

The Anson County Health Department has flu shots available. If you are interested in getting a flu shot please call 704-694-5188.

**Moderna Covid Vaccine** The Health Department stated that they are still waiting to receive the latest Moderna Covid Vaccine. They suggest that if you want to get your Covid booster as soon as possible, visit [www.vaccines.gov/search](http://www.vaccines.gov/search) to find a place for your Covid vaccination.

When the Anson County Health Department receives their supply of vaccine they will update their Facebook page and The Express Newspaper will publish the information.

## NC Medicaid Expansion Will Launch on December 1, 2023

Governor Roy Cooper and NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Secretary Kody H. Kinsley announced that DHHS will launch Medicaid Expansion on Dec. 1, 2023, giving more than 600,000 North Carolinians access to health care.

"Finally expanding Medicaid in North Carolina is a monumental achievement that will extend health insurance to people who need it," said Governor Cooper. "This means better health care, including those with mental health and substance use disorders, hope for rural hospitals struggling to stay open and billions of dollars for our economy. This action is long overdue, and we aren't wasting a moment in beginning enrollment in North Carolina."

On Friday Governor Cooper announced that he would allow the state budget passed by the General Assembly to become law and directed NCDHHS to immediately begin the process to start Medicaid expansion in North Carolina.

Even while the budget stalled in the state legislature, NCDHHS worked with county and community partners to be ready to launch so people could get the care they desperately needed as soon as possible. On Friday, Governor Cooper and Sec. Kinsley spoke with federal leaders of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services about the urgent need to begin enrollment.

"This work will yield results," Governor Cooper said. On Dec. 1, 2023, the Department anticipates approximately 300,000 eligible people currently receiving Medicaid Family Planning benefits will automatically be enrolled in full health care coverage.

"More than 600,000 people in North Carolina will get the health care coverage they have been waiting for," said NCDHHS Secretary Kody H. Kinsley. "Medicaid Expansion is the most significant investment in the health of North Carolina in decades and represents billions of dollars of investment each year that helps keep clinics, providers and hospital doors open."

Medicaid Expansion increases the eligible population to adults aged 19-64 who have incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. For example, expansion gives health care coverage to single individuals making under \$20,000 a year. Likewise, a family of three earning under \$34,000 combined will now be eligible. Beneficiaries will get care the same way as existing Medicaid beneficiaries and be eligible for the same comprehensive benefits and copays as other non-disabled adults in Medicaid. More communications will be coming soon, and information about Medicaid Expansion is on the FAQ here and Spanish FAQ here.

Medicaid expansion will be transformative for access to health care in rural areas, for better mental health and for veterans, working adults and their families while bringing billions in federal dollars to the state.

North Carolina is one of 41 states that has expanded Medicaid since it was authorized in 2014, though state legislators delayed enrollment until passage of the state budget.

## N.C. Forest Service Urging the Public to Think Ahead, be Cautious with Outdoor Fire

As North Carolina transitions to the fall, the N.C. Forest Service is reminding the public to be careful, ready and responsible when burning outdoors. Typically, wildfires occur more frequently from October through early December. Outdoor fires left unattended can get out of hand quickly, becoming wildfires that threaten lives and property. In 2022, there were nearly 6,400 wildfires that burned more than 24,000 acres in North Carolina, 99% of which were human caused.

"As more of our state's acreage is developed and our population continues to grow, we'll have more people actively living and recreating in areas where homes and forest and woodlands meet," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Increased human activity traditionally leads to more wildfires."

North Carolina is in the top 5% nationally for the number of acreage and housing units in wildland urban interface (WUI). Recently identified in the North Carolina Forest Action Plan as a notable threat for increased wildfire impacts, WUI is the area where structures and other human development blend with undeveloped wildland, forest or vegetation. WUI acreage is increasing with more people moving to the state and into formerly rural areas. As of 2020, roughly 2.25 million homes and more than half of North Carolina's citizens live in WUI areas.

"Backyard debris burning, escaped campfires and machine and vehicle use are common forms of human-caused wildfires," Troxler said. "Steps to reduce wildfire risks begin at home by creating a defensible space and making fire-resistant landscape choices. Remember, you are our best defense against wildfires."

For those who choose to burn, the N.C. Forest Service offers the following tips:

- Make sure you have a valid permit. You can obtain a burn permit at any N.C. Forest Service office or authorized permitting agent, or online at: [www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit](http://www.ncforestservice.gov/burnpermit).
  - Check the weather. Never burn on dry, windy days.
  - Keep your fire small, not tall.
  - Be sure you are fully prepared before burning. To control the fire, you will need a water hose, bucket, steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Keep a phone nearby, too.
  - Never use kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up burning.
  - Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. Drown all embers, not just the red ones. When soaked, stir the coals and soak them again. Make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch. If you do not have water, mix enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire, being careful not to bury the fire. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.
  - Never leave your fire. Stay with it until it is completely out.
- Studies have shown that taking these and other measures can reduce the possibility of wildfires. For helpful information and tips to safely burn outdoors, visit our Fire Safety Outdoors webpage. Visit [www.resistwildfirenc.org](http://www.resistwildfirenc.org) to learn more about creating a defensible space around your home to protect your property from wildfire.

## Grace Senior Center Has It Going On In October!

Grace Senior Center is an excellent resource for Anson County's senior citizens. They provide programs, services, activities and fellowship that are beneficial... ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

Be sure to check the Express Events Calendar for even more activities at Grace Senior Center.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616.

### October Events

- **Chair Exercise** every Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-11am. (No class on October 3 and 5.)
- **Wednesday, October 4**, Paint a Pumpkin Workshop 2:30-3:30pm. Registration is required.
- **Thursday, October 5**, Book Club 10am-12pm
- **Tuesday, October 10**, Memory Bead Bracelet Workshop 12pm-1pm. Registration is required.
- **Thursday, October 12**, Bridge Club 1pm-3pm
- **Monday, October 16**, Open Enrollment Program Begins 9am-12:30pm
- **Tuesday, October 17**, Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop 12pm-2pm. Observing the importance of breast health.
- **Wednesday, October 25**, Movie Day (Hocus Pocus I) 2pm-4pm.
- **Thursday, October 26**, One Day Trip to Fuller's BBQ, 9am-4pm.
- **Tuesday October 31**, Treat Bags 11am-1pm.

## Golf Tournament to Benefit Renovation of Kilwinning Lodge #64 AF&AM

Twin Valley Golf Club is hosting a golf tournament on Friday, October 27 to help renovate and restore one of Wadesboro's oldest buildings, the home of Kilwinning Lodge #64 AF&AM on South Greene Street. The tournament begins at 8 a.m.

Proceeds benefit Kilwinning Lodge's Historic Masonic Properties Fund in the NC Masonic Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.

For more information, to register or to make a donation, contact Eric Forbes at (704) 694-8400 or [ericforbesproperties@gmail.com](mailto:ericforbesproperties@gmail.com).

The lodge, chartered in 1813, built its two-story home between 1851 and 1857 at the southwest corner of South Greene and West Morgan streets. In 1951 the building was moved one block south. Research by Calvin Gaddy indicates that the lodge building is one of the oldest in town, preceded by the Boggan-Hammond House (1796), Troy House on Hall Street (1801), Leavitt House (1832) and the Alexander Little Wing (1839).

The lodge has been a positive force in Anson County since its inception. Today its members support Anson County charities in addition to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and the Masonic and Eastern Star Home in Greensboro.

The mission of Freemasonry in North Carolina is to raise the moral, social, intellectual, and spiritual conscience of society by teaching the ancient and enduring philosophical tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, which are expressed outwardly through service to God, family, country, and self under the Fatherhood of God within the Brotherhood of Man. Freemasonry does not recruit members but inquiries about membership are welcomed.

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Mon-Fri 8:30-5  
Saturday 8:30-1  
Closed Sunday

## Want to save on Medicare costs?

**SHIP can help find the best Medicare Prescription Drug Plan for you!**

It's time to evaluate your plan and see what's new for 2024. SHIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, offers free, unbiased information about Medicare and can assist with enrollment and subsidy applications that could save you money.

**Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Period**  
**October 15 – December 7**  
Changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2024

Call to schedule an appointment with a trained SHIP counselor today.

Grace Senior Center  
199 Hwy 742 South  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
(704) 694-6616  
Monday-Friday 9:00-12:30



**Anson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting**  
Monday, October 2nd

**FARM BUREAU ANSON**

**Location: Lockhart-Taylor Center**  
514 North Washington Street • Wadesboro, NC

**Time: Doors will open at 6:15 p.m.**  
Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Business meeting starts at 7 p.m.

**Admission: We can only allow 2 people per membership**  
You must be present for your guest to come.  
\*Please present your membership card at the door.

This is the Annual Meeting of the members of the Anson County Farm Bureau, Inc., a North Carolina corporation (the "Corporation"). During the meeting, the members will consider a proposed amendment to the Corporation's bylaws regarding the eligibility requirements for the Corporation's Officers and Directors.

*We look forward to seeing you there. Ronnie Mills, President*