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

## What's Going on at the Ansonia

*Annie the Musical* is coming to the Ansonia. It will run for two weekends, February 16-18 and 23-25. Shows are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are on sale now.

Artist Hooper Turner's artwork will hang in the Drake Gallery next door to the Ansonia until January 31.

The next reception at the Drake Gallery is for artist Elizabeth Schafer on Sunday, March 18. This reception is open to the public. Mark your calendars now!

For more information about these happenings or anything else call the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950. They are on social Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. Please feel free to share your photos with them.

## Insurance Tips to Help if Your Home or Car is Damaged in a Winter Storm

North Carolina's recent winter blast has many residents wondering what to do if their home sustains damage due to the snow and ice or if they are involved in an automobile accident. North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey offers the following tips to help consumers deal with questions surrounding their property or automobile coverage:

- What to Do if Damage Occurs to Your Home**
- Call your insurance company or agent with your policy number and other relevant information as soon as possible. Cooperate fully with the insurance company, and ask what documents, forms and data you will need.
  - Take photographs/video of the damage.
  - Make the repairs necessary to prevent further damage to your property (i.e., cover broken windows, leaking roofs and damaged walls). Do not have permanent repairs made until your insurance company has inspected the property and you have reached an agreement on the cost of repairs.
  - Save all receipts, including those from the temporary repairs covered by your insurance policy.
  - If your home is damaged to the extent that you cannot live there, ask your insurance company if you have coverage for additional living expenses incurred while repairs are being made. Save all receipts to document these costs.
- What Damage to Your Home is Covered?** Damage caused by wind, trees or other falling objects, and the collapse of a structure due to weight of ice or snow are all covered under most standard homeowners' policies. Frozen pipes as the result of extreme cold might not be covered if the damage is due to negligence, such as failing to maintain an adequate temperature in the house when the ability to do so is there. Check your policy and call your insurance agent or company if you need clarification or have specific questions.
- What Damage to Your Home is Not Covered?** The following events are typically not covered by the standard homeowners' insurance policy: Interior water damage from a storm when there is no damage to the roof or walls of your home; damage as the result of a flood; removal of fallen trees (if the trees do not land on and damage your home); food spoilage due to a power outage; and water damage from backed-up drains or sewers. Some insurers offer endorsements (such as additional protection that may be purchased) for certain coverages not covered under the standard homeowner policy. Check with your agent or company to determine your needs.
- What to Do if You Are in an Automobile Accident**
- Call the police.
  - Obtain the following information: The names, addresses, telephone numbers and driver's license numbers of all persons involved in the accident, and any witnesses.
  - Record the time, date, location, road conditions, make and year of vehicles involved, apparent damages and injuries, and your version of what happened.
  - Call your insurance agent or company to report the incident as soon as possible. Ask your agent what documents, forms and data you will need.
  - Take notes each time you talk with your insurance company, agent, lawyers, police or others involved in the situation. Write down the dates, times, names and subjects you talked about, as well as any decisions or promises made.
  - Ask your insurance company if you have coverage for a rental vehicle if your car is not drivable. Save all receipts and bills, including those from renting a car or having your car towed and/or stored.

**Contact the N.C. Department of Insurance** If you have a dispute with your insurer about the amount or terms of the claim settlement, or for more information about choosing the right coverage, contact the N.C. Department of Insurance at 1-855-408-1212.

## Chamber of Commerce Presents Second Annual Business Expo

The Anson County Chamber of Commerce presents the second annual Business Expo at South Piedmont Community College's Lockhart-Taylor Center on Tuesday, March 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. The full-service expo will offer the latest products, services and technologies by local and regional companies. Businesses will sell products and exhibit services. Attendees will find more than 35 businesses locally and regionally.

"There are various reasons why we, as the chamber, decided to start these annual expos, the main reason is to expose and connect the small businesses and organizations of Anson County," said Shelby Emrich, Chamber President and CEO. "The local area has so many hidden gems and unique businesses that attendees will be able to discover at the Expo. Our last expo brought more than 150 attendees, and we are looking to double that number. We will be giving away several door prizes (no purchase necessary) throughout the evening."

Admission is free. The center is on the Wadesboro Campus of South Piedmont Community College, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

Paid registrations must be received no later than March 1. Space is limited. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more expo information email the Anson County Chamber of Commerce at [info@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:info@ansoncountychamber.org) or call 704-694-4181. An exhibitor registration form can be found by visiting [www.ansoncountychamber.org/business-expo](http://www.ansoncountychamber.org/business-expo).



## Cold Weather and Beautiful Snow in Anson County Last Week

On Wednesday, January 17 snow began falling in the morning hours, and by the afternoon Anson County was covered with snow. The snow continued falling throughout the day and into the night, getting as deep as three inches or more in some parts of the county.

With low temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday - as low as 12 degrees on Thursday morning - some roads were icy, so the schools were not in session Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Temperatures rose into the low 50's midday on Friday, melting much of the remaining snow and ice.

An aerial photograph of a snow covered uptown Wadesboro taken on Thursday, January 18 is featured on page 6.



## Superintendent Freeman Explains School Closures Last Week

Anson County schools were closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week due to snow. By Friday morning many of Anson County roads were clear, but cold temperatures Thursday night had created hazardous conditions in some rural areas of the county, especially with ice on the roads.

Superintendent of Anson County Schools Michael Freeman released a statement on Friday, January 19 about the closure of schools on Friday:

I made the decision to close schools in Anson today (Friday) based on the amount of ice covered rural roads in Anson County as well as partially covered side roads within the city limits of various Anson townships. Additionally, the very low temperatures created black ice areas on roads where melting occurred yesterday. Making this decision is never easy, however, when making a decision with the intentions of keeping students and staff safe I feel as if I should always make the final determination with extreme caution.

Some of our campuses had a significant amount of ice on driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks late Thursday which was an indicator that these areas were also dangerous for student and staff movement. I expect all of these areas to melt and clear up over the weekend.

A number of our staff members not only travel Anson County roads; they travel from a few hours away. Several of these areas had to close school due to ice covered roads which would mean that we might have an increased number of teachers who had serious traveling challenges. I would rather have instructional time with our students when teachers at work to ensure the highest of quality for student learning.

My plans are to make every effort to protect the traditional spring break our community is accustomed to. Fortunately, we are able to tap into banked instructional time as well as days to document student make up time. Members of my team and I will meet early next week to formulate a plan for making up any necessary time. We will communicate this plan to parents as soon as possible.

I do believe that Anson County Schools will be in full operation on Monday. I hope we will have a full week of awesome instruction next week.

## Square Foot Gardening Presentation February 22

H. W. Little & Company is sponsoring a course called Square Foot Gardening. Certified instructor John Marek will teach attendees how to grow more in less space, with the least amount of work! Learn the basics of the Square Foot Gardening method that was pioneered by Mel Bartholomew.

The seminar will take place on Thursday, February 22, from 5 to 6 p.m. at H. W. Little, located at 109 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. There will be refreshments, prizes and special offers.

## Anson Charter Academy Open House is Saturday

Anson County's first charter school, Anson Charter Academy (ACA), will host an Open House this Saturday, January 27 for parents and the community.

The school is located at 206 West Main Street in Morven.

There will be two sessions, 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Representatives from the school will be on hand to discuss the curriculum and take enrollment applications.

## Elementary School Students Recognized by Superintendent and School Board Last Tuesday

Anson County elementary students were given the opportunity to participate in the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) Elementary Schools Poster Contest, where winners were announced at the NCSBA Annual Conference in November 2017. Participating Anson students were recognized at the School Board meeting on Tuesday, January 16. Each was awarded an "Honorable Mention" for their poster designs that were to revolve around the theme 'What's Super About Public Schools.'

These were the poster design instructions: NCSBA is asking elementary school students to express their thoughts and ideas to tell What's Super About Public Schools. Member elementary schools are invited to submit a poster that conveys the contest theme. There are two submission categories: kindergarten through second grade (K-2) and third through fifth grade (3-5). Each LEA may submit one poster for each category. This is an excellent opportunity for local school systems to hold a poster contest at the local level and display winning entries throughout the LEA. The winners will move on to the NCSBA state competition.

