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Serving Anson County and the Municipalities of Ansonville, Lilesville, McFarlan, Morven, Peachland, Polkton and Wadesboro.

## Partnership for Children Hires Elizabeth Rizzo as New Director

Anson native Elizabeth Rizzo will become the new Executive Director of the Anson County Partnership for Children starting April 1.



Elizabeth Rizzo

"I am excited to be working in the community I call home at an organization that builds the foundation for learning and educational success," said Rizzo. "My mom worked as an early childhood educator for many years, and I witnessed her utilize the Smart Start programs to benefit her students."

Volunteering with multiple early childhood agencies, including NC Pre-K, Head Start, and a developmental day center, during high school and college allowed Rizzo to gain various viewpoints of the impact the first 2,000 days truly make and the unique needs each program meets.

Rizzo worked for the Anson County Partnership for Children before teaching in the Exceptional Children Department at Anson County Schools. About five years ago, she took the opportunity to blend her skills as the Program Coordinator and Evaluation for the Richmond County Partnership for Children.

She brings a wide variety of evaluation, budgeting, program development, and systems-building knowledge to Anson. She also has certifications in family enrichment and child development programs, such as Circle of Parents Facilitator, Positive Parenting Program Provider, Starting Strong Trainer, and NAPSAC Consultant. Last year, she received her Nonprofit Management Certificate with NC Nonprofits.

Rizzo is active in the community in many ways, including as an ambassador for the Richmond County Chamber of Commerce, serving as Young Professionals Chair, and being a Richmond County Cooperative Extension board member.

She has stayed active in Anson County as a volunteer with the Wadesboro Fire Department, Anson County Partnership for Children, Anson County Arts Council, and as treasurer and worship coordinator for her church.

Rizzo lives by the quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world." Because of that, she continues to work part-time for the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition and Rape Crisis Center, helping others find their voice.

"With such a wealth of experience and dedication to her community, the ACPC is excited to watch her lead the Anson County Partnership into the next era," said Roshunda Terry, ACPC Board Chair. "We look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly have on the organization and the county it serves."

"The Anson County Partnership for Children has been a pillar in this community for almost 30 years," said Rizzo. "My main objectives are to advocate for childcare professionals, expand resources for families with young children, and build stronger relationships with those in the community working to make Anson County a better place." When she can, Rizzo provides free tutoring for children with disabilities and respite for their families. She enjoys spending time with loved ones, reading, playing games, discovering obscure films and shows to watch, and unsuccessfully having a green thumb. Elizabeth is married and has a fur baby at home.



The members of the Morven Chapter of Las Amigas are pictured above, from left: Marilyn Bennett, Kristen Mims, Elizabeth Kersey, Winnie Bennett, Beulah Pratt, Shay Jackson Green, Pat McCoy, Johnie M. Pettiford, Samantha Douglas, Devin Pettiford, Elizabeth Kilgo, Joletha Little and Judy Simon.

## Las Amigas Installs New Member, Albertina LaShay Jackson Green

The Morven Chapter of Las Amigas installed Ms. Albertina LaShay "Shay" Jackson Green as a new member in the organization on Sunday afternoon, March 3. Installation ceremonies took place at the HOLLA! Center in Morven. Shay joined the sisterhood and was presented her certificate of membership from the chapter President, Pat McCoy. Her official corsage and pin were presented by her sponsoring member Elizabeth Kersey.

Shay is the daughter of the late Alberta Jackson-Sturdivant and Lorenzo Little of Morven, and she is a lifelong resident of Anson County. She owns and operates the Trend Settaz Hair Salon. She is also a travel advisor. She is married to Michael Green and they have five children: Shaniqua K. Bennett, Kelvin Leak, Makala Green, Mya Green and Malik Green. Shay attended Stanly Community College in Albemarle.

The Morven Chapter of Las Amigas is a local, civic women's organization which engages in activities to improve the lives of the citizens of Anson County. They welcome their newest sister with great enthusiasm and sisterly love.

## Speed a Little. Lose a Lot.

Officers from the Wadesboro Police Department are teaming up with law enforcement officers from across the State of North Carolina to catch speeding drivers in the "Speed a Little Lose a Lot" campaign. The campaign runs from March 25 to March 31.

Speeding is a major cause of injuries and deaths on North Carolina roadways. Consider these 2021 statistics:

- 424 people died in speeding-related crashes in North Carolina in 2021.
  - Speeding was a contributing factor in nearly 25 percent of all fatal crashes.
  - 91 percent of speed-related fatalities occurred on non-interstate roads; 9 percent occurred on interstate highways.
  - From 2017 to 2021, males made up the largest percentage (75 percent) of speed related crash fatalities. Males under the age of 39 account for nearly half of all speeding-related crashes.
  - From 2017 to 2021, there was a 17 percent increase in speed-related crash fatalities.
  - From 2017 to 2021, 27 percent of speed related crash fatalities occurred in the Top 5 Counties (Mecklenburg, Guilford, Wake, Robeson and Cumberland)
- The Governor's Highway Safety Program's Speed a Little. Lose a Lot. annual campaign reminds drivers of the dangers of speeding and the potential consequences: the loss of a life.

The Wadesboro Police Department got right to the point with this statement: "There is zero tolerance for speeding and you will be charged!"

## Anson County Beekeepers Meet March 28

Curious about beekeeping? You are welcome to attend.

The Anson County Beekeepers will hold their regular bee meeting this Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Anson County Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro. After the business meeting, Chapter President Jody Taylor will lead a program, "All About Queens."

There will be 50-50 drawings to help earn funds for the association. If you are able to bring some items for the drawings, the Anson Beekeepers will greatly appreciate it.

A field trip is scheduled for Saturday, April 6. Information is on the Facebook page. Not a member but would like to learn more about the local chapter, beekeeping educational programs, or need a beekeeper to re-home a visiting swarm? (It's that time of year.) Visit the "Anson County Beekeepers Association" Facebook page or call the Anson Extension at 704-694-2915 for more information.

## Free Tax Assistance at Grace Senior Center

Free income tax assistance will be available for Anson County Residents sixty years of age or older of low- or moderate-income needing help in preparing their income tax returns. The assistance is a program sponsored by AARP and Grace Senior Center.

Volunteer counselors trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service will be at Grace Senior Center on Wednesday, April 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. This free assistance is designed to help taxpayers fill out forms 1040EZ, 1040A, 1040 and the North Carolina return.

Persons using the services should bring a picture ID, this year's tax package, age and earnings statements (forms W-2) received from employers, interest statements from the bank (form 1099-INT), a copy of last year's tax return, and any other relevant information concerning income and expenses.

Electronic filing of returns will be available. If you are interested call Grace Senior Center to register and for additional information at (704) 694-6616.

## SPCC is Hosting a Free Science Event for Kids April 15

South Piedmont Community College will host a Hands-On Science for Kids event at the Hampton B. Allen Library, located at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro, on Monday, April 15, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The event is free, and all kids are invited to attend. During the event participants will take part in hands-on science activities and crafts. The event is presented by SPCC in partnership with the Hampton B. Allen Library. For more information contact Marissa Cominotti at [mcominotti@spcc.edu](mailto:mcominotti@spcc.edu).

## The Chamber of Commerce has Moved

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce has moved to a new location in uptown Wadesboro. They are now located in the Scarborough Building, 107-C East Wade Street. The office number is 704-694-4181, cell is 704-310-8948, and the email for President/CEO Sandy Cox is [scox@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:scox@ansoncountychamber.org).

## Registration is Still Open for Summer Camps at SPCC

Registration for South Piedmont Community College's 2024 summer camps is now open.

"We are thrilled to once again offer a full lineup of exciting and fun learning opportunities to children and young adults throughout our community," said South Piedmont President Dr. Maria Pharr. "Our summer camp programs are designed to provide campers with an introduction to potential career paths. The camps also provide experiences such as disc golf, Python coding and welding - sure to make their summer breaks memorable. We look forward to welcoming summer camp participants to our campuses."

South Piedmont's summer camps are designed for students ages 10-18. Camp topics include manufacturing, science, art, forensics, leadership, construction, health sciences, robotics, welding, and more.

Camps take place throughout June and July on both the Monroe and Polkton campuses.

A full schedule, including prices and the link to register, is available at [spcc.edu/summer24](http://spcc.edu/summer24).

This year, several camps related to the manufacturing industry are being offered at no cost to families thanks to support from Collins Aerospace. Space is limited, so families are encouraged to register soon.

For more information, including a list of FAQs, visit [spcc.edu/summercamp24](http://spcc.edu/summercamp24).

## Don't be Trashy! Volunteer for the Spring Litter Sweep.

As spring starts, the N.C. Department of Transportation is gearing up for its Spring Litter Sweep from April 13-27.

The Spring Litter Sweep, one of NCDOT's roadside litter removal initiatives, harnesses the power of community engagement to tackle the issue of roadside litter. During the two-week period, residents are encouraged to participate in local efforts to help clean up North Carolina's roads. (website: [ncdot.gov/litter/initiatives](http://ncdot.gov/litter/initiatives))

"We're grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers who step up each year to participate in the litter sweeps," said David Harris, NCDOT's Roadside Environmental Engineer. "Their commitment to helping us keep our roadsides clean is truly commendable. Their hard work and passion contribute to a cleaner, greener North Carolina for generations to come."

In addition to volunteers, NCDOT maintenance crews devote one week of their time picking up litter and collecting trash bags that are filled by volunteers. People interested in volunteering during the Spring Litter Sweep can request gloves, safety vests and bags from their local county maintenance offices.

For those eager to lend a hand, simply reach out to your local litter management coordinator to get started. For Anson County it is Tiffanie Mullis at 704-218-5100.

Check out the Litter Sweep webpage for all the details at this website: [ncdot.gov/litter/sweep](http://ncdot.gov/litter/sweep).

## Fun Day for All Pre-K, Kindergarten and Elementary Age Children on Saturday

Anson County Parks and Recreation is hosting an event they call Spring Takes Flight this coming Saturday, March 30. They invite all Pre-K, kindergarten and elementary school age children to come out for a day of fun, including an Easter egg hunt, kite flying, kickball games, trail hiking and more!

The event takes place at Little Park, located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The Easter egg hunt begins at 10:30 a.m. and kickball games start at 11:30 a.m.

For more information you can call Parks and Recreation at 704-994-3025 or visit their Facebook page.

## Board of Commissioners Meets April 2

The Anson County Board of Commissioners meets two times per month. The first regular meeting for April will take place this coming Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m.. The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

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