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Anson County Board of Elections Releases Important Upcoming Dates

The Anson County Board of Elections has released this list of upcoming dates.

For more information contact the Board of Elections at 704-994-3223. The office is located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. The mailing address is: PO Box 768, Wadesboro NC 28170.

Upcoming Dates

- July 14** Regular Board of Elections meeting, 5 p.m.
- July 21** Deadline to submit signature to appear as a write-in candidate in November
- July 21 - 23** New Board of Elections Director Training Bootcamp - virtual
- July 26** Post UOCAVA Notice for November General Election
- July 31** One Stop Early Voting plans due to State Board of Elections (for November Election)
- August** Tentative Virtual Election Conference (NC State Board of Elections)
- August 11** Regular Board of Elections meeting, 5 p.m.
- September 4** Absentee Voting begins for November Election
- September 7** Labor Day holiday, office closed
- September 8** Regular Board of Elections meeting, 5 p.m.
- September 19** Start publishing election notice
- September 24** Logic and accuracy testing for November Election, 11 a.m.
- September 30** Mock Election with State Board of Elections

United Way Awards \$75,000 in Grants to Eight Anson County Nonprofits Serving Those Impacted by COVID-19

United Way of Central Carolinas has awarded \$75,000 in grants to eight Anson County nonprofits aiding people impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. To date, a total of \$125,000 has been awarded in two rounds of grants to help nonprofits meeting local needs in Anson County.

The grants support nonprofits providing food, shelter, financial assistance, education and technology resources to those most vulnerable. The funding also assists nonprofits facing operational challenges at a time when community needs have increased.

"These nonprofits provide compassionate, critical services to our community year-round and, during times of crisis, their work is needed more than ever," said Ivy Allen, regional development director for United Way of Central Carolinas (Union and Anson Counties).

Grant recipients in this second round include: Grants were awarded by a committee of local leaders representing government, the business community and the healthcare industry: Beth Diggs, with Atrium Health, United Way's Anson County advisory board chair and community impact chair and a United Way regional board member; Kisha Dunlap with Anson County Department of Social Services; Katy Edwards with Plank Road Realty; and Lula Jackson, director of Anson County Department of Social Services and a member of United Way's Anson County advisory board.

- ◆ \$5,000 to Anson County Homes of Hope for housing/shelter assistance for those in need and operational support.
- ◆ \$10,000 to Anson County Partnership for Children for education and food assistance for children and families in need.
- ◆ \$10,000 to Anson Crisis Ministry for housing/shelter and utility assistance for those in need.
- ◆ \$6,000 to Burnsville Recreational & Learning Center for education and food assistance for low-income individuals and families in need and operational support.
- ◆ \$17,000 to Feed My Lambs Inc. for operational support.
- ◆ \$10,000 to First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro for housing/shelter and utility assistance for those in need.
- ◆ \$8,000 to Harvest Ministries of Anson County Inc. for food assistance, hygiene products and infant/toddler supplies for those in need.
- ◆ \$9,000 to HOLLA! for mobile internet hotspots and operational support.

"United Way of Central Carolinas is proud to partner with local nonprofits to strengthen the work being done, which in turn strengthens the community," Allen said. "It is financial support through grants, individual gifts and corporate donations that enable them to continue their work."

For more information on United Way of Central Carolinas, visit ucentralcarolinas.org.

About United Way of Central Carolinas United Way fights for the education, health and financial stability of every person in our region, improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of local communities in Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Mooresville/Lake Norman, and Anson, Cabarrus and Union counties. For more information, please visit ucentralcarolinas.org.

Anson County Alcoholics Anonymous

The Anson County Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Group meets at 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays for a Closed Discussion Meeting. They have a Closed Speaker Meeting on the first Monday of each month only at 7 p.m.

The Harmony AA Group meets at 12 noon on Wednesdays for an Closed Discussion Meeting.

Closed meetings are for AA members only, or for those with a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking." No guests or visitors please.

All meetings are non-smoking and handicap accessible. All meetings are held at the AA Building, located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro. They are located between Twin Valley Golf Club and Wadesboro Health and Rehabilitation Center.

COVID-19 Information

To stay up to date on COVID-19 in North Carolina, visit ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus or text COVIDNC to 898211. Call 2-1-1 (or 888-892-1162) for general questions or for help finding human services resources in your community.

For a national perspective, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

For a world-wide perspective, visit the World Health Organization website at www.who.int.



1922 Wadesboro High School Baseball Team

Pictured above are the members of the 1922 Baseball Team at Wadesboro High School. They are, from left, front row: Bill Cox, Forrest Hightower, Billy Marshall and Eugene Gatewood. Back row: Henry McDonald, Jr., Frank Knotts, James Wall, George Stanback and Lamar Caudle.

School Return Update from Superintendent Howard McLean

On Tuesday, July 14 Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina public schools will reopen August 17. Under his plan, schools are allowed to reopen with limited building and bus capacity. The plan includes a remote learning component.

The Anson County School District is engaged in efforts to gather input from all stakeholders in order to make the best decisions for students, staff, and the community. Safety and meeting educational needs, particularly those related to remote learning, are our top priorities. Last week, the district launched a survey for families to gather feedback. Please complete this survey if you have not already done so. The survey, entitled "Anson County Schools 2020 - 2021 School Re-entry Input Form" is available at www.ansonschools.org.

Additionally, a staff survey was launched related to this announcement. We want to thank you for your patience, input, and understanding during this difficult time. Please know the Anson County School District is hard at work to serve you.

North Carolina K-12 Public Schools to Require Key Safety Measures to Allow In-person Instruction

Districts may choose to conduct school entirely by remote learning; NC will continue to pause in Safer At Home Phase 2 for three more weeks

Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen were joined on July 14 by education and health leaders to announce health and safety plans for K-12 public schools for the new school year. Schools will open for in-person instruction under an updated Plan B that requires face coverings for all K-12 students, fewer children in the classroom, measures to ensure social distancing for everyone in the building, and other safety protocols.

"The most important opening is that of our classroom doors. Our schools provide more than academics; they are vital to our children's health, safety and emotional development," said Governor Cooper. "This is a difficult time for families with hard choices on every side. I am committed to working together to ensure our students and educators are as safe as possible and that children have opportunities to learn in the way that is best for them and their families."

The Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit (available at governor.nc.gov) outlines the updated requirements for Plan B. Districts may choose to operate under Plan C, which calls for remote learning only, and health leaders recommend schools allow families to opt in to all-remote learning. Modifications have been made to Plan B since it was released in June to make it more protective of public health.

"After looking at the current scientific evidence and weighing the risks and benefits, we have decided to move forward with today's balanced, flexible approach which allows for in-person instruction as long as key safety requirements are in place in addition to remote learning options," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, MD. "We will continue to follow the science and data and update recommendations as needed. We ask every North Carolinian to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and follow the three W's: Wear a face covering when in public, Wait 6 feet apart, Wash your hands."

Governor Cooper also announced that the state will provide at least five reusable face coverings for every student, teacher and school staff member in public schools. In June, the state provided packs of personal protective equipment to schools that included a two-month supply of thermometers, surgical masks, face shields and gowns for school nurses and delegated staff who provide health care to students.

"Educators and stakeholders across our state have worked tirelessly to reopen our school buildings safely for our students, teachers and staff. Today, we take another critical step towards that goal. We also know families need to choose the option that is best for their children, so all school districts will provide remote learning options," said Eric Davis, Chairman of the State Board of Education.

"In-person education is important for children, and it happens in the context of a community. This plan strikes the right balance between health and safety and the benefits of having children learn in the classroom. We must all continue with proven measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission like wearing a face covering, keeping distance between people, and frequent hand and surface cleanings so we can move closer to safely re-opening public schools," said Dr. Theresa Flynn, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP, a practicing pediatrician who serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Pediatric Society and joined today's announcement.

Under Plan B, schools are required to follow key safety measures that include:

- Require face coverings for all teachers and students K-12
- Limit the total number of students, staff and visitors within a school building to the extent necessary to ensure 6 feet distance can be maintained when students/staff will be stationary
- Conduct symptom screening, including temperature checks
- Establish a process and dedicated space for people who are ill to isolate and have transportation plans for ill students
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in the school and transportation vehicles regularly
- Require frequent hand washing throughout the school day and provide hand sanitizer at entrances and in every classroom
- Discontinue activities that bring together large groups
- Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups
- Discontinue use of self-service food or beverage distribution

In addition, schools are strongly recommended to follow additional safety measures:

- Designate hallways and entrance/exit doors as one-way
- Keep students and teachers in small groups that stay together as much as possible
- Have meals delivered to the classroom or have students bring food back to the classroom if social distancing is not possible in the cafeteria
- Discontinue activities that bring together large groups
- Place physical barriers such as plexiglass at reception desks and similar areas

More details can be found in the Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit. Read the Screening Reference Guide for schools and the Infection Control and PPE Guidance. All are available at governor.nc.gov.

In addition to the announcement about school plans, Governor Cooper shared that North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 after the current Executive Order expires on Friday, July 17.

Virtual Board of Education Meeting Scheduled for Monday, July 27

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a virtual board meeting on Monday, July 27 at 4:30 p.m.

The public is invited to dial in. The number is (571) 317-3122, and the access code is 260-361-021.

Lions Club District Governor Visiting Club

Lion District Governor Paul Marth will visit the Wadesboro Lions Club on Thursday, July 23. He will present the district goals and the goals of North Carolina Lions and Lions Clubs International.

Lion Paul has been a member of the Greensboro Lions Club since 1979. He is a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellow, Jack Stickley Fellow, William L. Woolard Partner in Service, Sid L. Scruggs III Beacon of Hope and Lions International Ambassador.

Paul retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the US Army Reserve. He is married to Lion Phyllis, has two children and three grandchildren, and is a licensed NC attorney.

Have You Completed Your Census?

Grace Senior Center will have a Census Help Day to help all senior citizens of Anson County complete their Census for 2020.

Did You Know by filling out your census, more funding is provided for your health care, senior centers, hospitals, roads and schools. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and county communities each year based on census data.

All seniors of Anson are invited to have their census completed on Thursday, July 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call Grace Senior Center and register at (704) 694-6616.

Due to COVID-19 Grace Senior Center will take all necessary precautions to ensure safety for all. Registered seniors will be required to wear masks, and they will supply a mask to anyone without one. Social Distancing, hand sanitizer and disinfecting all used areas will be practice during this event.

Once your Census is completed enjoy a cool treat with them too!