

#### **NCDOT Seeks Input on Future Transportation Projects**

The N.C. Department of Transportation is identifying projects for its next long-range capital plan and wants citizens to participate in the process. Public drop-in sessions are set to take place in the 14 highway divisions across the state over the coming weeks. These will be informal gatherings in which citizens can share their interests in transportation projects and ask questions of local NCDOT staff. Locations and times for these meetings can be found on the NCDOT website, *ncdot.gov stip*.

Anson County residents are invited to participate on Wednesday, July 10, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the NCDOT Metrolina Regional Transportation Management Center, located at 2327 Tipton Drive in Charlotte. This session includes Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Stanly and Union Counties. For information contact Theo Ghitea at 980-262-6292 or tghitea@ncdot.gov.

People can also offer their comments via the website or through an interactive online map during the public comment period, which runs June 17 to July 17.

Public input is a key component in developing the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which identifies construction and funding schedules for state transportation projects over a 10-year period. The STIP in development will cover 2026-2035.

Projects included in the STIP are funded in three categories, cascading from Statewide Mobility to Regional Impact to Division Needs. The Statewide Mobility tier selection process is 100% data based. Planning organizations and NCDOT's 14 Highway Divisions assign local input points that account for 30% of the project scores in the Regional Impact tier and 50% of the Division Needs project scores.

NCDOT released the Statewide Mobility scores (*ncdot.gov mobility scores*) and funded projects list on May 24. The Regional Impact funded projects list is expected to be released in late summer/early fall, after the upcoming public comment period. A comment period for the Division Needs phase will be held in the fall and a draft of the 2026-2035 STIP is expected to be released in early 2025.

## NC Small Business Boom Continues with 2023 Increase of Almost 7% in Business Applications

Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice for America's more than 33 million small businesses, released a statement in response to President Biden's announcement that more than 18 million new business applications have been filed under the Biden-Harris administration.

"Under President Biden, American business owners have demonstrated incredible dynamism, tenacity, and optimism," said SBA Administrator Guzman. "By leveling the playing field and making historic Investments in America, President Biden has catalyzed an unprecedented surge of entrepreneurship with more than 18 million business applications filed under the Biden-Harris administration to date. Small businesses are bellwethers within our economy, and their meteoric rise under this administration reveals the true strength of the economy that President Biden has built from the bottom up and the middle out."

Since the start of the Biden-Harris administration, there have been 18.1 million new business applications with an average 443,000 filed each month – a rate over 90% faster than pre-pandemic averages. Having already achieved the first, second, and third strongest years of new business applications on record, the economy remains on track for its fourth-consecutive year of historic business filings. The U.S. economy has grown more under President Biden than at this point in any presidential administration in the last quarter century. North Carolina saw an increase in small business applications of almost 7% in 2023. North Carolina's small businesses represent more than 99% of our local economy and employ nearly 45% of our workforce. Find out more information on North Carolina's Economic Profile on, Small Business Economic Profile NC (*sba.gov small business economic profile*). For more information about the SBA's loan programs, financial assistance, and other services, visit *sba.gov*.

#### THE EXPRESS • June 19, 2024 • Page 3

### **Cheraw Arts Commission Theatre Camp**

Star Light.. Star Bright .. The Stars will be bright and shining once again during the Cheraw Arts Commission's annual Summer Theatre Camp. Campers will discover the world of acting July 15-19 learning basic acting skills, songs, and dance routines during the week. There will be a performance on Friday night, July 19 at 6:00pm featuring these future Stars.

Porkchop Productions will provide instruction at two sessions. Those campers who are at reading level and have completed the 4th grade will attend the first session from 10am-11:30am. Registration for this camp is \$65.

Campers who have completed the 5th grade and up will attend the second session

attend the second session from 12:00noon-2:00pm. Fee for the afternoon session is \$70.

For over 25 years, Porkchop Productions of Aiken, SC has been providing theatrical instruction in Cheraw for these young performers. Porkchop also comes to Cheraw during the school year with its Pre-school Theatre productions.

Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information and to pre-register campers. Registration Fees can be paid at the Cheraw Community Center – 200 Powe Street after July 1.



704-694-2524 Visit us online at leavittfh.com

## TOWN OF ANSONVILLE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Ansonville's town council will hold a public hearing to approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 7 p.m. at the town council's boardroom in Town Hall located at:

#### 8778 US Highway 52, Ansonville, NC 28007



A copy will be available for public inspection. Citizens are encouraged to attend and make oral or written comments.

Shemetra Melton, Clerk to the Town Board



## Town of Lilesville NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING For Proposed Budget FY2024-25

In accordance with N.C.G.S. 159-12(b) the Lilesville Town Commissioners will hold a public hearing to receive comments for the proposed Budget FY2024-25

on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will take place at the Lilesville Fire & Rescue Department, located at 202 West Wall Street, Lilesville NC 28091.

A copy of the proposed Budget FY2024-25 is on file in the Town Clerk's Office at Lilesville Town Hall, 114 Wall Street, Lilesville NC 28091.

704-848-4711

Lynn B. Whitlock Town Clerk / Finance Officer

# Town of Polkton

## **Changes to Fees Take Effect July 1**

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) is announcing an increase to fees for hunting, fishing, trapping and activity licenses, permits, stamps and certifications, which will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

The fee adjustments are based on the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since the last fee increase (January 1, 2020) and will help the agency with operating costs exacerbated by inflation and increased demand for its services.

The NCWRC is funded by the sale of licenses, vessel titles and registrations, federal grants, general fund appropriations and other receipts. Funds generated from license sales make up, on average, approximately 25% of annual agency revenue. These funds and others are used to support agency programs focused not only on species management and habitat enhancement, but on enforcement, education and public access.

To purchase a license, visit gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com or newildlife.org license.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public is hereby advised that per N.C.G.S. 159-12, the Town Clerk has submitted the proposed budget for the Town of Polkton for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to the Town Board of Commissioners.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the Polkton Fire Department, located at 61 West Polk Street, Polkton, NC 28135.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at Polkton Town Hall for public inspection during normal business hours until the budget is adopted.

All persons interested and wishing to be heard should contact Jerricka Napier at 704-272-7463 in order that their opinion may be a matter of record.

Jerricka B. Napier Clerk to the Board Finance Officer

