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## Commissioners Meet November 17

The Anson County Board of Commissioners' only November meeting will take place on on Tuesday, November 17 at 6 p.m.

Meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center, 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* and search for Anson Commissioners.

## Farmers Market Plans Thanksgiving Event

The regular season at the Anson County Farmers Market has ended, but shoppers haven't seen the last of the market for 2026. On Saturday, November 21, from 1 to 5 p.m., the market will celebrate the approaching Thanksgiving holiday with its Thanks & Giving event. Shoppers will be encouraged to "gobble up local goodness," and a food drive benefiting Anson Crisis Ministry will be held as part of the event.

The event will be held at the covered Anson County Farmers Market, located at 1736 U.S. Highway 52 in Wadesboro. Parking is free.

Vendors interested in participating or anyone wanting additional information may contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415 or email *ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com*.

## Grace Senior Center Is Serving Up Christmas Cheer December 1!

**Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon promises holiday fellowship and festive fun**

Ho, ho, ho! Grace Senior Center is getting into the Christmas spirit, and seniors are invited to join the celebration! The center's Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon takes place on Tuesday, December 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The festive gathering will be held at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. It's a wonderful opportunity for seniors to enjoy a holiday meal, visit with friends and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year!

Registration is required and must be completed by Friday, November 20. To reserve your place, call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Please note that transportation will not be provided by Grace Senior Center, so attendees must make their own travel arrangements.

Don't let this Christmas celebration pass you by! Mark your calendar, register early and get ready for some holiday cheer. After all, Christmas calories don't count when they're served with a smile!

## Anson County Sheriff's Office Warns Residents of Phone Scam

**Caller impersonating Sheriff Scott Howell threatened local resident and demanded money**

The Anson County Sheriff's Office is warning Anson residents about a frightening phone scam involving someone impersonating Sheriff Scott Howell and demanding money.

According to the Sheriff's Office, a local woman recently received a call from someone pretending to be Howell. The caller made threats and demanded payment, leaving the woman frightened and distraught.

The Sheriff's Office emphasized that its deputies and personnel will never call residents to collect money or threaten them for failing to make a payment.

Anyone receiving such a call should hang up immediately, refuse to send money or provide personal information, and contact the Sheriff's Office directly using a trusted, publicly listed telephone number.

Officials are encouraging residents to share the warning with family members, friends and neighbors, particularly those who might be vulnerable to intimidation by someone claiming to represent law enforcement.

Remember, just because a caller claims to be the sheriff doesn't mean the sheriff is calling. And if someone claiming to be law enforcement demands money over the telephone, the safest response is to hang up and verify the call independently.

## SPCC Offers Free Job Search Assistance for Hornwood Employees

South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) is stepping up to help employees affected by the closing of Hornwood Inc., along with anyone else in the community looking for a job. The college, in partnership with NCWorks and Goodwill, will offer free employability sessions November 16, 17 and 20 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro.

The sessions are designed to help participants identify their skills, develop or improve resumes and search for available employment opportunities. Whether someone is entering the job market for the first time or looking for a fresh start, assistance will be available.

**Sessions will be held on:**

- Monday, November 16 • Tuesday, November 17
- Friday, November 20.

Each day will feature morning sessions from 8 to 11 a.m. and afternoon sessions from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The initiative comes as Hornwood Inc., a longtime Lilesville textile manufacturer, prepares to close after 80 years in business. The closure represents a significant loss to Anson County's manufacturing community, making employment assistance especially important for affected workers.

The sessions are free and open to all community members actively seeking employment, not just Hornwood employees.

For more information, contact SPCC Director of Career Services Debbie Normandia-Berrios at: *dnormandia-berrios@spcc.edu*.




## New Sewer Lines Will Bring Major Underground Improvements to Wadesboro

Some of the most important improvements taking place in Wadesboro aren't visible once the work is finished. They're buried underground, where new sewer lines are being installed to replace aging infrastructure.

This photograph, shared by Speed Hallman, was taken on East View Street, and it shows crews working on a trench approximately 14 feet deep to install a new sewer line. According to information provided from the work site, the old sewer line was buried only about two feet below the surface. That's quite a difference, and certainly a reminder that some construction projects involve a lot more digging than others.

Modern sewer systems are designed to provide reliable wastewater service for decades. New sewer pipes commonly use durable materials such as PVC, which resists corrosion and deterioration that can affect older clay, concrete and cast-iron pipes. Improved pipe joints also help reduce groundwater leaking into sewer lines, a problem that can increase the amount of water requiring treatment.

The dramatic difference in depth doesn't necessarily mean modern sewer lines must be buried deeper than older ones. Sewer depth depends on several factors, including the slope needed for wastewater to flow by gravity, the elevation of connecting pipes, underground obstacles and the layout of the surrounding sewer system. The specific reason for the 14-foot depth on East View Street has not been confirmed.

Working at that depth requires special safety precautions. The large metal structure visible inside the excavation is commonly called a trench box or trench shield. It is designed to protect workers from the dangers of collapsing soil while they install sections of pipe.

As construction progresses, crews can reposition the heavy steel shield along the trench, typically using an excavator or other lifting equipment. The shield allows workers to continue installing pipe while maintaining a protected working area.

Although the sewer construction is temporarily disrupting streets around Wadesboro, and can create inconvenience for nearby residents, the improvements are intended to provide more dependable wastewater service and reduce the likelihood of future problems.

## Anson County Health Department Offers Free and Low-Cost Cancer Screenings

**New grant helps uninsured residents access important preventive health services**

The Anson County Health Department has received a grant to help uninsured residents obtain important cancer screening services, making preventive healthcare more accessible to those who might otherwise struggle with the cost.

The program offers free or low-cost screenings designed to detect potential health problems early, when treatment is often most effective. Services include Pap smears to identify abnormal cervical cells, HPV testing, colposcopies for follow-up examinations and pelvic exams to monitor reproductive health.

Residents who are uninsured or underinsured may qualify for free or significantly discounted services through available assistance programs. All screenings and examinations are confidential.

Early detection is especially important in preventing cervical cancer, which is highly treatable when discovered in its early stages. Health officials encourage residents not to delay recommended screenings because of financial concerns.

The Anson County Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro. To learn more about available services, eligibility or scheduling an appointment, call 704-694-5188.

The Health Department reminds residents that taking care of their health today can make a tremendous difference tomorrow.

## South Piedmont Named Finalist for Prestigious National Bellwether Award

**College's Health Sciences Academy recognized for innovative approach to healthcare workforce development**

South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) has been named a finalist for the 2027 Bellwether Award, a prestigious national honor recognizing outstanding and innovative programs at community colleges across the United States. Only 30 community colleges nationwide were selected as finalists across three award categories. South Piedmont is competing in the Workforce Development category for its Health Sciences Academy, an initiative designed to address healthcare workforce shortages while creating educational and career opportunities for students.

The Health Sciences Academy is a partnership between Union County Public Schools, South Piedmont Community College and Atrium Health. The program provides a tuition-free pathway that begins with career exploration in elementary and middle school and continues through high school credentials, college degrees and employment in healthcare. Since its creation in 2017, the academy has achieved significant results. Students in the program consistently outperform their peers, with the graduating class of 2024 earning an average cumulative GPA of 3.79. One academy student was also named class valedictorian.

College credit completion has grown dramatically, increasing from 145 credits in 2024 to 696 credits in 2026. The 2026 graduating class generated $52,896 in tuition savings for participating families.

The academy has also expanded opportunities for students to earn professional healthcare certifications. In 2026, 10 students earned Certified Nursing Assistant credentials and five earned Emergency Medical Technician certifications. Seven graduating seniors also completed associate degrees while still in high school.

More than 16 academy graduates have been hired into clinical positions at Atrium Health, including family medicine, inpatient care and outpatient physical therapy. Other graduates have entered Atrium Health's Rise to Success program, which covers the cost of their South Piedmont associate degrees while they work part-time in a hospital setting.

Originally serving a single middle school, the academy has expanded into a network reaching more than 2,800 students. During one semester in 2026, its new headquarters at Atrium Health hosted more than 10 clinical exploration sessions for over 100 elementary, middle and high school students.

South Piedmont President Dr. Stacy Waters-Bailey expressed pride in the national recognition, emphasizing the dedication and collaboration of the college's faculty, staff, students and community partners. The selection recognizes the college's commitment to developing innovative educational opportunities that lead to student success.

The Bellwether Awards recognize excellence in three areas: Instructional Programs and Services; Workforce Development; and Planning, Governance and Finance.

South Piedmont will participate in the Bellwether Finalist Showcase during the 2027 Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio in February. Finalists will present their programs as they compete for the national award.

South Piedmont Community College serves Anson and Union counties, offering degree, diploma, certificate and non-credit educational opportunities. More information is available at *www.spcc.edu*.

## Lilesville Gears Up for a Holly Jolly Christmas Parade and Celebration!

**December 8 festivities promise holiday cheer, tasty treats, local vendors and a special visit from Santa!**

Lilesville is getting ready to deck the halls, light up the night and spread enough Christmas cheer to make even the Grinch crack a smile! The town's Christmas Parade and Christmas at the Park celebration will take place on Tuesday, December 8, promising an evening of festive fun for the whole family.

The Christmas Parade will roll through town beginning at 6 p.m., followed by a merry gathering at Hatcher Park. Visitors can enjoy delicious offerings from food trucks, browse local food and craft vendors, and even get free pictures with Santa Claus himself! No word yet on whether the reindeer will be available for autographs.

Want to be part of the parade? Participants can register online at *lilesville.gov*. The deadline for parade entries is Friday, December 4, so don't let your holiday spirit get stuck in the chimney!

**Vendors** Applications for food/craft vendors are still being accepted. If you are interested, please call Lilesville Town Hall to register. 704 848 4711.

Mark your calendars, bring your Christmas spirit and come enjoy a wonderful evening of small-town holiday magic in Lilesville!