

Commissioners Meet September 15

The second September meeting of the Board of Commissioners takes place on Tuesday, September 15 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. (A little advance notice goes a long way - surprise speeches are better suited for family dinners.)

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](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Anson Commissioners.

Sheriff's Office Investigates Sex Offender Registration Violation

This is a Anson County Sheriff's Office release: The Anson County Sheriff's Office is investigating an alleged violation of North Carolina's Sex Offender Registration laws involving Dexter Dwayne Lily, date of birth: 01/22/1993.

Lily, a registered sex offender, is alleged to have failed to properly report and maintain his lawful residential address with the Anson County Sheriff's Office as required by North Carolina General Statute § 14-208.9.



Dexter Lily

North Carolina law requires individuals who are subject to sex offender registration to maintain accurate registration information with the appropriate sheriff's office. When a registered offender changes his residential address, the law requires the offender to report the change in person and provide written notice within the timeframe established by statute.

Failure to properly notify the registering sheriff of a change of address is a violation of N.C.G.S. § 14-208.11 and may constitute a Class F felony.

The Anson County Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Registration Unit is continuing its investigation into Lily's registration status and residential information. Appropriate criminal charges will be pursued based upon the findings of the investigation and applicable North Carolina law.

The Sheriff's Office reminds the public that sex offender registration requirements are established by North Carolina law and are intended to provide accurate information to law enforcement and promote public safety.

Anyone with information regarding the current whereabouts or residential address of Dexter Dwayne Lily is encouraged to contact the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Crime Stoppers Hotline Back in Service

The Anson County Sheriff's Office has announced that the Crime Stoppers Crime and Drug Hotline is once again fully operational following recent technical difficulties. According to the Sheriff's Office, the technical problems prevented some telephone calls from coming through, but the issue has now been resolved.

Residents who have tips or need to report a crime can call the **Crime Stoppers Crime and Drug Hotline at 704-695-3111**. All tips are confidential.

The Sheriff's Office thanked residents for their patience and for their continued assistance in helping keep Anson County safe.

Quarter House to Perform at Library

Quarter House will bring an enjoyable morning of bluegrass and gospel music to the Hampton B. Allen Library on Monday, September 14, at 10:30 a.m.

The performance will be held in the library's Little Theater and will feature band members Anita and John Bishop, Rick Hansen and Harold Leech on bass guitar.

Everyone is invited to come out, relax and enjoy the music of this talented group.

Grace Senior Center Picnic in the Park

Grace Senior Center is packing up the fun and heading outdoors for its Picnic in the Park on Thursday, September 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Little Park in Wadesboro.

And this is not one of those picnics where you sit quietly on a blanket and wonder who remembered the napkins.

The afternoon will feature pot planting, bingo and a hot dog meal - three activities that don't often appear in the same sentence, but sound like a pretty good time.

Participants can try their hand at planting a pot, test their luck at bingo and then enjoy a hot dog meal. Whether you leave with a thriving plant and a bingo victory is anybody's guess, but at least nobody should leave hungry.

The picnic will be held at Little's Park and Recreation, located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro.

Advance registration is requested. To sign up, call the Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616.

Come for the hot dogs, stay for the bingo - and try not to get overly competitive when somebody else yells "BINGO!" first.

Charlie's Angels Legacy of Love Scholarship Fundraiser is Saturday

Charlie's Angels Nonprofit Organization will host its Legacy of Love Scholarship Fundraiser this Saturday, September 12, at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro.

Hosted by G-Man, the evening will feature D. Morton & Gifted, Flossie Boyd-Johnson & Favor, The McDuffies, The Sweet Singing Harmonettes, The Holy Voices, The Good News Angels and Albertina & The Chosen Vessels. Proceeds will support Charlie's Angels' efforts to provide scholarships to local high school students.

Doors open at 4 p.m., with the show beginning at 5 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20 and tickets at the door are \$25. For tickets, contact Lisa Little at 704-475-0890.

The Lockhart-Taylor Center is located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. Vendor spaces are also available by contacting LaTrice at 704-915-6946.



Charlene McCormick (holding plaque) is pictured with Karisma Lisenby, Scott Rivers, Samuel Cole, Jr., Ola Marsh and Betty Huntley, Executive Director.

McCormick was appointed to the Wadesboro Housing Authority Commissioners Board by the Wadesboro Town Council on June 5, 1989. She has served on the board for 37 years, including more than 15 years as board chair.

The award recognizes McCormick's leadership and commitment to advancing housing and community development. The Carolinas Council represents housing and redevelopment professionals serving communities across North and South Carolina.

Huntley said McCormick's years of service and contributions have made a meaningful impact on both the Wadesboro Housing Authority and the community it serves.

After nearly four decades of service, the Commissioner of the Year honor recognizes a commitment to Wadesboro that began in 1989 and continues today.

Schools Build on Momentum, Remain Off State Low-Performing District List

Anson County Schools is celebrating continued academic progress as newly released 2025–2026 accountability data shows measurable growth across the district. Eight of the district's nine schools met or exceeded expected growth, and Anson County Schools remains off North Carolina's Low-Performing District list for the second consecutive year.

Four schools - Morven Elementary School, Wadesboro Elementary School, Anson High School and Anson County Early College - exceeded expected growth. Ansonville Elementary School, Lilesville Elementary School, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School and Wadesboro Primary School met expected growth.

Eight of nine schools also increased their overall achievement scores, and eight of nine increased their growth scores. Every school met expected growth in at least two student subgroups.

"These results tell a story of progress, consistency and a district moving forward with purpose," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Brian C. Ratliff. "We know there is much work ahead, but we will never allow the work that remains to diminish the progress our students and staff have earned. Growth matters. Consistency matters. Forward movement matters, and we are incredibly proud of every step."

Building Sustainable Momentum Only two of the district's nine schools remain identified as low-performing for 2025–2026, allowing Anson County Schools to maintain its standing off the Low-Performing District list for a second consecutive year.

- **Ansonville Elementary School** met expected growth and maintained a C School Performance Grade. The school recorded significant proficiency gains in third- and fourth-grade reading and fourth-grade mathematics.

- **Lilesville Elementary School** met expected growth and maintained a C School Performance Grade. Reading proficiency increased in grades 3 and 6, while third-grade mathematics proficiency also improved.

- **Morven Elementary School** exceeded expected growth and is no longer designated as a Low-Performing School. Reading proficiency increased in grades 3 and 5, and mathematics proficiency improved in every tested grade.

- **Peachland-Polkton Elementary School** met expected growth and maintained a C School Performance Grade. Reading proficiency increased in grades 3, 4 and 5, while mathematics proficiency improved in grades 4 and 6.

- **Wadesboro Elementary School** exceeded expected growth and is no longer designated as a Low-Performing School. The school recorded gains in fourth- and fifth-grade mathematics and fifth-grade reading. Fifth-grade science proficiency nearly doubled, rising from 23.8% in 2024–2025 to 46% in 2025–2026.

- **Wadesboro Primary School** met expected growth. Third-grade mathematics proficiency increased by nearly 10 percentage points.

- **Anson Middle School** raised its School Performance Grade score from 37 to 48, moving from an F to a D. Proficiency increased in every tested grade and subject. Eighth-grade science proficiency rose from 31.5% to 55.8%, and 100% of the school's eighth-grade Math 1 students demonstrated proficiency.

- **Anson High School** exceeded expected growth overall and among its Black, Hispanic and economically disadvantaged student subgroups. The school is no longer designated as a Continually Low-Performing School. Math 1 proficiency increased from 14.1% to 34.4%, and the four-year cohort graduation rate climbed from 70.7% to 84.4%. The percentage of seniors meeting the ACT or WorkKeys measure more than doubled.

- **Anson County Early College High School** exceeded expected growth, maintained a B School Performance Grade and achieved a 98% four-year cohort graduation rate. The percentage of seniors meeting the ACT or WorkKeys measure increased from 39.1% to 70%, while students also demonstrated gains in Math 1 and Biology.

Academic Gains Across the District District-wide proficiency increased in several tested grades and subjects. Reading proficiency improved in grades 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8. Third-grade reading proficiency, which had remained near 35% since 2021–2022, increased to 44.1% in 2025–2026.

Mathematics proficiency increased in grades 4, 5 and 7, as well as eighth-grade Math EOG, eighth-grade Math 1 and high school Math 1. High school Math 1 proficiency rose from 18.7% in 2024–2025 to 40% in 2025–2026. Eighth-grade Math EOG proficiency continued its upward trajectory, increasing from 2% in 2022–2023 to 24.7% in 2025–2026.

Science proficiency also increased in grades 5 and 8.

Graduation and College-and-Career Readiness Anson County Schools also experienced significant improvement in graduation and college-and-career readiness measures.

The district's four-year cohort graduation rate increased from 74.2% in 2024–2025 to 87.2% in 2025–2026, a gain of 13 percentage points. In addition, 96.2% of 12th-grade students completed and passed Math 3, as measured through Math Course Rigor. The district's combined ACT and WorkKeys proficiency measure increased from 19.9% to 37.8%.

"Our students are intelligent, talented and capable of extraordinary accomplishments," Ratliff said. "Our responsibility is to believe in them, challenge them, create meaningful opportunities for them and help them shine. These results reinforce what we have always known: when our students receive quality instruction, the support they deserve and are held to high expectations, they will reach their greatest level of capacity."

The Strategic Plan in Action The 2025–2026 results directly support the work outlined in the Anson County Schools Strategic Plan 2026–2031.

Under Priority I: Student Learning & Success, the district established a goal for all schools to meet or exceed growth on the North Carolina School Report Card. With eight of nine schools meeting or exceeding growth, the district has made substantial progress toward that goal.

Improvement in graduation, mathematics, literacy and college-and-career readiness measures also advances the district's mission to provide high-quality learning experiences and prepare every student to thrive in school, career and life.

The results reflect Priority II: Human Resources & Quality Staff, recognizing that meaningful and sustainable student growth is driven by dedicated teachers, administrators and staff who serve students each day.

Sharing these results also advances Priority IV: Community Relations & Family Engagement Planning, which calls for Anson County Schools to build community awareness, pride and confidence in public education by consistently highlighting student success, staff excellence and school achievement.

The Anson County Schools Strategic Plan is available at linktr.ee/ansoncountyschools.

Looking Ahead District leaders recognize that progress does not mean the work is finished. Anson County Schools will continue focusing on strong core instruction, data-informed decision-making, targeted student support, leadership development and consistent implementation across schools.

The district enters the 2026–2027 school year with measurable progress, renewed confidence and a commitment to sustaining the momentum already underway.

"This recognition belongs to our students, educators, school leaders, support staff, families, Board of Education and community," Ratliff said. "We are proud of how far we have come, confident in who we are and excited about where we are going. As long as we remain focused on student learning and building student leadership capacity, there is no limit to what our students can achieve."

Proud of our progress. Focused on what's next! One Community. One Mission. We are Anson!

Anson Mobile Food Market is September 17

The next Anson Mobile Food Market will be held on Thursday, September 17, starting at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at Little Park during the Grace Senior Center's Senior Picnic. Little Park is located at 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro.

Food will be given away as long as supply lasts, including fresh vegetables, fruit and bread (if available). There will be blood pressure and blood sugar checks, along with other healthy living topics and booths.

Help with produce bags will be provided for elderly or disabled attendees.

This free event offers citizens of Anson County six to eight different types of fresh produce monthly. This is a free initiative, so please come and get some produce. **Nothing is required for you to receive produce, just come.**

The event is sponsored by the Anson County Extension and its partners.

This event is to assist in the scarcity of fresh, healthy food in the county. It will also serve as an educational event to offer education on the two targeted areas of the county health assessment which are tobacco use and hypertension. Agencies will be set up offering services and information in those two targeted areas.