

Town of Wadesboro Announces Changes to Trash Collection Services

Private contractor, higher monthly fee and updated collection procedures now in effect

The Town of Wadesboro has announced several changes to its trash and yard waste collection services following its new contract with Tedder Trash Solutions, LLC. The updates, released June 29, include a higher monthly service fee, revised collection procedures and changes to limb and leaf pickup.

Effective immediately, the monthly residential trash collection fee has increased from \$20.75 to \$25.00.

To ensure garbage is collected on schedule, town officials say all trash containers must be placed at the curb the day before the scheduled pickup day. If containers are not out on time, the trash will not be collected until the following week's scheduled pickup.

Residents will also see more frequent yard waste service. Limb and leaf collection will now occur every week.

Work orders for limb and leaf pickup will continue to be accepted. In addition to the town's existing methods for requesting service, residents may now submit work orders online through the Town of Wadesboro's website at *www.wadesboronc.gov/concerns*.

Town officials said they and Tedder Trash Solutions are committed to providing reliable and efficient collection services during the transition. Residents are encouraged to follow the updated collection guidelines to help ensure uninterrupted service.

The town also thanked residents for their patience and cooperation during the changeover and for helping keep the community clean and beautiful.

Anson Schools Announces Planned Calendar Change for 2026-2027

Anson County Schools is giving families, employees and community members an early heads-up about a planned change to the 2026-2027 school calendar.

District officials announced that, due to the current circumstances surrounding North Carolina's Public School Calendar Law, the Anson County Board of Education intends to revise the upcoming school calendar so that the school year begins no earlier than August 24, 2026.

Although the revised calendar will not be formally considered and approved until July, school leaders wanted to provide advance notice to help families and employees begin making plans with the expectation that the start of the school year will be adjusted accordingly.

Once the Board of Education takes final action, the approved calendar will be posted on the Anson County Schools website and shared with families, employees and the community.

School officials expressed appreciation for the patience and understanding of students, parents, staff and community members as the district works to keep everyone informed about the upcoming changes.

Two Arrested After Stolen Tractor Was Recovered in Anson County

Stolen tractor recovered less than 24 hours after theft

Two people have been arrested after Anson County Sheriff's deputies recovered a stolen John Deere tractor less than 24 hours after it was reported stolen.

According to the Anson County Sheriff's Office, deputies were notified on June 22 that a John Deere bush hog had been found along Mineral Springs Church Road in the Peachland area. Investigators located a serial number on the equipment and, with assistance from Quality Equipment, identified the owner as Leake Little.

Little then realized the bush hog had been attached to his John Deere Model 855 tractor, which had been stolen from his business on Kitty Bennett Road during the evening of June 21 at approximately 8 p.m.

During the investigation, deputies received information that the stolen tractor had been seen in the area of Hasty Road and Upper White Store Road and was allegedly being operated by Charles Curtis Newsome Jr., also known as "CJ" Newsome.

Deputies responded to a property on Upper White Store Road and, after receiving the property owner's consent to search, located the stolen tractor inside a covered shed on the rear portion of the property.

Following interviews with witnesses and the collection of additional evidence, investigators obtained arrest warrants for Charles Curtis Newsome Jr. & Star Treadaway. Both were charged with:

- Felony larceny
- Felony possession of stolen goods
- Felony criminal conspiracy

Later that evening, deputies conducted a traffic stop and located Newsome and Treadaway as passengers in a vehicle. Both were taken into custody without incident.

Sheriff Scott Howell credited local residents for providing information that helped investigators quickly recover the stolen equipment.

"The assistance and cooperation of our citizens played a vital role in locating and recovering this stolen tractor in less than 24 hours," Howell said. "It is partnerships like these between law enforcement and the community that help us solve cases and recover stolen property. Without their help, this case and many others could remain unsolved."

The Sheriff's Office also thanked Quality Equipment for assisting investigators in identifying the owner through serial number records.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library's Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome.



Jordan's Way Live Fundraiser Coming to Animal Shelter on July 13

National animal rescue tour to broadcast live from Anson County

Friends of Anson County Animal Shelter (formerly known as Anson County Animal Shelter) will take center stage on Monday, July 13, as Jordan's Way, the nationally known fundraising and animal advocacy tour founded by Kris Rotonda, brings one of its high-energy live broadcasts to Anson County. The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. and will raise money and awareness for homeless animals in the local shelter.

Since launching its nationwide tour in 2021, Jordan's Way has raised more than \$15 million for animal shelters and rescue organizations across the United States. Organizers hope the Anson County community will tune in, participate and help make the local event a success. Every donation, no matter the amount, will directly benefit Friends of Anson County Animal Shelter and the animals in its care.

The live Facebook fundraiser promises plenty of entertainment along with its important mission. Viewers can expect lots of laughs as Rotonda and participants take part in games and challenges including egg roulette, pie-in-the-face contests, slime buckets, dunk tanks and other fun activities designed to encourage donations.

Jordan's Way combines social media entertainment with heartfelt stories about shelter animals, helping introduce homeless pets to potential adopters while raising funds for food, medical care, transportation, facility improvements and other critical needs. The organization was founded in memory of Jordan, a shelter dog adopted by Rotonda after waiting years for a home. Jordan's story inspired a nationwide movement to support overcrowded and underfunded animal shelters.

The public is encouraged to watch the live broadcast, share it with family and friends, and contribute if they are able. Organizers say every dollar makes a difference in improving the lives of homeless animals in Anson County.

As Jordan's Way says, "Laugh a little. Give a little. Change a life."

Grace Senior Center Announces July Activities

Fitness, crafts, games and social events fill the July calendar

The Grace Senior Center has another full month of activities planned for July, offering local seniors opportunities to stay active, get creative, learn new skills and enjoy time with friends. Whether it's exercise, arts and crafts, games or book discussions, there's something for everyone.

ALL FREE...AND ALL FUN & INFORMATIVE!

- Chair Exercise Programs - Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. (On July 9, class meets 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.)
- Claris Companion Tablet Class - Mondays, July 13 and July 27, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Line Dancing - Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- Office Closed - Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.
- No Activities - Wednesdays.
- July 6 - Audiobook Club, discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- July 7 - Q-Tip Painting, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- July 9 - Book Club, 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- July 10 - Shadow Art Workshop, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- July 14 - Fuse Beads, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- July 16 - Bracelet Making, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- July 17 - Indoor Gardening, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- July 20 - BINGO, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- July 21 - Draw or Paint a Summer Day, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- July 23 - Let the Music Play (Name That Tune), 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.
- July 24 - A Day of Pets with Friends of Anson Animal Shelter, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- July 28 - Make Popsicle Stick Picture Frames, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- July 30 - Healthy Cooking Video, 1:15 to 2:00 p.m.

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to join the fun, make new friends, and stay active throughout the month. For details or to register for activities, call (704) 694-6616.

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA on the left.

Anson County Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.1 Percent in May

Anson County's unemployment rate increased to 4.1 percent in May, according to preliminary figures released by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

The county's civilian labor force totaled 8,791 people during the month. Of those, 8,430 were employed while 361 were unemployed, resulting in the 4.1 percent unemployment rate.

Across North Carolina, unemployment rates increased in 70 counties, decreased in five and remained unchanged in 25 during May. Hyde County and Edgecombe County recorded the state's highest unemployment rates at 5.2 percent, while Currituck County had the lowest at 2.7 percent.

The statewide unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, was 3.5 percent in May. Among North Carolina's metropolitan areas, Rocky Mount metropolitan area posted the highest unemployment rate at 4.7 percent, while the Raleigh metropolitan area had the lowest at 3.0 percent.

Statewide, the number of employed workers declined by 16,577 in May to 5,065,683, while the number of unemployed workers increased by 3,227 to 183,720.

Compared to May 2025, unemployment rates decreased in 89 North Carolina counties, increased in four and remained unchanged in seven. All 15 of the state's metropolitan areas recorded lower unemployment rates than a year ago.

State officials note that employment figures are influenced by seasonal hiring patterns and advise that year-over-year comparisons generally provide a more accurate picture of long-term employment trends.

Artificial Intelligence Brings Convenience...and Frustration...for Consumers

BBB study finds more than 90% of AI-related business reviews express negative experiences

Artificial intelligence has quickly become part of everyday life, helping people write emails, answer questions, shop online and interact with customer service. But while the technology continues to grow in popularity, a new Better Business Bureau study suggests many consumers are frustrated with how businesses are using it.

According to the BBB's International Investigations Initiative, more than 90% of nearly 20,000 business reviews mentioning AI since 2023 expressed negative experiences. Researchers found that many customers felt ignored, struggled to resolve problems through automated systems and were unable to reach a live customer service representative when they needed help.

The study also found that BBB has received nearly 100,000 complaints involving artificial intelligence and automation over the past three years, particularly in online retail, e-commerce and other technology-driven industries. Complaint totals have increased each year as AI becomes more common in customer service.

BBB encourages businesses to use AI as a tool rather than a replacement for human interaction. The organization recommends giving customers an easy way to reach a live representative, creating a clear process for escalating complex complaints, listening to customer feedback and being willing to adjust AI systems that are not meeting customer expectations.

Consumers should also be aware that scammers increasingly use artificial intelligence to make fraudulent phone calls, emails and websites appear more convincing. BBB advises people to be cautious of unexpected automated calls, avoid clicking suspicious links, verify website addresses carefully and research unfamiliar companies before doing business.

While artificial intelligence offers many benefits and is expected to play an even larger role in everyday life, the BBB says businesses that balance technology with accessible human customer service are more likely to earn consumer trust and satisfaction.