

South Piedmont to Host Fall Open House Oct. 8

Prospective students can explore programs, tour facilities and get help applying

South Piedmont Community College will host its Fall Open House from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at the Old Charlotte Highway Campus, 1851 South Piedmont Street, Monroe, and the Tyson Family Center for Technology, 3509 Old Charlotte Highway, Monroe.

The drop-in event will give prospective students and community members an opportunity to tour campus, explore academic and workforce programs, meet instructors and staff, learn about financial aid and student life, and get questions answered about becoming a South Piedmont student.

The event will also feature an Application Party, where prospective students can receive one-on-one assistance with completing their South Piedmont application and guidance on the next steps toward enrollment.

Those who register, attend the Open House and apply to South Piedmont on site will be entered to win a \$200 Amazon gift card.

Registration is requested but not required. To register, visit: events.spcc.edu/event/spcc.events.1954832.

For more information about South Piedmont and its programs, visit: spcc.edu.

The Friends of the
Hampton B. Allen Library
Presents

Masquerade Book Bash

OCTOBER

FRIDAY	23	6:00- 11:00PM
2026		

Flake Haven
5298 North Carolina 742 N,
Wadesboro, NC 28170

For more information
704-694-5177



Congress Considers Making Daylight Saving Time Permanent

House has approved the change, but Senate action has stalled as debate continues over darker winter mornings

Americans have been talking about getting rid of the twice-a-year clock change for years, and in 2026 the idea came considerably closer to becoming reality. But for now, Anson County residents should still plan to turn their clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Sunshine Protection Act on July 14 by a bipartisan vote of 308-117. The legislation would make Daylight Saving Time permanent, eliminating the annual switch back to Standard Time each fall.

The bill was sent to the Senate on July 15 and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and that is where the legislation has stalled. The Senate adjourned without considering the measure and has no votes scheduled before the November 3 congressional election. President Donald Trump has urged the Senate to approve the legislation, while some senators oppose permanent Daylight Saving Time because of the much later winter sunrises it would produce.

The argument is not simply about whether Americans enjoy changing their clocks twice a year. Much of the disagreement involves which time should become permanent. Permanent Daylight Saving Time would provide more daylight in the late afternoon and evening during winter, but it would not actually create any additional daylight. It simply moves the available daylight one hour later according to the clock. In Anson County, that difference would be quite noticeable.

In Anson County On the shortest days of the year, Wadesboro receives about 9 hours and 48 minutes of daylight. Around the winter solstice on December 21, the sun currently rises at approximately 7:24 a.m. and sets at approximately 5:12 p.m. under Standard Time. If Daylight Saving Time were permanent, nothing about the sun itself would change, of course. We would simply keep our clocks one hour ahead. That means the December 21 sunrise would occur at approximately 8:24 a.m., while sunset would move to approximately 6:12 p.m.

In practical terms, an Anson County resident leaving home for work at 7 a.m. on a December morning would have considerably longer to wait for sunrise. Many children would also be traveling to school or waiting for buses well before the sun came up. That is one of the principal arguments made by opponents of permanent Daylight Saving Time. There is another side to the clock, however. Instead of darkness arriving shortly after 5 p.m., Wadesboro would have daylight until shortly after 6 p.m. around Christmas. People leaving work at 5 p.m. would have roughly another hour of daylight for driving, shopping, walking, yard work and other activities.

The difference continues through the heart of winter. In early January, Wadesboro's sunrise is about 7:25 a.m. and sunset about 5:20 p.m. Permanent Daylight Saving Time would move those to approximately 8:25 a.m. and 6:20 p.m. By late January, sunrise is about 7:20 a.m. and sunset about 5:48 p.m. With permanent Daylight Saving Time, the clock would instead show approximately 8:20 a.m. and 6:48 p.m. Wadesboro's earliest sunset is currently about 5:08 p.m. in early December. Under permanent Daylight Saving Time, it would become about 6:08 p.m.

Summer would be a different story. Wadesboro already observes Daylight Saving Time during June, when sunrise is around 6:05 a.m. and sunset around 8:37 p.m., so those times would remain essentially unchanged. The proposed law would affect the months when North Carolina presently switches back to Standard Time.

So the choice is fairly easy to see locally. Permanent Daylight Saving Time would largely eliminate those winter afternoons when it seems to get dark almost as soon as the workday ends. The price would be winter mornings when sunrise would not arrive until after 8 a.m.

The United States has tried something similar before. Congress established year-round Daylight Saving Time during the energy crisis in 1974, but the experiment quickly became unpopular, particularly because of concerns about children traveling to school in darkness, and Congress restored Standard Time during the winter. If the current Sunshine Protection Act ultimately becomes law, its permanent Daylight Saving Time provisions would take effect in 2027.

For now, however, nothing has changed. Daylight Saving Time will end at 2 a.m. Sunday, November 1, when clocks are turned back one hour. And the annual American ritual will continue: spend six months complaining that it gets dark too early, then spend the other six wondering why Congress can't decide what time it is.

October Brings Cooler Days, Colorful Skies and a Little Halloween Mischief

The month features two October 12 observances, the Hunter's Moon, autumn color and Halloween

October glows on every cheek, October shines in every eye, While up the hill and down the dale, Her crimson banners fly. — Elaine Goodale Eastman (1863-1953)

October has arrived, bringing cooler evenings, shorter days, changing leaves and that unmistakable feeling that autumn has finally decided to get serious. Pumpkins are appearing on porches, Halloween decorations are emerging from storage and somewhere, undoubtedly, a bag of miniature candy bars purchased "for the trick-or-treaters" is already mysteriously half empty.

The month takes its name from the Latin octo, meaning eight. October was originally the eighth month of the ancient Roman calendar before January and February were added ahead of it. The name remained even after October became month number 10 — proving that confusing calendar decisions are certainly nothing new.

October 12 is a particularly busy date on the 2026 calendar, with two observances falling on the same Monday.

Columbus Day, a federal holiday observed on the second Monday of October, commemorates Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Columbus landed on an island in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, believing his voyage had reached islands near Asia.

Indigenous Peoples' Day recognizes the histories, cultures and contributions of Indigenous peoples native to what is now the United States. The observance is recognized by numerous states and communities, sometimes alongside Columbus Day and sometimes in its place.

October 24 is United Nations Day, marking the anniversary of the United Nations Charter taking effect in 1945 and recognizing the work of the international organization around the world.

Sky watchers have something special coming late in the month. October's Hunter's Moon will be full on October 26 at 12:11 a.m. Eastern Time. Traditionally, the Hunter's Moon is the first full moon following the Harvest Moon. Its name dates to the time of year when people prepared for the approaching winter. Saturn will also be nearby in the autumn sky, providing another reason to look up — assuming the clouds cooperate.

Then comes the date youngsters and quite a few grown-ups have been waiting for: October 31 is Halloween.

Halloween's history stretches back centuries. One of its ancient influences was Samhain, a Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter. It was traditionally viewed as a time when the boundary separating the living and the dead was particularly thin, and customs developed involving spirits, divination and remembrance of the dead.

Over centuries, those ancient traditions mixed with Christian observances and other folk customs, eventually evolving into the Halloween we recognize today. Ghosts remain, but these days they are more likely to be four feet tall, carrying a plastic pumpkin and demanding a Reese's Cup.

October also has two traditional birth flowers. The cosmos is associated with harmony, peace and joy, while the calendula, or marigold, has accumulated several meanings over the centuries.

October's best-known birthstone is the opal, famous for the flashes of color that seem to move through the stone as it catches the light. Opals occur in several varieties, including white, black and fire opals. Through history they have been associated with hope, purity, faithfulness and confidence, although folklore has also alternately declared them lucky and unlucky.

Fortunately, tradition says people born in October are supposedly immune to an opal's bad luck anyway. Apparently having an October birthday comes with its own warranty.

And so October rolls along, from autumn leaves and bright moons to pumpkins, ghosts and candy. Elaine Goodale Eastman wrote that October's "crimson banners fly," and more than a century later, it remains a pretty good description of a month that rarely has trouble putting on a show.

Wadesboro Candy Crawl Returns for Halloween Fun

Ghosts, goblins, superheroes, princesses and probably more than a few dinosaurs will take over uptown Wadesboro when the Wadesboro Candy Crawl returns on Saturday, October 31.

The Halloween fun will take place in uptown Wadesboro from 5 to 7:30 p.m., giving youngsters and their families an opportunity to make their way through town in search of treats - and perhaps enough candy to last until Thanksgiving.

Businesses and organizations that would like to participate in the Candy Crawl and be included on the map published in The Express Newspaper are encouraged to sign up now. To be included on the map, contact Elizabeth Rizzo by Monday, October 19, at 704-694-4036 or elizabeth.rizzo@ansonchildren.org.

Costumes, candy and plenty of Halloween spirit will all be part of the evening. Participating locations are encouraged to sign up by the deadline so trick-or-treaters will know exactly where to find them on Halloween night.

KEEP SHERIFF SCOTT HOWELL

Committed to serving the citizens of
Anson County



★ **VOTING DATES:** ★

Early Voting: October 15 - 31, 2026

Election Day: November 3, 2026

Being your Sheriff means serving you is my top priority. With 47 years in public service, including 22 years in leadership roles, I have been committed to protecting citizens, supporting our deputies, and strengthening our community. Since becoming Sheriff in 2022, I have worked to build trust through transparency, accountability, and community involvement.

My life experiences taught me resilience, compassion, and the importance of finding solutions to challenges. I believe effective law enforcement is built on strong leadership, fiscal responsibility, well-trained personnel, and partnerships with the people we serve. Together, we have made meaningful progress in Anson County. I remain committed to leading with integrity, respect, and fairness while ensuring the safety and well-being of every citizen.

EXPERIENCED ★ DEDICATED ★ TRUSTED

Paid for by the Committee to Keep Scott Howell sheriff.