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## Eastview Cemetery Welcomes Donations, Volunteers

Donations are encouraged from those with family buried there and any other donors

Eastview Cemetery is located on Old Lilesville Road in Wadesboro. There is ongoing work to maintain and improve the cemetery, both by hired professionals and by dedicated volunteers. Presented below is a letter from Ken Caulder from Leavitt Funeral Home in Wadesboro, an Eastview Trustee:

Dear Friends,  
On behalf of the trustees of Eastview Cemetery, I greet you from beautiful Wadesboro. There has been some restructuring of the Trustees for Eastview Cemetery and we have taken on a few small projects to help beautify the cemetery. During 2023 we have had the brick entrances and wrought iron gates pressure washed and painted, along with the brownstone walls in the oldest section of the cemetery. All of the steps and handrails have been pressure washed and painted. As you are aware, there is much to do at Eastview. We have made arrangements with the lawn care service to mow the cemetery every three weeks during the summer months to get on a more realistic schedule to maintain the grounds in a more pleasing manner. Adam Pope is now responsible for the lawn care, and he has committed to keeping things in a better state and more timely manner than was done in the past with previous lawn maintenance firms.

A pine tree fell in one section and needed to be removed, which made us aware of other old and damaged pine trees in the same area, also in need of being removed. We contracted with Mr. Pope to clean up the fallen tree, remove the other necessary trees and to clear the bank of unwanted growth. This is in the southernmost area through the main drive in the cemetery.

There is no signage for the cemetery. We have investigated purchasing a sign for the cemetery stating "Eastview Cemetery Circa 1805." Based on information from the Historical Society, it is believed the first grave was placed in the cemetery in 1805. This will be a minimal cost compared to the larger projects we have ahead of us.

In a meeting in 2020 the trustees agreed unanimously to make repairs necessary to the roadways in the cemetery. Prior to finding this information, we asked for bids from two different paving companies about paving the roadways in the cemetery. This would be, of course, the largest cost to the cemetery trust. We anticipate a campaign to raise funds for this project.

Due to the lack of interest and communication in the past, the current trustees feel it necessary to reach out to the families we have contact information for and make them aware of our efforts and the need for financial support. We all have the best interest of the cemetery in mind and at heart, and the trustees want it to be as well maintained as possible from here on out.

With that being said, we need your help. Contributions in any amount, whether one time or recurring, will have influence in helping maintain the beauty and dignity of the cemetery.

It is our hope you will see fit to help Eastview Cemetery. If you can contribute, please contact Ken Caulder at Leavitt Funeral Home, 704-694-2524. The mailing address is: Eastview Cemetery Fund, PO Box 274, Wadesboro NC 28170

With my best regards, I am yours truly, Ken Caulder, Trustee

## Ignoring Move Over Law Poses Serious Traffic Safety Risks

An NCDOT employee had keys swiped off his hip from a passing motorist while conducting a safety patrol on Interstate 40. The driver failed to slow his pickup and move over one lane, as state law requires, and the utility trailer he towed came within a few inches of striking – and possibly killing the safety patrol responder.

The incident was one of more than two dozen like it across the state over the past two years, underscoring the risks posed to N.C. Department of Transportation employees and the traveling public alike, if the state's Move Over Law is not heeded ([ncdot.gov/MoveOverLaw](http://ncdot.gov/MoveOverLaw)).

"Our safety-patrol drivers, when they stop to assist motorists, are often within mere inches of traffic every day on our interstates," said Chad Franklin, the Regional Intelligent Transportation System Engineer in Asheville. "That's basically a loaded missile coming right at them."

Franklin oversees a group of 15 responders for Incident Management Assistant Program, known as IMAP. They provide a wide variety of services to assist drivers, aid in temporary traffic control and help keep traffic flowing. With nearly 100 specialty trucks across the state, NCDOT provides this service in every metropolitan area in North Carolina. Tens of thousands of motorists are assisted every year.

Despite the Move Over Law and the precautions taken by NCDOT's safety patrol drivers, their vehicles have been struck 26 times across the state since Jan. 1, 2022 – an average of once a month during that period through this past February.

"That is far too many," Franklin said. "We have been lucky out here when it comes to injuries. But it shouldn't take somebody getting seriously injured or killed for drivers to realize the seriousness of the Move Over Law."

The law requires motorists to move over a lane or slow down considerably when approaching emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road with lights flashing. Failure to do so could result in a \$250 fine, and violators could also face misdemeanor or felony charges, if someone is injured or property is damaged.

**A Closer Look at the Data** In all but three of those incidents, the NCDOT drivers were not injured, but their vehicles sustained some kind of damage. In almost every instance, the motorist failed to pay attention or reduce speed when the collision with a safety patrol truck occurred. About a half-dozen of the crashes appeared to have involved violations of the Move Over Law, based on a crash review by NCDOT.

Almost a dozen of those 26 incidents happened in these three western North Carolina counties: Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson. Mecklenburg County accounted for six of those crashes; followed by two incidents in Forsyth County; and one each in Brunswick, Gaston, Guilford, Johnston, Orange, Pender and Wake counties.

In January, the NCDOT established a Post Incident Review Board to review and evaluate all incidents, such as crashes, involving its safety patrol drivers. The purpose of the board is to identify and recommend potential safety and training improvements for its Incident Management Assistance Program and patrol drivers.

The dangers of drivers not heeding the Move Over Law are not limited to NCDOT. Vehicles for first-responders, including police, fire and paramedics, are also being struck. According to an analysis by NCDOT's Traffic Safety Unit, such first-responders have been struck on average 28 times annually since 2020. The law applies statewide to first-responders stopped on the shoulder or in a lane on an interstate, or other fully access-controlled highway, with their emergency lights activated.

"It's vitally important for drivers to slow down and change lanes," said Colonel Freddy Johnson Jr., commander of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. "Somebody's life could depend on it. At the end of the day, we want everyone, including our responders, to be safe out on the highways."

**It Hits Close to Home** The crashes into IMAP trucks and numerous near misses are a solemn reminder to safety patrol drivers such as Bill Chandler, a 20-year veteran in western North Carolina. Drivers have hit his truck six times, including twice in the last two years, while he's been assisting somebody pulled over on the shoulder.

"My safety message to drivers is that if you see lights, slow down and move over," Chandler said. "The lights mean somebody there is working. They have families they need to go home to at night. Their lives matter, too."

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## SPCC is Recruiting Students for Truck Driving Classes

South Piedmont Community College's next round of truck driving course will begin in May. Students are encouraged to begin completing prerequisites now.

Registration for classes will begin on April 22.

South Piedmont's tuition is highly affordable compared to other truck driving programs in the area and includes study materials. Financial assistance is available to assist with the cost of the program. Anson County residents may be able to complete their truck driving training for free if they meet the requirements of the College's Anson Advantage program.

**Dates, times and locations for the upcoming classes are:**

- May 16 - July 25 for CDL-B. Thursday & Friday, 5-9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, 1-5 p.m. at South Piedmont L.L. Polk Campus, Polkton.

- May 16 - August 9 for CDL-A. Thursday & Friday, 5-9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, 1-5 p.m. at South Piedmont L.L. Polk Campus, Polkton.

- May 20 - July 24 for CDL-B. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at South Piedmont OCH Campus, Monroe.

- May 20 - August 12 for CDL-A. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at South Piedmont OCH Campus, Monroe.

Students may choose the course that best fits their schedule. Additionally, students may choose to pursue either a CDL-A or CDL-B license.

For information, including prerequisites, visit: [spcc.edu/truckdriving](http://spcc.edu/truckdriving), call 704-290-1500, or email: [navigate@spcc.edu](mailto:navigate@spcc.edu).

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