

Hornwood to Close After 80 Years

Anson County is losing one of its oldest and most significant industries. Hornwood Inc., a textile manufacturer whose roots in the county stretch back to 1946, has announced that it will cease operations because of its financial condition.

The news was delivered to employees in a September 24 memo from company CEO Chuck Horne. “It is with great sadness that I must report that after 80 years Hornwood will cease operations,” Horne wrote. “Our financial position is such that we cannot remedy the situation and continue in business.”

Hornwood plans to complete its existing orders before shutting down, a process expected to take eight to 10 weeks.

Founded in 1946 by Ken Home and Fred Wood, Hornwood has operated continuously in Anson County for 80 years. The company moved from Wadesboro to Lilesville in 1971, where its 300,000-square-foot manufacturing plant at 766 Haileys Ferry Road became a fixture of the community.

Hornwood’s website states that the company employs 350 “partners,” its term for employees, although the closure memo does not specify the current workforce or how many jobs will ultimately be affected.

Over the decades, Hornwood developed into a highly specialized textile manufacturer producing fabrics for automotive interiors, medical products, military and protective clothing, filtration systems, footwear, athletic apparel and numerous other uses.

Its products have been used in everything from burn dressings and splints to automobile seating and military-grade protective textiles. Through Game Time Fabrics, the company has supplied fabrics for athletic uniforms and apparel, with its website listing Nike, Adidas, The North Face and Under Armour among brands for which fabrics have been produced.

Hornwood’s connection to Anson County has extended beyond jobs and manufacturing. The company has participated in local scholarship programs, awarding three scholarships annually to graduating seniors who are children of Hornwood employees. Employees have also volunteered with an after-school tutoring program at Lilesville Elementary School.

For generations of Anson County families, Hornwood has meant jobs, paychecks and careers. Its closure will therefore reach beyond the walls of the Lilesville plant, particularly in a rural county where the loss of a major manufacturing employer can affect other businesses and the broader local economy.

Horne thanked employees for their loyalty and support and said the company would keep them informed as remaining orders are completed.

The machines at Hornwood will continue running for a little while longer. But when the final orders are completed and those machines fall silent, Anson County will be losing an industry that has been part of the community for most of a century.

Politics After Dark Offers Chance to Meet Local Candidates

Anson County voters will have an opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking public office when the Anson County Chamber of Commerce hosts its sixth annual Politics After Dark on Tuesday, October 13.

The free event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. The Chamber says candidates are signing up to participate, with the evening designed to give residents an opportunity to hear about their views and priorities.

Candidates will speak during the event, and attendees will have an opportunity afterward to meet them face-to-face, continue the conversation and ask questions of their own.

Politics After Dark is intended to provide an informal setting where community members can learn more about the people seeking public office before making their decisions at the ballot box.

For voters, it is also an opportunity to ask about the local issues that matter to them — and to hear the answers without having to rely on campaign signs, mailboxes full of political flyers or social media posts written in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

The event is free and open to the community. No matter which candidates attendees support, or whether they have made up their minds at all, the evening offers a chance to hear what the candidates themselves have to say.

Sheriff Warns of Jury Duty Scam

The Anson County Sheriff’s Office is warning residents about an ongoing jury duty scam in which callers pose as law enforcement officers and claim their intended victims are in trouble for failing to report for jury service. They tell victims they have missed jury duty and may face arrest or other penalties unless they send money.

Residents should not provide Social Security numbers, banking information or other personal information to anyone who contacts them unexpectedly. They should also never send money, gift cards or other forms of payment in response to such a call or message.

Anyone receiving a suspicious jury duty call should hang up and independently contact the appropriate Clerk of Court or Sheriff’s Office using a known, official telephone number. Do not rely on a telephone number provided by the caller.

The Anson County Clerk of Court can be reached at 704-994-3800. The Anson County Sheriff’s Office can be reached at 704-694-4188.

Suspected scams should also be reported to local law enforcement.

The Sheriff’s Office is asking residents to share the warning, particularly with family members, friends and neighbors who may not use social media. The safest response to an unexpected caller claiming there is a warrant waiting unless money is paid immediately is a simple one: hang up. A legitimate jury notice should not require a trip to the gift-card rack.

Fall Learning for Life Classes Open at South Piedmont

Program offers everything from automotive basics and birdwatching to cooking, disc golf and yoga

Anyone who has ever thought, “I’d like to try that someday,” may have just run out of excuses. South Piedmont Community College is opening its fall Learning for Life classes, offering area residents opportunities to learn a new skill, discover a hobby, get active or simply have a little fun.

Learning for Life is South Piedmont’s personal enrichment program, designed for people at different stages of life who want to learn without the pressure of a traditional classroom. The classes are intended to be affordable, flexible and welcoming, with an emphasis on exploring interests and meeting other people along the way.

Fall offerings include Automotive Essentials, Intro to Birding / Birdwatching, Culinary Holiday Series classes, Intro to Disc Golf, and Yoga & Pilates. That means students can learn to take better care of a car, identify feathered visitors, improve their cooking, throw a disc or improve their flexibility — although attempting all five simultaneously is probably not part of the curriculum.

The classes offer a mix of hands-on experiences, creative opportunities and wellness-focused activities. Whether participants want to develop a new skill, meet new people or simply take some time to do something enjoyable for themselves, the program is designed to make learning relaxed and fun.

For anyone interested but unsure where to begin, South Piedmont will host a Learning for Life webinar on Tuesday, October 6. Participants can learn more about available classes, ask questions and determine which opportunities might be a good fit.

Information about Learning for Life and registration for classes is available at: spcc.edu/academics/areas-of-study/learning-for-life.

For more information, contact Tara Moss at tmoss@spcc.edu. South Piedmont’s L.L. Polk Campus is located at 680 U.S. Highway 74 in Polkton. The college can be reached at 704-272-5300.

South Piedmont Opens Direct Path to College for Local High School Seniors

Expanded program offers direct community college admission to graduating seniors regardless of GPA

South Piedmont Community College is helping make the path from high school to college simpler for students across Anson and Union counties through NC College Connect, a statewide effort that provides eligible North Carolina high school seniors with a direct path to college admission.

This fall, 105,036 North Carolina public high school seniors who are on track to graduate with a diploma and meet program requirements are eligible to receive direct admission to their local community college through NC College Connect. That represents more than 95% of current grade 12 and 13 students in North Carolina public schools.

The program has expanded this year to reach significantly more students. During the previous two years, NC College Connect was limited to public high school seniors with a GPA of 2.8 or higher. This year, 37,429 additional students are being reached because eligibility for community college direct admission has been expanded to all public high school seniors who are on track to graduate, regardless of GPA.

Through NC College Connect, eligible students are guaranteed direct admission to their local community college with no essays, ACT or SAT scores or letters of recommendation required. More than 67,000 students, or 64% of eligible seniors, also meet criteria to receive direct admission offers from additional participating NC colleges and universities.

A total of 99 North Carolina colleges and universities are participating in NC College Connect. The program is coordinated through a statewide partnership that includes the NC Community College System, College for North Carolina, the UNC System, the NC Department of Public Instruction and North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities.

“Ask a North Carolinian what a community college credential did for them, and you’ll hear about a career. NC College Connect makes that path easier to find. This year, it’s open to all students. Less time lost to paperwork, more time in the classroom, and a straighter line to a job that pays,” said Dr. Monty Sullivan, Acting President & CEO of the North Carolina Community College System.

Eligible students can log in to their College for North Carolina account to view their direct admission matches and complete a short form to claim their spot. Applications to North Carolina community colleges are always free, removing another potential barrier as students take the next step in their education.

Students who claim their spot at South Piedmont can choose from dozens of programs in areas including nursing, medical sonography, criminal justice and forensics, and the skilled trades. College staff will also be available to help students with enrollment and financial aid at two upcoming events.

Fall Open House October 8 South Piedmont’s Open House will be held Thursday, October 8, from 4 to 7 p.m. at both the Old Charlotte Highway Campus, 1851 South Piedmont Street, and the Tyson Family Center for Technology, 3509 Old Charlotte Highway, in Monroe. Attendees can explore programs, apply to the college and learn about financial aid opportunities.

FAFSA Day October 17 FAFSA Day will be held Saturday, October 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Charlotte Highway Campus. The event is free and open to anyone who needs assistance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, regardless of whether they intend to enroll at South Piedmont. Financial Aid staff members will be available to assist attendees.

Students can learn more about the events and register at spcc.edu.

The NC College Connect portal opened September 15 at CFNC.org, with official admission letters beginning to arrive at seniors’ homes following the launch. From October 19 through 25, NC Countdown to College will encourage students to claim their spots and participate in College Application Week activities, including completing residency determination and financial aid forms such as the FAFSA.

More information about enrolling at South Piedmont is available at spcc.edu. Students and families can learn more and access their personalized NC College Connect portal at CFNC.org/NC-College-Connect.

Cheraw Has Jazz! The South Carolina Jazz Festival is October 15-18.

Just a short trip south of Anson County, the sounds of jazz will fill the streets of Cheraw, South Carolina, when the 21st annual South Carolina Jazz Festival returns October 15-18. From Wadesboro, Cheraw is only about a 25-minute drive - making this major music festival practically an Anson County neighbor.

The festival celebrates Cheraw native Dizzy Gillespie, one of the most influential figures in jazz history. This year’s festival coincides with the 109th anniversary of Gillespie’s birth and will highlight the special bond the legendary trumpeter shared with his South Carolina roots.

A wide variety of free and ticketed concerts and events are planned Thursday through Sunday. The festival kicks off Thursday, October 15, with a free outdoor evening concert featuring Willie Bradley at Gillespie Homesite Park.

The historic Theatre on the Green will host ticketed performances, including trumpeter Joe Gransden and his Little Big Band presenting From Heart to Horn: Celebrating Tony Bennett’s Centennial and the Genius of Dizzy Gillespie. Two-time Grammy-winning trumpeter Charlton Singleton and the Honeycomb Jazz Orchestra will also take the stage during the festival.

South Carolina Jazz Ambassador and trumpeter Mark Rapp will present the free concert Passport: Dizzy Gillespie, America’s First Jazz Ambassador. Altogether, more than 30 jazz performances are scheduled, featuring musicians from North Carolina, South Carolina and beyond.

And you don’t have to be a serious jazz aficionado to find something to enjoy. Centennial Park will host free performances, while local venues will participate in free evening jazz crawls. Art will also be part of the celebration, including community art activities and the festival’s 17th Sidewalk Chalk Competition.

The documentary “From the Be to the Bop” will be presented courtesy of SC ETV/Public Radio. Children can enjoy free activities in the festival’s Art Alley, and the S.C. Governor’s School for the Arts & Humanities will provide Rhythmic Drums.

Visitors can also explore Cheraw at their own pace with a self-guided Historic Cheraw Cell Phone Tour featuring more than 25 points of interest, including sites associated with Dizzy Gillespie.

For Anson County residents, it’s an opportunity to enjoy a significant jazz festival without making a significant drive. Cheraw — and the hometown of Dizzy Gillespie - is just down the road.

For more information call the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843-537-8420, ext. 12, or visit www.scjazzfestival.com.

Got Limbs? Got Leaves? Wadesboro Has a Work Order for That.

Got a pile of limbs at the curb? Leaves multiplying faster than you can rake them? An old piece of furniture that has reached the end of its useful life and possibly several years beyond it? The Town of Wadesboro would like to hear about it. Residents can now submit work orders online for leaves, limbs, furniture and other items or issues needing Town attention. The new system provides another option for requesting service without having to wait until the Town office is open.

The traditional method remains available, too. Residents can call the Town office at 704-694-5171 to report an issue and request a work order. Yes, telephones still make calls. We checked.

For those who have embraced the 21st century, work orders can be submitted anytime at: www.wadesboronc.gov/work-orders. Residents can also scan the QR code accompanying this article and go directly to the work-order page.

The online option could prove especially handy when you suddenly notice that the small pile of branches you intended to deal with “next weekend” has developed its own ecosystem. And there is something satisfying about submitting a work order. That pile at the curb is no longer procrastination. It is now officially pending municipal action. Sounds much better.

Whether residents prefer clicking, scanning or calling, the goal is the same: let the Town know what needs attention so the appropriate work can be scheduled.



INSIDE THIS EDITION...THE SAVE COUPON BOOK

SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WITH COUPONS
FOR MANY PRODUCTS THAT YOU USE EVERY DAY!

Check to see what coupons are in today’s Save Coupon Book.
Previous Save Coupon Books included coupons for these products:

Bayer • Secret • Clairol • Covergirl • Icy Hot • Ensue • Leafguard
Excedrin • Tums • Flonase • Nexium • Centrum • Sensodyne • Zyrtec
MiraLAX • Refresh Eye Drops • Claritin • Ragu • Allegra • Nasacort
Omaha Steaks • CeraVe Lotion • Gas-X • Boost • Secret • Aleve • Dove