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

School Board Meeting is August 28

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, August 28. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11 (a)(5). Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meetings live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. Find the channel by searching 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.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.

Apply For NC Pre-Kindergarten Today

Anson County Partnership for Children is accepting applications for NC Pre-K, a Kindergarten readiness initiative that is proven to help four-year-olds gain basic skills needed for success in elementary school. Children who are four years of age before August 31, 2023, are eligible to apply for this high-quality program, which is free to qualifying families.

"Pre-K is a place where children learn skills that are vital to child development. NC Pre-K children learn how to socialize, make their own decisions, and interact with others. These are all important skills for child development. To make the transition to kindergarten easier, children learn eye contact, gain self-confidence, develop work efficiency, create a stronger attention span, and work on temper control," said Karen Gerald, Child Care Services Coordinator, Anson County Partnership for Children.

Not only are children who attended Pre-K more successful in school, they usually have higher grade point averages and are more likely to graduate high school and college.

NC Pre-K classes operate on a regular school calendar and are designed to address emotional and social development, physical health, language development, and cognitive functioning. Through the incorporation of indoor and outdoor learning environments, students participate in active learning experiences to foster a lifetime love of learning.

A high priority is placed on serving children who meet the following criteria: child's family is at or below 75% of the state median income level, a disability has been identified, limited English proficiency, developmental differences, chronic health conditions, or a parent who is active military service personnel.

There are currently four centers operating NC Pre-K classes in Anson County. These classrooms are located at Anson Children's Center, Central Center for Children and Families, C's & T's Childcare, Morven Elementary School, and Open Doors Center for Children.

Parents or guardians interested in learning more about the NC Pre-K program should contact Karen Gerald at karen.gerald@ansonchildren.org or 704-694-4036 (Ext. 105). Applications are available in the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center located at 115 East Morgan Street or online at www.ansonchildren.org.

Voters Can Now Get Free Photo ID Cards from County Boards of Elections

ID is required to vote in the upcoming Municipal Election

Registered voters who do not have an acceptable identification card for voting in North Carolina can now go to their county board of elections office to get a free ID. The Anson County Board of Elections is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The phone number is 704-994-3223.

Most voters have a North Carolina driver's license, which is an acceptable form of photo ID for voting. Those voters do not need to obtain a separate ID from their county board. Other common forms of acceptable ID include military or veterans ID cards issued by the federal government, and college student and public employer ID cards that the State Board approved for use in voting. For a full list of acceptable forms of photo ID for voting, see the State Board's website at VoterID.ncsbe.gov.

Registered voters who do not have an acceptable form of identification for voting purposes can now get a free photo ID from their county board of elections office. No special documents are needed. Voters will simply provide their name, date of birth, and the last four digits of their Social Security number, and have their photo taken.

In most counties, voters will be able to get an ID printed and given to them on the spot. A few counties may need to get the required information from the voter, take their photo, then mail the ID card to the voter or inform the voter that the ID card is ready to be picked up, whichever the voter prefers. Voters with questions about the ID process should contact their county board of elections.

A free voter photo ID will include the voter's photo, name, and registration number. They will expire 10 years from the date of issuance. The county boards of elections can issue cards at any time during regular business hours, except for the period following the last day of early voting through Election Day.

Voters also can get a free ID from the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV). Find more information under "No-Fee ID Cards" at ncdot.gov

Background on the Voter Photo ID Requirement

Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina, starting with the municipal elections this fall.

All voters will be able to vote with or without an ID. If a voter casting a ballot at the voting site does not provide an acceptable ID, the voter may fill out a Photo ID Exception Form and vote a provisional ballot, or vote a provisional ballot and bring an acceptable ID to the county board of elections office by the day before the county canvass (which is typically 10 days after elections in even-numbered years and seven days after elections in odd-numbered years).

Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an ID with their ballot, or complete a Photo ID Exception Form for Absentee Voting. The photocopy will be mailed in a special envelope to protect the voter's personal information on their ID.

For more information on the photo ID requirement, see [Voter ID at ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id](http://VoterID.ncsbe.gov/voting/voter-id).



Pee Dee Electric Partners with CoBank to Award \$20,000 Sharing Success Grant to Anson Crisis Ministry

Pee Dee Electric is proud to award Anson Crisis Ministry the CoBank/Pee Dee Electric "Sharing Success" matching grant. Anson Crisis Ministry recently received two checks totaling \$20,000 - \$10,000 from Pee Dee Electric and \$10,000 from CoBank, a national cooperative bank that partners with industries across rural America. The funds will be used to purchase two shelters and a concrete driveway for personnel to provide food to clients. The purchase will allow the organization to accommodate the changes the last three years since COVID-19 has imposed on them.

"We're thankful for Pee Dee Electric's donation for our improvement," stated Margot Barnes, Director of Anson Crisis Ministry. "We strive not only to provide as much healthy food as we can to the residents of our county but to do it as pleasantly as possible. If we can keep them out of the rain, surely that is an improvement."

CoBank's Sharing Success program is a matching grant program designed to support individual communities across the country. "We are proud to participate in the Sharing Success grant program, which allows Pee Dee Electric to give back to the communities we serve," said Pee Dee Electric CEO Donnie Spivey. "Anson Crisis Ministry is an important organization to families in Anson County."

Located in Anson County, Anson Crisis Ministry has been active in the community for thirty years, providing food, clothing, and other essentials to families in Anson County. In the past two years, their client list has tripled due to a reduction in food stamps and the rising costs of necessities from inflation.

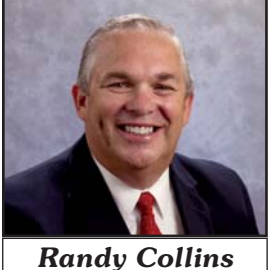
Pee Dee Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative whose goal is to provide reliable, dependable electric service for its members while focusing on value, quality customer service, and enhancing life in the communities we serve. Pee Dee's service area consists of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly, and Union counties.

For more information about Pee Dee Electric, please visit www.pdemc.com.

Anson Economic Development Corporation Welcomes New Executive Director, Randy Collins

The Anson Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Randy Collins as its new Executive Director. With a proven track record driving economic growth and fostering community development, Collins brings a wealth of experience and strategic leadership to propel AEDC's mission forward.

In his new role, which he will assume September 1, Collins will be responsible for spearheading AEDC's efforts to attract new businesses, promote job creation, and enhance the overall economic vitality of the Anson community. He will collaborate with local stakeholders, businesses, and government entities to identify opportunities, develop innovative initiatives, and drive sustainable growth.



Randy Collins

"We are thrilled to welcome Randy Collins to lead the Anson Economic Development Corporation," said Don Scarborough, Chair of the AEDC Board of Directors. "His diverse background and his passion for community engagement make him the perfect fit to guide our organization towards achieving its goals."

Prior to joining AEDC, Collins held key executive roles at the Mount Airy (NC) and Loudoun County (VA) Chambers of Commerce where he played an instrumental role in driving economic transformation and fostering strategic partnerships. His expertise in leveraging resources, formulating actionable plans, and executing high-impact initiatives has garnered recognition in the field.

"I am honored and excited to join the Anson Economic Development Corporation as its new Executive Director," said Collins. "Anson holds incredible potential for growth, and I am committed to working collaboratively with the community and stakeholders to create a thriving economic environment that benefits everyone."

Collins replaces John Marek, who has served as executive director since 2016. Marek is stepping away from the economic development field after nearly two decades to pursue other interests, but will remain with the organization in a consulting role through September to facilitate the executive transition.

New Anson County Digital Flood Maps Will be Available for Review at Open House

On Tuesday, August 29 residents and business leaders in Unincorporated Anson County and the Town of Peachland will be able to review and discuss the latest update to their flood hazard and flood risk data at a public open house. The open house will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Anson County Government Annex Building Conference Room, located at 575 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro. (The former Pee Dee Electric building.)

This meeting will provide an opportunity for citizens and other stakeholders to see the results of the revised studies and new flood hazard areas, ask questions about the revised studies and the National Flood Insurance Program, and understand the requirements for submitting appeals or comments to the revised studies.

County and municipal employees will be on hand to help residents locate their properties from the flood hazard data and determine their level of flood risk. Representatives from the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Project will be available to answer questions about the hazard data update process, flood insurance coverage and floodplain management.

Residents also can access the flood hazard data online at fris.nc.gov.

School Starts August 28. Check Out The Express Newspaper Website for Lots of School Information.

We are less than a week away from the first day of school! Be sure to check out the "Inside Anson Schools" special edition that was published in The Express Newspaper in the August 16 edition. You can see the section in its entirety on The Express website, www.theexpressnewspaper.com.

Inside Anson Schools features 12 pages of helpful back-to-school information for our students, families, staff, and community. We hope you will take the time to enjoy reading all the wonderful articles from our schools as well. Great things are happening in Anson County Schools!

Anson County Beekeepers Meet Thursday

This is a reminder to all Anson County Beekeepers members and anyone who is interested in the hobby of the upcoming meeting that will be held on Thursday, August 24 at 7 p.m. at the Anson Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

This month they will discuss robbing, entrance reducers and winter preparations. Also, they will have 50/50 drawings, door prizes, and ACBA t-shirts for sale as well.

For more information check Anson County Beekeepers facebook page.

Library Free Movie is A Man Called Otto

The Hampton B. Allen Library will be showing the movie *A Man Called Otto* on Monday, August 28 at 10:00 a.m. Starring Tom Hanks, the movie is based on New York Times best seller *A Man Called Ove*. It is a heartwarming and funny story about love, loss and life. The movie will be shown in the library's Pritchett Room and is rated PG 13.

For additional information call 704-694-5177.

Ansonia Theatre Audition Notice!

The Award-Winning Ansonia Theatre will hold auditions for their upcoming performance of *The Sound of Music*. The auditions will take place on Tuesday, September 19 at 6 p.m. Please prepare a song that best showcases your voice. All roles are available.

The Sound of Music play will open on December 1.

The Ansonia Theatre is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.

For information call 704-694-4950.