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



School Board Meeting is September 29

Public invited to attend or watch online

The Anson County Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 29, in the Administrative Board Room at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro. Closed Session will begin immediately after the meeting opens at 5:00 p.m. to discuss matters related to personnel and property pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) and NCGS 143.318.11(a)(5).

Open Session for the public will begin at 6:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to speak during public comment may sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting for individuals or groups who want to address the board. Public comment will be held during the Open Session portion of the meeting.

The meeting will also be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel. To tune in, simply search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

Medicare Beneficiaries Urged to Review Their 2026 Options

Open Enrollment begins October 15 Local assistance is available through Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is reminding Medicare beneficiaries that the annual Open Enrollment Period begins October 15 and runs through December 7. This eight-week window is the time to compare plans, make changes, and ensure uninterrupted coverage beginning January 1, 2026.

"What worked for you this year may not be the best plan for you in 2026," Causey said. "It is important to take advantage of the Open Enrollment Period by contacting local Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselors to save money, improve your coverage, or both."

Even those satisfied with their current Medicare Advantage or Part D plan are encouraged to review other options, as there may be more affordable or comprehensive plans available. SHIIP, a division of the N.C. Department of Insurance, provides free and unbiased information on Medicare health and drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance, and more. SHIIP counselors can also assist beneficiaries in determining eligibility for cost savings programs.

Beneficiaries can review plans and enroll by: • Calling a local SHIIP office or 1-855-408-1212

- (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Visiting www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan
- · Reviewing the Medicare & You handbook mailed in September
- Calling 1-800-MEDICARE (24/7) or TTY 1-877-486-2048
- Consulting with a licensed insurance agent
- For more information about SHIIP and Medicare Open Enrollment, call 1-855-408-1212 or visit: www.ncshiip.com.

Toys For Tots Kicks Off 2025 Campaign In Anson County

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program of Anson County will launch its 2025 campaign on October 1. Last year, thanks to the generosity of residents, businesses, and volunteers, more than 800 local children received new toys. Organizers hope to triple that number

Families and nonprofits serving over 25 families can apply for toys online at Anson. County. NC. toys for tots. org between October 1 and November 15. The site also offers options to volunteer, host an event, or request a business drop box. Toy distribution dates and locations

will be announced later. To qualify, applicants must be Anson County residents with children ages 0-15, and families must show proof of Medicaid, food assistance, cash assistance, or

unemployment. Nonprofits must provide a federal tax ID. Volunteers are needed to assist with toy drop boxes and warehouse operations. Updates will be shared on

Facebook at facebook.com/AnsonCountyNCtoysfortots. For questions, contact Coordinator Lamar Liles at 704-294-2612 or email Anson. County. NC@toysfortots.org.

Anson Senior High Class Of 1985 Celebrates In Style

Reunion filled with laughter, music, and gratitude

What a night to remember! The Anson Senior High Class of 1985 recently gathered to celebrate their milestone 40th reunion - and what a time it was. Classmates laughed, hugged, reminisced, and gave thanks for the blessing of being together again.

To those who came out, your presence made the night unforgettable. To those who couldn't make it, you were deeply missed but carried in spirit.

Special thanks go out to the many who helped make the celebration shine: The Express for spreading the word, Faith Catering for the delicious food, DJ Shaq for keeping the dance floor alive, Telesha Rae "Sunshine" Heilig for capturing the memories, and Twin Valley Country Club for hosting us in style.

For the Class of '85, this reunion wasn't just an event - it was a reminder of lasting friendships, shared history, and blessings too many to count. Truly, a successful event for the books. Here's to more milestones ahead!

Courtesy of Tracy Merriman. Photo by Telesha Heilig.

Duke Energy Proposes Massive Solar Energy Complex in Anson County

Open house meeting set for Thursday, October 2 Community participation in the meeting is urged

This is a Duke Energy press release. Website with this press release & proposed Anson Energy Complex site map: duke-energy.com/info/anson

Anson Energy Complex - Proposed solar center with potential battery energy storage.

At Duke Energy, we're working to support the needs of a growing and vibrant region with reliable and increasingly clean energy while keeping costs as low as possible. Developing innovative renewable power projects with battery storage is one part of our broader strategy to make improvements to the grid, meet rising energy demands with new energy resources and invest in local communities.

Project Overview

We're proposing to develop the Anson Energy Complex that will be composed of two solar centers with energy storage facilities located off Highway 109 and Pleasant Grove Church Road, northeast of Wadesboro.

Solar Center Anson 300-megawatt (MW) site paired with 105 MW of battery energy storage (BESS).

Anson Solar Center 2 is a proposed 172-MW solar project paired with a 70-MW BESS.

Each BESS will be charged with clean solar energy and can be used to increase grid reliability and provide needed power during periods of peak power demand. Co-locating solar and energy storage is a cost-effective way to maximize renewable energy, minimize our generation footprint and provide the power our growing communities need.

Benefits to the Community

- Provide approximately 472 MW of clean, renewable energy
- Provide 175 MW of energy storage
- Increase tax revenue for Anson County · Generate economic benefits to local
- businesses during construction Help improve overall reliability of the
- electric grid

Operational Features

- Safe, quiet generation
 Low visual impact No air emissions or waste production
- Minimal water needs
- No impact on local traffic
- Pollinator-friendly plants for reseeding after construction
- Vegetative buffers from roads and neighboring properties
- Several wildlife corridors planned

Project Schedule This project is in early development and needs to go through an approval process. During construction, vehicles will deliver solar panels and energy storage equipment by a planned access route to the site. Crews will grade the site, dig trenches for cables, drive steel piles into the ground and set equipment in place with heavy equipment. As a result, neighbors may hear construction noise as crews perform this work during daylight hours. We will provide construction notifications to surrounding neighbors and make every reasonable effort to limit the impacts to you. **UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE MEETING**

You are invited to participate in an in-person meeting to learn more about the Anson Energy Complex. Please join us so we can collect important feedback from your community.

• Date: Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025

Time: Drop in anytime between 4-6 p.m.

Location: Caraway Business and Learning Center, 9162 US Highway 52 North in Ansonville - across from the fire

*Registration not necessary.

Proposed Project Schedule Construction of solar and storage facilities is expected to take 12-18 months. For a more detailed look at a typical renewable energy project schedule, please see the Sample Construction Timeline document.

- Planning and Development 2024-2028
- Construction Estimated to Begin 2029-30 • Estimated Project Completion 2030

Big Changes Coming for Retiree Health Plan in 2026

Grace Senior Center is Hosting Free Lunch and Learn

Plan that will take effect in 2026. To help navigate these updates, Grace Senior Center will host a free Medicare Eligibility State Health Plan for Retirees Lunch and Learn on Thursday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The session will provide important information about what retirees can expect from

Retirees are encouraged to stay informed about upcoming changes to the State Health

the new plan changes and how they may impact coverage. Lunch will be provided, and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in a supportive setting.

The choices you make during Open Enrollment this fall will determine your benefits for the 2026 plan year, which will be effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Open Enrollment is an ideal time to review your current coverage and options.

2026 State Health Plan Open Enrollment starts October 13-31, 2025 Space is limited, and registration is required. To reserve a spot call 704-694-6616.

No Meeting for **Anson County Beekeepers** in September

Buzzing off until October

The Anson Beekeepers are taking September off no meeting, no stings attached. Apparently, even the bees needed a break to catch up on honey-do lists and pollen-tials.

But don't worry, the hive will come alive again on Thursday, October 23, when the next meeting will bee held. Expect plenty of buzz then.

For now, sit back, enjoy your honey, and maybe give a little nod of thanks to the ees for giving us an free evening this month.

More details about the October meeting will be in The Express next month because good things come to those who wait and pollinate.

Library to **Show "Miracles** From Heaven" September 29

The Hampton B. Allen Library invites the community to a free showing of the film "Miracles from Heaven" on Monday, September 29, at 10 a.m. The screening will take place in the library's Pritchett Room.

Rated PG, the movie is open to all who would like to attend. Guests are encouraged to come out, relax, and enjoy this uplifting story in a welcoming community setting. For information call 704-

695-5188.

Chair Exercise

Classes

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone welcome. Any questions please call

704-69^î4-5177.

INSIDE THIS EDITION...SAVE COUPON BOOK

SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WITH COUPONS FOR MANY PRODUCTS THAT YOU USE EVERY DAY!

Check to see what coupons are in today's Save Coupon Book. Previous Save Coupon Books included coupons for these products:

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