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November Celebrates American Indian Heritage Month in NC

Historic Town Creek Indian Mound in Montgomery County offers a fascinating connection to the region's Indigenous past

November is American Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina, a time to recognize the history, culture and contributions of the Indigenous peoples who have called this region home for thousands of years. The annual observance encourages residents to learn more about the state's American Indian communities, their traditions and their continuing contributions to North Carolina.

American Indians lived throughout North Carolina long before European settlement, establishing communities, developing agricultural practices and creating extensive trade networks. Today, Indigenous communities continue to preserve their heritage while contributing to education, government, business, the arts and public life.

North Carolina has one of the largest American Indian populations east of the Mississippi River. The state's recognized tribes and American Indian organizations work to preserve cultural traditions, promote education and strengthen communities for future generations.

Town Creek Indian Mound For residents of Anson County, an especially interesting connection to American Indian history can be found just across the county line in Montgomery County. Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site, located near Mount Gilead, preserves the remains of an important ceremonial center associated with the Pee Dee culture, which flourished in the southern Piedmont centuries before European settlement.

The Pee Dee people developed an agricultural society along the Pee Dee River and its tributaries. At Town Creek, they constructed an earthen ceremonial mound, buildings and a large gathering area surrounded by a wooden stockade. The site served as a center for religious ceremonies, community gatherings and important decisions affecting surrounding settlements.

Archaeological investigations at Town Creek began in 1937 and continued for decades, revealing remarkable details about the lives of the people who inhabited the region. Researchers uncovered evidence of ceremonial structures, pottery, tools, ornaments and extensive trading connections with other Indigenous communities throughout the Southeast.

Today, visitors can explore reconstructed buildings, the ceremonial mound and portions of the original village layout. Town Creek is particularly significant because it remains North Carolina's only state historic site dedicated exclusively to interpreting American Indian heritage. The site provides a tangible reminder that the Pee Dee River region, including present-day Anson County, has a rich Indigenous history extending back many centuries.

Town Creek Indian Mound is located at 509 Town Creek Mound Road near Mount Gilead. Admission is free, and the grounds are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The visitor center and gift shop are temporarily closed for renovations, but the mound and reconstructed village remain available for self-guided visits. For information, call 910-439-6802 or visit: *historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/town-creek-indian-mound*.

American Indian Heritage Month also provides opportunities to explore the history and living traditions of North Carolina's Indigenous communities through museums, schools, libraries and cultural programs. The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and other organizations support educational initiatives and efforts to preserve American Indian history and culture.

The observance is a reminder that American Indian heritage is not simply a chapter from the distant past. Indigenous communities remain an important part of North Carolina today, maintaining traditions while helping shape the state's future. For Anson County residents, a visit to Town Creek Indian Mound offers an opportunity to discover an extraordinary part of the history of their own region.

More information about American Indian Heritage Month and educational resources is available from the North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission at: *aihc.nc.gov/resources/american-indian-heritage-month*.

North Carolina's Elevator Business Has Its Ups and Downs

State's latest Elevator Index shows 32,439 active devices, but new permits are going in the wrong direction

North Carolina's elevator business has experienced a bit of a downward trend lately. Fortunately, that's not necessarily a bad thing when you're talking about elevators! The North Carolina Department of Labor has released its first Quarterly Elevator Index for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, providing a look at how many new elevators and related devices are being permitted across the state. And while the numbers aren't exactly going through the roof, there's still plenty of activity.

According to Labor Commissioner Luke Farley, the state issued 221 new elevator device permits during the first quarter, compared to 265 during the same period last year. That's a decrease of 16.6 percent, which means the elevator industry has taken a small step down. No need to push the emergency button just yet!

North Carolina currently has 32,439 active elevator devices. That's a lot of buttons to push, doors to open and people hoping nobody gets on at every single floor.

As for where the action is happening, Mecklenburg County is riding high with 61 new permits, followed by Wake County with 17, Guilford County with 16, Buncombe County with 12 and Alamance County with nine. Those five counties accounted for 115 of the state's 221 new permits, meaning more than half of the new elevator activity was concentrated in just five counties.

The Department of Labor's Elevator Index tracks new permits and active devices, offering a glimpse into construction, development and infrastructure investment across North Carolina. Although the number of new permits declined from last year, the department reports that permitting activity continues throughout the state as communities grow and new projects move forward.

And while Anson County didn't make the top five, local residents can take comfort in knowing that elevators remain one of the few things in life where going down can be just as successful as going up.

After all, in the elevator business, what goes down usually comes back up. At least that's the plan!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WADESBORO HOUSING AUTHORITY

Wadesboro Housing Authority will hold a public hearing at:

1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2026

at the Wadesboro Housing Authority Office, located at:

200 West Short PlazaWadesboro NC 28170

for the purpose of receiving public comment of the agency's 2027-2031 Capital Fund Program 5-year Action Plan and Budget and Annual Plan.

A draft of the plan will be available for review at the Wadesboro Housing Authority Office, located at 200 West Short Plaza, Monday through Thursday during the business hours: (8:00 am-5:00 pm).

Betty L. Huntley, Executive Director

Free Senior Citizen
Thanksgiving Luncheon
at
Harmony Community Church
12:00 Noon on
Saturday, November 21, 2026
1984 Pulpwood Yard Road
Peachland, NC
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There will be music, and it's a great time for those who come!

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Grace Senior Center
Annual Senior
Christmas Luncheon
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2026
Time: 11am–1pm
Where: Lockhart Taylor
514 N Washington Str.
Wadesboro, NC 28170
To register call
704–694–6616
Registration ends on Friday, November 20, 2026.
Transportation to the Senior Christmas Luncheon will NOT be provided through Grace Senior Center.
Seniors must arrange their own transportation.

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