

Hampton B. Allen Library Challenges Readers to Try Digital

Hampton B. Allen Library is on a mission: Get more people to try digital reading! While they have offered eBooks, digital audiobooks, and streaming video to the community through their partnership with OverDrive for four years, they know that many people are still surprised to learn their library card gives them access to over 4,700 free digital titles.

Throughout the rest of this year the library is participating in OverDrive's "Digital Dash" contest. If they hit 11,972 digital checkouts by the end of the year they will be eligible to win additional funds to buy more eBooks and audiobooks for their OverDrive collection.

"We would love to expand our digital collection with new materials and cut down on hold times by buying more copies of our most popular titles," said Aaron Mehafey, Library Director.

The library's digital books are free for anyone with a valid library card. Current popular titles include "The Whistler" by John Grisham, "Two By Two" by Nicholas Sparks and "Paradise Valley" by C.J. Box. Users can borrow bestsellers and classic eBooks and digital audiobooks to enjoy on smart phones, tablets, Kindles and other eReaders, and computers. There are never late fees with digital titles, as they return automatically at the end of the lending period.

Readers can access the library's digital collection 24/7 by visiting srlsinfo.overdrive.com or by downloading the Libby app from their device's app store.

Christmas Dinner for the Homeless December 16

The Faith Based Center of Hope will host their annual Christmas dinner for the homeless on Saturday, December 16 at Grace Senior Center in Wadesboro beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Each year Vancine Sturdivant, CEO joins with various churches, businesses, organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens to provide a hot Christmas meal for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. For the last two years Dr. Bernice Bennett of Harris Chapel AME Zion Church has graciously opened the doors of Grace Senior Center and allowed the dinner to be there.

"My husband William L. "Mr. Gumby" Sturdivant, Sr. and I started this in the late 1990s," Vancine said. "One of the highlights of the dinner is everyone who attends leaves with a gift wrapped present or two. All during the year I will purchase items of clothing, sweaters, socks, gloves and other things for winter and wrap them. Each box will have on the bottom what is in there. The day before the dinner bows are put on each gift. If we do not have a gift wrapped, we have tables and clothes racks with new items hanging on there and they can pick out their size and we wrap them at the dinner. The look on their face is all the gratitude I need. We all know how it feels to open something at Christmas."

Pastor Michael McLeod of Pleasant Hill Missionary Church will be present with his Christmas blessing. He gives each person an envelope with money and allows use the church van.

Attorney Evadne Smith-Little will be present with clothing and shoes. Vancine continued, "Evadne remembered last year passing out the Christmas gifts and telling the recipients that they had to wait until Christmas Day to open their gifts. I was on Salisbury Street the very next week passing out blankets and hygiene bags, and here comes one of our special friends with his present, a sweater, on. The first thing he said was 'Mom, you caught me.' I love them."

The organizers need volunteers to help get the dinner. Anyone who would like to donate to the dinner or give a monetary donation to help purchase winter items, please contact Dr. Bernice Bennett at 704-694-6616 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Open Enrollment for 2018 Affordable Care Act Ends Dec. 15

Apply online for 'Obamacare' tax subsidies to offset premium cost. Shortened enrollment period this year.

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey reminds residents that Open Enrollment for the 2018 Federal Health Insurance Exchange, also called the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare, is open now, and runs through December 15 with coverage to start January 1, 2018.

"This is a shorter enrollment period than previous years," said Commissioner Causey. "If you do not have health insurance elsewhere, you need to take part in Open Enrollment to make sure you choose the best insurance plan to meet your needs as well as determine if you qualify for tax subsidies to offset premium costs."

Enrolling in an Affordable Care Act or ACA health insurance plan online at www.healthcare.gov is the only way to take advantage of tax subsidies to help pay for health insurance. It is estimated nearly 85% of ACA insureds with the state's largest insurer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will be eligible for Advanced Premium Tax Credit Subsidies.

Outside the Open Enrollment period, the only way to buy health insurance from Healthcare.gov under the ACA is to qualify for special enrollment due to having a child or adopting children, losing health coverage or moving.

Under the Affordable Care Act, residents are required to maintain ACA compliant insurance or be subject to penalty. Residents are guaranteed to be insurable and are encouraged to sign up for health insurance if they meet one of the following conditions:

- They have current qualifying ACA coverage but may want to change their plan for 2018.
- They don't have health insurance through their employer or their spouse's employer.
- They don't have government coverage (such as veterans, Medicare and Medicaid).
- They are older than age 26 and can no longer be on a parent's health insurance.

To enroll in or change 2018 ACA health insurance policies, consumers may visit www.healthcare.gov.

Consumer specialists at the N.C. Department of Insurance are available to answer any questions during ACA Open Enrollment by calling 1-855-408-1212.

"The N.C. Department of Insurance is in full support of giving consumers broad access to quality, affordable healthcare," said Commissioner Causey. "We are doing our best to maintain a stable health insurance market that provides new products and more choices."

50+ Club Meeting to Feature Harvard Street Band Performing Christmas Music

Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre with the Harvard Street Band. Band members are Robbie Griffin, Don Shell, Jerry Sullivan, Brady Green and Rick Hanson. These talented musicians and singers will be presenting a program of Christmas music. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the beautiful music of the season.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

Breakfast with Santa at Oliver's Restaurant

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. (UWI) is hosting a Breakfast with Santa event this Saturday, December 9, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Oliver's Restaurant, located at 121 East Wade Street, across from Town Hall. Children, family and friends will enjoy a pancake breakfast and a visit with Santa. Little ones will be able to share their Christmas wish list with the jolly man in red! The menu will include a choice of plain pancakes or chocolate chip pancakes, maple syrup, bacon, orange juice and coffee.

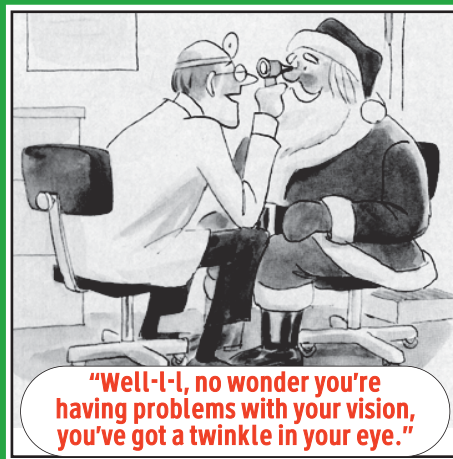
The cost will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Cash only. Tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, contact UWI at 704-695-1644.

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Merry Christmas

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Mon-Thurs 8:30-5 & Friday 8:30-12:30 704-694-3618



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Anson County Tax Collector PROPERTY TAX REMINDER



ANSON COUNTY TAXES ARE DUE NOW!

Please see that all of your Anson County Property Taxes are paid in full by January 5, 2018.

FEEES AND INTEREST BEGIN JANUARY 6, 2018.

Also, if you wish to use property taxes as an income tax deduction, payments should be made by December 31, 2017.

Please pay your taxes immediately. Mail your payment to:

Anson County Tax Collector
101 South Greene Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170
Telephone 704-994-3218

Or visit the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
We accept cash, check or credit / debit card.

An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.

You may call 704-994-3218 for total taxes owed.

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