

## Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelight Program is Sunday

The annual Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelight Program will be held 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 12 at First Baptist Church, 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. This is a special time as attendees join together with others around the world to remember our children who have died - that their light may always shine.

Groups of people and individuals from all over the world will be lighting candles at 7 p.m. their local time in memory of deceased children. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are lighted in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light as the observance continues around the world. This is believed to be the largest mass candle lighting in the world.

You are invited to take part in this program. Please bring a photograph of your child, your family and friends. Attendees will enjoy party refreshments and fellowship following the candle lighting.

The compassionate Friends meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church, 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro. It is a support group for parents, grandparents and siblings who have experienced the death of a child of any age. They welcome you to attend. "We need not walk alone."

For more information, please call free to email Ken Caulder at [kcaulder9869@gmail.com](mailto:kcaulder9869@gmail.com) or you can call Leavitt Funeral Home at 704-694-2524.

## NC Bird Atlas Seeks Public Participation in Early Winter Observations

Biologists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are asking the public to join the NC Bird Atlas team to participate in the Early Winter Bird Atlas season by recording their bird observations in Ebird. Nearly 100 bird species migrate to North Carolina this time of year and the NC Bird Atlas needs the public's assistance in recording sightings. Visit [ebird.org/atlasnc](http://ebird.org/atlasnc) for information.

Birders, hunters, and conservation enthusiasts are encouraged to get involved. Places to observe birds such as snow geese and fox sparrows range from your backyard to open bodies of water.

"Shrubby areas that provide cover and plants that have berries through the winter, such as Winterberry Holly and Eastern Red Cedar, provide great opportunities for bird sightings," said Paula Mandarino, birding trail coordinator with the Wildlife Commission.

Mandarino added that seed producing trees, such as American Beech and various oaks, attract foraging flocks of Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite; and forests and shrublands provide ample cover for White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and other species.

"In open grasslands, you might find Horned Larks and Northern Harriers. In fields full of thistle, goldenrod and other plants that produce seeds, you might find flocks of visiting Goldfinches or Carolina Chickadees," said Mandarino.

Migrating birds will be present in North Carolina during the winter window of time. The Early Winter Bird Atlas season runs Nov. 1 - Dec. 31. For more information on the NC Bird Atlas, getting started guides, tutorials and winter atlas techniques, visit [www.ncbirdatlas.org](http://www.ncbirdatlas.org).

**About the NC Bird Atlas** The North Carolina Bird Atlas is a statewide community science project led by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and partner groups, including NC State University, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, Audubon North Carolina, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of North Carolina at Wilmington and Catawba College. The project's mission is to mobilize thousands of volunteer birdwatchers across the state to log all bird species over the span of five years. The data collected will help state wildlife officials, land managers, and conservation organizations make important conservation decisions. More information about the NC Bird Atlas and volunteer opportunities can be found at [ncbirdatlas.org](http://ncbirdatlas.org), or email [coordinator@ncbirdatlas.org](mailto:coordinator@ncbirdatlas.org).

## Anson County's Unemployment Rate Rose Slightly to 5.2% in October

**Anson County** Anson County's unemployment rate for October was 5.2%, up slightly from September's 4.9% rate. Here are other 2021 rates: August 5.8%; July 5.9%; June 6.1%; May 5.5%; April 5.4%; March 5.9%; February 7.5%; January 7.7%. The 2020 rates were: December 7.1%; November 7.2%; October 7.2%; September 8.5%; August 8%; July 10%; June 7.9%; May 10.1%; and April 8.2%. In March 2020 the unemployment rate was 4.9%, just before it was affected by the pandemic.

**Statewide** Statewide the unemployment rate for October was 3.6%. In September the rate was 3.8%. Here are other 2021 rates: August 4.4%; July 4.6%; June 4.9%; May 4.5%; April 4.4%; March 4.6%; February 5.6%; January and December 2020 6%. Other 2020 rates: November and October 6.1%; September 7%; August 6.8%; July 8.9%.

Anson's total labor force in October was 10,554. Of that number 10,002 were employed and 552 were unemployed. In September the total labor force was 10,410, with 9,896 employed and 514 unemployed.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) increased in 83 of North Carolina's counties in October, increased in eight, and remained unchanged in nine. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 7.8 percent while Orange County had the lowest at 2.6%.

Thirteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases, one increased, and one remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Rocky Mount had the highest rate at 5.8 percent while Durham-Chapel Hill had the lowest at 2.9 percent. The October not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.6 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in October by 19,925 to 4,884,941, while those unemployed decreased by 5,888 to 184,904. Since October 2020, the number of workers employed decreased 156,670, while those unemployed decreased 140,164.



Light a candle for all children who have died

**Worldwide  
Candle  
Lighting®**

... that their light may always shine.

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12  
7 PM Around the Globe**

Bring a photograph and join the local chapter of the Compassionate Friends at First Baptist Church, located at 309 Lee Avenue in Wadesboro for the ceremony in honor of deceased children.

## December Information

- December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, inspires traditions around the world from hunts for presents to stockings or shoes filled with sweets.
  - December 7 is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
  - December 15 is Bill of Rights Day • December 17 is Wright Brothers Day
  - December 18 is Full Cold Moon
  - December 21 is the Winter Solstice - the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and first day of summer in the Southern Hemisphere.
  - December 25 is Christmas Day, a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.
  - December 31 New Year's Eve
  - December's traditional birthstone is turquoise. It is considered a symbol of good fortune and success
  - December's birth flowers are the holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and the paperwhite Narcissus
- Courtesy of Marshville Museum & Cultural Center*



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**(704) 695-0694**

**Fax: (704) 695-0695**

**148 East Morgan Street • Suite B • Wadesboro, NC 28170**

**Christmas  
in the Park**

**AT HATCHER PARK IN LILESVILLE**



*You are invited... Tuesday, Dec 14 6-8pm*

The Town of Lilesville invites everyone to come to Hatcher Park in Lilesville for the town's annual Christmas in the Park. The event will be held on Tuesday, December 14, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Among the many fun activities will be a Tree Lighting, Christmas Carolers, Christmas Crafts for the Kids to Make and Take Home, Free Hot Chocolate, Apple Cider and Cookies, A&T BBQ will be selling hot dogs, homemade chili beans, funnel cakes and drinks, and an opportunity to Visit with Santa and Have a Picture Made to Take Home!

If inclement weather the event will be held in the Lilesville Fire Department.

For more information about the event call Lilesville Town Hall at 704-848-4711.

**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  
Wadesboro, NC 28170 • 704-994-3218**