

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the kickoff of Veterans Small Business Week, an initiative on the part of SBA to reach out to veteran entrepreneurs and small business owners. Veterans Small Business Week will be held from November 4 to 11 and is part of SBA's work throughout the year to make sure our nation's veterans have the tools and capital they need to start or grow a business.

"Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who have served our country," said Acting SBA Administrator Jeanne Hultit. "SBA's Veterans Small Business Week is so exciting because it really shines a light on what makes our nation strong. Veterans are highly-skilled and highly-trained leaders in their communities; it makes sense that after serving their country they would want to bring these skills back home and start businesses. Our job at the SBA is to make sure veterans know what tools and programs are out there to help them achieve their dreams."

During Veterans Small Business Week, SBA staff all across the country will be working with partner organizations on educational efforts, mentoring, and trainings for veterans. SBA provides veterans access to business counseling and training, capital and business development opportunities through government contracts. In FY 2013, SBA supported \$1.86 billion in loans for 3,094 veteran-owned small businesses. And since 2009, the dollar amount of SBA lending support to veteran-owned firms has nearly doubled.

According to the U.S. Census, veterans are a significant part of the small business community. Nearly one in 10 small businesses is veteran-owned, and our nation's 2.4 million veteran-owned small businesses employ almost 6 million people and generate more than \$1 trillion in receipts. In the private sector, veterans are 45 percent more likely than those with no active-duty military experience to be self-employed.

SBA currently engages veterans through its 68 local SBA district offices, 15 Veterans Business Outreach Centers nationwide, its partnership with 63 Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) with over 900 outreach locations, and 12,000 SCORE volunteers. Each year SBA helps more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans and reservists. To learn more about additional opportunities for veterans available through the SBA, please visit the website at [www.sba.gov/veterans](http://www.sba.gov/veterans).

### Celebrate Local Farms and Food

The Upper PeeDee Farm & Food Council (UPFFC) is hosting its first annual celebration on Tuesday, November 12th, from 6 until 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, located at 428 Pee Dee Avenue in Albemarle.

Nancy Bryant, Interim Director of UPFFC, said that they envision a sustainable, locally based, economically resilient farm and food system.

All citizens of Anson, Stanly and Montgomery Counties who are interested in supporting this vision are invited to attend the evening's celebration of our local farms and local food. Appetizers of local food will be available from 6 to 6:30 p.m. followed by a program to highlight the theme, "Celebrate Local Farms and Food." Networking with coffee and dessert wind up the celebration.

Amy Poirier will be the special speaker. She is a board member of Bread Riot as well as a NCDA Regional Agronomist, and organic dairy farmer. Bread Riot is a Rowan County nonprofit organization that promotes a thriving local economy by assisting with the supply of locally produced foods grown by sustainable farming practices. Bread Riot focuses on whole life issues, education and environmental concerns.

Three local farmers will also be highlighted during the program: Shawn and Jenny Hatley (Stanly County - The Naked Pig), Sheila Menendez (Montgomery County - Hope Grows Farm) and Gary and Carson Sikes (Anson County - Bountiful Harvest Farm.)

There is no charge to attend, but registration is necessary. Call 704-474-9134 or email [info@upffc.org](mailto:info@upffc.org) to register by November 8.

### Ansonville Elementary School Think Pink, Be Pink Day

Ansonville Elementary School declared Thursday, October 24 as Think Pink, Be Pink! Day. All AES students and staff wore pink to show support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and to raise school and community awareness of Breast Cancer.

Tracy Preslar said, "AES feels that it is important to instill in our children a sense of community, and we did that simply by joining together to wear pink. Breast cancer will at some point in time affect a person close to our hearts, or maybe one of us."

Here are a few statistics from the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen Foundation: Breast cancer in Men: 2,240 new cases (invasive) will be diagnosed, 410 deaths. Women: 232,340 new cases of invasive breast cancer, 39,620 deaths.

Think Pink, Be Pink! Day was deemed a success! All students were excited about the part they could play in raising awareness and to show our community how much we care.



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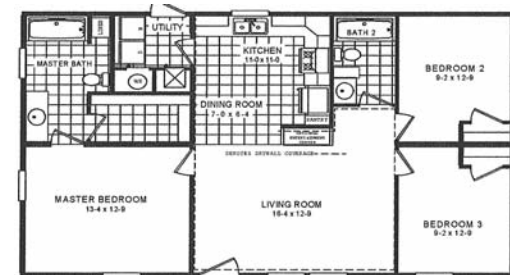
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