

All Anson County Government Offices will be closed for the July 4th holiday, on Sunday, July 4 and Monday, July 5. Emergency Services, 911 and the Sheriff's Office will be in operation.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO THE LAND OF THE FREE
AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE**

**JULY 4TH
2021**

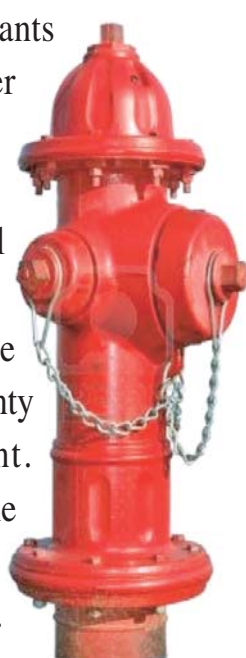
MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET
Highway 74 West in Wadesboro • 704-694-3185

Unauthorized Hydrant Use

The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Water Department is a violation of state and federal law. Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. Please report suspicious activity to the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the Water Department.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department. Information is available at 704-694-5208.



Town of Lilesville NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING For the Community Development Block Grant Funding

Notice is hereby given that the **Town of Lilesville** will hold a public hearing on **Monday, July 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Lilesville Fire & Rescue Department, located at 202 West Wall Street, Lilesville, NC 28091 to solicit public input on local government development and needs in relation to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in our community.

The **Town of Lilesville** anticipates submitting a CDBG application in program year 2021. Information on the amount of funding available, the requirements on benefit to low and moderate income persons, eligible activities, and plans to minimize displacement and provide displacement assistance as necessary will be available. Citizens will also be given the opportunity to provide oral and written comment on the **Town of Lilesville's** use of CDBG funds. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

For additional information or to submit written comments, send to: **Lynn Whitlock** at 704-848-4711 or at Town of Lilesville, 114 E. Wall Street/ PO Box 451, Lilesville, NC 28091-0451. Comments should be postmarked by Thursday, July 8, 2021.

If you plan to attend and require special accommodations because of disability or physical impairment, please contact **Lynn Whitlock** at 704-848-4711 before the hearing.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Lynn Whitlock at 704-848-4711 or at Town of Lilesville, 114 E. Wall Street / PO Box 451, Lilesville, NC 28091 for accommodations for this request.

Esta informacion esta disponible en Espanol o en cualquier otro idioma bajo peticion. Por favor, pongase en contacto con **Lynn Whitlock**, al 704-848-4711 o Town of Lilesville, 114 E. Wall Street / PO Box 451, Lilesville, NC 28091, de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

Free Fishing Day in North Carolina is July 4

This Independence Day, anyone in North Carolina, regardless of age, will be able to fish for free. Free Fishing Day, which runs from 12 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on July 4, offers residents and out-of-state visitors the opportunity to fish without having to purchase a license; however, all other fishing regulations apply, such as length and daily possession limits, as well as bait and tackle restrictions.

North Carolina's annual free fishing day was authorized by the N.C. General Assembly in 1994 and sponsored by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. It always falls on the July Fourth holiday.

"Free Fishing Day was created to promote the sport of fishing and is a great opportunity for families to try a new outdoor activity," said Christian Waters, the agency's chief of the Inland Fisheries Division. "Fishing is relatively inexpensive recreational sport that anyone, no matter what their age or skill level, can enjoy. It's an excellent way to enjoy quality time together in a relaxing setting on the water."

Waters added that the Commission's website, ncwildlife.org, is a value resource for tips about where and what to fish, and the state's Tackle Loaner Program.

"The interactive fishing and boating maps on the agency's website list more than 500 fishing and boating areas, many of which are free, that are open to the public. Also, to give anglers a better chance of catching fish, the Commission stocks a variety of fish in waters across the state. Stocking information can also be found on the website."

Anglers should remember that boating areas likely will be crowded over the busy holiday weekend. Wildlife officials urge boaters to be patient, courteous and follow the boating etiquette tips below:

- Be patient and remain calm until an open parking space is available.
- Wait your turn in the launch line. Don't block or cut off others.
- Park your vehicle and trailer while someone moves the boat away from the ramp.
- Recruit someone to move the boat away from the ramp while you retrieve your vehicle and trailer.
- Observe no-wake zones and be cautious.

While anyone can fish for free on July 4, a fishing license is required for people age 16 and older on all other days of the year. This includes both public and coastal waters in North Carolina. Purchasing a license online is quick and easy. Other ways to purchase a license are:

- Call the Commission at 888-248-6834. Current hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Visit a local Wildlife Service Agent.

For more information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit the agency's fishing webpage, ncwildlife.org/Fishing/Fishing-in-North-Carolina.

NCRGEA Statement on the North Carolina Senate Budget

NC Retired Governmental Employees Association (NCRGEA) disappointed that budget draft doesn't include increase in retiree benefits

This is a release from the NCRGEA: Senate budget writers released their 2021 biennium budget on June 24, with a humble but anticipated increase in spending of 7 percent over the next two years.

Typical to the senate's principles, local and state government retirees are not included in today's budget draft. Once again, we are disappointed at the disconnect between the senate and the retirees who helped build North Carolina to what it is today, making our state a national economic, educational, and cultural leader.

While disappointed, we invite and encourage senate leadership to have an open and honest conversation about the plight of government retirees. Allowing inflation to swallow the value of public pensions and ignoring the needs of government retirees is not fiscally conservative governing. It is, particularly among those earning the lowest pensions, a foolproof way to create a larger class of underserved residents in North Carolina.

Let us not be confused about the responsibility of our state's legislature. Fully funding the state's public pension and the State Health Plan is not a gift for retirees: it is a constitutionally mandated responsibility of the North Carolina General Assembly. Both case law as well as the state Constitution require the state to fulfill its requirement to pay pensioners what they rightfully earned.

Also, providing inflation relief through cost-of-living adjustments is not a gift: it is a requirement for lawmakers to responsibly care for their constituents. Allowing inflation to drown pension values, pushing an already vulnerable demographic into even more helpless situations, is not a partisan issue. It is an assault on the values our state holds most dear: fiscal responsibility, compassion, fulfilling our obligations, taking care of our communities.

Statesmanship is much more than merely managing public affairs. Statesmanship is the ability to understand those whom you are charged to govern - the student, the employee, the retiree - and be able to address their needs within fiscally responsible contours. We encourage our senate leadership to return to statecraft.

Wildlife Officers Prepare for Operation Dry Water

Officials will be conducting sobriety checks over Fourth of July weekend

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will participate in a nationwide campaign July 2 - 4 called Operation Dry Water. The mission of the nationally coordinated effort is to promote sobriety while boating and educate boaters about the dangers of boating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



"Ultimately we want to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities on the water," stated Lieutenant Forrest Orr of the Wildlife Commission. "The fourth of July weekend is traditionally the busiest weekend on the water. Our partnership with Operation Dry Water helps us to educate operators and passengers on the dangers associated with boating while impaired. We want everyone to have a great summer on the water — to do that boat operators must remain sober and alert."

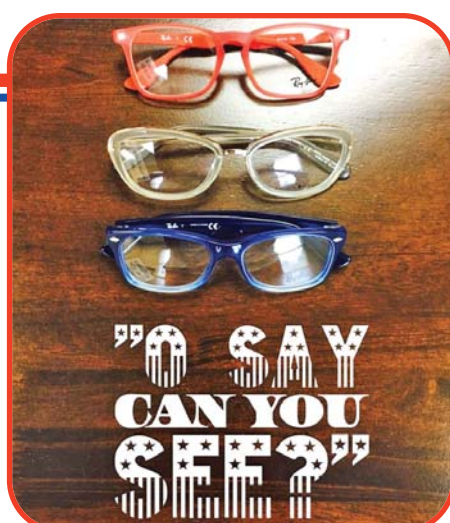
During last year's campaign, law enforcement officers issued 443 warnings, 371 citations and removed 59 people who were boating under the influence from the state's waterways. In North Carolina, a driver or vessel operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08, or is substantially impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, is subject to arrest.

Drinking affects the skills necessary to operate a boat, including: peripheral vision and ability to focus, judgment and rational decision-making, balance and equilibrium and coordination and reaction time.

"We also will be reminding boaters of other safe practices, such as wearing a life jacket and enrolling in a boater education course," added Orr. "Not wearing a life vest is a contributing factor in many fatal incidents. Boating incidents happen quickly and wearing a life vest is the best way to be prepared."

Boating at night typically increases during holiday weekends, so boaters should practice caution and be on high alert due to reduced visibility. Inland lighting rules are in effect and water skiing is prohibited between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. Personal watercraft are prohibited on state waters between sunset and sunrise.

For more information about boating in North Carolina, visit ncwildlife.org/boating.



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