

### COMMUNITY MEDICAL, PA OF MARSHVILLE

Community Medical, PA of Marshville and Dr. Gary Henry, along with Brandi Queen, FNP-C, Family Nurse Practitioner, welcomes new patients

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Both providers are Federally Certified Medical Examiners and perform DOT exams and Urine/Hair drug testing on-site five days a week.



Dr. Gary Henry



Brandi S. Queen, FNP-C

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### Solitary Ground Bees Not a Threat

This time each year many homeowners notice small dirt mounds in their yard, at parks, or recreational fields created by small bees. In many cases, these are mistaken for ant hills or mounds made by large wasps like cicada killers. In fact, they are made by solitary, ground-nesting bees in the family Andrenidae.



These are among our earliest native pollinators to emerge so they can take advantage of early blooming flowers like maples and red buds. N.C. Cooperative Extension offices occasionally receive calls from worried or frustrated homeowners who are concerned about their safety or the condition of their lawn. Homeowners should not be worried because these bees are non-aggressive and leave after a few weeks.

A single female bee builds the nest by burrowing into the ground. She prepares multiple larval cells within the nest where eggs are laid. She provisions larval brood with a mixture of pollen and nectar before closing the nest entrance and starting another. The female dies shortly thereafter, leaving the next generation safely tucked away in the ground. The visual spectacle of these bees is due largely to males seeking newly emerged females as well as the small mounds of soil beside each nest.

Solitary bees prefer to nest in dry, sparsely vegetated areas, and are simply taking advantage of desirable soil conditions. Aside from pollination, they are also providing a valuable service aerating your lawn. Measures that will make sites less appealing are to improve the density of the lawn or to irrigate over 3-4 weeks while bees are active. Native bees are an important part of ecosystems and food production. Consider steps to protect these bees or at least use non-lethal means to encourage them to nest elsewhere.

### Parks & Recreation Spring Soccer Registration

Registration has begun for Anson County Parks & Recreation's Spring Soccer program. Registration runs through April 1 for the following programs:

- **Micro Soccer:** Ages 3-4
- **Youth Soccer:** Grades: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12

Cost for these programs is \$25.

You may come to Parks & Recreation office (845 Airport Road) to register Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or you can visit their website at [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us) and fill out a registration form and send it by email or text.

For more information, contact: Jeff Waisner or j(704) 695-2550 or [jwaisner@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:jwaisner@co.anson.nc.us), Wendell Small or j(704) 695-2782 or [jwsmall@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:jwsmall@co.anson.nc.us), and Allen Jackson II or j(704) 694-5751 or [jajackson@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:jajackson@co.anson.nc.us).

### Online Enrollment for the New 4-H Year!

Welcome back to the new 4-H year! The first step to becoming an active 4-H member, volunteer, or participant during this year's 4-H program (2021) is to re-enroll. If you are a 4-H member under 18, your parent or guardian can renew your membership. \*New youth members, volunteers, and participants are strongly encouraged to enroll now too.

North Carolina 4-H uses an online system, called 4-H Online 2.0, to manage 4-H memberships, clubs, projects, activities, and communications.

4-H Online 2.0 accounts are family-based, which means every family creates a "master" profile with its own login ID and password. A member file is then created within the family profile for each individual involved in North Carolina 4-H.

For more information on enrollment go to [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu) or call Samuel Cole, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, at 704-694-2415.

### NC Ferry System Seeks Summer Employees for Hatteras Route

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Ferry System is looking for qualified applicants to fill a variety of summer positions on its popular Hatteras-Ocracoke route. Positions include ferry captains, engine room positions and traffic coordinators.

"We weren't able to hold a job fair this year due to COVID restrictions, but we still need to fill positions for what will likely be a busy summer season," said Ferry Division Deputy Director Jed Dixon. "It's a great way to earn money while spending a summer on the beautiful Outer Banks."

All positions run on week-on, week-off schedules, and dormitory housing is provided during shift weeks for those who need it. All applicants must either have a current Transportation Worker Identification (TWIC) Card or need to have applied for one.

People interested in applying for openings should contact the Ferry Division's Human Resources Coordinator Alma Fountain at [afountain@ncdot.gov](mailto:afountain@ncdot.gov).

### If You Find a Bear Den, Leave it Alone

Biologists at the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are reminding North Carolinians that if they find a bear den to leave it alone.

Black bears are very resourceful in finding places to shelter late December through April as cold weather lingers and cubs are born. Dens may be found in rock cavities, brush piles, tree cavities, excavations under fallen trees, ground nests, under decks and in crawlspaces. As a result, you may stumble upon a bear den anytime you are outdoors, whether hiking, working in your yard, cutting firewood or enjoying outdoor activities.

This month, a momma bear and her cubs were confirmed in a den on one of the Wildlife Commission's game lands.

"A hiker came upon a log pile pushed up to clear a field and the squeaking sounds of cubs," described Danny Ray, a wildlife biologist with the Commission. "The hiker left the area immediately and called me. Thanks to his correct response, the bear family was not disturbed and remained peacefully in the den."

If you find a den, either on your property or on public property, do not panic. Colleen Olfenbittel, the Commission's black bear & furbearer biologist, advises to leave the area quickly and quietly and to not disturb the den for the rest of the winter season. If the den is under your deck, shed, or crawlspace, leave the area and call the NC Wildlife Helpline at 866-318-2401 or contact your district wildlife biologist for further guidance. In almost all cases, homeowners can safely co-exist with the bear until it leaves the den in the spring.

If you inadvertently flush a female bear from her den, do not approach the area. Keep any dogs on a leash and leave immediately. The female will return to the den if you leave it alone, even if she does not return right away. Do not go back to the den area, as additional disturbance may cause the bear to leave permanently.

As spring arrives, black bears will emerge from their dens and become more active. Sometimes humans will come across cubs that are alone, waiting for their mothers to return from foraging and exploring. It's best to assume these bears are not orphaned. However, if you suspect a cub has been orphaned, do not handle or pick it up, feed it, or worse yet, remove it. The best thing to do is leave the cub alone, note the location and contact the NC Wildlife Helpline or your district wildlife biologist.



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