

Obituaries

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On Thursday, July 23, 2026, Mrs. Emma Vaughn Poplin, 85, passed away peacefully at Richmond County Hospice Haven in Rockingham, surrounded by the love of her family.

Funeral services were held on Monday, July 27, 2026, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Sigrid Mottram and Mr. Ken Caulder officiating. Interment followed at Forestville United Methodist Church Cemetery.

The family greeted friends one hour prior to the service on Monday, and at other times at the home of David and Ann Poplin, 524 Ingram Road in Lilesville.

Emma was born in Anson County on July 18, 1941, and was a daughter of the late David Eugene Vaughn and the late Ruby Lee Cox Vaughn. She was a 1959 graduate of Lilesville High School and attended Wingate College.

She was a longtime member of Lilesville United Methodist Church until it's closing, after which she moved her membership back to her home church, Forestville United Methodist Church. Through the years Emma has been faithful to the church and its ministries.

Emma worked for 40 years with Pee Dee Electric Membership, where she retired in 2000, and she worked at Anson County Hospital for more

than 25 years part-time.

She will be remembered for her love of country music and line dancing. She was an avid Atlanta Braves fan.

Emma would tell you she was blessed with a wonderful family and many dear friends, and she loved them all.

Those who are left to cherish her memory are her children, David Poplin (Ann) of Lilesville, Doug Poplin of Wadesboro and Cindy Sikes of Lilesville; her grandchildren, Katie Martin (Scott) of Wadesboro, Bethany Poplin, Zachary Sikes and Garrett Sikes, all of Lilesville; her friend and companion Bobby Paul of Lilesville; her sister and brother, Diane Childs of Florence, SC and David Vaughn, Jr. (Kay) of Lilesville; and her nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband William Garrett "Bill" Poplin and by her sister Dorothy Tyson.

Emma's family is most grateful for all of the support she has received throughout the years from all the medical teams who have worked with her. Most recently, heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Wadesboro Health and Rehab, Richmond County, and Anson Community Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Forestville United Methodist Church c/o Joanne Clark, 1781 Clark Mtn. Rd., Lilesville, NC 28091.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home, and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Skyeton Chooses North Carolina for First U.S. Manufacturing Facility

Drone manufacturer to create 162 jobs in Fayetteville

North Carolina's reputation as a leader in advanced manufacturing and aerospace continues to grow as Skyeton Inc., a global manufacturer of unmanned aerial systems, has selected Fayetteville for its first flagship manufacturing facility in the United States.

Governor Josh Stein announced the company will invest more than \$3.1 million in Cumberland County and create 162 new jobs as it establishes a 28,500-square-foot production facility in Fayetteville.

"We're proud to welcome Skyeton to a state with such a proud military tradition and advanced manufacturing base," Stein said. "By combining our manufacturing workforce, the skillsets of our transitioning military personnel, a central East Coast location, and a strategic transportation infrastructure, North Carolina continues to rise to the top ranks as the best place to do business, especially in the aerospace and defense sectors."

Headquartered in Las Vegas, Skyeton Inc. is the U.S. subsidiary of Skyeton Holdings, an international manufacturer of unmanned aerial systems for both defense and commercial markets. The company is best known for its long-endurance Raybird platform, which has accumulated more than 350,000 combat-proven flight hours in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

The new Fayetteville facility will design, engineer, manufacture, test and support the company's advanced composite unmanned aircraft using state-of-the-art production technology.

Company CEO Rigoberto "Quito" Sáez said the expansion represents more than simply opening another factory.

"Expanding our manufacturing footprint in North Carolina is about strengthening America's defense industrial base, creating high-quality American jobs and delivering combat-proven capabilities closer to the warfighters we exist to serve," Sáez said.

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley said the state's investments in research, higher education and industry partnerships continue to attract innovative manufacturers.

The new positions will pay an average annual salary of \$70,759, significantly above Cumberland County's average wage of \$49,382. The jobs are expected to generate more than \$11.4 million in annual payroll for the region.

The project is supported by a performance-based \$500,000 grant from the state's One North Carolina Fund. The grant will be paid only after the company meets agreed-upon job creation and investment goals and requires matching support from local governments.

Economic development officials say the announcement is another example of North Carolina's growing strength in aerospace, defense manufacturing and advanced technology industries, sectors that continue to attract major employers and investment from around the world.

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JOB OPENING TOWN OF ANSONVILLE

Job Title: Part-Time Deputy Clerk
Department: Administration
Reports To: Clerk/Finance Officer
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt
Employment Status: Part-Time (Approximately 20–29 hours per week, as assigned)

Position Summary

The Part-Time Deputy Clerk provides administrative, financial, and customer service support to the Town of Ansonville. Under the direct supervision of the Clerk/Finance Officer, the Deputy Clerk assists with daily municipal operations, utility billing, records management, public inquiries, financial recordkeeping, and other administrative duties. This position serves as a backup to the Clerk/Finance Officer and must maintain confidentiality while providing professional and courteous service to the public.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The duties listed below are representative of the position but are not intended to be all-inclusive.

Administrative Support

- Provide exceptional customer service to residents, businesses, and visitors in person, by telephone, and electronically.
- Receive and route incoming calls and correspondence.
- Prepare correspondence, reports, forms, agendas, meeting packets, and other documents.
- Maintain official Town files and records in accordance with North Carolina records retention requirements.
- Assist with maintaining public records and responding to public information requests.
- Receive, sort, and distribute incoming mail.

Financial & Utility Billing Support

- Assist with utility billing, customer account maintenance, and payment processing.
- Receive utility payments and other Town revenues.
- Prepare bank deposits and balance daily receipts.
- Maintain accurate financial records and assist with account reconciliations.
- Assist with accounts payable and accounts receivable processing.
- Support the Clerk/Finance Officer during audits and budget preparation.

Municipal Operations

- Assist with preparation for Town Council meetings.
- Prepare meeting packets and distribute materials.
- Record and maintain official documents as assigned.
- Assist with election-related administrative duties when necessary.
- Maintain office supplies and equipment inventory.

Customer Service

- Answer questions regarding Town services, utility accounts, permits, and policies.
- Resolve routine customer concerns or refer complex issues to appropriate staff.
- Maintain positive working relationships with citizens, elected officials, and vendors.

Other Duties

- Serve as backup to the Clerk/Finance Officer during absences.
- Cross-train in various administrative functions.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Clerk/Finance Officer or Town Administrator.

Minimum Qualifications

Education

- High school diploma or GED required.
- Associate degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Public Administration, or related field preferred.

Experience

- Minimum of two years of administrative office experience preferred.
- Experience in local government, bookkeeping, utility billing, or municipal finance is highly desirable.
- Experience working with accounting or municipal software is preferred.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

The successful candidate should possess:

- Knowledge of general office procedures and practices.
- Strong customer service and interpersonal skills.
- Basic accounting and bookkeeping principles.
- Ability to maintain confidential information.
- Strong organizational and time-management skills.
- Ability to prioritize multiple tasks.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook).
- Ability to learn municipal software systems.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, elected officials, and the public.

Physical Requirements

The employee frequently:

- Sits for extended periods.
- Uses a computer, calculator, and other office equipment.
- Communicates effectively in person and by telephone.
- Occasionally lifts up to 25 pounds.
- Occasionally bends, stoops, reaches, and files documents.

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Working Conditions

- Primarily performed in a professional office environment.
- Frequent interaction with the public.
- Occasional attendance at evening Town Council meetings or special events may be required.

Preferred Qualifications

- North Carolina Municipal Clerk Certification or willingness to obtain.
- Experience with municipal utility billing software.
- Experience handling cash receipts and financial transactions.
- Familiarity with North Carolina local government operations and records management.

Compensation

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience, in accordance with the Town of Ansonville's approved pay plan. This is a part-time position and may not be eligible for all employee benefits. Salary is hourly; from \$18-\$21 per hour.

Disclaimer

This job description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by an employee assigned to this position. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all duties, responsibilities, or qualifications. The Town of Ansonville reserves the right to revise this job description at any time to meet organizational needs.

Position is open until August 7, 2026.

**Interested applicants can obtain an application at the
Ansonville Town Hall between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.**

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