

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 49
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

Special Board of Elections Meeting Scheduled for Friday

The Anson County Board of Elections will hold a meeting this Friday, May 22 at 11 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is personnel. The meeting will be held at the Board of Elections Office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

- Here is the tentative agenda:
- Call to Order & Invocation 11:00 a.m.
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Executive Session - Personnel - 143-318.11. (a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.
 - Part Time Staff Appointment Discussions/Questions
 - 1. Start date
 - 2. Days of work each week
 - 3. How many hours each week
 - 4. Hourly pay
 - 5. Any other information
 - Questions/Comments
 - Adjourn

To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the next meeting.

During all board meetings, those in attendance are asked to refrain from comments and questions to the board unless they are called upon by the board. At the end of each meeting the board will open the floor for comments and questions.

For more information call 704-994-3223.

- Upcoming Dates**
- June 8-July 6 - Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District
 - June 9 - Board of Elections regular board meeting, 5pm
 - July 3 - Board of Elections & county offices closed for Independence Day holiday
 - July 14 - Board of Elections regular meeting, 5pm
 - July 21 - Deadline to submit signatures to appear as a write-in candidate in November
 - July 26 - Post UOCAVA Notice for November General Election
 - July 31 - One Stop Early Voting plans due to state board for November election
 - August - Tentative Virtual Elections Conference (NC State Board of Elections)
 - August 11 - Board of Elections regular meeting, 5pm

Steve Adams Steps Down As Anson County Elections Director

Takes position with NC State Board of Elections, will continue to live in Anson County

This is a letter to the community from Steve Adams, Anson County Board of Elections Director:

Hello everyone, It is my hope that in writing all are safe and doing well. I wanted to take just a brief moment and thank each of you for the opportunity to work alongside you in whatever capacity during my tenure with the Anson County Board of Elections.

Coming into this role as the Assistant in 2008 – I had no idea what the job really consisted of, however it became more than a job, but a career, and something I truly enjoy. Having served as the Director of the Anson County Board of Elections since 2012 has been my greatest professional achievement thus far. I am grateful for each of you, each commissioner who has assisted to make Anson Elections what it is today. Anson has a great reputation across the state for our processes and election conduct. A special thank you to each county manager who has been gracious to work with and understand the different dynamic and relationship that exists between the County and The Board of Elections. And it would be remiss of me to not thank each board member and board chair who has supported this office and every opportunity for growth we have pushed for. I have had the privilege to work with great board members. To our current Board Chair Freddie Paxton – thank you for giving me this opportunity 12 years ago and all of your support.

With all of this being said, my last day of employment with the Anson County Board of Elections will be Friday May 22, 2020. I have accepted a position with the NC State Board of Elections as a District Election Tech – where I will be managing 13 counties in our state. It is my hope that Anson County Elections is in a better place now than when I started. This is bittersweet, but exciting at the same time.

I will continue to live in Anson, support in Anson, serve in Anson, and love Anson County.

Thank you all again. Keep being great!
Blessings, Steve Adams, CNCED, CERA Certified Director of Elections, Anson County Board of Elections

Anson County Has First COVID-19 Related Death

50 cases reported in Anson County as of Monday

On Friday, May 15 the Anson County Health Department reported the first COVID-19 related death in Anson County. The individual was in their early 60s and died from complications associated with COVID-19 on Thursday, May 14. To protect the privacy of the family no further information about the patient was released by the Health Department.

“Our prayers are with the family and loved ones during this time,” said Fred Thompson, PhD, Health Director at the Health Department. “This serves as an unfortunate reminder of the seriousness that surrounds COVID-19, and the potential impact to high risk individuals. We, as a community, must do our part to help stop the spread of the virus by staying at home and practicing social distancing, combined with other protective measures, such as wearing a face covering, when we find it necessary to go out into the public.”

As of Tuesday, May 19 the Anson County Health Department reported that Anson County had 50 reported cases of COVID-19, with 11 of those cases active and 39 cases discharged (this includes the reported death). The number was unchanged from Monday, May 18.

Anson County Schools Graduation is Saturday

This is a release posted to Facebook by Anson County Schools on Tuesday, May 12: On Saturday, May 23, 2020, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Anson High School, the Anson County Board of Education will be honoring all Anson County High School Graduates during a graduation ceremony designed to comply with Governor Cooper’s Executive Order while celebrating this great accomplishment.

The ceremony will follow a drive thru format; seniors will exit their vehicle for his/her Principal to award their diploma. Seniors may have two vehicles for family members to accompany them.

Family members will watch from the vehicle as their Graduate receives his/her diploma. Graduates should wear academic regalia (gowns, caps, tassels, etc. purchased at each school) for the ceremony. Honoring each graduate is important to us so ceremonial music and congratulations from their principal will be incorporated in the program as students pick up diplomas.

Graduate Participation Directions:

1. Graduates should report to the former Walmart parking lot in Wadesboro. Members of the Wadesboro Police Department will be managing traffic. Graduates and their two family vehicles should enter at the Walmart entrance located on the far western side of Highway 74 (former Subway side of Walmart).
 - a. Two vehicles per graduate will be released from the parking lot with directions:
 - i. Exit drive that passes Sonic
 - ii. Turn right on Kitty Bennett Road to Highway 74
 - iii. Turn right on Highway 74 west
 - iv. Turn left at AHS in front of the football field
 - v. Follow directions upon arrival
 - vi. Only the graduate will be allowed to exit vehicles
2. While waiting in the former Walmart parking lot, each graduate will get a completed data sheet showing his/her name as printed on his or her diploma. This information needs to be visible as the vehicle enters the AHS campus. Graduates will not arrive in alphabetical order – presentation of diplomas will occur in the order that vehicles exit the Walmart parking when directed by law enforcement.
3. Each vehicle will stop as directed at a designated location and observe while your graduate participates in his/her graduation ceremony.
4. A photograph will be made of each graduate (additional details will be shared).
5. Each vehicle will exit AHS by entering back on highway 74 and traveling east after the graduates receives his/her diploma.
6. Additional details are forthcoming as graduation day approaches to include login options for family and community members to watch graduation remotely and an estimated ending time.
7. A plan will be in place for the ceremony to continue at AHS if inclement weather occurs.

This is National EMS Week

Across the nation, communities and medical professionals will honor the contributions of EMS practitioners. From rural communities with little to no local health care services to major cities teeming with humanity, dedicated first responders provide immediate care during a health crisis. Whether there is an accident or an illness, these trained professionals work around the clock to make sure care is available quickly. Keeping up with the latest training ensures they know the most effective life-saving emergency treatments. EMS practitioners are professionals of the highest caliber.

How to Observe During National EMS Week, recognize their accomplishments and reward them with a smile, a home baked goodies or a community banquet. Take time to recognize those who provide the emergency services in your community. Use #NationalEMSWeek to share on social media.

History The first National EMS Week was observed in 1974 when President Gerald Ford declared the week to acknowledge the crucial work of this critical link in emergency medical care.

2nd Annual Kids Expo Scheduled for August 8

This is a release from the Anson County Chamber of Commerce: With such a successful event last year, we are excited to announce that the 2nd annual Anson County Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 8, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro. This event focuses on the next generation of entrepreneurs and business owners.

The event offers kids (grades K-12) an opportunity to create, develop and market a product or service that they are passionate about. Strictly for kids only, adults are not allowed to help sell or market the child’s product or service. The event is not only a showcase for the children, but an opportunity to understand the elements of owning one’s own business. The kid vendors will learn and use real life skills such as math, communication and creative thinking. Development and marketing of their product or service will have an impact on their sales at the event and offer them some insight into what it takes to own their own business.

There will be prizes awarded by age group: Most Original Business Idea; Highest Business Potential; Best Presentation/Creativity.

There will opportunities for participants: make connections; get exposure for the business; gain experience with sales and marketing.

There are sponsorship opportunities:

- Presenting Sponsor \$750. Includes your logo on t-shirts and all marketing materials (such as flyers, emails, social media and website); placing your items in 250 goody bags; 2 judges for expo; opportunity to speak at the welcome celebration the morning of the event.
- Community Sponsor \$250. Include your logo on t-shirts; recognition on social media and website; placing your items in 250 goody bags; 1 judge for expo; invitation to attend the welcome celebration the morning of the event.

For more information contact Shelby Emrich at 704-694-4181 or semrich@anson-countychamber.org. The Chamber is located at 114 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, April 25, from 12:00 noon until 2 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens.

All Ansonians who are seeking help with food will need to apply for assistance. (The new year for qualifying began October 1, 2019). * Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

Children are not allowed during this time. All participants who plan to pick up food are asked to bring someone to help them if they need help, as BRLC will no longer be able to provide this support.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual’s eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are always asked to please fill BRLC’s parking lot first. Burnsville Fire & Rescue have made their parking area available for the overflow of neighbors who attend. Please do not arrive before 12 a.m. on Saturday morning.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check www.burnsvillele.org.

COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit ncdhs.gov/coronavirus or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at www.who.int.

Governor Cooper Requests Equitable Funding for Minority-Owned Businesses in COVID-19 Emergency Aid

Governor Roy Cooper sent a letter to the leaders of the Golden L.E.A.F. Foundation encouraging them to ensure women and minority-owned businesses receive an equitable portion of recently approved COVID-19 relief funding. Women-and-minority-owned businesses account for approximately half of all businesses in the state.

“Diverse businesses are engines for our economy, and we need to encourage their continued growth and development as we administer this much needed aid,” Governor Cooper wrote. “Given the disproportionate impact this pandemic has had on minority communities, it is more vital than ever for us to ensure that all North Carolina businesses have equal access to these funds.”

The Golden L.E.A.F. Foundation is managing the distribution of \$125 million in loans for businesses that are struggling as a result of COVID-19 that was included in the recently passed 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act. The law allocating that funding states that historically underutilized small businesses (HUBs) benefit from equitable distribution of relief funding.

District Scholarship Night to be Broadcast Live

On this Thursday, May 21 the Anson County Schools District Scholarship Night will be held at 7 p.m.

The event will be broadcast live on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.

Town of Wadesboro Memorial Day Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, May 25, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

There will be no garbage pickup on Monday, May 25. Garbage collection will be shifted a day the entire week. Monday’s route will be picked up on Tuesday, May 26, Tuesday’s route will be picked up on Wednesday, May 27, etc.

The normal collection schedule will resume on Monday, June 1.

If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at 704-694-5171.

Morven Cemetery Board Meeting

Due to the pandemic the annual meeting of the Morven Cemetery Board was unable to be held at its scheduled time, the second Monday in May. The meeting has been rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8 at the Morven Baptist Church.

For information contact Frances Williamson, Secretary, Morven Cemetery, Inc. at 704-695-1912.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com