

20
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #149
Wadesboro, NC
28170

Postal
Customer

THE EXPRESS

205 West Morgan Street • Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-694-2480 • TheExpressNews@gmail.com • www.TheExpressNewspaper.com

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

General Election is November 4

Ansonians will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 4 for the upcoming General Election. Early Voting is going on now through Saturday, November 1. Early voting takes place at the Anson County Board of Elections, located at 401 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

On Election Day, Wadesboro Voters who use the polling place at the Board of Education are advised to please enter on the White Store Road side of the building for voting, not from Camden Road.

Here is the calendar for the Election

- **October 29 - 31** EARLY VOTING from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **November 1** EARLY VOTING from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **November 4** ELECTION DAY - Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **November 4** Last day to return an Absentee by Mail Ballot
- **November 7** Sample Audit Count / Provisional Ballot Count at 2 p.m.
- **November 14** County Canvass Day at 11 a.m.

These races are on all ballots in Anson County

Below this list you will find races that are for specific precincts.

US Senate Thom Tillis (Rep), Kay Hagan (Dem), Sean Haugh (Lib)

US House of Representatives District 8 Richard Hudson (Rep), Antonio Blue (Dem)

NC State Senate District 25 Tom McInnis (Rep), Gene McLaurin (Dem), P. H. Dawkins (Lib)

NC House of Representatives District 55 Mark Brody (Rep), Kim Hargett (Dem)

District Attorney District 16C Reece Saunders (Dem)

Nonpartisan Races - Vote for 1 - All Ballots

- **NC Supreme Court Chief Justice** Mark Martin, Ola Lewis
- **NC Supreme Court Associate Justice** Bob Hunter, Sam Ervin IV
- **NC Supreme Court Associate Justice** Eric Levinson, Robin Hudson
- **NC Supreme Court Associate Justice** Mike Robinson, Cheri Beasley
- **NC Court of Appeals Judge** Marion Warren, Chuck Winfree, John Tyson, Elizabeth Scott, Tricia Shields, Jody Newsome, Marty Martin, Hunter Murphy, Keisha Lovelace, Ann Kirby, Abe Jones, Sabra Faires, Daniel Donahue, J. Brad Donovan, Lori Christian, Jeffrey Cook, Betsy Bunting, John Arrwood, Valerie Zachary
- **NC Court of Appeals Judge** Bill Southern, Lucy Inman
- **NC Court of Appeals Judge** Donna Stroud
- **NC Court of Appeals Judge** Paul Holcombe, Mark Davis
- **NC District Court Judge District 16A** Scott Brewer
- **NC District Court Judge District 16A** Regina Joe
- **NC District Court Judge District 16A** Chris Rhue
- **Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor (Vote for 2)** Nichole Carpenter, Milton Pegram
- **Anson County Board of Education At-Large (Vote for 1)** Brian Johnson (Rep), Marilyn Bennett (Dem), Russell Sikes (Dem)
- **Anson County Clerk of Superior Court** Mark Hammonds (Dem)
- **Anson County Sheriff** Landric Reid (Dem)

Referendums - Vote For or Against - All Ballots

- **NC Constitutional Amendment** Constitutional amendment providing that a person accused of any criminal offense for which the State is not seeking a sentence of death in superior court may, in writing or on the record in court and with the consent of the trial judge, waive the person's right to a trial by jury.
- **Anson County Sales and Use Tax** Local sales and use tax at the rate of one-quarter percent (0.25%) in addition to all other State and local sales and use taxes.
- **Anson County Malt Beverage Election** To permit the "on-premises" and "off-premises" sale of malt beverages.
- **Anson County Unfortified Wine Election** To permit the "on-premises" and "off-premises" sale of unfortified wine.

These precincts will have the same ballots as above, but with these specific races added:

Lilesville

- **Board of County Commissioners District 2** Vancine Sturdivant (Dem)
- **County Board of Education District 2** Bobbie Little (Dem)

Peachland, Polkton & White Store

- **Board of County Commissioners District 4** James Sims (Dem)
- **County Board of Education District 4** Lisa Davis (Dem)

Wadesboro 3

- **Board of County Commissioners District 5** Anna Baucom (Dem)
- **County Board of Education District 5** George Truman (Dem)

Election Day Polling Places:

- Ansonville Fire and Rescue, 9145 US Highway 52 North
- Burnsville Fire and Rescue, 33 Rescue Road, Polkton
- Gullidge Fire Department, 34 Chewning Road, Wadesboro
- Lilesville Fire Department, 202 West Wall Street
- Morven-McFarlan Fire Department, 242 East Main Street
- Peachland Fire Department, 35 E. Passaic St.
- Polkton (Lanesboro) Fire Department, 61 West Polk Street
- Wadesboro 1 - SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center, Ingram Room, 514 North Washington Street, Wadesboro
- Wadsboro 2 - Charles Riddle Staff Development Center, 305 White Store Rd., Wadesboro
- Wadesboro 3 - Wadesboro Primary School Auditorium, 1542 US Highway 52 South
- White Store Community Building, 5672 Union Church Road, Peachland

Buffer Zone All Election Day polling places and the One-Stop voting location will have signs posted to indicate a 50 foot buffer zone where no electioneering will be allowed.

More Information is available at the Anson County Board of Elections, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The hours of operation are Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The telephone number is 704-994-3223 or email Steve Adams, Director of Elections, at sadams@co.anson.nc.us.



Anson County Tourism Development Authority Donates \$25,000 to New Agri-Civic Center Project

The Anson County Tourism Development Authority (ACTDA) presented a check for \$25,000 to the Anson AgriCivic Center Capital Campaign on Tuesday, October 21.

"The ACTDA board has been discussing such a move for several weeks, and unanimously voted to donate the funds at the regularly scheduled October meeting," said ACTDA spokesman Jeff Boothby. "This donation came from the ACTDA Reserve Fund and falls in line with the NC General Statute allowing for 1/3 of tax collections to go to tourism related Capital Projects."

Boothby continued, "The ACTDA board sees the Anson AgriCivic Center as a cornerstone to growing our local tourism industry and our economy. There will be a lot of jobs created, and it will offer our community a venue for seminars, graduations, conventions, and many other events. The Union County facility had over 41,000 visitors in 2013 and is booked through June of 2015."

With a completion date scheduled for 2018, the Anson AgriCivic Center has the potential to drastically improve our local economy and our tourism base. And, it will certainly have a positive impact on the lives of all Ansonians and all those fortunate enough to come and visit us.

Quarter-Cent Sales Tax Referendum on November 4 Ballot

Many voters are contemplating the proposed quarter-cent sales tax referendum found on the ballot this November 4. The referendum states, "The N.C. General Assembly granted county boards of commissioners the authority to levy, subject to voter approval, additional one-quarter cent (1/4 of a penny) county sales and use tax." The quarter-cent increase in sales taxes in Anson County would be used for education. More specifically it will be used for educator supplements.

At the risk of losing more teachers to other states that pay higher salaries and supplements to educators, the Anson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution calling for the November 4 vote, which will help bring Anson teachers' supplements up. Currently educators earn a 2.5 percent supplement annually, which is lower than 99 other North Carolina public school systems!

The sales tax referendum can raise up to \$300,000 in additional funds for teachers. Much of the additional tax revenue will be raised from non-Anson County citizens who spend money here.

When asked, Anson County Schools Superintendent Michael Freeman said, "I am confident and hopeful that voters will approve the quarter-cent tax increase. I think most Anson County citizens will be supportive of a sales tax increase because we want all children in Anson County to have a strong education as we prepare them to become successful and responsible citizens."

Also important to note are items that are exempt from the sales tax hike. There will be no tax increase on prescription medication, vehicles, gasoline, food and property taxes.

Freeman added, "As Ansonians cast their vote for a 1/4% sales tax increase, it is exciting to know these funds will be available to support a much needed increase in local teacher supplements. Higher supplements will help with recruitment and retention of quality teachers. The Anson County Board of Education is eagerly partnering with the Anson County Board of County Commissioners to gradually provide local teacher supplements that are in line with other North Carolina systems. The advantage of increasing sales tax is that all shoppers in Anson County will contribute to this fund designated to support public schools."

Freeman concluded, "Anson County enjoys many travelers as they utilize Highways 74, 52, 109, 218, and 742 just to mention a few highly used roads. When these visitors stop to make a purchase they will pay this sales tax to support public education. Importantly, property owners will not have to accept a tax increase for this purpose."

Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge Night Prowl is Saturday

Also a celebration for the Refuge's 50th Anniversary

The Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of the Pee Dee National Wildlife will host the annual Night Prowl on Saturday night, November 1 starting at 6 p.m. The refuge was established in 1964 and they will also be celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Activities will center around the Sullivan Pond area, located behind the refuge headquarters on Highway 52 North. Fun activities will include hay rides, a hot dog supper, and marshmallow roasts around the bonfire.

Refuge Manager J. D. Bricken said, "We hope to receive a rehabbed barred owl from the Carolina Raptor Center to release back into the wild during the event."

All activities will be held outside and participants are asked to wear cold weather gear and bring flashlights. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions call the refuge at 704-694-4424.

Halloween Safety Tips from Wadesboro Police Department

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer and officers of the Wadesboro Police Department want to express the importance of Halloween safety for all families of our community. Every year over 150 million Americans participate in Halloween festivities. Of these, 41 million children will trick or treat. However, the quest for candy isn't all fun and games. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than twice as many children are injured in pedestrian accidents on Halloween than any other day of the year.

Use Halloween as a great opportunity to talk to your children about food safety, fire safety, pedestrian safety and situational awareness. Additionally, incorporate these safety tips: Control the candy by feeding your children a light meal or snack before going trick or treating. This will discourage them from snacking on their bounty. Urge your children to wait until they get home to eat their candy. Inspect their candy when they get home. Avoid decorations with real flames. Instead, use battery operated lights to illuminate your jack-o-lanterns. Go with your children to the door of every home you visit. Never let your children go a stranger's home without your permission. Only approach homes with lit porch lights or ones that clearly are inviting trick-or-treaters.

Electronics Recycling Drive is Saturday

Cub Scout Pack 530 will hold an electronics recycling drive on Saturday, November 1 at Peachland United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to drop off unwanted items from 9 a.m. to noon. This includes any items that plugs in or charges up...and this service is free.

Among the items they accept are computers, phones, monitors, vcr/dvd players, small appliances, white goods, televisions, inkjet and toner cartridges and more. A certificate of destruction is provided for computers to ensure that your data is safe.

This recycling event will help keep Anson County clean and green. If you cannot transport large items, or if you have questions, contact Laura Laney at 704-994-9173.

Christmas Parade is December 4

Plans are underway for the 2014 Wadesboro Christmas Parade. It is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 4. The uptown parade route will remain the same as in previous years - starting on Morven Road for the line-up, and concluding at the Ray Shelton Ball Field for breakdown. The parade will move down Washington, Martin and Greene Streets.

A parade is a community's way of expressing holiday greetings. Entries are being accepted by the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at any time between now and November 26. Floats, both professionally designed and homemade, are eligible for entry.

For more information contact the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at 704-694-4181 or ansonchamber@windstream.net. Parade entry form and safety rules can be downloaded from www.ansoncounty.org.

Party in Pink Zumbathon Charity Event

You are invited to the first ever Party in Pink event. This is an hour long Zumba fitness party in honor of all of those who are battling or have battled against breast cancer.

Zumba fitness is the latest fitness craze which consists of exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance moves. The only things you will need to bring are a donation, water bottle, friends, and plenty of energy! All proceeds raised go to benefit the Zumba global research grant for breast cancer prevention, in partnership with Susan G. Komen for the cure.

This event is hosted by Mirandi Chewning (licensed Zumba instructor) and sponsored by Anson County Schools. It will be held at the Wadesboro Elementary School gym on Thursday, October 30, from 7 to 8 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the first 50 participants to arrive will receive a gift. So don't forget to wear your pink, bring your friends, and let's dance!