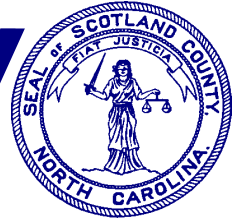


# Scotland County

## Monthly



JUNE 2008

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Annex targeted as pilot site for energy savings program

The Annex on Cronly Street will be the site for a pilot project on energy conservation and efficiency.

Once the new roof is completed on the Annex, it will be fitted with energy efficient lighting and heating and cooling units.

Utilities costs at the Annex are an estimated \$15,000 a year. The utilities savings would be applied toward the purchase of the new equipment over a 10-year period, which also would include parts and labor.

County Engineer Jim Blackwell said that at the end of 10 years, and considering energy costs would continue to rise, the savings from the energy bill would begin to represent a savings for the County.

"This is something that is fairly new for Scotland County,

*see Annex, page 4*

## 2009 budget includes COLA, four-cent decrease in tax rate

In a split vote earlier this month, the Board of Commissioners approved an FY 2008-2009 budget that drops the tax rate to \$1.02. The FY 2007-2008 tax rate was \$1.06.

The budget also includes a three percent cost of living increase for County employees.

Commissioners J.D. Willis, Betty Blue Gholston, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter approved the new budget while Commissioners John Alford, Leon Butler and Guy McCook voted against it.

The Commissioners who opposed the budget were hopeful staff could rework it so the tax rate would come in under \$1.00.

Commissioner McCook said that taxpayers are aware that Scotland County historically has the highest tax rate in the State. He said a 99-cent tax rate, for instance, would come as a relief to property owners.

Chairman J.D. Willis said he supported a budget that sets the tax rate

*see Budget, page 3*



## Power of electricity demonstrated

Progress Energy technicians do much more than just keep the lights on. When there is a power outage, fire or related emergency, Progress Energy employees are on the scene to ensure the safety of first responders and citizens.

More than 130 public service and public safety organizations attended the two demonstrations conducted by Progress Energy.

Attendees received lessons on how the electrical system operates and safety procedures regarding the potential dangers of electricity.

In one of numerous demonstrations of high voltage situations, Progress Energy professionals, pictured, show what happens when a metal pole comes in contact with a power line.

## Policy outlines how injured employees transition to work

A policy to assist employees who were injured in the workplace transition back to work was approved by the Board of Commissioners.

The County has always had an informal program for injured employees to transition back to work, but this is the first time a policy has been put in writing.

"With a written policy, everyone will know what they have to do, and it formalizes the process," explained Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers.

Flowers, who developed the Transitional Duty Policy, added that the policy covers everyone regardless of responsibilities or title.

A Transitional Duty Committee would determine how an employee would return to work or take on a temporary work assignment designed to meet the employee's physical restrictions.

A Sheriff's Deputy injured on the job, for instance, might not be able to fulfill law enforcement duties while recovering, but would be able to return to work in an office situation. The return-to-work team would determine how to best accommodate an employee's transition back to work.

Flowers said that in some cases the employee's medical provider or field case supervisor might be consulted in order to make the determination.

Flowers hopes the policy would positively affect the County's worker's compensation premium in the future if the cost of claims is reduced through consistent use of the Transitional Duty Policy.

Department Heads will discuss the Transitional Duty Policy with their staff. Flowers also is available to make presentations and answer questions. She can be contacted at 277-2024 or [tflowers@scotlandcounty.org](mailto:tflowers@scotlandcounty.org).

## Congratulations Class of 2008

### High School:

**Cooperative Extension:** **Elizabeth English**, daughter of Sharon English, Scotland High School. Elizabeth will attend Richmond Community College and Fayetteville Technical College to pursue a degree in dental hygiene.

**DSS:** **Ashley Nicole Williams**, daughter of Nicole Robinson, Scotland High School. Ashley will attend UNC-Pembroke. **Brandon Jyrel McRae**, son of Tosha L. McQueen, Scotland High School. Brandon will attend Winston Salem State University.

**EMS:** **Justin Baldwin**, son of Cory Baldwin, Scotland High School. Justin will attend The Masters Commission in Dallas, TX, a seminary school with an emphasis in music. **Jordan Sandlin**, daughter of Debra Sandlin, Scotland High School. Jordan will attend Robeson Community College in the fall.

**Health:** **Ashton Rivers**, sister of Carlotta Rivers, Health, Marlboro County High School. Ashton plans to attend Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. **Christin Elizabeth Powell**, niece of Debra Kersey, Scotland High School. Christin will attend Wingate University School of Pharmacy.

**Register of Deeds:** **Heather Eddins**, daughter of Teresa Eddins, Scotland High School. Heather plans to attend Richmond Community College to pursue a nursing degree.

**Tax:** **Stevie Kay Robinson**, granddaughter of Mary Freeman, Glen Este High School, Cincinnati, OH. Stevie will attend Miami University in Ohio. **Alexandra Lowery**, granddaughter of Linda Locklear, Lowery's Christian School, Shannon, NC. Alexandra will take cosmetology courses at Robeson Community College.

**Transportation:** **Darius L. McLean**, grandson of Lendo Mason, Scotland High School. Darius will attend Fayetteville State University in the fall. **Latia Robertson**, niece of Lendo Mason, Scotland High School. Latia will continue studies at Sandhills Community College.

### College/University:

**Administration:** **Roxanne Scarlett Kurtzman**, daughter of Ann Kurtzman, *cum laude*, Appalachian State University with a B.S. in communications disorders. Roxanne will pursue a Master's in communications disorders at Appalachian State University.

**Cooperative Extension:** **Ryan Norton**, nephew of Sharon English, Lenoir Community College. Ryan will pursue a pharmacy degree and play baseball at UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall.

**DSS:** **Joshua Travis Purvis**, son of Jan-Marie F. Mathews, MFA in theatre/acting, UNC-Greensboro. Joshua will teach at UNC-Greensboro. **Willie James Barnes**, son of Vicki Barnes, B.S. in physical education, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC. Willie will teach physical education and serve as an assistant football coach in Conway.

**Health:** **Maggie Ann Clark**, daughter of Phyllis Clark, Health, respiratory therapy degree, Sandhills Community College. **Tabetha Moody McGeachy**, niece of Frances Moody, *summa cum laude*, UNC-Greensboro with a B.S. in social work. Tabetha is pursuing a Master's degree at UNC-Greensboro.

**Transportation:** **Britteny Britt**, daughter of Wanda Britt, Richmond Community College with GED. Britteny will enroll in the CNA program at Richmond Community College.

### Staff:

**Cooperative Extension:** **Hazel McPhatter**, UNC-Pembroke with a B.S. in health promotion.

**Health:** **Donna Deese**, *cum laude*, UNC-Pembroke with a B.S. in nursing.

## DSS receives State awards for high participation rates



DSS employee Dorothy Fields, second from right, accepted the award for highest Food and Nutrition Services participation rate while Willette Jones, second from left, accepted the award for 100 percent payment accuracy.

The awards were presented during a recent Food and Nutrition Services conference held June 4 to 6 in Greensboro.

Scotland County was fourth in Food and Nutrition Services participation. The award was based on the number of individuals receiving Food and Nutrition Services in March 2008 compared to the number of potentially eligible persons.

The County also was recognized for achieving the national average accuracy rate of 94.67 percent or higher for 2007. Payment Accuracy Awards are based on quality control accuracy rates for the reporting period October 2006 to October 2007.

DSS employees who attended the conference in Greensboro include, left to right above, Trina Locklear, Jones, Jennie Lowe, Fields and Barbara Ledbetter.



Veterans Service Officer **Mildred Williams** reported that Scotland County students Gina Marie Armstrong, Richard Adam Clark and Brandon L. McLean were awarded scholarships from the NC Division of Veterans Affairs. ⌘ Joe Davis, son of **Sharon Davis**, Transportation, was chosen to attend a five-week Upward Bound Program. The rising Purnell Swett 11th grader will travel all over the United States with the Program. ⌘ Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **Deanna Carlyle**, 21 years; **Tommy Hatcher**, 17 years; **Robert Sampson**, 14 years; **Brandon Butler**, two years and **Johnathan Taylor**, one year. ⌘ Congratulations and best wishes to retiring employees **Hyder Massey** (Public Buildings), 34 years; **Pat Wells** (DSS), 28 years; and **Cordella Walker** (Health), 25 years.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to **Lynda McMillan**, Health, on the June 14 passing of her mother-in-law.

Have a safe Independence Day!

## the Birthday list for July

**2** Karen Leviner (DSS); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin (Administration) and Adam Holland (Parks and Recreation); **7** J.D. Willis (Commissioner) and Kristen Patterson (Health); **8** Eddie McLaurin (Parks and Recreation); **9** Helen Hardwick (Elections) and Amanda Martin (DSS); **10** Denise Locklear and Ebonie Williams (DSS); **11** Heather Moody (DSS); **15** Arline Swett (EMS); **18** Kimberly McLamb (Health); **19** Tina Ellis (Health), Billy Bostick (Public Buildings) and Christopher Lee (EMS); **21** Brandon Butler (EMS); **25** Mildred Williams (Veterans Services), John Storey (EMS) and Shanitta Giles (Parks and Recreation); **26** Jeffrey Wood (DSS), Amy Richburg (Soil and Water) and Tina Strickland (Sheriff); **27** Dave Raley (Health Board) and Robert Brown and William Skipper (Parks and Recreation); **28** Vincent Locklear (Public Works); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration) and Miriam Bounds (Health); **30** Wanda Britt (Transportation); **31** Jan-Marie Mathews (DSS) and Judy McMillan (Health).

## Tax rate lowered in new budget

*continued from page 1*

at \$1.02. Willis explained that the County should lower the tax rate with the savings it already realized from Medicaid relief legislation and not with Medicaid relief savings the County projects it will receive.

Willis added the County must fund mandated programs the other 99 counties do not have to fund, which is why lowering the tax rate presents a challenge to local elected officials every year.

The Commissioners intend to get the tax rate below \$1.00 in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

## Commissioners visit local delegation



**Meeting in Raleigh are, left to right, County Manager Kevin Patterson, Representative Garland Pierce, Commissioners Joyce McDow and Betty Blue Gholston and Representative Doug Yongue.**

County Commissioners and staff spent a day in Raleigh advocating for legislative issues considered beneficial to the County and thanking the local delegation for its continued support.

The trip to the State's capital was part of the annual Legislative Conference hosted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

Staff and elected officials from counties met with their local legislators, attended Senate and House business sessions and received updates on current bills in the House and Senate and how they might affect counties.

Commissioners Joyce McDow and Betty Blue Gholston, County Manager Kevin Patterson, Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman made the trip to Raleigh.

## News of Note

### Report to the Citizens published

Nearly 15,000 property owners received the 2008 *Report to the Citizens* earlier this month. The last time a citizens report was published was 11 years ago. The four-page newsletter focused on County progress in economic development, infrastructure and projects designed to improve the quality of life for citizens and future tax rate projections. It also featured a staff directory and the FY 2007-2008 tax dollar penny chart, which illustrates the level of support for mandated and non-mandated programs.

### ArvinMeritor expansion announced

ArvinMeritor will add 54 jobs at its Scotland County plant as the result of a planned expansion. The company will invest \$3.9 million in the expansion. ArvinMeritor, headquartered in Michigan, is a supplier of products to the automobile industry.

### Agricultural District applications accepted

Applications for Voluntary Agricultural Districts will be accepted effective July 1. Applicants can stop by the Soil and Water Conservation offices at 507 West Covington Street. Soil and Water Conservation Director Amy Richburg said she has received numerous calls from farmers interested in applying. Farmers who become part of a Voluntary Agricultural District will be protected from complaints that might occur from neighboring residential developments since they will be made aware that the districts exist.

### Health insurance costs rise slightly

Health insurance rates will increase 7.5 percent effective July 1. "We believe the 7.5 percent trend increase is an accurate number for the 2008-2009 year going forward," said FirstCarolinaCare (FCC) representative Jill Emerson. She added that FCC anticipates another year under similar circumstances. "Your loss ratio shows that for every dollar paid in premium last year FCC paid out a dollar in claims and in administration," Emerson explained. "This shows the plan was priced accurately. However, this leaves no room for reserves in case of a really bad year going forward." Effective July 1, FCC health insurance rates for dependent coverage are as follows: employee/spouse \$360 (\$333 last year), employee/child(ren) \$215 (\$203 last year) and family \$613 (\$570 last year). Emerson encourages employees to keep ER utilization to a minimum and only use it when it is an emergency. "The County is doing a good job with this, but it is always a good reminder," said Emerson. If employees have questions about prescription costs, Elise McInnis, FCC Pharm MD, is available to discuss how to get the most out of the pharmacy benefits. McInnis can be reached by calling the 800 number on your FCC card.

## SCATS receives safety award



*SCATS staff who received the award are, seated left to right, Sharon Davis and Debbie Davis. Standing, left to right, Roylin Hammond, Gracie Rettig, Felisa McKeithan, Bob Jones, Wanda Britt, Lendo Mason, Stacy Shannon, Linda Jones, Robert McRae, Sandy McCrimmon and James McQueen*

Scotland County Area Transit Systems (SCATS) was recognized with an Annual Safety Award from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Association, for completing an entire year with no reportable accidents.

The award was presented to SCATS at the 2008 Spring NC PTA conference, held recently in Wilmington, NC. This is the first time SCATS has received the award.

Only four of the 83 transportation systems in North Carolina were presented the award this year.

"SCATS drivers and staff are very proud to have earned the award, based on providing safe, accident free service to the citizens of Scotland County that are transported daily," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

## In-house classes a help at EMS

*by Roylin Hammond, EMS*

The last weekday of each month, EMS staff participate in an in-house continuing education class to maintain their paramedic certification.

In May, the course focused on CPAP training — Continuous Positive Airway Pressure — used in various airway management applications when a patient is experiencing respiratory difficulty.

Paramedic Randy McArthur, seated in the photo, assumes the role of



patient and allows Paramedic Mary White to practice placing the CPAP equipment on him.

Each EMS unit carries CPAP equipment, which is used frequently to assist patients with respiratory complications.

Scotland County EMS responds to a great deal of calls where respiratory problems have resulted from congestive heart failure (CHF), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) asthma and other respiratory related diseases.

## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for May:

**Responded to 407** Medical/Trauma calls

**Treated 47** total traffic accident patients

**Administered 106** wellness/blood pressure checks

**Sold 53** blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**407** EMS

**375** Sheriff's Department

**328** Laurinburg Police Department

**55** Fire Department

**667** hang-up calls

**85** wrong numbers

**42** open line calls

**1,447** cellular calls

**2,167** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**50** sick person (specific diagnosis)

**47** traffic accidents chest pain

**41** breathing problems

**34** chest pain

**33** transfer/interfacility/palliative care

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 91 on 5/31

**Temp (low)** 46 on 5/14

**Wind (mph)** 27 on 5/11

**Rainfall (inches)** .64 on 5/11

*Compiled by*

*Tommy Hatcher*

## Health Tip

Use these three easy steps to check whether you may be dehydrated.

**1. Listen to your body.** There are some obvious physical signs of dehydration. If you're a little dehydrated, your **lips may be dry**. Your **mouth may feel a bit gummy or sticky**.

**2. Watch for other signs.** In addition to dry mouth and thirst, you may have **difficulty concentrating on tasks**. You may feel **tired for no apparent reason**. Your **heart rate may be a bit elevated**. Some people even report having **headaches** when they've been deprived of liquids. Don't ignore any of these symptoms, especially when clustered together.

**3. Check your fluid output.** A strong indication that you are dehydrated may be when your urine output is dark in color and has a strong odor. Some medications can influence urine color, so check with your doctor. **Source: [www.RealAge.com](http://www.RealAge.com)**

## Annex set for pilot program

*continued from page 1*

that certainly has merit," said County Engineer Jim Blackwell. "We have a great deal of information on the building (Annex). We know the numbers. We have a fairly lengthy track record of what the utilities have cost in the building since about 1992."

"We'll have a strong foundation in which to base those savings against," Blackwell said.

All the equipment, according to the contract, would be guaranteed in parts and labor for 10 years. The County would be responsible for routine maintenance.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since April 16, 2008: **Corrie Patterson**, EMS; **Marion Locklear**, Jail. **Kimbrick Morris**, **Leondra Dial** and **Russell Lester**, joined EMS part-time.