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# Black Mountain News

WEEK OF APRIL 25 - MAY 1, 2019

SERVING THE SWANNAHOA VALLEY SINCE 1945

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Black Mountain deputy fire chief John Wilson, right, picks up a plate of spaghetti at the Hand In Hand fundraiser to support Swannanoa Valley schools on April 5. PHOTOS BY FRED MCCORMICK

## Hand In Hand cooks up help for local schools

### Eight churches provide volunteers to support Owen District students

**Fred McCormick** Black Mountain News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dozens of people got together at Grove Stone Baptist Church on April 5 for lunch, but the steaming spaghetti wasn't the warmest thing about it—the gesture was.

Over 200 meals, prepared and donated by the members of Black Mountain nonprofit Hand In Hand, Inc. were served to diners, with 129 ordered in advance for delivery.

Every cent raised went to the students of the Owen District.

Hand in Hand was formed in 2006 after Lois Nix started volunteering at Black Mountain Primary, where her granddaughters attended school.



**Lois Nix**

"I went over one day and asked if they needed a volunteer, after I'd retired from the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, said Nix, who was the executive director of the Black Mountain nonprofit organization for 26 years. "They can always use a volunteer."

The pastor of her church (Reverend Richard Ploch), Tabernacle United Methodist, was fulfilling the same duties at Swannanoa United Methodist Church, which had just started its weekly Welcome Table.

"He said 'we need to get an initiative started here like the Welcome Table in Swannanoa,'" Nix said. "I went up to (former Black Mountain Primary) principal Mr. Green and asked if I could volunteer that day in the special needs classroom."

What she saw sticks with her to this day.

"I saw some children in there, some of them



Hand In Hand member Jon Hopkins prepares to take a spaghetti delivery to a customer.

wouldn't have a clean diaper or change of clothes and things like that," she said. "When I went home I called the pastor and said 'I think I found our ministry.'"

The church's outreach committee got together and thought it would be best to appeal to other area churches for support.

"So here we are," Nix said.

Today eight churches participate in Hand in Hand. The organization, made up of a team of dedicated volunteers, supports all six schools within the Owen school district.

"We meet with the counselors at the beginning of each semester," Nix said. "They each give us a written report of how they've spent the money we've

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A truck drives past construction at the base of the property of the Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth and Families on April 18. The building will be a thrift store and cafe to benefit the home. ANGELI WRIGHT/AWRIGHT@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

## Black Mountain Home readies training program

### Construction underway on thrift shop and cafe that will provide funds to help children

**Marla Hardee Milling** special to Black Mountain News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's an exciting time at the Black Mountain Home for Children as it pushes Phase I into place to offer a new apprenticeship program to residents in Rae Campbell Independent Living Village, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in December.

Students will receive hands-on training in the two-year program through four different employment tracks: culinary arts, maintenance/automotive, hospitality/housekeeping and outdoor leadership/recreation.

"These are paid apprenticeships. The first year is on campus and the second year they will work for one of our community partners," said Sarah Thomas, director of donor and employee relations.

"Ridgecrest Conference Center has already signed on to be our first official partner. They have jobs in all of our training tracks. Hopefully at the end of the program, the businesses will hire the apprentices. Our goal is to work toward a living wage."

The BMHC serves kids from birth to college graduation, including residential care and family foster care in the community. The apprenticeship program is offered to individuals who have graduated from high school or earned a GED.

"There are also some young people who will need lifelong support," said Thomas. "They'll never be able to go out and do this on their own. The way we look at it, parents don't say to their kids when they are 18 good luck, you're on your own. These are our kids. We they turn 18, we want to continue to support them, just like

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## It's Nice to Fish in the Streams Again Stable on my Feet

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## THIS WEEK IN THE SWANNAO VALLEY

**Kiwanis Club seeks grant applications from local nonprofits**

The Kiwanis Club of Black Mountain-Swannanoa is inviting local nonprofit organizations to apply for community service grants to fund projects or programs aimed at improving the lives of children and families in the Swannanoa Valley.

Interested organizations should Email Carol McNally at [cmerncally@gmail.com](mailto:cmerncally@gmail.com) for a grant application. Completed applications must be emailed or postmarked by Friday, June 28, 2019.

Completed applications sent via U-S mail should be addressed to the Kiwanis Club of Black Mountain-Swannanoa, P.O. Box 491, Black Mountain, NC 28711, Attn: Carol McNally.

**Inviting all Bridge players**

Whether you're a "lapsed" duplicate player or an enthusiastic social player, please consider visiting our Duplicate Bridge group down at Lake Tomahawk Tuesday evenings. To learn more, call Roger at 828-200-2539.

**Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry needs**

A current list of needs at the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry: Canned corn, canned pork and beans, canned red kidney beans, canned black beans, canned mixed vegetables, Ramen noodles (beef or chicken), coffee, cooking oil, laundry soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, toilet paper, pull-ups, and men's jeans. Monetary donations designated to food are also welcome (send to P.O. Box 235). Drop off items at 101 N. Ridgeway Avenue, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

**Celebrate Recovery meetings**

Are you or someone you know struggling with anger, codependency, eating disorder, love & relationship addiction, abuse, alcohol, drug or other forms of addiction? Celebrate Recovery, which meets every Tuesday evening at Mountain View Church on 2221 North Fork-Right Fork, features inspiring teaching and testimonies of God's healing power by our family in recovery.

Meetings begin at 6:15 p.m. with a free meal, before worship, testimony, or lessons begin at 7 p.m. Small groups take place at 8:00 p.m. for open share and 12-Step studies, before dessert is served at 9 p.m. Free child care is available. For more information contact Connie at 669-1981 or Jeanie at 669-4146.

**Poker night at the VFW**

VFW Post 9157 is hosting Wednesday night poker night. The weekly tournaments are open to the public, with the first one beginning at 7 p.m., followed by a 9 p.m. tournament.

Lou the Commander will cook dinner plates and dinner is \$5. A \$5 credit will be awarded to the winner of each tournament.

**Museum hosts historic spring tea**

On **Saturday, April 27**, history lovers and those who enjoy the sweet and savory tastes of a formal tea will gather at "Far Horizons" - the historic Weatherford home in Blue Ridge Assembly - for a special celebration of spring.

The tea will include sweet, savory, and scones courses (with homemade jam and clotted cream) as well as bottomless cups of freshly-brewed tea. Music duo StrathSpan will perform Scottish music with an innovative flair on fiddle and cello. A short talk will also be given by Julia Weatherford, granddaughter of Dr. Willis Weatherford, Sr., founder of the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly.

Ms. Weatherford will discuss the history of the Far Horizons home, her grandfather's legacy and her grandmother's life. With this event, Far Horizons - completed ca. 1940 - will be open through a special one-time arrangement with the Weatherford family and Blue Ridge Assembly. Seatings are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Tables of eight can be purchased by members for \$175. Advance ticket purchase is required at [swannanoavalleymuseum.org/events](http://swannanoavalleymuseum.org/events)

**Aging veterans presentations**

The Vietnam Veterans of America North Carolina State Council, the Buncombe County Veterans Council and the Charles George VA Medical Center are holding a series of presentations geared toward aging veterans on **Saturday, April 27**, in the Ferguson Auditorium at A-B Tech.

The presentations begin at 8:30 a.m. and include discussions about health care, survivors' benefit programs, burial at state and national cemeteries and more. Pastries, coffee, juice and water will be provided and the event runs until 1 p.m.

For more information contact Thomas Whetstine at [thomas.whetstine@yahoo.com](mailto:thomas.whetstine@yahoo.com).

**Fundraiser at Victory Baptist Church**

Victory Baptist Church, on Vance Avenue, will host a fundraising breakfast, yard sale and bake sale at 11 a.m. on **Saturday, April 27**.

**Sacred Circle Dance at the Light Center**

Sacred Circle Dance is an easy movement meditation, set to beautiful music from all over the world, holding hands in a circle. Each dance is gently taught, no partners or previous experience required.

This event, led by Maggie Moon O'Neill, is 2-4 p.m.

**Sunday, April 28**, at 2190 NC 9, 8 miles south of Black Mountain. Suggested donation \$12. All genders welcome, teens and older. Please carpool if possible, as parking is limited.

For more information contact Maggie at [oneill.maggie9@gmail.com](mailto:oneill.maggie9@gmail.com) or check the Light Center website <http://www.uright.org/>.

**And coming up ... Swannanoa Community Yard Sale**

Dozens of sellers and hundreds of buyers will come together from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on **Saturday, May 4**, for the bi-annual Swannanoa Community Yard Sale in the parking lot of the Swannanoa Ingles at 2299 U.S. Hwy. 70.

Seller spaces are approximately 10 feet x 15 feet and cost \$10 to reserve. For information and reservations, call (828) 581-9707 or email [SwannanoaYardSale@gmail.com](mailto:SwannanoaYardSale@gmail.com). Sponsored by Friends and Neighbors of Swannanoa (FANS), [www.SwannanoaFAN-S.org](http://www.SwannanoaFAN-S.org).

**Junior tennis clinics**

Black Mountain Recreation and Parks and Black Mountain Tennis Association Junior Tennis Clinics:

■ KinderTennis, ages 3-6, Tuesdays in May, 5-5:45 p.m., \$30.

■ 7 and 8 Year Old Clinic, Tuesdays in May, 5-5:45 p.m., \$30.

■ 9 and 10 Year Old Clinic, Thursdays in May (beginning May 9), 5-5:45, \$30.

Register at [blackmountainrecreationandparks.com](http://blackmountainrecreationandparks.com). For more info, 828-669-2052.

**Springtime plant exchange and pollinator talk**

Do you have extra plants? Want to learn about creating a pollinator garden?

Then join us on **Saturday, May 4** as our Sowing Circle series begins at 9:30 a.m. with a Springtime Plant Exchange.

Share your plants with fellow gardeners and pick-up some new ones for yourself.

At 10:15 a.m., relax and listen to Brannen Basham, Spriggly's Beescaping, give a presentation on Plants for Pollinators.

Creating a pollinator garden requires more than just planting flowers, although those are a great start. Learn how to create a pollinator garden that provides forage and habitat year round for a variety of pollinators, along with other beneficial insects and animals.

These free events will be held at the Black Mountain Library located on 105 North Dougherty Street and sponsored by Black Mountain Blooms Seed Lending Library.

For more information email [blackmountainblooms@gmail.com](mailto:blackmountainblooms@gmail.com).

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