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

All Wadesboro Voters Will Now Vote at the Lockhart-Taylor Center

At a recent board meeting the Anson County Board of Elections by unanimous resolution approved the merging of the three voting precincts (voting sites) in Wadesboro into one voting site. Upon approval of this resolution the board petitioned North Carolina State Board of Elections Director Karen Bell to make this change official and permanent. The merger was approved on December 18, 2019.

Wadesboro voters who reside in Wadesboro Voting Districts 5, 6 & 7 will now vote at the Lockhart-Taylor Center (Ingram Room), located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. This change is permanent for all elections - municipal and general - effective January 2020.

This change means that if you previously voted at the AA Building on Country Club Road or the Anson County Board of Education on Camden Road, those sites will no longer be used, you will vote at the Lockhart-Taylor Center.

Board of Elections Chair James Paxton stated, "Voters in Wadesboro Districts/Precincts expressed the desire to have one central location to cast their ballots, and this board met, discussed, and agreed that one location would make voting easier. Our board exists to serve the voters in Anson County, and this precinct merge allows voters to be served in a better capacity."

Elections Director Steve Adams agreed with Chairman Paxton that the Board of Elections works to provide voters with the best voting options available - and this one precinct in Wadesboro is best for the voters.

Adams shared, "This merging of precincts gives voters in the Wadesboro Districts a centralized voting area. In addition, it makes parking easier, curbside voting easier, and limits confusion for voters. Our staff and precinct officials will be able to serve the voters of Wadesboro in a more efficient and centralized precinct. We believe this one precinct will prove to make the elections process better in many ways, including parking, curbside voting access, and for campaigners and candidates."

Adams also wants voters to know that they still have the option to vote during Early Voting at the Anson County Board of Elections Office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. In addition, Absentee by Mail Voting is available for voters.

Director Adams concluded, "All voters impacted by this precinct location change will be informed of this change via newspaper media circulation, social media notification, and voter cards being sent to highlight the new location."

For more information contact the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223.

Anson County Land Use Plan Survey

Anson County Land Use Plan 2040

Over the next year Anson County will update its comprehensive land use plan. A comprehensive plan captures the vision and values of a community and develops a strategy for reaching these goals. The plan will address strategies for growth, development, and design for the next 20 years.

Citizens are urged to take a survey to help researchers collect information on your values and vision for Anson County. The survey is anonymous and data collected will only be used for the purposes of the 2020 Land-Use Plan update.

To find more information on the Land-Use Plan, please read the information that is available on the Anson County website (www.co.anson.nc.us). There you will find a flyer called "Anson County Land Use Plan 2040."

You can take the survey on the Anson County website or by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXYVWMP.

Limited LIEAP Funds Are Now Available

The Anson County Department of Social Services now has a limited number of Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds available. The funds are limited and will be available on a first come, first serve basis starting on January 20, 2020.

The program ends March 31 unless funds are exhausted prior to that.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program gives families a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. Families must meet all of the following: an income test, be responsible for all their heating bills and include a U.S. citizen or an eligible alien.

For more information, contact the Anson County Department of Social Services at 704-694-9351.

John Lentz Hunter Education Complex to Close For Renovation Project

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission began renovations to the John Lentz Hunter Education Complex in Ellerbe, NC on January 6 which will render the complex closed to the public, with plans to reopen next fall.

Following the renovations, the complex will feature three rifle and pistol ranges (25 yard, 50 yard and 100 yard) with 10 shooting stations each. All three ranges will be equipped with baffles and covered shooting positions to ensure optimal safety for all users. Additionally, the complex will feature a static archery range and tower, a re-designed five-stand shotgun field, two combination skeet/trap fields and a 3D archery course.

The renovations aim to create a safer range environment and a more accessible facility for people with disabilities to comfortably practice their favorite shooting sport. Improvements to the range will be conducted by Smith & Allen General Contractors located in Asheboro. The Commission will fund the renovations using reserves from the Wildlife Restoration Program and the Wildlife Endowment Fund.

The John Lentz Hunter Education Center is located at 2030 Gibson Mill Road in Ellerbe. For more information on the Commission's shooting range program, visit ncwildlife.org/shootingranges.

Storytime Every Tuesday at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library features Storytime for children every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This program is free and an enjoyable learning experience for children. For more information call 704-694-5177.



New Fun at Barn Blast 2020!

Put on your cowboy hat and boots and come out for an evening of fun and laughter, while supporting young children in Anson County! The 2020 Barn Blast will be held on Friday, January 31 from 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm in the Ingram Room at SPCC's Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. This country-themed night of fun, features games, dinner, dancing, and both silent and live auctions.

"We want Barn Blast guests to have an unforgettable evening of delicious food, lively entertainment, and games, all while contributing to the well-being of our youngest children. The games are more interactive with exciting challenges, and the food will be even better with samplings from Nothing Bunt Cake and Brown Creek Creamery and more time for dancing and socializing," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director as she talked about the excitement for Barn Blast and new ideas for the fundraiser.

Each year Barn Blast guests enjoy games of chance with some fantastic prizes such as a Gatlinburg weekend getaway with hotel and entertainment. The cost of these games range from \$15 to \$20. A Barn Blast favorite, "Bonanza," is back with a twist and offers a variety of prizes to suit everyone. Now with Bonanza, guests will play a game at their chance for 15, 25, or 50 tickets towards the great prizes.

New to Barn Blast is the Hillside Hunt game with the grand prize of a trip to the Grenadines. Guests will visit all four locations, meeting people and having fun along this scavenger hunt to enter into the drawing for the trip.

"Thanks to the community, there are amazing auction items guests can bid on including original artwork, sporting clays packages, Charleston and Ocean Isle trips, and much more," said Goins.

To make check-out even faster, guests are encouraged to register a credit card during check-in.

All profits from the Barn Blast are used in Anson County for the Partnership's programs for young children. These programs include Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which mails a book each month to over 1,000 children in Anson County, as well as many other literacy and early childhood programs such as Raising a Reader, Reach Out and Read, NC Pre-K, and Motherhead.

Be sure to purchase your Barn Blast tickets before they sell out! Reserved tables for 8 are available for \$500 or \$65 for individual tickets. For tickets to 2020 Barn Blast, please call or come by the Anson County Partnership for Children, 117 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, 704 694-4036, www.ansonchildren.org.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization which was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child." All profits from the Barn Blast are used for Partnership programs which address the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on child care, health, literacy, and family support. For more information, contact the Partnership at 704-694-4036 or www.ansonchildren.org.

Local Churches to Sponsor Community Table Talks

During annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration

Several local churches will sponsor Community Table Talks on Thursday evening, January 16 in celebration of Anson County's Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday Celebration. The Community Table Talks are an extension of last year's Mountaintop Fellowship meetings which were held in various communities. This year's activities will focus on bringing members of local communities to a church in their community to sit around the table and have conversations about how to foster unity in their communities.

In one of Dr. King's famous speeches, called the "What is Your Life's Blueprint?" speech, he spoke to students at the Barratt Junior High School on October 26, 1967, about preparing for their future. He also spoke about the necessity to move forward in life at all costs. His quote from that speech, "if you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But by all means, keep moving!" will serve as the basis of discussion for groups at the Community Tables. Table Talks begin at 6:00 p.m. The topic will be: "How Do We Keep Moving Towards Unity?"

Here is a listing of the churches where the Community Table discussions will be held:

Ansonville Host pastors are Rev. Robert Burr of United Methodist Church of Ansonville and Rev. Anthony Hall of Flakes Chapel. Location: The intersection of Polkton-Ansonville Road and Highway 52.

Burnsville Host pastors are Rev. Donna McNair of Fairview Church of God and Rev. Scott Baucom of New Hope Baptist Church. Location: Fairview Church of God, 13703 Highway 742, Burnsville

Deep Creek Host pastors are Rev. Terry Little of West Deep Creek Missionary Baptist, Rev. Davi Trotti of Long Pine Methodist Church, Rev. Freddie Little of Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist and Rev. Sylvia McLendon of Divine Unity. Location: West Deep Creek Baptist Church, 4557 Deep Creek Road, Wadesboro

Lilesville Host pastors are Rev. Jamison Quick of Parson Grove Missionary Baptist, Rev. Fred Miller of Centenary A.M.E. Zion and Rev. Sybil Perrell of Forestville Methodist Church. Location: Parson Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 958 Parson Grove Road, Lilesville

Morven Host pastors are Rev. Iris Tillman of Church of God of Prophecy and Rev. Tommy Threatt of Morven Baptist Church. Location: Church of God of Prophecy, 8475 Highway 52 South, Morven

Peachland Host pastors are Rev. Charles Sturdivant of New Meltonville Baptist Church and Rev. Luke Cristy of Peachland Methodist Church. Location: New Meltonville Baptist, 15482 White Store Road

Polkton Host pastors Rev. Sharon Lockhart of New Grove Missionary Baptist and Rev. Eddie Lee of Saron Missionary Baptist Church. Location: New Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 1782 Poplar Hill Church Road

Wadesboro Host Pastors are Rev. Tim Hushion of Calvary Episcopal Church and Rev. Alban Burney of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Location: Calvary Episcopal Church, 308 East Wade Street

MLK Day Events Other events taking place during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration include a "Night of Jazz," sponsored by HOLLA. This event will be held at the HOLLA Center in Morven on Friday evening, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10. The contact person is Leon Gatewood.

The Community Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday morning, January 18 at 8:00 a.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. Lineup begins at 9:30 a.m. Contact for the Parade is Tracy Little of the HOLLA Center in Morven.

The annual march and program are scheduled for Monday, January 20. The march begins at 8:00 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Lockhart Taylor Center. Speakers for the Monday program include Rev. LaGrant Maye and Rev. Michael McLeod.

All events are open to the public. For more information contact Winnie Bennett at 704-851-9269.

Upcoming Grace Senior Center Events

- Open to the community, all events and activities for seniors 55 and older.
- Tuesday, January 21 movie, *The Bucket List*, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 11 Valentine Drop-In, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Refreshments will be served.
- Tuesday, February 18 movie, *Happy Tears*, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 17 movie, *Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont*, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 31 Senior Citizen Prom, 12 noon to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call to register 704-694-6616.
- Tuesday, May 12 Anson Wellness Expo. Refreshments will be served. Call to register 704-694-6616.

Town of Wadesboro MLK Holiday Schedule

The Wadesboro Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 20, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. There will be no garbage pickup on Monday, January 20. Garbage collection will be shifted a day the entire week. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, etc.

The normal collection schedule will resume on Monday, January 27.

If you have any questions, please call Town Hall at 704-694-5171.

Board Meeting

The Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the BCSWCD office, located at 1758 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

For more information call 704-694-3516.

"State of the County" Event by the Chamber of Commerce January 22

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce invites you to attend their "State of the County" on Wednesday, January 22. The program will take place from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Twin Valley Golf Club in Wadesboro. Updates will be presented by the Anson County Manager, Finance Officer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Sheriff.

The cost is \$20 per person, with breakfast provided. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Friday, January 17 to Shelby Emrich at semrich@anson-countychamber.org.

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