



BRLC Honors Volunteer Nathan Sikes on his Birthday

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Emergency Pantry volunteers took time recently to wish their very own Nathan Sikes a special Happy Birthday. Nathan has contributed many volunteer hours at BRLC. His volunteer hours with the Afterschool Program were most valuable to the students as well as the parents, director and staff. Nathan still helps but does not have the time to volunteer as he once did due to other obligations. His services are greatly missed at BRLC. His time of volunteering in the Emergency Pantry, as Filing Clerk, and as graphic and arts designer for BRLC...and so much more...was a great contribution to this community and county. Nathan is missed greatly during the time that he is not able to volunteer. His kind, soft spoken voice and tremendous attitude of caring has made a great impact in the Burnsville Community. This group had to stop and say "Happy Birthday" to this special young man. Nathan is the son of Danny and Laura Sikes of the Burnsville community and the grandson of Ted and Becky Sikes, also of Burnsville Community. He holds membership with the Rocky River Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dennis Stegall and wife Robbin. Nathan is one who you would love to have on your volunteer team anytime. He makes sure things get done above and beyond. Others wishing Nathan a Happy Birthday are pictured at left. They are, kneeling in front, Jazzlyn Brewer, standing, from left, Carly Powell, birthday honoree Nathan Sikes, Ella Thomas, Wendy Chiroka, Pastor J.D. Moffat, and Jeremy Sikes.

Making Colleges Affordable in NC

Earning a four-year degree can seem like an insurmountable task, but North Carolina's public and independent universities provide a variety of programs that can reduce your out-of-pocket costs and help you achieve that bachelor's degree. Don't let "sticker shock" keep you from achieving your dream - learn more about these programs and how they can help!


- UNC System Public Universities**
- Fixed Tuition - UNC System (public) universities offer the Fixed Tuition Program for in-state undergraduates. This program freezes tuition rates for eight consecutive semesters, allowing students and families to know what costs to expect right from the beginning and allowing students the opportunity to complete a degree quickly and affordably. The program also offers flexibility regarding the semester limit for five-year programs, and for students who demonstrate a experience a substantial disruption in their pursuit of a degree. Learn the details at: www.northcarolina.edu/Future-Students/Fixed-Tuition-Program
 - NC's College Promise - The NC Promise Tuition Plan makes the university experience affordable and accessible to all. Through NC Promise, the state has reduced student tuition costs to \$500 per semester at three UNC system institutions - Elizabeth City State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, and Western Carolina University - beginning in Fall 2018. You can read more about it at: www.northcarolina.edu/Future-Students/NC-Promise
 - Other programs include grants, scholarships, and part-time work opportunities including on-campus work and co-op programs. CFNC.org can help you learn more about all these options at www.cfnc.org/paying/schol/about_scholgrants.jsp
- NC Independent Colleges and Universities**
- Institutional aid - Institutional aid is funding and/or credits offered by a college or university to offset part of the cost of attendance. Each institution determines how much institutional aid to offer a particular student. To learn more about how colleges decide what to offer, check out ncicu.org/you-can-afford-a-private-college/the-facts.
 - Grants - Grants are funds that students do not have to repay. North Carolina's independent colleges and universities participate in numerous grant programs that help reduce the cost of attendance. You can learn more at: ncicu.org/you-can-afford-a-private-college/types-of-funding.
 - Scholarships - Numerous national and state-level organizations offer scholarship opportunities for NC students. There are even college-specific scholarships offered at numerous NC independent colleges. To see details on the wide-variety of scholarships available to help lower the cost of attendance, check out: ncicu.org/you-can-afford-a-private-college/types-of-funding.
 - Work-Study Programs - Federal work-study awards give students the opportunity to gain part-time work experience in their field at an hourly rate equal to or higher than federal minimum wage, depending on the type of work and the skills required. To be considered for this type of funding, you must indicate that you're interested in work-study on your FAFSA, and send it in early! Learn more at: ncicu.org/you-can-afford-a-private-college/types-of-funding.

So, You Want to Write A Novel

Have you been thinking about writing that story that's been buzzing in your head but don't know how to begin? The Anson County Writers' Club October workshop with multi-award-winning poet and novelist Joseph Bathanti is the answer you are looking for. The workshop, "Writing the Novel," will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 16 in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro, and will be limited to 12 participants. The cost is \$45 and includes a catered soup and sandwich lunch.

Registration information is available on the ACWC website: www.ansoncountywritersclub.org. **Workshop Scholarship** One scholarship will be offered. Applicants must submit an essay of 500 to 2,000 words explaining how the workshop will benefit them. Email to info@ansoncountywritersclub.org with "Workshop" in the subject line before Oct. 6. Bathanti, a North Carolina Poet Laureate, is professor of English and writer-in-residence at Appalachian State University's Watauga Residential College. In addition to his poetry, he has published novels *East Liberty*, *Coventry*, and *The Life of the World to Come*; and *The High Heart*, a book of stories. Nonfiction works are *They Changed the State: the Legacy of North Carolinas' Visiting Artists, 1971-1995*; and his book of personal essays, *Half of What I Say in Meaningless*. The ACWC has been hosting workshops and conferences since 1989. Call Kaye Ratliff at 704-694-5431 or Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 for more information.

ANNUAL SENIORS PICNIC



At Grace Senior Center
Thursday, September 23
10am to 12 noon

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors 60 and older to come to our Annual Picnic. The Picnic will be drive-thru. We will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings, popcorn and snow cones. You can enjoy games and fellowship too.

And...it's free! To register please call 704-694-6616.

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