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

Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood to Continue



Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood has agreed to stay on as County Manager. Earlier this year Gatewood had informed the Anson County Board of Commissioners that he would step down from the job at the end of 2013.

At the most recent board meeting, held on Tuesday night, November 5, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant made a proposal to Gatewood, "Will you stay on in your job as Anson County Manager?" Gatewood replied that he would stay at the wish of the entire Board of Commissioners. A vote was held then and there, with a unanimous "YES" as the result.

Gatewood said, "When the vote was done and the commissioners asked me to stay, I said yes. I did not come into that meeting with any plans to continue on as County Manager, but I am honored to be asked formally to stay."

Gatewood has been praised for his outstanding performance as manager. Under his direction the county has made significant strides in preparing many important infrastructures for the long term future. Among the major projects Gatewood has spearheaded are the much needed courthouse renovation, the Belk building renovation, the new Emergency Operations Center on Country Club Road, the Animal Shelter project, and the upcoming Agri-Civic Center on Highway 74 East.

"I am looking forward to getting the new Animal Shelter up and running," said Gatewood. "And, there is more to do!" Gatewood did not request any increase in salary or benefits when asked to continue as manager.

Anson County's Cat and Kitten Conundrum

Anson County has a kitten conundrum, a term defined first as a confusing and difficult problem, and secondly, a question asked for amusement, typically with a riddle in its answer. So what would you do if you suddenly found yourself staring at the faces of tens of unattended, starving, stray cats and their kittens? For many, you first have the makings of a significant conundrum on your hands. Because secondly, what do you get when you cross one feral cat with another feral cat? The answer, more kittens!

This is the problem facing Kevin and Caroline Needham, who moved here from England two years ago with their three pet cats in tow. So obviously they are cat lovers. Soon thereafter they discovered a problem in their midst, lots of stray feral cats in search of shelter and food. Those cats had kittens and so on and the conundrum started a cycle at a rate the Needham's have had difficulty keeping up with.

"No one looks more forward to the opening of the new Anson County Animal Shelter than we do," said Kevin Needham, who has already spent time, effort and money in an attempt to abate the problem he has encountered in the city limits of Wadesboro. For help he contacted the county but was told there was no animal shelter, he was also told he could contact animal control and the cats would be put down. "That wasn't an option for us and soon we were caring for 22 cats and kittens. We have had nine of them spayed or neutered and plan to keep six of the cats. But, we desperately need to find good loving homes for the others," he shared. "Many of these cats have names and all are friendly and loving. They would make fantastic pets. All they need is someone to love them," Needham urged.

In another attempt to find help the Needham's contacted Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood, who encouraged them to go before the county board, which they willingly did, outlining for the members how serious the problem really is. So for the Needhams the opening of the new animal shelter in Polkton won't be soon enough, but will definitely be a welcome addition to our county.

There are those who would turn a blind eye to the problem I have detailed...and those, like the Needhams, who simply cannot. Animal lovers are prevalent in our area. I am sure there are other families who are facing the same scenario, all the more reason why this shelter is so important to all of us. Because whether you are an animal lover or not, or a cat lover or not, the methods used to alleviate the problem could affect us all in so many different ways.

"We are desperate to find loving homes," Kevin repeated. If you or someone you know would love to love one of these kitty cats, please call 704-465-2018 or 704-915-0695. Who knows, a furry friend may be just what you need to make the upcoming holidays even brighter and merrier.



And now the riddle I pose to you is...what do you get when you adopt a pet in need? And the answer, nothing! Nothing more than a whole lot of unconditional love and that, in my humble opinion, is really something.

By Melanie Lyon

Fracking Program November 21

The "No Toxic Trespass! No Fracking Way! Tour" will make a presentation at Hampton B. Allen Library on Thursday, November 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. Lois Gibbs, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, will speak. This program is hosted by Pee Dee WALL and the public is invited.

Gibbs has appeared on many television and radio shows including 60 Minutes, 20/20, Oprah Winfrey, Good Morning America, the Morning Show and the Today Show. CBS produced a 2 hour prime-time movie about Lois's life entitled *Lois Gibbs: The Love Canal Story* starring Marsha Mason.

The many awards Gibbs has received include the 1990 Goldman Environmental Prize, Outside Magazine's "Top Ten Who Made A Difference Honor Roll" in 1991, the 1998 Heinz Award, the 1999 John Gardner Leadership Award from the Independent Sector, and in 2003 Lois was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She has received an honorary Ph.D. from the State University of New York. For more information call 704-826-6324.

New Date for Board of Education Meeting

The Anson County Board of Education has changed their regular meeting date to Monday, November 25. (It was previously scheduled for November 18). Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin around 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Charles Riddle Staff Development Center located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.



Ansonville First Grader's Wax Museum

Ansonville Elementary School's first grade students in Mrs. Gerald's class and Mrs. Little's class celebrated the Fall season with an "Author's Wax Museum." Students were asked to choose a book and write a book report, which included comprehension skills and strategies that are aligned with the Common Core Curriculum. Students came alive when they put on their costumes and became a character from their book. The students were able to share their hard work and creativity with parents, teachers, and fellow classmates. The Author's Wax Museum was a huge success!

"A Song of Hope" for Elizabeth Goins this Sunday

Please come to this wonderful concert and show your support

Elizabeth Goins is an amazing young woman who is currently at Duke University Hospital where she underwent a bone marrow transplant on October 23rd. She will remain in the hospital for several more weeks and will have daily outpatient treatments at Duke for several months.

A little more than a year ago Elizabeth was shopping for her wedding dress when her family noticed severe bruises on her body, and within a few days, a diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia was confirmed. Unfortunately the family was all too familiar with this disease.

Elizabeth lost her father John Goins to this same type of leukemia when she was five years old. Her mother Margaret brought up Elizabeth and her sister Caroline to spend their time helping others, and their lives have been filled doing this very thing. Margaret taught at Morven Elementary for 30 years and is currently a teacher with the NC Pre-K program at Open Doors, located at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro.

Following Elizabeth's diagnosis she began chemotherapy. When it was completed she was in remission for a short while. Her family and friends celebrated this cancer victory. However, before long the disease reared its ugly head again, and the process began to explore the journey toward a bone marrow transplant. Chemotherapy and radiation began again.

Caroline was tested to see if she could be the bone marrow donor, and she was a perfect match. However, during testing it was determined that she had the same type of genetic mutation as Elizabeth, so she was unable to be the donor that she so desperately wanted to be. The search began in earnest following this setback, and while there was no bone marrow match in the National Registry, they were able to find two cord-blood matches from Germany, and this was the lifegiving measure that was used for the October 23rd transplant.

On this coming Sunday, November 17 at 4 p.m. musicians from across Anson County and elsewhere will gather for a performance in honor of Elizabeth and to assist with expenses incurred by the family during this time. The music will be amazing, but the love and support of this family will be even more so. Please join the community and support this amazing family by bringing friends and family to an afternoon that will bring "A Song of Hope" into your lives.

Anson County Locals to March for Babies this Saturday

In a release from *March of Dimes*: Saturday, November 16 at Anson High School, family and corporate teams from Wadesboro and surrounding areas will join together in the March of Dimes annual March for Babies walk. March for Babies is the nation's oldest fundraising walk honoring babies born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive. In addition to walkers, Joel and Lenelle White with their son, Luke, our 2013 Ambassador Family will also be in attendance. Multiple events will take place across the state from April to November aiming to raise more than \$1 million.

Local and national companies as diverse as airlines, insurance companies and retailers are aligning their brands with a cause that's important to their employees' and community's hearts - the health of babies. Locally March for Babies is supported by the Anson County Health Department, with Hornwood Inc., Brown Creek Animal Hospital, Parsons Drug and Leavitt Funeral Home. For sponsorship information contact Kristy Ratliff at kratliff@co.anson.nc.us.

March for Babies is the March of Dimes' largest annual fundraiser nationwide, raising over \$2 billion since its inception in 1970. Funds raised helps moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies, fund research to find answers to the problems that threaten babies' lives, and provide comfort to families who have a baby in neonatal intensive care. For more information, contact Lisa Hall, LCHall@marchofdimes.com or directly at 980-939-6022. Alternatively connect with March of Dimes on Facebook at facebook.com/MarchOfDimesNorthCarolina. To register for March for Babies, visit marchforbabies.org or marchofdimes.com/northcarolina.

In 2013 the March of Dimes celebrates its 75th anniversary and its ongoing work to help babies get a healthy start in life. Early research led to the Salk and Sabin polio vaccines that all babies still receive. Other breakthroughs include new treatments for premature infants and children with birth defects. About 4 million babies are born each year in the United States, and all have benefited from March of Dimes lifesaving research and education.

Shop Locally at the Arts Council's Christmas in November

Holiday shopping begins in earnest in Anson County on Saturday, November 23 at the Anson County Arts Council's third annual Christmas in November. All kinds of wonderful, affordable creations by area artists and craftsmen will be available for purchase.

You can start or finish your holiday shopping right here in Anson County with one-of-a-kind gifts and decorations and maybe even find a treasure for yourself. Avoid the crowds and traffic and keep your money in the local economy.

Tables are still available for artists and craftsmen at \$35 for one or \$50 for two. Vendors keep 100% of their sales proceeds. Any artist or craftsman interested in participating in this event should contact the Arts Council at ansonart@windstream.net or 704-694-4950. A limited number of food vendors may also participate.

This year's Christmas in November will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission for shoppers is free.

"Booze It & Lose It" Campaign Results in 842 DWI Arrests

Drunk drivers wearing even the most creative costumes could not hide from law enforcement officers across the state during the Halloween "Booze It & Lose It" campaign. They arrested 842 people for driving drunk from Oct. 25 to Oct. 31.

"Participation in this important campaign from our law enforcement partners is up across the state, and it shows in our results," said Don Nail, director of the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Halloween can be a scary time, but thanks to local and state agencies patrolling our roads day and night for drunk drivers, they prevented countless real-life nightmares."

The top five counties for DWI arrests during the Halloween "Booze It & Lose It" campaign include: Mecklenburg County with 70 DWI arrests; Wake and Forsyth counties each had 52 DWI arrests; Cumberland County had a total of 41 DWI arrests; and Guilford County had 40 DWI arrests.

In addition to DWI arrests, local and state law enforcement officers issued 33,472 traffic and criminal citations statewide. They issued 2,137 safety belt and 360 child passenger safety violations; 9,015 speeding violations; and 971 drug charges. In addition, they apprehended 911 fugitives from justice and recovered 52 stolen vehicles.

For more information regarding "Booze It & Lose It" activities and county totals, contact Heather Jeffreys at (919) 707-2665 or visit www.ncdot.gov/programs/GHSP.

Local Carolinas HealthCare System Hospices Host Holiday Auction

Carolinas HealthCare System's Hospice of Union County and Hospice of Anson County are hosting their 27th Annual Holiday Auction on Saturday, November 16, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by both live and silent auctions at 9 a.m. There will be many great items available for bidding including beach and mountain vacation rentals, spa and golf packages, gift baskets, jewelry and much more.

The 27th Annual Holiday Auction will be held at First Baptist Church in Monroe. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. All proceeds will benefit the families in need of services provided by Hospice of Union County and Hospice of Anson County.

For more information or to donate an item to auction, call 704-292-2130 or visit www.CarolinasHealthCare.org/hospice-of-union-county.

Healthy Living and Eating Seminar is Sunday

Pathway to Peace Ministries presents ANEWSTART, healthy living seminar and cooking class this Sunday, November 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. Learn how to cook plant-based foods that will heal you. Learn how to lose weight, have more energy, reduce cholesterol, reverse diabetes, lower blood pressure, and much more.

Interested? Come! Seminar and cooking class is FREE! It will be held at 11775 Highway 109 South in Peachland. For more information call 704-695-1441.

Brown Bag Book Club Meets November 18

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet on Monday, November 18 in the Pritchett Room at Hampton B. Allen Library at noon for a covered dish potluck. Everyone attending is asked to please bring a dish for an informal time of fellowship and an author talk by Cindy Ponds Newell, local Anson County citizen and author. She has written three books, *Don't Say Her Name*, *The Kept: A Ghost Story* and *One Grave Secret*. Please come out and support her and the library.

If you have any questions please call the library at 704-694-5177.