

THE EXPRESS

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

School Board Meeting is July 27

Public invited to attend or tune in online

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 27. The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

A closed session will begin immediately following the opening of the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The closed session will be held for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5).

The open session, which is open to the public, will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will also be live-streamed on the Anson County Schools YouTube channel for community members who wish to view the proceedings remotely.

Individuals or groups wishing to address the Board during public comment may sign up in person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the beginning of the meeting. Public comment will take place during the open session at 6:00 p.m.

Community Open House for New Anson Middle School is August 20

The public is invited to tour the new school facility and celebrate milestone

After years of planning and construction, Anson County Schools is inviting the community to celebrate the opening of the new Anson Middle School during a Community Open House on Thursday, August 20, 2026.

The event will provide an opportunity for alumni, former employees, community partners and residents from across Anson County to tour the new facility and experience the modern learning environment created for students.

The Community Open House will be held from 6:15 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the new Anson Middle School, located at 290 Anson High School Road in Wadesboro.

School officials encourage everyone who has supported Anson County Schools over the years to attend the event and help celebrate this important milestone.

“Whether you’re an alumni, former employee, community partner, or simply someone who calls Anson County home, we invite you to come experience this beautiful new facility and celebrate this exciting milestone with us,” school officials said.

The event reflects the district’s continued commitment to providing opportunities and modern facilities for students and the community.

The theme for the celebration is “One Community. One Mission. We Are Anson!”

Beekeepers Association July Meeting

The Anson County Beekeepers Association will hold its monthly bee meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2026. Members and anyone interested in learning more about beekeeping are invited to attend.

ACBA Vice-President Chelsea Autry will present a program on comb pests, including hive beetles and wax moths. She will also provide an update on the recent queen bee rearing class.

The meeting will also include a 50/50 drawing, and attendees are encouraged to bring items for door prizes.

For additional information and meeting details, visit the Anson County Beekeepers Association Facebook page. Whether you are an experienced beekeeper or simply curious about the busy world inside a hive, everyone is welcome to join the conversation - and perhaps learn that bees are not just experts at making honey, but also at keeping their human helpers busy.

2026 Anson Ag Expo & Fair Dates

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Anson Ag Expo & Fair, which will be held September 15-19. Planning is already underway as the event committee prepares for another year of traditional fall festivities celebrating agriculture and the Anson County community.

The annual 4-H Youth Livestock Show has been renamed the Rocky River Youth Livestock Classic. The event will be held at the Stanly County Livestock Arena, located at 26130 Newt Road in Albemarle.

The livestock competition schedule includes heifers on Friday, Aug. 14, and lambs & goats on Saturday, Aug. 15.

The Anson Ag Expo & Fair will return to the Anson County Cooperative Extension Center in Wadesboro on Saturday, September 19. The Ag Fair will be open to the public from noon until 2:00 p.m.

Additional information, including the release of the fair book and other event details, will be announced as plans continue. Organizers invite everyone to come out, enjoy the festivities and help celebrate the importance of agriculture in Anson County.

Speeding Slows You Down Campaign

Wadesboro Police Department joins statewide effort to promote safer driving

The Wadesboro Police Department has joined law enforcement agencies across North Carolina in the Governor’s Highway Safety Program’s “Speeding Slows You Down” campaign that continues through July 26.

During the statewide enforcement effort, officers will increase traffic enforcement with a focus on reducing speeding and reckless driving. The goal is to encourage safer driving habits and help prevent crashes on NC roads.

Speeding continues to be a major factor in many traffic collisions, putting drivers, passengers, pedestrians and other motorists at risk. Officials remind drivers that obeying posted speed limits and practicing safe driving habits can help protect everyone traveling in the community.

Drivers are encouraged to:

- Obey the speed limit.
- Leave early so there is no need to rush.
- Stay alert and avoid distractions while driving.

The Wadesboro Police Department encourages everyone to slow down, stay safe and arrive alive. Small choices behind the wheel can make a big difference in keeping North Carolina roads safer for everyone.



America 250 Locomotive Celebration Coming to NCTransportation Museum

Specially painted locomotives to gather for once-in-a-lifetime railroad event

Railroad enthusiasts and history lovers will have a rare opportunity to see a piece of American railroad history when the America 250 Locomotive Celebration comes to the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, North Carolina, August 28-30.

The three-day event will bring together specially painted locomotives from Class I, short line and passenger railroads as part of the nation’s celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence.

For the first and only time, the commemorative America 250 locomotives will gather at one location, allowing visitors to photograph the historic collection, watch locomotives rotate on the museum’s Bob Julian Roundhouse turntable, and enjoy train rides around the campus pulled by one of the museum’s diesel locomotives.

The North Carolina Transportation Museum, Trains Magazine and White River Productions are partnering to present the event at the museum’s campus, home to the largest surviving roundhouse in North America.

“America 250 Locomotive Celebration continues that tradition and gives the American public a chance to witness a piece of living railroad history,” said Museum Director Kelly Alexander, noting the museum’s history of hosting major railroad gatherings.

The event will feature daily photo opportunities as locomotives are rotated on the turntable and arranged in groupings by railroad. Night photography sessions and train rides will also be available.

Organizers say the gathering will create one of the defining railroad photographs of the semiquincentennial year, with the Bob Julian Roundhouse providing the backdrop for a display of red, white and blue locomotives.

The celebration follows two previous landmark events held at Spencer. The 2012 Norfolk Southern Heritage Locomotive Family Portrait attracted more than 4,000 visitors from 39 states and several countries. Streamliners at Spencer in 2014 brought attendees from 41 states and around the world to see 26 historic streamlined locomotives assembled at the roundhouse.

Ticket information and additional details are available at www.nctransportationmuseum.org. Tickets are on sale now.

The North Carolina Transportation Museum is located at 1 Samuel Spencer Drive, Spencer. The event offers a unique chance to celebrate both America’s 250-year history and the powerful role railroads have played in building the nation - proving that even after two and a half centuries, America still knows how to keep things moving.

Boil Water Advisory Lifted After Massive Community Response

Water system restored following repairs, testing and countywide recovery effort

Anson County residents are once again able to use their water normally after officials lifted the countywide boil water advisory on Saturday, July 18, marking the end of an unprecedented emergency that disrupted daily life across the county for much of the past week.

The advisory was lifted after repairs to the county’s water system were completed, pressure throughout the system was restored, extensive flushing operations were conducted, and multiple rounds of laboratory testing confirmed the water met all state drinking water standards. Officials said clean and safe drinking water is once again being delivered throughout the Anson County water system.

Although the advisory has ended, residents may continue to notice a chlorine taste or odor in their water for a short time. County officials said this is a normal result of the disinfection process used during system restoration and remains well within safe drinking water standards.

The emergency began when a major water main failure interrupted service across much of the county, leading to a countywide boil water advisory and prompting an extensive response involving local, state and private-sector partners. In the days that followed, utility crews worked around the clock to repair the damaged system, restore water pressure, flush water lines and collect samples for laboratory testing before the advisory could be lifted.

The recovery effort grew into one of the largest coordinated emergency responses in recent county history. According to Anson County, more than 40 agencies, organizations and private-sector partners assisted with response and recovery efforts. Their work included emergency water distribution, technical support, water system repairs, laboratory testing, traffic control, emergency management coordination and direct assistance to affected residents.

More than 300 pallets of bottled water - representing approximately 600,000 individual bottles or nearly 80,000 gallons of drinking water - were received and distributed to residents during the emergency through the efforts of county staff, volunteer fire departments and numerous community partners. Those figures do not include the substantial amount of bottled water that was privately donated and distributed by businesses, churches, civic organizations and individuals throughout the county, meaning the total amount of emergency drinking water provided to residents was considerably higher.

Assistant County Manager and Planning Director Nick Addison said restoring water service was only part of the mission. “Restoring water service was only the first part of the process; ensuring that water was safe for our residents was the priority,” Addison said. “Our teams and partners worked continuously to repair, stabilize, flush and test the system so we could confidently lift the Boil Water Advisory once water quality requirements were met.”

He also thanked the county’s utility crews, employees, local governments, partner agencies, contractors and residents, saying the community’s patience and cooperation played an important role in the successful recovery.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Jamie Caudle said the emergency demonstrated the strength of the community. “The past several days have tested our community, but they have also shown what makes Anson County special,” Caudle said. “I want to thank our residents for their patience and their willingness to work together during this difficult time.”

County government praised the coordinated response that began within hours of the initial system failure and continued until safe drinking water was restored. They credited emergency management partners, state agencies, local governments, volunteer fire departments, nonprofit organizations and private-sector businesses for bringing extensive resources to Anson County during the crisis.

Following the announcement that the advisory had been lifted, county officials also expressed appreciation to residents for their patience, cooperation and resilience throughout the emergency. They recognized the tireless work of utility crews, county employees, emergency services personnel, volunteer fire departments, partner agencies, local governments and businesses whose combined efforts helped restore service safely and efficiently.

Although normal operations have resumed, county officials said the work is not completely finished. Anson County will conduct a comprehensive after-action review to evaluate the emergency response, identify lessons learned and determine ways to strengthen future emergency response procedures and public communication.

For residents who spent days boiling water, picking up bottled water and adapting to the disruption, Saturday’s announcement marked a welcome return to normal and the successful conclusion of a communitywide effort that brought together hundreds of people working toward a common goal.

As the county moves forward, officials also continue pursuing long-term improvements to the aging water system. Among those efforts is a proposed \$100 million grant application that would fund major upgrades to water infrastructure throughout Anson County. County leaders have described the project as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize the system, improve reliability and help reduce the likelihood of similar emergencies in the future.

Bluegrass Jam Returns to Hampton B. Allen Library

If you’ve ever wondered how many banjos, guitars and mandolins can happily play at the same time, here’s your chance to find out. The Hampton B. Allen Library’s ongoing Bluegrass Acoustic Session returns Thursday, July 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the library’s Little Theater.

Whether you’re an experienced picker, a first-time player, a singer or someone who simply enjoys tapping a foot while trying to guess which instrument is taking the lead, you’re invited to join the fun. Musicians and spectators of all ages and skill levels are welcome.

Children ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the Hampton B. Allen Library at 704-694-5177.