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

## Anson County Covid-19 Update

**Booster doses are available. Flu shots are available at the Health Department.**

Information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, November 24 showed 4,038 total Covid-19 cases, with 63 active. There was an additional death in the last week, bringing the total deaths to 85.

Vaccines are available for everyone 5 years old and older, including walk-in clinics. (Children 5-11 by appointment only.) Vaccine boosters are available. They are free, and all you have to do is call the Health Department at 704-694-5188 for more information. Walk-in clinics are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, November 29 there were 1,725 new cases, with 18,714 deaths and 1,077 hospitalized. 72% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 68% were fully vaccinated.

## Economic Development in Anson County Just Took a Huge Step Forward

*This is a release from Anson Economic Development Partnership (AnsonEDP) Director John Marek:* On Thursday, November 18, Governor Roy Cooper signed the North Carolina budget into law. This was important for every resident of the state, as we have been operating without a budget since 2018. Teachers and government employees will receive much-needed raises, the personal income tax rate will drop, and a slew of necessary infrastructure projects will finally be funded. A strong argument can be made, however, that no county benefitted more, in relative terms, from the signing of this budget than Anson.

As noted in our post last week, AnsonEDP worked with Representative Brody and Senator McInnis to include two critical line items in the budget. One provides \$4 million toward the construction of a sewer line extension connecting the new Atlantic Gateway Logistics Park to the existing pump station at Hailey's Ferry Road and making upgrades to that station to handle the increased flow. This sewer line, which we anticipate will be finished by the end of 2022, will allow for a more diverse mix of tenants in the park and will open up thousands of additional acres in the eastern part of the county for development. The timing is good because the new I-73/74 interchange at Cordova is expected to open about that same time. From the Atlantic Gateway, companies will have immediate access to north-south and east-west highways, as well as easy highway access to both the Port of Wilmington and the Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

The second line item is an \$8 million revolving loan fund for the construction of speculative industrial buildings in the county. While any money used from this fund will need to be paid back in full, it is interest-free and does not need to be repaid for ten years. This will allow us to build at least two, possibly three, modern industrial buildings over the next decade. The lack of building inventory is a major issue in Anson County. Over the past five years, quality industrial buildings that have come on the market in the county have sold at or near the asking price in 18 months or less. We expect a similar performance from the spec buildings, creating hundreds of new jobs and tens of millions of dollars in new capital investment.

We expect to break ground on the first building, which will be located at the Wadesboro Industrial Park, in 2Q 2022. It will be a 50,000 square foot building with 28' ceilings, expandable to 100,000 square feet on the pad. Construction should be finished in late 2022 or early 2023 and we project the building will sell by mid-2024. Upon sale of that building, we will begin construction of the second speculative building, this one at Atlantic Gateway. This will be a larger building with higher ceilings, suitable for warehouse and logistics operations. We haven't worked out the exact configuration yet, but we believe it will be a 100,000 to 150,000 square foot building with 30' ceilings. These are not dreams. These are not pie-in-the-sky ideas. These are real projects with real funding. They are going to happen, just as they are happening now in Gastonia and Lincolnton and Rock Hill and Rockingham. This is a new day for Anson County.

## Ansonia Theatre Christmas Play An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas Opens Friday, December 10

The community is invited to come to the Ansonia Theatre for their Christmas play, *An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas*. It runs for two weeks, December 10 through 19, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) or by calling 704-694-4950. The Ansonia is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Here's a synopsis of the play: 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 the some of the most beloved literary characters ever come to life to help her find her place in the world.

Something new this Christmas! Saturday nights are Pajama Nights for the play! Wear your Christmas PJs and get snuggly. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies will be served at intermission, with a little extra shopping time in the gallery!

## Free Dog and Cat Vaccinations Saturday

The Anson County Animal Shelter is offering free vaccinations for cats and dogs on Saturday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The event will take place at the Shelter, located at 7257 Highway 74 in Polkton, at the entrance to the Field of Dreams.

For questions contact Shelter Director Maureen Lett at 704-994-2738 or [mlett@ansoncountync.gov](mailto:mlett@ansoncountync.gov).

**WADESBORO CHRISTMAS PARADE IS THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.**



## Charley Williamson is Wadesboro Fire Queen

Charley Williamson is the 2021 Wadesboro Fire Queen. Charley is a junior at Anson County Early College. In her spare time she enjoys theater and bonding with her family.

Charley is the daughter of Chuck Williamson and Marsha Williams, and the niece of firefighter David Williamson. She is the granddaughter of the late Charles Williamson who held many titles at the Wadesboro Fire Department, including his last as the Assistant Fire Chief.

## Anson Youth Leadership Forum is Monday, December 6

Anson County 4-H, HOLLA! and the Caraway Foundation are looking forward to the third installment of the Youth Leadership Forum on Monday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. where the topic of discussion will revolve around the Anson County-Wide zoning ordinance.

Anson County 4-H Agent Samuel Cole said, "We are excited about the youth and the questions that they will bring to the panel. This is a virtual event that you must register for. Please register today!"

Register at: [eventbrite.com/e/anson-youth-leadership-forum-pt3-tickets-208854739147](https://eventbrite.com/e/anson-youth-leadership-forum-pt3-tickets-208854739147). If you have any questions you can call the Anson Extension office at 704-694-2915.

## Lilesville's Annual Christmas in the Park Event is Dec. 14

The Town of Lilesville invites everyone to come to Hatcher Park in Lilesville for the town's annual Christmas in the Park. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, December 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Among the activities will be a tree lighting, Christmas carolers, visits with Santa, crafts for kids to make and take home, cookies and delicious hot cocoa. Make sure your children get a free take-home picture with Santa!

The event is free and everyone is welcome to attend. There will be lots of fun for all ages, and a chance to visit with other members of the community.

In the event of inclement weather the event will be held in the Lilesville Fire Department. For more information please contact the Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711.

## Grant Opportunity for Anson Farmers

NC AgVentures, is an NC State Extension program that provides grants to NC farmers and Community Groups for new and innovative agricultural project ideas that will increase farm profits. The program, which is supported by the NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, will award a minimum of 40 grants to independent family farms. This is a great opportunity for any producer who is thinking of diversifying, improving, or expanding their operation.

Farmers and community organizations that support farmers from the following counties are eligible to apply: Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Iredell, Johnson, Lincoln, Martin, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wayne, Wilson, Wilkes, Warren and Yadkin.

NC AgVentures will award grants up to \$8,000. The grant opportunity opens October 15, 2021, and the deadline for applications is 8 p.m. on December 15, 2021.

Information Workshops for Applicants will be offered online. You can participate on your computer, tablet or phone. The presentation will be the same at all of the workshops. You may register for more than one workshop. Workshops will be held November 3 & 16 and December 1 at 4:30 p.m. Contact the Anson Extension Office for registration details, 704-694-2415.

## All Are Invited to Barn Blast 2022

Fun, games and prizes, oh my! The Anson County Partnership for Children is ready for Barn Blast 2022. The 16th annual Barn Blast will be hosted virtually on Thursday, January 27 so participants can watch in the comfort of their homes.

Since its founding in 1996, more than 6,500 children across Anson County have received Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books in the mail every month to add to their library. Approximately 50,000 educational resources from the Early Childhood Resource Center have been used by childcare providers, caregivers, and community members.

"But there was so much more that needed to be done during the pandemic," said Caroline Goins, Executive Director. "The generous support in previous years gave the Partnership the flexibility to offer additional resources during the pandemic."

Because of Barn Blast supporters, children were fed, comforted and supported during this global pandemic in addition to the literacy and early educational programs provided. "I don't know how we would have made it without the extra help of the Partnership. There were so many unknowns in the beginning. It meant so much knowing they were there ready to help," said a local mother of young children.

Now, the Anson County Partnership for Children is ready for the next chapter. The first goal of the Partnership is to offer a larger Early Childhood Resource Center for the community. This will include a large space for children to explore core subjects with parents. This space will also lend room to host more trainings for parents, families and childcare professionals.

"We cannot let the past two years deter us from the great potential we have in Anson County. Our children are the key to unlocking that potential, said Goins. "But we must learn from this pandemic and plan for the future"

Goins went on to say, "The success of Barn Blast and the Partnership as a whole is a testament to the determination and love of Anson County."

Poisson, Poisson, & Bower, LLC and Uwhamie Bank will launch the night as presenting sponsors. All proceeds benefit the Partnership's early childhood education programming.

Check out the Partnership's Facebook page for updates about Barn Blast. For more information on being a 2022 Barn Blast sponsor call 704-694-4036 or visit the Partnership's website at [www.ansonchildren.org](http://www.ansonchildren.org).

The Anson County Partnership for Children is a nonprofit organization formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership's mission is "helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child."

## Anson County Commissioners Meet December 7

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7 at 6 p.m.

The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

The Commissioners' board meetings are live-streamed on their YouTube channel. Also, the videos are archived so they can be viewed at any time. Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## School Early Release for Wadesboro Christmas Parade Thursday

Anson County students will have an early release day on this Thursday, December 2 for the Wadesboro Christmas Parade, which begins at 4 p.m.

- Elementary schools will dismiss at 12:30 p.m.
- Middle & high schools will dismiss at 1:30 p.m.

## HOLLA! Eagles Tennis Court Renovation Celebration

Tennis court renovations at HOLLA! are complete and for that they are grateful. To mark the occasion HOLLA! will have a celebration and 'Donor Thank-You' this Saturday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.

After a successful fundraising kickoff, enough money has been raised to get special guests to attend. The guest lineup includes: Gwen Jackson, former Livingstone College Tennis Coach; Roxanne Aaron, President of The American Tennis Association; Brenre Taylor, 1st HOLLA! Eagles Tennis Player to win a collegiate scholarship; and Coach William Brown, HOLLA! Eagles Tennis Coach.

## Anson Singers Concert is Sunday

For the first time in two years, the Anson Singers are presenting a concert entitled *The Many Moods of Christmas*.

The community is invited to attend this Sunday, December 5 at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro.

*The Many Moods of Christmas* has four musical suites, featuring Christmas carols that we all know and love! It is a wonderful collection that you will not want to miss.

The Anson Singers want to tell the community, "We can't even begin to express how thrilled we are to share our music with you once again! We look forward to seeing you and your loved ones on December 5."

## Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 11-23-2021

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	0	0	1	0
Anson High School	2	0	0	0
Anson Middle School	7	1	3	1
Ansonville Elementary	4	0	0	0
Lilesville Elementary	6	0	3	0
Morven Elementary	6	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	0	1	0	0
Wadesboro Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	3	0	1	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	0	N/A	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Students + Employees</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>9</b>	

\*Student Enrollment as of 11/23/21 2,951  
\*Enrollment changes daily  
% of Students Positive 0.27%

# of Employees 513  
% of Employees Positive 0.19%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.