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

Plans Progress for Anson County Animal Shelter, Halleluiah!



Anson County is the only county in the region without a properly managed and running animal shelter. With the current location open only a few hours per week, and with one animal control officer on staff, the overwhelming number of animals is too much to handle. Unfortunately for those animals, they are being euthanized at a 96% rate, a number far too large for anyone to ignore any longer. I wrote about this very problem in November of 2011, with little to no success. But at last the ball is officially rolling! Thanks to many concerned citizens, a proactive county manager and a board of commissioners ready to take action.

During their September meeting the County Commissioners detailed their plans for an Animal Shelter here in Anson County. County Manager Lawrence Gatewood told his increasingly alarming findings as they pertain to strays, euthanasia, inability to offer rescue or even shelter animals at the current time.

Gatewood said, "We have formed an animal shelter planning team, with the objective to build or create an animal shelter with an annual budget of \$250,000, that will be staffed 24/7. We should not let the cost stand in our way of doing the right thing. We have an issue here and it needs to be dealt with. Our vision can become reality by using county funds, where there is a healthy balance. We can also use timber sales from 89 acres in Lilesville. The staff will be funded out of the general operating budget, which should avoid a tax hike on our citizens."

The project may seem daunting at first, but the commission has a great plan of action in progress, which was unanimously voted on at their last meeting. Gatewood said he had received countless calls, emails, etc. from our citizens, and he believes this plan can be achieved by the end of this year.

The building and location target includes the former Brown Creek Animal Hospital located on Highway 74 in Polkton. This site would save time on the construction of a new facility because it is perfectly set up for this exact purpose. Other assignments include the inspection of the buildings, and proposed staff and equipment needs, which will be reported on at the October meeting.

Gatewood shared, "Chesterfield County which had similar issues to ours several years ago, is now running successfully and saving animals at a rate of 98%! Mrs. Danielle Bowe has made a huge turnaround there and I have seen the miraculous achievements they have made. I am very optimistic that we can duplicate their success, and I am very enthusiastic for Anson County to follow their lead."

As an animal lover, rescuer and advocate I am very pleased to see this action finally being brought to the table. Inhumane treatment of animals is against the law, but in these parts there is little we can do about the enormous number of strays, mistreatment of animals by their owners, and high put down rate due to lack of staffing and facilities. Undoubtedly many of you voiced the same concerns and have at last made your voices heard.

We join Mr. Gatewood in his excitement and enthusiasm to see this project come to fruition, at last. Halleluiah!

By Melanie Lyon

Wadesboro Fire Department to Install Free Smoke Alarms

Fire Chief Jimmy Burns of the Wadesboro Fire Department would like to announce that the department has been awarded new smoke alarms from the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal. The fire department will be canvassing at risk communities to insure that homes have working smoke alarms. The goal is to insure that every level of the home has working smoke alarms, and to replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old. The Wadesboro Fire Department will begin canvassing the Wade Mill Community during fire prevention week.

The alarms are being provided by the North Carolina Department of Insurance through a federal fire prevention grant that was awarded to the Office of State Fire Marshal. The goal of this program is to properly install long life, battery-powered smoke alarms in homes that do not have working alarms to protect the lives of local citizens.

Each week, staff from the Wadesboro Fire Department will go door-to-door to ask residents to allow firefighters into their homes to check their smoke alarms. If any smoke alarms need to be replaced, new alarms will be installed in the proper locations. If no one is home at the time of the visit, a notification tag will be left on the front door to notify the residents that the fire department has stopped by for a courtesy check of their smoke alarms.

For additional information about the smoke alarm installation program, call the fire station at 704-694-2167.

Anson EMS Now has Station in Polkton

Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood has recently announced that Anson Emergency Medical Services has an ambulance stationed in Polkton. The unit is on call full time.

"I'm thrilled to report that Anson EMS is expanding its level of services to provide better response times throughout the County. Effective October 1, there is an Anson EMS ambulance stationed in Polkton 24/7. I would like to applaud and congratulate Ryan Teal for being creative in expanding emergency medical services to the citizens and visitors of Anson County while remaining within established budget parameters," said Gatewood.

Ryan Teal, MPA, CCEMT-P, Director of Anson County EMS and Safety, said to his staff, "I am pleased to announce that we are ready to extend our Base 2 (Polkton) operations to 24/7. We began this exciting service on the morning of October 1 at 8 a.m. Thank you to everyone for a job well done. Our community will be excited about this addition to services from EMS." For more information, please contact Ryan Teal at (704) 994-3271.

Ansonian Adventures are Coming to Life!!

Are you ready for an adventure? The Anson County Chamber of Commerce is in the final stages of designing their new board game that is all about Anson County, Ansonian Adventures.

You can still pre-order the game for only \$35, but this introductory price will only last two more weeks. Starting on October 14 the games will cost \$50 each. The game will be fun to play, and will be a keepsake for Ansonians and anyone with a connection to Anson County.

Chamber Director Lynn Edwards said, "If you think you will need several games for family, friends, employees, customers or Christmas gifts, save some money and get your order in now! If we have your pre-order in before October 14th you will be guaranteed the \$35 per game intro price when you pick your order up." To order a game call the Chamber at 704-694-4181 for information or visit www.ansoncounty.org.

"We want everyone to have their very own Ansonian Adventures game," concluded Edwards. "They go to print soon. And, we're printing a limited number of games. They will not be reprinted!"



Shop with a Cop Motorcycle Ride Rescheduled to October 12

In a release from Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer: The Wadesboro Police Department would like to apologize for canceling the "Shop with a Cop" fundraiser motorcycle ride that was scheduled for September 21. We were expecting it to rain the event out. We also know that we were unable to reach everyone who was participating in the event to inform them of the last minute cancellation, which resulted in most of you finding out by arriving at the department for the event only to find that it was cancelled.

Again, we apologize. We have rescheduled the motorcycle ride for Saturday, October 12. The ride will start at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the Wadesboro Police Department. All proceeds will go to the department's "Shop with a Cop" program that takes place in December. If you would like more information on the motorcycle ride or "Shop with a Cop" please feel free to contact the Wadesboro Police Department at 704-694-2167.

Program for Seniors to Manage Falls, Increase Activity Levels

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

You will learn to • view falls as controllable • set goals for increasing activity • make changes to reduce fall risks at home • exercise to increase strength and balance

Who should attend • anyone concerned about falls • anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength • anyone who has fallen in the past • anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns

The two hour classes will be held twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1 to 3 p.m. They will run from October 7 through 30.

For more information please call Bernice Bennett or Wanda Talbert at Grace Senior Center, 704-694-6616.



CTE Students Cook Up Some Play-Doh!

The Anson High School CTE classes of Foods II and Teen Living paired up to celebrate National Play-Doh Day on September 16. The students learned to follow a recipe to cook a non-food item.

The group is learning social responsibility by providing the Play-Doh to young children. The Play-Doh created was donated to each elementary school's kindergarten classes as well as the Anson County Partnership for Children.

These CTE classes are being taught by Yvonne Spencer and Kim Ingold.



Dizzy Gillespie Jazz Festival in Cheraw October 17-20

Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie proudly shared his Cheraw roots when performing across the world, and now Dizzy's South Carolina hometown is getting ready to honor their most famous native son with the South Carolina Jazz Festival October 17-20.

Complete with plenty of jazz, the four-day celebration is the perfect opportunity to relax with family and friends. Over 20 jazz performances are scheduled throughout the weekend at the Town Green, Centennial Park, Dizzy Gillespie Homesite Park, Theatre on the Green, and area restaurants. Many of the weekend events are free with Main Event concert tickets ranging from \$25 per person for a single evening to \$40 per person for Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday evening's concert will feature the Charlton Singleton Sextet, and Jaimee Paul will be in the spotlight Saturday evening. Tickets are available online at www.scjazzfestival.com and at the Cheraw Community Center, located at 200 Powe Street.

The festival begins Thursday evening, October 17 with a free outdoor concert on the Town Green and continues Friday and Saturday with area school jazz performances, early and late jazz restaurant venues, a jazzy breakfast, a 5K run/walk, a scholarship golf tournament, a "Dizzy" exhibit at the Heritage Center, a bebop parade, all-you-can-eat BBQ, children's art activities, a pastel chalk art competition, a floral umbrella display, a Jazzmin high tea, and more. The weekend concludes Sunday with a picnic at the Gillespie homeplace and an outdoor jazz mass.

To see a full event schedule, purchase tickets online, and register for the Dizzy Gillespie Scholarship Golf Tournament, visit scjazzfestival.com. For additional details, call 843-537-8421 x12.

Toys For Tots Grand Opening

Toys For Tots will hold a Grand Opening this Friday, October 4 to celebrate their new location. Everyone is invited to come to 121-C Wortham Street in Wadesboro at 5 p.m. for the event.

Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant stated, "Wallace & Wallace Properties donated the location to Toys for Tots. Assistant District Attorney Christopher Rhue donated the funds to have the electrical power turned on at the facility. County Manager Lawrence Gatewood has asked all departments in the county to work with Toys For Tots during the 2013 campaign. Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer has come on board with Toys For Tots."

Sturdivant continued, "State Highway Patrol Officer Landric Reid serves on the Executive Board for Toys For Tots. We are asking a representative from each business, church and organization to please come tour the facility. The mission statement for the largest not for profit organization is to bring joy to children at Christmas and give hope to the less fortunate."

Applications for toys may be obtained at the following sites:

- Grace Senior Center - Dr. Bernice Bennett, Assistant Coordinator
- Child Support - Jennifer Tarlton, Secretary
- Social Services - Priscilla Little
- School System - Kam McDonald
- Anson County Health Department
- 121-C Wortham Street - Winnie Brown, Vancine Sturdivant

To make monetary or toy contributions please contact any of the above. You can also visit the Toys for Tots website at lilesville-nc.toysfortots.org or email vancine.toysfortots@gmail.com.

Class of 1971 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman Senior High School Class of 1971 will have a reunion meeting on Saturday, October 26th at 2: p.m. at the Hilltop Restaurant in Monroe. All classmates are encouraged to attend.

For further details contact Patricia Little at (704) 848-8165 or Winnie Brown at (704) 475-0755.

Blood Drive is Today

The Wadesboro Rotary Club will host the Wadesboro Community Blood Drive at First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue in Wadesboro today, Wednesday, October 2, from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

To schedule a lifesaving appointment please visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code "Wadesboro Community." All presenting blood and platelet donors will be entered to win one of three \$1,000 gift cards to use toward looking and feeling your best.

Early Release for Teacher/Parent Conferences Thur.

Anson Schools will release early on Thursday, October 3 for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Here are the release schedules and conference times:

- Early Release
- All elementary schools release at 12:30 p.m.
 - All middle and high schools release at 1:30 p.m.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Elementary schools conferences 1 to 6 p.m.
 - Secondary schools conferences 2 to 7 p.m.

Spaghetti Fundraiser at Grace Senior Center Friday

Grace Senior Center will hold their annual Spaghetti Fundraiser this Friday, October 4 beginning at 11 a.m. The luncheon features baked spaghetti, garlic bread and dessert. Plates are \$7. You can eat in or take out. If you eat in tea is provided. Also, they will deliver 5 or more plates.

All proceeds from this event go toward the annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon held in December.

For orders or more information call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

The Express is on the web at

www.TheExpressNewspaper.com