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

## Municipal Election Candidate Filings as of Monday, July 8

Filing began for the Municipal Election on Friday, July 5. Candidates have until the deadline of Friday, July 19 at 12 noon to file. Here are the races and the candidates who have filed as of Monday, July 8 (in bold).

For more information call the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223.

- Town of Ansonville Mayor (no filings)
- Town of Ansonville Council (no filings)
- Town of Lilesville Mayor (no filings)
- **Town of Lilesville Commissioner - Frank McAllister, Lewis Adams**
- Town of McFarlan Mayor (no filings)
- **Town of McFarlan Council - Christopher Harney, Debbie Bryant**
- **Town of Morven Mayor - Tim Watkins**
- Town of Morven Council (no filings)
- Town of Peachland Mayor (no filings)
- **Town of Peachland Council - Kenneth Rowell, Jr.**
- **Town of Polkton Mayor - Cynthia Williams**
- Town of Polkton Commissioner (no filings)
- **Town of Wadesboro Mayor - Mitchell Huntley**
- Town of Wadesboro Council (no filings)

### Upcoming dates:

- Thursday, July 11** One Stop plans due to state board for special September election
- Tuesday, July 16** Deadline to withdraw candidacy, 5 p.m.
- Friday, July 19** Candidate Filing Ends for Municipal Election, 12 p.m.
- Friday, July 26** Absentee ballots must be made available for special September election
- Thursday, August 1** Logic and accuracy testing for special September election
- Friday, August 2** Deadline to file challenge to a candidate filing
- Wednesday, August 7** Mock Election with state board for special September election
- Friday, August 9** Start publishing election notice for special September election
- Tuesday, August 13** Regular Board of Elections meeting, 5 p.m.
- Friday, August 16** Voter registration deadline for September 10 General Election
- Tuesday, August 20** Meeting to appoint chief judges and judges of precincts (2 year term). Absentee Board meeting, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 21** One Stop Early Voting begins
- Tuesday, August 27** Absentee Board meeting #2 for special September election
- Monday, September 2** County offices closed for Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 3** Last day to request Absentee ballot by mail for September 10 General Election.
- Tuesday, September 3** Absentee Board meeting #3 for special September election
- Friday, September 6** One Stop Early Voting ends
- Monday, September 9** Pre-election day Absentee Board meeting
- Tuesday, September 10** Special September General Election

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate for May Remained Low at 4.3 Percent

Anson County's unemployment rate for May was a low 4.3%, though slightly higher than April's 3.9%. Statewide the unemployment rate was 4.0% in May, down from April's 3.6% rate..

Anson's total labor force in May was 10,750. Of that number 10,287 were employed and 463 were unemployed. In April the total labor force was 10,640 with 10,228 employed and 412 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 95 of North Carolina's counties in May, decreased in three, and remained unchanged in two. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.1 percent.

All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate increases. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount at 5.5 percent had the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.3 percent. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.0 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 94 counties, decreased in four, and remained unchanged in two. Fourteen metro areas experienced rate increases over the year and one decreased.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 30,301 to 4,916,851, while those unemployed increased 25,786 to 205,783. Since May 2018, the number of workers employed statewide increased 95,684, while those unemployed increased 22,725.

## Anson Singers in Concert this Sunday at the Ansonia Theatre

The community is invited to attend a concert of fun and beautiful music performed by the Anson Singers. The concert, entitled "Give Our Regards to Broadway," will be held this Sunday, July 14 at 3 p.m. at the Ansonia Theatre. Funds from the concert will be used to help defray the costs of the Anson Singers' February 2020 trip to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall.

The general admission tickets are \$18, and additional donations will be gladly accepted. They can be purchased at Lacy's of Wadesboro, First United Methodist Church of Wadesboro, or you can call the Arts Council at 704-694-4950. Tickets are not available online.

## Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market Open Every Thursday Afternoon

The Uptown Wadesboro Farmers Market is open every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. on the Town Square through the end of September. All vegetable, fruit, baked goods as well as arts and crafts vendors who wish to participate should contact Uptown Wadesboro at (704) 695-1644.

For further information call Uptown Wadesboro or email [uptownwadesboro@windstream.net](mailto:uptownwadesboro@windstream.net).



## 2019 Leadership Anson Graduation

Recently graduation was held for the 2019 Leadership Anson class. This year marks the 23rd graduating class of the program and gives a total of 341 graduates.

Leadership Anson is a complete learning program committed to developing competent and skilled leadership. The intensive, six-month leadership program provides participants with an overview of the theories and concepts of leadership, a knowledge of the opportunities and challenges facing Anson County, an understanding of governmental agencies and community organizations at work in the county, consideration of historical and cultural influences, and an open dialogue between emerging and current community leaders.

Graduates for 2019: Seth Allen (Pee Dee Electric); Dave Anderson (Atrium Health Anson); Brian Blalock (Waste Connections); Angela Caraway (The Caraway Foundation); Lisa Clark (Anson County Health Dept.); Ephraim Davis (Wadesboro Police Dept.); David Edwards (Town of Wadesboro); Becky Flake (Anson County Schools); Tracy Harrington (Anson County Partnership for Children); Curtis Hayes (Anson/Union Habitat for Humanity); Leigh Hill and Debbie Jarman (Anson County Schools); Jeff Kraftson (South Piedmont Community College); Paula Lear (not pictured - Hornwood, Inc.); Carrissima Martin (Anson County Dept. of Social Services); Lawanda McLendon (Anson County Schools); and Nicole Williams (Atrium Health).

Shelby Emrich, President of the Anson County Chamber of Commerce said, "Thank you to Twin Valley Golf Club and Clarence Parsons for allowing us to host the event there. And, special thanks to our guest speaker Sheriff Landric Reid."

## Health Department Raises Awareness on Hepatitis

July has arrived and the Anson County Health Department is providing information and facts on Hepatitis while celebrating World Hepatitis Day on July 28.

Over 300 million people are living with hepatitis worldwide and are unaware. Without finding individuals who are diagnosed and providing treatment, millions will continue to suffer, and some will possibly die. On World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, people from across the world take action and raise awareness.

Hepatitis refers to an infection of the liver cells and damage to the liver. There are different types and causes, but the symptoms can be similar. The liver's functions include cleansing the blood, storing vitamins, and creating hormones. Hepatitis can interrupt these processes and create severe health problems throughout the body. Each type has different characteristics and is spread in different ways. The three most common are hepatitis viruses A, B and C. Any hepatitis infection can become deadly.

Hepatitis A (HAV) usually spreads when a person mistakenly swallows the virus from objects, food, or drinks polluted by small, hidden amounts of stool from an infected person. HAV can also spread from close personal contact with an infected person such as through sex or caring for someone who is ill.

HAV is often mild, most people make a full recovery. After the infection, the body is immune and protected from the virus in the future. There are safe and effective vaccines that protect against this virus. However, if it progresses without treatment or vaccines, symptoms can be serious or deadly. People in areas of the world with poor cleanliness are mostly at risk of getting HAV.

Hepatitis B (HBV) usually swells the liver and delays its functions. Severe damage can result from the infection. HBV infection can become chronic which can lead to complications, including scarring of the liver. It can also cause certain cancers. Hepatitis B is caused by HBV and is spread through contact with infected blood, semen, and some other body fluids such as breast milk. It is also considered a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

Hepatitis C (HCV) can lead to liver damage and swelling. Around 1 in 4 people with HCV get cirrhosis, and this can lead to liver cancer. It is usually spread through injected narcotics, needle-stick injuries, and a lack of infection control in healthcare settings.

There is no specific treatment for HAV. Most patients with HAV will recover without intervention. A patient with HBV needs to rest and withdraw completely from alcohol. The doctor may prescribe an antiviral agent for treatment. A patient with HAC will also be prescribed antiviral agents for treatment to cure the infection.

To avoid getting Hepatitis wash your hands regularly, be cautious with consuming raw food, always use protection during sex, and do not share needles or toothbrushes. Symptoms of Hepatitis include diarrhea, fatigue, loss of appetite, mild fever, muscle or joint aches, nausea, slight abdominal pain, vomiting, weight loss, and jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes).

The Anson County Health Department offers Hepatitis vaccines, accepting several insurance options. Based upon eligibility some are offered the vaccine for free. A free educational class on Hepatitis will be offered on Tuesday, July 30, from 2 to 3 p.m. For more information please contact Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

## N.C. Blueberry Season is Heating Up

Record temperatures in May and June affect quantity, not quality of crop

Record-high temperatures in North Carolina proved to be a challenge for local blueberry farmers in May. Despite this, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services says consumers can expect a good crop this year.

"Farmers are always at the mercy of weather, and this May was one of the hottest on record," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "But the quality of the crop is still good."

Consumers interested in purchasing local blueberries are encouraged to look for the Got To Be NC label when shopping in retail stores. Blueberries are also available at farmers markets, roadside stands and pick-your-own farms across the state. The season typically runs through mid-July.

North Carolina is the eighth-largest producer of blueberries in the nation. About 6,300 acres of blueberries are grown in the state. In 2017 blueberry production was valued at \$53.8 million.



## Brown Bag Book Club to Feature John Marek

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the Brown Bag Book Club meeting for Monday, July 15 at 12:00 noon in the Pritchett Room. The guest will be John Marek, Executive Director of the Anson Economic Development Partnership and prize winning author. Join the fun as John reads from his new book, discusses his writing process and inspirations and answers questions. There will be copies of his book available for purchase. He will also have prizes and giveaways for everyone in attendance.

Marek is the author of numerous books, including nonfiction titles *Secrets of Neighborhood Marketing*, *Breakfast At Midway: A Lean Marketing Journey*, and *Ben and the Art of Lawnmower Maintenance*, and his short fiction collections *The Bug Jar* and *Other Stories and Ocean of Storms*. His work has also been featured in numerous online and print publications. John can be found online at [www.johnbmarek.com](http://www.johnbmarek.com).

Everyone is invited to come, bring a covered dish and enjoy the program. Any questions, please call 704-694-5177.

## Farmers Market Open Wednesdays and Saturdays

Purchase locally grown vegetables and other items at the Anson County Farmers Market. The market is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays through the end of September. The hours are 7:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Farmers Market is located 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, just past Wadesboro Primary School.

For more information contact Francis Campbell at 704-690-0638.