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July Fourth Celebration Parade in Lilesville Set for July 1

Accepting parade entries and vendor applications now

The Town of Lilesville is once again hosting their 4th of July Parade! It will take place on Saturday, July 1, beginning at 11 a.m. The parade route starts at the intersection of Camden and Wall Streets and ends at South Railroad Street by the old T.W. Bennett School.

Would you like to be in the parade? They welcome floats, vehicles, tractors, motorcycles, horses, and more.

The Town of Lilesville invites vendors to participate. Vendors can sell crafts, cups, wreaths, jewelry, apparel or other items to add to the celebration and fun. The vendor fees are \$20. Vendor setup begins at 8 a.m. and needs to be finished by 10 a.m. Also, walking vendors are welcome.

For information about being in the parade or being a vendor, please call Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711.



Wildlife Commission and DOT Renew Focus on Wildlife Passages to Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding demonstrating their commitment to work together to improve the infrastructure and safety for both wildlife and the traveling public on North Carolina roads. Both agencies share common goals to make highways less hazardous for wildlife and reduce the impact highways have on important habitats. The partnership aims to develop effective and efficient passages for various species of wildlife to reduce highway hazards for motorists and wildlife, while minimizing habitat fragmentation.

NCWRC and NCDOT have collaborated for decades during project planning to address these road safety impacts related to wildlife, resulting in 26 wildlife crossing structures across the state successfully providing wildlife passage. These wildlife crossing structures can include overpasses, underpasses, and fencing along roads and highways. Examples include a passage corridor along Cold Springs Creek and Harmon Den Road under Interstate 40 in Haywood County as well as three underpasses on Interstate 140 south of Wilmington in Brunswick County. NCDOT and NCWRC are currently collaborating on 11 additional projects in various stages of planning, with several awaiting construction while others are still in the design phase.

"NCDOT is committed to work with our partners to improve North Carolina's roads for both the safety of the traveling public and wildlife," NCDOT Chief Engineer Chris Peoples said. "We will continue to work with our partners to examine wildlife vehicle mortality data, monitor crossing structures, and identify new crossings and mitigation strategies in North Carolina."

According to NCDOT, 20,331 wildlife-vehicle collisions were reported across the state in 2019, and 18,607 such collisions were reported in 2020 - a decrease the NCDOT largely attributes to reduced travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. A 2021 release from the department estimated that 7 percent of all reported vehicle crashes in the state involve animal strikes, with almost half occurring in the twilight hours or at night, between October and December.

Both agencies recognize the need for a collaborative relationship to accommodate the ongoing and projected population increase and consequent demand for movement of goods, services and people in the state as well as the impacts highways have on North Carolina's wildlife and environment.

"As more and more people move to North Carolina, the landscape changes with additional development, new roads, additional road lanes, and overall, more vehicles on the highways," said NCWRC Chief Deputy Director Kyle Briggs. "Unfortunately, the effect on wildlife from those actions often results in habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, and increased wildlife-vehicle collisions."

This partnership will also improve data collection for wildlife vehicle mortality, continued monitoring of wildlife crossing structures, and identification of new crossings and wildlife mitigation strategies. As part of continued collaboration during NCDOT's project planning processes, NCWRC will develop a "Wildlife Passage Guidance" document that will aid in the familiarity and incorporation of standard prescriptions for highway projects.

For the first time ever, Congress made a major investment in wildlife crossings in the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, allocating \$350 million for a Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program that will help fund projects in all 50 states. The North Carolina General Assembly is considering allocating resources to wildlife passages that could be leveraged to match the available federal funding within the pilot program.



Moving on Ceremony for Kindergartners and Other Great Activities at Morven Elementary School

Oh what a week at Morven Elementary School at the end of the school year. Start strong to finish strong. From awards at the school board meeting, a field trip for the entire school, Celebration of Learning, softball games in the sun, to the Kindergarten Moving on Ceremony. It's an awesome life at MES!

Athletic Teams & Individuals Recognized by the School Board

At the board of education's regular meeting on Monday, May 22, Anson Middle School and Anson High School athletic teams and individuals were recognized for athletic achievements during the spring season.

- Hazel Lemus-Ramirez was recognized as the 2023 Captain UniSon Costume Design Contest winner and for representing Anson County Schools in the next round of competition with Union County.
- Anson Middle School Orange Baseball won the Southeastern Middle School Baseball Conference Championship.
- Anson Middle School Softball advanced to the Playoffs.
- Anson Middle School Boys Track won the Southeastern Middle School Track Conference Championship
- Anson High School Golf (All-Conference Recognition and Regional Qualifiers)
- Anson High School Softball (Advanced to the 3rd round of playoffs & All-Conference recognition)



Hazel Lemus-Ramirez (second from left)



AMS Orange Baseball



AMS Softball



AMS Boys Track



AHS Softball

Balding Cardinals

It's summer! The young have been raised and are on their own. What do most adult birds do right after nesting season? They molt and shed their feathers.



Songbirds can generally lose a few feathers at a time and we hardly notice. But some cardinals and bluejays have been known to lose many feathers at once. So if you catch a glimpse of one, don't worry they aren't sick. Within a month, their stately crests and plumage will be refreshed and bright as ever.

Dollar Day Yard Sale June 17

Faith-Based Center of Hope will have a "Dollar Day" Yard Sale on Saturday, June 17 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Burger King in Wadesboro.

To donate items or monetary donations, please contact Patricia Robinson at 704 848-4995 or Vancine Sturdivant at 704 294-0480. All donations are welcomed.