

## Halloween Doesn't Need to be a Dangerous Night for Children

### Child pedestrian deaths double on Halloween night

On average, twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween than on other days of the year. But with some simple precautions, kids can stay safe. Safe Kids Worldwide urges parents to prepare children to act safely and drivers to be particularly alert. "Parents need to talk to kids about safety before they go out trick-or-treating," says Kim Wilson, Safe Kids Anson County. "Many kids will be out trick-or-treating while it is dark when it is more difficult for drivers to see them. There are several easy and effective behaviors that parents can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury. For example, children younger than age 12 should not be alone crossing streets on Halloween without an adult. If older kids are mature enough to go trick-or-treating without adult supervision, parents should make sure they go in a group and stick to a predetermined route with good lighting." Drivers need to be extra alert as there will be more children on the streets and sidewalks – and those kids may be focused on gathering candy and caught up in the excitement of the holiday rather than being careful while crossing streets. "Safe Kids Anson urges drivers to slow down on neighborhood roads to make Halloween more enjoyable for everyone, but also to help save lives," added Wilson.

- Top safety tips Safe Kids recommend for parents:
- Cross the street safely at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street.
  - Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
  - Slow down and stay alert - watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and never dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
  - Costumes can be both creative and safe. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible instead. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers.

- Top safety tips Safe Kids recommends for drivers:
- Slow down in residential neighborhoods. Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
  - Be especially alert and take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
  - Reduce any distractions inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

In 1999, Safe Kids Worldwide and program sponsor FedEx created the Safe Kids Walk This Way program in the United States to teach safe behaviors to motorists and child pedestrians and create safer, more walkable communities. Every day, more than 75,000 FedEx vehicles are on the road, sharing the streets with pedestrians, fueling the company's dedication to pedestrian safety and sharing the lessons of safe driving that FedEx has learned over the past 39 years. Over the past 13 years, the Walk This Way program has expanded to include Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines where it has educated more than 4 million children.

For more tips on how to help kids become safer pedestrians on Halloween, as well as throughout the year, visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) and visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/safekidsusa](http://www.facebook.com/safekidsusa).

Safe Kids Anson County works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Members include representatives from Anson County Sheriff's Office, Wadesboro Police Department, Wadesboro Fire Department, Anson County Health Department, Anson Community Hospital, Anson EMS, Lilesville Police Department, Anson Children's Center and community volunteers. Safe Kids Anson County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury. Safe Kids Anson was founded in 2010 and is led by Anson County Partnership for Children.

## Tri-county Farm and Food Council Formally Recognized

The tri-county Farm and Food Council (FFC) was formally recognized at a general meeting of Anson, Montgomery and Stanly citizens on October 23 at the Dennis Community Room at Stanly Community College. The room was completely filled with citizens representing the various interests and areas of farm and food. Many had either participated in the long planning process, while others had just learned about this umbrella group that will encourage, support and initiate programs that will fulfill the vision and mission.

The vision of the FFC is a sustainable, locally-based, economically resilient farm and food system. A farm and food system is a network of people, organizations, associated government and non-government institutions and activities connecting the growing and harvesting, processing, distribution, consumption and residue utilization of food and other farm products.

The mission of the Council is to encourage, support and coordinate the local farm and food system in the areas of agriculture, economic development, education, accessibility and health. The three County Commissions each passed a Resolution in August or September formally recognizing and endorsing the vision and mission of the FFC.

2012 Interim Board Chair Robin McCree welcomed the attendees and introduced and thanked the Interim Board members for their efforts to birth the FFC and its vision and mission. Some of the members to thank were: from Anson, Gary Sikes, Bobby Sikes, Thomas Cureton, Dr. Stan Sidor and Janine Rywak; from Montgomery, Danelle Cutting, Jamie Warner, Molly Alexi, Jim Matheny, Jeff Hamilton and Randy Gunter; and from Stanly, Lori Ivey, Tony Dennis, Debbie Bennett, Tom George and Nancy Bryant.

The new FFC Board representatives and the areas they represent are: from Anson, Gary Sikes, Farmer, Charles Dunevant, Government/Cooperative Extension, Stuart Wasilowski, SPCC and Martha Parker, Interested Citizen; from Montgomery, Donny Epps, Farmer, Danelle Cutting, Gov/CE, Brenda Caudill, Public Health, Tammy Owens, MCC and Sheila Menendez, Interested Citizen; from Stanly, Andrew McSwain, Farmer, Lori Ivey, Gov/CE, Debbie Bennett, Public Health, Robin McCree, SCC and Nancy Bryant, Interested Citizen.

Special speaker was Teisha Wymore, NCSU and Center for Environmental Farming Systems State Coordinator of the "NC 10% Campaign," that encourages all citizens, businesses, institutions to purchase at least 10% of their food from local sources. Updates from recent tri-county initiatives relating to the work of the FFC were:

- Farm Fresh Ventures, LLC, a farm coop 501c3 to promote local foodstuffs from local farmers in the five-county Cooperative Extension District, including Anson, Montgomery and Stanly Counties. It will be centered in Wadesboro.
- Anson New Tech High School's "Living off the Land" project involving all students, 9-12 grades, in on-going entrepreneurial agricultural ventures both on the land and in the classrooms.
- Montgomery's Community Kitchen opening mid-November in which hot meals will be prepared for the elderly and also open to farmers who want to produce value-added products such as salsas from excess tomatoes.
- "So You Wanna Be a Small Farmer" workshop at SCC's Small Business Center, and their January, 2013 series of REAL Ag classes to be offered to all people interested in learning to establish an economically viable small farm business. REAL is Rural Entrepreneurial Action Learning.
- NC Sustainable Local Foods Advisory Council, established by the Legislature, to encourage the building of a sustainable local foods economy in the State. The tri-county FFC is a partner, along with the other farm and food councils in the State.

Professor Jason Jones and his student, Rory Kalin, from the Charlotte School of Law, spoke to the group and the new Board afterwards about the model by-laws that they prepared, pro bono, for the FFC. Professor Jones congratulated the FFC efforts as being on the cutting edge, since FFC is only one of 16 councils in NC and one of four in the Charlotte region to date, although more are being formed as the benefits are being understood.

Robin McGee summarized the almost two years of planning, thanking all who had contributed their time and efforts. She adjourned the general meeting and the new Board stayed to discuss further plans.

## Casting Call for Black History Program

Lucille Gaddy has extended an invitation to area citizens to participate in a casting call for an upcoming black history program. She is looking for males, 14 to 25 years old and females 25 years old and older.

This event will take place at the Hampton B. Allen Library on Monday, November 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information you can contact Lucille at 704-694-4192 or email [Lucille1236@yahoo.com](mailto:Lucille1236@yahoo.com).

## 2012 VETERAN of the YEAR AWARD

*Nomination Forms Available At:*

Wadesboro Lumber & Barns	Veteran's Affairs Office
H.W. Little Hardware	Chamber of Commerce
	Wadesboro City Hall

**Mail to: Anson County Veteran's Council  
PO Box 797, Wadesboro NC 28170  
704-465-8622**

*Forms must be postmarked no later than November 2, 2012*

## VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

*Sponsored by Wadesboro Motors, Inc.*

**MONDAY, NOV. 12 at 10am (No Entry Fees)**

*Entry Forms Available At:*

Wadesboro Lumber & Barns	Veteran's Affairs Office
H.W. Little Hardware	Chamber of Commerce
	Wadesboro City Hall

**Mail to: Anson County Veteran's Council  
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