

New online programs for adults in McCormick

Edgefield-McCormick County Adult Education presents a new opportunity for McCormick County residents to learn and improve literacy skills at their own pace. The online programs will assist adult learners by preparing them to earn their GED diploma, computer literacy, and career readiness certification. The program is specifically designed for adults who live in rural areas or have busy schedules. The programs also allow the learner to study from the comforts of their home, and the use of a mobile device to improve skills.

This blended learning platform allows the student to actively engage in preparation for the GED tests, improve computer skills and Workplace Learning using the WIN System. Each learning opportunity includes instructional support from a certified teacher. The teacher is trained to respond to any technical or learning issue the student may have while using the online programs. The student will also be given the opportunity to participate in the GED test for free. This is a \$150 value for becoming an online student through the program.

According to Vickie Butler, program director, "the goal of the program is to increase learning accessibility to McCormick County adult learners and prepare them for future opportunities. She adds no one will

be denied an opportunity to complete their education or prepare for a career because of location."

She adds "computerized learning and interactions have become a part of our daily existence. The programs have built-in interactive and incentivized lessons intended for adults and are based on how they learn best. Not only are the lessons customized to how the learner learns, but they are designed to keep the learner interested and moving forward."

There are program requirements that potential students must fulfill prior to enrolling in the class. These requirements include:

- Must be at least 17 years old or older and withdrawn from high school
- Attend Registration and Orientation (\$25 non-refundable fee)
- Internet access
- Hold a South Carolina valid ID

All students are required to take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) pre and post-assessment when enrolled in the program. Once the student is enrolled, he or she must access the online program weekly and commit to studying four to six hours per week. If the student fails to do so, he or she will be automatically withdrawn from the program. For more information regarding the program, please contact Vickie C. Butler at (803) 275-4158.



The "Community Cats" program is in need of volunteers to assist with morning feedings. If interested, contact Chris Wagner at c.wagner9244@gmail.com

Cats, cats and more cats!

By Pauline Dain

You may know that the Humane Society of McCormick County is doing a great job taking care of all the homeless cats (and dogs!) in McCormick, but have you ever wondered about how much work goes into providing care for so many cats on a DAILY basis?

The HSMC cat team has broken down the daily tasks into five different areas all of which are currently in need of additional volunteers. All are essential to the program and all will leave volunteers with the knowledge that they have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of cats and kittens.

The first area in need is the "Community Cats" program which provides daily morning feedings to seven small cat colonies within the town of McCormick. Some cats are outgoing while others are shy and watch from a safe distance. But all meow in appreciation to have a meal and clean water served up fresh, seven days a week. Potential volunteers should be willing to make a one to two hour a week commitment.

The "AM Clean and Feed Shift" is the second area in need and takes place at the "Cat Haven" on HSMC's refuge site. Every morning a team of two volunteers feeds the cats and kittens at the haven and cleans their areas. Some days require a full clean of litter boxes while others may just need a "sift." You may be asked to throw in a load or two of laundry while you work and if there is extra time wash a few windows smudged by curious noses and playful paws. Interested volunteers should be able to commit to four to five hours a week.

Afternoons/early eves are home to the third area, the "Sift and Play" shift where one volunteer will come to the Haven to do the final visit of the day. Litter boxes get a quick "sift", kittens are fed and adult kitties get treats. All get some fun play time. Volunteers should expect one to two hours a week of commitment.

If you love cats but can't commit to a weekly schedule, then you might consider the forth option "Adoption Day," which takes place at PetSmart and Petco in Aiken (during normal store hours) on Saturdays and requires a one day per month commitment. Volunteers help load kitties hoping for a forever home into the van and make the drive to Aiken. Once at the store, you will help unload the precious cargo then be available to meet potential adopters, answer questions and make sure the person/family will be a good fit. Follow-up measures are taken to make sure all is well in the new home and that any remaining medical needs are completed. Adoptions are a VITAL part of the cat program and enable HSMC to continue to accept new kittens and cats into the haven.

The fifth and final area in need asks for a four hour a month commitment spent having fun-fun-fun! The bi-monthly "Cat Café" is held Sundays at the Cat Haven and affords visitors the opportunity to play with the cats and kittens while indulging in some sweet refreshments. This is not only fun time for the cats, it also helps them overcome any shyness around people and feel more comfortable at adoption days. Volunteers may elect to help out by baking a treat or greet visitors and answer questions. While this is just a day of fun for the kitties, sometimes a visitor might fall in love and become a new cat mom or dad.

Interested in helping? Have more questions? Please contact one of the following members of the team:

Chris Wagner - Cat Coordinator
c.wagner9244@gmail.com

Bonnie Toyzan
bltoyzan@gmail.com

Denise Therreault
dtherreault@yahoo.com

Kathleen Mihalyak
kmihalyak@gmail.com



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Freshwater Coast donates \$1,000 to Due West club

By Bob Stockton

The Freshwater Coast Community Foundation (FCCF) donated \$1,000 to the Due West Robotics Club in honor of Lee W. Logan.

The funds came from the WCTEL Abbeville County Donor Advised Funds as a way of thanking Logan for his work assisting FCCF. "I really appreciate the gift in my honor especially knowing it came from the WCTEL Donor Advised Fund account. The Foundation continues to make great strides in making a big difference in the quality of life in our

area," said Logan, who helped start FCCF.

Charles Angel, founder of the Due West Robotics Club, said "We appreciate everything the Freshwater Coast Community Foundation is doing in our area. On behalf of everyone involved in Due West Robotics, thank you for this generous contribution."

For more information about the Due West Robotics Club, go to dwestrobotics.org. For more information about FCCF, go to freshwatercoastfoundation.org.



Freshwater Coast Community Foundation board member Brad Evans (left) presents a check to Charles Angel, founder of the Due West Robotics Club.

World Day of Prayer USA set for Friday, March 1

World Day of Prayer USA is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on the first Friday in March.

This will be the 5th year that churches from the McCormick area have joined together to celebrate World Day Of Prayer USA. Many women from many local churches are working together to make this a truly meaningful event.

Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer USA worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up issues of mission, justice, and peace that are important to them.

The host country for Word Day

of Prayer 2019 is Slovenia. The focus is on Jesus' parable of the Great Dinner (in Lk. 14:15-24) with the theme "Come - Everything is Ready". One phrase in the worship service especially captures the ideas we will explore: "Welcoming God, in your love, you have prepared a table for all, and you inspire us to open our hearts and our homes to offer a place to the ones who are not yet at the table." Who isn't at your table yet? Who isn't at your World Day of Prayer service . . . yet? The women of Slovenia challenge us all to widen our circles, to expand our communities.

Everyone is invited. There is no charge for this community relationship building event! Please contact Linda Crochet 864-391-9696 for additional information.

Milestones

Congratulations and best wishes to the following persons who celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week.

January 25 - Mike Cameron, Neal Leverette, Wesley White, Jena White, Ulla Willis, Trudy Keene, Tracy Hearst, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Powell, Zelma Lou Wideman.

January 26 - Joyce F. Callahan, James B. Lindley, Greg McMillan, Jackie McDonald, Clara Mims, Clara Gilchrist, Ginger Dukes, Chasdy Key, Catherine Hill, Joe Gaffney.

January 27 - Erika Dorn, Marian

Miller, Phillip Sears, James and Vira Parks, P.C. Dorn, Rosemary and E.C. Carson, Miyarae Payton, Austin Jester, Jaleliah Wiggleton, Geneva Green, Henry Settles, Jennifer Pearce, Michelle Tant, Sheila Wolf.

January 28 - Lewis Brown, G.W. Hall, Termaine Harrison, Gwen Chiles, Wanda Duffie, Alex Murphy, Brooke Crutchfield, E4 Earl Dorn, George Durant, Gwen Sibert.

January 29 - Leonard Bowick, Bill Miller, Keith New, Betty Jean Wideman, Gina Wright, Ellen Z. Robertson, Edward Zimmerman, B. G. Craig, Bonnie Noble, Greg Thompson, John Paul Norman, Al and Hattie Baglyos, Lee Sautter, Eugene Houston.

January 30 - Wallace B. Wood, Mary Sue Miller, Jennifer Madison, Gage Banks, Pam Floyd, Curt Wideman, Kerry Cartledge, Beth Owen, Mary Anne Anderson, X'Aavion Burns, Janice Masich, Lori Schechter, Steve and Dina Vlaun.

January 31 - Steve Edmunds, Derry W. Storey, Winsor Lou Adams, Jeffery and Peggie Robertson, Wilbur Mims Jr., Justin Reed, Jamail Blair, Luke B. Watson, Linda Mofatt, Tiffany Harrison.

Volunteers needed to deliver meals

The McCormick County Senior Center is looking for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels. Volunteers deliver a noon meal to homebound residents Monday through Friday every week. Meals are picked up for delivery by 10:45 a.m. each day and can be delivered within one hour or less. Contact Karen Freeman at 465-2626 for more information.

Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is free to McCormick County Children ages birth to 4 years. Each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home, until he/she turns five and as long as you remain a resident of McCormick County. It's a FREE gift to your child! All you have to do is read to your children. To register contact: McCormick County First Steps, firststepsmc@wctel.net or 864-852-9018.



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