

Fall Brings Increased Wildfire Risk to Anson County

N.C. Forest Service urges residents to use extra caution with outdoor burning

With fall wildfire season beginning across North Carolina, the N.C. Forest Service is reminding Anson County residents that a simple backyard burn can quickly become something much larger when leaves and vegetation are dry and winds begin to pick up.

Wildfire activity typically increases from October through early December, when falling leaves, dry vegetation and changing weather conditions make it easier for fires to spread. Human activity is responsible for more than 99% of wildfires in North Carolina, according to the N.C. Forest Service.

“Most wildfires in this state are preventable,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Human activity continues to be responsible for more than 99% of wildfires in North Carolina, making individual actions one of our most important tools for preventing wildfires. Before you burn, take simple steps to keep your backyard fire in your backyard.”

The Forest Service recommends remembering three words before and during outdoor burning: Check. Prepare. Stay. **CHECK.** Check for burn bans or fire restrictions and check the weather. Never burn on dry or windy days. Make sure a valid burn permit has been obtained when required. Burn permits are available from N.C. Forest Service offices and authorized permitting agents or online at: apps.ncagr.gov/burnpermits.

PREPARE. Clear leaves, pine needles and other flammable material from around the area to be burned. Keep fires small rather than tall, and remember that it is illegal to burn anything other than natural vegetation. Have tools, a water source and a cellphone nearby before lighting the fire. Never use gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel or other flammable liquids to speed up burning.

STAY. Never leave a fire unattended. Remain with it until it is completely extinguished. The Forest Service offers a simple test: If it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

For charcoal, campfires and burn piles, officials recommend “drown, stir, drown, feel.” Thoroughly soak all embers with water, stir the coals and soak them again. Make sure everything is wet and cold to the touch. If water isn't available, dirt or sand can be thoroughly mixed with the embers, but officials caution against simply burying a fire because it can continue smoldering underground.

Outdoor burning is not the only potential source of wildfires. Machinery and equipment that create sparks or heat should be used carefully, trailer chains should be secured so they cannot drag along the roadway and produce sparks, and cigarettes, matches and other flammable materials should be disposed of properly.

Additional wildfire prevention information is available from the N.C. Forest Service at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/prevent-wildfire>.

Anson County residents who have questions can contact the N.C. Forest Service Anson County office at 704-848-4705. The N.C. Forest Service lists that number for the Anson County forest ranger office. Anson County is part of Forest Service District 3, headquartered in Rockingham.

Contact information for N.C. Forest Service offices throughout the state is available at: [ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/contacts](https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/contacts).

Politics After Dark Offers Chance to Meet Local Candidates

Free October 13 Chamber event will give voters an opportunity to hear from candidates and ask questions

Anson County voters will have an opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking public office when the Anson County Chamber of Commerce hosts its sixth annual Politics After Dark on Tuesday, October 13.

The free event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lockhart-Taylor Center, located at 514 North Washington Street in Wadesboro. The Chamber says candidates are signing up to participate, with the evening designed to give residents an opportunity to hear about their views and priorities.

Candidates will speak during the event, and attendees will have an opportunity afterward to meet them face-to-face, continue the conversation and ask questions of their own.

Politics After Dark is intended to provide an informal setting where community members can learn more about the people seeking public office before making their decisions at the ballot box.

For voters, it is also an opportunity to ask about the local issues that matter to them — and to hear the answers without having to rely on campaign signs, mailboxes full of political flyers or social media posts written in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

The event is free and open to the community. No matter which candidates attendees support, or whether they have made up their minds at all, the evening offers a chance to hear what the candidates themselves have to say.

South Piedmont’s Learning for Life Classes Offer Something New...Just for Fun

Upcoming classes range from disc golf and automotive basics to yoga, food preservation and holiday cooking

South Piedmont Community College is offering a different reason to head back to class this fall - no degree required, no career change necessary and, best of all, no final exam looming in the distance.

The college's new Learning for Life program offers short-term, affordable classes for people who simply want to learn something new, pick up a useful skill, explore a hobby or meet others who share their interests. The program is designed for people at every stage of life, with classes offered in a relaxed environment and new subjects expected to be added over time. South Piedmont Community College

“Learning doesn't have to be about a grade, a degree, or a career,” Learning for Life Director Tara Moss said. “Sometimes, learning is simply about doing something you've always wanted to try.” South Piedmont Community College

The first Birdwatching 101 class was held October 3, but plenty of opportunities remain on the fall schedule:

- **Introduction to Disc Golf** October 10. Learn the basics of a sport that combines exercise, the outdoors and the satisfying possibility of occasionally sending a disc exactly where you intended.
- **Beginner Yoga & Pilates** October 13. A class focusing on flexibility, strength, balance and overall well-being.
- **Automotive Essentials** October 17 and November 14. Participants can learn basic automotive maintenance skills to help keep their vehicles operating efficiently and safely.
- **Farm to Table: Food Preservation** October 21. Learn techniques for safely preserving fruits and vegetables so the tastes of the season can stick around a little longer.
- **Fall Flavor Favorites** November 18. One of the program's culinary offerings for those interested in putting some seasonal flavors to work in the kitchen.
- **Homemade Holiday Treats** December 2. A timely culinary class for anyone who would like to head into the holidays with a few new goodies in the repertoire. South Piedmont Community College

South Piedmont says Learning for Life will continue to grow, with courses ranging from hands-on experiences and creative workshops to health and wellness, technology, hobbies and everyday skills. Classes may vary in location, schedule, format and length. South Piedmont Community College

The idea is simple: learning doesn't always have to lead to a diploma or appear on a résumé. Sometimes it's perfectly acceptable to take a class because you've always wondered how to do something — or because it just sounds like fun.

Information is available at spcc.edu/academics/areas-of-study/learning-for-life. Registration and the latest course offerings are available at spcc-register.fundfive.com. South Piedmont Community College

For additional information, contact Learning for Life Coordinator Tara Moss at tmoss@spcc.edu or 704-290-5873.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WADESBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Wadesboro Housing Authority will hold a public hearing at:

1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2026

at the Wadesboro Housing Authority Office, located at:

200 West Short PlazaWadesboro NC 28170

for the purpose of receiving public comment of the agency's 2027-2031 Capital Fund Program 5-year Action Plan and Budget and Annual Plan.

A draft of the plan will be available for review at the Wadesboro Housing Authority Office, located at 200 West Short Plaza, Monday through Thursday during the business hours: (8:00 am-5:00 pm).

Betty L. Huntley, Executive Director

County Commissioner - District 2

Countywide Election

All County Voters Can Vote for Boogie

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