

DMV Schedule Changes to Increase Walk-In Availability

The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is reminding customers of changes announced in February to appointment scheduling, walk-in availability, and office hours in order to improve service at its 115 driver license offices across the state. As of Monday, May 1, all customer services statewide are provided on a walk-in basis after noon.

Appointments will only be available in the mornings through the 11 a.m. hour and can be booked at [skiphelpline.ncdot.gov](https://www.ncdot.gov).

"We're making adjustments to increase walk-in availability because that's what we've heard our customers want," said NCDMV Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, "and given that about 25% of appointments are no-shows, we will be better able to maximize efficiencies by shifting to more walk-in availability."

Even with this change, walk-in customers may still have the opportunity for morning-hour service if there is time between scheduled appointments or if a customer does not appear for a scheduled appointment.

In addition to nearly 100 new examiners being added across the state last year, 85 more have been hired, or are in the hiring process since January. Current openings can be found on the NCDMV careers webpage ([ncdot.gov/about-us/our-people/careers](https://www.ncdot.gov/about-us/our-people/careers)).

Estimated Office Wait Time to be Available Online Soon As appointment scheduling shifts toward more walk-ins, a new feature will soon be available on the NCDMV office locations webpage ([ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/locate-dmv-office](https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/locate-dmv-office)) to show the public the current estimated wait time at driver license offices. This will allow customers to see the current estimated wait time at different locations so they can make the best decision on which office to go to, or whether they want to try again another day.

Saturday Hours Begin June 3 As in years past, NCDMV is preparing to offer Saturday hours at 16 locations this summer during its peak season. These offices will open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from June 3 to Aug. 26: Asheville, Charlotte-University City, Charlotte South, Fayetteville West, Greensboro East, Greensboro West, Greenville, Hudson, Huntersville, Jacksonville, Monroe, Morganton, Raleigh North, Raleigh West, Wilmington South, and Winston-Salem South.

DMV is exploring the potential for adding more Saturday locations as staffing levels permit.

Tips to Improve Your DMV Experience

- **Renew early** – Don't wait until the last minute to renew your driver license. DMV sends a reminder card to the address on file six months before the expiration date. Customers can renew at any time during this six-month window.
- **Renew online** – In most cases, unless they renewed online last time, customers can renew their credential online.
- **Be prepared** – Check the DMV website to make sure you bring the required documentation for your desired service. One frequently forgotten item is a printed document proving liability insurance.
- **REAL ID** – Customers have more time to get their REAL ID as the federal implementation date requiring a REAL ID to fly commercially or to visit federal, military and nuclear facilities has been moved back two years to May 7, 2025.

Anson Farmers Market Opens on May 27

The Anson County Farmers Market is scheduled to open for the season on Saturday, May 27. It will be open each Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through September 30, with fresh and local produce, meats, baked goods, crafts...and much more!

It is located at 1736 Highway 52 South, just past Wadesboro Primary School.

For more information about the Farmers Market or to become a vendor, or to host a weekday market in your area of Anson County, contact Leslie Lee at 704-695-4415 or ansonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com.

Ansonville Farmers Market Opens May 4

Ansonville has a Farmers Market that will open for the season on Thursday, May 4. It will be open every 1st and 3rd Thursday each month, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Caraway Business and Learning Center, located at 9162 Highway 52 North.

'53 Ideas Pitch Competition,' Led by the SPCC Small Business Center

South Piedmont Community Colleges Small Business Center is leading the fourth-annual "53 Ideas Pitch Competition," an initiative that began in 2020 with support from Fifth Third Bank to provide anyone with an idea access to the capital, training and social connections needed to take an idea and turn it into a viable business.

Contestants will not only compete for cash awards; they will also access training resources and expanded networks to build social connections. Training and coaching on pitching, financing, forecasting and general business will be available to every participant, even if they do not make the top 53. These free resources will be offered by Small Business Centers located at community colleges throughout the region, including Central Piedmont, Cleveland, Gaston, Mitchell, Rowan-Cabarrus, South Piedmont and Stanly.

"We are excited to host the 53 Ideas Pitch Competition again this year and appreciate the continued support of Fifth Third Bank," said South Piedmont's Director of Entrepreneurship and Small Business, Renee Hode. "We are aware of the challenges and inequalities in entrepreneurship, and this competition provides access to training, coaching, capital and exposure to propel ideas into businesses."

To enter, individuals have 53 seconds to share their idea in the form of a video submitted at [53ideas.com](https://www.53ideas.com). Round one is based on the idea. Contestants do not have to be pitch pros. They just need to share who they are, their idea, the problem it solves, how it is new or superior to an existing product or service and how they can make it happen. Judges will select the top 53 ideas and those contestants will move on in the competition to receive training to help them prepare a 3-minute pitch for the second round of the competition. Judges will then narrow the field to the top 10 and those selected will receive \$250 before moving forward to compete in the Pitch Day finale. The first-place winner will receive \$10,000, the second-place winner will receive \$5,000, and the third-place winner will receive \$2,500 to help turn their idea into a viable business.

"We are committed to supporting entrepreneurship across this region and throughout North Carolina," said Joel Dancy, Vice President, Community & Economic Development, Carolinas Region, Fifth Third Bank. "We are very excited to be supporting the 53 Ideas Pitch Competition for the fourth year in a row because it not only helps in the short term with access to capital for the winners, but it also helps in the long term through financial education for all participants."

Last year's competition received more than 100 entries. Faith Griffin, creator of the Shaving Step, Kimberly Evans, founder of Just Her Ride Share, and Carly Rhyne, founder of Ellipticraft, took the top three awards.

To learn more and enter this year's pitch competition by the May 31 deadline, visit [53ideas.com](https://www.53ideas.com).

The Month of May

Among the changing months, May stands confessed the sweetest, and in fairest colors dressed! –James Thomson, Scottish poet (1700–48)

"May" is likely named after the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants.

May Calendar

- May 1 is May Day.
- May 5 is Cinco de Mayo. (The Fifth of May.) This day celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Discover Mexican-American recipes and ways to celebrate Cinco de Mayo!
- May's full Moon, called the Flower Moon, appears on Friday, May 5, reaching peak illumination at 1:36 p.m. (EDT).
- May 14 is Mother's Day...don't forget!
- May 20 is Armed Forces Day, which honors those who serve in all branches of the United States military.
- May 22 is National Maritime Day. Created in commemoration of the first transoceanic voyage via steamboat (completed by the U.S.S. Savannah in 1819), this holiday recognizes the efforts of the U.S. merchant marine during both war and peace.
- May 29 is Memorial Day - a poignant reminder of the tenacity of life. It's tradition to raise the flag on this day.
- May's birthstone is the emerald. The emerald symbolizes rebirth and fertility and was thought to grant foresight, cure various diseases, soothe nerves, improve memory, and ensure loyalty.
- May's birth flowers are the Hawthorn and the Lily-of-the-Valley. The hawthorn means hope, while the lily-of-the-valley symbolizes sweetness or the return of happiness.

Funny, Random & Weird Holidays this Week

- May 4 Thursday - Star Wars Day
- May 5 Friday - No Pants Day
- May 5 Friday - Space Day
- May 6 Saturday - Herb Day
- May 6 Saturday - Free Comic Book Day
- May 6 Saturday - Beverage Day
- May 9 Tuesday - Europe Day
- May 9 Tuesday - Lost Sock Memorial Day
- May 10 Wednesday - National School Nurse Day
- May 10 Wednesday - Clean Up Your Room Day

Church News

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

MAY 6

Fish Dinners

For Sale at Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, 378 Pleasant Hill Church Rd (off Hwy 109 South), Wadesboro, starting at 11am. \$12 plate includes fish, baked beans, cole slaw, hush puppies or bread & a dessert. Fish sandwiches \$5.

MAY 7

10th Appreciation

For Pastor Pearl & Shirley Taylor at Johnson Chapel Church, 3pm with Pastor Terry Little of West Deep Creek MBC. Musical guests Overseer McLendon & Min. Bennett. All are invited.

MAY 14

Missionary Annual

Women's Day at Greater St. Mark Church of Deliverance, 1003 Main St in Wadesboro, 11am with National Mother Mahalia Williams. All women in all white please.

MAY 20

Bessie Chapel Male

Chorus Gospel Fest

Outside fun! 1pm at Bessie Chapel AME Zion Church, Ingram Mountain Rd in Lilesville. Singing, eating & fun for the kids! Info 704-690-6873.

Fruit of the Spirit

Program at Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 5pm. Dinner served. Donation \$10. Everyone is welcome.

ONGOING

Youth Day Every 5th Sunday at Cedar Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

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Events

MAY 3

Special Olympics Spring Games

at Anson High School Stadium. Opening Ceremony at 9:30am, Games end about 12 noon. All are invited to enjoy watching athletes competing in track & field events at their various ability levels. Would you like to volunteer? Please contact Sylvia Tillman at 704-694-4417 ext 1702. Rain date May 5.

MAY 4

Chair Exercise Cancelled at Grace Senior Center.

MAY 5

Tea Talks At Grace Senior Center, 2:30-3:30pm. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 6

Yard Sale & Bake Sale by the Burnsville Ladies Auxiliary, Burnsville Fire Dept. Donations appreciated, call 704-826-8949.

MAY 10

Muffins for Mom At Grace Senior Center, 2:30-3:30pm. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 13

Class of 1973 Bowman High School 50th Reunion planning meeting at Lady Bug Restaurant in Wadesboro, 3pm. All classmates invited to attend. Info Brenda S. Rorie 704-695-5196.

MAY 16

Senior BINGO At Grace Senior Center, 1:00-2:00pm. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 18

Craft & Workshop At Grace Senior Center, 12 noon-2:00pm. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 19

Senior Line Dancing at Grace Senior Center, 2:30-3:30pm. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 23

Chair Exercise & Senior Cafe Cancelled at Grace Senior Center.

MAY 25

Health Expo At Lockhart-Taylor Center, 10am-1pm. 514 N. Washington St in Wadesboro. Sponsored by Grace Senior Center. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 29

Memorial Day Service at Wadesboro Park, 10am. Everyone invited to ceremony to honor Anson County veterans who died in foreign wars. Rain cancels event.

MAY 30

Popcorn and a Movie Free at Grace Senior Center, 1pm. Movie is *Ever After*. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

MAY 31

Painting Party At Grace Senior Center, 2:30-4:30pm. Supplies will be provided. 199 Highway 742 South, Wadesboro, just past IGA. Info 704-694-6616.

ONGOING EVENTS

Learning Center Hours Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center, Mon-Fri, 10:30-5:30pm. Computer lab (children & adults), copy service, fax service & resource library. All available to the public for a small fee

Executive Order Highlights North Carolina's Commitment to Building an Age-Friendly State

On Tuesday, May 2 Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 280 directing action to continue the state's commitment to building an age-friendly state. The Executive Order brings a whole-of-government approach to support North Carolina's aging population. "Our rapidly growing and diverse older adult population strengthens our state and communities," Governor Cooper said. "We're going to continue our work to make North Carolina the best place in the country to grow older."

Executive Order No. 280 directs the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) along with expert working groups to develop a Multisector Plan for Aging. The Order also directs NCDHHS and the North Carolina Department of Commerce to convene a Caregiving Workforce Strategic Leadership group to develop and implement recommendations to bolster the caregiving workforce. It also directs NCDHHS to develop recommendations to improve adult protective services.

The Order also directs the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to improve access to outdoor spaces, the North Carolina Department of Transportation to improve transportation options and the North Carolina Department of Information Technology to improve access to broadband and digital literacy.

"I am so grateful for Governor Cooper's leadership in signing this executive order to make North Carolina a place where all people can thrive throughout life's seasons," said Mary Penny Kelley, Executive Director of Hometown Strong. "By joining the Livable Communities network, North Carolina joins a consortium of other states working to advance policies to help a growing demographic. It's an honor to be a part of the incredible dedicated team that worked to make this possible."

"In just a few short years, there will be more people living in North Carolina over age 65 than under 17," said Joyce Massey Smith, Director of the Division on Aging and Adult Services for NCDHHS. "To address this unprecedented shift in the age of our population we are committed to capitalizing on the benefits of an older population as we provide them with the services and support they need in order to thrive."

"Nearly 3.7 million North Carolinians live in communities that have joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and are working on age-friendly improvements" said Mike Olender, Director of AARP North Carolina. "The state's enrollment into the Network coupled with the executive order will be the glue that holds us all together to collaborate, will accelerate progress and will inspire even more improvements to our cities, towns, and rural areas that benefit North Carolinians of all ages."

Approximately 1.7 million North Carolinians are aged 65 or older. By 2030, one in five North Carolinians will be older than 65. The Executive Order builds on the Governor's previous actions supporting older adults. In 2022, Hometown Strong in the Governor's Office and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services partnered with AARP to conduct the Age My Way NC survey which assessed North Carolinians' needs and preferences with regards to aging.