

THE EXPRESS

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

2,719 Total Cases of COVID-19 in Anson County

Vaccines are available. Ansonians urged to get vaccinated.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department was 2,719 total Covid-19 cases, with 42 active as of Monday, July 26. The last report in The Express was from July 26, with 2,685 total cases and 25 active. On July 23 the Health Department reported another death related to Covid, bringing the total in Anson County to 58.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, August 2 there were 2,190 new cases, with 13,670 deaths and 1,359 hospitalized. 61% of adults in NC were vaccinated with at least one dose, 58% were fully vaccinated.

Statewide, as of Monday, July 12 there were 562 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,499 deaths and 448 hospitalized. On June 7 there were 359 new cases of COVID-19, with 13,199 deaths and 546 hospitalized. May 3 there were 1,126 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,691 deaths and 1,007 hospitalized. April 5 there were 1,054 new cases of COVID-19, with 12,173 deaths and 907 hospitalized. March 1 there were 862,170 cases of COVID-19, 11,254 deaths and 1,219 hospitalized. February 1: 761,302 cases, 9,342 deaths and 2,781 hospitalized. January 4: 570,111 cases, 6,941 deaths and 3,192 hospitalized. December 7: 404,032 cases, 5,605 deaths and 2,373 hospitalized. November 2: 278,028 cases, 4,390 deaths and 1,146 hospitalized. October 5: 219,754 cases, 3,637 deaths and 971 hospitalized.

COVID-19 history in Anson County: March 31, 2020: 1 case; April 28 - 23 cases (no deaths); May 26: 62 cases (1 death); June 22: 107 cases (2 deaths); July 27: 285 cases (2 deaths); August 31: 440 cases (4 deaths); September 28: 605 cases (4 deaths); October 26: 720 cases (9 deaths); November 30: 937 cases (14 deaths); December 31: 1,444 cases; (28 deaths); January 25: 1,957 cases (42 deaths); February 22: 2,258 cases (53 deaths); March 29: 2,414 cases (56 deaths); April 30: 2,527 cases (56 deaths); May 28: 2604 cases (56 deaths). Please note that for more information regarding county/state statistics, refer to www.ncdhhs.gov.

Board of Education Meeting News

Dress code, virtual learning and masks

At the Monday, July 26 meeting, the Anson County School Board approved a revised Policy 4316 Student Dress Code. There will be no uniforms required for the 2021-2022 school year for students. The updated policy is available on the Anson County Schools Facebook page. It was announced that due to changes in state requirements, Anson County Schools will not have a Virtual Academy for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent Howard McLean will re-evaluate the state process during the spring. There will be no virtual learning opportunities during this school year.

Also, the board approved for all school-based students and staff to wear mask indoors and outdoors for the 2021-2022 school year.

Anson Women's League Meetings Resuming on Tuesday, August 10

Anson Women's League is pleased to announce that meetings will resume beginning Tuesday, August 10 at 12 noon. The location for meetings has changed and will be held at Welika Lake Fish House in Lilesville.

Bonnie Morgan, outgoing president of Anson Women's League, stated, "Although meetings were not held in person during the Covid pandemic, members were still involved in projects including preparing the annual Thanksgiving meal for residents of the Samaritan Inn. In addition, scholarships were given in 2021 to three deserving young women who are continuing their education following high school graduation."

Morgan continued, "We were unable to hold the popular Soup Luncheon in February, the primary fundraiser for AWL scholarships, but members have been busy working on a cookbook filled with delicious recipes from members all over the county that will be available in the fall for purchase. Please think of friends and family who would be interested in purchasing cookbooks for gifts and personal collections."

If you are a current member, we hope you plan to rejoin us as we have insightful speakers at each meeting, discuss community news, plan for projects to do within the community, and enjoy hearing how our fellow members have been spending their time. In addition, if you are a former member of Anson Women's League or a woman in the community who has an interest in being a part of a great organization, we ask you to make the decision to join AWL.

If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Morgan at 704-695-5373 or Caroline Goins, who will be installed as President of AWL at the August 10 meeting. Her number is 704-694-4036.

Parks & Rec Youth Football Registration

Registration ends August 6

Anson County Parks & Recreation Youth Football Registration is open now and runs until Monday, August 6.

- Youth Flag Football 7 on 7 is available to all kids aged 6 & under
- Youth Flag Football 11 on 11 is available to all kids aged 8 & under
- Youth Tackle Football Division I is available to all kids aged 10 & under
- Youth Tackle Football Division II is available to all kids aged 12 & under

All programs are \$30 per person. A birth certificate and current sports physical are required. You may come to the Parks & Recreation office, located at Little Park, 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.



East Rock Ford Missionary Baptist Church Recently Celebrated 125th Church Anniversary

East Rock Ford Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its 125th church anniversary on Sunday, July 18. Guest preacher for the occasion was Rev. Jeffrey Adams of Chambers Grove Baptist Church in Marshville.

Pictured left to right are: Margaret Meachem, Rev. Adams, Marie Little, Mother Evelyn Taylor, Barbara Williams, Mrs. Adams, Charlene McCormick, Nannie Robinson, Phyllis Taylor, Verty Horne, Carol Ford, Leevonda Simon and Mary Wilcox. Pictured in rear: Rev. D. S. Taylor, Pastor.

Wadesboro Receives Grant for Blind Boy Fuller Mural



This is a release from AnsonEDP: AnsonEDP's John Marek and Shelby Emrich participated in a meeting and tour with representatives of the state's Uptown Strong initiative. This meeting focused on parks and recreation, and we were pleased to learn that we have received a grant to place a mural of Anson native Blind Boy Fuller on the side of the "Belk" building, as shown in this picture.

In addition to the mural, the grant will cover the cost of an unveiling event which will include live music. (For the record, that's not the actual art, just a mock-up of how a mural might look on the building.)

Wadesboro Town Manager David Edwards has spearheaded this exciting development.

Ansonia Theatre Announces Their 2021-2022 Season

New or renewing sponsors are urged to contact the Anson County Arts Council as they prepare for the exciting upcoming season at the Ansonia Theatre. For renewing sponsors, if you have not received a sponsorship packet in the mail, please call 704-694-4950. New and renewing sponsors are welcome to come to the Arts Council office also.

The Anson County Arts Council, including the Drake Gallery and the Ansonia, is located at 108-112 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-4950. The websites are: ansoniatheatre.com and thedrakegallery.com.

• **Wait Until Dark** October 15 - 24 This heart pounding thriller is the story of Susy Hendrix, a recently blinded housewife who unwittingly possesses a doll filled with illicit drugs. Harry Roat, a brutal and sophisticated criminal who has already murdered a young woman in his quest, coerces two small-time thugs into helping him con Susy into giving up the doll. The trio tries to convince Susy that her husband will be suspected of murdering the woman, and the only way to protect him is to give them the doll, which connects him to her. A battle of the wits ensues as Susy and the young girl upstairs launch a counter-plot against the thieves.

• **An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas** December 10 - 19 During the day Miss Margie's shoppe may look like any other used bookstore, but at night it's a place where magic happens. That's when the characters inside the books come alive. As the play begins it's four days before Christmas and Miss Margie, the scatterbrained owner of the shoppe, is thrilled to have two very special guests - her serious-minded sister Ellen and book-loving niece Annabelle. Ellen was recently laid off from her position as an astronomy professor, and she's certain she'll never find a job again. Her luck changes, however, as some of the most beloved literary characters ever come to life to help her find her place in the world.

• **The Spitfire Grill: A Musical** March 4 - 13 *The Spitfire Grill* is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. Percy Talbot has just been released from a five-year prison sentence for manslaughter. She is looking to make a fresh start in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin, a place she found on a page in an old travel book. She finds a job waiting tables at the Spitfire, and tries to make a life for herself, and come to grips with her haunting past.

• **Alice in Wonderland - Down the Rabbit Hole** May 13 - 22 Based on the beloved classic by Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland - Down the Rabbit Hole* is a modern day reimagining of Wonderland, with an unexpected twist ending. When Alice tumbles down a rabbit hole she is immersed into a fantastical, wacky land filled with zany characters. *Alice in Wonderland - Down the Rabbit Hole* is the perfect show for young and old audiences alike. Once you fall down this rabbit hole you'll never want to leave the tea party!

• **Ghost: The Musical** August 5 - 14 *Ghost: The Musical* is a timeless fantasy about the power of love. Longtime couple Sam and Molly are happily in love and living together in Brooklyn. Walking back to their apartment one night they are mugged at gunpoint, leaving Sam murdered on a dark street. Sam is trapped between this world and the next as a ghost and unable to leave Molly - who he quickly learns is in grave danger. With the help of a storefront psychic named Oda Mae Brown, Sam tries to communicate with Molly in the hope of protecting her. Featuring such popular songs as "With You" and the classic "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers, this powerful love story is sure to become a fan favorite!

Auditions! Come Join the Fun of Acting at the Ansonia

The Ansonia Theatre will hold auditions for the upcoming play *Wait Until Dark* on Tuesday, August 10 at 6 p.m. They need six men, one woman and one girl, aged 8-12. Be prepared to read from the script. The play runs October 15 to 24. For information call 704-694-4950. The website is ansoniatheatre.com.

Friends of Carla Freeman Blood Drive is Today

First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro is hosting a "Friends of Carla Freeman" Blood Drive. Red Cross urges you to give blood to help save lives. The Blood Drive is today, Wednesday, August 4, from 2 to 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CarlaFreeman to schedule an appointment.

You can also download the Blood Donor App. With it you get a digital donor card, and can schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.

Free Groceries Available Sat. August 7

A new shipment of USDA foods will be distributed on Saturday, August 7, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., or as long as supplies last, at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

The items are distributed on a first come, first served basis for eligible Anson County citizens and those living near the Union and Stanly County lines.

All Ansonians will need to apply if you have not used the BRLC Emergency Pantry recently. Families or family members who receive federal food assistance automatically qualify.

The serving process is drive-thru only. All neighbors are ask to wear your masks. Please do not arrive before 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. The serving process is drive thru only. All neighbors are ask to wear your masks.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provides these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte and Feeding America.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. For more information check their Facebook page or www.burnvillelc.org.