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HAPPY NEW YEAR BONNE ANNEE FELIZ ANO NUEVO FELICE ANNO NUOVO GOTT NYTT IR

Anson County Property Taxes are Due this Friday, January 5

Anson County Tax Collector Joe Dutton wants to remind all property owners that 2017 property taxes are due this Friday, January 5. The tax office accepts checks, cash and credit/debit cards. Also, there is a drop box outside the entrance for after hours payments. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can look up information about taxes at www.co.anson.nc.us/MappingTaxes.

Fees and interest on 2017 property taxes begin on January 6.

For more information call the tax office at 704-994-3218.

HOLLA! Awarded Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Grant

HOLLA! has been selected by the North Carolina Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission to receive \$1,000 in funding to help support project MLK-JR (Making Life Kind - Just and Righteous). MLK-JR is an original project developed by HOLLA! designed to expose local youth to the teachings of Dr. King.

HOLLA!'s project is one of six selected statewide to be recommended for funding. Following are details of the project.

Project Goals

- Promote the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Develop a sustainable and replicable program designed to instill hundreds of youth with the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Engage the entire community in our efforts to be proactive in developing a kinder community by exposing youth to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr through various programs.
- Highlight the kindness and scholarship presently existing in our community through recognition during our various programs.
- Encourage kindness and scholarship in our community.
- Expose our youth to positive people and experiences.
- Lessen incidents of bullying and school discipline issues.

Project Timeline

- January 8, 2018 - Morven Chapter of Las Amigas/HOLLA! MLK-JR Essay Contest
- January 13, 2018 10:00 a.m. Downtown Wadesboro, NC - MLK-JR Parade
- January 15, 2018 8:00 a.m. Anson County MLK Celebration - MLK-JR winners present essays to public.*
- February 21, 2018 6:00 p.m. Anson Middle School/HOLLA! MLK-JR Oratorical Contest
- March 7, 2018 6:00 p.m. - MLK-JR Movie Night - Selma**
- April 4, 2018 - (50th Anniversary of the death of Dr. King) - MLK-JR County-wide day of non-violence***
- May 10, 2018 (Time TBD) - HOLLA! MLK-JR Quiz Bowl
- July 25, 2018 12:00 noon - MLK-JR Summer Oratorical Contest
- October 31, 2018 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - ****On October 14, 1964, Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize. This is a great month to have the MLK-JR Halloween Trunk OR Treat and Anti-bullying/Peace Rally and Dance. Chairman Jahn of the Nobel committee said, "he was the first person in the Western world to have shown us that a struggle can be waged without violence."

* 89th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

** 53rd Anniversary of Bloody Sunday

*** 50th Anniversary of the Death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**** 54th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Nobel Peace Prize Receipt

For more information or to participate in this exciting project call the HOLLA! Center at 704.851.3144.

McLeod Safe Kids' Tips on Toy Safety

During the holiday season, and all year long, make sure you don't put your child at an increased risk for injury with those new toys. McLeod Safe Kids offers these tips when purchasing and supervising the use of toys for children:

Selection Before shopping for toys, consider the child's age, interests and abilities.

- Always read labels and look for age ranges and safety warnings for the toy.
- Children under age three put objects in their mouths and can choke. Be careful with small balls and parts.
- Read assembly instructions and keep them in case you have questions.
- Complete warranty cards—this is how manufacturers notify you of recalls.

Supervision Remove and throw away all toy packaging before giving it to a baby or small child.

- Always supervise children while they play to avoid injury.
- Keep toys meant for older children away from younger children. These toys are inappropriate for younger children.
- Join in your child's play. This adds to their fun and development.

Storage and Maintenance Check old and new toys regularly for damage such as sharp edges or loose small parts.

- Teach children to put away toys after play-time.
- Store toys for older and younger children separately. Safe storage prevents falls and other injuries.

Another little-known risk for small children is batteries. Inside small electronic devices we find powerful coin-sized button batteries. When swallowed, these batteries can get stuck in a child's throat and cause severe burns or worse. Each year, children swallow about 3,500 of these batteries, and the damage is devastating. To keep your child safe from this risk:

- Keep devices with button batteries out of reach if the battery compartments are not secure, and lock away loose batteries.
- If a child swallows a button battery, go to the emergency department right away. Do not let the child eat or drink, and do not induce vomiting.
- Share this information with others. Make sure everyone who spends time with your child is aware of this risk.

Being proactive is key to injury prevention. Sign up to receive product recalls with the Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov.

For more information on preventing childhood injury please call McLeod Safe Kids at (843) 777-5021.



Wadesboro Police Department Hosts Another Shop with a Cop

On Friday, December 15 the Wadesboro Police Department hosted its annual Shop with a Cop event, which benefits area families with a shopping trip for Christmas.

Here's how it works - each year children are picked up in a police car and taken to a store to shop with a cop for anything they want for Christmas. The amount of money each child is given on the gift card to shop with is completely dependent on donations and fundraisers.

"This year the kids were each given a \$200 gift card, paired up with an officer to shop," said Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer. "The Wadesboro Police Department with the dedicated police officers, along with the Polkton Police Department, the Anson County Deputy Fire Marshall, and loyal sponsors such as the Wadesboro Police Department Shop with a Cop Motorcycle Ride, Wadesboro Police Department Polar Bear Run and it sponsors, the Anson Record, The Express Newspaper, local businesses, churches, and especially private citizens helped made it possible for us to provide a Joyous Christmas for approximately 15 kids."

Spencer continued, "As Chief I was so proud to have Wadesboro Town Mayor Bill Thacker and wife Norma join us in a fun filled day of shopping with the kids. While shopping with the kids, we had citizens coming up to the kids and giving them donations while they were shopping. I also observed officers and store associates reach into their pockets at check out in case a kid went over. My heart was touched when one of the kids said to the Mayor and me, 'I want to thank you all for taking the time out to do this for me.'"

"In conclusion, I want to point out how Shop with a Cop is a shining example of what is possible when a group of people with a common cause come together. hard work, commitment, and the belief in something far greater than us for a true blessing," the Chief said.



The impossible become the possible. All it takes is a little hard work, commitment, and the belief in something far greater than us for a true blessing," the Chief said.



Parent Support Group Meets January 9

For those serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges

On the third Tuesday of each month the Connections Family Support Program holds a group meeting for parents, grandparents and foster parents serving children with emotional, learning or behavioral challenges. These meetings are free and include brunch. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9 at the Hampton B. Allen Library in the Pritchard Room, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Resources and lunch will be provided free. For more information contact Suzanne Maness, Family Advocate, at 877-211-5995 (toll free) or email connectionsfsp@gmail.com.

Storytime for Kids Every Wednesday

The Anson County Partnership for Children offers Storytime in the Early Childhood Resource Center each Wednesday, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3 to 8. For more information call 704-694-4036.