

FarmHouseBuffet

Ansonville, NC • 704-826-8563

Seafood Buffet & Menu Items
Friday & Saturday 4:30-10

Sunday Country Lunch
Buffet 11:30-4

8018 Highway 52 North in Ansonville

Answers To Your Monroe Expressway-Related Questions

The Monroe Expressway is estimated to open in November or December 2018. This toll road that runs from Marshville to the east side of Charlotte is estimated to take 15 to 30 minutes off the drive from Anson County to Charlotte. The Express Newspaper will begin a series of ads on October 10 that will offer information about the expressway, and how to purchase a transponder for your vehicle.

John Marek, Executive Director of the AnsonEDP, has written an informative release about the expressway. It is presented below:

If you have followed my blog at all over the past year, you know that I expect the Monroe Expressway to be a "game changer" for the economy of Anson County, but until now few practical details about the road have been made public. Today, Megan, Shelby and I attended a briefing by NC Turnpike Authority Director of Outreach and Community Affairs Warren Cooksey that filled in many of the blank spaces, and I wanted to share that information with you.

When will the Monroe Expressway open? Cooksey indicated that the Expressway is on schedule to open in "late fall" of 2018, but noted that "fall" technically extends to December 20th. Based on these comments, I think we can reasonably infer that the road will open sometime in December of this year.

How much time will the Expressway save the average driver? Assuming that a driver takes the entire 18 mile trip from Exit 255 in Stallings to Exit 273 in Marshville, the minimum time savings will be 15 minutes. However, the Expressway bypasses 25 stoplights, so depending on traffic and timing, the time savings could be as much as 30 minutes. This would easily put Peachland within 45 minutes of Uptown Charlotte.

What will be the speed limit on the Expressway? Most of the 18 miles will be posted 65 miles per hour. A small section near the Marshville exit will be posted 55.

Where are the entry and exit points? The Expressway begins at Exit 255 on US Highway 74 about a mile east of I-485 and ends at Exit 273 near Marshville. In between, there are six exits spaced 2-4 miles apart. The Expressway can be accessed at any exit.

Will there be a cost to drive the Expressway? The Monroe Expressway is a toll road. Fees will be assessed based on miles driven and tracked by a system of overhead gantries. The lowest toll, for 2-axle vehicles with the NC Quick Pass, will be about 14 cents per mile, or \$2.54 for the entire Expressway. Three-axle (panel trucks) and 4-axle (semi trucks) vehicles will pay a higher toll.

How will drivers pay the toll? Drivers will not be required to stop and pay a toll. Tolls will be paid in one of two ways; NC Quick Pass or Bill By Mail. NC Quick Pass works a little like an electronic debit card. Drivers sign up at NCQuickPass.com and put funds into an account. The minimum deposit is \$20. With the account, drivers get a free transponder (basically a barcode sticker) that adheres to their windshield. Scanning devices in the gantries "read" the transponder and deduct the proper amount from the account. The free transponder will also work on toll roads in Georgia and Florida. For \$7.50, drivers can get a more sophisticated transponder that will also work with the EZ Pass system which is popular in the Midwest and East Coast states.

Drivers who use the Expressway infrequently or do not wish to set up an account will be billed by mail. For drivers without the transponder, cameras in the gantries photograph the license plate and a bill is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle. Because of the added administrative costs associated with mailing, the toll for Bill By Mail is 35% higher, or about \$3.43 for the entire 18 miles. After the first Bill By Mail invoice, drivers may opt to receive bills by email. Email billing is subject to the same 35% premium as physical mail billing.

What will happen if a driver has a breakdown or other problem on the Expressway? The Expressway is a state highway, like any other state highway. It will be patrolled by state troopers, subject to all traffic laws and regulations, and accessible by all emergency services. There is also a customer service number associated with the turnpike authority which can be used to report issues such as potholes, broken signage and billing problems.

How many drivers are expected to use the Expressway? Projections are that roughly half of drivers will choose to take the Expressway over the free US Highway 74 route through Monroe. At the western end, that amounts to about 17,000 vehicles per day and at the eastern end about 4,500 vehicles per day. It is expected that the rate of usage will be somewhat higher for trucks than it is for cars.

How will the tolls be used? The tolls generated by the Expressway will be used to maintain the road and to pay off the \$800 million construction cost. By law, tolls cannot be used to support other road projects.

BBQ

GULLEDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Saturday, October 6 11am until...

CHICKEN OR PORK

Served with
Baked Beans, Slaw, Rolls,
Homemade Desserts
& Drink \$10/Plate



Cartons Available Warm or Cold

BEAUTIFUL AND IMPRESSIVE MARBLE TOP QUEEN BEDROOM SUITE

WE FINANCE EZ TO APPLY OWN IT NOW!



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VISIT OUR SLEEP SHOP

AIR CONDITIONERS ALL SIZES HEAT+COOL UNITS

MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET
Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

Check Our Clearance Section

A Manufacturing Career is Just Around the Corner at SPCC

Please make plans to join South Piedmont Community College for an open house - Making the Most of High School: An Open House for Students and Parents

Date: Tuesday, October 2nd, 3 to 6 p.m.

Location: Tyson Family Center for Technology (3509 Old Charlotte Highway in Monroe)

Did you know: By 2020, 65 percent of all jobs in the economy will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school. Visit South Piedmont Community College on Tuesday, October 2nd to learn how high school-age students can receive college-level training tuition free starting as early as the ninth grade.

At this open house event, attendees will:

- Learn about Career and College Promise, which allows eligible high school students to enroll in available college-level pathways covering high-demand career fields such as technology, engineering, manufacturing, and skilled trades.
- Experience hands-on learning activities in programs such as mechatronics, electrical systems, machining, heating and air conditioning, and welding.
- Find out how Career and College Promise compliments the Academic Pathways and Apprenticeships available in local high schools.
- Tour the Tyson Family Center for Technology.

After the tour, stop by the Pelican's SnoBalls' Food Truck in the parking lot for a free 6 oz. SnoBall!

Attendees should register for the event by visiting: tinyurl.com/makeitinunion.

Questions? Contact 704-272-5443 or scollier@spcc.edu

About South Piedmont Community College South Piedmont Community College, the newest of the 58 colleges in the NC Community College System, offers a wide variety of educational and career-based training opportunities for Union and Anson counties, including college transfer, career and technical education, GED, Adult Basic High School, industry training, and lifelong-learning opportunities. South Piedmont offers classes on its campuses in Monroe and Polkton, as well as at the Tyson Family Center for Technology in Monroe, the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro and other sites throughout the service area and online. The College Transfer Program at South Piedmont parallels the freshman and sophomore years of a four-year college or university degree.

Anson County Partnership for Children is currently seeking applications for full time position as PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Position Summary: The Program Coordinator assists the Executive Director and provides leadership and support to improve the quality of ACPC programs serving children and families in Anson County.

- Education, Experience, Requirements**
- BA degree in Early Childhood Education, Education, Business Administration, Public Administration, Public Policy or human services-related field *required*
 - 3 years of experience in management (including experience supervising staff) *required*
 - Experience in financial administration *preferred*
 - Fundraising/grant writing and non-profit board experience *preferred*
 - Residency in Anson County *preferred*
 - Occasionally required to lift up to 25 pounds
 - Some travel, evening and weekend work
 - Criminal background check and drug screen *required*

Anson County Partnership for Children does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of service.

Compensation based on education and experience.
Application deadline is Friday, October 19th.
Application and job description are available at www.ansonchildren.org and at address below.
To apply, send resume, application and cover letter to:

Anson County Partnership for Children
Attention: Caroline M. Goins, Executive Director
117 South Greene Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170
Caroline.goins@ansonchildren.org

Do You Have a Coat or Blanket You Would Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program throughout the year. They distribute coats and blankets to several of the churches and schools in Anson County as well as directly to those people in need. Now that winter is over, do you have a coat or blanket that you can contribute to this cause?

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

HOPE 148 East Morgan Street
Wadesboro
704-690-6689
Pregnancy Resource Center
www.hprc-anson.org hope.prc.anson@gmail.com

Limited Ultrasounds
Pregnancy Tests
Pregnancy Verification
Clothes Up To 4T
Prenatal, Parenting & Childbirthing Classes



All services are free and confidential Mon & Tue 1:30-4