

The frequency of vehicle crashes involving animals decreased last year across North Carolina, according to figures kept by the N.C. Department of Transportation. The number of such crashes – usually involving deer and often occurring in the twilight hours during the fall – totaled 18,607 last year. That's an 8.5% decrease from 2019.

Officials with NCDOT's Traffic Safety Unit, which compiles an "Animal Related Crashes" report each year, attributed the decline partially to an overall drop in highway travel last year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. (The PDF report is attached to this email release.) The decrease also indicates that ongoing safety messages for reducing one's risks of being involved in a deer collision are having an impact, said Matthew Cowhig, the NCDOT engineer who compiles the report.

"Almost half of these animal-related crashes are occurring between October and December and at night, which is when people should be especially vigilant," Cowhig said. About 7% of all vehicle crashes in the state involve animal strikes.

Wake County had the highest number of animal crashes for a three-year period from 2018-2020, according to the NCDOT report. The county had 2,570 animal-related crashes. Wake County usually leads the state in the animal report due to its large geographic size and its fast residential growth. Housing subdivisions in the county are sprouting up across once-rural areas where deer used to be able to roam without encountering much highway traffic.

**County rankings** The top 10 counties had a combined 15,737 animal crashes over the last three years. Those crashes caused a nearly combined \$44 million in damage, 719 injuries and three deaths. The top 10 counties in animal crashes for three years combined are as follows: 1. Wake County 2,570; 2. Pitt County 1,712; 3. Guilford County 1,707; 4. Union County 1,493; 5. Randolph County 1,467; 6. Duplin County 1,397; 7. Columbus County 1,379; 8. Mecklenburg County 1,361; 9. Brunswick County 1,344; and 10. Robeson County 1,307.

**Safety Advice** Here are some tips regarding animal (usually deer) crashes:

- Always maintain a safe amount of distance between your vehicle and others, especially at night. If the vehicle ahead of you hits a deer, you could also become involved in the crash.
- Slow down in areas posted with deer crossing signs and in heavily wooded areas, especially during the late afternoon and evening.
- Most deer-vehicle crashes occur where deer are more likely to travel, near bridges or overpasses, railroad tracks, streams and ditches.
- Drive with high beams on when possible and watch for deer eyes reflecting in the headlights.
- Deer often travel in small herds so if you see one deer near a road be alert for others.
- If you see deer near a road, slow down and blow your horn with one long blast
- Do not swerve to avoid a collision. This could cause you to lose control of your vehicle and cause a more serious crash.
- If your vehicle does strike a deer, do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can be dangerous or further injure itself. Get your vehicle off the road, if possible, and call 911.

### Auditions for Upcoming Ansonia Theatre Play

Auditions for the next play at the Anson Theatre, *The Spitfire Grill: A Musical*, will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at 6 p.m. at the Ansonia. Be prepared to sing and read from the script.

The Spitfire Grill is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. Percy Talbot has just been released from a five-year prison sentence for manslaughter. She is looking to make a fresh start in the small town of Gilead, Wisconsin, a place she found on a page in an old travel book. She finds a job waiting tables at the Spitfire Grill and tries to make a life for herself, and come to grips with her haunting past. The play runs March 4 - 13.

The Ansonia is located at 112 South Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. The telephone number is 704-694-4950.

*It's Officially Fall...What are those orange blobs floating around?*



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# Church

### DECEMBER 12

**Christmas Program & Memory Tree** at Bethany Freewill Baptist Church on Old Lilesville Rd in Wadesboro, 6pm

### ONGOING

**Bible Study And Intercersory Prayer** at Wadesboro Church of God, 6:15pm. Currently studying the life of Christ

**Prayer Walk for Revival & Awakening**, 8am every Saturday at Anson County Courthouse by United Hearts on Fire. Praying for county, state & nation

**Noon Day Prayer** Every Wednesday at New Life Ministries Pentecostal. Or call in request 704-270-4021 or 704-690-4900

# Events

### DECEMBER 4

**Free Vaccinations For Cats & Dogs** at the Anson County Animal Shelter, 9am-12 noon. Located at 7257 Hwy 74 in Polkton, at the entrance to the Field of Dreams. Info 704-994-2738 or [mlett@ansoncountync.gov](mailto:mlett@ansoncountync.gov).

### DECEMBER 5

**Anson Singers Concert**, 3pm at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro.

### DECEMBER 7

**County Commissioners Meet** 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in the Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. This is the regular monthly meeting. Meeting available online at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

### DECEMBER 10 - 12

**Ansonia Play An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas**. During the day Miss Margie's shoppe may look like any other used bookstore, but at night it's a place where magic happens. That's when the characters inside the books come alive. Fri & Sat 7:30pm, Sun 3pm. Show info & tickets [ansoniatheatre.com](http://ansoniatheatre.com) or call 704-694-4950. Tickets sold at the door also.

### DECEMBER 11

**Christmas Community Outreach Event**. Free household items & paper products as well as Christmas Bags for the youth. First come, first served basis. By Lamb of God Church, 10am at 118 West Wade St in Wadesboro. Info 843-623-3777

### DECEMBER 14

**Christmas in the Park**. Free & sponsored by the Town of Lilesville at Hatcher Park, 6-8pm with a tree lighting, Christmas carolers, visits with Santa, crafts for kids to make & take home, cookies & delicious hot cocoa. Free pictures with Santa to take home! If inclement weather event will be held in Lilesville Fire Dept. Info 704-848-4711

**Play Auditions** For upcoming Ansonia Theatre play, *The Spitfire Grill: A Musical*, 6pm at the theatre. Be prepared to sing & read from the script. 112 S Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. Info 704-694-4950

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## Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Peachland Cemetery

Peachland Remembers proudly hosts Wreaths Across America in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Peachland Cemetery on Saturday, December 18 at 2 p.m. to Remember our fallen US Veterans, Honor those who serve, and Teach our children the value of freedom.

There is a tasteful and touching ceremony planned to include all veterans in attendance as special guests. The Color Guard from Anson High School JROTC will carry and present the National and State Colors. A vocal group made up of members of Lawyer Springs and Peachland Baptists Churches will sing a capella the anthems of each of the military branches as a salute to our respected and honored military. Solo vocalist Mark Greene will lead attendees in singing the National Anthem, as well as playing taps at the end of the ceremony. There will be a brief recitation acknowledging each military branch and those associated veterans in attendance with a special 'branch specific' commemorative wreath, presented and laid by members of the associated branches in attendance and members of the JROTC Color Guard. Pastor Jerome Cash of Peachland Baptist Church will deliver the Prayer of Remembrance and Gratitude for our veterans.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath at Peachland Cemetery visit [wreathsassamerica.org/pages/167741](http://wreathsassamerica.org/pages/167741).

## Enviva Biomass Opportunities for Private Forest Landowners

This is a networking opportunity for forest landowners, foresters, loggers, and other land managers. This event will be highlighting the woody biomass industry, particularly Enviva, a local pellet manufacturing plant.

Meet with Enviva's Wood Procurement Foresters, and learn about the 125 acre pellet manufacturing plant in Hamlet, NC. Can low quality or salvage timber from your family forestland fit into their supply chain? What are the roles of foresters, timber buyers and loggers in working with landowners to supply this market? Learn how forest certification can increase the value of your forest and the final product through their sustainable biomass program.

### Event Details - Free!

- Thursday, December 2, 3 to 4 p.m. at the Anson Extension, located at 501 McLaurin Street in Wadesboro.
- Register early, seating is limited. Contact Anson Extension agent Aimee Colf at [aimee\\_colf@ncsu.edu](mailto:aimee_colf@ncsu.edu) or 704-694-2915.

## Anson County Tax Collector PROPERTY TAX BILLS DON'T LET PAYING PROPERTY TAXES BE A YEAR END BURDEN



You may mail payment to:

**Anson County Tax Collector**  
101 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170

Or you may visit our office and pay with cash, check, money order, credit / debit card. Or pay online at [www.co.anson.nc.us](http://www.co.anson.nc.us).

The Tax Collector office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 704-994-3218 for payment information.

A drop box on the Greene Street side of our building is available for after-hours delivery.

Feel free to break tax payments into partial payments that better fit your personal budget, but please be sure to complete payment by January 6, 2022. We hope you can use this extra time for budgeting tax payments over the next weeks.

Interest and fees on outstanding taxes will begin January 6, 2022.

Please settle taxes in a timely manner and avoid costly interest and advertising fees. Thanks to the many who have already paid 2021 taxes.

Thank you, Anson County Tax Collections

**ANSON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR • 101 South Greene Street**  
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