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Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Friday, June 3 the total Covid-19 cases were 6,714, with 64 active and 99 deaths. On May 24 there were 6,654 cases, with 59 active and 99 deaths.

If you are positive or currently awaiting test results, please stay home. If you are experiencing symptoms, please get tested.

Please note that if you have taken a home test with positive results, you are not required to report it to the Health Department. However, if you would like to report it, you can give the Health Department a call (704-694-5188) and they will take down your information and report in the state system.

Moderna Covid vaccines are available for everyone 5 years old and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 5-11 by appointment only.) Vaccine boosters are available. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are held on Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

N-95 masks and Rapid COVID tests are offered at the Health Department. Stop in to pick one up. (Limited supply.)

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

Covid Testing Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. without an appointment. They are closed for lunch 12 noon to 1 p.m. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot at 500 Morven Road in Wadesboro. No appointment is needed and there is no charge for the Covid test. Results will be called or emailed directly to the person tested or, in the case of children, to their parent or adult caregiver, in 2-3 days. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

Free home Covid tests are available by mail. The US government has set up a website (www.covidtests.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.



Harvest Ministries Hosts Community Carnival

To kick off the summer here in Anson County, Harvest Ministries partnered with R&D Amusements of Lincolnton, NC to host a community Carnival June 2 through 5 in the parking lot of the ministry center.

Lead Pastor Steve Adams shared, "Rocky of R&D contacted me about the opportunity to use our parking lot for a carnival. We love this community and feel that it deserves the same activities, opportunities and events as other cities and areas, so obviously it was a no-brainer for Harvest. We want to always use any area of our facility to bring something positive to Anson County."

The four day event featured 15 carnival rides and attractions, funnel cakes, deep fried Oreos, cotton candy, lemonade, and all the other "goodies" that come with the event.

Pastor Steve shared that the response, crowds, and feedback was amazing, and wanted to thank Anson County and surrounding communities for their support! R&D amusements and Harvest are already in the planning stages to bring the carnival back on a regular basis.

Back to School Car and Motorcycle Show Harvest is now gearing up for the huge Annual Back to School Car and Motorcycle Show that will be held on Saturday, August 6, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot. This free admission event will feature vendors, bounce houses prizes, local businesses...as well as a pop-up shop in the City Reach Community Center with over 15 vendors and counting.

For more information or to enter your car or motorcycle into the car show check out hmoccarshow.weebly.com or contact David Mowry at 910-434-6440.

North Carolinians Advised to "Fight the Bite" this Summer

Use Insect Repellant and Other Prevention Tools to Avoid Tick- and Mosquito-Borne Disease

As the weather continues to warm up, state health officials urge North Carolinians to "Fight the Bite" by taking measures to reduce their risk of tick- and mosquito-borne infections. Preliminary data generated by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health indicate that in 2020, there were 957 confirmed, probable or suspected cases of tick-borne diseases in North Carolina and 46 cases of domestically acquired and travel-associated mosquito-borne diseases.

"Ticks and mosquitoes are common in our state and can carry bacteria and viruses that can cause serious infections," said Alexis M. Barbarin, Ph.D., State Public Health Entomologist. "While COVID-19 is still at the forefront of our minds, residents of North Carolina who experience a fever-like illness this summer should also consider recent tick exposure and the possibility of tick- or mosquito-borne illnesses. The best way to prevent illnesses associated with ticks and mosquitoes is to take protective measures, like using DEET and other insect repellents and avoiding wooded, grassy or brushy areas."

Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (SFR), Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis - bacterial illnesses that can cause fever, headache and other flu-like symptoms - are all conditions that can be acquired by tick bites in North Carolina, with most cases reported in June through September.

More than 60% of mosquito-borne infections reported in the state in 2021 were acquired during travel outside the continental United States. The most commonly reported mosquito-borne illnesses that can be acquired in North Carolina are La Crosse, West Nile and Eastern equine encephalitis.

To reduce exposure to tick bites:

- Avoid tick habitats, such as wooded, grassy or brushy areas.
- Use tick repellent that contains DEET (or other EPA approved repellents) on exposed skin and wear permethrin-treated clothing. Use caution when applying to children.
- Reduce tick habitats with selective landscaping techniques.

A tick can be removed by grasping it with fine-tipped tweezers as close as possible to the skin and applying a steady, gentle pull until it releases.

To reduce exposure to mosquito bites:

- Use mosquito repellent that contains DEET (or equivalent) when outside. Use caution when applying to children.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors and use air conditioning when possible.
- "Tip and Toss" to reduce mosquito breeding by emptying standing water from flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires and birdbaths at least once a week.
- Travelers should take special care to prevent mosquito bites when traveling. Information on the prevention of malaria while traveling can be found at: cdc.gov/malaria/travelers.

NC Pre-Kindergarten

The NC Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to provide high-quality educational experiences to enhance school readiness for eligible four-year-old children. The child must be four years old on or before August 31st of the 2022 school year.

For parents seeking to prepare their children for success in a pre-kindergarten program, for transitioning to elementary school kindergarten, you may go to www.ansonchildren.org to print out the NC Pre-K application. You can also stop by the Anson County Partnership for Children to pick up an application. You may turn in the completed application Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon or 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The address is 117 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

For questions or concerns please contact the Partnership at 704-694-4036.

Organic Compost Manufacturer Planning to Build \$16 Million Facility in Anson County

McGill Environmental Systems' state-of-the-art facility to employ 20 at an average annual wage of \$71,000

This article is courtesy of Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP): AnsonEDP is pleased to announce that Raleigh-based McGill Environmental Systems has chosen Anson County for its new state-of-the-art composting facility. Upon completion, the facility will represent a capital investment of more than \$16 million and employ 20 at an average annual wage of \$71,000. The new facility will allow the company to better serve its existing customers in the Charlotte metro area and position it for future expansion in Southeast U.S. markets.

The facility will be McGill's ninth, joining two in North Carolina, one in South Carolina, one in New Jersey, one in Florida, and two in Ireland. Organizations like municipalities, industrial companies, and agricultural businesses around the world depend on McGill's state-of-the-art technologies and proven processes for their organic compost manufacturing needs. Homeowners, landscapers, and anyone managing turf and earth rely on McGill's premium compost to serve as a strong and healthy foundation for horticultural and infrastructure projects.

Founded more than 30 years ago in Ireland, McGill is one of the oldest, continuously operating compost manufacturing companies in the world.

The 120,000 square foot Anson facility will be built on an approximately 25-acre site off Dozer Road in the former West Industrial Park adjacent to the Anson County landfill.

"It's an ideal location for us," said company president and co-founder Noel Lyons, "a large tract of architecturally stable land with direct access to a four-lane highway less than an hour from Charlotte."

"Anson County's proximity to major markets and its transportation network, along with its reputation for sustainable "green" business, were keys to recruiting McGill," noted AnsonEDP executive director John Marek. "We are pleased to welcome another international company that recognizes the value Anson offers companies looking for a site in the Charlotte market."



Anson County Farmers Market Opens June 25

It's that time of year again, the Anson County Farmers Market will open on Saturday, June 25. The market will be open each Saturday and Wednesday, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 "noonish."

If you would like to sell at the Farmers Market there is a \$10 annual registration, and an additional \$3 table fee per day.

Contact Francis Campbell to secure your table and start selling, 704-690-0638.

Sharon Little is a Newly Endorsed Infant Family Specialist

Endorsed by the NC Infant & Young Child Mental Health Association

Sharon Little, Ed. D, IMHE is a newly endorsed Infant Family Specialist with 37 years of experience in early education. She earned her Infant Mental Health Endorsement as a part of the NC Infant & Young Child Mental Health Association Endorsement Leadership Cohort!

Sharon serves as Program Lead and Faculty in Early Childhood Education at South Piedmont Community College and works as an ITTI Care Project Coach with Duke's Center for Child and Family Policy.

Sharon started her career as a preschool teacher with Head Start and has worked a variety of roles in the early childhood profession. She has served as a developmental day center director, child care social worker, subsidy policy consultant, DCDEE licensing consultant, and a private child care consultant for early childhood organizations. She began teaching as an adjunct in early childhood education in 1986 and teaches early childhood education courses full time.

Sharon has worked in collaborative partnerships with child care providers, public school afterschool programs, exceptional children's programs, and community action organizations. Sharon has provided training and higher education in various topics, including developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed practices, resilience, first-generation students, collaboration, professionalism, equity, and practicum settings for early childhood education professionals.



Juneteenth Celebration in Marshville

On Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Town of Marshville will host its second Juneteenth Celebration. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Jubilee Day is an annual American holiday that celebrates the final emancipation of African Americans from legal slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth started 156 years ago on June 19, 1865 in Galveston, TX when General Gordon Granger, along with 2000 additional Union Soldiers, rode into Texas and informed the slaves that they were finally free. According to records, immediately after receiving this news the legally freed slaves begin to pray, sing and dance. The following year, the newly freed slaves declared Juneteenth as an Annual Holiday!

In 2021, two days before the Town of Marshville hosted its inaugural event, President Joe Biden signed a bill that finally declared Juneteenth, or June 19th, as a federal holiday. Keeping in line with the flow of the previous year's event, this year, the Town of Marshville has partnered with Beyond the Books Diversity Book Club to host the Juneteenth Celebration with dancing, singing, vendors and the honoring of some of Marshville's African American first.

To add to the wonderful activities that will be occurring for the Juneteenth Celebration, the Marshville Museum will display the artwork of some local African American Artists during the month of June.

Marshville resident and acclaimed artist Mary Erickson and Marshville Museum's Board Member Jimmy Tucker, will host an Artist Reception at the Museum the day of the celebration, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Countywide Zoning Ordinance is Posted Online

A draft proposed county zoning ordinance has been posted online at the Anson County government website, www.co.anson.nc.us. The public is welcome to go to the site and view the ordinance.