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# THE EXPRESS

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

## Anson County Bridge Replacement

Contract crews for the N.C. Department of Transportation will close the bridge on City Pond Road over the North Fork of Jones Creek on October 31, weather permitting, in order to construct a new bridge. The \$1 million project was awarded to Smith-Rowe, LLC in August.

During construction, drivers will be detoured offsite along N.C. 109, Capel Dairy Road, and N.C. 742, returning to City Pond Road.

The contractor anticipates having the bridge open to traffic by July 2023. Additional work like landscaping and vegetation establishment can go on through November 2023.

For real-time travel information, visit [DriveNC.gov](http://DriveNC.gov) or follow NCDOT on social media.

## Early Voting for the November 8 General Election Begins October 20

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 20 – FRIDAY OCTOBER 21**

8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 22**

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**MONDAY OCTOBER 24 – FRIDAY OCTOBER 28**

8:00 AM – 7:30 PM

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29**

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 30**

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**MONDAY OCTOBER 31 – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4**

8:00 AM – 7:30 PM

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5**

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**EARLY VOTING WILL BE HELD AT THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE  
402 MORVEN ROAD  
WADESBORO, NC**

See detailed election information on page 5

## Anson Mobile Market is October 20

This is a release from the Anson Cooperative Extension: Atrium Health Anson, Anson County Extension, Carolinas Primary Care, Anson County Health Department and WellCare have partnered in the months of September to November to offer the Anson Mobile Market. This is an event that will afford the citizens of Anson County to receive six-eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please stop by and get some produce.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas. There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics. There will also be recipe cards for produce items you will receive each month to assist in cooking them.

The event will be held on the Square in uptown Wadesboro on October 20 and November 17. There will be two time intervals to pick up produce, 10:00am to 1:00pm and 3:00 to 6:00pm. This gives those that are working and get off later the opportunity to come pick up items. Items will be on hand for you to carry your produce in along with some give aways. We hope many will come out and participate in this wonderful opportunity.

## 'We Won't Black Down' Bus Tour Coming to Anson County on October 20

This is a release from HOLLA!: Join us as we celebrate the first day of early voting in Anson County, Thursday, October 20, with a bang. The celebration will begin as Black Voters Matter's Blackest Bus in America enters the county. A caravan of Anson County voters will escort the bus through the county. (Wanted: motorcycles, cars, slingshots, vans and buses.)

• First stop - Anson County Board of Elections to show support for and exercise our most sacred right...the right to vote.

• Next stop - The HOLLA! Center in Morven to continue the celebration with a community cookout featuring a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) rally, entertainment, music, voter information and the best in food prepared by some of Anson County's best cooks and chefs.

Here's the timeline:

- 3:00 p.m. - Caravan assembles in Peachland to meet the Black Voters Matter (BVM) bus
  - 3:30 p.m. - Arrive at Anson County Board of Elections
  - 4:00 p.m. - BVM Bus Arrives at HOLLA! Center for Community Cookout
  - 5:30 p.m. - BVM Bus departs
- Got Questions? Call (704) 695-4968.



Pictured above, from left are, front row: Johnnie Pettiford, Marilynn Bennett, Beulah Pratt, Judy Simon and Winnie Bennett. Back row: Samantha Douglas, Elizabeth Kersey, Joletha Little, Elizabeth Kilgo, Patricia McCoy, Arnette Taylor, Devin Pettiford, Quantelya Johnson and Shunee McRae. Kristen Mims is not pictured.

## Morven Chapter of Las Amigas, 35 Years of Service and Sisterhood

On Saturday, October 1 Morven Chapter of Las Amigas held their thirty-fifth year anniversary celebration themed, "A Royal Celebration of Service and Sisterhood" at the Twin Valley Country Club in Wadesboro.

Winnie Bennett is the organizer and founder of the charter chapter in Morven which was sponsored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Chapter. Charter members are Winnie M. Bennett, Beulah Pratt, Judy Simon, Marilynn, Johnnie Pettiford, Dorene McLendon (deceased), Debbie Taylor and Synetha Pratt.

During the event the ladies joined together to form the "Sisterhood Chain" which was told the history of the chapter and how each sister used their unique abilities to edify the organization. Over the past 35 years, the ladies have worked diligently to impact the lives of the citizens in their own community of Morven, as well as the entire county of Anson.

The Morven Chapter has awarded annual scholarships, sponsored Little Las Amigas Pageants, held MLK Jr. Essay workshops, Comfort of Love projects, completed breast cancer and domestic violence awareness projects, and continues to sponsor American Cancer Society, Partnership for Children and much more.

The Morven Chapter Las Amigas' active members are Patricia McCoy, Elizabeth Kersey, Winnie Bennett, Johnnie Pettiford, Samantha Douglas, Joletha Little, Quantelya Johnson, Marilynn Bennett, Judy Simon, Elizabeth Kilgo, Arnette Taylor, Beulah Pratt, Kristen Mims, Shunee McRae and Devin Pettiford.

Las Amigas, Incorporated is a national, public service, and charitable women's organization founded by two teachers, Mrs. Dora R. Mason and Mrs. Mary Q. Moore. It was organized on February 5, 1957 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Las Amigas, Incorporated organization continues to make leaps and bounds under the leadership of the 21st National President, Agatha Bouiver Martin Grimes. Through sisterhood and service Las Amigas is impacting lives, making a difference and leaving an imprint on the communities served.

Las Amigas, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all monetary donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by tax laws.

## Fall Wildfire Season is Underway in North Carolina

Forest Service agencies urge the public to use caution

With the impending arrival of fall wildfire season, the USDA Forest Service and N.C. Forest Service are reminding the public to exercise caution when engaging in recreational burning.

Peak months for the fall fire season run from October through early December and fires left unattended can get out of hand quickly, becoming wildfires that may threaten lives and property. Escaped fires due to careless backyard burning continue to be the leading cause of wildfires in North Carolina.

"Fall weather and the beautiful changing foliage in North Carolina draws people outdoors to take in activities such as camping, hiking or working in their yards to dispose of leaves and other yard debris," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "When choosing to build a campfire, grill out in your yard or eliminate leaves by burning, it is important that you remain vigilant and safe with any outdoor fire to protect our forests. You are our best defense against wildfires."

For fiscal year 2021-2022 there were 6,887 wildfires that burned 26,958 acres in North Carolina. Only 1% of those wildfires were directly linked to a natural ignition source such as lightning. The other 99% of wildfires during that span were directly related to human activity. Some of the state's most intense wildfires during the fall of 2021 were caused by escaped campfires.

In November 2021, the Sauratown Mountain Fire in Stokes County burned more than 40 acres but required 16 days to control and fully contain due to the steep and difficult terrain. Shortly after on Nov. 27, 2021, the Grindstone Fire, the largest wildfire during North Carolina's 2021 fall wildfire season, ignited at Pilot Mountain State Park in Surry County and eventually burned 1,050 acres. Both incidents were caused by escaped campfires.

**For those who choose to burn, the N.C. Forest Service offers the following tips:**

- Make sure you have a valid permit. You can obtain a burn permit at any N.C. Forest Service office or authorized permitting agent, or online at: [ncforestservice.gov/burn\\_permits/burn\\_permits\\_main.htm](http://ncforestservice.gov/burn_permits/burn_permits_main.htm).
- Don't burn on dry, windy days.
- Keep your fire small, not tall.
- Be sure you are fully prepared before burning. To control the fire, you will need a hose, bucket, steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. Keep a phone nearby, too.
- Never use kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up burning.
- Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. Drown all embers, not just the red ones. When soaked, stir the coals and soak them again. Make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch. If you do not have water, mix enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire, being careful not to bury the fire. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.
- Never leave your fire. Stay with it until it is completely out.

The USDA Forest Service offers the following guidelines for safely extinguishing campfires and helping to prevent wildfires:

- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible.
- Pour lots of water on the fire, drown ALL embers, not just the red ones.
- Pour until the hissing sound stops.
- Stir campfire ashes and embers with a shovel.
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and that embers are cold to the touch.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Pour dirt or sand on the fire, mixing enough dirt or sand with the embers to extinguish the fire.
- Continue adding or stirring until all remaining material is cool.
- Do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire.

"Always exercise caution with any outdoor burning. Even when burn bans are not in effect, weather conditions may not be favorable for outdoor fires," Troxler said. "Outdoor burning is discouraged during periods of low humidity or high winds."

Studies have shown that taking these and other measures can reduce the possibility of wildfires. To learn more about fire safety and preventing wildfires and loss of property, visit [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov) and [www.smokeybear.com](http://www.smokeybear.com). For more information and tips to help create a defensible space around your home and protect your property from wildfire, visit [www.resistwildfirenc.org](http://www.resistwildfirenc.org).

## Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, October 12 the county was at 7,877 total Covid-19 cases, with 21 active and 100 deaths. On Wednesday, October 5 the county was at 7,856 total Covid-19 cases, with 20 active and 100 deaths.

The Health Department offers Moderna COVID) Vaccines on Thursdays. They offer the primary series and the bivalent "Fall" booster. They are offered on Thursdays in a walk-in clinic. No appointment is necessary.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

## ARMS Offering Drive-Thru Covid Vaccines and Testing on October 24

Anson Regional Medical Services (ARMS) will conduct a Drive-Thru Vaccine clinic at their office, located at 203 Salisbury Street in Wadesboro, on Monday, October 24, from 8 to 11 a.m.

**Vaccines Available:** Moderna Shot 1, Shot 2, and the new Moderna Bi-valent.

You cannot receive the new Moderna Bi-Valent Vaccine unless you have completed a Moderna, Pfizer or J&J vaccine series. You must present your vaccine administration card.

COVID-19 Testing will also be available.

No appointment is necessary, and there is no charge for testing and vaccination. For more information call 704-694-6700.

## Trunk or Treat at SPCC in Polkton on October 27

South Piedmont Community College invites Anson County kids and their families to come to the L.L. Polk Campus in Polkton for a fun and free Trunk or Treat event on Thursday, October 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. Children are encouraged to wear costumes and enjoy trick or treating in a safe and festive environment.

Trunk or treat bags will be provided. Hot dogs on the grill and other activities will be available as well.

This is a FREE event and open to the public (though they ask only the kids trick or treat). The college staff is excited to decorate their trunks and welcome trick-or-treaters! They hope to see you there.

SPCC's L.L. Polk Campus is located at 680 Highway 74 in Polkton.

The Express is on the web at [www.TheExpressNewspaper.com](http://www.TheExpressNewspaper.com)