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Sheriff Howell's Reminders for a Safe and Happy Halloween

Halloween is quickly approaching and many fall activities are already in full swing. You may participate in trick-or-treating, haunted houses and Halloween costume parties this year to celebrate and Sheriff Howell offers some reminders and tips to help you and your family stay safe while you enjoy the festivities.

First and foremost, parents and guardians should check their local sex offender registry at www.NCSBI.gov prior to planning their trick-or-treating route or allowing older trick-or-treaters to go off on their own. At this webpage you can view a map of registered sex offenders' addresses and also set up an alert if a sex offender moves to your area.

When preparing for an evening of trick-or-treating, remember these basic safety rules to keep your ghosts and ghouls safe:

- When choosing a costume, pick one with bright colors or add reflective tape so children can be seen in low light.
- Make sure masks or costumes do not obstruct vision.
- Always make sure there is an adult present with younger goblins while trick-or-treating, and ensure older kids know to only visit familiar areas.
- Avoid taking homemade treats.
- Inspect all candy at home before eating. Discard any that have been previously opened or tampered with.
- Carry a flashlight with you to be able to see where you are walking at night.
- Only approach homes that are brightly lit.
- Never enter a stranger's home.

If you are driving around your neighborhood on Halloween, you should stay extra vigilant and watch out for excited trick-or-treaters running from house to house. Halloween is one of the deadliest days of the year for pedestrians. You can help prevent unnecessary accidents by following these tips:

- Make sure your headlights are on.
- Take an extra look at crosswalks and intersections for groups of trick-or-treaters crossing the road.
- Do not text and drive. It is against the law in North Carolina.
- Slow down!
- Do not wear costumes while driving that may obstruct your vision or make it difficult for you to react quickly behind the wheel.

Those planning to stay inside to hand out candy should follow some simple safety reminders as well:

- Keep your porch and driveway clear of any tripping hazards.
- Make sure your porch is well lit for trick-or-treaters.
- Only hand out unopened, pre-packaged candy and treats.
- Use battery operated candles instead of real ones in your jack-o-lanterns and other décor.
- Make sure all pets are restrained when you open your door.
- Secure any outdoor decorations properly.

"Halloween is a popular holiday with both adults and kids, which means there may be large crowds out and about enjoying the night," said Sheriff Howell. "Everyone in our community should follow these simple rules and recommendations to avoid tragedy and keep everyone safe this Halloween." Be careful and fun!

Anson County Farmers Market Extends Season to Dec. 9

November 11 Craft Fair scheduled

The Anson County Farmers Market Association is extending the Saturday market through early December. Market Manager Leslie Lee explained their reasoning, "We took a survey, and both customers and merchants were interested in having a place to meet. It's exciting to know that so many Anson County residents want to continue to support local farmers, bakers and artisans."

The fall and winter market, called "Seasons' Eatings," will continue at its existing location at 1736 US Highway 52 South in Wadesboro. Hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month, through December 9. Special events will include a Craft Fair on November 11 and Small Business Saturday on November 26.

SPCC's Polkton Trunk or Treat Event is Thursday!

South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) will hold its seventh annual Trunk or Treat event at its Polkton campus from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, October 26. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are thrilled to continue offering this event to the Anson County community," said Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Brandon Dyer. "Our employees enjoy decking out their vehicles and making sure the children of Anson County have a very sweet Halloween. This event is a great chance to build and continue fostering relationships between Anson County and South Piedmont."

Each year, departments, student clubs/organizations, and academic programs create

festive trunk displays for Trunk or Treat attendees to enjoy. The College also ensures there's plenty of candy for trunk-or-treaters. This year, the College has purchased 5,200 pounds of candy - or measured another way, 56,364 individually wrapped pieces!

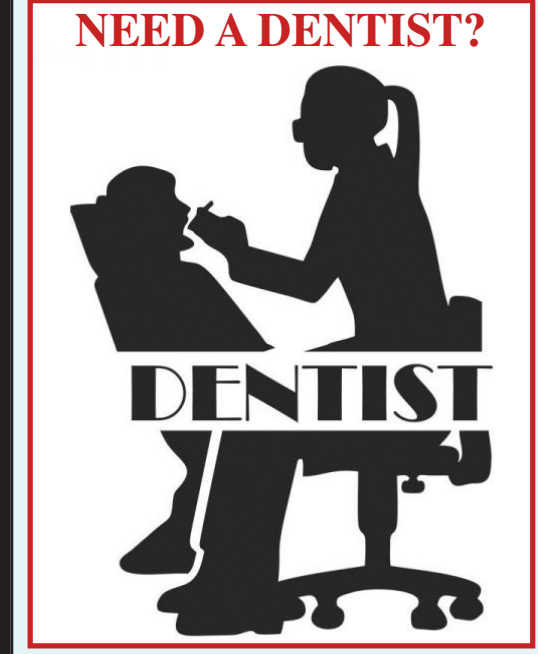
"The kids are going to go home with enough candy to last them a very long time," Dyer said.

In addition to trunk-or-treating, South Piedmont admissions personnel will be available to talk to attendees about college and career opportunities.

The event begins at 6 p.m., but attendees are encouraged to arrive early.

The SPCC Polkton campus is located at 680 U.S. 74 in Polkton. For more information, contact Dyer at bdyer@spcc.edu.

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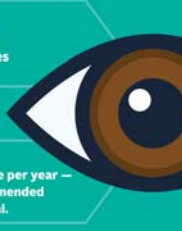
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Hatcher Park -Lilesville
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