

# RE-ELECT



# ROSS STREATER

## COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

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### Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy is Taking Applications

The Anson County Sheriff's Office is taking applications for the Citizens Academy. The Citizens Academy is designed to expose interested participants to the day to day law enforcement work of the Anson County Sheriff's Office and the Criminal Justice System in general. Applicants must be at least 18 years old; in good health and have no criminal record. All information furnished will be considered confidential. The classes begin on Thursday, March 26. Classes take place every Thursday, from 6 to 9 p.m. through May 14.

The Citizens Academy consists of various sessions that extend over an eight week period. It varies between each academy, but past students have participated in a number of events such as a tour of the Sheriff's Office, Magistrate's Office, the Jail and 911 Emergency Communications Center. They have heard presentations from the Sheriff, Detectives, FBI, Secret Service, Alcohol Law Enforcement, Clerk of Court, District Court Judge, and Probation and Parole. Students have seen presentations on illegal drugs, crime scene investigations and the new "Live Scan Finger Printing Device." Participants have gone to the Sheriff's firing range to see various weapons demonstrated, and also fired weapons themselves. They have seen a K-9 demonstration, a Taser demonstration, a SWAT Team demonstration and a variety of vehicles and equipment used by the Sheriff's Office. In addition to all of this, each member of the past classes was offered to be a part of the Sheriff's "Ride-Along" program, where they actually rode with a deputy on a night or day shift.

Applications are available at the Anson County Sheriff's Office, located at 119 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The deadline to apply is March 6. For information contact Lt. Brian Tice or Lt. Josh Beam at 704-694-4188.

### Anson Native Britt Burch is New Attorney for City of Albemarle



The City of Albemarle City announces the hiring of Britt A. Burch as the City's new Attorney. Burch began her duties for the City of Albemarle on February 3. This is a new role within the City that takes the place of the contract City Attorney positions held by Henry Doby and David Beaver for more than six decades. The position was moved to a full-time position as demand and volume for such services has steadily increased.

Ms. Burch is an Anson County native and a graduate of Anson Senior High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics and International Affairs from Wake Forest University, a Master's degree in Business Administration from Elon University School of Business, a Juris Doctor degree from Elon University School of Law and holds an active North Carolina law license. During her time in law school, Burch was selected as a Leadership Fellow and was the only student in her class to graduate with dual JD and MBA degrees within three years.

Ms. Burch has previous experience in residential and commercial real estate, employment law, healthcare, and transactional matters. She has gained experience through pro bono initiatives regarding estate planning, bank loan modifications, and tax filings. Specifically, she has experience resolving residential property disputes and has also assisted in the establishment of commercial real estate properties by drafting a variety of contracts and completing due diligence necessary to facilitate such expansion. Ms. Burch worked with the City of Greensboro Attorney's office focusing on employment law matters. Burch assisted in the resolution of claims made against the city through the submission of appellate briefs and representation in quasi-judicial hearings. Burch also assisted with the completion of regulatory audits required to secure government funding.

Most recently, Burch worked for Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center where she developed and negotiated a wide array of contracts for biomedical research initiatives. As part of this duty, she ensured contracts were in compliance with all current regulatory, legal, fiscal, and internal policies. In addition, Burch was involved in initiatives to enhance employee engagement and professional development.

Burch has pursued her professional development internationally. She has studied: Political Government at the University of Ghana; International Business and Employment Law in England and Ireland; and Intellectual Property Law in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Burch also traveled to Nicaragua to assist Doctors Without Borders in their efforts to enhance water purification in rural communities.

In Burch's spare time, she enjoys baking and spending time with her family. Ms. Burch was selected after an extensive search and review process that included an Assessment Panel of City Council members, the mayor, and staff," Mayor Michael said, "Our City has many projects going and we are excited to have a fully dedicated legal professional to serve our Council and staff. We look forward to working with Ms. Burch and we know she will do a great job."

City Manager Michael Ferris said "We are excited to have Ms. Burch coming on-board and the skills that she brings. Like all lines of work, local government activities are becoming increasingly complicated and having someone with her skills will provide great value. We also believe she will be a good fit with our organizational expectations for work and service"

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### Create a Handmade Blanket in February!

Create a Handmade Blanket with the Cheraw Arts Commission on February 25. Artbug Studio will provide instruction in creating a cozy 35" x 45" hand knitted blanket. The technique utilizes hands instead of knitting needles with no knitting experience required.

All supplies are included in the \$70 fee. Color will be Sleepy Sky (cream & grey multi-colors). Requests for a specific color can be arranged for an additional \$10.

The class will be held at the Cheraw Community Center - 200 Powe Street from 11am until 2pm. Lunch will be provided and is included in the fee. Please contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12 to pre-register or for additional information.

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### Alexander Poisson Gray and Representative Mark Brody Duels for Early Education



Alexander Gray, 7, and Brody battled in a Star Wars lightsaber challenge at the Anson County Partnership for Children's annual Barn Blast fundraiser to raise funds for the early education.

Alexander is a sharp and insightful student at The International School at Gregory, a dual language immersion school in Wilmington. Alexander loves to read, and the only thing he loves more is his five year old sister, Cutlar Gray.

"Alexander could tell I was quite out of practice with my lightsaber skills, so the honorable young man chose not to embarrass me too badly," said Brody. "It was great fun to duel with him, and I enjoy the Barn Blast every year."

Currently, Representative Mark Brody is serving his fourth term in the NC House, on behalf of Anson and part of Union County, District 55.

As Alexander battled to uphold the respect of all Star Wars fans, his family cheered him on from the crowd. Alexander is the son of the Stewart Poisson and the late Andrew N. Gray, grandson to Fred and Lynn Poisson of Lilesville and Tom and Sylvia Gray of Carrboro, NC and nephew to Davis and Tate Poisson.

Poisson, Poisson Bower, LLC, the law firm founded by Fred D. Poisson, Jr., is a long-standing presenting sponsor of Barn Blast as well as supporter of many other local charities. Stewart Poisson is board-certified in workers' compensation, and focuses her practice on representing injured clients in workers' compensation and personal injury cases throughout the state. Stewart opened the Wilmington office of Poisson, Poisson & Bower in 2006.

"Though the Star Wars lightsaber duel was entertaining to the Barn Blast guests, both Representative Brody and Alexander Poisson Gray (with the support of his family) took a stand for children that night. In a world with growing challenges, our children deserve a strong start, and that's what Barn Blast is all about," said Caroline Goins, ACPC Executive Director.

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