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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

Board of Elections to Move to Former Doctors Office at 402 Morven Road

A meeting was held on Thursday, December 12 to discuss the relocation of the Anson County Board of Elections from the basement of the Government Center to a new facility located at 402 Morven Road, beside the hospital's Emergency Room parking lot. This building had been used by several Wadesboro doctors over the years - among them Dr. Whit Davis and Dr. Floyd Deen. Attendees were given a tour of the facility and an update on the actions that are underway in preparation for the move.

- Among the items taking place are:
- The water and sewer service is set to be transferred to the County's name January 1.
 - Fire extinguishers will be supplied and serviced by Pope's Fire Protection Services.
 - B&B Pest Control will provide pest control services beginning January 1.
 - Electricity will be transferred to the County beginning January 1.
 - Arrangements have been made for high speed, low cost internet service.
 - Anson Sign has been tasked with drafting a sign insert.
 - Wadesboro Town Manager Alex Sewell has personally inspected the sidewalk in front of the building and has volunteered to have it repaired by February/March.
- Anson County Manager Lawrence Gatewood said, "This is a very exciting project that's moving quickly. We hope to have possession of the building later in December and relocate the Board of Elections to their new headquarters in January 2014. Dr. Fred Thompson and Jeff Rodgers of Anson Community Hospital and Carolinas HealthCare System have been very supportive of this project and the accelerated transfer schedule."

Christmas Dinner for the Homeless is Sat.

The Faith-Based Center of Hope, along with Pee Dee Church of Deliverance and the assistance of concerned citizens of Anson and Richmond County, will host their annual Christmas Dinner for the homeless, needy, sick and shut-in on Saturday, December 21, beginning at 11 a.m. This event will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located on 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant stated, "The reason for taking the event to Lockhart-Taylor is we want our brothers and sisters to know they are somebody, and we want to treat them as royalty on this day. Hygiene bags and gifts will be disal churches to please assist with transportation."

Everyone is invited to participate. Come prepared to minister to others' physical and spiritual needs. If you, your church or business would like to contribute to this needed cause or allow use of your vans, you may contact Vancine Sturdivant (704) 848-4412, Winnie Brown (704) 475-0755, Ester Lindsey (704) 848-8452 or Dr. Bernice Bennett (704) 694-6616.

Thank you for all your support.

BRLC USDA and Emergency Food Commodities to be Distributed Tuesday

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Emergency Food Pantry has received a large shipment of TEFAP Products. They will distribute this emergency food to qualified Ansonians on Tuesday, December 24, beginning at 9 a.m. Canned beef stew left from November's Commodities will also be available until it is all given out.

The food commodities are provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. The US federal income guidelines will be the determining factor for each individual's eligibility. The food items will be made available only to Ansonians who qualify. They do not discriminate for any reason. All individuals who plan to stake advantage of these items will need to register promptly at 9 a.m. in order to be served. Each family will only be provided these commodities once a month, to one adult per family. Each individual is asked to bring a copy of their proof of income if you are not already recertified.

It's Barn Blast Time Again!

Tickets for the eighth annual Barn Blast fundraiser are available now at the Anson County Partnership for Children. The 2014 Barn Blast will be held on Friday, January 31 in the Ingram Room at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. It lasts from 6 to 11:30 p.m.

This fundraising event features dinner, dancing, drinks, silent auctions, live auction and lots of western themed fun. General admission tickets (for 6 to 11:30 p.m.) are \$40 each. Early admission tickets (for 5 to 11:30 p.m.) are \$50 each. Tickets increase in price by \$10 after January 17, so purchase your tickets now.

Reserved tables for eight Barn Blast guests are also available for \$350 per table.

Barn Blast tickets make great Christmas gifts for your friends! All profits from the Barn Blast are used in Anson County for the Anson County Partnership for Children's programs for young children. These include Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which mails a book each month to over 1,000 children in Anson County, as well as many other literacy and early childhood programs.

For tickets or more information about the 2014 Barn Blast, please call or come by the Anson County Partnership for Children, located at 117 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. Call 704-694-4036, the website is www.ansonchildren.org.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on Child Care, Health, Literacy and Family Support.



2014 Anson County Sheriff's Office 2014 Honoring the Sheriffs of Anson County

Sheriff's Calendars Available Beginning December 19

Anson County Sheriff Tommy Allen said the 2014 Sheriff's Calendars are in and will available to the public beginning December 19th. You may come by the Sheriff's Office during regular business hours and pick up a free calendar. A reminder, the Sheriff's business office will be closed December 24, 25 and 26th for the Christmas Holiday.

The calendar this year features pictures of many of the former Sheriffs of Anson County. "We did a similar calendar many years ago and it was one of the most popular calendars we've ever done," Sheriff Allen said. "I've been collecting pictures of former sheriffs over many years and have added a few more since we did that last calendar. I'm guessing these will go fast. We will have to limit one per household."

Calendars may be picked up at the Sheriff's Office during regular business hours. If you are unable to come to the Sheriff's Office you may call 704-694-4188 and the Sheriff will see that you receive a calendar.

Christmas Party For Veterans Held December 3

On Tuesday, December 3 a Christmas party was held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center to honor Anson County veterans. Following a brief meeting where officers for the Veterans Council for 2014 were named, a wonderful meal was served to approximately 80 attendees. The Veterans Council was formed in 2013 to create public interest and awareness in their service, address issues that impact veterans, and to keep veterans informed of matters that affect them. The Council would like to register all veterans. Currently, there is no system in the county that keeps a record of veterans. The Council and veterans will be meeting quarterly.

Following the business meeting and meal, members of AM Vets Post #316 in Rockingham gave a flag folding demonstration. Jimmy Hooks read the history of the flag and told what each of the 13 folds represented. When finished the flag is in the shape of a cocked hat, symbolic of the serviceman.

Entertainment was presented in a variety of musical numbers performed by a local band led by Ronnie Jarman. The dance floor stayed empty until World War II veteran Charles Boyle and his lady friend stepped up. They received a round of applause from the other guests. Santa stopped by with a supply of candy canes and hugs. He even did a little boogie himself but could not get others on the dance floor. The group noted Santa's thin frame and decided it was a result of the tough economy in recent years. An attendee said, "We're glad the recession has ended!"

Anson Crisis Ministry Obtains Larger Truck to Help with Their Aid to Ansonians

Christmas is usually a time when new gifts are given to friends, co-workers and loved ones. For the Anson Crisis Ministry it came in the form of a used fourteen foot truck to haul food.

Director Ann James began her job ten years ago with her own personal van to haul food from Mt. Gilead, which is a branch site for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Her van served the purpose for nearly six months, but as the needs of the county grew, also the need for larger transportation grew. The Crisis Ministry was able to purchase a 2005 cargo van that was used to transport food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte. A few years later the Crisis Ministry purchased another 2009 cargo van, which was adequate for awhile.

As the needs of the people in Anson County continually grew, so did the need for a larger vehicle to transport more food. This struggle went on for four more years until last month. One of Santa's elves and Board Member (Reva Evans) inquired about a used box truck from R.W. Goodman Furniture Company in Rockingham. It seems she was in the right place at the right time because at the end of last month Santa called from the North Pole to the Crisis Ministry with good news that the truck was now available to be purchased. The Crisis Ministry, now the happy owner of a used fourteen foot truck, is able to haul eight to ten thousand pounds of food each week.

Mrs. James shared how amazing the truck and its capabilities have been, "We outgrew our current van about five years ago and have been making do and struggling to keep up with the needs of the county. We are beyond thrilled to have this new means of transporting food."

The Crisis Ministry, located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, distributes free government food and other food items to Anson County residents. Mrs. James said, "For example, on Monday, December 2 the Ministry served 206 families and or individuals...and this was only the first day of the month. Anson County residents may visit each month to receive fresh produce, canned food and other items, if available. Local churches, clubs, individuals and organizations faithfully support the Ministry by donating food each month."

Persons living on low income or experiencing temporary problems or issues are encouraged to visit. Persons visiting the Ministry must provide proof of income, proof of residency, proof of food stamps and Social Security cards for entire household to receive food assistance. For more information call 704-694-2445.

BRLC After School Program Kids Cafe is Now Available

Burnsville Recreation and Learning Center's Kids Café is available and taking applications for after school students ages 5 to 14 years.

- Kids Café is extended to all parents who need this service
- Professionally trained staff, nutritious meals, snacks, physical activities and help with homework is provided.
- Affordable prices
- Clean, safe environment, and convenient location - 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from Fire Department
- Times of Operation 3 until 5:30 p.m. - and longer if services are needed Monday through Friday
- Services can be provided on days when school releases early if needed
- Drop-ins are welcome, but parent must enroll students in advance

BRLC is available to serve all families. For more information call 704-826-8182 or 704-826-8737. The contacts are BRLC Director Carol Smith and Deloris Hammond.

VFW Post 10403 Donates to Toys For Tots

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10403 James D. Hinson presented a monetary donation to Anson County Toys For Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant during the motorcycle ride benefit on Saturday, December 7. Commander James Bennett, Larry Leak and 9th District Past Commander Anthony Hall stated, "The VFW gives to the ungifted. VFW represents the fallen soldiers and supports the widow of fallen comrades." Commander Hall added, "We are here to help the citizens who are not as fortunate as we are."

Sturdivant stated, "Toy distribution will begin December 16th from the Toys for Tots warehouse which is located at 121-C Wortham Street in Wadesboro."

Pictured from left are Larry Leak, James Bennett, Vancine Sturdivant, Landric Reid and Anthony Hall.



Christmas Party at BRLC is this Friday

Everybody is invited to come to the Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center this Friday, December 20 for their "God Loves You Christmas Party." There will be delicious Mexican food, fellowship, music and games. This event is sponsored by the Kids Café after School Program.

If you plan to attend, any donation you can offer to BRLC in support of their activities to help Anson children will be appreciated.

This event will take place from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. The BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Burnsville Volunteer Fire Department.

BRLC Director Carol Smith said, "This party is all for you because we love you!"

The deadline to register is Friday December 20th. Cost \$25 per player.

Early Dismissal for Schools Friday

Anson County Schools will have early dismissal on Friday, December 20. Elementary schools will dismiss at 12:30 p.m. Middle and high schools will dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

Anson County Holiday Schedule

Anson County offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Thursday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday, and Wednesday, January 1, 2014, for New Years.

Town of Wadesboro Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26 due to the Christmas holidays. There will be no garbage pickup on those days. Normal routes will resume on Friday, December 27.

Also, the Town Hall will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, due to the New Year's holiday. There will be no garbage pickup that day. Normal routes will resume on Thursday, January 2.

Town of Lilesville Holiday Schedule

The Town of Lilesville will pick up garbage on Friday, December 27 instead of Thursday, December 26 due to the Christmas Holiday.