

You can now check out the internet from your local library! The Hampton B. Allen Library has received internet backpacks to loan to the general public. The backpacks are equipped with a Chromebook, wireless hotspot and charging cords for both. Patrons with accounts in good standing will be eligible to check out a backpack for two weeks.

The library hopes these backpacks will help families and individuals, especially students, without reliable internet at home.

For more information you can call the library at 704-694-5177 or stop by in person at 120 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

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Governor Roy Cooper Encourages Residents to Prepare for Winter Weather

As he declared December 2-8, 2018 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week, Governor Roy Cooper encouraged North Carolinians to plan and prepare before potentially dangerous winter weather arrives.

"Some North Carolina families have already seen their first round of winter weather while others are still recovering from Hurricane Florence, but we want all residents to be prepared for winter weather in the months ahead," Governor Cooper said. "Take time now to review emergency plans, update emergency supply kits and always stay informed about weather forecasts."

North Carolina's unpredictable winter weather patterns can be attributed to the state's proximity to the Appalachian Mountains, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf Stream and Gulf of Mexico. Each year there are approximately 6 to 12 winter storms in the Piedmont, 12 or more winter storms in the mountains and fewer than 4 winter storms that impact the coastal counties.

Governor Cooper urged residents to monitor changing weather conditions by listening to local media and paying close attention to winter weather warnings. Remember, a Winter Storm Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for either heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain within the next 48 hours, while a Winter Storm Warning is issued when at least 3" of snow and/or ice accumulations of 1/4" or more are likely within the next 24 hours. A Winter Weather Advisory is issued when 1 to 3" of snow or ice accumulations of less than 1/4" are expected within the next 24 hours, causing travel difficulties.

Forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center are expecting a weak El Niño pattern to develop and influence weather conditions this winter. An El Niño pattern favors wetter than normal conditions across the southeastern United States during the winter months.

"A wetter than normal winter does not necessarily mean a snowier winter," said North Carolina Emergency Management Meteorologist Kevin Kalbaugh. "Long-range snow forecasts are pretty much impossible, but we have an increased potential of seeing above normal precipitation between December and February."

To help ensure you are ready for winter weather, North Carolina Emergency Management officials urge you to:

- Always keep enough non-perishable food in your home for 3 days.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand for weather radios and flashlights.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators outside and away from open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio to monitor for changing weather conditions.
- Keep alternative heating sources and fire extinguishers on hand. Be sure your family knows how to use them.
- Store an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first aid kit and road map.

If you must travel during bad weather, emergency officials remind motorists to leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles and if driving on snow- or ice-covered roadways, reduce your speed. If conditions worsen, pull off the highway and remain in your vehicle. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you can take shelter.

Governor Cooper encourages North Carolinians to include pets in their emergency plans. To keep animals safe during winter weather, emergency management officials recommend you:

- Make an emergency supplies kit for your pet and include medical records, first aid kit, enough canned/dry food and water for 3 - 7 days and pet travel bag or carrier.
- Do not leave pets outside for long periods of time and bring pets inside when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Ensure your pet has a well-fitting collar.
- Move livestock and other animals to a sheltered location with food and water.

The Department of Public Safety and the National Weather Service work together to help North Carolinians plan and prepare for winter weather by providing accurate weather and safety information.

For more information on how to prepare for winter storms, check the ReadyNC app or visit readync.org.

N.C. Fire Marshal Mike Causey Offers Tips to Keep Safe and Warm if Power Goes Out

Alternative heating sources increase the risk of fire

As snow and ice blanket portions of North Carolina, N.C. Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey urges caution when trying to heat homes – especially in the event power is out and residents revert to alternative heating sources. According to the N.C. Office of State Fire Marshal, there have been several fires across the state during this storm believed to be caused by heating sources.

In 2018, 124 North Carolinians died as a result of fire. Commissioner Causey asks residents to make sure their fire and carbon monoxide alarms are working, heed the following safety precautions to help minimize the risk of house fires and have an escape plan in place in case of a fire ignites.

Space Heaters - Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.

- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

Fireplace - Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.

- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.

Wood Stove - Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.

- Do not burn paper in your wood stove. Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.

Furnace - Have your furnace inspected each year.

Kerosene Heater - Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.

- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Refuel your cooled heater outside.

During colder weather, people tend to use fuel-burning appliances more often. Carbon monoxide is called the "invisible killer," as it is an odorless and colorless gas produced by the incomplete combustion of any fossil fuel; wood, oil, gas or coal.

The USFA recommends following these tips:

- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
- Remove vehicles from the garage immediately after starting.

For more information contact Office of the State Fire Marshal at 855-408-1212.

Do You Need a Coat or Blanket? Would You Like to Donate?

The Faith-Based Center of Hope continues their "Warm Coats, Warm Hearts" program. They distribute coats to those in need as well as to schools.

Blankets for the elderly are also available.

Gumbys on Highway 74 in Lilesville is a drop off site for donations, or a pick up point for those who need a coat. Just call to schedule it.

To donate coats and blankets or to request help, please contact Vancine Sturdivant at 704-848-4412.

Anson County Tax Collector PROPERTY TAX REMINDER



ANSON COUNTY TAXES ARE DUE NOW!

Please see that all of your Anson County Property Taxes are paid in full prior to January 7, 2019.

FEES AND INTEREST BEGIN JANUARY 7, 2019.

Also, if you wish to use property taxes as an income tax deduction, payments should be made by December 31, 2018.

Please pay your taxes immediately. Mail your payment to:

**Anson County Tax Collector
101 South Greene Street
Wadesboro, NC 28170
Telephone 704-994-3218**

Or visit the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We accept cash, check or credit / debit card.

An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.

You may call 704-994-3218 for total taxes owed.