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

Rate of New Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County Continues to Slow

Vaccines are available. Citizens urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department was 2,619 total reported cases of COVID-19, with only 12 active as of Monday, June 14. This was an increase of only 20 new cases since May 24. The total deaths are 57, with a death over the weekend, the first since mid-March.

If you need to call the Health Department, the temporary telephone number is 704-690-6757.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, June 14 there were 284 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,292 deaths and 480 hospitalized.

Statewide, as of Monday, June 7 there were 359 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,199 deaths and 546 hospitalized. May 3 there were 1,126 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,691 deaths and 1,007 hospitalized. April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths and 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths and 971 hospitalized.

COVID-19 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 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

Walmart Building Under Contract

The Walmart property in Wadesboro is under contract, and the Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP) has posted the following information on June 9:

We have received several requests for information about the Walmart property since the "Under Contract" sign went up earlier this week. There is a sale pending on that property, and the parties are currently doing their due diligence. Other than that, we are not able to comment.

Town of Marshville to Develop Recreational Facility Near Anson County Line

This is a release from the Town of Marshville: The future for the Town of Marshville looks promising as it moves one step closer to providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities for its citizens, the surrounding community, and the passing public. The town is delighted to announce that they have purchased a 111 acre tract on the eastern edge of town, conveniently located along Highway 74, from the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina. The property, known to residents as the "Stegall Lake" property, boasts a 12 acre lake and nearly 100 acres of adjacent woods.

Brainstorming has already begun as part of the master-planning process, with many ideas being discussed. Ideas such as walking/nature trails, rental campsites and cabins, lakeside beach activities/day-use area, various paddle boating, designated fishing areas, and indoor/outdoor live event venues, to name a few.

"There will be plenty of opportunity for citizen input as part of the master-planning process, and we hope that this park development is a goal that the community can rally around," stated Mayor Larry B. Smith, Jr.

"Marshville is a diamond in the rough, and this Council intends to make the park a destination for people traveling along Highway 74 to and from the beach, while also bringing healthy and wholesome family entertainment to Marshville residents," says Frank Deese, Town Manager. "We truly intend to make this park into a key outdoor recreational location for all residents of eastern Union County and neighboring Anson County."

"This will be a historic event for the Town of Marshville, showing visionary leadership from Mayor Smith, the town council and Manager Deese," said Dr. Michael Blackwell, the President/CEO for Baptist Children's Homes of NC (BCH). He added, "We very much enjoy being a part of the Marshville community. This new opportunity is exciting for our residents. I love the idea of Marshville being a 'point of destination' for family activities and wholesome fun."

Those sentiments were echoed by BCH Senior Vice President Samuel V. Barefoot. "The mayor and town manager have been great partners in this endeavor. We look forward to the continued relationship in the community as BCH continues to be the best stewards of our resources for the benefit of the many children and families we serve."

With tens of thousands of beachgoers passing through Marshville each year, the new park will get plenty of exposure to the passing public as well as the local residents. Currently, there is no target date for breaking ground or opening.

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina was founded in 1885 in Thomasville, NC. They serve all 100 counties in North Carolina providing a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of children, families and adults.

Town of Marshville
The Town of Marshville was established in 1877. It has a population of 2,712.

Family Movie Night at Field of Dreams

Field of Dreams in Polkton is hosting an outdoor family movie night this Friday, June 18. The public is invited to come enjoy the movie, *The Sandlot*. Admission is free.

Gates will open at 7:00 p.m. and the movie will begin at sunset (approximately 8:45 p.m.). Concessions will be sold. Be sure to bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Field of Dreams is located on Highway 74 in Polkton.



Holly Berry Wins Visit NC Farms Scavenger Hunt

This is a release from the Anson County Cooperative Extension: We have a winner - Congratulations to Holly Berry! Holly participated in the Anson County Visit NC Farms Scavenger Hunt. By using the QR code reader she accessed the on-line questionnaire, downloaded the Visit NC Farms app, and answered survey questions about each Anson farm by visiting their business profiles. Her name was randomly chosen from all the entries.

"I can't believe I won!" Holly said as she came by Anson Extension to receive her prize. The gift basket contained a variety of pork, poultry, produce, eggs, cheese, ointments and wine.

A special thank you to our contributing Anson farms and agribusinesses: Vineyard at the Old Place, Brown Creek Creamery, Thy Will Be Done, Bountiful Harvest, Pee Dee Orchards, Old Blue Farms, Anson High School's Future Farmers of America, and Abundant Living Farms.

N.C. SHIIP to Hold Virtual Informational Fair

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey and the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program or SHIIP invites new Medicare beneficiaries to participate in a virtual "Welcome to Medicare Fair" to help with initial enrollment. The virtual fair will take place June 23, 2021 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. To register, visit www.shiphelp.org.

N.C. SHIIP is a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and provides free, unbiased information about Medicare, Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance issues to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. While SHIIP employs a small paid staff, a great deal of its outreach is performed through trained volunteers who provide one-on-one counseling in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

The fair will include general sessions with expert presenters on Medicare eligibility, enrollment, costs, and coverage options. SHIIP experts will explain who is eligible for Medicare and when, how to sign up for Medicare, and what to do if you are still working when you are eligible for Medicare.

The event will conclude with national presenters discussing the federal government's role in Medicare, avoiding Medicare fraud, and the available Medicare assistance programs that help with Medicare costs. Since this event is government funded, there is no cost to attend.

SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents, and they do not sell, endorse, or oppose any product, plan, or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or the insurance company.

You do not have to wait for this event to get Medicare help from our program. For more information about Medicare, contact the N.C SHIIP office at 855 408-1212 or visit www.ncshiip.com.

This project is supported, in part, by grant number 90SATC00002 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.

Governor Cooper Extends Pandemic Response Measures

On Friday, June 11 Governor Roy Cooper announced that he signed an Executive Order to extend a variety of measures currently in place to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic until July 30.

"We are seeing tremendous improvement with fewer cases, hospitalizations, deaths and safety restrictions, but this is no time to hang up a "Mission Accomplished" banner in our fight against the pandemic," said Gov. Cooper. "We are laser focused on getting more shots in arms, boosting our economy and protecting unvaccinated people from the virus and this Executive Order is essential for those efforts."

Throughout the pandemic, Gov. Cooper has issued executive orders to protect North Carolinians from COVID-19, increase access to testing and vaccine supplies, PPE and other equipment, and draw down federal funds. While the Governor has consistently eased restrictions as trends have improved, a State of Emergency remains in effect as North Carolina emerges from the pandemic, along with measures including:

- State Evictions Prohibitions
- Face covering requirements in certain settings such as public transportation, schools, health care and childcare facilities, in accordance with CDC guidance
- Unemployment Insurance flexibility

Under the State of Emergency, North Carolina has easier access to federal funding including FEMA Public Assistance reimbursements, and schools can follow uniform safety guidance under the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit.

The State of Emergency also allows critical regulatory flexibility for the NC Department of Health and Human Services to increase the number of people authorized to administer vaccines and COVID-19 tests and for the movement of COVID-19 patients in rehab and other facilities.

Under the State of Emergency, NC DHHS continues to allow temporary additional flexibility for tele-health opportunities and for out-of-state licensed workers to practice in North Carolina and for retired health care professionals, students in training and skilled volunteers to provide care. The Department also continues to allow expanded access to healthcare and Medicaid services and food and nutrition programs until the end of the State of Emergency.

The state's vaccination efforts and incentive programs are also organized using tools made available by the State of Emergency including the million dollar summer cash and college tuition drawings the will incentivize people to get their shots.

North Carolina's vaccine efforts have benefited from the service of North Carolina National Guard Personnel, who, under an Executive Order from President Biden, can be paid with federal funds if called to duty as part of the pandemic response under Governor Cooper's existing emergency order. North Carolina National Guard personnel remain critical partners in the state's response, currently providing vaccination and administrative support as well as continuing to support the NC Department of Agriculture with food warehouse operations as supply chain tensions ease and distribute 2.4 million pounds of food to food banks across North Carolina.

The Governor and state health officials continue to monitor North Carolina's trends and review actions of other states and plan to continue lifting restrictions as more people are vaccinated and the state winds down pandemic response efforts.

2021 Anson County Kids Expo

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that the 3rd Annual Anson County Kids Expo will be held on Saturday, August 21. 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.

Browse, shop and stay for the awards presentation as the Chamber acknowledges these notables: Most Original Business Idea, Highest Business Potential and Best Presentation/Creativity in each age group.

Winners will receive prizes as well as the opportunity to promote their business through the Anson County Chamber!

This event will be held on East Wade Street, between Washington Street and Lee Avenue. If your child will need help with set-up materials such as a tent, table, chairs – please contact the Chamber office at 704-694-4181. They want every child interested in participating to be afforded this opportunity. Please let the Chamber know how they can help so your child can apply!

For sponsorship or entry forms and more information visit ansoncountychamber.org/kids-expo.

Motorcycle Ride Event is Saturday

Register at Walmart Site

Forestville AME Zion Church is sponsoring an event called Bike Ride for Jesus on this Saturday, June 19. The public is invited to participate.

Registration will take place at the Walmart parking lot in Wadesboro, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per bike, \$5 per passenger.

For information call Lumas Grace at 540-742-4637, Calvin Grace at 704-320-1293 or Michael Grace at 704-776-1880.

Anson Farmers Market Opens this Saturday

The Anson County Farmers Market opens for the season this Saturday, June 19, and will continue on Wednesdays and Saturdays through to the end of September. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

It is located on Highway 52 South near Wadesboro Primary School.

Be sure to come out and take advantage of great prices on locally grown produce and other items.

For more information contact Francis Campbell at Francis.Campbell@nc.usda.gov.

Today's (June 16) Bach's Lunch and Sidewalk Sale is Cancelled

The first Bach's Lunch and Sidewalk Sale of the season scheduled for today, Wednesday, June 16, has been cancelled.

The Anson County Arts Council released this statement: "We are sorry, but due to unforeseen circumstances this event has been canceled. Please join us for next month's Bach's Lunch to go on Wednesday, July 21. Orders can be texted to 704-221-3038 at any time. Our Sidewalk Sale will be up and running at next month's Bach's Lunch. Please make plans to join us then. Thanks for your understanding!"

In the meantime be sure to check out Art & Theatre Summer Camps on our website: ansoniatheatre.com."

Fireworks Show in Uptown Wadesboro Set for June 26

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. and the Town of Wadesboro will present a "drive-in" fireworks display on Saturday, June 26, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Spectators are encouraged to view the display in their cars from parking areas uptown.

The rain date is Sunday, June 27.