

THE EXPRESS

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

Anson Agri-Civic Center Public Input Meeting September 13

Design for the new Anson Agri-Civic Center is now in progress, and as part of the process feedback is encouraged. To that end, the public is invited to a Public Input Meeting to be held Wednesday, September 13 at 2 p.m. at the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center on McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.

At that time representatives from HH Architecture will show preliminary site and building plans for the new Agri-Civic Center. Another similar meeting will be scheduled for later in the fall as an evening session once design is further developed.

For many years community groups and organizations have competed for meeting and event space in the county. What is available gets booked early leaving others to go out of the county for conference facilities.

Hearing and experiencing the community's need, the County of Anson embarked on discussion and planning towards construction of the new Anson Agri-Civic Center. Property was purchased for the site, and HH Architecture of Raleigh was contracted for architectural and site design.

The facility will house a large conference center with the ability to be broken into multiple smaller meeting rooms, the Cooperative Extension Offices, and additional space for ag offices.

If you would like to attend and hear about this exciting project please call the Extension Center at 704-694-2415 to register. This is an opportunity to learn about the facility and give input into its design.

Wadesboro Police Department Now Using Laser Speed Enforcement

The Wadesboro Police Department has acquired some new equipment to better address traffic safety concerns raised by the community. This equipment makes the streets and highways of Wadesboro a safer place for all to travel with the assistance of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (NCGHSP). Wadesboro Police now adds a LiDAR to the list of tools it will deploy to help combat speeders on the streets and highways in the Town of Wadesboro. Though the equipment is new to the inventory of the Police Department it is not the beginning of its use in our area. Assisting agencies have operated the same system to assist Wadesboro during special speed enforcement events.

The LiDAR is a speed measuring instrument approved for use by the NC Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission. The device is a hand-held single piece unit for stationary use. LiDAR stands for Light distance and ranging. LiDAR deploys a small laser beam which is only 3 feet wide at a distance of 1,000 feet, making the accuracy of which vehicle is targeted almost certain.

Along with the new equipment to be used, Wadesboro has also started getting officers trained and certified to use the new equipment. Officers must attend a 16 hour course and pass a state mandated exam before being certified to use the equipment. Along with the written test and classroom work, officers must perform a practical exam where they must be capable of demonstrating all features in the proper sequence while the device is turned off.

The importance of this new tool for officers is it will allow them to both enforce speed when traffic is congested and enforce traffic in areas where officer safety was a concern before due to being unable to get out of the roadway when using RADAR.

Speed enforcement is essential to ensure safe roadways for all drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2015, speeding was a factor in 27% of all fatal crashes, and 9,557 lives were lost in speeding-related crashes.

The consequences of speeding are far-ranging:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control;
- Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment;
- Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger;
- Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries;
- Economic and even psychological implications of a speed-related crash; and
- Increased fuel consumption/cost.

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer said, "The Wadesboro Police Department wants to remind everyone that speed limits are there for your safety and are absolute. There is no 'grace' speed over the limit before you can be stopped for speeding. With the addition of the new equipment to the Police Department's inventory, and trained officers in its use, expect to see an increase in speed enforcement to help promote safer streets and highways in the Town of Wadesboro."

Family Fall Fest at 2017 Ag Expo & Fair

The 2017 Anson Ag Expo & Fair set for this fall will feature a new event planned just for families. Family Fall Fest is scheduled for Friday night, September 22 at Circle G Arena in Lilesville. Mark your calendars to come visit, and better yet, participate.

The Anson Ag Expo & Fair Planning Committee has planned an evening of fun, food and games for the whole family to enjoy. Festivities will begin at 6:00 pm and conclude around 9. Plan to enjoy a fun night for everybody.

Children's games will take place underneath the large tent that will house the annual livestock show the next day. Carnival type games will be available for children to win tickets and then redeem them for prizes set up underneath the shelter.

Older youth will enjoy relay style games set up in the arena. Traditional fall fair games are planned, including Dizzy Bat, Greased Watermelon Course, Stuff a Scarecrow and more. Games will wrap up around 8:00, and line dancing for everybody will begin in the shelter.

Finley's Food Truck will be set up for the evening offering food truck fare and drinks. In addition, complimentary popcorn and sno cones will be offered for children and adults.

The evening event will set the stage for the annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show the next day, Saturday the 23rd, starting at 9:45 am at Circle G. For those interested in the Ag Fair, it will also be on display on Saturday at the Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro from 9 am until 2 pm.

Complete event information is available on the web at Anson.ces.ncsu.edu and Facebook, under 2017 Anson Ag Expo & Fair. Like that page to receive event updates and be on the lookout for more postings.

Plan to come out and enjoy the fun. Celebrate agriculture in Anson!



Dr. Jim Simeon, Director of the Sandhills Regional Education Consortium (SREC), was present at the August 28 Board of Education meeting to present Michael Freeman with a plaque on behalf of the SREC honoring him for his outstanding leadership in public education and for being named the 2018 NC Regional Superintendent of the Year.



During the Anson County School District Opening Day Convocation for Employees on August 22, Michael Freeman was presented a Lighthouse Award from Dr. Bobbie Little (Board of Education Chairperson) and Mr. Howard McLean (Associate Superintendent). They are shown here congratulating him, on behalf of the Anson County School District Family, for his superior leadership to all and for being named the 2018 NC Regional Superintendent of the Year.

Michael Freeman Named 2018 NC Regional Superintendent of the Year

Anson County Schools' Superintendent Michael H. Freeman has been named the 2018 NC Regional Superintendent of the Year (Region 4). He was one of only eight superintendents from the entire state of North Carolina to receive this acknowledgment.

The award is made by the Sandhills Regional Education Consortium which includes 13 public school systems and the Fort Bragg schools. The award is presented to an individual in each of the eight regions in the state who has shown tremendous effort and dedication to enriching the lives of children and the community as a whole.

These individuals are recognized regionally for strong leadership, creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students, personal and organizational communication skills, professionalism, constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team, community involvement and an understanding of regional, national, and international issues and the success of students that has taken place during the evolution of tenure in their respective district.

Mr. Freeman, together with the seven other named regional superintendents of the year, will be presented to the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) in September as one of the finalists for the 2018 A. Craig Phillips State Superintendent of the Year. The state winner is chosen jointly by the North Carolina School Superintendents Association (NCSSA), the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) and the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA), with support and sponsorship from worldwide education leader Scholastic.

In November the NCASA selection committee will announce the winner of the 2018 A. Craig Phillips State Superintendent of the Year. The recipient will then compete for the 2018 National Superintendent of the Year award given at the American Association of School Administrators' (AASA) National Conference on Education held on February 15-17, 2018 in Nashville, TN.

Mr. Freeman began his career in education more than 30 years ago, and will be beginning his fifth year as Anson County's Superintendent of Schools.

On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign's Final Push This Labor Day Weekend

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and its partners will make one final push for this year's "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign over Labor Day weekend. The annual multi-agency initiative works to ensure that North Carolinians can travel safely on the road and on the water during summer holidays. Starting Friday, drivers and boaters can expect to encounter sobriety checkpoints and increased enforcement patrols.

Law enforcement officers aim to help discourage impaired operation of vehicles and vessels throughout the holiday weekend. Drivers and vessel operators can be charged if they are operating a motor vehicle or vessel while under the influence of an impairing substance or if their blood alcohol level meets or exceeds .08 percent.

"We want everyone to return home safely from this final summer holiday weekend," said Lt. Sam Craft with the Commission. "If you must drink, be sure to designate a driver whether you're behind the wheel or on a vessel."

The "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign is coordinated by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, State Highway Patrol and Forensic Tests for Alcohol, and is supported by local police and sheriff's offices, along with participating non-governmental organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The Commission reminds all boaters to put on a life jacket before entering a vessel. Wearing a life jacket is a simple safety precaution that can prevent tragedy from happening in the event of an accident.

Night boating typically increases during holiday weekends, which requires boaters to use caution and to be on high alert due to reduced visibility. Inland lighting rules are in effect and water skiing is prohibited between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. Personal watercraft are prohibited on state waters between sunset and sunrise.

Learn more about enjoying North Carolina's waterways at www.ncwildlife.org/boating.

Volunteers Needed for Day of Caring on October 7

Volunteers will show they care throughout Anson County by raking leaves and washing windows during the 13th annual Day of Caring being held Saturday, October 7. The Day of Caring is a community-wide service project that serves as the official kickoff to the Anson County United Way campaign.

"Last year, more than 200 volunteers worked at 33 project sites to help our neighbors and community," Caroline Goins, Day of Caring chair said. "We are hoping to top the number of teams and projects this year's Day of Caring."

Typical chores include cutting grass, pruning shrubs, trash pickup, window washing, and cleaning gutters at the homes of elderly and disabled citizens. Other projects include sprucing up non-profit agencies and organizations. Volunteer teams can consist of two to ten people and must pre-register so they can be given an assignment.

Day of Caring volunteers will gather for the 7:30 a.m. kickoff and a continental breakfast at the Wadesboro Town Square. Teams from a variety of businesses, churches and civic organizations will scatter across the county to predetermined sites. First Baptist Church of Wadesboro has partnered with United Way to complete community service projects as well as serve lunch to volunteers.

Anson County raised over \$75,000 dollars through United Way of the Central Carolinas last year. United Way in Anson County funds 9 programs through 9 health and human service agencies that serve individuals and families that need a helping hand. They use United Way dollars to help solve the issues these individuals and families face each and every day.

In conjunction with United Way's Day of Caring, canned goods are being collected for families in need. Canned goods will be distributed by Anson Crisis Ministry. Donations can be dropped off at the Crisis Ministry, located at 117 North Rutherford Street in Wadesboro, and Grace Senior Center, located at 199 NC Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, the week prior to the event. There will also be collection barrels on the Square at the Kickoff on October 7.

If you would like to register to volunteer or request help from volunteers, contact Jenn Von Egdaly in the Anson County United Way office at 704-694-2600 or juonegidy@uw-centralcarolinas.org or Caroline Goins at caroline.goins@ansonchildren.org.

Team and Project Site Applications are available through the Anson County Chamber of Commerce website: www.ansoncounty.org and at the Anson County Partnership for Children's office, located at 117 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, September 22.

Parks and Recreation Tennis Program

Anyone 8 years and older who would be interested in learning to play tennis, please register by visiting the Parks and Recreation office or register online at www.co.anson.nc.us.

Registration ends August 31. Dates and times will be announced. For more information contact Jeff Waisner at 704-695-2550, Wendell Small at 704-695-4207 or Morris Gatewood at 704-694-5751.

Town of Wadesboro Labor Day Schedule

The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day Holiday. There will be no garbage pickup that day. Garbage collection will be shifted a day the entire week.

Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, September 5. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, September 6. Wednesday's route will be picked up Thursday, September 7. Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday, September 8.

The normal collection schedule will resume on Monday, September 11. If you have any questions please call Town Hall at 704-694-5171.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every third Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 1 p.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. There is not cost, but you must be 55 or older to play.

For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616.