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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Back to School Summer Bash is August 20

The Faith Based Center of Hope, Harvest Ministries Outreach, HOLLA! Community Center, Keslar Chapel AME Zion Church and Caraway Foundation will sponsor a Back to School Summer Bash on Saturday, August 20, at Harvest Ministries Outreach Center in Wadesboro, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The objective this year is to fill a student's backpack with supplies. All parents are asked to bring their children with their backpacks and the Back to School Summer Bash plans to supply the needed school items.

Each year the need grows greater. The vision is to support all less fortunate children. In order to prepare students for a successful academic school year, school materials are needed. Through the contributions of great friends and community leaders, they hope to bless more families this year.

The Back to School Bash is open to less fortunate youth of all diversities. The Back to School Bash will provide school supplies, uniforms and shoes. It is their wish to equip students with the necessities to ensure a great start to a wonderful academic year. They will also provide every school in the county with school supplies.

Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant said, "Various community leaders, officials, ministers and medical advisors have been invited to speak to students. The group humbly asks for your support as we endeavor to do God's will and help our kids go back to school as prepared students. All contributions, including money, school supplies, uniforms, etc. are greatly appreciated and will be a huge part of this worthwhile event."

Sturdivant added, "A special thank you goes out to former sheriff Tommy Allen Jr. and C's & T's Child Care Inc. for their generous donations."

If you are interested in making a donation, please mail it to Faith Based Center of Hope, 10140 US Highway 74 East, Lilesville, NC 28091.

For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant, Faith Based Center of Hope at 704-848-4412, Pastor Steve Adams, Harvest Ministries Outreach at 704-695-2879 or Leon Gatewood, HOLLA! at 704-695-4968. Let's fill the students backpacks!

Stride for Pride Tennis Shoe Drive Still Accepting Donations

Stride with Pride has begun their 6th annual season of collecting donations of new tennis shoes and/or money used to purchase tennis shoes that will be provided to underprivileged youth of all diversities in Anson County. These shoes are given to youth ranging in age from kindergarten to 12th grade, and all sizes are needed.

Stride with Pride is a joint effort of Sheriff Landric Reid and Patti Poulcott of Judy's Tax Service. Through the generous contributions of our community, last year Stride with Pride was able to give over 350 pairs of tennis shoes out. For 2016 the goal is to put a smile on at least 450 faces. Collections for the upcoming school year will be going on through August 14, but you can contribute at any time during the year.

Sheriff Reid said, "Patti Poulcott and I will be working to collect new shoes and monetary donations from area supporters. We hope that you will consider joining us in this important effort to help a child walk the halls of success this new school year."

Patti Poulcott said, "Through your generosity we can help our youth 'Stride with Pride' this coming school year. Collections are going on now. We hope that you will consider joining us to help our local children."

If you would like to donate you can contact Sheriff Reid at 704-695-7771 or lreid@co.anson.nc.us, or you can contact Patti Poulcott at 704-694-8386 or ppoulcott@carolina.rr.com.

Anson County Receives \$12,306 in Arts Funding

The new North Carolina will allow the North Carolina Arts Council to support an extensive arts infrastructure across North Carolina, including arts programs in all 100 counties funded through the Grassroots Arts Program, with more than \$7.1 million in grants.

Anson County Arts Council is set to receive \$12,306. These funds are in the category of Grassroots Arts Program, with the title of Arts programs and administrative support. "This funding will further support the arts, which are a catalyst for economic development, tourism and overall quality of life in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "The work of local arts councils helps make North Carolina global destination where people want to live, work and visit."

In fiscal year 2016 -17, N.C. Arts Council grants will support more than 340 arts organizations, individuals, schools and other nonprofit groups that sponsor arts programs or arts-driven economic development projects. Grant funds come from both legislative appropriation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Arts have sparked economic development across the state," said Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz. "These grants mean more jobs and a better quality of life."

The budget invests an additional \$500,000 in the Grassroots Arts Program. Nationally recognized for its per capita distribution formula that allows local decision-making on arts programming, the Grassroots funds support the sustainability of a network of local arts councils across the state.

"For nearly 50 years the North Carolina Arts Council has invested in artists and arts organizations," said Wayne Martin, Executive Director of the N.C. Arts Council. "The result is a diverse arts infrastructure that is one of the most extensive in our nation, reaching into all 100 counties of the state."

The N.C. Arts Council will continue to invest in the SmART Initiative, a program that uses the arts to transform downtowns and fuel economic development. A grant was awarded to support the implementation of a Highway 19E Gateway Art Plan in Burnsville created by Seattle-based artist Jack Mackie in collaboration with a variety of local glass artists and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

"The SmART Initiative influences business development, inspires downtown revitalization and historic preservation, builds community pride of place and stimulates the growth of more creative businesses," said Kluttz. "Government and the private sector work together in communities large and small to ensure that North Carolina continues to be a place where businesses want to be, people want to live and visitors want to explore."

One of the first SmART Initiative programs is the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park, located along Goldsboro Street in downtown Wilson, which will be officially dedicated next fall. Currently 16 of the 28 restored whirligigs have been installed at the park and there has been more than \$20 million in private and public investment generated within a two block radius of the park including brewpubs, residential apartments and restaurants. The City of Wilson has committed \$1.29 million to construction.

Funds that support rural communities include several arts in education programs, such as the popular Traditional Arts Programs for Students and Junior Appalachian Musicians, an afterschool program where students receive music instruction taught by traditional string band musicians, Seagrove potters, or African American jazz musicians. cART-wheels, a performing arts touring and residency program that provides in-depth exposure to arts, will take place in 15 venues.

Noteworthy education projects funded this year include expansion of North Carolina Wolf Trap to Rutherford County. The Arts & Science Council (ASC) of Charlotte is a regional site for the nationally acclaimed Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts Program that brings performing artists into Pre-Kindergarten classes for a seven-week residency. Wolf Trap incorporates the arts into the classroom with a curriculum that is aligned with Common Core State Standards for Pre-K. The Rutherford County School District is collaborating with the ASC on this project as an effort to grow the program throughout the region.

Grant awards are recommended by panels of civic leaders and arts experts based on artistic merit, benefit of the project to the state's citizens, and the applicant's organizational strength and capacity. Recommendations are reviewed by the North Carolina Arts Council Board and forwarded to Secretary Susan Kluttz for final approval.

You can see a listing of investments by county at www.NCArts.org. More information about the N.C. Arts Council is also available at that site.

StompOut Cancer Walk is September 17

A StompOut Cancer Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. This is a fundraiser, and all funds that are collected are given back to cancer recipients. There are t-shirts for sale for \$10. All money must be collected by Sunday, August 14.

On September 17 registration begins at 8 a.m. and the Walk will start at 9:30 a.m. The location is beside Ansonville Elementary School. Organizers welcome sponsorships and donations. For more information you may contact Patricia Harrison at 704-294-9360.



Story Time at Anson County Partnership for Children

Story Time is held every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Early Childhood Resource Center at Anson County Partnership for Children. All children ages 3 to 8 years old are welcome to participate in Story Time. Space is limited for Story Time, so groups should call for a reservation.

For more information or to make a reservation call the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036.

Hampton B. Allen Library Offering Pokemon Go! Water Stop

The Hampton B Allen Library is promoting Pokemon Go! as a great way to get out, stay in shape and meet people. They have set up a water cooler in their hang out so players can stay cool and hydrated, and share their love of the game with others. They also have a bulletin board to post pictures of the Pokemon people have spotted in and around Wadesboro.

If you have any questions or need more information please call the library at 704-694-5177.



You Can Donate School Supplies this Weekend

The Back to School Bash executive board will host their annual Stuff the Bus Fundraiser at Walmart in Wadesboro this Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13. You can donate school supplies or funds that will be used to purchase school supplies. Just look for the bus! Distribution to Anson County students will take place at the upcoming Back to School Bash on August 20 at Harvest Ministries Outreach Center.

Organizer Vancine Sturdivant said, "We thank Walmart for graciously allowing us to come and collect school supplies for our youth. Superintendent Michael Freeman has arranged for a bus to be parked at Walmart. We ask all citizens to please come and support this event."

For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant 704-848-4412.

Reception Honoring Citizens 90 Years Old and Older

You are invited to attend a reception at the Ansonville Historical Society Museum honoring Anson County citizens who are 90 years old and older. The event will be held on Sunday, August 28, from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information call 704-826-8129.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo at Grace Senior Center will be played at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16 instead of at 1 p.m. Bingo will resume the regular time of 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20. For more information call 704-694-6616.

Business After Hours Event for Chamber Members

Carolinas HealthCare System Anson and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce cordially invite Chamber members to attend a Business After Hours on Thursday, August 11, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This event will be held at Carolinas HealthCare System Anson in the Community Room. Please come by and enjoy Hors d'oeuvres with other Chamber members.

For more information call 704-694-4181.

A Matter of Balance Class Addresses Concerns About Falling

Do you have concerns about falling? A Matter of Balance can reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults who have concerns about falling.

The Matter of Balance Classes Help Participants Learn To:

- view falls and fear of falling as controllable
 - set realistic goals for increasing activity
 - change their environment to reduce fall risk factors
 - promote exercise to increase strength and balance
- The Matter of Balance Class is Designed To Benefit Community-Dwelling Older Adults Who:
- are concerned about falls
 - have sustained a fall in the past
 - restrict activities because of concerns about falling
 - are interested in improving flexibility, balance and strength
 - are age 60 or older, ambulatory and able to problem-solve

Grace Senior Center is offering A Matter of Balance Managing Concerns About Falls. The class starts August 30 and runs through September 22. Classes will meet twice a week for four weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at Grace Senior Center. Call Wanda Talbert or Findy Knotts at (704) 694-6616 to register or for additional information about the class.

Meeting for Families with Children with Emotional and/or Learning Challenges

On Wednesday, August 17 Connections Family Support Program will host a family support discussion with fun activities opened to all families who have children ages 6 and up with behavioral, emotional, and/or learning challenges. Families are invited to come learn about understanding and accepting differences, and share their experiences with others.

The group will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library in the Pritchett Room in Wadesboro. Refreshments will be provided at no cost. Contact Suzanne Maness at (910) 627-1769, toll free (877) 211-5995, or by email at connectionsfsp@gmail.com to register. The deadline to register is Monday, August 15.

Anson Early College High School Freshmen Orientation is August 16

Anson County Early College High School will have Freshmen Orientation (9th graders only) on their campus for students and parents on Tuesday, August 16 at 5:30 p.m.