

Rural Communities Receive State Infrastructure Grants to Attract 449 New Jobs and More than \$294 Million in Private Investment

Anson County receives \$112,000 grant to aid location of adhesive manufacturer in former JJ Haines site

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 24 grant requests to local governments totaling \$7,799,500, N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland announced today. The requests include commitments to create a total of 1,312 jobs, 863 of which were previously announced. The public investment in these projects will attract more than \$294 million in private investment.

"Many rural communities across North Carolina are experiencing economic growth because their infrastructure has prepared them for opportunity," Secretary Copeland said. "That's why it is so important that we continue to make strategic investments like these Rural Infrastructure Authority grants, which will support good jobs and make rural areas more competitive."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce's team of rural economic development professionals supports the RIA's work. RIA members review and approve funding requests from local communities. Funding comes from a variety of specialized grant and loan programs offered and managed by N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, led by Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Kenny Flowers. Grants can support a variety of activities, including infrastructure development, building renovation, expansion and demolition, and site improvements.

"The projects approved for grants today will help rural North Carolina attract jobs, support business expansion and prepare sites for future development," said Assistant Secretary Flowers. "The Rural Economic Development Division at Commerce and the Rural Infrastructure Authority are proud to partner with community leaders in every corner of our state, to strengthen their economies and encourage investment."

The RIA approved 21 grant requests under the state's Building Reuse Program in two categories, Vacant Building Category and Existing Building Category. In Anson County a \$112,000 grant will support the reuse of a 167,444-square-foot building in Wadesboro. Loba-Wakol, LLC, a supplier of adhesives and finishes to the wood and resilient flooring industry, plans to locate in the facility on Highway 74 West which was formerly the site of JJ Haines. The overall project is set to create 24 jobs with an investment of \$6.6 million, while 19 jobs and \$1,688,000 in private investment are tied to this grant.

In addition to reviewing and approving funding requests, the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority formulates the policies and priorities for grant and loan programs administered by N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development team. Its 17 voting members are appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate Commerce Pro Tem. The North Carolina Secretary of Commerce serves as a member of the Authority.

For additional information about N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, visit nccommerce.com/rd.

Candlelight Vigil Thursday to Remember Victims of Domestic Violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) website, Domestic Violence Awareness month was first observed in 1987. Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) participates in the Silent Witness program during the month of October to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

During October, life-sized wooden figures will be placed in the community, each bearing the name of a person who once lived, worked, had friends and family - whose life ended violently at the hands of a partner, spouse, ex-spouse or acquaintance.

Gail Dove from ACDVC said, "Domestic Violence often goes unreported. In Anson County, from July 2018 to June 2019, ACDVC assisted 347 victims of domestic violence; 309 were female and 38 were males. The age bracket with the highest incident is 26-40 years old. We had 441 calls to our crisis hotline. According to statistics, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by their intimate partner. According to the North Carolina Seconda Against Assaulted, every 10 seconds a woman is assaulted. From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 there were 52 domestic violence related deaths in North Carolina alone."

On Thursday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. a candlelight vigil will be held at the front steps of the Anson County Courthouse. ACDVC invites anyone who has a friend or loved one represented here or if you have been or know someone that has been affected by domestic violence to come and join everyone during this special time of remembrance.

The known victims in Anson County include: Argatha H. Clark, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parker, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Suess, Linda Kay, Jennifer Haisley, Sherri Feely Marshall, Elnora Sturdivant, Doretha Smith, Rodney Smith, Kim Campbell, Joseph Michael Hall, two unnamed victims, and two unborn children.

For information please contact the staff at Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center at 704-694-4499. Their 24 hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

Grace Senior Center's Christmas Luncheon Set for December 4 & 5

Grace Senior Center's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Choose what day you would like to come to the Lockhart-Taylor Center for the event, and register by calling Grace Senior Center at (704) 694-6616.

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