

Relay for Life Planned for May 14

Cancer is not a word you often link to celebration, but Friday, May 14, people from all over Iredell County will do just that. Relay for Life, the signature event of the American Cancer Society (ACS), will be at Statesville Senior High School beginning around 5 p.m. and continuing through the night until closing ceremonies 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

About 7 p.m. Friday, area cancer

survivors, cheered by others, will walk the first lap around the track. Some have survived cancer many years, some are in treatment now, some are old, some very young, some walk easily and some roll in wheelchairs; all have a cancer diagnosis in their past. Instead of being a depressing reminder, the event is a celebration of their lives and the lives of others. After the initial lap, survivors will be joined by caregivers – the persons who

were their primary support as they faced cancer and their doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other providers. The rest of the crowd falls in for the third lap. For much of the night, people will walk the track in honor of cancer survivors and in memory of those lost to cancer.

The track will be lined by rows of white bags filled with sand and containing a single candle purchased in honor or memory of those who have fought cancer. Around 9 p.m. all activity in the stadium stops. The candles will be lit and a luminary service will honor the people represented by the luminaries. Luminaries spelling "Hope" will be a reminder of the strides made in cancer research and advances to come.

Relay for Life is also a fundraising activity and about 40 area teams have been raising money for the American Cancer Society. Some money goes to the cancer education, advocacy and support programs of the ACS, but much goes to research. The ACS is the nation's largest private, not-for-profit source of cancer research funds and focuses its efforts on "investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed proposals." That means researchers bring ideas directly to the ACS to request funding, instead of funds only going to administrators of large research centers. The ACS feels this way dollars are invested on innovative ideas on the front lines of research where they believe ground-breaking cancer cures will occur.

Many Statesville Relay for Life teams plan fundraising events at the Relay, with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Several sell food items, making it a good place for a family dinner Friday night or breakfast Saturday morning. Teams sponsor a variety of prize contests, along with hot air balloon rides, foot massages, games for kids, jewelry sales, car magnets, lollipops and cookbooks. Local entertainment includes singers, bands, puppet shows and gymnastic.

For more information contact Kim McKinney at 704-873-7666, Terri Crosby at 704-872-3359, or the American Cancer Society.

YMCA Summer Camps Set

Not only can you keep your child busy this summer but also learning through the YMCA's Summer Camp and sports programs. Registration is underway now by calling 704-873-9622.

Kinder Camp, which runs June 8 – July 27, is for children ages 3-5 years old. Camp is held at the Statesville YMCA location and includes games, arts and crafts and swim lessons.

Camp Airborne, running June 1 – Aug. 5, is a day camp for children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. Located at the Statesville Y, the camp includes field trips, swimming, organized activities, arts and crafts and other learning opportunities.

Open House for Camp Airborne will be Thursday, May 20, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the YMCA Youth Center in Statesville. Parents and children will be able to meet the camp staff and find out about the summer's activities.

The Swim Team will be available for swimmers, ages 5 to 18, with special attention given to new and beginning swimmers. More experienced swimmers will participate in a league with strong competition. Practice is each weekday, 9-11 a.m. Call 704-873-9622 for more information.

Sports camps will be held for girls' and boys' basketball, preschool sports, cheerleading, soccer, girls' volleyball and even roller hockey.

Girls' basketball camp will be June 7 – 11 for ages 8 – 14. The all day camp goes 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and costs \$55 for members and \$65 for

potential members. Participants should bring a bag lunch.

Boys' basketball camp is a week later, June 14 – 18, also for ages 8 – 14. This camp goes 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and costs \$55 for members and \$65 for potential members. Again, participants need to bring a bag lunch.

Preschool sports camp will be June 21 – 25 for boys and girls ages 3-5. This camp runs 9 a.m. until noon and costs \$25 for members and \$36 for potential members.

Cheerleading camp for boys and girls ages 10-14 will July 12 – 16. Camp is held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at a cost of \$20 for members and \$30 for potential members. A bag lunch is needed.

There will be two sessions of Fusion Soccer Camps, June 7-11 and July 19-23, for boys and girls, ages 6-12. The full day camp is from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and costs \$130 for members and \$180 for potential members. The half-day camp is from 9 a.m. until noon and costs \$90 for members and \$140 for potential members. Participants should bring a bag lunch, water bottle and sunscreen.

Girls Volleyball camp is set for June 28-30 for girls, ages 10 through high school. The camp will last from 9 a.m. until noon and costs \$30 for members and \$40 for potential members.

YMCA Roller Hockey will have two sessions during the week of June 14-18. The first session, 6-7 p.m., is for boys and girls, ages 8 – 11. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for potential members. The second session, 7-8:30 p.m., is for boys and girls, ages 12-18. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for potential members. The camp will be held at the YMCA sport court. Helmets are mandatory and face protection is suggested.

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DAR Awards

Mrs. Martha Fowler, first vice regent, presented the Outstanding Community Award to Mrs. Libby Campbell. Now a retired school teacher, she has worked many years to encourage her students to achieve success. Even in her retirement she devotes much of her time for this purpose.

After the awards ceremony, Mrs. Sue Carter conducted a business meeting.

The May meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Fran Campbell. After the annual "Picnic" luncheon new officers will be installed.




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Citizens for Animal Welfare
is hosting a **MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW** at
First Baptist Church on Davie Ave. on
Saturday, May 15 at 7:30pm
Show offers desserts at intermission.
Tickets are \$8 or two for \$15.
Make reservations at 704-878-2797.
Tickets also available at the door!