

THE EXPRESS

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

Anson County School System's Quarterly News Report is featured on pages 6 and 7 of this edition!

Town Noise Ordinance Says Engine Brakes are Not Allowed

New road signs posted in Wadesboro

New signs have recently been installed in Wadesboro notifying everyone that the use of engine brakes on large trucks is not allowed under the Town of Wadesboro's noise ordinance. Four signs have been installed in Wadesboro. The first is on Highway 742 coming north-bound into town, just before Burns Street. The second sign is on Highway 109 coming north-bound into town, just before the warning light at Capel Dairy Road. The third sign is posted at the corner of Greene and Morgan Streets (near the First United Methodist Church) for north-bound traffic. The fourth sign is posted near the corner of Greene and Martin Streets by the old Leavitt House for south-bound traffic.

The signs read: "Entering a sound control zone. No engine brake use allowed."

The Town ordinance specifically states: (Sec. 14-65. Motor vehicles.) It shall be unlawful to operate or allow the operation of any motor vehicle in the town: (4) Noise from radios, tape players, loudspeakers, sound amplifiers and compression brakes. c. No person shall operate a vehicle not operating with original manufacturer-provided muffler, or equivalent, in good working order, or a vehicle using compression release engine or transmission braking systems in nonemergency circumstances.

Merrie Datin of Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. said, "Thanks to the town for getting these signs installed. Let's work together to have a quiet, peaceful and thriving town."

For more information on Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. call 704-695-1644, email UptownWadesboro@windstream.net or visit www.uptownwadesboro.com.

Gatewood Station A.M.E. Zion Church Presents Five Scholarships



Members of Gatewood Station A.M.E. Zion Church in Morven who are college bound were all recipients of of the church's first David T. Richardson Scholarship. Each student received \$500 toward books, fees and other expenses.

The scholarship recipients are pictured here with Rev. David Richardson, the Pastor of Gatewood Station A.M.E. Zion Church. They are, from left, Maurice Copeland, UNC Chapel Hill; Victoria Tillman, Campbell University; Eric Willoughby and Kameshia Willoughby, St. Augustine College; and Jarvis D. Woodburn, Jr., East Carolina University.

HOLLA! to Dedicate Morven Community Center to Mary E. Little



HOLLA! officials have announced plans to name the HOLLA! Center located at 229 East Main Street in Morven The Mary E. Little Community Center in honor of former CFO, Mary E. Little during a dedication service on August 20. A proclamation initiating the action by Leon Gatewood, CEO, was approved unanimously by the group's board of directors in June.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to honor Mrs. Little's legacy of love and generosity through this action," said Gatewood. The building will bear signage identifying it as HOLLA!'s corporate center as well, he added.

Mrs. Little who met an untimely death on June 23, 2011, was known throughout the community for her unselfish service and philanthropy.

A dedication service and reception will be held on Saturday, August 20, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the HOLLA! Center. This ceremony will feature a dedication service, an unveiling of the building's signage, live music and refreshments. It is free to the public.

Later that evening at 8 p.m. a Red Carpet Event to celebrate the commemoration will begin. This dress to impress event will feature the live music of Matthew Gibson and Company, a DJ, food and a variety of beverages. A \$20 donation will be required to attend.

HOLLA! is a 501 c 3 non-profit Community Development Corporation founded in 2005 to address the issue of low achievement in the Anson County School System. The HOLLA! Center is a former hardware store built in 1920, which, due to grants from the North Carolina Rural Center and The Golden Leaf Foundation totaling \$280,000, has been converted to a state of the art community center. The building now features a commercial kitchen, media center, dance studio, ballroom and a corporate center. Construction is underway for a basketball and tennis court in the rear of the building.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust recently announced a grant award of \$222,000 to the group to address obesity among underprivileged school-aged children in Anson County. According to HOLLA! officials the plan includes the development of a youth recess (fitness) center in Morven. For more information you may call 704-694-3552.

Living in A Small Town

John Mellencamp's song, *Small Town*, sums up pretty well what it's like living in one. For me that small town is Wadesboro. Having been raised just eight miles away in Polkton, living in a small town is something I know a lot about. I didn't filter in from a big city, hoping to figure out how small town living is different. I know from experience, and as they say, experience IS the greatest teacher.

My grandparents, my parents, my job and my education all come from the small towns and communities of Anson County. And though I have friends all over the country, most of my friends and family are from here, the same small town I live in today.

Mellencamp says, "I cannot forget where it is that I come from. I cannot forget the people who love me. I can be myself here in this small town, and people let me be just what I want to be." You cannot forget the town you come from, who its people are, and the freedoms you are provided by such a life. And that's where I find myself at this point, venturing toward "expert status" as it pertains to living in a small town. Knowing the ins and outs, the dos and the don'ts, the pros and cons, is like being handed the answer key to the "how to live life in a small town" final exam, a test everyone should be required to take if moving into small town USA without prior knowledge.

Many among us have those same answer keys and we all understand the differences between big city living and what we have here. Knowing those differences gives us the ability to see things a bit more clearly than others may. We know what the expectations are and we live according to the book of small town etiquette.

Take Mayberry for example. Andy Griffith was from a small town, grew up and worked in that same small town, and was wise beyond years from his experiences. Andy knew every citizen and what to expect from each. Remember Otis, the town drunk? Otis exhibited behavior expected of him. Andy's prior knowledge of that behavior allowed him the chance to help Otis, just like the remaining townspeople - all with their own personal plights.

Now I'm not saying the above scenarios could ever actually happen in real life, but there are lessons to learn from characters like those from Mayberry. Lessons in patience, understanding, concern, and relationships can all be taken from the scripts of television shows depicting small town living. Of course Andy Griffith tops my list (Mayberry), but others also come to mind. Let's see, there's Little House on the Prairie (Walnut Grove), Northern Exposure (Cicely), Leave it to Beaver (Mayfield), Sanford and Son (the Watts neighborhood), Ozzie and Harriett (the suburbs), Gunsmoke (Dodge City), Alice (Mel's Diner), Good Times (rental housing project), Happy Days (Milwaukee), and let's face it, the list could go on forever.

Some settings took place not in small towns, but rather small spaces, ranging anywhere from a greasy spoon to a junkyard. You became familiar with friends, foes and family. You knew all you needed to know because what you didn't know someone else did!

In my town I know all that I need to, from her people, her places and her small town spaces. I know what's in and what's not. I know who to speak to and who to avoid. I know where to go and what to see. I know most of what there is to know about you and about me, 'cause living in a small town leaves no privacy.

The positives far outweigh the negatives. You can pump your gas before paying; have your check cashed without an I.D. Everyone knows you by name and calls out to greet you in most cases. The stars are brighter and bigger from your own backyard than any big city I've ever seen. Small town life is a choice we in Anson County have made. You either love it and stay, or you don't and move away. Either lifestyle is what you make of it. In the words of Lillian Dickson, "Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you only spend it once." And with that said, I try very hard to make the most of this small town life, my personal choice from years past. "I've seen it all in a small town, had myself a ball in a small town. Got nothing against a big town, but a small town's good enough for me."

By Melanie Lyon

A Christmas Carol to be Performed in Ansonia Theatre

Everyone loves the story *A Christmas Carol*, and it is coming this December to our very own Ansonia Theatre. Mr. David Ariail announced that he would direct an adaptation of the familiar classic during the second and third weekends of December for a total of six performances.

Ariail, a professional theatre director from Richmond County, will be remembered from years ago when he directed *Harvey* and *Our Town*, both in the Little Theatre. "The Ansonia is a wonderful venue and Anson County should be able to have a top notch, professional show that will not only entertain local citizens, but also attract visitors from outside the county," said Ariail.

The Arts Council is seeking actors and actresses. Tryouts and script availability will be coming up soon. Several community members are already signed up to try out. Many have indicated interest in helping and there are lots of areas, besides acting, where people will be needed.

The Arts Council will sponsor *A Christmas Carol*, but the hope is that in the future Ansonians will be able to organize our own "Anson Community Players" to put on other productions.

If you are interested in participating in some way with *A Christmas Carol*, please leave your name and number and especially your email address if you wish to be contacted when meetings are scheduled. The telephone number is 704-694-4950 and the email address is ansonart@windstream.net.

Back to School with Pride to be Held this Weekend

Vancine Sturdivant will hold her annual Back to School with Pride event on August 19th and 21st. The Friday, August 19th event will be held at Hatcher Park in Lilesville at 4 p.m. The August 21st event will be held at Centenary A.M.E. Zion Church on Sunday, August 21st at 3 p.m. The organizers are asking the community to help this great cause with contributions and donations. Any help is most appreciated.

Anyone who can donate school items or money that will be spent for school items for Anson County youth, please contact Vancine at 704-848-4412.

Extension Agent Asking Ag Producers to Contact Her

In a release from the Jessica Anderson of the Cooperative Extension Office: Attention agriculture producers in Anson County! As the new Agriculture Agent with the NC Cooperative Extension here in Anson County, I am overhauling the mailing list system and reaching out to new audiences.

If you are involved with any of the following agricultural commodities, please sign-up for our mailing lists or email lists to receive information on events, meetings, and newsletters specific to your interests: beef cattle, meat goatcorn, sheep, horses, swine, poultry, dairy, hay/forages, cotton, soybeans, wheat, small grains (sorghum, millet, barley & oats), pesticide applicators and waste applicators.

You can reach me at 704-694-2415, send mail to PO Box 633, Wadesboro NC 28170, email jessica_a_anderson@ncsu.edu, or stop by the office at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro) to note your preferences.

Anson County Cooperative Extension Office supports a local effort to promote agriculture within the county. North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with communities to deliver education and technology that enrich the lives, land and economy of North Carolinians.

Democrats "Meet and Greet" the Candidates

The Anson County Democratic Party will host a "Meet and Greet" the candidates for the November Election on Thursday, August 18th at Hampton B. Allen Library. The event will begin at 6 p.m. All Democratic Party candidates are invited to attend or send a representative. This event is to give the county opportunity to meet the candidates and also allow the candidates' time to present their platform.

You can contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412 for more information.

Don't Forget "Cinderella" this Friday at the Ansonia

Don't forget the Anson County Arts Council's production of "Cinderella," scheduled for this Friday, August 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the Ansonia Theatre. This is a marionette show produced by the Magical Marionette Theatre. It is written by Patricia and Kate Cabrera, local residents, and acted by Patricia and her children of the 7 Kids Farm.

This wonderfully heart-warming show will last about one hour and tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five. You may purchase tickets at Lacy's, the Chamber of Commerce, or at the door. Information at 704-694-4950 or ansonart@windstream.net.
By Melanie Lyon

Parks & Rec Offers Shag Lessons

Anson County Parks and Recreation will be offering Shag dance lessons under the Valley Protein shelter at Little Park. This workshop will be held on Thursday, August 18th. There will be three time slots available: 6:30 will be for beginners, 7:30 will be shag line dance, and 8:30 is for the advanced.

The cost is \$10 per person per hour. Contact Wendell Small CPRP at (704) 694-5751. Registration will last until August 18th. Patty Blackmon of Carolina Shag will be the instructor for these lessons.

FARMERS MARKETS
UPTOWN WADESBORO
Thursdays, 4-6pm
on the Square
HIGHWAY 52 SOUTH
beside Wadesboro
Primary School
Wed & Sat, 7am-1pm

Look inside for special inserts from
IGA
Food Lion

Upcoming Ag Expo & Fair Offers Booth and Exhibit Opportunities

Agencies, businesses, organizations and individuals are invited to be a vendor at this year's Anson Ag Expo & Fair. In addition to traditional activities, the 2011 event will feature an exposition of the community and county. The seventh annual Ag Expo & Fair will offer opportunities for Friday and Saturday, September 23 and 24. Located at the Lockhart-Taylor Center of SPCC on North Washington Street in Wadesboro, booth space for vendors will be available both inside the Ingram Room and outside in the vast parking area.

Vendors have the option of setting up for Friday evening's schedule, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Events open that evening include the Anson Ag Fair, Educational Exhibits, Youth Creative Squash Challenge and the Market and Breeder Doe goat classes of the annual Youth Livestock Show.

Vendors may also choose to set up for the Saturday schedule, running from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. inside, and 4 p.m. outside. Saturday's schedule includes the events from the evening before, plus the Lamb and Heifer Shows, South Atlantic Woodsmen's Association Lumberjack Competition, Adult Local Foods Bake-Off and more youth activities.

Vendors are invited to participate as a food, commercial or information booth. Commissions will not be charged, and only nominal fees are required to participate. Applications can be downloaded from the Anson County Cooperative Extension website at anson.ces.ncsu.edu/. For additional questions, please contact Janine Rywak, County Extension Director at 704-694-2915.

Also, the Educational Booth Competition will be housed in the Ingram Room, with competition open to any county elementary age youth group, school, club, etc. Participation is limited to K-6 aged children. Educational booths must address the theme, "Why Agriculture is Important to Me." Winners will be awarded certificates plus monetary awards of \$100 for 1st place, \$75 for 2nd, \$50 for 3rd. In addition, all youth participants will receive complimentary 4-H bracelets.

Booths will be judged on creativity, educational value and originality. Booths need to be set up at the Lockhart-Taylor Center at 5 p.m. on Friday, will be judged at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and can be taken down at 2 p.m.

For additional information, and to reserve your group's booth space, contact Erin Dempsey, 4-H Youth Promise Program Director, at 704-694-2915. This year's planning committee is excited to be hosting this two-day county-wide event. Plan to participate! Celebrate agriculture in Anson.