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Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer Announces His Retirement

After eleven years of outstanding service as Chief of Police in Wadesboro, and a total of over 30 years in law enforcement, Thedis Spencer has officially announced his retirement. Chief Spencer has led the department with professionalism, integrity and a strong commitment to community involvement.

When he took over as Police Chief, the Wadesboro Police Department employed an excellent staff of officers, but the department faced problems caused by the former police chief, Janie Schultz. Soon after taking the helm, Chief Spencer began work to "put the house in order" and, with the help of all the staff, quickly returned the Wadesboro Police Department to its current status as one of the best police departments in the state.

Thank you Chief Thedis Spencer for your service to the citizens of Anson County.

Chief Spencer has written a letter to the community and it is presented below.

"For 30 years I have had the distinct honor to be a servant to my fellow citizens in Wadesboro and Anson County as a peace officer. For the last 11 years, I have been blessed to serve alongside some of the best men and women of law enforcement in all of America in the role of Chief of Police. Many officers start their careers dreaming of being chief one day, and few achieve that honor. It does not escape me how Blessed I have been to wear that badge, especially for so long.

I am also vividly aware that it has not been purely by my own doing that I got to serve the great people of this community as its Chief of Police. Many great men and women who have come before me, not just in law enforcement, but in all walks of life have provided the support and foundation for me to achieve great things and rise to the occasion. I want to especially thank my wife and mother, two of the strongest women I've ever known, who have helped shape and mold me into the man, father, and leader I am today. Many leaders, both here and abroad, have shared their wisdom and counsel, and members of the community from all walks of life have done the same. In other words, it has taken a village, and I am forever in your debt.

Through these last 30 years the profession that I love, the profession that is as much a part of me as my own heart, has changed, evolved, and grown. It, like so many other things, has faced challenges that have forced it to become something even greater than it was. I, and all the officers I've worked alongside, have been given a special moment to be a part of a historical national movement for good, and the significance of that is not lost on me. I have always found, and I can humbly admit it, that the change is almost always for the better. I know that a new leader will step into this position with fresh ideas that will help each of you become better.

All good things, however, must come to an end, and it is with a heavy heart that I want to announce to you that I will be retiring from the Wadesboro Police Department. Serving as your Chief of Police will forever be one of the greatest privileges of my life. I thank God that He has given me the gift of a servant's heart and for a long and rewarding law enforcement career.

If you would allow me, I'd like to thank this community of incredible people for supporting me, for the Town Managers and former Chiefs, Sheriffs, and leaders from around the state for believing in me, teaching me, imparting your wisdom, and living the words that you preach through actionable leadership.

Most importantly, I want to thank my family and the men and women of the Wadesboro Police Department, both former and current, who have supported me, been loyal to me. We have the distinct honor of serving our community as its protectors.

I want to encourage you all to always remember that you carry an enormous responsibility to uphold that calling to the highest degree of integrity, courage, and honor.

Thank you, Wadesboro. Thank you, Anson County. This chapter has come to an end, but I know GOD has another chapter for me.

Chief Thedis L. Spencer



Thedis Spencer



Day of Sharing - A Wonderful Community Effort to Help Others

Young Professionals Anson hosted their 3rd Annual Day of Sharing on Saturday, October 7. Day of Sharing is a community-wide service project that focuses on giving back by volunteering to assist citizens and nonprofit organizations. Teams and volunteers devote their time and energy to helping the elderly, disabled and schools in Anson County.

This year's Day of Sharing was the largest to date, with 18 teams and over 115 volunteers completing 19 projects. Young Professionals Anson would like to thank their sponsors for helping provide breakfast, lunch, entertainment, and apparel for the 2023 Day of Sharing: C&M Auto Supply, Caroline Goins, First Baptist Church-Wadesboro (provided lunch), Hornwood, Leavitt Funeral Home, Leon Gatewood (DJ for the kick-off ceremony), Loba-Wakol (provided breakfast), Peaches n' Cream, Pee Dee Electric, Plank Road Forestry, Plank Road Realty, South Piedmont Community College and Uwharrie Bank.

A huge thanks to the teams and volunteers: Anson Women's League, Anson Girl Scouts Troop 1389 and Wadesboro Rotary Club (combined), Atrium Health Anson, Brown Creek Baptist Church Youth Group, Cook Law and Caudle Farms (combined), First Baptist Church-Wadesboro, First Presbyterian Church-Wadesboro, Kessler Chapel AME Zion Church, Loba-Wakol, Plank Road Forestry, Plank Road Realty, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, South Piedmont Community College, T-Mobile, Town of Wadesboro - Admin/Police, Town of Wadesboro - Public Works, Uwharrie Bank and the Wadesboro Fire Department



This is Countdown to College Month

The NC Countdown to College series is happening now, through the entire month of October. Students and parents can learn the best practices to guide high school seniors through the college application process.

Don't forget about the upcoming College Application Week, October 16-20, where many North Carolina colleges and universities will waive application fees on CFNC.org. Learn more about NC Countdown to College month and College Application Week online at: bit.ly/3qCQd9e.

It's Community Night and Mass Band Night at the AHS Varsity Football Game this Friday

Mark your calendars for Community Night (formerly called Elementary School Night) and Mass Band Night at the Anson High School varsity football game this Friday, October 13. The band programs, elementary school students and staff, football and cheer programs, JROTC, and many others will perform and participate during pregame and halftime. Everyone is invited to come out for a night of fun and fellowship while rooting on the Bearcat football team as they take on the Monroe Redhawks.

Game time is 7:00 p.m., but be sure to arrive early to see all the pregame activities. Gates open at 6:00 p.m.

The students want to see the bleachers full of community members, parents, friends and families. Be sure to come out this Friday, October 13, and at any other school event, program, or competition throughout the year!

Thank you for supporting our students and schools! Parents are reminded to purchase tickets early so they do not have to wait in line. This will ensure that your child is not late reporting to the track at 6:10 p.m.

You can purchase game tickets in advance at: ansonschools.org/AHS/7679-Athletic-Tickets.html.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets October 17

The Anson County Board of Commissioners now meets two times per month. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17 at 6 p.m. This is the second meeting in October.

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 and search for Anson Commissioners.

Masquerade Book Bash is Friday!

The Hampton B. Allen Library will hold their first annual Masquerade Book Bash on Friday, October 13. It will take place at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro, from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.

This 21+ event will feature a karaoke hour, best mask contest, author's book sale, dinner, drinks and dance. They suggest wearing masquerade-themed dress. The bash is planned and organized by the Hampton B. Allen Library staff. All proceeds support the Friends of the Hampton B. Allen Library.

Tickets are on sale now at the library, located at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. Each ticket is \$50 and tables cost \$375. To purchase tickets you can call the library at 704-694-5177.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Anson County's special time of remembrance is October 26 in new location

This is a release from the Anson County Domestic Violence Coalition (ACDVC): October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. According to the NCADV website (ncadv.org), Domestic Violence Awareness month was first observed in 1987. Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center (ACDVC) participates in the Silent Witness program during the month of October to mourn those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

During October, life-sized wooden figures will be placed in the county, each one bearing the name of a person who once lived, worked, had friends, family - whose life ended violently at the hands of a partner, spouse, ex-spouse or acquaintance.

Domestic Violence often goes unreported. In Anson County, from July 2022 to June 2023, ACDVC assisted 246 victims of domestic violence. The age bracket with the highest incident is 26-40 years old. We had 429 calls to our crisis hotline. According to statistics, one in three women and one in four men have been victims of some form of physical violence by their intimate partner. According to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, every nine seconds a woman is assaulted. From January 1 to September 19, 2023, there were 75 domestic violence related deaths in North Carolina alone.

On Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. ACDVC invites anyone who has a friend or loved one represented here or if you have been or know someone who has been affected by domestic violence to come and join us during this special time of remembrance. This year, there is a new location for the vigil which will be held in front of Anson County Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center, located at 204 East Wade Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Our known victims include Argatha H. Clark, Cindy B. McIntyre, Rebecca B. Morrow, Connie Newton, Laura Parker, Mary Polk, Danette Streater, Mary Jane Suess, Linda Kay Walters, Daisy Coleman Melton, Larry Thomas Lindsey, Jennifer Howell, Sherri Feely Marshall, Elнора Sturdivant, Doretha Smith, Rodney Smith, Kim Campbell, Joseph Michael Hall, two unnamed victims and two unborn children.

For more information, please contact the staff at Anson County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center at 704-694-4499. Our 24-hour crisis line is 704-690-0362.

Free Mental Health Awareness Event at HOLLA!

The public is invited to a free Mental Health Awareness Event on Sat., October 22, from 3 to 6 p.m. The event will feature vendors from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., a catered lunch with speakers from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m., and art therapy (canvas painting) from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

It takes place at the HOLLA! Community Center, located at 229 East Main Street in Morven.

The event is sponsored by Sunny Keez Events and HOLLA!

Interested in being a vendor? The fee is only \$10. For questions and more information text 704-294-9556 or 704-774-0182.

Holiday Craft Market Scheduled for November 18

All craft vendors are invited to exhibit and sell their creations at the Holiday Market for Missions sponsored by the Wadesboro First Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches on Saturday, November 18.

The proceeds from renting the tables go to the local mission efforts of the sponsoring churches, including utility assistance to enable recipients to keep the lights and the water on, Christmas gifts for needy children, and two weeks of groceries during the holidays. The proceeds from vendors' sales are theirs to keep.

The cost per table is \$45. Set up will begin at 8:00 a.m. Patrons may shop from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Vendors wishing to participate should contact First Presbyterian Church by calling 704-694-3818; emailing fpcwadesboro@gmail.com; or coming by the church at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.