

MATTIE Arts Center Celebrates 3 years- Fun for the whole family!

On Saturday, October 31st, the MATTIE Arts Center, a non-profit organization, will celebrate completion of its third year of operation. Located in the Hyde County historic courthouse in downtown Swan Quarter, MATTIE opened its doors on October 1st, 2012. Since that time, they have had more than 500 student enrollments in classes and workshops running the gamut from ornamental concrete design to fine arts, and have augmented incomes for local and area artists and instructors in excess of \$22,000.

As has become a tradition, MATTIE celebrates their anniversary the same date as the annual Down East Arts and Crafts Show which is held across the commons at the new government center. MATTIE's festivities start at 10 AM with outdoor activities geared to kids and adults alike. There will be Sidewalk Art- painting duck prints leading to the entrance, and Sand Art. You can get into some friendly competition with the Corn Hole toss or get your face painted (with or without your Halloween costume!). All activities are free of charge.

Enjoy free refreshments inside the arts center while you browse the works of first time exhibitor, gourd artist Sondra Michael Gibbs. Expertly carved with American Indian motif, these gourds will astound you. Meet Tom Phillips, gifted self taught acrylics painter with over 100 original works on display. And don't forget to visit the MATTIE's Sales Gallery where you will find select works of 32 local and area artists and some Hyde County souvenirs.

Come hungry! Hot sandwiches from the chuck wagon or full meals at the SQ VFD will be available all day.

MATTIE Arts is the program of the Friends of Hyde County's Historic Courthouse, a 501 (c) 3 organization and is administered totally by volunteers. MATTIE is sponsored in part by the NC Arts Council through a Grassroots Grant administered by the Beaufort County Arts Council, and through private donations. If you would like to become a sustainer or need more information, please visit us at www.hyde1854courthouse.org or at www.facebook.com/Mattieartscenter or call (252) 943-8991.

Submitted by Judy Hickman McLawhorn
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