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

Wadesboro Land Use Plan - Community/Public Input Needed

The public is invited to help shape the future of the Town of Wadesboro in the development of a Land Use Plan. The Town of Wadesboro is holding two community input meetings (first round) to gather ideas and thoughts from residents and stakeholders on where and how Wadesboro should grow in the future.

The Town of Wadesboro, with the help of Uwharrie Planners, is working to draft a 2045 Land Use Plan. The Land Use Plan is a critical part of Wadesboro's development, planning, and zoning processes. The Plan, if adopted by the town board and implemented, will require occasional updates to keep up with community changes and needs for the future, and to facilitate growth in a way that keeps Wadesboro a safe and vibrant place to live, work, play, and conduct business.

Your attendance at a community input meeting is extremely important. The community input meetings' date, time, and location are below:

- Meeting 1: Thursday, March 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hampton B. Allen Library, 120 South Greene Street in Wadesboro
- Meeting 2: Thursday, March 16, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Wadesboro Fire Department, 205 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro

On the Town of Wadesboro Facebook page there's a link for citizens to offer their input on the Land Use Plan.

Anson County Man Wins \$2 Million Playing Powerball

Edward Simmons of Wadesboro took a chance on a \$3 Powerball ticket and won a \$2 million prize. Simmons bought his lucky Power Play ticket from the Speedway on East Caswell Street in Wadesboro. The \$3 Power Play ticket matched the numbers on all five white balls to win a \$1 million prize. Since it was a Power Play ticket, the prize doubled to \$2 million. The odds of matching numbers on all five white balls are 1 in 11.6 million.

Simmons claimed his prize at lottery headquarters and, after required federal and state tax withholdings, took home \$1,425,001. A lottery winner has 180 days from the drawing to claim the prize.

Powerball is one of six lottery games in North Carolina, including the newly added Pick 3 and Pick 4, where players have the option of buying their tickets at a retail location or with Online Play on the lottery's website (nclottery.com) or with the NC Lottery Official Mobile App.

Ticket sales from draw games like Powerball make it possible for the lottery to raise \$2.5 million a day on average for education. The state provided \$30 million in grants, using money raised by the lottery, to help Anson County build new schools. For details on other ways Anson County benefits from lottery funds, visit www.nclottery.com and click on the "Impact" section.

Town of Wadesboro Receives Over \$5 Million for Wastewater Project

On Thursday, February 23 Governor Roy Cooper announced \$462.9 million in funding for 249 infrastructure projects in 80 communities statewide that will strengthen North Carolina's drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems. The Town of Wadesboro was funded \$5,239,000 for a wastewater project.

Aging and failing water systems are an obstacle for communities across North Carolina, preventing reliable access to clean drinking water and sewer services, and harming health, quality of life and economic development efforts. The state typically invests approximately \$200 million per year upgrading systems, but thanks to federal funds from the American Rescue Plan and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, North Carolina is investing \$2.3 billion over two years supporting this critical infrastructure.

"Every single North Carolinian deserves clean drinking water, and aging water systems are a threat to the health and economies of too many of our communities," said Governor Roy Cooper. "Thanks to investments initiated by the Biden administration, we can make a once in a generation transformation in rebuilding water infrastructure for towns and counties throughout our state."

"Investing in water infrastructure provides communities with reliable, affordable access to clean water and the opportunity for future economic growth," NC Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Elizabeth S. Biser said. "The amount of funding requested highlights the extensive need for infrastructure investment across North Carolina."

For this round of funding, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received 649 applications from 91 of North Carolina's 100 counties, and reconsidered applications from Spring 2022. In total, 734 applications were considered for funding, representing more than \$3.5 billion. The awards are funded by a portion of \$2.3 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act, State Revolving Funds (including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds), and Community Development Block Grant funding.

A list of all projects funded statewide is available on the NCDEQ website, deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/latest-funding-round-updates.

Two SRO Officers Recognized

Wadesboro Police Chief Thedis Spencer and the Anson County School System expressed a big thank you to Wadesboro School Resource Officers, Sgt. D'Anya Horne and Officer Mark Martin. Members of the community joined in with thanks and high praise for the officers.



Pictured above are Writers' Club winners. They are, from left, front row: from left, Susan Harrington and Leah McLaurin. Back row: Kelly Liddington, Ethan Fox Dillon, Charles Kaska, Mary Jordan and Curtis Timmons.

Writers' Club Holds 32nd Annual Awards Ceremony

The Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) awarded winners of its 32nd annual contests in prose and poetry at the Hampton B. Allen Library Little Theater on Sunday, February 26. A reception for winners, friends, and family followed the presentation of certificates and cash prizes.

Leah McLaurin won First Place in the youth poetry division for her poem, "Words Flow." In the youth prose division, Susan Harrington won First Place for her story "All the Colorful Lines" and Ethan Fox Dillon won Second Place for his story "Lurking." All attend Anson Early College.

In the adult poetry division, winners were Mario Kersey of Raleigh, First Place for "A Mind's Maelstrom," Curtis Timmons of Wadesboro, Second Place for "50 Years of November Rain," Noah Cruse Carpenter of Peachland, Third Place for "A Meadow" and Jasmin Lugo of Wadesboro, Honorable Mention for "Sleep."

Adult prose winners were John Marek of Wadesboro, First Place for "The Dangerous Kind," Kelly Liddington of Polkton, Second Place for "Farm Safety Doesn't Hurt Anyone," Mary Jordan of Polkton, Third Place for "Frankie, Freddie and Molly" and Charles Kaska of Heath Springs, S.C., Honorable Mention for "No Good."

The mission of the ACWC is to foster the art of writing in Anson County through support, awareness and recognition of all writers, from the beginner to the published author. The club meets at 3:00 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month (except July and December) at the First Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. More information can be found at www.ansoncountywritersclub.org or emailing info@ansoncountywritersclub.org.



Smoke on the Mountain Play Debuts this Weekend at the Ansonia Theatre

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is bringing back its biggest selling show of all time. *Smoke on the Mountain* first hit the Ansonia stage in 2017, and people flocked to see it, bringing on an extended run. Now it's back by popular demand and is returning to the stage March 3-12.

Smoke on the Mountain is the hilarious and uplifting story of the Sanders Family Singers who are back on the gospel circuit for the first time in years. Set in 1936, Burl and Vera Sanders are joined by their children and other relatives at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church for its first Saturday Night Sing. This lovable family brings their songs and their witness to the good folks of Mt. Pleasant who are not quite ready for the Sanders family and all their quirky ways.

Director Tommy Wooten plays Burl Sanders alongside Terra Medlock as Vera, Donald Perkins as Stanley, Mark Traywick as Rev. Oglethorpe, Teri Brown as Miss Myrtle, Maggie Gibson as Miss Maudie, Gail Litaker as Aunt Gail, Larry Moree as Cousin Larry, Kimberly Smith as Denise, Paige Mercer as Daisy and Ayla Perkins as June Sanders, the oldest daughter who doesn't sing. Not one to just sit idly by, June has created her own special sign language that she hilariously shares with the audience throughout the evening.

This musical will fill your heart with joy and tickle your funny bone. It's perfect for the whole family and a big hit with Sunday School classes and social groups.

The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Get your tickets online at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

Anson County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours serves two purposes. The event allows the host to showcase its business, services, and facilities to the business community and it offers Chamber members the chance to meet one another and network in a casual relaxed atmosphere.

To schedule a Business After Hours, contact Shelby Emrich at (704) 690-3234 or email her at semrich@ansoncountychamber.org.

Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets March 7

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 at 6 p.m.

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.

Ansonia Audition Notice

The Ansonia Theatre will be holding auditions for *Charlotte's Web* on Tuesday March 7 at 6 p.m. at the theatre, located at 112 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. All roles are open, and they need 20 actors of all ages.

For the audition you will be reading from the script.

The show dates are May 5-14

For more information call 704-694-4950.

Paint Buddies Meet Every Tuesday

Bring your current project and paints, or begin a new one, and be a paint buddy at the Anson County Arts Council's Drake Gallery. The group meets every Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, hosted by Mike Philips.

The Drake Gallery is located at 110 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro, beside the Ansonia Theatre.

For information call Mike at 704-819-2487.