in order to add activities for seniors during daytime hours.

"There have been requests by members of the Wagram community to schedule additional programming during the day," explained Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton.

Newton said early in 2013 the Commissioners approved the hiring of a part-time employee for security reasons at the Wagram Recreation Center.

"Addition of the part-time person also meant the Wagram Recreation Center would be able to respond to the requests for additional programs," Newton said.

Newton said no additional staff would be needed at this time in order to implement 40 hours a week of programs for seniors.

Adding programs geared toward older adults also would allow Parks and Recreation to identify Wagram Recreation Center as a senior-recreation center.

"It would not restrict current programs, but rather enhance operations," said Newton. If the plan is approved by the Area Agency on Aging and NC Division of Aging in fiscal year 2015, Wagram Recreation Center would be eligible for funding for its programs.

"This would be similar to funding Scotland Place has received since it opened," Newton said. "Scotland Place would continue to receive funding from Division of Aging."

Shred day returns March 22

Two popular events, Community Shred and Operation Medicine Drop, will join forces next month to give citizens a no-cost, one-stop opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft and from accidental poisonings.

Community Shred will be 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (or when the truck is full, whichever comes first) Saturday, March 22, at the Walgreens store parking lot at 821 Westwood Way adjacent to US 15-401 Bypass. Operation Medicine Drop will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., also at Walgreens.



The last shred event was in 2012. In 2013 it was canceled because the shred company said it would not be able to recoup its expenses.

This year Walgreens will sponsor the dual community event. The Community Shred is hosted by

Cooperative Extension and ECA (Extension and Community Association). It provides citizens a safe way to dispose of confidential information in an effort to prevent identity theft. This service is offered free of charge for individuals only with a limit of four boxes or 100 pounds per person. Scotland County citizens and those living in surrounding counties are encouraged to participate.

Pro-Shred, a company that specializes in secure document management, will provide the service. Volunteers will be on hand to assist participants with transporting their boxes and bags to the shred truck. It is not necessary to remove staples, paper clips or plastic sleeves as the equipment can shred these items along with the paper.

"We are excited to have the Community Shred event back in 2014," said Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Sharon English. "I get phone calls every week about this program, and I know citizens will be happy to see it return."

She added, "I would like to thank Walgreens for its sponsorship and support of both the Community Shred and Operation Medicine Drop."

Medicine Drop, now in its fifth consecutive year, is hosted by the Laurinburg Police Department, Scotland County Sheriff and Scotland County Committee — Safe Kids Mid-Carolinas Region and North Carolina Safe Kids.

With Medicine Drop citizens can safely rid their homes of unwanted over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

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Scotia Village residents gather for recycle session

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne was the guest speaker at Scotia Village where he updated residents on recycling and shared few facts about its importance.

An estimated 30 Scotia residents and staff attended the informational event, which Horne has conducted there for the past four years.

Horne reviewed tonnage and revenue the County recycle centers received in fiscal year 2013. Recyclables weighed in at 267.09 tons with a revenue of \$14,098.30.

Scotland County centers are identified as (PAYT) Pay as You Throw, which means residents pay for only what they throw away and not a fixed rate. Horne said the PAYT method helps keep a large amount of recycle items out of the landfill.

Horne then shared the following facts:

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can in as little as 60 days.

Recycling one aluminum can save enough energy to run a television for three hours.

An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now.

If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, it would save about 250 million trees a year.

The amount of wood and paper thrown away each year is enough to heat 50 million homes for 20 years.

Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour, most of which are thrown away.

Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown in the ocean kill as many as one million sea creatures every year.

Every month enough recyclable glass bottles and jars are thrown out to fill a giant skyscraper.

A modern glass bottle would take 4,000 years or more to decompose — even longer if it is in a landfill.

The U.S. population discards each year 16 billion diapers, 1.6 billion pens, two billion razor blades, 220 million car tires and enough aluminum to rebuild the U.S. commercial air fleet four times over.

A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to two million gallons of fresh water. (Motor oil can be recycled, re-refined and used again, reducing our reliance on imported oil).

Litter Sweep on its way

The Chamber of Commerce Green Committee is preparing for its 2014 Fall Litter Sweep March 31 to April 4. Teams once again will have more flexibility in days and times when they can pick up trash.

Top five high litter areas in the County are Academy Road, Barnes Bridge Road, Blues Farm Road between 401 south and Turnpike Road small wooded area, Bostic Road and Calhoun Road.

Top five high litter areas in Laurinburg are 401 north and south, Blue Woods Road, Lee's Mill Road, neighborhood by old Northview Church and behind old Scotland Motors and Scotland Crossing.

Litter is mostly located in non-residential areas such as woods, fields and abandoned dwellings.

Low Income Subsidy enrollment means savings for participants

Of the more than 7,000 Medicare recipients in Scotland County, many of them do not have enough money to buy their medications and eat.

There is assistance for them through a federal government program known as LIS (Low Income Subsidy).

"Anyone who has Medicare is asked what their income is and, if they meet the guidelines, staff at Scotland Place help them fill out the form to get it," explained Senior Programs Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan.

The program in Scotland County has been successful, according to Donovan. In 2012, there were 7,528 Medicare recipients.

The State Health Insurance Information Program set a goal that the County see 1.5 percent of those recipients.

Donovan said, "That goal has been met." Statewide, the Raleigh office open enrollment from October 15 to December 7 saved more than \$10 million for Medicare recipients.

The coordinating sites — and Scotland Place is one of those sites — saved more than \$5 million for Medicare recipients among 3,706 clients.

There were 165 Scotland County participants who were seen at Scotland Place and Wagram Recreation Center. A participant enrolled in LIS could save approximately \$3,000 per year on medications.

The time spent by Donovan and her support staff administering the LIS program from October 15 to December 7 was 161 hours and 42 minutes.

For more information about LIS, call 277-2585.

Children Services unit recognized



The DSS Children Services staff were guests at a brunch in their honor. They were later recognized by the Board of Commissioners for the role they played in reducing the number of children in foster care over a three-year period from 75 to 33.

The unit also worked to ensure children were permanently placed within a year. The unit reduced its budget each year for the past three years and came in under budget at the same time.

Those who attended the brunch were, left to right, April Snead, Leslie Scott, Marquita Rainer, Wendy Stanton, Jennifer Byrd, Rebekah Oxendine, Sheretha Maniece-Barrios, Tonia Bailey, Amanda Martin, Atysha Locklear, Debra Webb, Sherika Elliott, Amy Locklear, Robby Lowery and Robby Hall (kneeling).

Icy road, street conditions cause County offices to close

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With the exception of essential personnel, County offices were closed February 12 to 14. Patterson said the call to remain closed on Friday, February 14, was the correct one since Public Buildings staff did not have inmate assistance to clear sidewalks during hazardous weather conditions. "As late as Friday afternoon, the sidewalks in front of Social Services were still covered in ice' so employees and the general public could not enter the facilities safely."

He added, "I'm really glad it turned out to be a lot less than what was predicted." In hindsight Patterson said the weather event was a great exercise. "It got the City, the County, the hospital, Red Cross and the schools all working together. It's been the first time in a while that we activated a shelter (at Scotland High School)."

Patterson said although no one showed up at the shelter, the preparedness training was worth the effort. DSS and Health Department employees helped man the shelter, which remained open Wednesday to Thursday in the event someone who might have lost power and needed a warm space showed up.

Patterson said most of the power outages in the County occurred among Duke Energy customers. 866 households were without power at some point Thursday, February 13 and Friday, February 14. All power was restored by Saturday, February 15.



Thank you to the following County employees for their photo contribution: Crystal Norton, Sharon Brandon and Patricia Brown, Register of Deeds; Samantha Ruiz, Administration; and Roylin Hammond, EMS.

Street gangs workshop an eye opener

One gang member in a community is one too many. So said Chris Kempf, Detective with the Gun and Gang Violence Unit, Fayetteville Police Department. "Everybody has a gang problem. If you have one gang member, you have a problem. It's like a virus. It spreads, and then you start getting other gangs in the area."

Kempf spoke on Street Gang Awareness to more than 80 community leaders and law enforcement officials at the Dulin Center. The event was hosted by local mental health management agency Eastpointe.

"Gangs promote violence. They have this weird idea that you are going to respect them if you fear them," Kempf explained. "Gangs don't stay in one state. North Carolina is a state a lot flock to. Gangs are no longer a big city problem."

Kempf said gangs move to smaller communities emboldened by the possibility there are limited resources to combat them.

Gang membership has evolved over the years, according to Kempf. "Ethnicity isn't a big issue anymore." The average gang member age is no longer between 18 and 30. "In North Carolina specifically, where juvenile laws are not the strongest, gangs recruit younger members from elementary schools, even private schools. Age is no longer an issue."

Parents, schools and even police departments are in denial about the presence of gangs in their community. "Parents don't want to believe their child is in a gang. When the child broke into 20 cars the parents said, 'Yeah, but he's not a gang member.' Can we address the bigger issue that he broke into 20 cars?"

Kempf said schools are in denial because they don't want to be labeled a bad school, and they don't want to risk the loss of funding. "Basically we need to get our heads out of the sand."

A gang is any group that gathers under a common name, sign, color or symbol for the purpose of intimidation or committing criminal acts that, if committed by an adult, would constitute a felony. They are not necessarily male-dominated.

Kempf said traditional gangs aside, non-traditional gangs throw a curve at you. "Traditional gangs follow a dominant color, have a set of rules they abide by. Non-traditional gangs all come from the same place, call themselves whatever they want and change that name whenever they want. They might or might not wear a color. They have a larger membership that may include traditional gang members."

"Non-traditional gang members aren't who you think they might be," Kempf said. "They're varsity athletes, the movers and shakers in the high school. They have no dominant color."

Identity or recognition, protection, a sense of belonging and glorification of gang activity through the mass media are reasons kids join gangs.

Kempf advised attendees to get youth involved in sports and mentor programs as a preventive measure. He encouraged cleaning up graffiti, which encourages increased criminal activity. "The longer you say it's acceptable, the more entrenched gangs will get in your society."

American Heart Association gets red for women

Health Department staff participated in the American Heart Association's 10th Anniversary of Go Red for Women Campaign by wearing red.

Pictured left to right wearing red February 7 are Michealle Haynes, Maria Roberts, Nikki Peek, Judy McMillan, Frances Moody, Phyllis Clark, Dave Jenkins, Wanda Hassler, Jennifer Taylor and Kathie Cox.

Numerous other County employees also wore red in honor of the campaign.



Our condolences to ...

Rebecca Griffin, DSS, on the February 1 passing of her father-in-law, Leon Griffin; **Tiffany Elliott**, DSS, on the passing of her stepmother.

Post Scripts

Welcome to those employees hired since December 16: **Kevin Strickland**, **Matthew Jones** and **Phillip Leviner**, EMS; **Michelle Green**, DSS; **Charles Blue**, part-time, Transportation.

Shred day returns

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Unused and expired drugs in the home often are left unsecured in cabinets and on counters. Improper use of drugs may cause an overdose and drug interactions.

Accidental poisoning from ingestion of drugs among children and pets often occurs in homes where medicine is easily accessible. For example, about 40 percent of poisoning among children occurs in the homes of grandparents.

Furthermore, disposal of unwanted drugs as household trash or by flushing them down the sink or toilet is unwise and dangerous to the environment, potentially contaminating the water supply.

"We want citizens to take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of unused and expired medication," said Corporal J. Byrd of the Laurinburg Police Department.

"The ultimate goal of this program is to reduce accidental poisonings, prevent drug abuse and protect our waters. Citizens will not be questioned about the medication or how they obtained them."

Walgreens Store Manager Jennifer Crump said, "We are very happy to partner with Scotland County Cooperative Extension and the

Scotland County Committee — Safe Kids Mid-Carolinas Region to provide this service to the community. Walgreens is committed to helping people get, stay and live well, and this service is in line with that commitment. We hope everyone will take advantage of this opportunity."

For more information on Community Shred, contact Scotland County Cooperative Extension at 277-2422, and for Operation Medicine Drop, contact Corporal J. Byrd at 276-3211.