



Employee Newsletter

December 2020

Enjoy your holidays!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kamie Johnson	1
Anthony Mariano	1
Amber Dickey	2
Hope Beckham	4
Mark Malone	4
Sara Wilson	4
Shon Crisp	6
Brooke Smith	6
Scottie Queen	7
Sharon Moss	8
Crystal Johnson	9
Marc Burnette	10
Marilyn Herms	11
Cathy Hurt	12
Sheri Goodlet	13
Shereen Bates	15
Jonah Graves	15
Richard Harris	15
Jena Szewczyk	15
Kala Headley	18
Kesha Sharp	19
Justin Turner	19
Rick Millett	20
Karen Wright	21
Kathy Adams	22
TJ Major	23
Eva Glosson	24
Ashley Bryant	26
Lis Nantz	26
Rebekah Snyder	26
Eddie Allen	28
Elaine Keener	28
Sue Chastain	29
Kevin Luther	30
Natalie McGrady	30
Ages 19 to 75	

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

We will be getting new health insurance cards for use after January 1. You will need to turn in your old insurance card and will be issued the new card when they arrive. The only thing that is changing is the pharmacy billing information on the card. So the first time you have a prescription filled or refilled after January 1, you need to give your new ID card to the pharmacy. Nothing having to do with dental or medical changes. This card is the one that says "CHEROKEE COUNTY EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PLAN" at the top and says SONA benefits on the left hand of the card and has a Crescent logo on the right hand side of the card. The cards should be here near the end of December but the pharmacy change doesn't take effect until January 1. We will still have SONA benefits as our pharmacy provider, but the numbers your pharmacy uses have changed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TODD HICKS AND KATHY ADAMS WHO ARE BOTH RETIRING JANUARY 1ST. TODD HAS 30 YEARS WITH THE LANDFILL AND KATHY HAS BEEN WORKING AT DSS FOR 31 YEARS. BEST WISHES TO BOTH OF YOU AS YOU BEGIN THIS NEW PHASE OF YOUR LIVES!!!

INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE YEAR

Just a quick reminder—the deductible year for our health, dental and vision insurance runs **July 1 to June 30**—not January to December. Keep that in mind, especially when you are scheduling dental work since there is a \$1000 plan year limit on dental benefits. And to clarify the \$1000 plan year limit, the cost of your two free cleanings (no cost to you) comes out of the \$1000 maximum per year. For example, if your dentist charged \$200 for each of your 2 cleanings, that would leave you \$600 additional to spend (\$1000 - \$400) on dental services for that plan year. So if you have scheduled dental work in January thinking it will be covered and you are close to your \$1000 max, you will probably want to re-schedule the work to July if you can wait. Also a reminder that we do not have a dental network. You may use the dental provider of your choice until your \$1000 plan year maximum is exhausted.

Have you paid your taxes?

Have you paid your 2020 property taxes or your 2019 NC State income taxes. Rest assured that if you have not and become delinquent, your wages will be garnished at 10% of gross wages...plus you will be assessed a garnishment fee for county taxes and penalty and interest for state income taxes. It is much better for you financially if you make some kind of arrangements to pay these before they get to the point of garnishment. It hurts me to see somebody paying more for a garnishment fee than the taxes they owed in the first place. Please make arrangements to get your taxes paid if you have not already done so.

2021 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Jan 1	Friday
MLK, Jr, BD	Jan 18	Monday
Good Friday	Apr 2	Friday
Memorial Day	May 31	Monday
Independence Day	July 5	Monday
Labor Day	Sept 6	Monday
Veteran's Day	Nov 11	Thursday
Thanksgiving	Nov 25&26	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	Dec. 23,24,27	Thursday Friday Monday

December 23rd pay day

Because we will be paying early before Christmas, time sheets are due in to Finance by 10 o'clock on December 18th. Please make a note of this so your department doesn't have to hunt you down to get your time sheet.

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A: A gummy bear.

Q: Why can't you trust an atom?
A: Because they make up everything.

Q: Why is England the wettest country?
A: Because so many kings and queens have been reigning there.

I thought growing old would take longer.

If you would like to place something in the newsletter, contact Melody Johnson at Ext 816 or email melody.johnson@cherokee-county-nc.gov.

AirMedCare Enrollments for 2021

County employees are once again being offered an opportunity to participate in the AirMedCare membership program. The deductions for this will begin with the January 8, 2021, pay day and will end on March 19th, 2021 (for three to ten year memberships)—one year memberships will be complete on January 22nd.

Please note that any family members who are enrolled in the Medicaid program are not eligible for the benefit, but if they should lose their eligibility, they could be added as a family member at that time.

Costs for the membership are below:

1 year	\$60	2 deductions of \$30 each
3 year	\$170	6 deductions of \$28.33 each
5 year	\$275	6 deductions of \$45.83 each
10 year	\$520	6 deductions of \$86.67 each

Right now, the schedule looks like this:

Tuesday, Dec 1	1-3 pm	Courthouse (EMS, elections, Code Enforcement, maintenance, Soil and Water and Courthouse employees)
	4:30-7:30 pm	Sheriff/Detention/Dispatch
Wednesday, Dec. 2	9-11 am	DSS
	1-3:30	Andrews Rec, Senior, EMS, Landfill, Marble EMS
	4:30-7:30 pm	Sheriff/Detention/Dispatch
Thursday, Dec 3	10:30-11:30	Courthouse for anybody who missed earlier in the week
Friday, Dec 4	1-2:30	Health Department & Transit



LifeForce is one of several providers covered by your membership. See brochure at enrollment for full list of carriers covered.

Shane Headrick, the AirMedCare Rep, is going to try to drop by all of our outlying locations at some point during the week of Nov 30 to Dec 4. If you prefer to go to a location other than your own work site, that is fine, too. We wanted to give everybody an opportunity to enroll. If you can't make any of the locations and would like to enroll, email me and I can send you a blank enrollment form. Note: if you enrolled in the 3, 5 or 10 year membership last year, you do not need to re-enroll this year. I have emailed folks whose membership is expiring at the end of 2020. If you did not receive that email, then you have a plan that takes you out at least one more year, or did not enroll.

Note that in order to do payroll deduction, you must be an employee that gets paid **every pay day**. If you are as needed and just work occasionally or don't work every pay period, you may still join but you would need to pay up front and your cost would be \$85 per year—\$65 for seniors (instead of \$60, but still a good deal even at that). I know a few people have already done that. I will email the application to those with county email and I have hard copies of the application in my office. The deadline for enrolling this year is December 11th. No late applications will be accepted.

COMMISSION BOARD MEETINGS

Dec. 7 6:30 pm

New commissioners Jan Griggs and Randy Phillips will be sworn in for their four-year terms at this meeting.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFORMATION!!

When you receive your direct deposit notice or pay check next pay day, please check to make sure your name is spelled correctly and that your mailing address is correct. If it is not, please let me know as soon as possible so I can get corrections made before the end of the year. We only have two more pay periods before it will be time to do W2s for 2020. They will be emailed to those who have given permission to email those. We try to have those to you by mid-January if we are able to.

Reminder about AllyHealth

This is just a reminder that if you are a full-time employee, you also have access to our telemedicine benefit, AllyHealth. This also may be used for anybody who lives in the household with you, regardless of coverage on our insurance and it costs you nothing to use this benefit. The number to call is 888-565-3303 or you may register online at member.allyhealth.net. This is a great benefit to use, especially for those family members who are not covered by our insurance. Please take time to register if you have not already done so. You may also go online and pick a provider who is available if you wish to pick a provider with a certain specialty.