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

Anson EDP is now AnsonEDC

This is a March 31 release from the Anson Economic Development Corporation: What's in a name? A lot, actually. Over the past week, we have begun rolling out a change in our corporate identity. The majority of people likely will not even notice, but those with a keen eye for detail might see we have replaced "Partnership" with "Corporation" on our website and social media accounts. Technically, this is not a name change. We have been Anson Economic Development Corporation since 1975, and all of our official business transactions have been conducted under that name for nearly fifty years. In 2016, however, we entered into an agreement with Anson County and hired our first full-time executive director. At the time, it seemed like a good idea to highlight this new arrangement by calling the organization "Partnership" as a public-facing identity and creating a separate advisory board with broader government and quasi-government representation. While this unofficial identity has helped positively position the organization in the public eye, the discrepancy in what we call ourselves and our legal name has generated some confusion with vendors, government reporting, and funding sources, and with changes in elected officials and QGO leadership over the past seven years, the two boards are now virtually the same. As such, it was agreed at the last Partnership and Corporation board meetings to eliminate the use of "partnership" and consolidate the two boards. This change is being rolled out over a 30 to 60-day period, with the website, email, and social media accounts changing this week and new printed materials and signage in place by June 1st.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Does this have anything to do with the recent changes in Chamber of Commerce leadership? No. This change was in the works since the first of the year. The timing was just a coincidence.
- How does this change impact the leadership of the organization? There will be no change in organizational leadership. Don Scarborough was the chairman of both the Partnership and Corporation boards and will remain chairman of the Corporation board. Our executive director, John Marek, was always a paid employee of the Corporation and will continue to lead the organization in that role. His email address is now: John@AnsonEDC.com.
- What about contact information such as email addresses, websites, phone numbers, etc.? We are changing our email addresses, website URL, and social media account tags to reflect the new corporate identity. The new website address will be ansonedc.com, and the email addresses will be [\[first name\]@ansonedc.com](mailto:[first name]@ansonedc.com). Our main phone number has changed to 704-787-5896, but our executive director's 24/7/365 line will remain the same. We will continue to support the old website URL and email addresses for at least six months.

Escapee from Anson Correctional Captured within 10 Hours of Escape

Stephon Easterling, an inmate at Anson Correctional Facility, walked away from his work release and escaped with the assistance of Amy Brigman. Easterling was a felon with a scheduled release date of February 2024. Easterling had Brigman pick him up and the two left the work site. Information on both suspects and the vehicle they were driving was given out in a "Be On The Lookout" (BOLO) by Anson Communications. Using technology available to law enforcement, the vehicle that Easterling and Brigman were in was picked up by a Flock camera system in Richmond County. Agencies worked together throughout the day, and within 10 hours Brigman and Easterling were in custody. The Polkton Police Department said that they would like to thank all the agencies that helped with this investigation: Anson County Sheriffs Office, Richmond County Sheriffs Office, NC DPS (DOC), and Anson Communications. Easterling was charged with Escape, and Brigman was charged with Harboring a Fugitive and Felony Aid and Abet escape.

Anson February Unemployment Rate

Anson County Anson County's unemployment rate for February was 4.0%. Anson County ranked #65 of 100 counties statewide (low to high). Here are other past rates in Anson County: **2023:** January 4.3%; **2022:** December 4.0%; November 4.6%; October 4.9%; September 4.2%; August 4.9%; July 4.7%; June 5.3%; May 4.7%; April 4.6%; March 4.9%; February 5.1%; January 5.1%. **2021:** December 4.4%; November 4.7%; October 5.2%; September 4.9%; August 5.8%; July 6.5%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The **2020** rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate in Anson County was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic. Statewide the unemployment rate for February was 3.6 percent. Anson's total labor force in February was 10,289, with 9,877 employed and 412 unemployed. In January the total labor force was 10,280, with 9,841 employed and 439 unemployed. Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 74 of North Carolina's counties in February 2023, increased in five, and remained unchanged in 21. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 10.6% while Orange County had the lowest at 2.8 percent. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and three remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.2 percent while Asheville had the lowest at 3.0 percent. When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in 74 counties, increased in 13, and remained unchanged in 13. Twelve of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year, one increased, and two remained unchanged. The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in February by 13,486 to 4,979,802, while those unemployed decreased by 4,564 to 186,006. Since February 2022, the number of workers employed statewide increased 35,804, while those unemployed decreased 4,369.



Sheriff's Office K9 Landi is a Hit at Wadesboro Primary School

Wadesboro Primary School offers a big Thank You to Lieutenant Jimmy Williams of the Anson County Sheriff's Office for bringing the new K9 pup Landi to visit last week. Kindergarten and first grade students got to learn about bloodhounds and how Landi can use her sense of smell to find missing persons. It was a fun and informative presentation for students and teachers.

Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament is April 29

The 8th Annual Terry Jordan Invitational Golf Tournament, sponsored by Gum Springs Baptist Church Youth, will be held on Saturday, April 29. The event will take place at Twin Valley Golf Club with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. This is a two man Captains Choice with 1 A player per team. The cost is \$65 per person which includes golf, a cart and lunch. Mulligans will be sold. There will be a split the pot on hole 14. There will be cash prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place. Also closest to the pin prize and a longest drive prize. For registration and sign up sheets contact Twin Valley at 704-694-2336, or you can call Lynn Whitlock at 704-695-2200. A sign up sheet is available at Twin Valley. **Sponsorships are available.** Call Lynn Whitlock for more information at 704-695-2200.

Special Olympics Spring Games are May 3

Special Olympics Anson County will host its Spring Games on Wednesday, May 3, at Anson High School Stadium. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the Games ending around 12 noon. Athletes will compete in Track and Field events at their various ability levels. All athletes will be accompanied by student buddies. Interested community volunteers should contact Sylvia Tillman, Local Coordinator, at (704) 694-4417, Ext. 1702. Thank you for your support. In the event of rain the Games will be held on Friday, May 5.

New Contact Info for AnsonEDC

Please note that AnsonEDC has a new office phone number (704) 787-5896, and that John Marek, Brook Ainsworth, and Thomas Cureton all have new emails: John@AnsonEDC.com; Brook@AnsonEDC.com; Thomas@AnsonEDC.com. The old email addresses will continue to work through the end of September, but PLEASE begin using the new ones as soon as possible.

SPCC Welcomes Four New Board of Trustee Members

South Piedmont Community College welcomes four new Board of Trustees members following appointments from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper and the Anson County Board of Education. In January, Governor Cooper announced the appointment of Ms. Deborah Davis, Mr. Hunt Gwyn, and Mr. Robert Shivers. The Anson County Board of Education also appointed Mr. Michael Freeman, the retired superintendent of Anson County Schools. SPCC President Dr. Maria Pharr said this "represents an exciting opportunity to show new community segments what our College has to offer. But most importantly, we get the opportunity to welcome new voices and ideas to the table at a very exciting time for our college." The new Trustees each bring a unique perspective and background to the 14-member Board, which has 13 members appointed by the Governor, Anson County Board of Commissioners, Union County Board of Commissioners and the local Boards of Education for Anson and Union Counties. South Piedmont's Student Government Association President serves as an ex-officio member. Mr. Bill Norwood, Chair for the Board of Trustees at South Piedmont Community College, said, "any time we have a transition in leadership, it presents new ways of looking at how South Piedmont can continue offering quality education to the entire community." • Ms. Davis is an Anson County resident who retired from Anson County Schools after a 37-year career as a teacher, assistant principal, principal of the Anson County Early College, and Director of Secondary Education. Ms. Davis was appointed to complete the remaining term for the late Anson County Sheriff, Landric Reid. • The Anson County Board of Education appointed Mr. Freeman for a term ending on June 30, 2025. Mr. Freeman recently retired from Anson County Schools after a 39-year career with the school district, including seven years as Superintendent. • Mr. Gwyn will serve as trustee for the College through June 30, 2026, after his appointment by Governor Cooper. Mr. Gwyn recently retired after three years as a Superior Court Judge for Union County and several years on the bench as a Chief District Court Judge. • Mr. Shivers will serve on the Board of Trustees through June 2024. He brings 10 years of experience as a leader in the nonprofit sector and currently works as a Procurement Manager for the American Red Cross. To learn more about the Board of Trustees, visit: spcc.edu/college-leadership/board-of-trustees.



Deborah Davis



Hunt Gwyn



Robert Shivers



Michael Freeman

Toys for Tots Yard Sale

Toys for Tots / Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a "Dollar Day" Yard Sale on Saturday, April 15 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Burger King in Wadesboro. To donate items or for monetary donations please contact: Patricia Robinson at 704 848-4995 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704 294-0480. All Donations are welcomed.

Mobile Food Market April 20

The Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, April 20, starting at 10 a.m. on the Square in uptown Wadesboro. Attendees can receive free food items. This is a free initiative, so please stop by and get some healthy food for your family. The event will include blood pressure and blood sugar checks, as well information on healthy eating and lifestyle.

Health Fair and Memory Lap Fundraiser

This is a release from Tasha Coleman: I will be hosting "Sons Need Their Fathers" Health Fair and Memory Lap Fundraiser. We will be remembering my brother Jeremy "JC" Coleman. He lost his life to a massive heart attack July 2020 at the young age of 33 years old. Dr. Michael Lincoln will be the guest speaker. We will offer on-site preventative maintenance screening (blood pressure and glucose check), nutrition counseling and healthy recipes, exercise routine, covid tests and masks, kid activities, and more. We are asking people to donate a minimum of \$25 in memory of someone they've lost to Cardiovascular Disease. Guest present will walk a lap for every \$25 donated. Anson Football team will help walk laps for those physically unable to walk laps. Anson Cheerleaders will hold up collages of individuals who've lost their life to Cardiovascular Disease and cheer the walkers along in lieu of a balloon release. Donations will be used to host this program. Donations due by April 6th. All donations welcome and are tax deductible. All Cash App donations, please add a note: Health Fair. This event will be held on Saturday, April 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Wadesboro Park (off Morven Road), located at 1000 Gatewood Road Wadesboro, NC 28170. Please call Tasha Coleman to sign-up and for more information at: 704-961-6299.

Domestic Violence Coalition Thanks BBQ Sponsors

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition: Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition Inc. would like to thank the following for their generous donations and sponsorship of our annual BBQ Fundraiser held on February 24. Our fundraiser was a great success because of community partners like you and we appreciate your generosity. • Marcus L. Dean Esq., Mrs. Sarah Dean, North Wadesboro Baptist Church, Supreme Home Care, West Deep Creek Baptist Church, Southern Piedmont Piping, Parsons Drug Company, Wadesboro Rotary Club, Ladybug Family Restaurant, WMU of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Faith Christian Center, Rev. and Mrs. Randy Storz, Anson Women's League, Huntley Oil and Gas, Sheriff and Mrs. Scott Howell, Tau Nu Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.