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TOWN OF POLKTON

FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOGS) EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

In an effort to reduce the potential for Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO), the Public Works staff of the Town of Polkton has compiled the following information to help educate our water and sewer customers concerning the best management practices for the disposal of household Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOGs).

How to dispose of Fat, Oil & Grease

1) Allow to cool

2) Use a container with a lid.

3) Pour the cooled grease or oil into a container

4) Place lid on container

5) Scrape or wipe cookware using paper towels or spatula into the garbage before washing.



Don't Feed the Grease Goblin!

DO

✓ Put oil and grease in collection containers

✓ Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms

✓ Keep grease out of wash water

✓ Place food scraps in collection containers

DO NOT

⊗ Pour oil and grease down drains

⊗ Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans and plates with water until oil and grease are removed

⊗ Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces

⊗ Put food scraps down drains

NC Environmental Assistance and Customer Service



No Alimento a el Duende de Grasa!

SI

✓ Ponga la grasa en contenedores apropiados

✓ Remueva el aceite y la grasa de utensilios de cocina, equipos, y areas de preparaci3n de comidas con espátulas/toallas/escobas

✓ Mantenga la grasa fuera de el agua de lavar

✓ Ponga los desperdicios de comida en contenedores adecuados

NO

⊗ No tire aceite o grasa en los drenajes

⊗ No lave con agua freidora/planchas, ollas,cacerolas y platos hasta que el aceite y la grasa hayan sido removidos

⊗ Noe use aua caliente para limpiar la grasa de las superficies

⊗ No tire desperdicios de comida en l os drenajes

Scam Alert: Watch out for IRS impostors targeting consumers

Scammers are impersonating the IRS to trick taxpayers into sharing personal information, claiming they're eligible for a \$1,400 stimulus check. These fraudulent messages often look official, but they're part of a phishing scheme designed to steal your sensitive data.

The real IRS has announced that automatic payments will be issued to eligible taxpayers who didn't claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2021 tax returns. These payments require no action from taxpayers and will be sent automatically by late January 2025. Eligible individuals will also receive a letter from the IRS confirming the payment. This process only applies to taxpayers who filed a 2021 tax return but didn't claim the credit to which they were entitled.

How the scam works You receive a text from what appears to be the IRS. The text claims that you're eligible to receive a \$1,400 Economic Impact Payment and that you should provide your personal information. The scammer claims that the amount will be deposited into your bank account or mailed by check within one to two business days. One person reported receiving this scam text to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Scam Tracker (bbb.org/ScamTracker).

This IRS text is a phishing scam. The message contains a fake link that mimics an official IRS website. Clicking it may lead to malware or a fraudulent form asking for personal or financial information. The IRS does not contact taxpayers via text, email, or social media, and they will never request information this way.

How to avoid this scam

• Verify communications: Genuine IRS notices are sent through postal mail, not text messages or emails.

• Avoid clicking links: Never click on links in unsolicited messages. Instead, go directly to [IRS.gov](https://irs.gov) for information.

• Be cautious of urgency: Scammers create a sense of urgency to make you act quickly. Take time to confirm claims independently.

• Report the scam: Forward suspicious messages to phishing@irs.gov and report them to [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://bbb.org/ScamTracker).

A Way to Support Endangered and Nongame Wildlife

State taxpayers receiving a refund can simply check a box to fund more conservation efforts

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) invites those filing a 2024 North Carolina state tax return to donate all or a portion of their refund to the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund. Contributions will support research and conservation management projects for the state's most vulnerable wildlife populations.

"Funds donated using the tax-checkoff program amplify those provided by a federal grant for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in North Carolina," said Sara Schweitzer, assistant chief of NCWRC's Wildlife Management Division. "A \$100 donation is matched by \$186 in grants—truly boosting SGCN conservation in North Carolina. Our biologists and agency partners are working around the clock to enhance habitat and populations, especially those greatly affected by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina. The Eastern hellbender, bog turtle, gray bat, Carolina Northern flying squirrel, several high-elevation migratory birds, to name a few, have been greatly affected by the hurricane's impacts. The matched funding from the tax check-off program will help conservation efforts immensely."

Funds have supported projects to increase habitat restoration for the bog turtle, surveys for the endemic Hickory Nut Gorge green salamander, translocations of hellbenders to avoid direct impacts from in-stream dam removal projects, and use of audio-recording devices to detect vocalizing frogs in remote areas of North Carolina's Sandhills region. Funds have also supported development of diamondback terrapin surveys within North Carolina's Coastal estuaries, enjoyed by many kayaking volunteers. Other successful projects supported by the tax check-off program can be found in the NCWRC's Wildlife Diversity Program's quarterly reports.

Taxpayers can easily participate by checking Line 30 on their North Carolina state income tax form; or, if filing through an online tax preparation software, enter the contribution amount when prompted to "N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund."

For those wishing to donate and do not expect a state tax refund, direct donations may be made online to support nongame wildlife through the N.C. Wildlife Diversity Endowment Fund (ncwildlife.org/donate#Diversity_Fund).

Insurance Commissioner Announces a Record \$144 Million Saved or Recovered for North Carolinians in 2024

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey has announced that the North Carolina Department of Insurance saved or recovered nearly \$144 million for North Carolinians in the 2024 calendar year.

This amount represents a record in recoveries since Commissioner Causey took office in January 2017, eclipsing the \$130 million mark set in 2023. The recovered funds include those from insurance fraud restitution and external reviews. The department also announced a total of 406 arrests via its Criminal Investigations Division.

Last year, the Department:

• Helped North Carolinians obtain \$70.5 million in claims from life insurance policies that had been lost.

• Helped policyholders facing hurdles with their insurance companies receive \$18.5 million after DOI's consumer experts intervened.

• Recovered \$22.1 million in fraudulent expenditures. Insurance fraud costs Americans \$308.6 billion annually, according to a 2022 study conducted for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud. Consumers can report suspected insurance fraud by calling the Department's Criminal Investigations Division at 919-807-6840 or by going to ncdoi.gov.

• Announced a total of 406 arrests through its Criminal investigations Division, as well as 218 convictions.

• Helped North Carolinians originally denied necessary medical procedures or prescription drugs receive \$2.4 million in reviews or appeals through the SmartNC program. SmartNC helps patients with appeals and sets up independent external reviews for such procedures and medications.

"Putting North Carolinians first has always been our No. 1 goal at the department, and we look forward to continuing this sterling record of service in this same manner in 2025 and beyond," Commissioner Causey added.

Consumers who have questions about their insurance can visit www.ncdoi.gov or call the department toll free at (855) 408-1212.

Iredell County Man Wins \$4 Million Mega Millions

Shawn Snook of Statesville got to celebrate his birthday a day early after a lucky Mega Millions ticket won him a \$4 million prize. "That was a nice early birthday present," he laughed.

Snook bought his \$3 ticket for the Dec. 17 drawing using Online Play. His ticket matched all five white balls to win \$1 million. His prize quadrupled to \$4 million when the 4X Megaplier hit. The odds of that win are 1 in 12.6 million.

"I just picked some random numbers," Snook recalled. "I woke up the next day and there you go. I couldn't believe it."

He said the timing of his big win works out well for his family. "We just started building a house so this really comes at a great time for us," Snook said.

He arrived at lottery headquarters Monday to claim his prize and, after required federal and state tax withholdings, took home \$2,870,001.

"I've told multiple people that I'm going to hit a big one one day," Snook said. "I just had a feeling."

Mega Millions is one of six lottery games in North Carolina where players can buy tickets at a retail location or with Online Play through the lottery website (www.nclottery.com) or the NC Lottery Mobile App.

For details on how money raised by the lottery made a difference for education programs in Anson County last year, visit www.nclottery.com and click on the "Impact" section.



Shawn Snook and his wife Jessica are pictured holding their \$4,000,000 check after winning the Mega Millions drawing.

COMING SOON TO

Anson County Schools

AN EVENING FOR FAMILIES & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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