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

Anson County Covid-19 Update

Ansonians urged to get vaccinated. Flu shots now available at the Health Department.

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Friday, October 1 showed 3,637 total Covid-19 cases, with 158 active. There was an additional death from Covid-19 since September 27, bringing the total deaths to 76. Vaccines are available, including walk-in clinics. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information.

Now free testing is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without an appointment. Details are below.

Health Director Fred Thompson, PhD gave this update on October 4. "Just a short note to let you know that we have been successful in working with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Optum, a state contractor that provides free Covid testing in over thirty North Carolina counties, to expand Optum's Covid testing services to Anson County.

Optum has set up in the old hospital parking lot on Morven Road. They are testing Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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. Optum will test anyone over the age of 1.

Flu Shots With Optum up and running, the Health Department is no longer doing routine Covid testing. We will use the time slots we had set aside for Covid testing to offer flu shots. We are offering both the regular flu shot and the high dose flu shot, for those 65 and over, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, between 1:30 and 4 p.m. No appointment is needed. Just come on over to the Health Department with your ID and your insurance card and we will take care of you.

With the ongoing Covid pandemic, it is strongly recommended that everyone get a flu shot this year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have. The telephone number is 704-694-5188. Thank you"

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, October 4 there were 2,219 new cases, with 16,719 deaths and 2,690 hospitalized. 69% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 64% were fully vaccinated.

Municipal Election Information

The Municipal Election for Anson County will be held on Tuesday, November 2. The polls will be open for voting on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be no Absentee by Mail or In-Person Early Voting. This includes military and overseas.

The deadline to register is Friday, October 8. For information on how to register visit www.ncsbe.gov/registering/how-register or you can contact the Anson County Board of Elections at 704-994-3223. The address is 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro.

Here are the candidates:

- Town of Lilesville**
Mayor Bernice Bennett
Commissioner (5 seats available) Lewis Adams, Chuck Cook, Gaye Harrington, Randy Henry, Frank McAllister, John Montgomery
- Town of Morven**
Council (3 seats available) Tanya Chance, Marjorie Cole, Rhonda Johnson Liles, Rachel Melton
- Town of Peachland**
Council (3 seats available) James Thomas Hamilton, Kenneth Rowell
- Town of Polkton**
Mayor Bruce Landon, Cynthia Williams
Commissioner (5 seats available) Johnny Faulk, Russell Goodwin, Cindy Melton Heafner, Jimmy Hildreth, W. Clifton Martin III, Sissy Stegall
- Town of Wadesboro**
Council (3 seats available) Fred Davis, Wanda Talbert Exum, J.F. Harward, Judy Little, Chipper Long, Amanda Moak, Russell Sikes

Write-ins are permissible for this election.

The polling places are:

- Lilesville Fire Department, 202 West Wall Street
- Morven Fire Department, 242 East Main Street
- Peachland Fire Department, 35 East Passaic Street
- Polkton Fire Department, 61 West Polk Street
- All eligible Wadesboro voters vote at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, Ingram Room, 514 N. Washington St. in Wadesboro.

Important Dates:

- November 1: Pre-election day board meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- November 2: Municipal Election Day, 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- November 11: Board of Elections closed for Veterans Day

For more information contact Elections Director Sherry Melton at 704-994-3223.

Girl Scouts Food Drive is Saturday

In the United States, Feeding America estimates that 1 in 9 Americans is challenged with food insecurity, or not having enough financial resources to consistently access enough food for an active, healthy life. In Anson County, that rate is 1 in 6.

Anson Girl Scout Troop 1389, along with other troops throughout Hornets' Nest Council, are coming together this Saturday, October 9 to support neighbors in need by collecting food for Second Harvest Food Bank and its partner agencies. All food collected in Anson County will stay in Anson County.

To support the effort, bring non-perishable items to Parsons Drug Company, located on the Square in uptown Wadesboro (100 South Greene Street), between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All food collected will be distributed through the food bank at Anson Crisis Ministries. Thank you for making the world a better place!

Among the most needed items are: canned fish or meat; peanut butter; canned low-sodium soups or stews; canned or dried beans; canned fruits in juice; and canned low-sodium vegetables.

To find out more about joining the Girl Scouts, please visit www.hngirlscouts.org or call 704-731-6500. Anson Girl Scout Troop 1389 is accepting new members in grades K-12, as well as adult volunteers. The troop currently meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Peachland United Methodist Church or virtually.



North Carolina Transportation Museum Unveils Exhibit Addition 'The Life of a Brakeman'

The NC Transportation Museum is pleased to announce an update to the "How the West Was Won" exhibit.

This is a release from the NC Transportation Museum: Focusing on the story of Black Mountain, N.C. resident and longtime Southern Railway employee George Winslow Whittington, "The Life of a Brakeman" explains how the difficult job of brakeman changed from the era of steam to diesel locomotives. Discover the story of George Winslow Whittington, who rode the rails of Southern Railway's Asheville Division as brakeman from 1926 to his retirement from that same role in 1963. Whittington exemplified the strong and courageous brakemen who faced many challenges so that trains could arrive to their destinations safely, a job made even more difficult by Whittington's status as a Black man during segregation.

"The Life of a Brakeman" was created with the content curation aid of Regina Lynch-Hudson, the granddaughter of George Winslow Whittington, and contributions by his son Les Whittington, as well as other descendants.

"The Life of a Brakeman" exhibit features an interactive brake wheel allowing visitors to experience how brakes were, and still are, set on trains. A small selection of artifacts from the Museum's collection is on display, connecting to brakemen and to Whittington himself. A short video, provided by Regina Lynch-Hudson about the life of George Winslow Whittington, will also accompany "The Life of a Brakeman."

The exhibit opened on Saturday, Aug. 28 and is a permanent addition to the exhibits at the N. C. Transportation Museum, located at 1 Samuel Spencer Dr, just five minutes off I-85 at Exit 79 in Spencer, N.C., and about an hour from Charlotte. To plan a visit, call (704) 636- 2889 or visit www.nctransportationmuseum.org.

About the N.C. Transportation Museum The N.C. Transportation Museum is home to the largest remaining operational roundhouse in North America, and numerous structures that represent what was once Southern Railway's largest steam locomotive repair facility in the southeast. The museum is part of the Division of Historic Sites and the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Learn more at www.nctransportationmuseum.org.

Anson County Man Is Sentenced To Six And A Half Years On Gun Charge

Dyral Keith Shankle brought a loaded firearm inside Anson hospital

Dyral Keith Shankle, 34, of Wadesboro was sentenced to 78 months in prison on Wednesday, September 29, followed by two years of supervised release, for a firearms offense, announced William T. Stetzer, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.



Dyral Keith Shankle

According to information contained in filed court documents and the sentencing hearing, on January 22, 2020, at approximately 11:00 p.m. Shankle drove his vehicle to a Wadesboro hospital emergency room. When Shankle arrived at the hospital, he got out of his vehicle and ran into the hospital holding a gun in his hand. Court records show that when the hospital security officer asked Shankle to hand over his gun, Shankle refused and claimed that "people were coming after him." The security officer was eventually able to take the firearm, which was loaded with a high capacity magazine, after Shankle moved his finger off the trigger. Shankle was subsequently treated by hospital staff for a gunshot wound. Over the course of the investigation law enforcement recovered two additional firearms that belonged to Shankle, ecstasy pills, marijuana and more than \$10,000 in cash.

In October 2020 Shankle pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm by a felon. He is currently in federal custody. Upon designation of a federal facility, he will be transferred to the custody of the federal Bureau of Prisons.

In making last Wednesday's announcement, Acting U.S. Attorney Stetzer commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Wadesboro Police Department, and the Monroe Police Department for their investigation of the case. Acting U.S. Attorney Stetzer also thanked Anson County District Attorney Reece Saunders for his office's coordination and assistance throughout the case.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Spaugh of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Charlotte prosecuted the case.

Wadesboro Lions Club Thanks the Community

This is a release from the Wadesboro Lions Club: The Wadesboro Lions Club would like to thank the people who purchased brooms and Camp Dogwood raffle tickets at the Randy Travis Festival in Marshville. The event was a great success for the Lions as well as the other participants. All the funds from the broom sales are used to benefit the blind and visually impaired people in Anson County.

The club continues to offer brooms at Lacy's and Martin Furniture in Wadesboro, Allen's Restaurant in Peachland and Northcutt's Affordable in Marshville.

Interested in becoming a Lion? Contact Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448. They meet at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Wadesboro every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 10-01-2021

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	4	0	0	0
Anson High School	18	0	4	0
Anson Middle School	10	1	3	1
Ansonville Elementary	7	0	2	0
Lilesville Elementary	6	1	3	0
Morven Elementary	2	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	20	0	8	0
Wadesboro Elementary	2	1	0	1
Wadesboro Primary	1	0	3	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	2	N/A	0
Total	70	5	23	2
Total Students + Employees	75		25	
*Student Enrollment as of 10/01/21	2,966	# of Employees	513	
*Enrollment changes daily		% of Employees Positive	0.39%	
% of Students Positive	0.78%	A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.		

Toys for Tots, 2021 Kick-Off

This is a release from Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots 2021 Christmas campaign Kick-off will be held on Sunday, October 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Centenary A.M.E. Zion Church, Pastor Fred Miller, in Lilesville. We are asking every church, local business, schools and elected officials to please come and have a representative present. Our theme for 2021 is "The Sky is the Limit when we have God." We need your support.

In 2011 Toys for Tots came to Anson County. During our first campaign we were blessed to collect and distribute toys to over 1,500 children. Since then the number has grown to over 3,000 children. Each year the need gets greater. Now with our county going through the Covid pandemic, more than ever we need the assistance of our community, businesses, churches, school and citizens to make this program a continued success.

Businesses, churches, schools, citizens, and our elected officials are very important to us. It's a way you can give back to your community and to our less fortunate children and families. You can support Toys for Tots through a monetary donation or by purchasing toys. Toys for Tots drop-off locations will be announced.

Vancine Sturdivant, Toys for Tots Coordinator, stated, "Christmas is a time of joy, happiness, good will and love for our fellow man. It is a time of giving and helping others, especially those who are less fortunate. I challenge each one of you to give. Best someone."

All donations are to be written out to: Toys for Tots / Anson. You can contact anyone below to find out how to give.

For further information please contact: Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412; Bugga Sturdivant at 910-206-3427; Patricia Robinson at 704-848-4995; or Diane Carelock at 704-848-4469.

Working together as a team, we can make this year's campaign one of the best.