

The Grey Area™

Local and National Unusual News

Rocky Mount/Wendell/Wilson/Zebulon NC Edition – 919.623.9392

Produced by Above And Beyond
Learning Corp.

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**Volume 1, Number 19
November 15, 2011**

The Good News... Public Invited to Help Plan Future

Edgecombe and Nash counties and the City of Rocky Mount welcome the public to help plan the future of the twin county area. The Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners, the Nash County Board of Commissioners, and the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rocky Mount invite participation in “The Twin County Visioning & Strategic Planning Kick-Off” happening this month.

This kick-off meeting’s goals include creating a vision for the Twin County future, identifying issues with public input, and taking the first steps at creating a road map for the next twenty years.

Speaking with Rocky Mount Assistant City Manager Ann Wall, she stated, “The meeting aims to get broad support for the vision of what the Twin County area can be.” She also repeated a quote from management expert and author Peter Drucker, “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” This is an important point they have in mind at City Hall as they prepare for this meeting and the planning to follow.

For those who would like to listen in on the discussions, hear guest speaker Mac Holiday talk about planning, and provide their insights, get to *The Theatre At The Imperial Centre* in downtown Rocky Mount on Tuesday, November 29th before 5:30pm (doors open at 5pm).

While RSVP is not necessary, there is a number to call with advance questions: 252-972-1325.

The Bad News... NC 12 Construction Woes

The NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) continues work on the breaches on NC 12 caused by Hurricane Irene in August. Workers are laying asphalt with supplies ferried in — causing some tie-ups for motorists awaiting the ferry. NCDOT is working on the repairs, as well as organizing public workshops in December to discuss other possible permanent solutions to transportation issues in the area.

News From The Grey Area

Leaves are changing to brilliant colors and fireplaces are sending smoke onto the nightly breezes. The holiday season is here!

The five county area abounds with celebrations, shopping specials, and fun to be had inside where it is warm or outside in the brisk air. Local indoor offerings include origami, games, and plays. Outdoor offerings include science, parades, and music.

Turkey, ham, and more are “coming soon” to many homes and local organizations. Local grocery stores offer specials on these main dishes, and local soup kitchens are collecting donations for the meals they will give away.

Late November happenings are listed inside this issue. Between issues, keep up with *The Grey Area* news and event updates via www.AboveAndBeyondLearning.com and online social media.

The Grey Area has some exciting news to announce in the December 15th issue... Stay tuned for more information!



A Little Local History

Nash County Courthouse

Added to the National Register Of Historic Places in 1979, the Nash County Courthouse in Nashville, NC has stood for over 100 years. It functions as a courthouse, since 1900.



A beautiful example of Colonial Revival architecture by J.C. Stout, this building is a good place to visit to learn more about Nashville’s history. You can even see the shoe prints of President Harry S. Truman preserved in the adjacent garden.

Take an afternoon or evening and drive down Washington Street in Nashville — you can’t miss it!

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Things to Do in NC When You're Bored

*** Rocky Mount ***

Holiday Origami Night (November 17 @ 4:30-6:30pm)
Join us for this workshop at the Braswell Memorial Library, geared toward teens 13-18 years old.
Wiley Meeting Room, 727 North Grace St, Rocky Mount NC
Call Leslie at 252.442.1951 x257 or visit the library website at www.braswell-library.org.

Noises Off: a stageplay (Nov 18-19 @ 7:30pm & Nov 20 @ 2pm)
This "farce" presents a hapless group of actors rehearsing and performing a comedy called "Nothing On." Tickets \$6-\$8.
Theatre at the Maria V. Howard Arts Centre
The Imperial Centre for the Arts & Sciences
270 Gay Street, Rocky Mount NC
Call 252.972.1266 or visit arts.imperialcentre.org.

Geminid Meteor Shower Preview (December 1 @ 7-8:30pm)
Learn the origin of meteoroids, meteors and meteorites. Hold an actual space rock in your hand. A planetarium preview of the early winter sky is included. Ages 7 and up; under 15 must be accompanied by adult. \$8 city residents, \$9 others. Register/pay by Nov. 29th. Fee includes museum admission. Children's Museum & Science Ctr, 270 Gay St., Rocky Mt
Info at 252.972.1586 or museum.imperialcentre.org.

Rocky Mount Christmas Parade (December 4 @ 3pm)
The Parade includes marching bands, performance groups, floats, helium balloons and more. Santa Claus will make a special appearance in the parade. Downtown Rocky Mount
For more details, call Parks & Recreation at 252-972-1151.

*** Wendell ***

Thanksgiving BINGO (November 25 @ 6-9pm)
Come to Wendell for this Friday-after Bingo night.
The Kila Company, 28 Main Street, Wendell NC
For details, call 919.365.5003.

*** Wilson ***

Cinderella (Nov 17-19 @ 7:30pm & Nov 20@3pm)
Presented by ACT! For Youth, the beloved Cinderella story. Tickets: \$12, \$8 students and seniors.
Boykin Center, 108 Nash Street NE, Wilson NC

Fall Concert (November 20 @ 3pm)
A Barton College/Wilson Symphony Orchestra event.
First United Methodist Church, 100 Green Street NE, Wilson
Contact Laura Ashley Lamm at 252.399.6309 or lalamm@barton.edu.

Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Celebration (November 29 @ 6pm)
Hanging of the Greens and Lessons and Carols.
Barton College, Center Campus and Howard Chapel, Wilson
Contact Rev. Hollie Woodruff at 252-399-6368 or hewoodruff@barton.edu.

Trees for Children Festival (December 2)
Fundraiser include hors d'oeuvres & a live silent auction. Tickets \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. Runs 6:30-9:30pm.
Wilson County Agricultural Center, Wilson NC
Contact Kimberly Little at 252.206.4235.

Festive Fridays (December 2 @ 6-8pm)
Horse carriage. Free. Downtown shops open late too.
Imagination Station, 224 Nash Street East, Wilson NC
Visit www.imaginescience.org or call 252.291.5113 for more details.

*** Zebulon ***

East Wake Women in Networking Luncheon (November 16 @ 11:45am-1pm)
Open to all professional women. Event \$10 for members or \$15 for non-members. Fee includes hot lunch & beverage. Speaker is Dana Gillespie, Community Home Care & Hospice. RSVP required.
Eastern Regional Center, 1003 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon
Call 919.269.6320 or visit www.zebulonchamber.org.

Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch (November 18 @ 12-1pm)
Join the seniors group for a tasty holiday lunch. Bring your favorite covered dish to share. Sign up in advance at the community center. Free with a dish to share.
Zebulon Community Center, 401 S Arendell, Zebulon NC

Scrabble Night at Eclectic Intellectual (November 18 & 25 @ 7-10pm)
Come and play Scrabble for fun, conversation, and coffee.
120 North Arendell Avenue, Zebulon NC
More info at 919.375.4486 or www.twitter.com/EIzebulon


Brown Bag Lunch Ministry (November 19 & 26)
Zebulon UMC and St. Eugene Catholic Church distribute brown bag lunches and personal hygiene items to the needy.
Zebulon: Gannon Ave & N Church Street (11:30am-12:30)
Wendell: St. Eugene, 608 Lions Club Road (9am-10:30am)
www.zumchurch.org & www.steugeneparish.org

McLean's Ole Time Cafe Trivia Night (November 20 & 27 @ 7:30pm)
Sunday night trivia. Offers free fun and prizes.
418 W Gannon Avenue, Zebulon NC
More details, call 919.269.0125.

*** Elsewhere ***



Thanksgiving Day Meal To Community (November 24)
Organized by Saint Paul Holiness Church.
5614 Highway 58 N, Elm City NC
For info, call Pastor Gwen Council at 252.363.3302. The church may be reached at 252.291.7702.

Carving the Way (November 26 @ 10am-3pm)
The Tobacco Farm Life Museum presents their "Stepping into the Past" Saturday event series. This "Carving the Way" presentation on Woodworkers includes demonstrations with your regular cost of admissions into the museum.
709 North Church Street, Hwy 301, Kenly NC
Info 919.284.3431 or www.tobaccofarmlifemuseum.org.



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Thrifty Shopping: Black Friday & Far Beyond

While some folks have cruised second-hand stores all their lives, others are just getting to know these community shops. Resale stores offer a variety of goods from needs to household sundries to treasures from all eras.

This time of year, many regular retail shops hold sales. The same is true for thrift stores. These economically-advantageous shops provide a great way to stretch a dollar and provide one with what is needed during tight times. Saving money has become a high priority for people throughout the five county area and across the US.

Families seeking clothes for work, school, and play may find all that they need at their local thrift stores. Often clothing found in a thrift or consignment shop is greatly discounted and in very good condition — sometimes never worn. Shoes, coats, headgear, and accessories can be had for much less than when purchased new.

With the holidays in mind, shoppers not only watch for things they need, but special gifts to pass on to friends and family. Looking for a lunch box from school-days past? Or a pocket watch like grampa used to have? Or a vintage dress for a dance? Special items may be found frequently and reasonably priced.

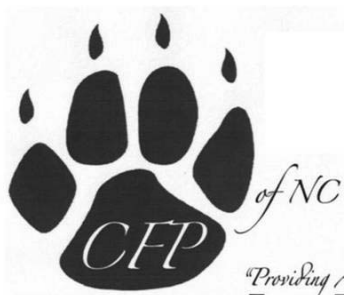
Collectibles, antiques, and unique gifts wait patiently on the shelves of resale shops for someone to spot them. Shoppers who like to give unusual gifts or collectibles seek these items and often find them through thrift and consignment.

One of the ways non-profits gain funds for their causes is through collection and resale of donations. Community support is a side effect of buying second-hand from these organizations' shops. Not only can shoppers get bargains, they can feel good knowing the money is going to a specific, often-local cause.

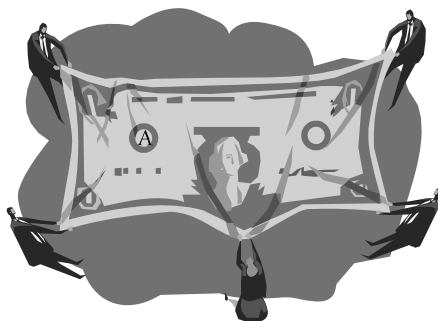
Another nice side-effect of thrift and consignment stores is that they provide an avenue for recycling items that might otherwise end up in a land fill. Families donate clothing and household goods, heirs donate the contents of relatives homes, and even the shops themselves send clothing unfit for resale to textile recycling centers.

Some folks are thrifty their entire life, others thrifty by necessity, and some just seek the extraordinary. No matter what sends shoppers to resale, the shoppers are there and business is booming. Pull into a parking lot at a local shop, and the lot may be full. Shoppers each day find clothing and household accessories they are seeking as well as great gifts in the same shopping trip.

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