

## Summer Leadership Series

In a release from Nadia Smith: Beyond the Block, Inc. is an organization dedicated to empowering the youth of our local and surrounding communities. We believe in equipping all youth with the tools necessary to help them succeed in today's society and prepare them to become the leaders of tomorrow. It is our desire that they go beyond their barriers, limitations, obstacles, and circumstances with the knowledge to reach their fullest potential.

Beyond the Block is hosting a free summer leadership series entitled, "Yolo! Get Ya Life!" This series cover several topics that will enable youth to make positive decisions in their life. All of sessions are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and they include lunch. They will be held at the Anson Cooperative Extension Center, located at 501 McLaurin Street (behind the Taylor-Lockhart Center) in Wadesboro. Space is very limited and registration is required.

- Series schedule:
- June 8th - "Smash or Pass" (teen pregnancy prevention & sexual health)
  - June 22nd - "Turn Down For What?!" (anger management)
  - July 13th - "These Streets For" (street extension project)
  - July 27th - "Show Me Yours, I'll Show You Mine" (social media etiquette)

For registration information please contact Nadia Smith at 336-337-5114 or [beyondtheblockproject@gmail.com](mailto:beyondtheblockproject@gmail.com).

ALL YOU CAN EAT !!!



**CAPTAIN D'S**  
EST. 1960  
SEAFOOD KITCHEN

**Mondays & Tuesdays**

Country  
Style  
Fish \$5<sup>99</sup>

**Fridays**

Calabash  
Shrimp  
\$7<sup>99</sup>

**Fridays**

Country  
Style Fish  
\$5<sup>99</sup>

**Fridays**

Batter  
Dipped Fish  
\$9<sup>99</sup>

126 West Caswell Street in Wadesboro

## USDA "StrikeForce" Initiative Launched in North Carolina

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will launch its "StrikeForce" initiative in 10 additional states, including North Carolina. The primary goal of the StrikeForce initiative is to increase partnership with rural communities and leverage community resources in targeted, persistent poverty areas. Vilsack noted that through the StrikeForce initiative, USDA will do more to and state governments and community organizations on projects that promote economic development and job creation.

"During my travels across the country, I've heard mayors and other community leaders say they have a hard time competing for USDA loan and grant programs. They have a plan to develop a new business or create jobs in their regions, but they lack increasing outreach and technical assistance to communities, we can serve as a better partner and help better leverage resources."

Acting State Executive Director for North Carolina Farm Service Agency, Cindy Kernodle fully supports this initiative, saying "The StrikeForce Initiative gives Farm Service Agency (FSA) North Carolina another tremendous opportunity to showcase what this organization does best! And with North Carolina targeted for emphasis, FSA enthusiastically accepts the Secretary's challenge to confront poverty through workable practical solutions. FSA in, North Carolina will continue its role as a trusted partner in just not addressing, but ending, poverty by using its reputation for service among the local farm community. In the agriculturally diverse State of North Carolina, FSA is in an ideal position of influence to raise awareness and educate its citizens."

The "StrikeForce" initiative started as a pilot project in 2010 in selected regions in three states: Arkansas, Georgia and Mississippi. In 2011 it was expanded to include Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. In 2013, Secretary Vilsack announced new efforts to bring the StrikeForce for Rural Growth and Opportunity to Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

USDA identifies census tracts with over 20 percent poverty (according to American Community Survey data) to identify sub-county pockets of poverty. As areas of persistent poverty are identified, USDA staff work with state, local and community officials to increase awareness of USDA programs, and help build program participation. Vilsack noted that often USDA conducts special outreach activities in an area, and that since 2010, USDA has partnered with over 400 local community based organizations to promote local or regional development projects.

- Secretary Vilsack also discussed how the StrikeForce initiative has already had an impact across the nation.
- In Arkansas, StrikeForce is tackling food insecurity and access to healthy food. USDA established a partnership with Heifer International through the East Arkansas Enterprise Community. This partnership is developing a sustainable food system in order to address existing food deserts in a nine-county area in the Mississippi Delta region.
  - In Nevada, StrikeForce is improving an access to farm programs in the Indian Country. USDA has partnered with the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance, Nevada Department of Agriculture and local extension services to promote locally grown food on Tribal lands in Nevada.
  - In Georgia, USDA is collaborating with Fort Valley State University to provide technical assistance to develop a cooperative business structure in the Georgia goat industry.
  - In New Mexico, StrikeForce is helping more children get a healthy meal when school's out. USDA partnered with New Mexico Collaborative to End Hunger, Share Our Strength and Dairy Max to fund its first mobile Summer Food Service Program also, delivering meals to 45,000 children each summer weekday at various sites.

Vilsack also noted that Farm Service Agency direct lending in StrikeForce areas saw an increase last year, even as lending by the agency nationwide was down slightly.

"The StrikeForce Initiative is helping us direct additional resources to better serve producers in persistent poverty rural communities," said Vilsack. "We are focusing on these identified high poverty areas to help improve the quality of life of producers and their communities and to accelerate the implementation of conservation practices on their land."

Participants in the StrikeForce include The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Food and Nutrition Service and the USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach.

## FSA Administrator Urges Anson County Producers to Enroll in DCP/ACRE

**Waiting until "last minute" means long lines at USDA office**

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Juan M. Garcia encouraged Anson County farmers and producers to enroll for the 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP) or the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE) before the deadline.

"We understand that Anson County producers have gotten busy, but they can't forget to visit their county office and sign up for DCP or ACRE," said Garcia. "Just as farmers plan their harvest, producers should plan to schedule an appointment to visit the Anson County USDA Service Center at the earliest possible time. It's best to complete the paperwork now rather than to stand in line the day before the deadline," advised Garcia.

The sign-up for both programs began February 19, 2013. The deadline to sign up for ACRE is June 3, 2013. The DCP sign-up period ends August 2, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013 (and vice versa).

For more information about FSA programs and loans, visit the Anson County FSA office at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro or call 704-691-3516. You can also visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for details.

## USDA Announces Anson County Conservation Reserve Program Sign-Up

**Landowners / Producers can now enroll in continuous CRP with general sign-up to follow!**

Anita Solesbee, Anson County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, reminds Anson County farmers and producers that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is conducting a four-week Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. It began on Monday, May 20 and will run until Friday, June 14.

Solesbee also announced the restart of sign-up for continuous CRP, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land Initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives. Sign-up for continuous CRP began on May 13 and will continue through September 30.

"Strong competition to enroll acres into CRP is expected," said Solesbee. "Anson County producers are urged to maximize their environmental benefits and make cost-effective offers. CRP is an important program for protecting environmentally sensitive lands from erosion and sedimentation, and for ensuring the sustainability of our groundwater, lakes, rivers, ponds and streams."

Anson County producers are also encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis.

Anson County currently has over 5,900 acres enrolled in various continuous CRP programs. Visit the Anson County FSA office at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro or call 704-691-3516. You can visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) for CRP and other FSA program information.

## Safety of North Carolina's bridges

In a release from the NC Department of Transportation: In light of the bridge collapse in Washington, the North Carolina Department of Transportation wants to educate citizens and visitors about how we keep North Carolina's bridges maintained for safe travel. "Safety is always a top priority and every bridge that is open in North Carolina is safe for drivers," said Transportation Secretary Tata. "We have comprehensive inspection, rehabilitation, and maintenance programs in place because our bridges play a vital role in connecting people to work, school and popular vacation destinations."

**Investing in our bridges** NCDOT is investing more money than ever to improve the state's bridges. About \$450 million in state funds have been made over the past two years to replace, preserve or repair bridges, enabling the department to improve more than 1,000 bridges across the state with a focus on replacing and improving structurally deficient bridges. Additionally, proposed state budgets include about \$300 million to continue the program over the next two years.

North Carolina has inspection, posting and closing procedures in place to assure public safety by closing bridges when necessary.

**Inspections** Each bridge in North Carolina is inspected at least every two years in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards. Any identified structural problem is addressed by contract repairs or by NCDOT bridge maintenance crews, which are located across the state. If a bridge is deemed unsafe, it would immediately be repaired or closed to traffic.

What inspectors look for in an inspection: Survey teams assess the condition of five elements on each bridge: railings, decks, expansion joints, superstructure and substructure. Inspection activities identify maintenance and repair needs to bridge items such as timber and steel handrails; timber, concrete and steel decks; expansion joints; steel and concrete beams; support piles and footings. The condition of each bridge is then summarized into a statewide bridge condition rating, along with the type and extent of repairs needed, if any. A thorough structural analysis is performed and safe load carrying capacities are determined. If necessary, weight restrictions are placed on the bridge.

**Stats** Total NCDOT Bridges - 13,500. Structurally Deficient - 2,663. This means that while the bridge remains safe, it requires repairs and was built to design standards no longer used for bridges. A bridge is considered structurally deficient if it is in relatively poor condition, or has insufficient load-carrying capacity. The insufficient load capacity could be due to age, the original design or to wear and tear.

Functionally Obsolete - 4,479. This means the bridge is safe, but needs to be replaced to meet current and future traffic demands. A bridge is considered functionally obsolete if it is narrow, has inadequate under-clearances, has insufficient load-carrying capacity, is poorly aligned with the roadway, and can no longer adequately service today's traffic.

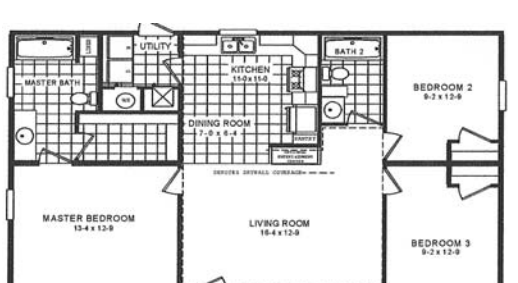
In NC we have 35 truss-type bridges (the type involved in the Washington incident).

**Working with local municipalities** NCDOT inspects all state-owned structures and municipalities are responsible for inspecting their own structures. NCDOT does offer technical assistance with municipal inspections. Municipalities have three options:

- 1) Ask NCDOT to contract with private engineering firms to do the inspection (the municipality reimburses the department);
- 2) The municipality handles the private engineering firm contract with NCDOT's approval of the contract inspectors; or
- 3) The municipality can perform their own inspection. None of the municipalities in North Carolina are currently doing so.

For more information, please visit [www.ncdot.gov/projects/nbridges](http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/nbridges).

Off Frame Modular



\$77,000 TURN KEY JOB 3 Bedroom 2 Bath

1ST CHOICE HOUSING IN MONROE

2008 East Roosevelt Street  
Monroe • 704-225-8850  
[www.1stchoicemonroe.com](http://www.1stchoicemonroe.com)

Don't Forget Your Sunglasses!

*UV rays can increase the risk of cataracts, macular degeneration and other eye diseases.*

*50% of UV damage to eyes is done before a person is 18 years old, so kids need sunglasses too!*

*Sunglass frames with a close fitting wrap around style provide the best UV protection.*

*Polarized lenses reduce reflected glare from surrounding water.*


Remember the kids too!








Locally Owned & Operated • Call for an appointment today



Holly Allison Kiker, OD

ANSON FAMILY OPTOMETRIC, PLLC.

Accepting New Patients • Accept Most Insurances • 704-694-3618

1134 Holly Street Wadesboro (On Highway 74 across from Forbes Jewelers)  
704-694-3618 Monday-Thursday 8:30-5 & Friday 8:30-3:30



The Home Where My Heart Is

Thinking back to the days my family took Sunday afternoon drives for no particular reason other than to see the sights around Anson, I recall many beauties that presented themselves while passing by. I secretly picked out favorite homes, streets, neighborhoods old barns and pretty yards. Upon my return visits, no matter how long it might have been, I would wait with anticipation to see if those favorites still looked the same and if they continued to tug at my heartstrings. With each passing they never disappointed.

Small details like arched windows and stained glass doorways, tree lined streets and quiet neighborhoods held me captivated until our next Sunday drive. Log cabins and stone cottages were often my most favored homes, the kinds I had seen in magazines and paintings. As I grew older my love for all of the above remained very much the same. And later, as an adult, I found myself staring at one of those homes I had spied as a kid, now for sale and in desperate need of some tender loving care.

The little stone cottage sitting in the curve on a peaceful street had long been one of my favorites. Always loving the little house with character and charm, neatly built of dappled stones and perched prettily on the picturesque street, it seemed perfectly situated between city and country living. I knew in my heart I had to have it!

I was in the market for a home and that house, ironically, was for sale. Besides, someone needed to give her a good polishing and reveal once again how pretty she could be. Already knowing I loved this HOUSE, I knew too that I would make her my HOME.

Over the next couple of years the house was transformed into my little gem, or my idea of a dream home, everything I had ever wanted. Not a mansion or even close to stately, my home was where the heart was - filled with peaceful days and evenings and restful nights. It was my safe haven and I loved my life while living there. So why would I do anything any differently? I was to live there for the rest of my days, or so I expected, and that would have been A-Okay with me.

But never say never. Four years later I was married, moving a mere four houses up the same beautiful street, but at the same time, still harboring a love for the home I breathed life back into. Unable to part with this piece of my heart I prayed for two years that my mother would move in and make it her own. How wonderful it would be to have her live so close by. But that wasn't her ideal it was mine. And so my pretty little house with character and charm, neatly built of dappled stones and perched prettily on a picturesque street is alas for sale again, her owner with a somewhat heavy heart.

My charming cottage is in search of a new owner, simply because she needs a family, someone who will bring her back to life. As she sits empty and alone I feel a bit of sorrow that no one is enjoying all that she has to offer. She is adorable, she is beautiful and she is special, not a cookie cutter home you too often see nowadays. Back when I was looking to make my purchase several people asked, "Why don't you just build a new home?" And my answer, always the same, "Because you can't build a home like this one anymore."

Made from "heart" pine timbers I recall thinking, how appropriate is that? Her interior timbers went right alongside all the "heart" and soul I poured into this pretty stone cottage, now awaiting a new owner who will love her, care for and protect her as I still do. If you are that special person, I would love for you to see her - a home filled with all the charm, character and cozy comforts you're probably looking for but just haven't been able to find. She may not be exactly what you're looking for, but for me, she is exactly where I had always dreamed of living, the home where my heart is.

By Melanie Lyon

Melanie's home is available for sale. It is located at 507 West Wade Street in Wadesboro. For info call 704-695-2247.