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

Carol Ann Gibson Sworn in as New School Board Member



Carol Ann Gibson, acting Health Department Director for Anson County, was unanimously approved to fill the District 7 School Board seat left vacant by Rob Rollins. Rollins resigned last month after relocating out of the area for a new job. Gibson, pictured here with Mark Hammonds (Clerk of Courts) and Dr. Greg Firn (Superintendent), was sworn in on September 6.

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Places Flags in Memory of 9-11 National Tragedy



The grounds of the Anson County Courthouse were covered with American flags in memory of the lives lost in the National tragedy which occurred on September 11, 2001. At 6 a.m. volunteers from Uptown Wadesboro, Inc., the Town of Wadesboro, local firefighters, police officers, sheriff deputies, Anson High School JROTC and other residents gathered together to place the 2,996 flags, one representing each person who died.

Brook Crider, Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Director, said, "The idea came to life in an Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. board meeting, and we received an anonymous donation to purchase the flags. This was a combined effort and we would like to thank everyone who made this loving tribute possible."

The total number of flags represented 246 victims on the four airplanes, 2,606 in New York City, 125 from the Pentagon and 19 hijackers, totaling 2,996.

Eleven years ago I still recall where I was and what I was doing at that moment, "The moment the world stopped turning." The images are still as clear today as they were then. And for most all of us, we will never, ever forget. God bless America.

Photo by Melanie Lyon

Flu Vaccination Clinic Options at Anson County Health Department

The 2012-2013 flu season is rapidly approaching, and you may be undecided about whether to get the flu shot. The New England Journal of Medicine reports that receiving your yearly flu shot is a heart smart move. The Journal reports that the odds of having a heart attack are increased five fold in the first three days of diagnosis of influenza. Infection triggers an inflammatory response through out the body that causes a narrowing of arteries and stresses the heart.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination before December to ensure that protective antibodies are in your system before flu activity is typically at its highest. The CDC continues to encourage vaccination throughout the flu season, which may begin as early as October and last through May.

While the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends everyone over the age of 6 months should get the flu vaccine each season, it is especially important for the following high risk groups:

- Pregnant women
- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, including:
- Health care workers
- Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu
- Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age

The Anson County Health Department will offer three options for citizens to get their flu vaccination for the 2012-2013 season.

- 1) The annual Flu Vaccination Day will be held on Friday, September 21, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and will be Drive-Up only in front of the Health Department.
- 2) Beginning on Monday, September 24 flu shots will be available by appointment only on Monday to Thursday.
- 3) There will be a walk-in clinic from 5 until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, with NO drive-up service.

Flu shots are free for children 18 years old and younger. The Health Department accepts Medicare-Part B, NC Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna Healthcare, MedCost and Aetna; unless you have one of these plans and a current card, you must pay cash. The cost for adults is \$37; high dose flu vaccine is available for those that qualify for \$70; and the pneumonia vaccine will also be available for adults 65+ years old for \$80. If you have any questions, or to schedule your appointment, please call Anson County Health Department at 704-694-5188.

"Music on the Square" in Peachland September 29

The Town of Peachland invites everyone to come and enjoy their 6th annual "Music on the Square" which will be held on Saturday, September 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. This free event will feature the Village Green Band which performs all over North Carolina, along with lots of food vendors, activities for the kids and more. Among the many vendors are youth/women's groups from local churches and the Fire Department. A wide variety of beverages and food will be available.

For more information contact Lynn H. Griffin 704-272-7781.

Ansonia Theatre Seeking Sponsors for Upcoming Events

In a release from the Arts Council: The Anson County Arts Council is seeking sponsors for upcoming performances in the Ansonia Theatre. In order to continue to bring quality events to the Ansonia Theatre and to keep ticket prices to these events affordable, we must have the support of local businesses and individuals. A sponsorship will help the Arts Council continue with this mission while also providing the sponsor with an opportunity to enrich the lives of the people in our region.

Advertising opportunities and complimentary tickets to these performances are also a benefit.

Among the upcoming events currently scheduled are *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown (revised)* on October 19, 20, and 21st. *Twelve Angry Men* is scheduled for November 8th. *An Evening with John Denver* will be February 23rd, and Soul Street Dancers will perform March 12th.

Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$1,500. Please take a moment to review the many upcoming events and consider sponsoring one or more of these presentations at the Ansonia Theatre. Contact the Anson County Arts Council (704-694-4950) for more information.

Brown Bag Book Club Meets Sept. 17

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, September 17 at 12 noon in the Pritchett Room of the Hampton B Allen Library. You are invited to join them for a pot-luck lunch (bring a dish) and talk by author Suzetta Perkins. Perkins will also have some of her books for sale. Please come and support Suzetta and the library. Make plans to attend and bring a friend.

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

Meet the Candidates Forum on September 24

The Anson County Partnership for Children is teaming with the Anson County Chamber of Commerce and South Piedmont Community College to host a "Meet the Candidates" forum on Monday, September 24th. The event will be held in the Ingram Community Room at the Lockhart-Taylor Center at SPCC in Wadesboro from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Every candidate running for office in this year's election from governor to Anson County Commissioners has been invited to attend the event which will focus on the priorities of the three sponsoring organizations. Candidates will have approximately 5 minutes to speak about their general perspectives on the issues, followed by a brief question and answer sessions with attendees. Attendees of the forum will have the opportunity to mingle with the candidates prior to and immediately following the event.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on Child Care Quality, Child Care Accessibility, Child Care Affordability, Health, Literacy and Family Support. For more information, contact Ashley Haynes at 704-694-4036.

HMOC Stuff the Bus Event Draws Over 800

On Saturday August 25th Harvest Ministries Outreach Center (HMOC) held the annual "Stuff the Bus" free school supply give-away in the parking lot of Burger King in Wadesboro. The great weather and the moon bounce provided by Holla set the tone for another successful event. The day started with those in attendance registering for great prizes, including gas cards, gift cards and more. Free drinks were provided, along with clothing and information give-a-ways.

When all was said and done, nearly 900 people attended the event with 310 bags of school supplies given away to help students go back to school. With the help of local businesses and officials HMOC was able to provide many children with brand new book bags filled with supplies. The 300+ bags of supplies was the largest amount given in the eight year history of Stuff the Bus.



Lead Pastor Steve Adams shared, "This is a great event, but what makes it so awesome this year is the support and response, especially since our building is off limits due to the sink hole issue. It would have been easier to cancel or postpone, but that would not have changed the fact that the need was still there for school supplies. It is amazing what God can still allow us to do if we refuse to give up."

Pastor Adams concluded, "Today is a partnership and added bonus to the many other groups and agencies providing supplies, we are just blessed to be a part of a great county where people want to make a difference."

A special thanks to all who donated supplies in blue barrels across the county, local churches, Mayor Bill Thacker, Sheriff Tommy Allen, C&M Auto supply, Holla, and the HMOC congregation for their dedication and desire to do "Whatever it Takes to find needs and fill them, find hurts and heal them."

For more information on the outreach programs and services of HMOC please visit www.harvestmin.com or call 704-695-2879.

UWI T-shirts are Available Now

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. has put together a t-shirt design that includes the new Uptown Wadesboro Logo and the Town of Wadesboro Seal, which was initially created by noted local sign painter and Express Newspaper columnist Mr. Ed McBride.

The shirt design and idea was a brainstorm project of Jamie Crider as a fundraiser for UWI for 2012. These shirts are available for sale for \$15 at Buff Monkey Fitness Company, the Wadesboro Town Hall and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. They will also be available at both the Farmer's Market on the Square on Thursday and the Summer Jams.

More information about Uptown Wadesboro is available at www.uptown-wadesboro.com.

Veteran Services Extends Office Hours

The Anson County Veteran Services office is open Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The office is located in the former Belk building on South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

For information on services and other veteran affairs contact Ted Ward, Veterans Services Officer, at 704-694-4418.

Compassionate Friends Meet Thursday

The Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have lost a child of any age from any cause, will meet Thursday, September 13 at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric on Highway 52 South in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-8774.

Anson High School Class of 1967 Reunion

The Anson High School Class of 1967 will hold a reunion this Saturday, September 15. Classmates are looking forward to the event which will take place at Twin Valley Country Club at 6 p.m.

For more information please call Hal Austin at 704-272-8297.

Genealogical Society Meets Saturday

The Anson County Genealogical Society will meet this Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Historical Society Office at 206 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. Patsy Gulleddge will talk about the history of Lilesville Baptist Church. The public is invited.

For more information call 704-475-3877.

Blood Drive September 21

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, September 21. It will be held in the gym from 2 to 6:30 p.m. All presenting donors will be entered into a summer drawing for \$3,000!

Donors should eat iron-rich foods for 2 weeks before donating blood. Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine on the day of the drive. For more information you can contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS or redcross.org.

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