

THE EXPRESS

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

408 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Monday, August 24 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 408 reported cases of COVID-19. 34 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 374 cases, 370 to baseline health and four deaths.

Recent history: March 31 - 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases; May 26 - 62 cases; June 22 - 107 cases; July 27 - 285 cases; August 3 - 306 cases; August 9 - 328 cases; August 10 - 376 cases.

Man Killed in Hit and Run Incident

Law enforcement is investigating an apparent hit and run incident that took place on Saturday, August 22. Marcus McIver was killed.

Officers with the North Carolina Highway Patrol said the incident took place on Cason Oldfield Road south of Wadesboro. It appeared that the driver of the vehicle that hit McIver backed up after striking him, then left the scene. As of press time no witnesses had come forward. Pieces of the vehicle that were found indicate that the vehicle may be an early 2000's Jeep Cherokee.

School Board Meeting August 31 to be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a virtual board meeting on Monday, August 31 at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be live streamed through YouTube. The public is invited to watch the meeting by following the live streaming link at youtu.be/HQ0LQaiwXec or you can search for the Anson County Schools' YouTube page.

Due to live streaming the meeting, if the public wishes to sign up for public comment they can go to the public comment link on the schools website at www.ansonschools.org or go directly to the site at forms.gle/imTS5LTCic2ThVEV7 to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. on August 31. Open Session to the public begins at 4:30 p.m.

The Anson County Board of Education welcomes comments from our parents, students, and community. The public comment period is open for members of the public to voice compliments, concerns, or complaints about matters of public concern, the performance of school personnel, implementation of board policy, the quality of the education program or school facilities, or other matters.

The Public Comment portion of the meeting is for the Board to hear matters of interest or concern from the public; however, obscene or vulgar statements, personal attacks and statements reasonably perceived to be disruptive or imminently threatening to the orderly operation of the meeting shall not be permitted. Comments are limited to three minutes per submission, and a maximum of 30 minutes will be devoted to the public comment portion of the agenda.

Both the YouTube Live Streaming Link and the Public Comment Link can both be found on the homepage of the schools website (www.ansonschools.org) for easy access.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet September 1

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

Special Meeting of Wadesboro Council

A special meeting of the Town of Wadesboro Town Council has been set for Wednesday, August 26 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the following:

- Closed Session (NC General Statutes 143-318.11(a)(6)) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.
- Any other business to come before the Council

The meeting will be held in the Wadesboro Fire Department training room, located at 205 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro.

Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families on Saturday

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed on Saturday, August 29, from 12:00 noon until 2 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens.

All Ansonians who are seeking help with food will need to apply for assistance. (The new year for qualifying began October 1, 2019). Those neighbors who have not previously registered will be able to complete an eligibility application on Saturday. * Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are always asked to please fill BRLC's parking lot first. Burnsville Fire & Rescue have made their parking area available for the overflow of neighbors who attend. Please do not arrive before 10 a.m. on Saturday morning.

All participants who plan to pick up food are asked to bring someone to help them if they need help, as BRLC will no longer be able to provide this support.

Contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. www.burnsvilleelc.org.



Barber Fred Harris Donated Haircuts at BRLC

Mr. Fred Harris, a professional barber and hairstylist in Anson County, visited Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center recently. Mr. Harris, who is associated with Tite Cutz Barber Shop in Wadesboro, stopped in at BRLC, pulled his wheelchair out of his car, and got his equipment ready to go to work.

Carol Smith, Director of BRLC said, "Mr. Harris came to groom any young men who wanted a cut, no matter their culture or ethnicity. He donated eight haircuts, and that was a blessing. His youngest client on that day was seven years of age, the oldest one was 14 years. His professional skills were well received, and the students were made to feel better on the inside. Eight young guys raced to the chair to have him perform his professional "miracle touch" on their heads."

Smith concluded, "Mr. Harris lost use of his legs in a car accident, but that only encouraged him to find means to provide for his needs. The little guys were so glad to get a professional cut by Mr. Harris. They could not wait until he was ready for them. BRLC is thankful for his generosity and expertise."



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Absentee Voting for November Election Begins Sept. 4

Voters are not required to show photo ID. Are you registered? No special circumstance or reason is needed to vote a mail-in ballot.

Presented here is useful information for the upcoming General Election on November 3. More information, including all of the candidates, will be in next week's Express.

REGISTERING TO VOTE OR UPDATING YOUR INFORMATION

To register to vote in North Carolina, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Live in the county of his/her registration, and have resided there for at least 30 days prior to the date of the election;
- Be at least 18 years old, or will be by the date of the general election. 16- and 17-year-olds may preregister to vote. (17-year-olds may vote in a primary election if they will be 18 years old at the time of the general election.)
- Not be serving a sentence for a felony conviction, including probation, parole, or post-release supervision. Once an individual has completed a felony sentence or been pardoned, he/she is eligible to register and vote. No additional documentation is needed.

North Carolina residents may use the form available at:

www.ncsbe.gov/Voters/Registering-to-Vote to register to vote or to update their name, address or party affiliation. You can mail or hand deliver the signed form to your county board of elections office. The address in Anson County is: Anson County Board of Elections, 402 Morven Road, Wadesboro NC 28170.

The regular voter registration deadline is October 9 at 5 p.m. During Early Voting you can register to vote in person using same-day registration. Early Voting runs October 15-31.

For questions call the Anson County Board of Elections, 704-994-3223.

To register to vote or update your current voter registration:

- Complete a voter registration form.
- Print the form.
- Sign the form (ink to paper). You must submit the original form by mail or in-person if you are a new registrant. If you are an existing registrant in the county, you may also fax or email the signed form.
- Mail the form to your county board of elections.
- Failure to complete a required field will delay the processing of the application.

If the application is complete and the you meet all qualifications to vote, the county board of elections will mail you a voter registration card. This mailing is non-forwardable and also serves to verify your address. If a voter card is returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable, a second mailing will be sent. If the second mailing is returned as undeliverable, the voter registration will be denied.

Voter registration applicants who submit their form before the voter registration deadline for the next election should receive their voter card within two weeks. Applicants should contact their county board of elections if they do not receive their voter card. If an application arrives after the registration deadline, the application will not be processed until after the election.

If you are a DMV customer with a N.C. driver's license or DMV-issued ID, you may now register to vote, update your voter registration address, or update their party affiliation. You may not change your name using DMV.

This is a standalone service that does not require the user to complete a DMV transaction (such as duplicate or license renewal) at the same time.

- You can make the request online. Go to www.ncdot.gov and search "voter registration."
- There is no fee for voter registration services.
- Voter registration applications submitted fewer than 25 days before an election will not be processed until after the election.

ABSENTEE VOTING (MAIL-IN BALLOT)

Any North Carolina registered voter qualified to vote in an election may request and receive a mail-in absentee ballot for any election in which absentee voting is allowed. All registered voters may request an absentee ballot for the November 2020 General Election.

• No special circumstance or reason is needed to receive and vote a mail-in absentee ballot.

- Most voters who want to vote by mail must request a ballot for each election.
- Military or overseas voters have special rights under the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). See www.fvap.gov and the Military and Overseas Voters page for more information on military and overseas citizens absentee voting.

To receive a mail-in absentee ballot for an election, a voter must first use the State Absentee Ballot Request Form to request the ballot. It is found at:

www.ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options/Absentee-Voting or you can contact the local Board of Elections. (This can also be done by the voter's near relative such as spouse, brother, sister, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, stepparent or stepchild, or legal guardian, or any member of a bipartisan assistance team (MAT) authorized to assist voters)

For the November 2020 General Election, completed Mail-In Absentee Ballot Request Forms may be emailed, faxed, mailed or hand-delivered to the voter's county board of elections by one of the following: the voter; the voter's near relative or verifiable legal guardian; or a member of a bipartisan assistance team (MAT). Forms delivered by any other person will not be processed.

Completed absentee ballot request forms may be delivered by mail by the U.S. Postal Service or designated delivery service authorized pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 7502(f).

A signed and completed State Absentee Ballot Request Form must be received by the county board of elections office no later than 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the date of the election for which the ballot is being requested. That is October 27, 2020 at 5 p.m. for the upcoming 2020 General Election. The State Board strongly recommends voters request a ballot as soon as possible to avoid problems due to postal delays and to allow for time to request any possible issues with your request.

When you receive your Absentee (Mail-In) Ballot, instructions will accompany the ballot.

Community Outreach Offers Household Items on Saturday

The Lamb of God Church in Wadesboro will hold a Community Outreach Event this Saturday, August 29 at 10 a.m. They are offering household items and paper products on a first come, first served basis.

The event will be held at 118 West Wade Street in Wadesboro.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please call 843-623-3777. The website is www.logomchurch.com.

NCDHHS Announces No-Cost COVID-19 Community Testing Events

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has 55 upcoming community testing events scheduled in Cabarrus, Chatham, Clay, Gaston, Jackson, Montgomery, Robeson, Rowan, Scotland, Wake and Wayne counties as part of the initiative to increase access to no-cost COVID-19 testing, particularly for African American, LatinX/Hispanic and American Indian communities that currently have limited testing sites.

There is no cost to people getting tested. Insurance, if available, will be billed but there are no co-pays or cost-sharing for anyone seeking testing. Those who are uninsured are also tested at no cost.

For an up-to-date list of events, visit the Community Testing Events page of the NCDHHS COVID-19 website (covid19.ncdhhs.gov). NCDHHS testing events are listed under their coordinating vendor, NCCHCA (North Carolina Community Health Center Association).

A disproportionately high percentage of North Carolina's confirmed cases of COVID-19 have occurred among historically marginalized populations, and mounting evidence shows the members of these populations experience higher rates of COVID-19 mortality and serious complications.

People who may not currently have symptoms but may have been exposed to COVID-19 should get tested, especially people from historically marginalized communities, including LatinX/Hispanic, Black/African American, and American Indian populations. In addition, testing is a priority for anyone who has symptoms or those who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

North Carolinians can find testing sites available in their community by visiting Find My Testing Place (covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place) and Community Testing Events on the NCDHHS website ([hcovid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place/pop-testing-sites](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place/pop-testing-sites)).

Check the Community Testing Events page daily for more events provided by NCDHHS in partnership with the North Carolina Community Health Center Association.