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We hope everyone is enjoying this holiday season. This edition features pictures from the Wadesboro Christmas Parade.

## Anson County Covid-19 Update

The latest information posted by the Anson County Health Department on Wednesday, December 22 showed 4,178 total Covid-19 cases, with 67 active. The total deaths are 87.

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 information. Walk-in clinics are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**Covid Testing** Free testing is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without an appointment. Testing takes place in the old hospital parking lot at 500 Morven Road in Wadesboro. 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. They will test anyone over the age of 1.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) reported that statewide as of Monday, December 27 there were 4,889 new cases, up from 2,892 cases on December 20, with 19,233 deaths and 1,680 hospitalized. 73% of adults in NC had at least one dose of vaccine, 69% were fully vaccinated.

## By Road, Rail, Air and Sea, Anson County is Charlotte's Modern Gateway to East Coast and World Markets

*This update is courtesy of John Marek, AnsonEDP Director:* If you live or work in the Charlotte Region, you've probably traveled through Anson County, and so has the food you eat, the clothes you wear, and the electronics you rely on. The U.S. Highway 74 Corridor has long been known as the best way for Charlotteans to get to the coast and back, and the opening of the Monroe Expressway in 2018 made the trip even faster and easier. But fewer people understand the role that corridor plays in the movement of goods to and from east coast and world markets.

Improvements at the Port of Wilmington over the past decade have brought it on a par with the other major east coast ports. Companies that previously shipped to and from Charleston, Savannah, and Norfolk are increasingly seeing Wilmington as a better option, uniquely positioning Anson County as a logistics hub for the region. The completion of the I-73/74 Cordova interchange in 2022 will further cement Anson's strategic advantage for companies seeking a cost-effective warehousing and distribution location.

## Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets January 4

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4 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](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Board of Education Calls Special Meeting for Monday, January 10

The Anson County Board of Education will hold a called meeting on Monday, January 10 for the purpose of discussing retention bonuses. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meetings at 3:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools YouTube channel for the public to see. To find the channel, you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools." The meeting will take place in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Masks will be required for visitors.

## ACTS is Ready to Help You Get to Where You Need to Be

The employees at the Anson County Transportation System (ACTS) are proud of the service offered to the community of Anson County. Their fleet of vehicles regularly transport individuals to doctor's appointments, nutritional sites, employment, post secondary school, shopping facilities and recreational functions. ACTS offers two types of transportation - regular scheduled routes and demand response.

**Regularly scheduled routes** transport individuals to the same destination on a consistent basis. Regularly scheduled routes consist of nutritional routes for the elderly to the Peachland, Wadesboro and Morven meal sites, employment training routes to the McLaurin Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Hamlet NC, dialysis treatment, and employment routes throughout Anson County.

**Demand response transportation** is very flexible and is accessible by dialing at least 24 hours in advance to schedule appointments, 704-694-2596. (To ensure availability of vehicle, one might need to call earlier than 24 hours.)

You can pay for your transportation in several ways:

- Cash
- Medicaid
- Monthly payments by established agencies and businesses

**Elderly & Disabled Transportation Grant** (These funds are handled by the transportation department and can be accessed by calling the transportation office at 704-694-2596.)

Need a ride? Call ACTS at 704-694-2596. Drivers are friendly, courteous, honest and helpful.



**The MBM Twirly Girls & Guys have been busy performing in many wonderful community events. They presented their Christmas On The Square program, on Wednesday, December 22. The show was enjoyed by all and truly exhibited the spirit of the season.**



## \$9 Million in Upgrades for SPCC Anson Campus

South Piedmont Community College's LL Polk Campus and Lockhart-Taylor Center are integral partners in the Anson County community, providing free college education to students from high school age and older along with job training, re-training, and skills development that enable residents and businesses to flexibly and affordably attain career growth and success.

Beginning in 2017, SPCC started its planned investment of \$9 million in its Anson County campuses resulting in upgrades to its facilities, programs, and infrastructure to better accommodate how students learn and prepare for good-paying careers of today and tomorrow.

These accommodations include growing educational technology that can deliver flexible access to education for everyone by expanding college credit options for high school students and adult students seeking a college degree. This technology focuses on security and convenience measures that can save students time and money as they pursue their career and family goals.

"My high school junior started taking classes at SPCC this semester," said Michelle Brock, Anson County resident and vice president of finance and administrative services at SPCC. "He and his classmates are on track to complete an associate degree, free of cost, by the time they finish high school, saving families literally thousands of dollars a year."

Through a wide range of other college credit courses and degree options available at SPCC, a two-year degree, a valuable certification, or a seamless transfer to a 4-year college are available to everyone at little to no cost.

Making this possible for high school students as well as adult students is the innovative, hybrid classroom for which SPCC has been nationally recognized. These hybrid and flexible classes allow students to meet virtually, face-to-face, or a combination of the two in order to assist students with their educational pursuits while juggling busy schedules, jobs, and child care. This level of personalized education relies on state-of-the-art technology and a substantial upgrade to infrastructure and classroom equipment - projects currently underway in our Anson County facilities as well as in Anson High School, our educational partner. SPCC is also working with the county to help address limited broadband access in some of our most rural areas of the county.

"With IT and internet connectivity at the forefront of most businesses, tackling this digital divide is key for sustained economic growth," said Karla Shields, associate vice president for economic and workforce development at SPCC.

This improvement to technology infrastructure not only impacts classroom and virtual learning, it is essential to enable upgrades to the safety and security access control system the college plans to add. This system will equip the campus with contactless technology for students and employees to gain access to buildings and college services, make appointments, conveniently register for classes, get tutoring, and more. Identification cards, video surveillance, keypads, software, and new doors are part of the security strategy to keep employees and students safe and to support their convenience through accessibility.

With the completion of the transformational renovation of the Martin Student Center on the LL Polk campus in 2019, improvements from the campus master plan are now focused on transforming the Garibaldi building through a phased renovation project that will provide students with better access to some of the most-used student services on the campus.

Funding is already being secured for phase one which will focus on improving the technology capabilities of the campus and creating a welcoming, high-tech/high-touch student services experience for all. *Article courtesy of Misty McMillan, SPCC*

## Services for Consumers - Health Insurance

The North Carolina Department of Insurance (NC DOI) understands that choosing an insurance policy can be confusing. There are a lot of things to consider when selecting an insurance policy - will your doctor accept your insurance? How do I know what is covered? Do I have to use certain hospitals? Where do I get insurance? Once you start to use your insurance, there are other things that you may start to consider as well, such as - how much money will I have to pay? What if I have trouble getting my treatment covered or what if I'm denied?

The NC Department of Insurance can help you with your health insurance questions and concerns. Their staff can help you:

- File a written complaint if you are not happy with an action taken by your insurance company
- Understand your rights and responsibilities regarding health insurance coverage
- File a medical appeal with your insurance company
- Request an external review if your claim was denied

How can the NC DOI help you? Call them toll-free at 855-408-1212.

## Anson County's YouTube Channel

You can watch Anson County Commissioner meetings on the county YouTube channel. To locate the channel go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for: "Anson County Government."

There is a link on the Anson County homepage ([www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us)) as well. Click "Live Broadcast."

## Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

## Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard Updated 12-22-2021

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson Early College High School	6	0	1	0
Anson High School	43	3	8	2
Anson Middle School	13	1	3	0
Ansonville Elementary	1	0	0	0
Lilesville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	3	0	2	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	1	0	1	1
Wadesboro Elementary	5	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	1	0	0	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	0
Transportation	N/A	1	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	0	N/A	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Students + Employees</b>	<b>78</b>		<b>18</b>	

\*Student Enrollment as of 12/22/21 2,952  
\*Enrollment changes daily  
% of Students Positive 0.51%  
# of Employees 513  
% of Employees Positive 0.58%

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