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## Church

**MAY 18**  
**Free Giveaway of Clothes, Shoes & More!** at Morning Star Redeemed Church of God, 10am-1pm. 120 First Street in Lilesville.  
**Yard Sale, Collard Green Sandwiches & Hot Dogs** at Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church beginning at 7:30am. A variety of items, something for everyone!

**31st Anniversary Bessie Chapel Male Chorus** 2pm at Bessie's Chapel AME Zion Church on Ingram Mountain Rd in Lilesville. Info 704-465-6693.

**MAY 26**  
**59th Church Anniversary** at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Bishop Carol Hall of Grace and Mercy Cathedral Ministries. All are invited.

## Events

**MAY 16**  
**Free Food Anson Mobile Food Market** at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School on Hwy 74 between Polkton & Peachland, 4pm. Fresh veggies, fruit & bread if available. Blood pressure checks, along with healthy living topics & booths. Nothing required to receive food, just come! Sponsored by Anson Extension Service.

**MAY 19**  
**NAACP Meeting** They invited you to attend. 5pm at the HOLLA! Community Center, 229 E. Main St. in Morven. NAACP meets every 3rd Sunday of the month. For info: Sinic Marsh [mrschs6@yahoo.com](mailto:mrschs6@yahoo.com) or 704-254-0630.

**MAY 20**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting** Closed Session begins 3:30pm for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143-318-11(a)(1), NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) & NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5). Open Session begins at 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (*Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.*) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

**ONGOING EVENTS**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** Regular meetings on Mondays at 7:30pm and Wednesdays at 12 noon. AA welcomes all who are seeking help, as well those wanting to help another person. The AA building is located at 2177 Country Club Rd. in Wadesboro, across from the Anson EMS building.

## Significant Economic Impact for NC Generated by NASCAR All-Star Race at North Wilkesboro Speedway

Following State Investments to renovate speedways across NC, NASCAR All Star Race returned to North Wilkesboro in 2023 and 2024

In advance of the 2024 NASCAR All Star Race, North Carolinians got a glimpse of the economic impact provided by last year's event. Governor Roy Cooper announced a new report from the NC Department of Commerce showing the impact of hosting the 2023 NASCAR All Star Race at North Wilkesboro Speedway. The event:

- Created 625 jobs for North Carolinians
- Increased the value of the statewide economy by \$42.4 million
- Increased statewide labor income by \$27.9 million
- Led to over \$20 million in direct construction and infrastructure investment in Wilkes County
- Generated nearly \$29 million in visitor spending

"When we made the bipartisan decision to invest federal relief funds from the Biden Administration to renovate speedways, we knew it would put money in the pockets of North Carolina families. The data is in and we were right that bringing NASCAR racing back to North Wilkesboro not only brings back a great sport, but tens of millions of dollars and good jobs for North Carolinians," said Governor Cooper.

"Grants from our Motorsports Relief Fund have turbocharged tourism, from places like the North Wilkesboro Speedway to racing venues all across the state," said Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "Small businesses in each of these communities benefit from this investment in one of North Carolina's most important economic engines."

"In 2023, North Wilkesboro Speedway hosted race fans from all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and seven foreign countries as far away as Australia during NASCAR All-Star Race weekend," said Speedway Motorsports President and CEO Marcus Smith. "We're very grateful for the financial and community support both from the state and local levels that enabled us to modernize the facility while still maintaining its historic character. This is a place where history continues to be made and fans can continue to be a part of it. We look forward to hosting race fans again in two weeks for the 40th running of the NASCAR All-Star Race."

In his 2021 budget proposal, Governor Cooper included funds to revitalize speedways across North Carolina. In November 2021, the Governor signed the state budget that included these funds. The budget allocated American Rescue Plan funding to speedways across the state, with North Wilkesboro Speedway receiving \$18 million. The funding went toward new safety barriers, lighting, paving, fencing, roofing, internet, the public address system and HVAC and electrical equipment, as well as refurbished bathrooms and concession areas. These upgrades were critical to the decision that the 2023 NASCAR All-Star Race would be held at North Wilkesboro Speedway.

In May 2022, Governor Cooper and the North Carolina Department of Commerce announced that 15 local governments were awarded \$45.8 million to help 17 motorsports venues recover from the pandemic. The money was used for public infrastructure and facility upgrades to the speedways. The grants enhanced local tourism, travel and hospitality industries that benefit from the many motorsports events held in North Carolina.

Legendary North Wilkesboro Speedway is one of the first NASCAR tracks. The final NASCAR Cup Series race at North Wilkesboro was held in 1996 and won by NASCAR Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon. The track sat largely abandoned, but in recent years, the community made significant efforts to revitalize the track.

In May 2022, Governor Cooper visited the North Wilkesboro Speedway to highlight the significant investments it is receiving for repairs from the state budget. Racing officially returned to North Wilkesboro Speedway on August 31, 2022 for the Window World 125 race, where fans sold out the stadium. The 2023 NASCAR All Star Race returned to North Wilkesboro on May of 2023, in front of a packed crowd of 39,000.

The 2024 NASCAR All Star Race will return to North Wilkesboro on May 19. Read the Report at [governor.nc.gov](http://governor.nc.gov) 2023 All-Star Race.

## Bowman Senior High School Alumni Reunion

A Bowman Senior High School Alumni Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 8 at Anson Middle School (the former Bowman Senior High School), located on Highway 52 North in Wadesboro. Activities will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Classmates, friends and family are invited for outside activities from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be lots of vendors, food, games, booths, bouncy house, and much more! Bring your lawn chair and/or tent.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. and running until 10:00 p.m. is a social for classmates from the years 1968-1984 and guests.

For more information about this exciting event you can contact Lorraine at 813-573-4977, Jeffrey at 704-572-3966 or Mary at 843-910-0018.

This is a no-alcohol event.

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