



### Anson County Board of Commissioners Meets February 4

The first regular meeting in February for the Anson County Board of Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00 p.m. The second February meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. 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.

### Anson Parks and Recreation Survey

Community Interest and Opinion Survey: Let your voice be heard today!

Anson County Parks & Recreation would like your input to help determine parks and recreation facility development priorities within the County. They would greatly appreciate your input.

Your participation will help guide parks and recreation planning and thus improve the quality of life in Anson County.

You can take the survey at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnsonSurvey2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AnsonSurvey2).

The survey link will be available for about 3-4 weeks. Please spread the word!

### Rockingham Bypass is (Finally) Open

Contract crews for the North Carolina Department of Transportation opened the new Rockingham Bypass on Tuesday, January 28, completing construction on the multi-year project. The 7.2-mile route is designated as U.S. 220/Future I-73/74 and is located from the U.S. 74 Business interchange west of Rockingham to Harrington Road. The four-lane, median-divided freeway will reduce congestion by removing interstate traffic from signalized intersections, local roads, and highways.

Crews from Vecellio & Grogan Inc. earned the construction contract in 2019 for \$146 million.

Motorists are encouraged to be aware of signage as they utilize the new bypass.

### Anson County Bridge to be Replaced

An Anson County bridge will soon be upgraded, thanks to a \$3.8 million contract the North Carolina Department of Transportation recently awarded to Sanford Contractors, Inc. out of Lemon Springs. Contract crews will replace the bridge on N.C. 742 over Richardson Creek, built in 1953, with a three-span cored slab bridge. The contractor will also install drainage improvements and will level and resurface N.C. 742.

The new bridge will be built behind existing guardrail, away from traffic. Lane closures will be utilized as needed. Once complete, traffic will be shifted to the new bridge, allowing crews to demolish the old bridge, remove old pavement and stabilize side slopes.

Work can start as early as this week, with bridge construction scheduled for a summer 2026 completion. Vegetation and landscaping will be ongoing through winter 2027.

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

### Parent / Teacher Conferences are February 6 & 13

• **February 6 - Middle School & High Schools Parent / Teacher Conferences** will be held on Thursday, February 6. Early dismissal for middle & high schools only at 1:00 p.m. Conferences 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

• **February 13 - Elementary Schools Parent / Teacher Conferences** will be held on Thursday, February 13. Early dismissal for elementary schools only at 12:30 p.m. Conferences 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### Peachland-Polkton Elementary School Terrific Kids

Peachland-Polkton Elementary School held its Terrific Kids Celebration for the third nine weeks on Tuesday, January 28. Pictured above are the students who were recognized for this honor. We are proud of these students for showing good character!

From left, front row: Ja'Hari Hancock, Madisyn Melton, Milajah Hall, Joshua Watts, Veronica Perez, Raelynn Tillman, Liam Barrett, Hank Strawn, Rosy Erazo, Jett Hanna, Merritt Taylor, Grayson Bricker, Joshua Hillard, Skylar Parker and Madison Taft.

Second row: Jayden Botello, Bayla Funderburke, Avalee Powell, Wyatt Le, Samuel Marsh, Emma Winfrey, Zac McFadden, Bernardo Rodriguez, Logan Edwards, Isobel Kobersy, Mi'khiya Hall, Laya Little and Mila Moreno.

Third row: Austin Sheppard, Ava Laws, Justin Adams, Stephanie Marsh, Elizabeth Perez, Dariela Garcia, Emily Morales, Kaley Horne, Jaxsen Wright, Bryant Barnhill, Paisley Martin, Zayden Little, Calvin Berry and Paola Castaneda.

Fourth row: Holden Taylor, Brandon Stansberry, Weston Treadaway, Robin Helms, Jesus Castrejon, Saydee Staton, Telaeya Chambers, Eli Bennett, Brantley Horne, Ava Davis and Zaveion Marsh. Not pictured: Christian Zuniga.

### 2024: A Strong Year for New Jobs and Investment in NC

#### 16,956 new jobs announced & companies set to invest \$15.2 billion in the state

The State of North Carolina announced 16,956 new jobs in the state in 2024, representing 218 business recruitment, expansion or rural development projects that engaged with the North Carolina Department of Commerce or its team at the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. in 2024. These projects will bring \$15.2 billion of capital investment into the state.

"Thanks to our talented workforce and our robust business environment, North Carolina is a top state for work and business," said Governor Josh Stein. "As Governor, I will continue to invest in our economic development and ensure that these opportunities reach all corners of our state."

The 2024 performance tops 2023's announcements of 14,114 jobs and \$12.9 billion of capital investment. In July, CNBC ranked North Carolina second in its Top States for Business review, the fifth year in a row the state has ranked in one of the top three positions in the network's analysis of the best states to do business in the United States (North Carolina ranked first in both 2022 and 2023).

"North Carolina's economic development team continues to perform at the highest level as the most dynamic companies from around the world recognize us as a top state for business," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. "We'll continue to bring great jobs for all North Carolinians while focusing our attention on building back stronger than ever in Western North Carolina. I am excited to get to work with this great team."

- Natron Energy's selection of Edgecombe County and the Kingsboro Megafactory for the first sodium-ion battery gigafactory in the United States, which will create 1,062 jobs;
- Novo Nordisk's decision to expand its manufacturing operations in Johnston County, creating 1,000 jobs;
- Boviet Solar's choice of Pitt County for a major solar panel manufacturing facility, creating 908 jobs;
- Ross Stores' choice of Randolph County for a Southeast region distribution center, creating 852 jobs;
- FUJIFILM Diosynth's choice to expand its new Wake County biopharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, creating an additional 680 jobs.

Significant projects in the state's Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties, in addition to the Natron Energy, Boviet Solar, and Ross Stores projects include:

- Johnson & Johnson's (Janssen Biotech) decision to invest \$2 billion in Wilson County to build a new pharmaceutical manufacturing campus in the City of Wilson, creating 420 jobs;
- SCHOTT Pharma USA's selection of Wilson County for a new production facility, creating 401 new jobs;
- American Titanium Metal's selection of Cumberland County for a new manufacturing facility to produce aerospace-grade titanium, creating 304 jobs in Fayetteville;
- Amrep Manufacturing Company's selection of Rowan County for an expansion, creating 170 jobs to produce front-load and side-load trucks for waste collection;
- Kyowa Kirin's selection of Lee County for the Japanese company's first North American pharmaceutical manufacturing operation, creating 102 jobs in Sanford.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce serves as the state's lead agency for community, workforce, and economic development. A searchable directory of all the programs and services offered by the department is available at [commerce.nc.gov/directory](http://commerce.nc.gov/directory).

### North Carolina's December Employment Figures

The state's seasonally adjusted December 2024 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from November's revised rate. The national rate decreased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent.

North Carolina's unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 1,224 over the month to 5,066,954 and increased 5,467 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 188 over the month to 196,926 and increased 9,526 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, increased 10,600 to 5,050,700 in December. Major industries experiencing increases were Professional & Business Services, 5,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 3,600; Education & Health Services, 1,800; Manufacturing, 900; Construction, 600; and Government, 600. Major industries experiencing decreases were Financial Activities, 900; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 700; Information, 500; and Other Services, 100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since December 2023, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 85,100 with the Total Private sector increasing by 69,300 and Government increasing by 15,800. Major industries experiencing increases were Education & Health Services, 29,200; Professional & Business Services, 19,300; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 18,500; Government, 15,800; Construction, 8,700; Other Services, 5,300; and Financial Activities, 600. Major industries experiencing decreases over the year were Manufacturing, 7,800; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,800; and Information, 700. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged over the year.

### 4-H Clover Crawl Social is Back!

Anson County 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise is pleased to announce that the Clover Crawl is back. The event will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025, at a NEW location, Flake Haven, located at 5298 Highway 742 North, Wadesboro, from 6:00 until 11:00 p.m. The Clover Crawl is an adult event, 21 and over.

Advanced tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at the Extension Office, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro, Lacy's, or from committee members. Ticket price at the door will be \$60. Also, tables can be purchased which includes eight tickets for \$500. If you are interested in purchasing a table, please call the Extension Office. Tables are selling fast so don't wait, get yours today.

Funds raised during this event are used to support ongoing 4-H programs in the county. The money raised from the Clover Crawl will support programs that address the well being of youth, families, and communities in Anson County.

4-H programs annually reach over 1,815 young people in the community. Youth participate in activities and programs such as school enrichment, summer camps, after school programming, community service and other year-round educational programs.

Anson 4-H and 4-H Youth Promise also works with adults, volunteer leaders and youth to provide community projects, parenting skills and enhanced leadership abilities. All 4-H programming is available to any youth between ages 5-19.

4-H programs have had much impact on the youth in this county through the years. With the public's help and support, 4-H programs can continue to make contributions to their future, and the future of our county.

To learn more information about this event please contact, Sam Cole, 4-H Agent, at 704-694-2915.