

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

Also Sports, Religion and Classifieds

MARCH 21, 2013



Community Calendar

2013 directory for seniors available

Senior Services' 2013 Directory of Services for Older Adults in Forsyth County is now available. This large print directory provides telephone numbers and website addresses for nonprofit human service organizations that can help and/or inform older adults in Forsyth County. Copies of the directory can be obtained free of charge by calling the Senior Services Help Line at 336-724-2040 or by e-mailing helpline@seniorservicesinc.org. The directory is also available online at www.seniorservicesinc.org, under the "Resources" tab.

WSSU hosts artist John Sims

Interdisciplinary artist John Sims will present a series of multi-media projects that connect math to the arts on Thursday (today), March 21 at 6 p.m. on the campus of Winston-Salem State University in the F. L. Atkins Building, Room 102.

Stream Repair

Forsyth Cooperative Extension, 1450 Fairchild Rd., will host Backyard Stream Repair Workshop on Friday, March 22 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration is \$25. For more information, call 336-703-2850 or send an email to gordonkl@forsyth.cc.

Carter High community event

Carter High School is hosting a community yard sale event on Saturday, March 23 at 851 Highland Court from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be live music from Soulstice Seventh, food vendors, a car wash and games for children in addition to having items for sale. The proceeds will help special students go to a W-S Dash game in April.

Hispanic-American Dems host Judicial System talk

The Forsyth County Hispanic-American Democrats will host a discussion titled "Our Judicial System and the Hispanic Community" on Monday, March 25 from 7-8 p.m. at Forsyth County Democratic Headquarters, 1128 Burke St. Judges Denise Hartsfield and Lisa Menefee will join Immigration Attorney Helen Parsonage in the conversation. This event is free and open to the public.

Library hosts vegetable gardening lecture

The Clemmons Branch Library, 3554 Clemmons Rd., will host a lecture on Intermediate Vegetable Gardening given by Elizabeth O'Meara, master gardener volunteer, on Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. Registration is required. Call Kitrinka Gordon at 336-703-2850 or email gordonkl@forsyth.cc for more information.

Republican Women meeting

The Forsyth County Republican Women will meet on Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. at Jimmy's Seafood & Oyster Bar, 3440 Frontis St. (off South Stratford Road). The

See Community on B8



A class of new Guardians ad Litem volunteers is sworn in on Saturday.

Photos by Todd Luck

I Pledge ...

Volunteers vow to serve as advocates for children

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

More than a dozen volunteers took an oath Saturday on the campus of Winston-Salem State University to serve as advocates for children in court.

For 30 years, the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program, a division of the State of North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, has supplied an advocate attorney and a volunteer GAL to represent children in cases where parents lose custody as a result of abuse and neglect.



GAL District Administrator Linda Devine.

The newest volunteer GALs were welcomed into the program on their last day of training. During the period of separation, volunteer GALs are asked to communicate with the child or children involved in the case, their parents and other involved parties before recommending to the court what they believe is in the best interest of the child or children. They could recommend to a judge that a parent be allowed to regain custody or that the restoration of parental rights be held off for a longer period.

Linda Devine, GAL district administrator for Forsyth, Surry and Stokes counties, said the volunteers are vital to the process, as her division has one attorney currently representing more than 100 children.

"The advocates are the ones who do all the hard work, the leg work, on the case and help advise the court as to what's in the child's best interest," said Devine. "... We're the only person in the courtroom speaking just for the child."

Devine said the goal is to reunite children with their parents within a year. The Forsyth County Department of Social Services offers services and

See GAL on B2



Above: District Court Judge Denise Hartsfield speaks on her experience with GALs.



Left: GAL Program Supervisor Luciana Philyaw gives a certificate to new GAL Harvey Long.



New GALs Cynthia Moir, Alex Bohannon and Harvey Long.



The GAL class listens to Judge Denise Hartsfield.

Find out what's new in Recreation and Parks



WePLAY

coming in the Chronicle
March 28