

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.



A Word from Shelby Emrich of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce

The past several weeks have been nothing short of stressful and full of uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly challenged us -- our leaders, businesses, workers, and economy. In a short time, we have had to learn new ways to conduct business along with adjustments to our family's daily routines.

Unfortunately, this will continue to be a challenging time. Business leaders have had to reinvent their entire business models with little to no notice. Leaders in our community have been faced with uncharted territory, shifting regulations, difficult decisions and the fear of maintaining the livelihood of their business & retaining the jobs for their employees with fewer customers. Employees have taken pay cuts or have lost their jobs altogether for an unknown amount of time.

However, during this time of uncertainty, we have seen our amazing citizens rally around efforts to support our local businesses and non-profit organizations. Manufacturers have shifted their production to try and retain their talented workforce. Retailers, arts/culture organizations, restaurants, gyms/fitness businesses have taken a hard pivot into the digital space -- offering online ordering, Facebook sessions, and more. I've seen neighbors serving neighbors -- through providing food for students in need, displaying hearts in their windows as a sign of hope, prayer walks for our healthcare workers, homemade Easter eggs displayed in windows of businesses and homes so children could still experience the fun of an egg hunt, and grocery store runs for the sick and elderly.

All these examples are a mere sampling of what has occurred but are true in our very nature -- we are Ansonians. Our community has always proven that during difficult times, we come together to serve, assist, encourage, and love one another.

My "normal" work routine has changed as well as many others. However, it continues to be an honor to serve in this role on your behalf every day. Regardless of the IRS definition of essential business, YOU ARE ALL ESSENTIAL! You give life and energy to our community!

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce is thankful for each of its WONDERFUL MEMBERS! For those businesses that have not joined our membership, we see you all as potential members and we are here to support you as well during this trying time. Now is not a time to be divided but to come together and support all of the businesses in Anson County. You are all essential and you are needed! We are privileged to be your partner, supporter, advocate and are in this with you.

Supporting Your Business, Shelby Emrich, President/CEO Anson County Chamber of Commerce

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Wildlife Commission Director Urges Compliance with COVID-19 Restrictions

Across our state, North Carolinians are adapting to practicing social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings, including while using N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission game lands, boat ramps, public fishing areas and other areas.

"We deeply appreciate the steps people are taking to recreate responsibly while enjoying the outdoors," said Gordon Myers, the agency's executive director, who urges continued compliance to keep these areas open for public benefit.

His message comes after the U.S. Forest Service announced it was closing specific roads, trail access, recreational areas and camping in Pisgah National Forest, which comprises 500,000 acres and is one of the largest tracts of public land in North Carolina. According to a U.S. Forest Service representative, hunting and fishing are still permitted as long as people adhere to the aforementioned closures, including staying off the closed roads and trails and not parking at trailheads or camping.

With Pisgah National Forest closing some access, the public may choose to visit nearby game lands, which could lead to overcrowding in these areas. It is paramount that people visiting agency access areas continue to follow social distancing and mass gathering requirements. These requirements are:

- Individuals using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence MUST, at all times and as much as reasonably possible, maintain social (physical) distancing of AT LEAST six (6) feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members.
- Events or convenings that bring together more than ten (10) persons into a single space at the same time are prohibited.

"This is a time for each of us to work together to be part of the solution and not the problem," Myers said. "We are asking everyone who visits a boat ramp, a game land, a fishing access area, to do your part when using any of these areas. In order to keep these doorways to North Carolina's public trust resources open, we are relying on the compliance of every person."

On March 27 Gov. Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 121 (EO121), which instituted a stay at home order and strategic directions for a statewide unified response to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in the state. Under EO121, all North Carolinians were directed to stay at home, except as authorized in the Order. Outdoor activities are allowed under EO121; however, individuals MUST, with the full force and effect of law, comply with the following Social Distancing Requirements and Mass Gatherings requirements.

Please note that local Emergency Orders may require more stringent standards. Prior to engaging in outdoor activities, check local government Emergency Orders for specific requirements.

Hunting, Fishing, Boating and many other wildlife-associated activities can be accomplished in compliance with those requirements; however, based on field observation from law enforcement and other agency professionals over the past week, some people continue to disregard the requirements. Those actions raise the clear and present danger of increased community spread of COVID-19.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the sales counter at the Wildlife Commission's headquarters in Raleigh is closed. We encourage the public to visit our website, www.ncwildlife.org, to purchase fishing, trapping and hunting licenses and to renew vessel registrations. The Commission's License, Vessel Registration, and Wildlife Helpline Call Centers are open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

For the most up-to-date information on agency-related closures, cancellations and postponements visit ncwildlife.org/covid19.

ANSON DEMOCRATIC PARTY VIRTUAL CONVENTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 12PM

During these unprecedented times, and in accordance with the North Carolina Democratic Party, the CDC, and Governor Roy Cooper's executive guidelines, the Anson County Democratic Party Convention will be moved to a digital platform.

The well-being of our delegates and the public at large is our highest priority, because of this in-person conventions are no longer tenable.

The Anson County Democratic Party Convention will now be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

Please contact Dannie Montgomery, ACDP Chair at danniemontgomery@hotmail.com or 704-694-8326 for attendance and/or information.

"We Believe in Equality, Opportunity and Prosperity for ALL"



All Precinct Officers, Democratic Elected Officials, Candidates & Concerned Citizens are Invited to Attend

NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
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NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery for Small Businesses

While there is still much we do not know about COVID-19's long-term impact, there is one thing we are certain of: we are all in this together. We are learning how to adapt and evolve, together, day-by-day.

In response to the unique economic challenges of COVID-19, a consortium of public, private, and nonprofit partners have come together and launched an innovative recovery-lending program to help support entrepreneurs like you and stabilize North Carolina's small business sector.

What is the NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Lending Program? The North Carolina COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Lending program supports North Carolina small businesses and family farms as they recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. This rapid recovery loan helps small businesses bridge the gap between when crisis strikes and when federal loans, insurance payouts, and other relief funds are approved, or businesses have time to recover.

This is not a grant program. NC COVID-19 Rapid Recovery loans are not designed to be a singular source of assistance for small businesses. Repayment is expected either from more permanent funding sources or from the future cash flow of the business.

Loan Details Loans are available for up to \$50,000, based on the business's current revenue. Loan agreements are structured as follows:

- Loan sizes capped at approximately two months of current revenue.
- Six months of no interest and no payments, followed by 48 months of principal and interest payments at 5.5% interest.
- Interest will begin to accrue on any unpaid balance at the beginning of the seventh month.
- There are no prepayment penalties.
- Defaulted loans are subject to collections.

Requirements

- Any individual with greater than 20% ownership in the applying business must personally guarantee the loan.
- Proceeds from the loan may only be used for maintaining or restarting a business.
- The use of loan funds to pay off debts already incurred for qualifying business maintenance or restart purposes may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.
- Borrowers are required to assign the proceeds of future assistance programs, including SBA loans, to the repayment of their Rapid Recovery Loan.

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be a North Carolina small business affected by COVID-19 (all 100 NC counties are eligible).
- Applicants must have at least one (1) employee, who could be the self-employed owner.
- Start-up businesses that began operations before March 23, 2020 are eligible.

Logistics & Timeline

- Businesses interested in applying should be prepared to complete an online application and provide tax returns, profit and loss statements, and bank statements.
- The partners in this program are committed to moving as fast as possible to assist businesses and they will be in touch with applicants as soon as possible.
- Loans subject to availability of funds.

For more information and to apply go to ncrapidrecovery.org.

Ansonia Reveal Party Still Set for June 5

Save the Date - Friday, June 5! The Ansonia Theatre still has their reveal party on the calendar, and are making plans for a fun evening...and your chance for first dibs on your favorite seats for the exciting new season!

The 2nd Annual invitation only Sponsorship Reveal Party will be held Friday, June 5. This is an opportunity to celebrate the theatre sponsors and give them first dibs on their favorite seats, opening nights...not to mention the big reveal of the new 2020-2021 season!

Mark your calendars! Stay tuned for more info! Visit ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.