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Businesses Invited To Join Wadesboro's 2025 Candy Trail

Showcase your brand while spreading Halloween cheer

Get ready to bring out the cobwebs, pumpkins, and candy buckets - because Wadesboro's 2025 Candy Trail is right around the corner! The sweet tradition returns on Friday, October 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in uptown Wadesboro, and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever.

With more than 2,000 visitors attending last year, this event is a golden opportunity for businesses, nonprofits, and organizations to showcase their brand, connect with the community, and get into the Halloween spirit.

Here's how you can take part:

- Set up a candy station or themed display at your storefront.
- Hand out treats to eager trick-or-treaters and families.
- Decorate your space in spooky style to draw crowds.
- Spread the word through your own networks to boost turnout.

Don't have a storefront? No problem! Nonprofits and charities are invited to join the fun by setting up in the Partnership for Children parking lots.

Want to be included on the official Candy Trail map? Make sure to sign up by October 14, 2025. To reserve your spot or get more details, call 704-694-4036 or email elizabeth.rizzo@ansonchildren.org.

Chamber on the Half Shell Oyster Roast is Friday

Anson County's fall favorite serves up oysters, music, and raffle fun

The Chamber of Commerce's Chamber on the Half Shell Oyster Roast is back this Friday, September 26, from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Flake Haven Events Venue, 5298 NC-742 in Wadesboro. The Blewett Dam Band will keep the music rolling while guests crack shells, savor oysters, and enjoy Anson County's favorite fall tradition.

Tickets are \$75 and available at:

www.ansoncountychamber.org/chamber-events/oyster-roast.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For details, call the Chamber office at 704-310-8948 or email scow@ansoncountychamber.org.

Military & First Responders Appreciation Night is Friday

Gold Star game to honor local heroes at Anson High School

Friday night lights will shine a little brighter on September 26 when the Anson Bearcats take the field against Pender High School - and the stadium crowd gets to cheer for more than touchdowns. The Anson County School District is rolling out the red carpet (well, technically the green turf) for Military and First Responders Appreciation Night at Anson High School Stadium, 96 Anson High School Road, Wadesboro. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m., but the gratitude starts the moment the gates open.

This is no ordinary game - it's also the Gold Star Football Game, a heartfelt tradition honoring and remembering local military heroes and their families. In a show of gratitude, free admission will be provided to all military service members, veterans, and first responders with proper ID.

Guests should enter at the handicap accessible gate directly behind the baseball center field. During the game, individual recognition will be given to honorees in what promises to be an exciting night of football and community spirit.

Spaces Still Available for NC Pre-K Program in Anson

Enroll now for the 2025-2026 school year

The Anson County Partnership for Children is reminding families that it's not too late to enroll their child in the NC Pre-K program for the 2025-2026 school year. A few spaces are still available, offering children the opportunity to benefit from high-quality, free pre-kindergarten education.

The NC Pre-K program helps prepare four-year-olds for success in school by providing a strong foundation in literacy, math, social skills, and more. Families are encouraged to apply now to secure their spot.

To learn more or to see if your child qualifies, contact the Anson County Partnership for Children at 704-694-4036 or visit ansonchildren.org. The office is located at 115 East Morgan Street in Wadesboro.

Don't miss this chance to give your child a great start - apply today while spaces remain!

N.C. Turnpike Authority Pilots In-Vehicle

Toll Payment with Volvo and Mastercard

North Carolina drivers may soon pay their tolls the same way they order a drive-thru milkshake—without ever taking their hands off the wheel. The N.C. Turnpike Authority (NCTA), teaming up with Volvo Car USA and Mastercard, has announced a new pilot program that lets drivers pay tolls directly through their car's infotainment system. No transponders, no fumbling for change, and no awkward glovebox digging for that one lost EZ Pass—just tap, confirm, and cruise.

Unveiled September 4 at the N.C. Transportation Summit, the program is expected to launch in late 2025 with up to 100 Volvo drivers testing the system. "This technology represents a significant step forward in making travel more convenient and seamless for drivers," said J.J. Eden, NCTA's Executive Director. Translation: no more excuses for skipping tolls because you "forgot cash."

The system works by linking a car's vehicle identification number and license plate data to a secure payment token. Mastercard handles the payment in real time, while Volvo's Google built-in infotainment system makes it all look slick. The platform could one day stretch beyond toll booths to cover parking, fueling, and even car washes - meaning your car might pay for its own bubble bath before you can say "full-service wax."

Future phases may add Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) technology, letting cars chat with infrastructure, networks, and even pedestrians. (Imagine your Volvo politely reminding a distracted jogger: "Excuse me, crosswalk in use.")

For now, only 100 Volvo drivers will get to brag about their car's new side hustle as a toll-paying assistant. But NCTA hints that if all goes well, the system could eventually roll out to more makes and models, possibly turning the dreaded toll booth into nothing more than a background memory—like cassette players and roll-down windows.

More information is available on the NCTA pilot webpage at ncdot.gov.

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