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

## 2,485 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, April 19 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 2,485 reported cases of COVID-19. 39 of those cases were active and 56 deaths.

The Health Department is offering Covid vaccinations to all adults 18 and over. Anyone 18 or older can simply fill out the registration form and email it to: [covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us) or drop it off at the Health Department.

The county has set up a direct link to the registration form on the county government home page, [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us). You can also request the form via email at [covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:covidregistration@co.anson.nc.us) or by calling the Health Department at 704-694-5188.

People who do not have an active email account can drop off the completed registration form in the drop box located at the front door of the Health Department, located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. Or they can call (704) 694-5188, press 1, and provide the information over the phone.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, April 19 there were 1,380 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,418 deaths and 1,096 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, April 12 there were 1,469 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,290 deaths and 904 hospitalized. April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. March 29 there were 1,372 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,085 deaths and 873 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths, 10,291,482 tests and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths, 8,908,258 tests, 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 tests, 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 tests, 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 tests, 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 tests, 971 hospitalized.

**Recent history in Anson County:** March 31, 2020: 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases (no deaths); May 26: 62 cases (1 death); June 22: 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27: 285 cases (2 deaths); August 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 cases (53 deaths); March 1: 2,298 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,144 cases (56 deaths); April 5: 2,433 cases (56 deaths); April 12: 2,454 cases (56 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov).

## Commissioners Approve Land Use Plan

In a brief post on their Facebook page, the Anson County Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP) reported that the Anson County Commissioners, at their regular April meeting on April 6, unanimously approved the Land Use Plan.

This is the first step toward county-wide zoning.

## The Library Has Reopened

The Hampton B. Allen Library is moving forward into the next step of reopening the library. On Thursday, April 15 they began allowing patrons into the library with some limitations and restrictions. The Library will be open to the public:

- Monday to Friday, 9:30am - 12:30pm & 2:30 - 4:30pm.
- Only 8 patrons will be allowed into the building at any given time
- Each patron will be allowed 1 hour to be in the library
- Public computers will be available (Each patron is allowed 1 hour of computer use each day)
- All patrons are required to wear a facemask correctly the entire time of their visit (masks must cover both their nose and mouth)
- All patrons will be required to take their temperature upon entry
- Patrons will not be allowed to browse throughout the stacks at this time (patrons can ask for titles at the front desk and the staff will retrieve the materials)

Curbside service will continue to be provided for patrons who prefer to not come inside. Virtual Programming will continue on their social media pages.

Services that will not be offered at this time: In person programs; Meeting room use; Book donations; Book sale; and Bookmobile service.

If you have questions or need clarification call the Library at 704-694-5177, or you can email [Caroline.Hightower@srls.info](mailto:Caroline.Hightower@srls.info), Outreach Librarian, at [caroline.hightower@srls.info](mailto:caroline.hightower@srls.info).

## Free Groceries for Families in Need, Mobile Food Pantry is Set for May 4

For families in need, free groceries will be available. The Anson and East Union Missional Network, Anson Crisis Assistance Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Tuesday, May 4 at Wingate United Methodist Church, located at 111 Hinson Street in Wingate. Please arrive and register between 8 and 10 a.m. The food distribution begins upon the truck arrival, between 9 to 9:30 a.m. • Be sure to bring your own bags, baskets, boxes or carts to carry your food. • Arrive between 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. to be sure you can receive food. • If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, contact Anson Crisis Ministry for a recorded message to know if it is cancelled: 704-694-2445. • You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

Interested in volunteering for the Mobile Food Pantry? Email [tschumpert@unccumc.net](mailto:tschumpert@unccumc.net). The goal of the Mobile Food Pantry is to feed the hungry and serve those in need.

If you are in need before or after the distribution of food date, please contact Anson Crisis Ministry at (704) 694-2445 or Union County Crisis Assistance at (704) 225-0440.



## Clearing Begins at Polk House with Help from Local Citizens

Recently Dan Morrill and Frank Bragg from Preserve Mecklenburg, the organization that has purchased the L. L. Polk Homeplace, met with Tommy Allen, Austin Kirkland and J. D. Bricken from Anson County. Bricken donated his services, clearing debris in the immediate vicinity of the house. Together the group worked on the project with him.

Morrill said, "This is the start of a very exciting project. It is most rewarding to establish contacts in Anson County."

Preserve Mecklenburg is asking citizens to share their ideas about a use for the site. Send your ideas to [danmorrill2@gmail.com](mailto:danmorrill2@gmail.com) or call 704-574-3861.

## Free Roundtrip Transportation To Covid Vaccine Appointments

**Underserved communities, including Anson County, can now call 1-844-771-RIDE for access.**

**Provided by RIDE UNITED NC, the free service supports communities of color, seniors, and uninsured individuals across North Carolina.**

Despite the increasing availability of the COVID-19 vaccine in North Carolina, transportation access continues to be a barrier for underserved communities statewide. RIDE UNITED NC announced today that its call center is now available to support low-income North Carolina residents needing roundtrip transportation to COVID-19 vaccine appointments. Eligible individuals can call 1-844-771-RIDE starting this week.

This service is available to citizens of Anson County.

The statewide initiative was launched last month by United Way of the Greater Triangle in partnership with Lyft, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC), and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), in support of the North Carolina COVID-19 Public Health Coalition.

The call center has the capacity to support 1,500 calls per day for eligible individuals who do not have access to the Lyft app, those without bank accounts, and seniors. It will also work with NCDOT to supplement transportation needs in other communities. The call center is / has:

- Available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 8 pm
- Bi-lingual capabilities
- Open to those who are age 55+, uninsured, unbanked, and/or members of households considered low-income by the federal definition

The call center is made possible with support from Mako Documents, Pillar Consulting, and Wilcox Distributions. The entire RIDE UNITED NC program is made possible by investments totaling more than \$925,000 from Bank of America, Blue Cross NC, Blue Cross NC Foundation, Coastal Credit Union, Duke Energy, and Duke University and Duke Health. These donations support the North Carolina COVID-19 Public Health Coalition and will help provide rides statewide, including in Duke's home county of Durham.

"Free transportation services are essential for North Carolina to meet its goal of providing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and getting ahead of the pandemic," said Secretary Mandy Cohen. "We very much value the partnership and generosity of everyone who is contributing to RIDE UNITED NC."

RIDE UNITED NC also supplements existing efforts by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), NCDOT, and local transit agencies to provide public transportation services to vaccination sites.

"Ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines starts with providing convenient and free transportation options to all North Carolinians," said NCDOT Secretary Eric Boyette. "We commend United Way of the Greater Triangle and the many private and non-profit contributors to RIDE UNITED NC for providing an additional transportation solution to further enhance access to vaccine sites."

Pillar Consulting, founded by epidemiologist Dr. Bahby Banks - along with public support from NCDHHS and Secretary Mandy Cohen - will also provide key community health literacy sessions to support North Carolinians in making informed decisions regarding vaccine uptake.

"We are honored to support RIDE UNITED NC by helping to bridge health literacy gaps related to COVID-19 prevention and vaccine education. This pandemic has shone a bright light on the impact of deeply rooted inequities on the most vulnerable in our state; it has also demonstrated the necessity of clarity and creativity in health communication," said Dr. Banks. "These health literacy sessions will serve as a means to engage and educate North Carolinians so that they can make the best decisions for their health."

Pillar Consulting also has the "Not A Host" (or N.A.H.) campaign that has leveraged digital and community engagement to offer culturally engaging and fact-based information about COVID-19 and vaccines for the past year.

Wilcox Distributions, which was founded by former NBA player and North Carolina native Chris Wilcox, will support strategic marketing and communications to North Carolina's rural and underserved communities.

"My combined NBA and entrepreneurial experiences allow me to do what I'm most passionate about. I am an advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves. RIDE UNITED NC is a must-do, and well-needed initiative that aligns perfectly with my company's mission, and my purpose and passion in life," said Wilcox. I am truly honored to be a part of the RIDE UNITED NC team."

In addition to the public call center, United Way has also partnered with the North Carolina Community Action Association (NCCAA) and the NC Department of Transportation to identify nonprofits that serve communities of color, seniors, and the underinsured. These organizations will help educate individuals about the vaccination process and provide ride codes that can be used to access transportation to already scheduled appointments.

"North Carolina has a significant number of older adults, low-income individuals and others who may be at higher risk of contracting the virus," said Sharon C. Goodson, Executive Director of the North Carolina Community Action Association. "Many of these people do not drive, aren't located near public transportation and live in rural communities with limited access to vaccination sites. We are pleased to partner with United Way to provide transportation to help make vaccinations more accessible to our most vulnerable populations."

For more information about RIDE UNITED NC, go to United Way of the Greater Triangle's website, [www.unitedwaytriangle.org/rideunitednc](http://www.unitedwaytriangle.org/rideunitednc).

## School Board Meeting on April 26 to be Live Streamed

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, April 26. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Governors' orders on indoor gatherings will be enforced. Social distancing requirements will be enforced and masks will be required.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can go to the public comment link on the Anson Schools website at [www.ansonschools.org](http://www.ansonschools.org) to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. on April 26.

## Feed My Lambs to Hold Yard Sale Saturday, May 1

**Thrift Store will be open May 1 also**

Everyone is invited to come out to Feed My Lambs for their Outside Yard Sale on Saturday, May 1. It runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and there will be lots of great items for sale. Want to sell? Open spots are available. Call Lisa for details at 704-695-1820.

They also will have food for sale, including hot dogs, homemade chili and slaw, homemade pound cake and drinks...yum! And, if that is not enough...come and participate in the big \$100 Food Lion Gift Card Raffle.

The Thrift Store will be open too. And, there will be storage unit items for sale, such as furniture, dishes, etc.

Feed My Lambs is located at 2290 Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, across from Atrium Health. The telephone number is 704-695-1820.

## American Red Cross Lifeguarding Course

- Beginner Class - May 7 & 8, \$175.
- Renewal Class - May 14 & 15 \$100.

To be eligible for these Lifeguarding courses the participant must be 15 years of age on or before the final scheduled session of this course. The participant must successfully complete the following:

1. Swim 300 yards continuously, using these strokes in the following order:
  - 100 yards of front crawl using rhythmic breathing and a stabilizing, propellant kick. Rhythmic breathing can be performed either by breathing to the side or the front.
  - 100 yards of breast-stroke using a pull, breathe, kick or glide sequence.
  - 100 yards of either the front crawl or breaststroke.

2. Starting in the water, swim 20 yards using front crawl or breaststroke, surface dive 7-10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, return to the surface, swim 20 yards back to the starting point with the object and exit the water without using a ladder or steps, within 1 minute 40 seconds.

3. Tread water for 2 minutes without the use of hands.

For information or to enroll call the instructor Wendell Small 704-695-2782.