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



## Historic First Graduating Class at Bowman High School, Class of 1968, Celebrates 55th Reunion

Members of Bowman High School Class of 1968 celebrated their 55th High School Reunion on Friday, December 1 at the Harvest Ministries – CityReach Community Center in Wadesboro. The 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. event was attended by almost seventy members of the class and their guests. Dr. Josephine Leak Harris, classmate and chair of the Reunion Planning Committee, opened the event with a hearty welcome to classmates as trailblazers, forerunners, and ones who paved the way for other classes to follow by graduating as the first integrated class of Anson County Schools. She indicated that when members of this historic class, turned their tassels on June 5, 1968, they turned an era in the county, leaving a legacy no other class can claim as being the first graduates. Following Dr. Harris' welcoming statements to classmates and their guests, attendees were welcomed to Anson County and the event by Anson County Commissioner Mr. Jarvis T. Woodburn. Mr. Woodburn complimented the historic class on keeping the memories of Bowman High School alive in their memories and in the historical impact they made as the first class to graduate from the consolidated high school in Anson County Schools. Following the greetings by Commissioner Woodburn, Dr. Eva Baker Graves, classmate, plus members of the class representing all schools that were consolidated in Anson County, paid tribute to deceased members of the class with candles lit and names of their schools shared. Mrs. Pamela Streater Vernon next took attendees down memory lane with great reflection about the local, national, and international occurrences during their 1967-1968 senior year. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. This was indeed a magical night for members of this historic class and their guests as they joined in fellowship, food, door prizes, and listened to music of their era, shared by the DJ for the event, Mr. Leon Gatewood. This was a time of reflection, reaffirmation, and remembrance about the challenges of their senior year as well as the character building that took place during this most pivotal year of their schooling. With a closing prayer for the event shared by their classmate, Rev. James Thomas, members of this historic class and their guests left looking forward to celebrating reunions in many years to come.

## School Board Meeting is December 11

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 11. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 3:00 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 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools." 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.

## Brandon Chewning Appointed Wadesboro Police Chief

Major Brandon Chewning of the Wadesboro Police Department is the new Chief of Police. David Edwards, Town Manager for The Town of Wadesboro issued this release on Monday, December 4: "After nearly 30 years of service to the Town of Wadesboro in various capacities at the Wadesboro Police Department, Chief Thedis Spencer retired on November 21 of this year. This left the Town in a position to go through the difficult process of selecting the next leader to take that organization to new heights of excellence in community service. In order to ensure that the new proper candidate was selected, we undertook an extensive search, interviewed several well-qualified candidates, and deliberated much before coming to a decision. I am pleased to announce that at the conclusion of this process, one candidate stood out as the obvious choice to be the next Chief of Police for the Town of Wadesboro. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Chief Brandon Chewning to this position. Chief Chewning has spent the entirety of his 25+ year career with the Wadesboro Police Department as a patrol officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Major, and most recently, Interim Chief. Modern policework comes with so many challenges, but I have no doubt that he will overcome them with grace and lead with excellence for many years to come! Thank you, David Edwards, Town Manager" In their release, the Wadesboro Police Department said, "The men and women of the Wadesboro Police Department are proud that we will continue to be led by one of our own. Chief Chewning's promotion is well earned and well deserved. We all look forward to growing, learning, and serving our community together."



Wadesboro Police Chief  
Brandon Chewning

## Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Thursday

The Wadesboro Christmas Parade will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. After the parade be sure to stay uptown and enjoy Christmas in the Village.

## Register Now for Parks & Rec Basketball

**Deadline is Friday!** Anson County Parks and Recreation is accepting registrations now for their basketball program. It is open to these age groups: Micro (3-5); Grades K-2nd; 3rd-4th; 5th-6th; & 7th-9th. You can register online until December 8 at [anson.recdesk.com](http://anson.recdesk.com). For information call 704-994-3025.

## Christmas Concert with Janet Wright and Elaine Johnson

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites you to join them for a Christmas concert with Janet Wright and Elaine Johnson. This will be Monday, December 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Little Theater. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

## Harvest Ministries' Community Christmas Blessing Event is December 17

Harvest Ministries is focused on their 19th annual Community Christmas Blessing event which will be held at Harvest on Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. At this event every child will receive a Christmas toy, as well as many other prizes and opportunities for families to receive a Christmas Blessing. For more information or to donate to this cause please contact Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.

## Animal Shelter Addresses Dog Illness Spreading Across the State

*This is a release from the Anson County Animal Shelter:* A wave of concern is sweeping across North Carolina as reports of a mysterious respiratory illness affecting dogs has surfaced. Several shelters in our area have witnessed a disturbing surge in canine respiratory cases in recent days, weeks and months. Unfortunately, this morning here at the Anson County Animal Shelter, we have four dogs showing signs of sickness with nasal discharge. The culprit behind this enigmatic illness remains a mystery, as its symptoms closely mimic those of other viral infections like influenza or kennel cough. Further complicating matters is the lack of diagnostic tests specifically designed for this ailment. We here at the Anson County Animal Shelter, along with our Vet of Record and State Inspector are carefully monitoring the situation, particularly for signs of pneumonia, a severe complication that can arise from respiratory infections. All dogs housed in this area of the shelter are being treated medically for their symptoms. We will be transparent and keep the community well informed of what is happening in the shelter. We know many of you care about the animals we are entrusted to care for, as much as we do. Caring for and stopping the spread in our facility is our number one priority. We are urging all pet owners to please be on high alert for any unusual behavior or symptoms in your dogs, such as coughing, ocular or nasal discharge, sneezing, loss of appetite, labored breathing and lethargy. We are canceling public outings with our dogs currently, limiting public viewing and interactions and ceasing adoptions and INTAKES (strays and owner surrenders), except for EMERGENCIES for the next two weeks. This is due to the unknown nature of the illness, raising the possibility of dogs contracting the virus from infected dogs in our care and attempting to stop the spread early and quickly. If the situation is not controlled, depopulation of the shelter could be possible. We care deeply for these animals and do not want that, if the situation can be avoided by simply not intaking dogs. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us here at the Anson County Animal Shelter at 704-994-2738, via email at [mlett@ansoncountync.gov](mailto:mlett@ansoncountync.gov) or your pet's vet.

## Lilesville Has it Going on for Christmas!

The Town of Lilesville will host their annual lighted Christmas Parade followed by Christmas in the Park on Tuesday, December 12 at Hatcher Park. The parade begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by Christmas in the Park. Want to do some shopping too? Come and enjoy the North Pole Marketplace on Tuesday, December 12, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Vendors will be set up in the old fire bays beside the Lilesville Police Department on West Wall Street. Many items will be on sale, including Papparazzi jewelry, t-shirts, soaps, scarfs, homemade sweets and treats, pocketbooks, and more! If you are interested in having an entry in the parade please contact the Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711 or Beth Griggs Richeson at 704-212-8258 for all the details. The deadline is this Friday, December 8. See you on Tuesday! Merry Christmas!

## Veterans Christmas Party

All veterans and guest are invited to the Veterans Christmas Party to be held on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Empowering Word Ministries, located at 1168 Highway 52 South. For information contact Judy Cox at [coxjudy@windstream.net](mailto:coxjudy@windstream.net).

## Give the Gift of Reading

Improve the lives of children in our community and cross that hard-to-shop loved one off your Christmas list by sponsoring a child for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL). The Anson County Partnership for Children has a special holiday offer for those who give \$25 or more to this local initiative. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth until age five, regardless of family income. Dolly's vision was to create a lifelong love of reading, prepare children for school, and inspire children to dream. With every DPIL donation made, a certificate and an ornament created by local children will be offered to honor or in memory of a loved one. Donations can be made, and ornaments can be picked up at the Partnerships' Early Childhood Resource Center, located at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro during weekday operating hours from December 4-21. Each \$25 raised will fund one child's registration for one year. That child will receive an age-appropriate book each month and the encouragement to read together as a family. The Anson County Partnership for Children and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library are working together to get books into the hands of Anson County's youngest children. The Partnership aims to provide membership in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for all children in Anson County aged five years - and you can help! For more information, call the Partnership at 704-694-4036, stop by the Early Childhood Resource Center at 115 East Morgan Street, or visit the Partnership's Facebook page.

## Visit with Santa After the Wadesboro Christmas Parade

The Anson County Partnership for Children is delighted to invite the public to visit Santa on Thursday, December 7 directly after the Uptown Wadesboro Christmas Parade. Santa will be at the Early Childhood Resource Center, which is located at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro. During the event children will have the chance to write letters and cards for Santa, play in the "snow," and meet Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Each child will receive a book to take home as a special gift. This event is open to the public and completely free of charge. Parents may take a picture of their family with Santa, and Partnership staff will upload pictures taken to the Partnership Facebook page for families to access as well. For more information call the Partnership at 704-694-4036 or visit the Partnership's Facebook page.