

Holla event selected as launching pad for Florita Bell Griffin's The Little Flower Project

On Saturday, May 9 the HOLLA! Center in Morven will stage a 5K Walk/Run, as well as provide the kick-off location for the literacy project, "Florita Bell Griffin's Little Flower" International Cultural Art Project" of Houston, Texas. The theme of the 5K Race, "Run into the Freedom of Literacy," encapsulates the mission of both Holla and the Little Flower project.

According to Holla's founder, Leon Gatewood, "The inclusion of Dr. Florita Bell Griffin and the Little Flower series is an aligning of the stars. The message of 'Little Flower' and its emphasis on literacy is completely aligned with the mission of Holla. We feel fortunate to provide the venue for this historic and symbolic launch."

The non-profit organization Holla and the Holla Center provide a variety of services and programs that aid in increasing the test scores for children so that they are better equipped to make positive contributions to the community and society.

The inspiration for "Little Flower," which also means "Florita" in Spanish, came from Griffin's husband, Dr. Richard W. Griffin, who insisted that his wife's professional training, passion for children and her own life experiences uniquely qualified her to launch the ground-breaking initiative. Little Flower formally entered the development phase in 2013, following more than two decades of planning. With a mission to improve communications skills through the use of the arts, the Little Flower project specifically addresses bullying and discrimination, as well as methods to minimize their negative impact on children. Using storytelling and artistic media, the project is designed to stimulate academic performance, foster self-esteem, create vision and promote diversity in middle school students.

During the May 9 kick-off event Griffin will display various components of the Little Flower project that includes the collaborative work of over thirty-five creative and business professionals from nine states and seven countries.

The Little Flower Storybook and Educational Series component is loosely based on the life of the author. The series is dedicated to the memory of her deceased parents, the Rev. Asa L. Bell and Mrs. M. R. Bell.

100% of profits generated from all Little Flower products sold at the 5K Walk/Run will be donated to the M. R. Bell Scholarship Fund at Holla and to Holla.

Holla founder Gatewood and author Griffin grew up literally across the street from each other in Wadesboro. The 5K Race is a reunion of sorts for community members who are registering for the event from throughout the region and some who will play a variety of pivotal roles in the event.

The 5K will begin at 8 a.m. with a literacy rally at Morven Community Park, featuring live music by Gospel Rap Artist LOE4God, the sensational eight year old drummer Maxwell Manigan, and a vigorous warm-up routine by Creeta's Fitness Team.

A pre-registration breakfast/brunch for the HOLLA! 5K will be held Saturday, April 25, from 8 a.m. until noon at the Holla Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven. You can also register for the event online at www.racesonline.com. Free t-shirts will be provided for the first 200 people to preregister.

For more information on the Little Flower Project visit www.littleflowerartist.com.

Town of Wadesboro Special Budget Meetings

The Town of Wadesboro Town Council will be holding special meetings in April and May to discuss the 2015-2016 Budget. The meetings will be held at the Town of Wadesboro Conference Room at 5 p.m. Below is a list of the meeting dates:

- April 28 - Water, Sewer
- May 5 - Administration, Personnel, Health Insurance
- May 12 - Capital Improvement Plan

Anson Women's League Scholarship Opportunities

The Anson Women's League will be accepting applications now through April 24 for \$500 scholarships to three (3) college-bound female graduates from Anson County this year. One scholarship of special note is the Eloise Rywak Scholarship offered each year by a special bequest from the family.

Applications will be judged primarily on academic achievement and financial need. They welcome evidence of student's involvement and leadership in clubs, churches, extracurricular activities and charitable service to the community. A written essay addressing these activities will provide further support in the evaluation process. Finalists will be interviewed by the scholarship committee.

Application forms are available through the various high school guidance counselors, or by telephoning Beverley Getzen, Chairperson of the AWL Scholarship Committee, at 704-694-7022. You may also write to the Anson Women's League, PO Box 94, Wadesboro, NC, 28170. They welcome the applications from all Anson County students, including those who are home schooled.

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Dr. Florita Bell Griffin

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