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

2,798 Total Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department was 2,798 total Covid-19 cases, with 96 active and 58 deaths as of Monday, August 9. Last Monday, August 2 there were 2,719 cases, with 42 active.

Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update on August 5. "Just a short note to alert you to the surge in the number of COVID-19 cases we are seeing in Anson County due to the Delta variant. We have had 58 new cases in the last week, including 15 today. To put that in perspective, in May and June we were averaging 0 to 2 cases daily. Almost all of these new cases are occurring in younger unvaccinated people.

According to the NC Department of Health and Human Services, over 92% of new cases of COVID-19 in NC are occurring in people who are not vaccinated. And, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 97% of hospitalizations and deaths are in people who were not vaccinated. This truly has become a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

From a Public Health perspective, the surge we are seeing due to the Delta variant is both frustrating and preventable. We have vaccines that are safe and effective in protecting people from getting COVID-19 and preventing both hospitalizations and deaths.

In Anson County, only 35% of the county's population is fully vaccinated. Everyone 12 and over is eligible to get vaccinated at no cost. The Health Department is vaccinating on Tuesdays with the Moderna vaccine for those 18 and over. No appointment is needed to get vaccinated at the Health Department. Just come on over on Tuesday and we will get you vaccinated. Also, our local CVS pharmacy offers the Pfizer vaccine by appointment for the 12 to 17 age group.

Far and away the best tool we have to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including the Delta variant, is vaccination. Please join me in encouraging everyone you know, 12 and over, who are not vaccinated, to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their family, and the Anson County community. Thank you."

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, August 9 there were 3863 new cases, with 13,759 deaths and 1,946 hospitalized. 62% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 58% were fully vaccinated. On Monday, August 2 there were 2,190 new cases, with 13,670 deaths and 1,359 hospitalized.

November Municipal Election Filings

North Carolina has more than 550 cities, towns, and villages – also known as municipalities. Municipalities are local governments, which control local tax rates and make decisions about development, policing, trash service, and other issues that affect voters' daily lives.

Most municipalities in North Carolina conduct elections in odd-numbered years, including 2021. This is when voters choose who will represent them in local government offices, such as mayor and councilperson. Some municipalities may also conduct property tax or other referenda.

The Municipal Election in Anson County will be held on Tuesday, November 2. The deadline to register is October 8. For information on how to register visit www.ncsbe.gov/registering/how-register or you can contact the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223. The address is 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

In-person early voting and absentee-by-mail voting is not available to Anson County voters in the Municipal Election. Here are the candidates:

- **Town of Lilesville**
Mayor Bernice Bennett
Commissioner Lewis Adams, Chuck Cook, Gaye Harrington, Randy Henry, Frank McAllister, John Montgomery
- **Town of Morven**
Council Tanya Chance, Marjorie Cole, Rhonda Johnson Liles, Rachel Melton
- **Town of Peachland**
Council James Thomas Hamilton, Kenneth Rowell
- **Town of Polkton**
Mayor Bruce Landon, Cynthia Williams
Commissioner Johnny Faulk, Russell Goodwin, Cindy Melton Heafner, Jimmy Hildreth, W. Clifton Martin III, Sissy Stegall
- **Town of Wadesboro**
Council Fred Davis, Wanda Talbert Exum, J.F. Harward, Judy Little, Chipper Long, Amanda Moak, Russell Sikes

Arrest Made in July 13 Robbery, Attempted Murder

Detectives, with the assistance of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, were able to arrest a man for a robbery and attempted murder that took place in Wadesboro on July 13. He was found in Burlington, North Carolina. Henry Walker, 62, a homeless man from Monroe, fled to Burlington after the robbery and shooting.



Henry Walker

Walker has been charged with the following: Attempted 1st Degree Murder; Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill, Inflicting Serious Injury; Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon; and Possession of a Firearm by Felon.

Sweat Pants, Sweat Shirts Will be Allowed at School this Year

The Anson County Board of Education held a special meeting on Monday, August 9. During the Open Session the board discussed the student dress code and return to athletics.

The board approved of a revised student dress code. The revision included allowing students to wear sweat shirts and sweat pants.

The updated policy will be shared later this week.



Pryor Gibson presents Jeff Waisner with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine plaque.

Advisory Board, Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and Civitans Club. He is a trustee, lay leader, and Sunday school teacher at Fountain Hill Methodist Church. He serves as the Uwharrie District Lay Speaker Training Board, the Wingate University Hall of Fame Selection Committee and Wingate University Bulldog Club Executive Board. He served on the NCSECU Advisory Board for 8 years in Anson County, 3 of those years as Board Chairman.

Jeff Waisner is a friend to many and is well liked in the community. He has many successes in his career and in life.

Jeff Waisner is Recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Jeff Waisner, retiring as Director of Anson County Parks and Recreation, was recently named as a recipient of The Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Among the most prestigious awards conferred by the Governor of North Carolina, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is awarded to persons for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and their communities that is above and beyond the call of duty and which has made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

Waisner has served local government in North Carolina for a total of 37 years on the retirement system. He started in 1984 in Stanly County, working for the city of Albemarle and the town of Locust for a total of 12 years. He is retiring from Anson County Parks and Recreation with 25 years of service as the Director/Department Head.

Waisner played baseball while attending Wingate University from 1978 to 1982. He was a 4 year starter, team captain, all conference, all district, and all area. He signed with the Atlanta Braves in 1982. He was inducted into the Wingate University Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 and inducted into the Stanly County Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Waisner coached Stanly County American Legion from 1984 to 1987. He has worked as a part-time baseball scout for the New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox and Washington Nationals. He coached a 12 year-old baseball team in 1992 to the Little League World Series.

Waisner has volunteered with the Special Olympics as a coordinator from 1997 to 2014. He has also volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America, the Anson County Senior Center, the Anson County Senior Center Advisory Board, and Civitans Club. He is a trustee, lay leader, and Sunday school teacher at Fountain Hill Methodist Church. He serves as the Uwharrie District Lay Speaker Training Board, the Wingate University Hall of Fame Selection Committee and Wingate University Bulldog Club Executive Board. He served on the NCSECU Advisory Board for 8 years in Anson County, 3 of those years as Board Chairman.

Anson County Road Project Starts Next Week

Construction will start Monday to convert the U.S. 74/Camden Road intersection in Lilesville to a reduced conflict intersection, or RCI. The \$821,000 contract was recently awarded to J.T. Russell & Sons Inc. out of Albemarle.

The RCI simplifies traffic movements to improve safety and efficiency. While there are variations to the design, they function the same way by reducing the number of conflict points, or potential locations, where drivers and pedestrians could collide.

The roadway portion of the project should be completed by early October, leaving vegetation establishment to continue into April 2022.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or follow NCDOT on social media.

Five Days Remain to Get Covered on HealthCare.gov

Four out of five consumers are seeing premiums of less than \$10

After a historic seven-month run to offer additional enrollment opportunities for people impacted by COVID-19, this year's Affordable Care Act (ACA) Special Open Enrollment Period is coming to a close in just five days, ending at 11:59 p.m. this Sunday, August 15.

As of June 30, more than 91,000 North Carolinians have taken advantage of this opportunity. Through the end of this Special Open Enrollment Period, NC Navigator Consortium Marketplace Navigators are providing free virtual and in-person one-on-one enrollment assistance to people seeking affordable, quality health coverage.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law in March to provide economic relief in response to the COVID pandemic, the subsidies are much larger for 2021, and are designed to reach a greater number of people. "Those folks who need it the most are now able to get the help they need," said Mark Van Arnem, director of the statewide NC Navigator Consortium. "Four out of five consumers are seeing premiums of less than \$10."

North Carolinians who enrolled in a Marketplace health insurance plan on HealthCare.gov before March can get even lower monthly premiums by returning to HealthCare.gov and updating their application to obtain these new discounts. Current enrollees in North Carolina who have updated their application lowered their monthly health insurance costs by 43%.

"Not to mention," Van Arnem added, "that anyone who has been approved for unemployment compensation can get a plan to cover the rest of 2021 that costs nothing - zero dollars," he said. However, Van Arnem cautioned, people should take action right now, since these discounts may not be available for next year. "Get a plan now," Van Arnem urged, "and get the health care attention you may have been putting off, while it's extraordinarily affordable."

North Carolinians have options when scheduling free Navigator enrollment help to buy Health Insurance Marketplace coverage: virtual assistance available by phone or Zoom, or in-person appointments where available. Visit www.NCNavigator.net or call (855) 733-3711 to book your free appointment today.

The Open Enrollment Period to buy 2022 insurance is also just around the corner, scheduled to begin November 1.

The NC Navigator Consortium is a group of six health care, social service and legal aid organizations that helps North Carolina consumers enroll in affordable, comprehensive health insurance plans on HealthCare.gov, the Health Insurance Marketplace established by the Affordable Care Act. Members of the consortium are Access East, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Cumberland HealthNet, HealthNet Gaston and Legal Aid of North Carolina, which leads the consortium. The consortium is funded in part by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and Cone Health Foundation.

Learn more at ncnavigator.net and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Legal Aid of North Carolina is a statewide nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal help to low-income and vulnerable North Carolinians. Learn more at legalaidnc.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Radio, Television and Cell Phone National Emergency Alert Test is Scheduled for Today, August 11

EEEEEEEEEP! "This is a test of the Emergency Alert System."

Many of us know that familiar test from radio and TV, and on August 11, many people in the United States will receive it on their cell phones. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on August 11, between 2:20 and 2:50 p.m. EDT.

This will be the second nationwide WEA test, but is the first nationwide WEA test on a consumer opt-in basis. It will be received by consumers who have emergency alerts activated on their cell phones. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the phone.

The Emergency Alert System portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the sixth nationwide EAS test.

The WEA test message will cause an audible alert tone on phones and the message will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

WEA is a voluntary program with most major cellular providers participating, but some smaller carriers do not participate. The message will not be received if a phone is turned off, out of range of a cellular tower, has emergency alerts turned off in its settings, or if it is an older cellular phone that is not WEA capable.

There is no need to take any action upon receiving the test message. Do not panic or call 911 to ask questions when you receive the test message.

Organizations that will be holding meetings or large gatherings on Wednesday, August 11 during the 2 p.m. EDT hour may want to inform their audiences about the test so people are not surprised by the alert tone from cell phones.

BRLC's Care Corner Yard Sale

What: Big Yard Sale! Items too numerous to list - new and used.

When: This Saturday, August 14, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Who: Financial donations will support the expansion of Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center's programs. **Where:** BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

For more information visit www.burnsvillelc.org.

Day of Community Fun, Fellowship and Celebration this Sunday

Join A Better Day Ministries is holding a day of community, fun, fellowship and celebration this Sunday, August 15 beginning at 12 noon with lots of fun activities for the children, free haircuts and hair do's for the youth (first come, first served), free prize giveaways for adults, music, food, spades & domino games...and more! It is all free and open to all!

The event will take place at 1334 North Greene Street in Wadesboro, across from Oak Hill Apartments. For more information call 704-294-1094.

National Night Out Postponed

The National Night Out event scheduled for Tuesday, August 3 was postponed due to the high potential of rain. The rescheduled date for this event will be October 5.

The event is hosted by the Anson County Sheriff's Office along with the Wadesboro Police Department. It is a fun free event for the community featuring many fun activities including: kids games, bounce houses, showcases of patrol vehicles, free food, drinks & snacks, face painting and more.

National Night Out is an annual program designed to build communities and improve police-community relationships. Millions of people take part in National Night Out events across thousands of communities in the United States according to the National Association of Town Watch, the organization that founded the program in 1984.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com