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

Anson County Awarded \$448,134 Community Development Grant

Anson County has been awarded an NC Catalyst Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$448,134. This was one of 21 such grants awarded to counties and communities throughout the state. The grants are used to upgrade various transportation, housing, economic development and public neighborhood projects.

- Anson County's grant will be used for several projects:
- Repairs and improvements at Grace Senior Center
 - To demolish and clear dilapidated houses that have been abandoned in Morven and Wadesboro
 - Emergency repairs to various houses
 - Materials for three Habitat for Humanity houses
 - Minor repairs at Anson Crisis Ministry

County Manager Lawrence Gatewood praised the exceptional work by Anson County Community Development and Grants Administrator Mary Beck. "Mary is the person responsible for the county receiving this grant. Because of her expertise, experience and skill in grant writing, and the effort she has put into this grant the entire county has benefitted."

"These projects revitalize our communities and improve the lives of so many North Carolinians," said Governor Perdue. "We're proud of our local governments and their efforts to strengthen all aspects of their communities, and for the federal government's assistance in doing that."

Rep. Frank McGuirt said, "I certainly echo the Governor's words. When counties and towns step forward to revitalize our communities we all benefit."

Gatewood concluded by saying, "This grant will help Anson County become a better place to live, grow and enjoy, for all its citizens."

The NC Catalyst grant funds are provided through a federal interagency partnership between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Catalyst funds are dedicated for projects serving persons of low and moderate incomes.

Wadesboro Fire Department Urges Residents to "Have Two Ways Out!"

During Fire Prevention Week, October 7 - 13

If you woke up to a fire in your home, how much time do you think you would have to get to safety? According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one-third of Americans households who made and estimate they thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. Unfortunately, the time available is often less.

That's why the Wadesboro Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2012, to urge residents to "Have Two Ways Out!" This year's theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

In 2010, US fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

"One home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010," says Marc Sessions of the Wadesboro Fire Department. "Fire is unpredictable and moves faster than most people realize. Having a tried and true escape plan with two ways is essential to ensuring your family's safety should fire break out in your home."

The Wadesboro Fire Department recommends the following tips for planning your family's escape:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Have a grown-up sound the smoke alarm and practice your



escape plan with everyone living in your home.

- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and remind grown-ups to have your family practice the plan twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

The Wadesboro Fire Department will be hosting activities during Fire Prevention Week to promote "Have Two Ways Out!" Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the importance of fire escape planning and practice, as well as the power of prevention. To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Wadesboro, please contact the Wadesboro Fire Department at 704-694-2167. To learn more about "Have Two Ways Out!" visit NFPA's website at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Also, area firemen are selling pink t-shirts in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October). The attractive shirts only cost \$15, and all proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Ask any fireman you know or call 704-694-2167.

Unemployment Up to 13.1% in August

During August Anson County had more citizens employed than during July, 9,755 versus 9,686, but the unemployment rate percentage went up because of an increase in the labor force total, from 11,084 in July to 11,231 in August. Anson County's unemployment rate in August rose to 13.1% from July's 12.6% rate.

Looking back at August 2011, the rate then for Anson County was 12.5%.

Anson's total labor force in August was 11,231. Of that number 9,755 were employed and 1,476 were unemployed. In July the total labor force was 11,084, with 9,686 employed and 1,398 unemployed.

Statewide the unemployment rate for August was 9.7%, July's rate was 9.8%. Unemployment rates decreased in 72 of North Carolina's 100 counties in August, increased in 18 and were unchanged in 10. When compared to the same month last year, unemployment rates declined in 92 counties, increased in six, and remained the same in two.

North Carolina had 39 counties that were at or below the state's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.7 percent. Unemployment rates decreased in 13 of the state's 14 Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The rate increased in the Fayetteville Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Statewide the number of workers employed (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in August by 29,377 to 4,219,378, while those unemployed fell 12,777 to 451,806. Since August 2011, the number of workers unemployed decreased 51,092, while those employed increased 52,752.

Currituck County had the state's lowest unemployment rate in August at 4.7 percent, and Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 17.2 percent.

Morven's October Festival is Saturday

In a release from the Town of Morven: Come One! Come All! Don't miss this exciting and thrilling event on Saturday, October 6th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on downtown Main Street in Morven. There will be various vendors selling food and novelties, informational booths, live entertainment, a car show, a parade, and lots of good old time fun.

For more details and information call the Morven Town Hall at 704-851-9321.

The parade lineup includes: police escort, Mayor Pratt, Morven Town Council, Commissioners, Sheriff Tommy Allen, Ansonville Mayor Ingram, Lilesville Town Council Bennett, McFarlan Mayor Holloway, Polkton Mayor, Dobbins Heights Mayor Antonio Blue, Marshville Mayor Franks Deese, Rockingham Mayor Gene McLaurin, Judge Lisa Thacker, New Life Church, Playz Elite Motorcycle Club, Lemuel Center, Pee Dee Electric, Morven Fire Department, Napoleon Powe, Pratt's Electrical, Lilesville Fire Department, Holla, Caraway Foundation, Jamestown, NC Drill Team, Polkton Fire Department, Morven EMS, Morven 6th Grade Band, Kenneth Ingram, Glennie Bennett Community Center, Las Amigas, Alpha Sorority Debutante Queen, Larry Marsh, Lorenzo Steele, Anson County Emergency Club, Galilee A.M.E Zion Church, VFW - Anson County, Anson Sportsmen Club, Ken Smith, Harris Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, George Rorie, John Deere Tractors, Cash Horses.

Gear Up for Discover Anson Bike Ride

The Seventh Annual Discover Anson Bike Ride kicks off on Saturday, November 3, beginning at 9 a.m. in Ansonville. This popular annual ride allows bicyclists a choice of a 30, 50 or 75 mile route. Bikers will enjoy the charming scenery of rolling hills in rural Anson County, situated in the Piedmont region of North Carolina's foothills. Riders will enjoy panoramic views of the Uwharrie mountains and tour the once thriving communities of Cedar Hill, Eggtown, Fountain Hill and Kikers, now marked perhaps only by a long-established church, a country store or merely a crossroads sign. The fall foliage season adds to the beauty and serenity of this ride.

The 30 mile ride is mostly flat and suitable for those wishing a leisurely and relatively easy ride. The 50 mile ride is hilly and more challenging. And for those who are not faint of heart, the 75 mile ride tests the endurance of even the most experienced biker. All the routes are clearly marked and patrolled by staff in cars and SAG wagons. Rest stops will be available for the riders at stations along the way. Patrol staff will be equipped with cellphones for emergencies.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at Ansonville Elementary School on Highway 52. The ride begins promptly at 9 a.m. All three routes begin and end at the school. Following the ride there will be a BBQ lunch and a chance to enjoy the Ansonville Homecoming Celebration. There will be crafts on display and for sale, entertainment and a parade that afternoon.

Registration includes a commemorative t-shirt plus lunch. If you register before October 19 the fee is \$25. After that the fee is \$30.

So kick up your kickstands and kick into gear for this delightful day of biking! Visit www.ansoncounty.org or www.DiscoverAnson.com for more information and to download the registration forms.

Anson County Highland Games Held this Month

Anson County Parks and Recreation is sponsoring the Anson County Highland Games on Saturday, October 27. The heavy athletic demonstration will be conducted by Southeastern Highland Athletics Group. The event is free to the public and will be held at Little Park in Wadesboro.

Everyone is invited to come out from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to see the Scottish Heavy Athletics, including stone throw, weight for distance, weight for height, sheaf toss, hammer throw and caber toss.

Wendell Small of Parks and Rec said, "We invite the public to watch the highland athletes participate in the Highland Games here in Anson County. For information call me at 704-694-5751."

Six Arrested in Anson and Union County Burglary Ring

Detectives with the Union County Sheriff's Office have arrested six men they say were involved in a burglary theft ring in Anson and Union Counties. The New Salem and northeastern areas of Union County had seen a spike in the number of break-ins from April through August. Detectives soon began to notice similarities in the crimes, and used a number of methods to get the word out for citizens to be watchful.

After fliers were handed out and local churches began to put the information in mailing lists and social media sites, tips began to come in. At the same time, detectives from Anson County were investigating similar crimes in the towns of Peachland and Polkton, and soon it became obvious to them that these crimes were all linked, deputies said. Soon, firearms and other stolen property were recovered, and detectives began interviewing potential suspects.

Lamont Devon Burns, of Shady Lane, in Marshville, was allegedly the leader of the theft ring. He was arrested and charged with Continuing Criminal Enterprise, six counts of Felony Breaking and Entering, six counts of Felony Larceny, five counts of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, and Felony Possession of Stolen Goods/Property.

- In addition to Burns, five other men were arrested for their alleged involvement in the theft ring:
- Antonio Devon Thomas - Charged with six counts of Felony Breaking and Entering and Felony Larceny, five counts of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, and Felony Possession of Stolen Goods/Property.
 - Roderick Edward Ponds - Charged with five counts of Felony Breaking and Entering and Felony Larceny.
 - Tony Anthony Lee Hammond - Charged with three counts of Felony Breaking and Entering and Felony Larceny.
 - Zachary Coleman Runnels - Charged with Felony Breaking and Entering, Felony Larceny, and Possession of a Stolen Firearm.
 - William James Rushing - Charged with Possession of Stolen Goods/Property.

All those arrested have a first court appearance on November 5.

The investigation remains open, and more charges in both Anson and Union Counties are expected. Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to call the Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3722 or Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600.

Veteran's Council Announces Veteran's Day Activities

The Anson County Veteran's Council will be leading the community this year in honoring our Anson County veterans on Veteran's Day. The Veteran's Day celebration will take place on Monday, November 12, with a parade at 10 a.m., a Veteran's Honor Ceremony in front of the court house at 11 a.m., and activities at Ray Shelton Field afterwards.

Everyone is invited to come out and honor our vets while enjoying the parade and ceremony. At Ray Shelton Field there will be informational booths, displays, delicious food, entertainment, and lots of vets to say Thank You to! There will be door prizes awarded all during the event.

The Veteran's Council would like to give you the opportunity to participate in this special day. You can help by donating food, drinks or prizes. You may also choose to make a financial donation as well. Any help would be much appreciated.

The Anson County veterans deserve the best, and we are all proud of each of them. The council hopes you will join them in honoring the vets.

Toys For Tots Campaign is Back

The Toys For Tots Kick-Off for Anson County will be held Thursday, October 4 at Grace Senior Center on Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, beginning at 6 p.m. Organizers are asking all businesses and organizations to please send a representative for the meeting.

Coordinator Vancine said, "We had a great 2011 campaign and were able to supply toys for over 1,000 children in the county. With the support of our local businesses and great citizens I know we will do even better this year. Toys For Tots is the largest not for profit organization in the world and I thank God we are a part of this campaign. Toys For Tots delivers a message of Hope to the less fortunate to inspire youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders."

Application can be obtained through the Faith-Based Center of Hope, Department of Social Services, Anson County Health Department, Child Support and Kam McDonald, Wadesboro Elementary School. For more information please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704 848-4412.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Sign-ups Begin Oct. 15

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan signup begins October 15 and runs until December 7. Those individuals with existing plans who want to make changes may do so during this period. People who are just turning 65 years of age can choose a Medicare Part D Plan. Failure to choose a plan will result in a penalty, when the person does sign up.

For those individual who fall into the Low Income Subsidy category, there will be a low cost for premiums and medications. You can also apply for extra help.

During the sign-up period please call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 for an appointment, Monday through Friday, beginning at 9 a.m.

Anson Schools Have Early Release on October 4

Anson County Schools will release students early on Thursday, October 4 for Parent / Teacher Conferences. Here are the schedules for each school:

- All elementary schools release at 12:30 p.m.
- Anson Early College & Anson New Technology High School release at 1 p.m.
- Anson High School & Anson Middle School release at 1:30 p.m.

The elementary school conferences run from 1 to 6 p.m.

The secondary school conferences run from 2 to 7 p.m.

Spaghetti Fundraiser

The Grace Senior Center Annual Christmas Fundraiser will be held on Friday, October 5, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the center. This event is held to help raise funds for the annual Christmas dinner given to Anson senior citizens. The menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and tea (if you eat in)...all for only \$6 per plate. They offer deliveries for orders of five plates or more.

For your orders just call 704-694-6616.

Community Conservation Assistance Program is Thursday

The Anson County Cooperative Extension will hold a Community Conservation Assistance Program on Thursday, October 4, from 6 to 7 p.m. at their office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. Some of the topics to be covered are Backyard Rain Gardens, Permeable Pavement, Rain Cisterns, and Cost-Share Opportunities.

For more information or to register call 704-694-2415.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Family Dollar