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

## COVID-19 Funds Disbursed to Counties for Public Health and Essential Services

Anson County receives \$647,744

On May 26 Governor Roy Cooper announced that \$85.4 million in federal funds provided for COVID-19 relief to counties will be disbursed this week. Three large counties, Guilford, Mecklenburg and Wake, have already received funds directly from the federal government, and 59 other counties that have completed certification will receive funds this week from the state-administered Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) that was passed by Congress. Counties are encouraged to support municipalities with the funding as needed.

"Everyone is working hard to make ends meet, including county governments as they finalize their budgets," Governor Cooper said. "These funds will help communities respond to the COVID-19 crisis with testing, personal protective equipment and more."

Though the federal government did not require that the state share any of the \$3.56 billion in the CRF to North Carolina local governments, Governor Cooper's COVID-19 budget proposal recommended \$300 million be allocated to counties and municipalities. Ultimately, the unanimously approved and bipartisan budget that Governor Cooper signed included \$150 million for counties which have the flexibility to share monies with their municipalities as county commissioners deem appropriate. The full distribution of funds is listed at [www.nc.gov/agencies/ncpro](http://www.nc.gov/agencies/ncpro) by county, along with instructions to counties about how the funds may be used.

The CRF funds may be used for medical needs including the COVID-19 related expenses of public hospitals and clinics, including testing; public health expenses, such as personal protective equipment and other medical supplies, as well as the cost of cleaning public areas and facilities such as nursing homes; payroll expenses for public safety or healthcare employees dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 emergency; and expenses to comply with public health measures, including teleworking, distance learning, food delivery, paid leave for public employees, expenses for maintaining prisons, and protecting the homeless population.

By state law, the 97 remaining counties will receive a base amount of \$250,000, with more distributed by population. This quick disbursement of funds was coordinated by the state Office of State Budget and Management and the new North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office (NC PRO).

NC PRO is a temporary office that coordinates and oversees funds made available through federal and state COVID-19 recovery legislation, including the CRF. The office offers technical assistance for entities which receive funds and ensures proper reporting and accounting of all funds. The office will also work on the state's economic recovery and strategic plan as North Carolina rebuilds from this pandemic. Two staff members will help lead the office's recovery efforts:

Stephanie McGarrah will serve as Executive Director of the Office.

Dwayne Patterson will serve as the Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer for NCPRO.

For questions about how CRF funds may be used, go to the NCPRO website for more information, [www.nc.gov/agencies/ncpro](http://www.nc.gov/agencies/ncpro).

## Anson County Had 78 Reported Cases of COVID-19 as of June 8

As of Monday, June 8 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 78 reported cases of COVID-19, with 15 of those cases active.

At this point they have discharged 63 cases, 62 to baseline health and one death.



Senior students and their families pulled into the "drive thru" and received a traditional "to-go" style cookout meal of hamburgers served by many parents, volunteers and others. The meal included hot dogs, chips, soda, and all of the trimmings. In addition, each senior received a Class of 2020 t-shirt and graduation "bubblehead." Over one hundred seniors were presented with senior photo flags that can be displayed in their front yard.

This project was a result of a partnership with parent of a graduating senior - Latisha Griffin. Griffin collected photos from parents of their graduates - and Adams and Harvest paid for every flag to be printed and made. Each flag was on display at the entrance of Harvest Ministries as the seniors arrived.

Pastor Steve Adams of Harvest shared, "Weeks ago Anson High Basketball Coach Tremell Middlebrooks reached out to me with this idea for a cookout - and of course we were "all in" to make it happen. These seniors had no control over the situation they were put in due to this pandemic, and as a community it is our responsibility to step up and make things happen for them."

Adams told of hundreds of people who donated online through Facebook, cash-app, and other means to provide for the cookout. "The amount of support and finances given in a few days just shows the compassion and thoughtfulness of the people in this community," Adams added.

Many local businesses reached out with donations of items and services for the event, including KFC of Wadesboro, which donated all of the cole slaw, Piedmont Propane of Wadesboro, which provided free gas for grille tanks, the Anson County Chamber of Commerce provided drinks, and Wendy's of Wadesboro provided condiments. In addition, Morven Mayor Tim Watkins provided his grille, Robert Mims of R&R Towing provided a grille, and parents Paul and Stephanie Maner cooked on their grille as well. HOLLA! and DJ Leon Gatewood provided the music as seniors pulled into the drive thru. To add to the day - Gatewood played Pomp and Circumstance (the graduation procession song) for each graduate.

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer was also on hand with a patrol car "decked out" to honor the graduates.

Founding Pastor of Harvest Tim Adams was on hand and said, "Today is an example of what families do, what communities do, and above all what Christians do in times of need."

Steve Adams wrapped up the event by saying, "Once again I am overwhelmed and amazed at the response, the donations, the volunteers, and the love shown. To see the seniors' excitement and gratitude is what makes every bit of it worth it."

Special thanks to: Whit's of Wadesboro, Pleasant Hill Church/Pastor Mike McLeod, Keslar Chapel Church/Pastor Rodney Moore, Anson Sign Company, Piedmont Propane, Wendys of Wadesboro, KFC of Wadesboro, the hundreds who donated online, Anson Chamber of Commerce, Parents of Seniors Paul and Stephanie Maner, Lee and Lori Lomax, Bruce and Kit Goodwin and Diane, Leon Gatewood/HOLLA!, The Express Newspaper, Mayor Tim Watkins, Randy Henry, Robert Mims, Coaches Tremell Middlebrooks and Celeste Dutton. Thanks to Lisa Smith of Harvest Ministries for all she did behind the scenes to prepare for this great day, and to the leadership and volunteers of Harvest for their continued dedication to reach and serve others.

## Harvest Ministries & the Community Host Cookout for 2020 Graduates

Saturday, May 9, 2020 will be a day to remember for the Class of 2020 graduates from Anson County. Harvest Ministries, along with coaches, parents, and many others hosted a drive-through senior cookout.

Senior students and their families pulled into the "drive thru" and received a traditional "to-go" style cookout meal of hamburgers served by many parents, volunteers and others. The meal included hot dogs, chips, soda, and all of the trimmings. In addition, each senior received a Class of 2020 t-shirt and graduation "bubblehead." Over one hundred seniors were presented with senior photo flags that can be displayed in their front yard.

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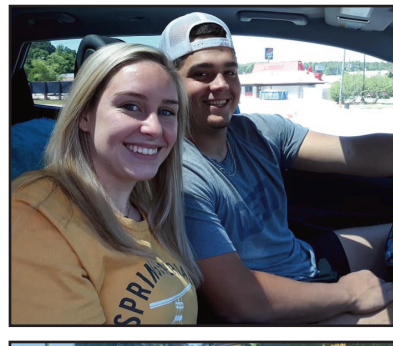
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## What is the Census? Here's Information about How Important the Census is for Everyone.

Once a decade, America comes together to participate in the decennial census, creating national awareness of the census and statistics. This census provides the basis for reapportioning Congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing billions of dollars in federal funding to support your state, county, and community's vital programs.

The Census Bureau collects information through the decennial census, the American Community Survey, the economic census, and many other surveys. Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. People in your community use Census Bureau data in all kinds of ways, such as these:

- Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.
- Businesses use the data to build factories, offices and stores, and these create jobs.
- Local government officials use the data to ensure public safety and plan new schools and hospitals.
- Community planners and city planners use the data to plan new homes and improve neighborhoods.

**Laws about Census** The U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2) mandates a headcount every 10 years of everyone residing in the United States. This includes people of all ages, races, and ethnic groups, to include citizens and noncitizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

The population totals from the 2020 census will determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. States also use the totals to redraw their legislative districts.

The U.S. Census Bureau must submit state population totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2020. The totals also help determine federal and state money spent in your community, and data collected in the census help inform governmental, business, and nonprofit decision makers on how your community is changing in order to plan for the future.

**Confidentiality and Privacy** The Census Bureau collects data for statistical purposes only. They combine your responses with information from other households or businesses to produce statistics, which never identify your household, any person in your household, or business. Your information is CONFIDENTIAL. They never identify you individually.

Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

### What You Should Know

- Everyone counts. The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.
- It's in the Constitution. The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.
- It's about redistricting. After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.
- It's about fair representation. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
- Your data are confidential. Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law we cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.
- It means \$675 billion. Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.

## No Civitan Birthday Calendar will be Produced this Year

This is a statement from Richard Tamura, President of the Wadesboro Civitan Club: Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Wadesboro Civitan Club will not be able to provide the annual Civitan Birthday Calendar this year. We apologize for the inconvenience to our customers and our sponsor businesses.

Thank you for your support of the calendar. We hope we can do the project next year.

## Grace Senior Center "Cabin Fever Drive-Through" Event is June 25

This is a release from the Grace Senior Center: Grace Senior Center has been closed and has canceled many activities to Anson County seniors for several months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In hopes of reconnecting with our seniors, letting you know, we've not forgotten you.

Grace Senior Center will be providing a "Cabin Fever" drive-through for seniors 55 years of age and older. The drive-through will enable seniors to drive up in their car and handed a goody bag without leaving their car. This will be done by the senior center staff on Thursday, June 25, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

The goody bag will have a wealth of information concerning Health Promotion Disease Prevention, SHIP Scams-COVID-19, Census, Operation Medicine Drop and the 3 W's Information, safety incentives and healthy snacks.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The telephone number is 704-694-6616.