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

## 2,652 Total Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County So Far

### Vaccines available, Ansonians urged to get vaccinated

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department was 2,652 total Covid-19 cases, with 11 active as of Monday, July 12. The last report in The Express was from June 28, with 2,634 total cases and 9 active. The total deaths remain at 57.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, July 12 there were 562 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,499 deaths and 448 hospitalized. 56% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 53% were fully vaccinated.

**COVID-19 history in Anson County:** March 31, 2020: 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases (no deaths); May 26: 62 cases (1 death); June 22: 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27: 285 cases (2 deaths); August 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths); May 28: 2604 cases (56 deaths).

Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov).

## Toys for Tots "Christmas in July" Fundraiser, Senior Prom

The Toys for Tots "Christmas in July" fundraiser will be held on Saturday, July 31 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the form of a Senior Prom. The theme of the event is "New Year, New Beginnings in July." Guests from all over North and South Carolina are invited. Toys for Tots Coordinator Vancine Sturdivant stated, "I am truly excited and looking forward to the outpouring of participation and support from citizens."

Sturdivant continued, "The reason I began this as a Senior Prom was because the prom was an event my spouse and I never shared together. Even though we chaperoned the high school senior proms, we never went to one together as youth. I began to ask different couples if they attended their senior prom with the person they are currently with or married to and the answer would most often be no. I felt this would be a great way to bring all these fantastic couples together. To get dressed in their gowns and tuxedos, look their soul mates in the eyes and just enjoy each other. Each couple or single person, whether married or not, are to give me a song they want to be dedicated to them at the fundraiser prom, and they are required to get on the floor and dance!"

DJ Leon Gatewood will play each request while Vancine recognizes the couples and calls them on the floor to dance. Last year everyone joined in. One of the highlights of the last Senior Prom was the dancing of Mr. and Mrs. Carl and Carol Gibson. Participants at the prom ranged in age from late 20s to their late 80s - who we called our "Golden Girls." A special table will be reserved for them. Mrs. Garletha Pratt will arrange for them to attend the prom. The ladies truly enjoyed their selves, especially watching Mrs. Sturdivant dance and change outfits. Magistrate Judge Weaver Thomas went to the "Golden Girls" and asked them to dance.

Photographers will be on-site to capture every moment of the event and everyone can order pictures or get a photo that night.

Sturdivant concluded, "A special Thank You goes out to South Piedmont Community College and Ms. Ann Teal who always works and supports every event we have for Toys for Tots. It is because of great supporters that we, the Executive Board, are able to do the things we do for the less fortunate families of Anson County."

Door prizes and gifts will be awarded.

Tickets can be purchased from the Toys for Tots Executive Board, Vancine Sturdivant, Elissa Michelle Sturdivant, Sheriff Landric Reid, Playaz Elite Motorcycle Club, Barbara Thomas, Erica Greene, Shunda Brown, Diane Carelock, Sabronia Dows, Showtime Tattoo Parlor, William "Bugga" Sturdivant and Sheila Chambers. For more information call Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

## Taste of Nutrition Classes

Are you interesting in smarter and healthier eating after quarantine? If so, the Anson County Health Department is here to help. This Spring/Summer the Anson County Health Department is providing a free cooking class hosted at the Lockhart-Taylor Center called "Taste of Nutrition." The class will be held every Wellness Wednesday, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. - June 23 until August 25.

The importance of this class is to encourage healthy eating amongst the Anson Community. The class will provide community members tips for healthier choices, demonstrations on nutrition fact labels, and materials on reducing sodium (salt) intake. The class will incorporate healthy-cooking techniques that will boost flavor and cut calories.

Taste of Nutrition will consist of a brief educational session on the importance of healthy eating followed by the recipe of the week. All attendees will be provided with their own cooking utensils, cooking appliances, and food. Social distancing will continue to be in place the entire class.

For weekly updates on Taste of Nutrition and the recipe of the week visit the Anson County Health Department Facebook page.

For more information contact Dinikia Savage at [TasteOfNutrition21@gmail.com](mailto:TasteOfNutrition21@gmail.com) or 704-994-3342.

The Lockhart-Taylor Center is located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

## VFW Post 10403 Auxiliary Fundraiser

Calling all bikers, trikers, spider and Jeep riders - you are invited to the VFW Post Auxiliary Fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, July 31. Come to the Caraway Business Center, located at 9162 Highway 52 North in Ansonville, for registration from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, then it's kickstands up at 12:15. The cost for single riders is \$15, and doubles cost \$20.

There are prizes, a 50/50 pot, and the food consists of hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, sodas and water. Plates cost \$5 for non-riders.

For information call Donnie Lewis, Auxiliary President, at 704-320-6376.



Retired American flag drop box installed in Peachland.

## Retired American Flag Drop Box Installed in Peachland

Appropriately, on July 4 a retired American flag drop box was installed and dedicated at Peachland Baptist Church, located at 79 Clinton Avenue in Peachland, for the use of southwestern Anson County and surrounding communities. This project was the result of a larger community businesses and church collaboration. The box is a secure depository to hold American flags that are worn, damaged, faded and awaiting retirement.

The drop box is easily accessible with a ramp to accommodate mobility challenges, highly visible, and protected under a canopy porch in a safe and secure location. Be sure to drop your American flags that are ready for retirement in the community drop box. Open 24/7.

The deposited flags are collected weekly and secured at Marshville VFW Post 9751. At least four times per year the retirement-ready flags will be transported to the American Legion Post 440 in New Salem, NC where they will be retired honorably in a military protocol ceremony. Dates and times of each ceremony will be posted in advance on these Facebook groups: "What's Up Peachland," "About Anson County," "Whats Up Marshville" and "You know you're from Polkton NC when..."

This retired American flag drop box was a collaboration among several businesses and individuals across four towns in our area, a testament to the willingness of our communities to support each other to become more resilient through small community service projects like this. Our community is so grateful to our sponsors who believed in us enough to invest in us.

The supporters are: The Express Newspaper; High's Welding; Manus Signs; Signs Mpress; Evolution Tint and Wraps; Toby Kiker; Peachland Baptist Church; and the citizens of this community.

For questions or more information contact Michale Letterman-Williams at [Michalewilliams@gmail.com](mailto:Michalewilliams@gmail.com).

## County-Wide Zoning Ordinance Development (Phase 1) Open House Events

Over the next year, Anson County will work to develop a draft county-wide zoning ordinance for the unincorporated areas of the County based on the recently approved comprehensive land use plan. The County will hold a series of open houses in July 2021 (first round) for residents to provide input on what they would like to see incorporated into a zoning ordinance. A second round of open houses for zoning ordinance development is planned to occur later this year in the fall.

Development of a zoning ordinance is Phase 1 of the process, with Phase 2 being the development of a companion zoning map projected to begin in the spring of 2022.

Each open house will be open to the public from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Please consider attending one of the dates below at the specified locations. Each open house will include an agenda inclusive of a PowerPoint overview on the purpose of a zoning ordinance and facilitated residents' feedback and input. Residents can attend one or all of the available meetings.

The content and process will be the same for each open house. Feel free to attend the open house that is most convenient to you. For more information contact Larry Newton, Tax Director/Interim Planning Director, at: [larry.newton@anson.nc.gov](mailto:larry.newton@anson.nc.gov).

### Dates and Locations

- Monday, July 19 - Ansonville (North Anson) at the Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge, 5770 US Highway 52 North, Wadesboro, NC 28170.
- Thursday, July 22 - Morven (South Anson) at HOLLA, 229 Main Street, Morven, NC 28119.
- Tuesday, July 27 - Lilesville (East Anson) at the Lilesville Fire Department, 202 West Wall Street, Lilesville, NC 28091.
- Thursday, July 29 - Polkton (West Anson) at South Piedmont Community College, L.L. Polk Campus, Raye Community Room, 680 US 74 Polkton, NC 28135.

**What is a Zoning Ordinance?** A zoning ordinance is a document which prescribes how each parcel or area in a city or county jurisdiction is regulated or zoned. The zoning ordinance provides provisions and land use regulations for the physical development of an area directly connected to an official the zoning map and land use plan.

**Purpose** Zoning regulations are designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare to the residents of a county or city. The regulations address the following community issues including but not limited to: congestion in the streets; provide parameters for adequate light and air; seek to create safe pedestrian mobility; the prevention of overcrowding of land and buildings; seek to mitigate the overly concentration of populations; facilitate or assist in the adequate provision of transportation services; the preservation and protection of water quality; provide provisions for proper sewerage disposal; create provisions for the strategic location of schools and other civic uses; as well as parks and other public recreational facilities and services.

### Four Questions form the Framework of a Zoning Ordinance

1. Can a zoning ordinance protect and/or encourage economic development?
2. Can a zoning ordinance protect the property value of a parcel?
3. Can a zoning ordinance help spur jobs and future employment opportunities?
4. Can a zoning ordinance help create community safety while managing growth?

**Why is a Zoning Ordinance Important?** The recently adopted Anson County 2040 Comprehensive Land-Use plan represents the goals, objectives, aspirations, and recommendations for guiding the future land use and physical development of the County. One of the recommendations from the Plan is the development of a county-wide zoning ordinance for the unincorporated areas of the County.

A zoning ordinance is a key policy initiative that can help make the county more livable and prosperous by integrating physical development with environmental, social, transportation, and economic issues to enhance the coordination of development and inform decision-making.

Residents' input from the community input meetings will be used to help develop a draft zoning ordinance that will, if adopted, help the Board of Commissioners and Planning Board make long-range land use decisions on the growth and proposed developments in Anson County based on appropriate and relevant data from the land use plan.

The zoning ordinance will be developed using a gradual approach for implementation of zoning regulations across the unincorporated area of the County.

**How will the zoning ordinance be used?** If approved, the zoning ordinance will be used by the Board of Commissioners and appointed officials, county staff, residents, businesses, developers, and others with an interest in the current and future land use of Anson County and help determine how land should be developed both efficiently and sustainably.

The ordinance will be used to implement the recently approved 2040 comprehensive land use plan, as well as the following:

- Establish zoning districts for parcels in unincorporated areas of Anson County.
- To work in concert with a zoning map (Phase 2).
- To act as a tool for decision making and the consideration of land development proposals.
- Coordinate public capital investments (transportation improvements, water and sewer extension, schools, parks, emergency services, etc.) by linking capital improvement programs (CIP) to development approvals and land use plan.
- Protect Anson County from local unwanted land uses (LULU's).
- To help protect property values from incompatible uses.
- To help induce economic investment and jobs for Anson County.

## Grace Senior Center Offering Free Fans for Eligible Citizens

Grace Senior Center is excited to announce that our agency has been blessed with a wonderful donation of fans (a limited supply). This allows more fans to be given out to seniors 60 years of age or older or those under 60 with a disability who are in need of some cooling relief from the heat. If you meet these requirements and are in need of a fan, please come to Grace Senior Center office Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA. The temporary telephone number is 704-690-6729. The main telephone number, 704-694-6616, was affected by the ransomware attack, but it may be in service soon.



## 9th Annual Clothes Closet is this Saturday

Rocky River Baptist Church invites the community to come to their 9th Annual Clothes Closet this Saturday, July 17, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. The sale features previously loved and lightly worn items. With school coming up, come and see the kids section. There are also teen and adult clothes and accessories as well as items for the home and lots more.

All donations go to the Kids and Youth camps for 2021.

Rocky River Baptist Church is located at 297 Rocky River Church Road in Polkton.

## Bach's Lunch and Sidewalk Sale To Go is July 21

Although the Anson County Arts Council would like to be able to have their Bach's Lunches like they normally do, at this time not everyone is quite ready to be out and about yet, so they will continue their "Bach's Lunch To Go" during July. The first Bach's Lunch of the season will be held on Tuesday, July 21, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the 108 Drake Gallery location on Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The delicious take out menu is a chicken salad with croissant, pasta salad, fruit, dessert and a drink.

There will also be a Sidewalk Sale at the same time.

You can text now to 704-221-3038, and leave your name, number and how many plates you would like to reserve. You can also pick up plates at the door the day of the luncheon, but the Arts Council asks that you call ahead which will help with their planning. To help reduce contact, no actual tickets will be printed.

## Anson Farmers Market Open Wednesdays & Saturdays

The Anson County Farmers Market is open and offering fresh local produce and lots more. The hours are 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

It is located on Highway 52 South near Wadesboro Primary School.

Be sure to come out and take advantage of great prices on locally grown produce and other items.

For more information contact Francis Campbell at [Francis.Campbell@nc.usda.gov](mailto:Francis.Campbell@nc.usda.gov).

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)