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Community Medical, PA of Marshville and Dr. Gary Henry, along with Brandi Queen, FNP-C, Family Nurse Practitioner, welcomes new patients

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Dr. Gary Henry



Brandi S. Queen, FNP-C

COMMUNITY MEDICAL, PA Family Practice / Medical Care
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South Piedmont to Launch Surgical Technology Program in January; Applications Open Sept. 1

South Piedmont Community College will launch a Surgical Technology program in January to help fill critical needs at area hospitals and healthcare providers. Applications for the program will be accepted beginning Sept. 1.

"We're very excited to begin offering this program and play an active part in creating a local pipeline for surgical technologists," said Program Director Alli Roy. "Our clinical partners are clamoring for surgical technologists. They have positions they can't currently fill. South Piedmont's program is being created to address that problem in our community."

Surgical technologists assist during surgical operations. This requires them to understand and monitor every operation that is performed in order to pass the surgeon the instruments he or she needs during the procedure. "The surgical technologist is a critical member of the operating team," Roy said. "You have to be able to anticipate the surgeon's needs and keep the procedure moving forward. Every second counts when a patient is on the operating table. The surgical technologist has to know what the surgeon needs even before the surgeon does."

Surgical technologists also assist in preparing the operating room and maintaining a sterile environment throughout each procedure.

Roy worked as a surgical technologist for several years prior to joining South Piedmont. "It's a very fulfilling career. Every day is different. Every patient is different. Every case is different," she said. "With surgery, you're going in and fixing something. You see that immediate difference in the patient. That's a great feeling to be part of the team that performs a transplant, an open-heart surgery, or any other procedure that saves, prolongs, or improves a patient's life immediately."

South Piedmont's program is designed to be completed in 17 months, which includes classroom instruction, simulated experiences in the College's labs, and on-site clinical instruction at area hospitals and healthcare providers. Students will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology.

South Piedmont's clinical partners hailed the creation of the program. "Union County is experiencing a growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals, including surgical technologists, to meet the increasing healthcare needs of the population. By having a local program, the county can address its specific healthcare requirements and improve access to surgical services for residents. Furthermore, having a local program can help bridge the skills gap in the healthcare industry, attracting and retaining professionals in the region. Ultimately, establishing a partnership with South Piedmont will be key to supporting our local hospitals and healthcare facilities by providing them with well-trained professionals and fostering collaboration between academia and the healthcare sectors," said Jennifer Sproles, nurse manager for surgical services at Atrium Health Union West.

Added Delanda Sexton, nurse manager for perioperative services at Atrium Health Union/Anson: "I feel having a Surgical Technology program in our county is extremely beneficial for our hospital operating room, since our department actively hires qualified graduates. Since the OR has a call component, we require staff to be within 30-45 minutes of the hospital during their call timeframe. This is critical for our patients who need emergency surgeries. As we all know, most students choose a college within an easy distance from their homes, and this would most likely indicate these students would be within easy access to both Atrium Union and Union West. I am so excited about South Piedmont's program, and I look forward to having students at to our facility for their clinical experience."

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that opportunities will abound for surgical technologists wherever they choose to live. The BLS estimates the field will grow by 6 percent, or about 7,700 jobs, through 2031.

Learn more about South Piedmont's Surgical Technology program at: spcc.edu/surgical-technology.

NCDOT Seeks Public Input to Improve Transportation Access for Seniors and Citizens with Disabilities

The N.C. Department of Transportation is seeking public input on its draft plan to improve transportation access for seniors and individuals with disabilities in small urban and rural areas.

NCDOT will host three virtual workshops in September to educate the public and receive input about the draft Statewide Locally Coordinated Plan, which outlines transportation improvements from 2025-2029. People can also provide feedback through a public survey, which will remain open until Sept. 28.

"Our goal is to improve mobility options for older adults and people with disabilities," said Hart Evans, the statewide planning and programming manager of NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division, which oversees bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation. "The public's feedback will help us develop strategies that give people in need better access to reliable public transportation around the state."

During the virtual workshops, people can receive information on the plan, interact with NCDOT's project staff and provide comments. Click on the meeting links below to be taken to the Zoom link to register for the workshops:

- Thursday Sept. 7 from 4 – 5 p.m.
- Wednesday Sept. 13 from 10 – 11 a.m.
- Wednesday Sept. 13 from 6 – 7 p.m.

After registering, people will receive an email directing them how to join the virtual workshop.

A virtual room is also available for people to access information about the plan at any time and includes a link to the survey. The virtual room will remain open for the duration of the plan and will be updated as more materials become available. storage.net-fs.com/hosting/7441809/10/

The plan was created by the NCDOT, planning organizations and transportation providers. It identifies opportunities to expand mobility options to seniors and individuals with disabilities, particularly in small urban and rural communities. Funds for the plan and resulting projects come from federal Section 5310 grants – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program and the state Rural Operating Assistance Program. Once the plan is complete, planning organizations and transit agencies will apply to NCDOT for project funding.

Follow Integrated Mobility on Twitter @NCDOT_IMD.

Food Truck Fridays in Albemarle Features Food Trucks and Live Music

Albemarle Parks and Recreation invites you to join them for Food Truck Fridays each month at City Lake Park, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Enjoy great food from a variety of food trucks and free live music. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Don't forget to bring a blanket or a lawn chair!

City Lake Park is located at 815 Concord Road in Albemarle.

- On Friday, September 8 the band is Too Much Sylvia. They play a variety of music, including their own beach music compositions.
- On Friday, October 6 the band is New Local.

Participating food trucks include (Not all food trucks available each month): Allen's BBQ Shack in the Back, Everything Rolled, Fatbacks Soul Food, Higgins & Son, Hot Diggity Dogs, It's All Good, J&M Food Shack, Mollie's Mini Donuts, Trixi's Mexican Street Food, Mottarella's, On Time Snacks, Pop Above Popcorn, Pride Catering, Smokin Mac, What-A-Burger, and Woodmill Treats. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Lisa Kiser at lkiser@albemarle.gov or 704-984-9564.

LAST SUMMER EVENT OF THE YEAR!
SENIOR PICNIC AT THE PARK
Free to Seniors 60 & Older
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 10AM TO 1PM
At Little Park • 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro

- * Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with all the trimmings
- * Baked beans, slaw, chips, watermelon & drink.
- * Goody Bags!
- * BINGO! Corn Hole and more games!
- * Bubble Machine!

Please call to register at 704-694-6616 • Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm

Directions to Little Park: From Highway 74 turn onto N. Greene St. (Hwy 109 N.). Then travel 1 mile, turn left onto Airport Road. Go 3/4 mile and Little Park is on the left.

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 Wadesboro 704-694-5188
 Sliding fee scale for the uninsured.



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ANSON COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING GRACE TRANSPORTATION VOUCHER PROGRAM

Making Transportation Free, Controllable and Stress-Free for Older Adults



Grace Transportation Voucher Program (GTVP) is an outreach program that provides free, safe, convenient, controllable and stress-free transportation by allowing the older adult to choose their own driver. This prevents transportation cost exploitation. GTVP reimburses the mileage to the chosen driver.

Register for GTVP: Call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Drivers: The driver chosen by an older adult will need to complete the GTVP application.

Transportation Voucher Details

Who: Anson County residents age 60+ who cannot drive for themselves due to mental or physical disabilities, or have no transportation of their own.

Where: Get a ride to medical appointments, grocery stores, banks, shopping, hair salons, outpatient surgery, dental appointments, physical therapy, chemotherapy, social outings, emergencies, pharmacy, paying bills, post office and senior center.

How: Set up your GTVP transportation voucher program by making an appointment at Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616. The older adult and driver must meet at Grace Senior Center in person to apply for the voucher program. All details of the program will be discussed at the appointment.

Reimbursement: During the application process the mileage reimbursement paid to your driver will be discussed.

Grace Senior Center • 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro • 704-694-6616

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 50% of UV damage to eyes is done before a person is 18 years old, so kids need sunglasses too!
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