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

## New Facility Proposed to Replace Anson Community Hospital

New services for Anson County with Centennial Project



Carolinas HealthCare System has proposed a Centennial Development Project to better address the healthcare needs of Anson County and the patients served by Anson Community Hospital. The project includes replacing the existing hospital with a new facility that includes:

- multi-purpose patient rooms
- 24-hour emergency services
- better access to primary care
- comprehensive patient navigation to assist patients who need treatment at other Carolinas HealthCare System facilities outside Anson County.

The project also includes new programs including faith-based community health services, transportation assistance, wellness coaches and a sliding scale pharmacy with medication management counseling, among others.

Planning for the project, which includes site selection and design, is expected to take 12-18 months. Construction would take another 12-15 months. Anson Community Hospital would continue to operate during planning and construction of a new facility. The Lillie Bennett Nursing Center will remain in operation as it is now.

More details about the proposal will be shared at to-be-announced presentations with civic organizations and church groups. More information at [carolinashealthcare.org/centennial](http://carolinashealthcare.org/centennial).

Carolinas HealthCare System ([www.carolinashealthcare.org](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org)), one of the nation's leading and most innovative healthcare organizations, provides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness programs throughout North and South Carolina. Its diverse network of more than 650 care locations includes academic medical centers, hospitals, healthcare pavilions, physician practices, destination centers, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, nursing homes and hospice and palliative care. CHS works to improve and enhance the overall health and wellbeing of its communities through high quality patient care, education and research programs, and numerous collaborative partnerships and initiatives.

## Anson County 4-H Clover Crawl is Friday

Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise is pleased to announce that the Clover Crawl is back. The event will be held Friday, March 16 at the Twin Valley Country Club in Wadesboro from 7 p.m. until midnight. The Clover Crawl is an adult event, 21 and over. The event will be sure to bring an evening of fun, food, dancing and great socializing. Heavy Hors D'oeuvres and drinks will be served. This year's DJ/Entertainer is 4-H alumnus Ryan Short of Ryan Short Entertainment ([www.ryanshort.net](http://www.ryanshort.net)).

Funds raised will be used to support on-going 4-H youth programs in Anson County. Advanced tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at the Extension Office located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, Lacy's, or from committee members and staff. Ticket price at the door will be \$30. The fundraiser helps make up dollars lost due to shortfalls and cutbacks in funds that have traditionally provided 4-H programming and operating budgets. The dollars raised from the Clover Crawl will support programs that address the well being of youth, families, and communities in Anson County.

If you would like to learn more information about this event please contact Roshunda Blount, 4-H Agent or Erin Dempsey, Program Director at 704-694-2915.

## "St. Patrick's Tea" at Grace Senior Center to Offer Info on Medicare and Medicaid

Grace Senior Center will sponsor a "St. Patrick's Tea" on Friday March 16th, from 1 until 2 p.m. for those individuals who are retired or close to retirement. If you are interested in learning more about Medicare and Medicare Part D you are encouraged to attend this seminar. SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) representatives will be on hand to answer all of your questions as well as determine individuals eligibility for 'low income subsidy.' If you are interested, call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616 to register or for additional information.

## Sandy Bruney and Elbert Marshall Featured at Brown Bag Book Club Meeting

The Brown Bag Book Club will meet in the Little Theatre at the Hampton B. Allen Library on Monday, March 19 at noon for lunch and author talk. Please bring a dish and prepare to listen to local authors, Sandra Bruney (she will be talking about her upcoming book *The Lunch Group*) and Elbert Marshall, who will be speaking about his upcoming book as well. You will certainly be in for a treat. Both Sandy and Elbert are entertaining, knowledgeable and an asset to Anson County.

If you have questions please call the library at 704-694-5177.

## VFW Banquet to be Held March 24

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10403 will have their first VFW banquet at Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro on Saturday, March 24 at 6 p.m. You are invited to please bring someone to help with the celebration.

If you have questions, please call the Hampton B. Allen Library at 704-694-5177.

## New Beginnings Cancer Support Group

The New Beginnings Cancer Support Group will meet on Monday, March 19th at 6 p.m. at the Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro. The guest speaker will be Cameron Quick with the American Cancer Society.

For more information call (704) 694-3988.

## Youth Department at Poplar Springs Celebrates Black History Month



The Youth Department of the Poplar Springs Missionary Baptist Church commemorated Black History month on the fourth Sunday in February by participating in a march and wearing their African scarves, which signify a people of love, unity and faith. They also celebrated their annual 12 Disciple Rally.

## Details About a New Anson Community Hospital

In a release from Carolinas HealthCare System: Since its construction in 1913, Anson Community Hospital has provided care for thousands of Anson County residents. As it nears its centennial milestone and begins its next 100 years, Carolinas HealthCare System intends to create an innovative, viable healthcare model in Anson County that provides high quality healthcare with a new facility and strong community partnerships.

What is Centennial? What does Centennial mean for healthcare in Anson? Centennial is more than a 100-year anniversary. The Centennial Development Project is a vision to better address the healthcare needs of the community and the patients we serve. The manner in which healthcare has been delivered in Anson County cannot and should not be sustained, but should be updated with an innovative delivery model. We need to work collaboratively as a community to provide easier access to appropriate care for all citizens.

Centennial will build on Anson Community Hospital's long history of providing quality healthcare to Anson County residents by creating a sustainable, long-term healthcare model that provides high quality healthcare through innovative partnerships and access to the right care for the right need at the right time.

Why can't the community continue to have the hospital as it is? Sustaining an outdated community hospital facility is no longer meeting the true healthcare needs of Anson County, and small communities all over the Carolinas and beyond are facing this same reality. Carolinas HealthCare System is eager to invest in creating a better healthcare model and to meet these changing needs through the development of targeted health services, the creation of a new community healthcare facility and strong community partnerships.

What will happen to the current hospital? If the community, including the Anson County Board of Commission, endorses the concept of the Centennial Development Project, Carolinas HealthCare System would replace the existing facility with a new, state of the art facility that will actually serve as a patient-centered Medical Home that will be fully integrated into the new hospital, both structurally and operationally. Traditional hospital services will be sized appropriately for current community demand, but will be flexible to adjust to future needs. Key aspects of the hospital services are envisioned to include:

- Multi-purpose patient rooms
- Easy transition of exam rooms between emergency services and Medical Home as the need requires
- Comprehensive patient navigation will assist patients need to transition to other Carolinas HealthCare System services outside of Anson County.

What services will be in the new facility? We believe the Centennial Development Project will bring improved access to primary care, triage and treatment for urgent care, a 24-hour emergency department, inpatient beds, observation beds, digital imaging (X-ray, ultrasound, MRI and CT scanner), full laboratory services and a pharmacy. In addition, if services outside of Anson County are needed, access to services will be available in a fully connected, fully integrated manner to Carolinas HealthCare System's comprehensive healthcare services.

How does this project affect employees? The entire Anson team will be affected by the excitement surrounding the planning and development of the new healthcare initiative in Anson County; communicating with employees frequently about this project is one of the top priorities. In addition, over the next year to 18 months, there will be numerous opportunities to share plans for staffing the new programs. This is just the beginning of the process and more details will be shared as plans for the facility are finalized.

What specific services will the Centennial Development Project provide for the community, either alone or in partnership with other community organizations? We envision a collaborative community services initiative that would evaluate and implement innovative wellness and prevention programs to build relationships with existing community networks, enhance existing programs and most importantly advance the health of the community.

We want to promote a strong emphasis on wellness and disease management, through community intervention programs, collaboration with other established community-based social and health organizations and disease management clinics. Beyond primary care services, the patient-centered Medical Home, in coordination with other CHS services, will lead all community outreach efforts, and coordinate on-site and remote services in collaboration with local community healthcare providers.

Programs to be offered by Carolinas HealthCare System include:

- Faith-based community health services (Parish Nursing)
- Financial support to re-develop the Healthy Ansonians task force
- Patient navigation services
- Transportation assistance
- Mobile dental clinic
- Wellness coaches
- Enhanced intervention within the schools, including dietary oversight and coordination, and improved health education
- Sliding scale pharmacy and medication management counseling

Will we maintain or increase the total number of providers? That is an excellent question that will become part of the Centennial planning and development process. It's our intent to bring additional specialists to Anson County, including a family practice residency program. We look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this in more detail in the weeks and months to come.

How will Centennial change the care patients receive in this community? Centennial is about building on the rich 100-year history of healthcare in Anson County and about transforming and enhancing that care for the next 100 years. Working in collaboration with healthcare providers throughout the County, Centennial will bring a higher level of care to patients than can currently be provided through the existing facility. At the core of Centennial is the opportunity to create a true Medical Home and bring access to more of the services that Anson County needs so that relationships between physicians and their patients are enhanced.

If a patient needs care that won't be provided by Carolinas HealthCare System in Anson County, where would they get it? Centennial is about greatly improving access to care for Anson County. Advanced technology and our fully integrated network of care, including specialists and complex treatments at Carolinas Medical Center will enhance access significantly beyond where it is today. And the proximity of CMC-Union and the greatly enhanced services we have brought there over the past few years will serve as a convenient extension to the care available locally.

Can we still use the hospital? For how long? Anson Community Hospital will continue to be your hospital all during the Centennial planning and development period right up until the new facility opens. We anticipate this taking about two and half years. The new facility will be an entirely new, modern, advanced environment with multiple services available all under one roof.

Where will the new facility be? Several sites are being considered that would be convenient to most Anson County residents.

When will the new facility open? We don't have a definite opening date. We are looking to mid 2014 as a projected opening date.

What will happen to the nursing home? The nursing home will stay open and continue to operate as it is now.

Why not just renovate the existing facility? The existing facility was built in the 1950s and no longer provides the kind of space, flexibility and amenities that patients, families, physicians and other clinical professionals expect and deserve. And the healthcare needs of this community, including access to high quality care and treatment, can no longer be sustained in the current hospital. That care can best be provided in a brand new, multifaceted facility.

How will patients be informed about the Centennial plans? We are very excited about how Centennial will help transform patient care and the health of residents in Anson County. Information will be available widely at the hospital and Lillie Bennett Nursing Center, at physician offices and elsewhere in the community. In the weeks to come we also will host community meetings to share information about Centennial. A website has been set up where people can visit for up to date information and where they can ask questions.

Where can I get more information? We'll have information available at many locations, including the hospital, nursing home, doctors' offices, drug stores and community centers. We'll also reach out to churches, school groups and civic clubs with presentations that highlight the changes that are coming.

We'll also provide the local newspapers with timely updates and information we hope will be shared, and we will keep you updated through the website developed just for information about Centennial: [www.carolinashealthcare.org/centennial](http://www.carolinashealthcare.org/centennial).

## Civic Builders Club Invites You to Their Dinner at the Old Store

In a release from the Civic Builders Club: The Civic Builders Club of Lilesville will be hosting a night at the Old Store in Lilesville on Monday March 19th. Please come join us and eat from 5 p.m. until closing. A portion of the profits will help us with the cost of a new roof. The Civic Builders Club of Lilesville meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. We enjoy a covered dish supper along with special guests, and a business meeting.

The members are busy with fundraisers for the roof, but the Special Olympics holds a special place in our heart each year. President Juanita Williams would love to have you join us as we work diligently for the community of Lilesville.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The Anson Women's League is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, March 21 at the First Baptist Church in Wadesboro. The event will run from 1:30 to 6 p.m.

Look inside for special inserts from IGA Family Dollar