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Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Anson County Partnership for Children by Cultivating Young Minds



1,759 Reported Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

As of Friday, January 15 the Anson County Health Department posted that Anson County had 1,759 reported cases of COVID-19. 241 of those cases were active. At that point they had discharged 1,518 cases, 1,479 to baseline health and 39 deaths.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported statewide as of Monday, January 18 there were 674,637 total cases of COVID-19, with 8,083 deaths, 8,022,425 completed tests and 3,862 hospitalized Statewide, as of Monday, January 4 there were 570, 111 total cases of COVID-19, with 6,941 deaths, 7,119,201 completed tests and 3,192 hospitalized. On Monday, December 7 there were 404,032 total cases of COVID-19, with 5,605 deaths, 5,678,794 completed tests and 2,373 hospitalized. On November 2 there were 278,028 total cases of COVID-19, with 4,390 deaths, 4,116,019 completed tests and 1,146 hospitalized. On October 5 there were 219,754 total cases of COVID-19, with 3,637 deaths, 3,188,371 completed tests and 971 hospitalized.

Recent history in Anson County: 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 26 - 408 cases; September 4 - 461 cases; September 28 - 605 cases; October 5 - 649 cases; October 26 - 720 cases; November 2 - 738 cases; November 30 - 937 cases; December 7 - 1,029 cases; December 31 - 1,444 cases; January 4 - 1,524 cases.

15th annual Barn Blast event, to be held virtually on Thursday, January 28 - Sponsorships are available Everyone is invited to join the event. All donors will be emailed a virtual invitation.

The Anson County Partnership for Children is delighted to celebrate 25 years of service to our community. There is still time to celebrate with us and sponsor the 15th annual Barn Blast event to be held virtually January 28 at 7:00 p.m.

The Partnership has been a staple in the community, "helping make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child" for 25 years. As the needs of the community changed, the Partnership's programs adapted to include literacy, family support, and early childhood programs to help young children grow and develop. Through one of our signature programs, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, more than 159,400 books have been mailed to the homes of families. Through NC Pre-Kindergarten, classrooms have grown from one to eleven, serving 150 children a year. children. Also, the Anson County Partnership for Children offered more than 5,000 training hours to ensure high-quality child care in Anson County.

During the pandemic, the Partnership made more adjustments and accepted new responsibilities in efforts to continue serving the children and families in Anson County. The loss of resources and services during the pandemic will have a lasting impact on children. The Partnership collaborated with Anson County Schools, United Way of the Central Carolinas and Second Harvest Food Bank to fill-in gaps as needed.

"We modified how we operate by volunteering to deliver school meals, diapers, and other household needs to make sure our families have the stability they need while offering our other activities with virtual programming, picking up boxes, and keeping the office open by appointments," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director.

As the next phase of the pandemic unfolds, the Partnership is prepared to continue working in creative ways to serve young children and families, but continued community support is needed.

"I have always taken great pride in being an Ansonian because we sustain and take care of our community without reservation. Though we are sad to not have the Barn Blast in person, safety is our priority. We are thankful for this gracious and generous community that continues to back our mission," said Goins. "It is because of the amazing sponsors and community members that we are able to serve the community when new needs arise. To those who have already sponsored Barn Blast, we thank you! Your sponsorship will go to serve a community with determination. For those wanting to cultivate the young minds in Anson County, there's still time to invest."

Check out the Partnership's Facebook page for updates about Barn Blast. For information on donating or being a 2021 Barn Blast sponsor, call 704-694-4036 or visit the Partnership's website at www.ansonchildren.org.

Article and photo courtesy of the Anson County Partnership for Children

Health Department's Drive-Thru Covid-19 Vaccinations Now Take Place at Emergency Services Center

Effective Tuesday, January 19, the Anson County Health Department's daily drive-thru COVID vaccination clinic now takes place at the Anson County Emergency Services Center, located at 2230 Country Club in Wadesboro.

Fred G. Thompson, PhD, Health Director at the Anson County Health Department, said, "This change in for COVID vaccinations will protect staff from the weather and make it easier for EMS to support our vaccination clinic on an ongoing basis."

Also, at the request of the federal government, North Carolina has adopted a new vaccine phasing schedule which was effective Thursday, January 14. The big change is opening up eligibility to anyone 65 and over.

Thompson continued, "While I am thrilled to see eligibility open up to anyone 65 and over, it is critical for the community to understand that the supply of the vaccine is very limited at this time. We have over 1,000 Ansonians with reservations to get vaccinated and we are only getting 100 doses of the vaccine this week. We will get everyone scheduled and vaccinated as vaccine supplies are made available to us."

Thompson concluded, "While we have extra staff manning the phones, we are getting hundreds of calls every day, literally crashing the phone system at times. People may have to leave a voicemail. We will call them back as quickly as possible. Thank you and feel free to reach out to us with your questions."

The telephone number for the Health Department is 704-694-5188.

Please see the updated vaccine phasing (scheduling) chart on page 4.

Wadesboro Police Officers Talmadge Legrand and Cuong Phan Awarded Medal of Valor on January 11

During the Wadesboro Town Council Meeting held on Monday, January 11, two Wadesboro Police officers, Talmadge Legrand and Cuong Phan, were each presented with the prestigious Medal of Valor. According to the award presenters, Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer and Lieutenant Steven Kelly, to earn the Medal of Valor an officer would have performed an act of displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent danger.

"Officer Talmadge Legrand and Officer Cuong Phan were awarded the Medal of Valor in recognition for an act of outstanding bravery by which they demonstrated a great degree of selflessness, personal courage and devotion to duty," said Spencer. "The Wadesboro Police Department and the Town of Wadesboro are fortunate and blessed to have these two officers serving our community."

Legrand and Phan earned the award from an incident that took place in the spring of 2020. Chief Spencer related the incident: "On May 26, 2020, Wadesboro Police officers responded to a call for service in reference to discharging a firearm. After observing a vehicle erratically fleeing the area of where the gunshots were coming from, officers attempted to stop the fleeing vehicle. The vehicle failed to stop and ended up in the area of an apartment complex. The suspects promptly exited the vehicle therein leading Wadesboro Police officers on a foot chase.

Patrol Officer Phan and School Resource Officer Legrand closely pursued one of the fleeing suspects on foot. The fleeing suspect then pulled a weapon and fired upon Legrand, striking him in the abdomen. Determined to finish the engaged gunfight, Legrand displayed mental fortitude and physical resilience when, despite his injury, he was able to get to cover and exchange gunfire with the suspect.

As the foot chase continued, the fleeing suspect continued to fire his weapon at officers. Phan, too, was struck in the area of his duty belt, where the bullet lodged into his magazine pouch. With concern for his injured comrade and the safety of the general public in mind, Officer Phan displayed impeccable bravery and mental fortitude when he disregarded his own well-being and exchanged gunfire with the suspect, ultimately neutralizing the threat."



Pictured above after each received the prestigious Medal of Valor on January 11 are Wadesboro Police Officers Talmadge Legrand (left) and Cuong Phan.

School Board Meeting for January 25 to be Live Streamed

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 25. The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube Channel for the public to view. Closed Session will begin at 4:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 5:30 p.m.

To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be conducted virtually, with some board members participating in-person, through video and audio, or audio-only, due to health and safety concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Board Policy. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Office Board Room located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Governors' Orders on mass gatherings will be enforced. Social distancing requirements will be enforced, and masks will be required.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment they can go to the public comment link at www.ansonschools.org to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. on January 25.

Anson County Land Use Plan Vision 2040

Anson County is required by state statute to update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan on a regular basis. This Land Use Plan guides the County Board of Commissioners, County Planning Board, and County Staff in making day-to-day decisions related to land use, capital improvements, and regional coordination. After a year of gathering input, creating maps, and setting goals the Anson County Land Use Steering Committee and County Staff are almost ready to present the final copy to the Anson County Planning Board and Board of Commissioners.

The Vision 2040 Land Use Plan envisions an Anson County that will be a dynamic and inclusive county that celebrates its rural heritage and is committed to creating a prosperous, livable community for all residents. The Plan is based on the five guiding principles of Livability, Economic Growth, Community Growth, Natural Environment, and Services.

Before presenting the final plan, the steering committee wants to give the community another opportunity to provide input. Interested residents of Anson County can go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnsonPlan and fill out the survey in approximately 15 minutes. Or you can contact Liam Brailey at LBrailey@co.anson.nc.us. The Survey will close on February 1.

Motor Fuels Tax Rate to Remain at 36.1 Cents Per Gallon for 2021

The North Carolina motor fuels tax for gasoline, diesel, and alternative fuels will remain at 36.1 cents per gallon for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021. The inspection tax will be .0025 cents per gallon.

The North Carolina Department of Revenue sets the yearly rate based on a formula defined in state law. The new rate should be used beginning with the gasoline, diesel, and alternative fuels reports for January 2021. Those reports should be filed with the Department of Revenue in February 2021. The state motor fuels tax is included in the retail price paid by consumers at the pump.

Wear, Wait, Wash

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is asking people to remember these three things if you leave home...practice your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash

- Wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.
- Wait 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.