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

Board of Commissioners Approves 2017-2018 Budget

In unanimous vote on Monday, June 19 the Anson County Board of Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget. The budget makes critical investments in the key areas of employee retention, capital improvements and fiscal responsibility. It also reflects the commissioners' desire to avoid burdening the citizens of Anson County while providing quality services.

- The adopted budget:
- Maintains the current County tax rate of \$0.801 per \$100 valuation
 - Continues the Wadesboro Fire District Tax Rate at \$0.096
 - Increases all other Fire District Tax Rates to \$0.083
 - Affords employees a 5% Cost of Living Adjustment effective with the pay period beginning July 2, 2017
 - Provides health insurance to full-time employees on the NC State Health Plan
 - Offers no reduction in the level of services to the citizens of Anson County

Three new positions have been approved: Public Health Educator, Deputy Fire Marshal and GIS Analyst.

Commissioners continue their commitment to economic development through the contribution to the Anson Economic Development Partnership.

Pursuant to State legislation, the relatively new sales tax on labor will continue to be split equally among the three purposes for K-12 education, community college education and economic development.

Anson County Schools is funded at \$3,694,598 for current expense, approximately \$185,000 in new sales tax revenue, \$375,000 in quarter cent sales tax revenues, and \$90,000 in capital outlay. Additionally, there is \$221,554 allocated for teacher supplements

South Piedmont Community College is funded at \$978,879, which equates to \$560,629 for current expenses, \$185,000 in new sales tax revenue and \$233,250 for capital outlay.

These capital items are also funded:

The 2017-2018 budget was developed in accordance

| Department | Cost | Item Requested | Budget Recommendation |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Human Services | \$350,000 | Design of new building | Funded for DSS building design only |
| Data Processing | \$200,000 | New financial software | Funded |
| Health Department | \$15,000 | Repaving of parking lot | Funded |
| Courthouse Building | \$35,000 | New rooftop HVAC unit | Funded |
| Law Enforcement Building | \$20,000 | New HVAC unit | Funded |
| Water | \$150,000 | Equipment purchase | Fully funded (Enterprise fund) |
| Water - Filtration | \$405,000 | SCADA and other upgrades | Fully funded (Enterprise fund) |
| Wastewater | \$125,000 | Various upgrades | Fully funded (Enterprise fund) |
| EMS | \$55,000 | New Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) | Recommended for financing |
| EMS | \$460,000 | Two new ambulances | Recommended for financing |

with all statutory provisions and provides a framework for the upcoming budget year that mirrors objectives set forth by our Governing Body. It is a fiscally sound and financially responsible budget that reflects the organizational goals of the Anson County Board of Commissioners.

For more information, contact Anson County Manager Megan Garner at 704-994-3200 or mgarner@co.anson.nc.us.

Children Invited to "Summertime Storytime" at the Partnership

The Anson County Partnership for Children invites children ages 3-8 to "Summertime Storytime" on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the Partnership's Early Childhood Resource Center. It is located at 117 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. During "Summertime Storytime," an interactive reader will share books, sing songs and foster a love for reading through activities appropriate for young learners. Every child who attends storytime will receive a free book to take home.

This summer the Partnership will have several special guests from the community to present engaging storytime presentations. For example, Coach Jackson, Anson High School's football coach, will help attendees "Grow Strong" in July, discussing healthy living and physical activity.

During the summer children can lose up to one month of instruction. One way to keep children engaged and maintain what they have learned in school is by reading.

Parents are required to stay with their children during storytime and are encouraged to participate. Child care classrooms are welcome as well, but must pre-register due to spacing limitations. To make a reservation for "Summertime Storytime" call 704-694-4036.

Stay up to date with Anson County Partnership for Children's "Summertime Storytime" guests and events by being their friend on Facebook and by visiting www.ansonchildren.org.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." For more information contact the Partnership at 704-694-4036 or visit the Partnership's website at www.ansonchildren.org.

4th of July Event in Uptown Wadesboro this Friday

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. will be hosting a 4th of July event on Friday, June 30, starting at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to come. The event will feature music, fireworks and food, as well as games. It will be held in the Plank Road parking lot on the corner of Washington and Wade Streets.

Parks & Rec Summer Free Movies

Anson County Parks & Recreation is offering free movies every Monday through July 31. (There is no movie on July 3.) The movies are screened at the Hampton B. Allen Library at 1:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre. These movies are for youth, ages 10 to 14.

- Here is the movie lineup:
- July 10 *The Shaggy Dog* • July 17 *Snow Days*
 - July 24 *Nanny McPhee* • July 31 *Rudy*
- For more information call Wendell Small at 704-695-2782.



Land Dedication for New Community Center and Park

This is a release from the Chamber of Commerce: A land dedication was held on Friday, June 16 for the future site of the North 52 Community Center and Park on Rivers Street in Wadesboro. This project started in 2015 with a vision of President Lorraine Ellerbe.

Ellerbe saw the need to provide citizens and students in Wadesboro and surrounding towns an opportunity to develop and maintain social, educational and recreational activities. After speaking with Leon Gatewood, President of HOLLA! in Morven, she heard the need to help our young children with their reading skills and additional guidance for academic and social skills in order to combat the increase of low academic scores. She contacted current and former residents in Wadesboro and surrounding areas for a meeting regarding her vision to build a community center and park.

As time progressed, with several meetings, a committee was established and board members were elected in the summer of 2015.

Their first fundraiser was a block party, held at the Anson Middle School parking lot with a number of food and merchandise vendors, games for children and raffles for the adults. Since 2015 an annual block party has been held to celebrate the community and the children.

The vision of the North 52 Community Center and Park is to be a committed and active participant in promoting a community where children, young adults and seniors are valued and provided with optimal opportunities to learn and socialize in a safe facility. In turn, the community will be enriched by the participation of all individuals as they thrive to reach their full potential, in an atmosphere that supports diversity and encourages reciprocal partnerships.

The board for the North 52 Community Center and Park would like to thank the community for coming together during the land dedication to celebrate the mission set forth. They offer a very special thank you to Mrs. Peggy Martin, wife of the late J. A. Martin, for the donation of land to continue the vision.

Shelby Emrich, Executive Director of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, congratulated the board members on making this important project come to life with their passion and dedication to its mission. She stated that people will gravitate to the positive things that come out of this project.

Ansonia Theatre Announces 2017-18 Season

This is a release from the Anson Theatre: The Ansonia Theatre is gearing up for its biggest and most exciting season to date. This year's lineup promises something for everyone and includes some classics, some favorites, great music, great dancing and something new!

The season will start out with the Tams, back by popular demand after their sold out, house rocking performance in 2015. This one night only event will hit the stage on Friday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Up next is the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a memory play about a little girl growing up in rural Alabama during the 1930's, and the life changing events that took place there. The show directed by Tommy Wooten, runs October 13-22, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Following that is *Forever Patsy Cline: Tales from the Road*, starring Erica McGee. Come join Patsy and friends as she sings all her hits and shares some funny stories from her time on the road. This is a one night only event and takes place on January 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Next up is everyone's favorite orphan *Annie*, running February 16-25.

Then, March 23 at 7:30 p.m., don't miss *Joshua Lozoff: Life is Magic*. Joshua's performance combines his love for the art of magic and his fascination with psychology, the powers of observation and influence. In one moment he makes a drawing come to life just by pointing, in the next he predicts an audience members choices even before she knows them herself.

The season will end with hugely popular musical *Smoke on the Mountain* which tells the story of a Saturday night gospel sing at a country church in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains in 1938. The show features two dozen rousing bluegrass songs played and sung by the Sanders Family, a traveling group making its return to performing after a five-year hiatus. Though they try to appear perfect in the eyes of a congregation who wants to be inspired by their songs, one thing after another goes awry and they reveal their true - and hilariously imperfect - natures. By the evening's end the Sanders Family have endeared themselves to us by revealing their weaknesses and allowing us to share in their triumphs. This show runs May 11-20 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

The Anson County Arts Council and Ansonia Theatre has started its sponsorship campaign for the upcoming season, and sponsorship information can be obtained at the ACAC at 704-694-4950. Sponsorship levels start at \$100 and go up from there. Each level comes with its own perks and includes early seating selection for the season. The Ansonia anticipates huge crowds this year and seats will go fast. Season tickets are \$80 and they go on sale in July.

Board of Education Meeting Set for June 29

The regular Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 29 at the Anson County Schools Administrative Office Board Room. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Open Session to the public should begin around 6:30 p.m.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families this Saturday

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC) Emergency Food Pantry will distribute free food products this Saturday, July 1 at 9 a.m. These foods are provided by the NC Department of Agriculture through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. Families will be served until the food runs out - first come, first served. Also, due to changes with the schedule, neighbors will be served only once monthly with these items.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for each individual's eligibility and food items will only be available to Ansonians who qualify. Individuals who have not registered before nor received food from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. A neighbor who does not have the necessary documentation will not be served. Families that receive food stamp assistance automatically qualify. Each family will only be provided these commodities this month. Parents are asked not to bring small children. Neighbors, please park in parking lot behind center. BRLC distributes free groceries to eligible families on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and at other times. You can contact them at 704-826-8182 for information. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the BC-SWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-3516.