

BRIEFLY

State games seeks helpers

The North Carolina Senior Games, to be held Sept. 26 to Oct. 1 in Raleigh, is seeking volunteers to help score events, present awards, assist with publicity, souvenir sales, registration and other activities. Call Lynn Alender at (919) 851-5456.

Students help county

A group of graduate students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have been working on a unique public service project involving a bid to bring Bristol Compressors to Sparta in Alleghany County. Students helped county leaders in their successful effort to attract the company to North Carolina.

First night needs artists

Organizers of First Night Raleigh, the annual New Year's Eve celebration of the arts, are looking for artists and volunteers to help plan projects for the event. Volunteers are needed for The Children's Celebration and The People's Procession. Call (919) 832-8699.

Volunteers sought for support group

SAFEchild, a Raleigh-based nonprofit providing family services, is seeking volunteers to work with parents and children as support group facilitators. Groups meet weekly for 10 weeks for 90 minutes in the evening. The next training is Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Joanna Hobler, (919) 231-5800.

Wanted: chili cooks for March of Dimes

Chili cooks are needed for the 13th annual March of Dimes North Carolina Chili Championship and Rubber Duck Regatta to be held on Sept. 16 at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons. Cooking categories are Texas-style and Freestyle. Cooks may enter either competition. To register, call (910) 723-4386 or (800) 443-4093.

New award to honor literacy volunteers

The Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Don Johnston Inc. software developer have created a new award to honor literacy volunteers. Recipients of the Don Johnston Incorporated Literacy Lectureship Award will receive \$1,000 and an invitation to a symposium.

MAXWELL

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center staff publicly honor their most active youth and adult volunteers throughout the year.

Maxwell says her experience in Washington confirmed the value of these events, which "affirm what you're doing even when you didn't think you needed affirmation."

Keeping volunteers' needs in mind in other ways is also key to effective nonprofit leadership, Maxwell says. If volunteering makes sense, it also makes sense for the nonprofit sector to adapt to societal changes, by creating opportunities for volunteering that suit modern lifestyles.

Increased mobility and hectic lifestyles present nonprofit leaders who rely on volunteers with new challenges, Maxwell says.

"People get moved in their jobs so fast that we don't have that long-term commitment of a community," she says.

In addition, with time an increasingly scarce commodity, many people, including single parents and dual-career couples, are less willing or able to take time from their family lives to devote to community service.

Maxwell says the Volunteer Center concentrates on finding ways to make it easy for people in such situations to contribute. The center, for example, focuses more and more on shorter-term commitments, including "one-shot" volunteer opportunities, such as Centerfest and the Festival for the Eno, two annual arts festivals

in Durham.

There also are many ways for parents to resolve the apparent conflict between family time and community service by volunteering with their children, Maxwell says. For example, children and their parents can participate in library programs in which they deliver books and visit with people who are homebound. And Meals on Wheels is a good opportunity for mothers with small children, Maxwell says.

Involving one's children in volunteer work, she says, is an excellent way of encouraging voluntarism in the next generation.

"They see the rewards of volunteering," she says, "and they see it as a way of life."

Maxwell's family life attests to this principle.

"My husband and I both feel strongly about commitment to the community," she says, and their

three children have absorbed this sense of responsibility.

Jim Maxwell, a Durham lawyer, has been a volunteer swim coach in Durham since the second year of their marriage, when he was studying for the bar exam.

"He started the age-group swimming program in Durham," she says proudly, "and he's been volunteering ever since."

Their oldest son, Jonathan, an engineer in Silver Springs, Md., also has been a volunteer swim coach, Maxwell says, and daughter Tracey, a rising senior in public policy at Duke University, is an intern at the National Endowment for the Arts.

Scott Maxwell, a 1994 graduate of the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, is a reporter in Winston-Salem. Scott recently told his mother that he has overcome some journalistic skepticism by remembering that board members of community agencies he reports on are "people just like you."

Smiling, she says, "You never realize what influence you're having on children."

One of Maxwell's earliest and most enduring volunteer commitments has been to the Durham public schools.

"From preschool parties ...through [my children's] senior years in high school, I helped in any way I could," she says, "and never felt I was doing quite enough."

She cites her role in establishing Jordan High School's Choral Music Council - a parent-student group that raises money to support choral tours - as one of her most rewarding experiences. The group gave parents and students a rare chance to work together and get to know one another, she says.

Moreover, it is still doing that, more than five years later.

"The reward is seeing that it still works, seeing people build on the foundation that we created."

Other causes to which Maxwell has given her time and talent span all aspects of public life and include domestic violence, health care, the arts, literacy and scouting. She has served as president or board chair of numerous organizations, including the Junior League of Durham, United Way of Greater Durham, the Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women and the Durham YWCA.

This exhaustive record of community service may be inspirational to you and me, but to Beth Maxwell, it's only logical.

It was just a logical action that emanated from seeing the need.

Volunteering makes sense.

Beth Maxwell

MARROW

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on the marrow registry, said Rhonda Bellamy, a Wilmington spokesman for the campaign.

Getting on the registry requires only a blood test.

If a patient with compatible marrow is found, the donor will be asked to donate a small amount for transplant. A small amount of marrow is removed from the lower part of the

back in a surgical procedure using general anesthesia. Although the surgery might leave the donor a little sore, there are no long-term health effects.

The tissue testing to get on the registry is expensive, usually between \$35 and \$60. But African Americans can get on the list for free as part of the effort to increase the odds for minority patients seeking matching marrow donors.

But for now, the odds still are not

so good for Juan Wilson. Although he's feeling okay most of the time, some days are better than others.

"I'm healthy physically. I can move around and fraternize with my friends, but if I try to work or anything, I get sick," he says. "And mentally it's just breaking me down...that I might die."

For information about the National Marrow Donor Program's registry, call 1-800-MARROW-2.

their own or work in groups, she says, but either way, the students learn through service.

"We have a range of students from different backgrounds. We sometimes will have a student whose parents make \$20 zillion and they say 'I don't have to work or anything - I'll just pay [to get out of the volunteer requirement.]' But that doesn't work. Everybody here has to do the service before they graduate."

The students go out into the community to do their volunteer work, and that helps keep good relations between the college and the town, Bender says.

Students also incorporate their classwork into their service at colleges. It might be hard to imagine how

a student could incorporate community service into an art major, but students in all majors are benefiting from volunteer work.

Sarah Walker, a 19-year-old freshman at Warren Wilson, designed a 40-foot wall mural in an art class. When she finished the course, Sarah coordinated a group of students to paint the mural at a local children's hospital.

Serow said students in all majors are using service projects to enhance their classroom education around the state.

"Look at social studies, for example, or sociology. Instead of just talking about poverty as an abstract, they get to see it," Serow says. "People are starting to look at service learning as a living laboratory."

New resource for housing assistance

The state Housing Finance Agency has just published a manual of 900 public and nonprofit organizations that provide affordable housing or housing-related services. The manual includes 300 more listings than the previous edition and has new sections describing the state's

housing delivery system and federal and state funding sources.

To obtain a copy of the new manual, send \$15 to: Housing Resource Manual, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, P.O. Box 28066, Raleigh, NC 27611-8066; tel. (919) 781-6115.

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SCHOOLS

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that's known as experiential learning."

Among the colleges that have returned surveys, three reported that they require some amount of community service for graduation. One of them, Warren Wilson College, a small, four-year school in Western North Carolina, requires every student to complete 20 hours of service for each year they spend in school.

Community service is included in the school's mission, says Joanna Bender, director of communications for Warren Wilson. Students are encouraged to develop projects on

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