

Wills Memorial Hospital Foundation sets 'From the Heart' Valentine benefit Feb. 7

By DEBBIE BENNETT

The Wills Memorial Hospital Foundation (WMHF) is again sponsoring a Valentine benefit, "From the Heart," on February 7, at The Pope Center. Proceeds from the benefit will be dedicated to the planned Wills Memorial Hospital renovation.

Phase 1 of the renovation is the construction of a new 19-room patient wing. When completed, this project will provide a \$13 million state-of-the-art addition to Wills Memorial Hospital and to Wilkes County's infrastructure at no cost to Wilkes County taxpayers. The project is backed by a HUD loan.

WMHF, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose sole purpose is to benefit Wills Memorial Hospital. The main goal of the Foundation this year and in future years is to

contribute as much as possible to help reduce the HUD loan.

The WMHF cordially invites you to attend "From the Heart" on February 7. This year's event is slightly different from last year's. It will begin with a cocktail party and heavy hors d'oeuvres at 7 p.m. followed by a dance from 8-11 p.m. The fabulous band is the same as last year, "The Usual Suspects" who are again being sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. John Horton and Mr. and Mrs. David Chestnut.

Tickets are \$125 each. Reservation checks should be made payable to "WMHF, Inc." and may be dropped off at Tena's Jewelry and Gifts in Washington or mailed to WMHF, Inc.; c/o Steve Albertson, CPA; P O Box 176; Washington, GA 30673.

If groups of eight wish to reserve an entire table, all reservation

checks may be submitted at one time with a note or contact Pat Niemann (pniemann@willsmemorialhospital.com or call 706-678-9272.) The event committee will accommodate requests on a first-come first-served basis.

If you are unable to attend the event, WMHF encourages you to consider a tax-deductible contribution or a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one during the month of February. Wills Memorial Hospital is an important part of Wilkes County and the surrounding areas. Your support will greatly help this with this project.

On behalf of Wills Memorial Hospital, the Foundation sends special thanks to all who have supported Wills Memorial Hospital in the past and continue to do so with their generous support.



Beta Sigma Phi donates for cancer equipment

To help in the fight against cancer, the Eta Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority recently made a \$6,000 donation to Wills Memorial Hospital. Dawn Pickens, (center) representing the sorority's cancer committee, presented the check to Marvin Goldman, Wills Memorial CEO and Jane Echols, Director of Nursing. The donation will be used toward the purchase of equipment for treatment of prostate cancer.

Wilkes Board of Education offers two-year contract to Dr. Caddell

The Wilkes County Board of Education has offered a contract to Dr. Rosemary W. Caddell to succeed Joyce Williams as Superintendent of Schools when Williams retires at the end of June.

The board met in executive session Monday to interview Caddell. "We had a good interview, and the board agreed to offer Dr. Caddell a contract," said Chairman Ricky Callaway. "I sat down with her right then to begin contract negotiations."

The contract will be similar to that offered to Williams, with an initial two-year term and annual extensions at the board's will. "Now we're just working out details of benefits and salary," Callaway said.

Callaway said he will go back to the board with the detailed contract before the next board meeting and

have any needed discussion in executive session. Then the board will formally approve the contract in open session, allowing Callaway to offer the contract for Caddell to sign. "It is my intention to act on this at our regular meeting January 26."

In the search for an athletic director to replace Coach Russell Morgan, the seven-member community committee met this week to consider some 25 qualified candidates, Callaway said. "They met for more than two hours last night, and they report that everything went well," he said. They will rank the candidates and pass their recommendation on to an executive committee consisting of Williams, Caddell, and W-WCHS Principal Steve Echols. The board desires to have a candidate named before the end of the month, Callaway said.

Main Street program praised by state assessment team

Washington's Main Street Program has passed its annual assessment, program manager David Jenkins said, garnering praise from the state of Georgia.

Mary Alice Applegate of the Office of Downtown Development for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs conducted the annual assessment visit on Thursday, January 8, 2009, and awarded the program continued accreditation for 2009, he said.

In her assessment, Applegate said, "Washington's Main Street program



Memory Lane Cruisers donate to community groups

President David McClearen (right) of the Memory Lane Cruisers donated \$500 each to several groups serving Wilkes County, including the Wilkes EMS, the Washington Fire Department, the Mary Willis Library, and the Wilkes unit of the Salvation Army. Receiving the checks were (l-r) Jan Howard for the library, Dot Harris for the Salvation Army, Fire Capt. Kevin Tucker, and EMS Director Blake Thompson. The Wilkes County Animal Shelter will also receive \$500 but a representative was unable to attend the meeting. The donations were made in memory of Memory Lane charter member Joe Charing. "Our club would like to thank everyone who helps with the annual Cruise-Ins on The Square which makes it possible to make these donations," McClearen said.

is very strong – it seems that all of Washington's downtown development 'partners' are on the same page, working together to create a climate of success. When I say

partners, I mean the City of Washington's staff and elected officials, the DDA (Downtown Development Authority), the Chamber of Commerce, downtown businesses, and

even civic organizations."

Applegate said that Washington has used a number of downtown development tools. "They have been very proactive to encourage development. For example, they are one of only six cities in the state to have established an Opportunity Zone classification in 2008, to be able to offer job tax credits for new businesses in the designated area."

Come celebrate the city's birthday next Friday, Jan. 23, on The Square

Citizens and visitors will celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the City of Washington next Friday, January 23, at 12:30 p.m. on The Square in front of Wilkes County courthouse, organizers say.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the founding of Washington on January 23, 1780, and to publicize the Revolutionary Days Celebration planned for February 13, 14 and 15.

Next Friday's event will open with a welcome by Washington Mayor Pro-Tem Pamela Eaton, who will acknowledge the birthday of the city, and read the City of Washington Proclamation.

Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution President Bobby Towns and Carol Faz, Regent of the Kettle Creek DAR, will speak, along with local historian Skeet Willingham, who will describe the founding of Washington in 1780.

The Georgia Society SAR Color Guard will present the colors, including raising a Betsy Ross Flag on the Court House flag pole, and Bartram Trail Regional Librarian Lillie Crowe will describe Revolutionary Days' impact on Wilkes County schools and the Mary Willis Library.

Walker Chewning, SAR Chairman of the 2009 celebration, will speak on highlights of the 230th Anniversary of Battle of Kettle Creek activities, and Tourism Director Ashley Barnett will describe Revolutionary Days' impact on Washington-Wilkes tourism.

The ceremony is expected to last 30 minutes and is open to the pub-

lic. In addition to reviewing the prescribed assessment documentation, Jenkins said, Applegate visited several downtown businesses and interviewed DDA board members Pam Eaton, Mike Eskew, and Debbie Jackson, and also interviewed Main Street Manager Jenkins.

The Main Street program is a national organization which comes under the purview of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and strives to promote development, revitalization and historic preservation in the downtown area of its member cities through a four-point approach which includes organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring.

Primary school needs Box Tops to raise funds for tech purchases

Teachers, students, parents, PTG members and others throughout the community have been joining efforts to earn money to benefit the students at Washington-Wilkes Primary School. W-WPS invites you and others in the community to join the final months of the "Box Tops for Education" project and make a difference in the lives of Wilkes County children.

"Yes, you can make a difference! You can make a difference every time you shop for groceries!" said W-WPS Principal Florence Sandifer. Just clip the Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send them to W-WPS or drop them in the drop boxes at your next visit to Bi-Lo, Ingles, and IGA. Each box top you send will earn money for the school.

More details about the program and a list of products can be found

at www.boxtops4education.com. The school is hoping to get as many involved as possible during the months of January and February, as the deadline for submitting box tops is February 28.

The Wilkes County School system understands the importance of providing quality instruction that includes the integration of the most current technology, and W-WPS is making strong efforts to raise the funds needed to make every classroom at W-WPS a 21st Century Classroom.

"W-WPS is excited about the opportunity to raise funds for the purchase of this technology and welcomes support from the community," Sandifer said. "W-WPS knows that joining efforts and working 'Together for Technology' will keep the students of Wilkes County on the cutting edge."

Community Calendar

- January 15 Tignall Homemakers Club, 2 p.m., North Wilkes Library
Tea and Learn, 2:30 p.m., WMH Cafe
Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.
Board of Registrars, 10 a.m., Courthouse
- January 17 New Saints CME SNAP, 10 a.m.
- January 18 Mt. Carmel deacon program, 4 p.m.
- January 19 DAR, 12 noon, Woman's Club
- January 21 Census job recruiter, 2 p.m., MW Library
- January 22 CofC banquet, 6:30 p.m., Pope Center
Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.
- January 23 Wilkes Board of Health, 11 a.m., health dept.
- January 24 New Saints CME SNAP, 10 a.m.
- January 26 Board of Education, 7:00 p.m.
Civil War Roundtable, 6 p.m., Jockey Club
- January 27 WMH Auxiliary, 10 a.m., WMH Library
- January 31 Solomon Pool Deliverance Evening of Songs, 5 p.m.
- February 5 Wills Memorial Hospital Managing Diabetes, 5 p.m.
- February 8 Mulberry Baptist black history program, 3 p.m.
Pleasant Grove Junior Choir, anniversary, 3 p.m.
- New Sutton pastor anniversary, 3 p.m.
- February 9 Washington City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall
- February 12 County Commissioners, 2 p.m.
Friends of the Library, 3 p.m.
- February 15 Black History Program, 4 p.m., Mt. Carmel
New Sutton black history program, 11:30 a.m.
- February 21 Heard's Chapel black history program, 3 p.m.
- February 23 TLM Baby Dedication, 7 p.m., Third Shiloh

First Baptist Pre-K students go Christmas caroling



First Baptist Church Pre-K students enjoyed caroling around town on Thursday and Friday before Christmas when they entertained and delighted two businesses and 16 individuals. The pupils sang songs and passed out goodie bags of cookies, peppermint, and Hershey's Kisses to their hosts. Some sang along with the children and some shared stories with them. Pre-K kids who went caroling at the CSRA Adult Day Care Center were (top photo, front, l-r) Jackson Thornton, Levi Durham, Mattie Heard, Ella Jackson, Hagan Ball, Emily Hardy, Sydney McClairn, (back) Brock Hammond, Nathan Durham, Lexie Land, Daniel Broome, and Jakob Aspinwall. In the lower photo, carolers are shown during their stop at Wilkes Publishing Company.



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church will be having its annual deacon board program January 18 at 4 p.m. Rev. Lance Pitts and members of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Greensboro will be the guests.

The 2009 Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held Thursday, January 22, 6:30 p.m., at the Pope Conference Center. Cost for Chamber members is \$20; non-members, \$25. Call 706-678-2013 for reservations, or chamber@washingtonwilkes.org

Wills Memorial Hospital is sponsoring a "Managing Diabetes for Patients and Families" series. The dates are January 15, and 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the hospital library.

Michelle White will deliver her initial sermon Sunday, January 18, 3 p.m., at Clifford Grove Baptist Church, Rayle.

New Life Baptist Church began having services in the Washington Chapel building January 4. Sunday morning services are at 11 a.m.; Sunday night at 6 p.m.; Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Pastor John Smith and the congregation invite the public to attend.

The Wilkes County Board of Health will meet Friday, January 23, at 11 a.m. at the health department on Gordon Street.

The public is invited to a free educational series, "Living with Diabetes," sponsored by Wills Memorial Hospital. The series will be held January 22, 29, and February 5, 5-7 p.m., in the hospital's Nash Library. Make reservations by calling 706-678-9368 or 706-678-9296.

The Wilkes County Board of Registrars will meet Thursday, January 15, Room 323, Wilkes County Courthouse, 10 a.m.