

Comments on Proposed 2022 Rule Changes

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission has opened the public comment period for proposed changes to agency regulations related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2022-2023 seasons. The comment period will be open through Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

Comments may be submitted online, emailed to regulations@ncwildlife.org (must include name, phone number and mailing address in e-mail) or mailed to: Rule-Making Coordinator, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1700. The public can also provide comments at one of the public hearings the Wildlife Commission will conduct in January.

For more information, including the schedule for the upcoming public hearings, visit ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations.

Seniors Reminded to Review, Make Changes to Medicare Advantage Coverage by March 31

NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey and SHIIP, the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program, remind Medicare beneficiaries about the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period in North Carolina. "Our health can change dramatically within a year's time," Commissioner Causey said. "If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, now is the right time to make sure you have the plan that best meets your needs."

If you're unhappy with your Medicare Advantage Plan (Medicare Part C) you have options. Each year, there is a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period from Jan. 1 to March 31. During this time, if you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan and want to change your health plan, you can do one of these:

- Switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage
- Go back to Original Medicare and, if needed, also join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

If you switch Medicare Advantage Plans or go back to Original Medicare with or without a Medicare drug plan, your new coverage will start the first day of the month after your new plan gets your request for coverage. Keep in mind, if you go back to Original Medicare now, you may not be able to buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy.

For assistance with Medicare questions, contact NC SHIIP at 1-855-408-1212 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to speak to a SHIIP counselor. In Anson County you can call Grace Senior Center at 704-694-6616. The Medicare Plan Finder can also help you find, compare and enroll in a new Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare drug plan in your area. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for help. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is only for people who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

It's important to understand and be confident in your Medicare coverage choices. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan and want to change your plan, check out your options today.

Remember, the Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment Period ends March 31. SHIIP counselors are not licensed insurance agents. They do not sell, endorse, or oppose any product, plan or company. If you have questions about your specific plan, we encourage you to contact your insurance agent or insurance company.

Assistance Available for Swine and Dairy Producers that Suffered a Pandemic Loss

Eligible farmers will receive \$31,500 payment in Phase 1

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has opened the application period for the first phase of its North Carolina Swine and Dairy Assistance program. The \$30 million in federal COVID funds appropriated by the N.C. General Assembly will offer assistance for eligible swine and dairy producers for losses incurred from termination of contracts or ceased milk production due to the pandemic.

"A significant number of swine farms have lost contracts and dairies have been forced out of business due to the pandemic. It has been a rough time for many farmers," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "The application process will take place in two phases. Phase 1, which determines program eligibility, is underway now. Eligible applicants will receive a one-time assistance payment of \$31,500 in Phase 1. This first phase is meant to provide funds quickly to farmers so bills can be paid. If you are a farmer and this program applies to you then get your application in as soon as possible."

Phase 2 will focus on infrastructure modifications to barns, hog houses and/or lagoons. More details on Phase 2 will be released in early February.

The grant application and required forms can be downloaded from the NCDAC website at www.ncagr.gov. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2023, but funds are limited so farmers are encouraged to go ahead and apply. For questions about the program in general, call 866-747-9823. Applicants may also reach out to their local cooperative extension, Farm Service Agency or N.C. Farm Bureau offices for application support.



**TOWN OF MORVEN JOB NOTICE
FULL TIME
MAINTENANCE POSITION**

The Town of Morven is now accepting applications to fill the position for Full-Time Maintenance.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, possess a driver's license with a good driving record, pass a drug test, and criminal background.

Duties include but are not limited to reading water meters, fixing leaks, and checking sewer pump stations. Any mechanical, electrical and plumbing experience will be helpful in determining the desired applicant.

Applications must be received by December 31, 2021, at 3 p.m. They can be picked up at Morven Town Hall between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. No Calls Please.

The Town of Morven is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**Rev. Dr. M. Andrew Davis
Awarded Keys to City
of Columbia, SC**

Reverend Dr. M. Andrew Davis, a native Anson County, was awarded Keys to the City of Columbia, South Carolina at Zion Baptist Church on Sunday, December 12 by Columbia Town Councilman William McDowell, Jr. Dr. Davis is an author, and he has been featured in media outlets such as Ebony Magazine and CNN (Cable News Network) among others. He has addressed social and political concerns as an ecclesiastical leader.

Dr. Davis is the Senior Pastor of Zion Baptist Church in downtown Columbia, South Carolina. He is the oldest son of Deacon Melvin and Deaconess Juanita Davis.



Cook With Care this Holiday Season

State Fire Marshal urges caution in the kitchen

With Christmas right around the corner, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey encourages families to practice safe cooking now and throughout the year.

"It's easy to lose focus when entertaining family and friends," said Commissioner Causey. "But while you're planning your holiday menu, make sure to plan for fire safety especially when cooking, baking or even lighting holiday candles."

According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), most home fires and home fire injuries are caused by cooking. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires. According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), there are approximately 2,000 home fires that occur each Thanksgiving that result in deaths, injuries and millions of dollars in property loss. Many of those fires are caused by turkey frying.

The NFPA warns that turkey fryers are unsafe due to the amount of oil and high temperatures involved in their operation. In fact, the Agency discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers unless used by properly trained professionals who are often found in grocery stores, specialty food retailers and restaurants.

Did You Know...

- 49% of home fires were caused by cooking.
 - Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries in the US.
 - 31% of reported home cooking fires and 48% of cooking fire deaths are a result of unattended equipment.
 - 66% of home cooking fires start from food or other cooking materials catching on fire.
 - Ranges or stovetops, account for almost 62% of home cooking fire occurrences.
 - Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
 - Cooking safety tips:**
 - Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
 - Set a timer to remind you of cooking times.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
 - Ensure a 3-foot, kid-free zone around your cooking area.
 - Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge and use the back burners when possible.
 - When cooking, wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves.
 - If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed.
 - Small grease fires should be extinguished by smothering the flames,
 - For oven fires, turn off the oven and leave the door closed.
 - Do not cook if you are sleepy, have taken medication, drugs, or consumed alcohol.
 - Plug the microwave directly into an outlet and do not use an extension cord that can overload the circuit.
 - If your clothes do catch fire, stop, drop, and roll!
- To learn more about fire and holiday safety, visit the OSFM website, ncosfm.gov.

**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.

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**