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

Covid Update for Anson County

According to the latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, December 14 the county was at 8009 total Covid-19 cases, with 37 of those cases active and 100 deaths. On November 30 the county was at 7,958 total Covid-19 cases, with 10 active and 100 deaths. On November 17 the county was at 7,940 total Covid-19 cases, with 25 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.

Flu Shots Please note that flu numbers are high right now so if you have not gotten a flu shot, please do so. If you would like to schedule an appointment for a shot, please call (704) 694-5188.

The COVID testing site in Morven has closed, but you can still stop by the health department and pick up test kits to keep at home. If you aren't feeling well you can send someone and they will send some to you.

The Health Department is also offering N-95 masks. Stop in to pick one up.

For more specific information related to Anson County and NC please visit: covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

The Health Department is located at 110 West Ashe Street in Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-5188.

Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. Director Julian Swittenberg Stepping Down



The end of an era was marked on last Friday, December 16 as Uptown Wadesboro's Director, Julian Swittenberg, stepped down from the position to devote more time to his business interests. Of course, he's not going far since his business is The Dream Inn, a bed and breakfast here in uptown Wadesboro. The Uptown Wadesboro, Inc. director is responsible for coordinating uptown events, promoting uptown Wadesboro to prospective businesses, and managing the nonprofit's administrative functions.

The community offers a big Thank You to Mr. Swittenberg for all your work in making Wadesboro and Anson County a better place.

Photo courtesy of AnsonEDP



Community Christmas Blessing Year 22 Draws Large Crowd

Plenty of Christmas Spirit at Harvest Ministries!

As the crowd of over 500 poured into the auditorium of Harvest Ministries Outreach Center on Sunday, December 18, the annual Community Christmas Blessing event with the spirit and sounds of the Holiday filled the room. Lead Pastor Steve Adams shared an encouraging and uplifting sermon entitled "With Us" - where 18 people made a decision to dedicate their lives to Christ!

Harvest founding Pastor Tim Adams shared, "Of all of the many outreaches that Harvest has been blessed to be a part of all year - this is the greatest of the year. To know that so many people contributed and came together to make Christmas possible for others is truly what being a Christian is all about. It's a wonderful day where all people, all denominations, all races, and all situations come together in the spirit of giving."

Every child in attendance left with two brand new Christmas presents, while many adults left with cash. And, there were many other great give-a-ways. Prizes included 3 months of utilities being paid courtesy of Harvest, over \$500 in cash, hundreds of dollars in gift cards and prizes. Many gifts, cash, and prizes were distributed. One child left with a brand new Nintendo Switch gaming system.

Lead Pastor of Harvest Steve Adams said, "This is why we are here, to serve God, and serve others. This day could not be possible without the generosity and partnerships of so many people across Anson and surrounding counties. We are grateful for every person who donated online, brought toys and gifts, or simply showed up!"

After the event, Harvest partnered with neighboring CityReach Community Center to provide refreshments, gift bags for families, and free pictures with Santa. The day was truly an expression of the Spirit of Christmas.

Harvest Ministries Outreach Center would like to thank the many volunteers, organizers, community partners, churches, and others who made this year's event possible. Pastor Steve added, "This was one of our greatest years of financial contributions. To have this many community leaders, businesses, and individuals donate and give shows the confidence, faith, and trust locals have in the outreach of Community Christmas Blessing.

A special thanks to: Leavitt Funeral Home; Bill Thacker; Lady Bug Restaurant; Huntley Oil; Smith Funeral Home; Key Sponsor: The Express Newspaper; C&M Auto; Wadesboro Lumber; Key Sponsors: Poisson Poisson Bower; Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant- Anson Toys for Tots; Anson County Homes of Hope; the leadership and congregation of Harvest Ministries for their continued heart to serve people with the love of Christ... not just in words... but in action!

The Congregation of Harvest Ministries for their continued giving and compassion for Anson County and its citizens. For the past 23 years- Harvest Ministries and its folks have been 'Finding Needs and Filing them and Finding Hurts and healing them.'"

Pastor Steve summed up the event by saying, "A huge crowd is great, the presents for children is wonderful. People loving and blessing others is truly what Christmas is supposed to be. And, to know that 18 people prayed to have Jesus Christ change their life, simply was the exclamation point on an awesome day! Finding eternal life in Christ is the greatest Gift Exchange.

For more information on the programs and outreach efforts of Harvest visit www.harvestmin.com or call Pastor Steve Adams at 704-695-2879.



Anson County and the Town of Ansonville Receive \$950,000 Grants

27 North Carolina Communities Receive \$42.3 Million in Neighborhood Revitalization Grants

The North Carolina Department of Commerce awarded 30 Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) fund requests to 27 local governments totaling \$42.3 million. The requests will provide housing and public improvements for low- and moderate-income North Carolinians. The Town of Ansonville and Anson County each received \$950,000 block grants.

"North Carolina has made significant investments in our communities to help them provide affordable housing," said Governor Roy Cooper. "Building stronger and more resilient communities is important to our economic success and these neighborhood revitalization grants will support them in doing just that."

The CDBG-NR program offers non-entitlement municipalities and counties the opportunity to tailor community development projects to address the specific and most critical needs of their communities. This year's awards include \$5 million in funding that was earmarked by the N.C. General Assembly exclusively for the Rural Community Development (RCD) Fund, a set aside for non-housing community development projects in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Anson County is a Tier 1 county.

"These additional federal resources will help our most vulnerable communities as building and living costs have increased," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Mabelle Baker Sanders. "This is a banner year for economic development and this infusion of funding will greatly benefit more North Carolina families and local economies by providing more housing options, jobs, and economic opportunities."

The program conducted two rounds of funding with increased maximum per grant awards to offset the rising construction costs and other special needs that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first round of funding included 18 projects receiving a total of \$15.7 million in CDBG-NR awards up to \$950,000. Round two of CDBG-NR funding included 12 projects totaling \$26.6 million with a maximum award of \$5 million.

The CDBG program is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program administered in part by N.C. Commerce Rural Economic Development Division. CDBG funds are awarded to enhance the vitality of communities by providing adequate housing, suitable living environments, infrastructure development, and expanding economic opportunities. The State must ensure that at least 70 percent of its CDBG grant funds are used for activities and projects that serve households of low- and moderate-income.

Visit the North Carolina Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division webpage for more information at commerce.nc.gov.

County Offices Are Closed For Christmas Holiday, December 23-27

In observance of the Christmas Holiday, County offices will be closed Friday, December 23 through Tuesday, December 27. All emergency services and law enforcement will be in full operation.

Pryor Gibson Joins the Governor's Office in New Roll as Senior Legislative Advisor.

Gibson, a Wadesboro native, had served in the NC House of Representatives

Governor Roy Cooper has announced new personnel within the Governor's Office, including Wadesboro native Pryor Gibson. "I'm proud of the strong, diverse team we have built to move our state forward and help our people and communities. It's a privilege to serve our great state and I appreciate these leaders stepping into new roles to work with me to build a stronger North Carolina," said Governor Cooper.

Gibson will join the Governor's Office as Senior Legislative Advisor. Gibson currently leads the Division of Employment Security at the NC Department of Commerce. He previously worked at the NC Forestry Association, for the Workforce Solutions agency, and for the Governor's Office. He served as a legislator in the NC House of Representatives in 1989-90 and 1999-2011. Gibson was raised in Anson County and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and studied at NCSU and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

New Website and System for NC Quick Pass

This is a release from NC Quick Pass: NC Quick Pass is pleased to announce that a new website and system are coming February 2023. This new website and system will substantially modernize our customer service and the customer experience.

As we work to implement this new system, we want all customers to be prepared and make sure their account is up to date including their email address and pre-paid balance.

The transition to the new website and system will require a short downtime for all NC Quick Pass website functions and customer service. We will provide the expected impacted dates on all available platforms. Customers can receive updates at ncquickpass.com or by following Quick Pass on Twitter and Facebook.

Customers will only need to visit one website: ncquickpass.com, for all account management or Bill by Mail payments.

The new website is focused on the customer experience and will provide an easier way for customers to pay Bill by Mail invoices or make changes to their account.