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

Grace Senior Center June Activities

The Grace Senior Center still has plenty of free activities planned for the remainder of June, offering local seniors opportunities for fitness, learning, creativity and fellowship. **ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!**

- Upcoming events include:
- June 18 – Cupcake Flowers Workshop & Exercise Session, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Line Dancing, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 - June 19 – Center closed in observance of Juneteenth.
 - June 22 – Bingo, 1-2 p.m.
 - June 23 – Exercise Session, 10-11 a.m.; Men's Health and Grooming Tips presented by Tite Cutz, 11 a.m.-noon; Afternoon Exercise Session, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
 - June 24 – Claris Companion Tablet Workshop, 1-2 p.m.
 - June 25 – Summertime Karaoke and Afternoon Exercise Session, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Line Dancing, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 - June 26 – Finger Painting Workshop, 1-3 p.m.
- New participants are always welcome.
For more information, call 704-694-6616.
Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA on the left.

Anson Farmers Market Invites the Community to Give the Gift of Life

Fresh produce, local vendors and a chance to save lives will come together at the Anson County Farmers Market on Saturday, June 20, when the market hosts a blood drive with OneBlood from 8 a.m. until noon.

The blood drive will take place during the weekly market at 1736 Highway 52 in Wadesboro and offers community members an opportunity to make a difference close to home. Blood collected through OneBlood helps provide a safe and ready blood supply to hospitals throughout the southeastern United States, including Atrium Health Anson.

Market Board Chairperson Stephen Lee says the event is all about neighbors helping neighbors.

"We all know someone or have been the someone who had needed blood at some point," Lee said. "This is about community giving back to the community."

Donors may give whole blood or participate in a double red/red cell plasma donation. Appointments can be scheduled in advance at www.oneblood.org, although walk-ins are also welcome.

As a thank-you for donating, participants will receive a sunshade and a \$20 e-gift card.

The blood drive is another way the Farmers Market is working to serve the community beyond providing fresh, locally grown products. Organizers encourage residents to stop by, shop the market and consider making a donation that could help save lives.

For more information about the Anson County Farmers Market or how to become involved, contact Liesl Hall at 704-238-7104 or ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com. Information is also available through the Facebook page and on Instagram at [@ansoncountyfarmersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/ansoncountyfarmersmarket).

Unauthorized Fire Hydrant Use Can Lead to Legal Action

County residents asked to report suspicious activity

The Anson County Water Department is reminding residents and businesses that taking water from county fire hydrants without proper authorization is illegal and could result in legal action. The warning comes as officials continue efforts to protect the county's water system and ensure that hydrants remain available for their intended purposes.

According to the Water Department, fire hydrants may only be used by individuals or organizations that have received written permission from the department, as well as authorized water system personnel and fire department personnel. Using hydrants for agricultural, construction, landscaping, dust control, or any other purpose without written consent is considered a violation of state and federal law.

Officials note that unauthorized hydrant use can create several problems. In addition to the loss of treated drinking water, improper use of hydrants can reduce water pressure in nearby areas, potentially affecting fire protection capabilities and water service to customers. Unauthorized connections can also damage hydrants and other parts of the water distribution system.

The Water Department has stated that it will pursue legal action against any individual or business found unlawfully obtaining water from the county system.

Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity involving fire hydrants. Anyone observing unauthorized water withdrawals or unusual activity around hydrants should contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office at 704-694-4188 or the Anson County Water Department at 704-694-5208.

For those who have a legitimate need to obtain water from county hydrants, permit information is available through the Anson County Water Department by calling 704-694-5208.

Anson Schools Announces Planned Calendar Change for 2026-2027

Anson County Schools is giving families, employees and community members an early heads-up about a planned change to the 2026-2027 school calendar.

District officials announced that, due to the current circumstances surrounding North Carolina's Public School Calendar Law, the Anson County Board of Education intends to revise the upcoming school calendar so that the school year begins no earlier than August 24, 2026.

Although the revised calendar will not be formally considered and approved until July, school leaders wanted to provide advance notice to help families and employees begin making plans with the expectation that the start of the school year will be adjusted accordingly.

Once the Board of Education takes final action, the approved calendar will be posted on the Anson County Schools website and shared with families, employees and the community.

School officials expressed appreciation for the patience and understanding of students, parents, staff and community members as the district works to keep everyone informed about the upcoming changes.



2026 Anson Junior Marshals

Congratulations to the 2026 Anson Schools Junior Marshals. These rising seniors from Anson County Early College and Anson High School are recognized for their academic excellence.

Junior Marshals represent some of the highest-achieving students in their class and have demonstrated a strong commitment to scholarship, leadership, and personal responsibility. Selected based on their outstanding academic performance, they serve as role models for their fellow students and they play an important role during the commencement exercises and other school ceremonies.

The honor reflects years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance in the classroom. Family members, teachers, administrators, and the entire Anson County community join in congratulating these exceptional students on their achievement and wish them continued success as they enter their senior year.

Anson Early College Marshals Jaycee Blair Biggers, Luis Fernando Flores-Garcia, Legaci MiAngelTahazia Horne, A'Vion Montrell Ingram and MaiHoua Sophia Yang.

Anson High School Marshals Faith Katherine Abee, Adam Efird Brock, Alyssa Leigh Campbell, Elizabeth Gray Carpenter, Zialyn Camonie Denise Clark, GJ Murray Rulida Crodua, Clinton Graham Davis, Reagan Ashlee Diggs, Gretchen Leigh Henry, Natalie Marie Horne, Andrew Wesley Martin, Camille Harmony Miller, Trang Thi Nguyen, Abby Melissa Steele and Devon Scott Tucker.

Anson County Celebrates Opening of New Middle School

Anson County Schools marked a historic milestone on June 11 as community leaders, elected officials, former superintendents, project partners, and special guests gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Anson Middle School. The ceremony celebrated the completion of a project years in the making, one built through planning, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the students and families of Anson County.

School leaders emphasized that the new facility represents far more than a new building. They described it as an investment in opportunity and in the future of the community.

One of the most memorable moments of the ceremony came when five students who participated in the original groundbreaking as fifth graders returned as rising eighth graders to help officially open the school. Their presence served as a reminder that the facility was built for today's students and for generations to come.

In the months ahead, the new school will become home to learning, leadership development, achievement & personal growth. School officials noted that it will provide students with opportunities to discover new interests, develop talents, build friendships, and participate in athletics, arts programs, clubs, leadership activities, and community service.

The facility will also help prepare students for high school, higher education, careers, and future leadership roles within their communities.

While the school is designed to serve middle school students, district leaders stressed that its impact will extend well beyond the classroom. Strong public schools help attract families and businesses, strengthen the local workforce, and create opportunities that benefit the entire community.

"Public schools are where futures are built, dreams are discovered, and possibilities become realities," school officials said.

Anson County Schools plans to welcome the public to a special open house in August, giving community members an opportunity to tour the new facility and celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in local education.

The opening of the new Anson Middle School stands as a significant investment in the future of Anson County and in the generations of Bearcats who will walk its halls in the years ahead.



Community Asked to Help Find New Home for Toys for Tots Campaign

For generations, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has helped bring joy, hope and a little Christmas magic to children whose families may be facing difficult financial circumstances. Now, as planning begins for the 2026 holiday season, local organizers are asking Anson County residents to help keep that tradition alive.

The Anson County Toys for Tots campaign is seeking a new building or warehouse location to serve as its operational headquarters for the 2026 season. Organizers are looking for approximately 1,800 square feet or more of space where volunteers can receive, sort, store and distribute toys collected throughout the community.

Founded in 1947 by members of the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots has grown into one of the nation's best-known charitable programs, helping ensure that Christmas morning is a little brighter for families in need.

Locally, the annual campaign has become an important community effort, relying on volunteers, businesses, churches and generous donors to make the program successful. Volunteers spend months collecting toys, organizing donation drives, sorting inventory and preparing distributions for families throughout Anson County and surrounding areas.

Organizers say the ideal facility would include access to a loading dock or a forklift to assist with handling large shipments of toys. Because much of the work takes place during evenings and weekends, 24-hour access to the building is also considered essential.

Community leaders, business owners, churches and property managers with available warehouse or commercial space are encouraged to consider partnering with the program. A donated or low-cost facility can make a significant difference in helping the campaign continue its mission of serving local children.

Those interested in providing a location for the 2026 Toys for Tots campaign may contact the Anson County coordinator at 704-294-2612 or by email at Anson.County.NC@toysfortots.org.

As preparations for the next holiday season begin, organizers say the success of Toys for Tots continues to depend on community support and generosity. With the right location and dedicated volunteers, the program will once again work to deliver hope, one toy at a time, to children throughout Anson County.

Juneteenth Observance is this Friday, June 19

Residents across Anson County and the nation will observe Juneteenth on Friday, June 19, a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and celebrates African American freedom, history, and culture.

Juneteenth marks June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved people were free - more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Recognized as a federal holiday since 2021, Juneteenth is often celebrated with community gatherings, educational programs, music, food, and family activities. The day serves as both a celebration of freedom and an opportunity to reflect on the nation's history and the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice.

As the holiday approaches, residents are encouraged to check local schedules, as some government offices, banks, and other services may observe modified hours or closures in recognition of the holiday.

Juneteenth continues to be a time for communities to come together, honor the past, and celebrate the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout the nation's history.