

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They distribute coats to those in need as well as to schools in Anson County. Blankets for the elderly are also available. Gumbys on Highway 74 in Lilesville is a drop off site for donations, or a pick up point for those who need a coat. Just call to schedule it. To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Access to family planning health care is critical to reaching your life's goals.

Improving the health of this generation and the next.



WWW.FAMILYPLANNINGFOUNDATION.ORG

Schedule a physical and/or birth control consult today at the Anson County Health Department

ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

110 Ashe Street

Wadesboro 704-694-5188

Sliding fee scale for the uninsured.



FAMILY PLANNING IS THE FOUNDATION

FUNDED BY TITLE X REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

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You Decide: Will the Economy Retreat in 2019?

By Dr. Mike Walden: It's that time of year when economists are looked to as fortune-tellers. The fortune, in this case, is our collective well-being tied to growth in the overall economy. Of course, no economist – no matter how well-trained – can perfectly predict the future of a \$19 trillion economy like we have in the U.S. It's just too big with too many moving parts. A good example of my profession's shortcomings was our inability to predict the depth of the Great Recession of 2007-09. So any economic forecast has a large dose of an educated guess and not of certainty.

With this caveat, let me get started. The most asked question I receive today about the economy is whether growth will continue, or if we're about to slip into another recession. Part of the reason for recession worries is that, come next June, the current period of sustained growth will be the longest in the nation's history. Therefore, are we living on borrowed time? Are we overdue for a recession?

To see if a recession is imminent, economists look for imbalances that can tip the economy off course. The major cause of the Great Recession was debt payments that overwhelmed household budgets. Today, household debt payments are a much more modest share of household income. Some measures have the debt payment share at a historic low. The same is the case for business debt when measured against business net worth.

Large increases in oil and gas prices were behind two recessions in the 1970s. Most of the additional revenue for oil and gas flowed outside the country since we were a big importer of oil. When households spent more for oil and gas, they spent less on products made in this country, which directly led to an economic downturn. Our energy situation today is much different. First, oil prices have been falling in recent months due to an abundance of oil worldwide. Second, the U.S. is now a leading – in some months the leading – world producer of oil. We are also a net exporter of oil. So, if oil and gas prices rise – which many analysts think will occur in the first half of 2019 – the increases can actually pump money into the U.S. economy, not out of it.

Therefore, current trends in household debt, business debt and oil prices don't suggest an oncoming recession. However, there are three parts of the economy that could give us recession worries – international trade disputes, Federal Reserve policies and the stock market.

The key trade dispute is with China. The U.S. has long complained China has not opened its economy as much to our companies as we have to theirs. We have also charged China with using tactics to access (some say "steal") our intellectual property and business secrets.

The Trump Administration has tried to get China's attention to these matters by levying higher tariffs (taxes) on products they sell in the U.S. China has retaliated by also raising tariffs on U.S. products sold in their country. These tariffs have disrupted trading patterns and supply chains and have also hurt exporters in both countries. U.S. farmers – who sell large quantities of farm products to China – have been particularly harmed. The worry is that if the trade dispute continues and possibly intensifies, it could lead to significantly slower economic growth. Most economic analysis agrees, although the reduction in growth rates might not be enough to spark a recession. Still, the "trade war" should be watched.

After keeping short-term interest rates effectively at zero percent for five years, the Federal Reserve (the "Fed") has been gradually inching them higher. The Fed wants rates higher so that – whenever the next recession occurs – they can lower rates to stimulate the economy. The Fed also worries recent strong economic growth is causing higher inflation. The Fed is using higher interest rates to moderate economic growth and so keep a lid on inflation. The problem is the effects of the Fed's policy is not an exact science. Higher interest rates reduce borrowing (we're already seeing this in the housing market), and with reduced borrowing goes reduced spending. If spending drops too much, then – yes, you guessed it – a recession could result.

I don't see the Fed's interest rate policy causing a recession in 2019, mainly because I think the Fed will back off its policy. Already some Fed officials have said they may have raised interest rates enough. The Fed is often purposefully unpredictable though so they could surprise me.

The stock market reacts to economic news and to how that news might impact the financial future. In this sense, trends in the stock market are a composite of all the factors I've already discussed. If those trends are positive, the market should gain; if they're negative, expect the market to fall. Falling wealth in the stock market also causes reduced spending.

Taken together, my assessment is the combination of all these factors will still result in economic growth – that is, no recession – in 2019. Production, income and jobs will all increase, but likely at less robust rates than in 2018. But do remember economists' checkered track record, so you decide how valuable these forecasts are!

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

Town of Wadesboro Noise Ordinance

The Town of Wadesboro has a noise ordinance prohibiting noise from radios, tape players, loudspeakers, sound amplifiers, vehicle mufflers and tractor trailer compression brakes. The ordinance reads as follows:

"No person shall play, use or operate, or permit to be played, used or operated, any radio, tape recorder, cassette player or other machine or device for reproducing sound if it is located in or on any public property, including any public street, highway, building, sidewalk, park, thoroughfare, or public or private parking lot; or any motor vehicle on a public street, highway, public space, or within the motor vehicular area of any public or private parking lot or park; and if at the same time the sound generated is audible at a distance of thirty feet from the radio, tape recorder, cassette player, or other player, or other machine or device that is producing the sound.

Possession by a person or persons of the above stated shall be evidence that such person operates, or those persons operate the sound devices for reproducing sound.

No person shall operate a vehicle not operating with original manufacturer-provided muffler, or equivalent, in good working order, or a vehicle using compression release engine or transmission braking systems in non-emergency circumstances."

This noise ordinance is more enforceable than a previous ordinance that required special decibel readers which were very expensive, making the ordinance difficult if not impossible to enforce. *By Melanie Morse*

Anson County Tax Collector

PROPERTY TAX REMINDER



ANSON COUNTY TAXES ARE DUE NOW!

Please see that all of your Anson County Property Taxes are paid in full prior to January 7, 2019.

FEES AND INTEREST BEGIN JANUARY 7, 2019.

Also, if you wish to use property taxes as an income tax deduction, payments should be made by December 31, 2018.

Please pay your taxes immediately. Mail your payment to:

Anson County Tax Collector

101 South Greene Street

Wadesboro, NC 28170

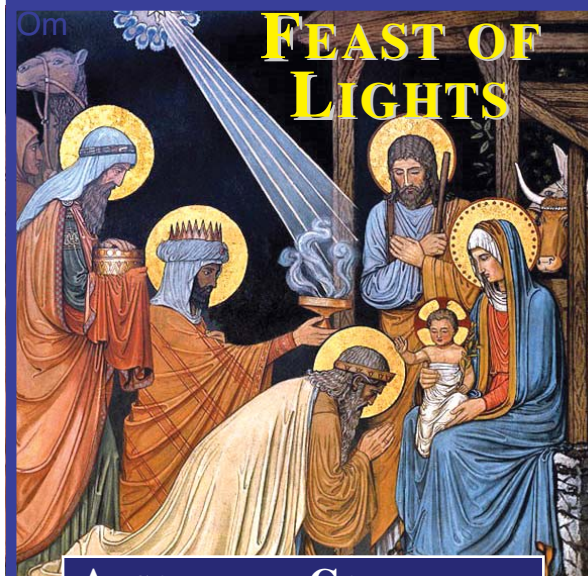
Telephone 704-994-3218

Or visit the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We accept cash, check or credit / debit card.

An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.

You may call 704-994-3218 for total taxes owed.



ANSONVILLE COMMUNITY EPIPHANY SERVICE

**ALL SOULS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANSONVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ANSONVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Sunday, January 6 6 p.m.

At All Souls' Episcopal Church

Corner of Main Street & Thomasville Road

Info 704-694-3223 or allsoulepiscopal@mail.com