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Due West police prepare for annual squirrel hunt

By CONOR HUGHES

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If you're a squirrel in Due West, next week might be a good time to take a vacation.

The Due West Police Department will be using special ammunition to hunt squirrels in the town to slow property damage the pests cause, said Mayor Charles Angel.

Police will be tracking down squirrels from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, according to a Facebook post from the town.

Police will go to areas where they know there is a high squirrel population and take calls from residents experiencing issues with the rodents, Angel said.

Due West sits in a heavily forested area with a large number of squirrels, and Angel said the rodents regularly cause damage to power lines, houses and other property in town year round.

The town has seen results from hunting them once a year, Angel said.

“It definitely makes a big difference for us,” Angel said.

The town culls the squirrel population every year after students at Erskine College leave campus for winter break, but the hunt has been shortened to four days this year from the usual two weeks, Angel said.