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

Anson County 2040 • Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update Meeting is Thursday

Over the next year Anson County will update its comprehensive land use plan. The county will hold a series of open houses in November and December for residents to provide input on what they value about where they live and what they hope for the future. The content and process will be the same at each open house. Light refreshments and activities for children will be provided. Please attend the open house that is most convenient for you.

Each open house will be open to the public from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please plan to drop in any time.

For more information contact Anson County Manager Barron Monroe at BMonroe@co.anson.nc.us.

Open House Schedule

- Thursday, December 5 - Ansonville (North Anson) at the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, 5770 US Highway 52 North, Wadesboro

- Tuesday, December 10 - Polkton (West Anson) at South Piedmont Community College, L.L. Polk Campus, Raye Community Room, 680 US 74 in Polkton

- Thursday, December 12 - Wadesboro (Central Anson) at South Piedmont Community College, Lockhart-Taylor Center's Ingram Room, 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is Thursday

The 2019 Wadesboro Christmas Parade will kick off at 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 5 (rain or shine), and wind its way through uptown Wadesboro to the Ray Shelton Ball field.

This year's parade will feature trophies for the Best Homemade Float and the Best Band as well as a competition for the Best Christmas Window display for uptown businesses.

There will also be Christmas tree lighting and delicious hot chocolate on the Town Square following the parade.

For more information on the parade contact Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. at (704) 694-4181 or email to uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.

Take Selfies with Santa Before and After the Parade!

Anson County Partnership for Children is inviting children of all ages to participate in Selfie with Santa. On Thursday, December 5 Santa will be waiting for selfie seekers from 3 and 4 p.m. before the Wadesboro Christmas Parade, and between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. after the parade at First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro. There will be time before and after the parade for children to visit Santa, write their wish list, and pick out a winter-themed book. Santa's elves will also be available to take pictures for families.

Pictures of the event will be posted on the Partnership's social media platforms. Visit the Partnership website (www.ansonchildren.org) and follow the Partnership on Facebook and Instagram. Following the visit Santa will mail a special letter to all the children. This event is free to the public.

Anson County Partnership for Children is a non-profit public/private organization that was formed in 1996 in response to the North Carolina Smart Start initiative. The Partnership is responsible for developing collaborative strategies to meet the unique needs of children and families in Anson County, focusing on Child Care, Health, Literacy and Family Support. For more information, contact Literacy and Community Outreach Coordinator, Alexandra Harrington at 704-694-4036, www.ansonchildren.org.

Miracle on 34th Street Opens this Friday at the Ansonia

It's Christmastime at the Ansonia Theatre, the 2019 MTA Best Theatre Company award winner. They are hard at work keeping the high standard of quality entertainment with their version of *Miracle on 34th Street*, the heartwarming holiday classic about the power of believing. Tickets sales are already breaking box office records.

Kris Kringle, an old man in a retirement home, gets a job working as Santa for Macy's. Kris unleashes waves of good will with Macy's customers and the commercial world of New York City by referring parents to other stores to find exactly the toy their child has asked for. Seen as deluded and dangerous by Macy's vocational counselor, who plots to have Kris shanghaied to Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital, Kris ends up in a court competency hearing. Especially at stake is one little girl's belief in Santa. In a dramatic decision, the court confirms Kris as the true Santa, allowing Susan and countless other children to experience the joy of childhood fantasy.

The incredible cast comes together from Anson, Union, Stanly, Richmond and Moore counties.

The show runs December 6-15. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Group rates are available for parties of 10 or more. Buy online at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Wildlife Commission Seeks Public Comment on Proposed 2020-2021 Rule Changes

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has opened the public comment period for proposed changes to agency regulations related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2020-2021 seasons. The comment period will be open until Friday, Jan. 31, 2020.

Comments may be submitted online, emailed to regulations@ncwildlife.org (must include name, phone number and mailing address in e-mail) or mailed to: Rule-Making Coordinator, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1700.

The public can also provide comments at one of nine public hearings the Commission will conduct across the state in January. For more information, including the schedule for the upcoming public hearings, visit ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations.



over 25 million transactions. Transactions are calculated every time a vehicle drives under a toll gantry.

The toll collection program managed by the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, NC Quick Pass, opened the two customer service centers ahead of the Monroe Expressway, in Monroe and Charlotte. Since the opening of the customer service centers, over 33,000 people have visited a customer service center in the region.

"We intend to serve the people traveling in the Charlotte region for many years to come, and we are grateful for a successful first year in the area," said Turnpike Authority Executive Director J.J. Eden. "We are hearing from customers who say they are making it to appointments and home from work faster and can spend more time with family and loved ones, that is why we do this work."

For drivers who choose to use NC Quick Pass facilities, using a transponder is the cheapest and easiest way to pay tolls. Customers are routinely saving over 25 minutes in one trip and adding NC Quick Pass to your routine will make that time savings easier than ever.

NC Quick Pass customers:

- Save 35% on tolls in North Carolina;
- Seamlessly pay tolls from a prepaid account on any facility in North Carolina and partnering states; and
- Pay lower rates on some E-Pass, E-ZPass, I-Pass, SunPass, and Peach Pass toll roads.

To learn more about the Turnpike Authority, Monroe Expressway, NC Quick Pass, and upcoming projects, please visit ncdot.gov/turnpike or ncquickpass.com.

The Monroe Expressway Celebrates One Year

The Monroe Expressway celebrated its first anniversary on Monday, December 2 touting a successful first year for the roadway. Traffic continues to improve quarter over quarter, and the Turnpike Authority is on track to meet or exceed projections. Since its opening, the Monroe Expressway has seen

Lilesville's Fourth Annual Christmas in the Park Event is Tuesday, December 10

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 10, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Among the activities will be a tree lighting, Christmas carolers, a live nativity scene, a Christmas hayride, visits with Santa, crafts for kids to make and take home, cookies, and delicious hot cocoa.

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.

Zimmer Friends Get Together is Friday

The Zimmer Friends group will hold a get together this Friday, December 6 at Papa Joes Restaurant in Wadesboro, starting at 1:30 p.m. They invite all who are interested in attending. This will be an opportunity to meet in a comfortable restaurant while enjoying the delicious food.

For more information about the gathering call Betty Huneycutt at 704-694-4213.

Christmas Time on the Square in Wadesboro is Saturday

Sheriff Landric Reid and the Anson County Sheriff's Office would like to invite all parents to bring their children to the Square in Wadesboro for the First Annual Christmas Time on the Square. The event will take place this Saturday, December 7, from 5:30 until 9 p.m.

The event is free, and the public is invited to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy music by a children's choir. There will be face painting, food and drinks, and a screening of the movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

The Square is located at the intersection of Greene and Wade Streets in uptown Wadesboro. Please make sure to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the event.

Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelight Program Will be Held this Sunday, December 8

The annual Compassionate Friends World Wide Candlelight Program will be held this Sunday, December 8 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. This is a special time as attendees join together with others around the world to remember our children who have died - that their light may always shine.

Groups of people and individuals from all over the world will be lighting candles at 7 p.m. their local time in memory of deceased children. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world. This is believed to be the largest mass candle lighting in the world.

You are invited to take part in this program. Please bring a photograph of your child, your family and friends. Attendees will enjoy party refreshments and fellowship following the candle lighting.

The Compassionate Friends meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Training Room at Pee Dee Electric in Wadesboro. It is a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have experienced the death of a child of any age. They welcome you to attend. "We need not walk alone."

Calvary Episcopal Church is located at 308 East Wade Street in Wadesboro. For information call 704-694-8774 or 704-272-7449. Or you can call Leavitt Funeral Home at 704-694-2524.

Veterans Christmas Supper is December 13

The Anson County Veterans Council invites all veterans and their spouses to come and enjoy supper and live Christmas music on Friday, December 13. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Woodmen of the World Lodge, located at 2549 Highway 74 West in Wadesboro, just past Atrium Health.

This will be a time for fellowship, and an opportunity to thank all of our veterans for their service.

If you have any questions about this event please contact Ed Parker, Anson County Veterans Council President, at 704-694-6770.

Auditions for New Play on December 17

Auditions for the Ansonia Theatre play *Little Shop of Horrors* will be held on Tuesday, December 17 at 6 p.m. at the theatre. Participants are asked to prepare a song to sing. This show will run March 13-22, 2020.

For more information call 704-694-4950.

Bowman High School Class of 1975 Reunion Meeting

The Bowman High School Class of 1975 will hold a planning meeting for the 45th reunion on Saturday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. at Quincy's Restaurant in Monroe.

For more information contact Karen Burney Nash at (704) 219-0978 or JoLetha Gordon Little at (704) 694-6212.

Christmas Back 'N Time Program

The Ansonville Historical Society will present a program entitled *Christmas Back 'N Time* this weekend. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the presentation on Saturday, December 7, which will include candlelight, natural decorations, live music and the reading of *The Christmas Story* by Rev. Robert Burr.

The program will take place at Cedar Hill Methodist Church, located at 11315 Pinkston River Road in Ansonville. There will be two presentations, at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. For more information call Priscilla Randall at 704-826-8228.

Open House to Benefit American Cancer Society

Each December Anson County couple Amy and Chris Turner host a Christmas Open House, welcoming old friends and new friends into their home. This Christmas tradition is a community event for a good cause, with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

This year's Christmas Open House will be held this Saturday, December 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. The address is 13181 Highway 742 North in Polkton.

For more information you can contact Amy Turner at 704-695-1171 or Amy.Turner@ncsecu.org.

John and Rick Curtis Present Program of Music for 50+ Club

The Hampton B. Allen Library announces the 50+ Club meeting for Monday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Little Theatre. John and Rick Curtis will be the guests, presenting a program of music of the season. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the music of these talented musicians and singers.

Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

The Express is on the web at www.TheExpressNewspaper.com