



THE SOUTH IREDELL SENIOR CENTER is gearing up for the New Year with a flurry of activity. For information go to www.Iredellcoa.com or call 704-662-3337. For transportation call 704-663-5112.

Mooresville History- Join Cindy Jacobs as she educates and shares artifacts on Mooresville's History on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. She will share photographs, post cards, memories and exhibits of Mooresville people, places and events from 1873-1957.

Tai Chi- Next class session starts Monday, Jan. 7, and costs \$36 per person for a six-week session. Mike Gentile instructs.

Line Dancing- taught by Debbie Wyatt starts Tuesday, Jan. 8, and continues each Tuesday for six weeks at 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$21. The class starts January 8. Call the Senior Center to register.

Yoga- next class session starts Wednesday, Jan. 9, taught by Debbie Wyatt, AFFA, Yoga certified, the class meets Wednesdays from 10 – 11 a.m. Cost is \$24 for six classes. Pre-registration requires at least one business day prior to the start of class.

Rubber Stamping- Create unique greeting cards and envelopes on Thursday, Jan., 10 from 1 – 3 p.m., instructed by Nancy McKay. Fee is \$5. Call to pre-register.

Dropping Pounds the "Healthy Weigh" Weight Loss Class- On Fri., Jan. 11, the group will re-assess measurements and set goals for the New Year. The class is aimed at individuals needing to lose weight or improve their nutrition but is open to anyone interested. There is no fee only a commitment to attend and be active as part of the class every Friday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Travel & Tours Preview Party- All seniors are invited to a tours preview party hosted by Christian Tours Fri., Jan. 11, at 1 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, door prizes, tour incentives, and a chance to win a free trip.

Beginning Computers- In January seniors can take a basic computer class as part of a collaborating effort with Mitchell Community College. The class runs for eight weeks and is free for individuals age 65 or better, \$55 for all others. Call the senior center and have your name added to the list. Seniors can use the senior center computer lab anytime outside class by signing in at the front desk. A time and day for the class is being discussed.

AARP Tax Aide Assistance- February through April the AARP Tax Aide Program will have a tax Aide Counselor at South Iredell Senior Center to assist individuals in filing their taxes. Call the senior center to have your name put on a request for assistance list. Those interested in volunteering for the Tax Aide program should call the Center.

Support Groups- Visually Impaired Support Group will meet January 10 at 10 a.m. The group plans fun activities and programs geared for the visually impaired. Caregivers and new members are encouraged and welcome. Volunteers needed.

**The One-Minute Editorial
and the Passing Parade
will return next week**

Boys and Girls Club Receives Large Contribution

The Merancas Foundation, Inc. recently pledged \$500,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of the Piedmont the largest single contribution of the \$5.5 million campaign. The foundation assists operations "close to home" that prepare children to be productive adults and help adults become self-sufficient.

The gift has brought the campaign more than halfway to the goal to build and endow a 29,000 square foot facility at the intersection of Cochran Street and Garner Bagnal Boulevard. The Club will accommodate more than 1,000 youth members within the first year of its operation.

In addition to the pledge to construct the new facility, the Merancas Foundation will support the Club's annual operating budget of approximately \$7,000

by contributing \$25,000 annually "as long as the Club continues to positively impact area youth."

"We feel very fortunate that the mission of our club met the criteria of the Merancas Foundation, said John Steele, president of the board of directors. " We want to give these kids the tools to grow up to become contributing members of this community, and the generosity of this gift and the ongoing challenge they have included is a huge step toward making this dream a reality."

The new facility, built on 20 acres of land located in South Statesville, will include two gymnasiums, games room, an exercise/weight room, a learning/technology center, a kitchen, a multipurpose room, a teen center, and four activity rooms to accommodate programs in dance, drama, art, and music.

The building will offer a safe place to spend non-school hours and the summer as an alternative to the streets or being home alone.

Currently, approximately 400 youth members belong to the Club and participate in programs taking place at seven different sites around Statesville.

Just over \$3,000,000 has been pledged to the campaign to date. In addition to the Merancas Foundation, other significant contributors include L. Gordon Iron and Metal, JC Steele & Sons, Lowe's and Piedmont Bank with contribution of \$250,000 each. The Board of Directors expects to open the facility in the Fall of 2008. The building was designed by The Housing Studio, Charlotte, NC and is being constructed by GL Wilson Building Company of Statesville, NC.

Cool Season Yard and Garden Tips Offered

While lawns and gardens might be the furthest thing from your mind during the holiday season, Donald Breedlove, Iredell County agricultural extension agent, offers these tips that could pay dividends in the spring.

If you did not get around to the fall fertilization of cool-season lawns such as fescue, it can still be done. The roots of cool-season grass continue to grow whenever the ground is not frozen.

Apply broad leaf herbicides starting in December to control winter annual and perennial weeds such as chickweed, henbit and garlic. Products containing 2,4-D and dicamba or triclopyr as the active ingredient are recommended. These weeds are best controlled on contact when they are actively growing and the air temperature is

above 55 degrees.

Don't delay in removing fallen leaves and other debris from lawns to prevent suffocation of grass during winter. Mowing to chop the leaves up can be an attractive, stable, temporary mulch around trees and shrubs.

Ornamentals- Continue to plant spring bulbs, perennial and annuals whenever the ground is not frozen. The soil should also be tested and prepared for planting shrubs and trees before spring.

Liming the soil for non-acid loving plants should be done about every three years. Remember that lime is slow to react taking at least four months for plants to benefit from it. Any opportunity you have to work it into the soil is highly recommended.

Collect hardwood cuttings of your

landscape plants such as forsythia, flowering quince, weigela, crepe myrtle and hydrangea this month. Place the cuttings in a cold frame outside to root.

Prune berry-producing ornamental and evergreens for table arrangements over the holidays. Keep poinsettias healthy by watering regularly and keeping them out of drafts. Cut back and clean up frost-killed perennials. Mulch and regularly water (if permitted) any recently planted woody ornamentals, especially evergreens.

Edibles- Put pine needles or wheat straw over your strawberry plants in late December. Use wood ash with caution on your vegetable garden. It should be tested as a soil sample if used to supplement or replace fertilizer and lime. Plant one-year-old asparagus crowns in the vegetable garden during the next few months.

CITIZEN
Iredell

(USPS 017-606)

*Award-Winning
Member of the
North Carolina
Press Association*

Published weekly by the Iredell Citizen, Inc.

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\$28 per year in North Carolina
\$30 per year outside North Carolina

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