



# *Employee Newsletter*

## *December 2019*

### *Wonderful Holidays to All!*



#### **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
Rebecca Hand	10
Cathy Hurt	12
Sheri Goodlet	13
Shereen Bates	15
Richard Harris	15
Jena Szewczyk	15
Kala Headley	18
Kesha Sharp	19
Justin Turner	19
Keith Ownbey	20
Karen Wright	21
Kathy Adams	22
TJ Major	23
Eva Glosson	24
Ashley Gunter	26
Lis Nantz	26
Rebekah Snyder	26
Eddie Allen	28
Sue Chastain	29
Jacob Whitaker	29
Harold Chastain	30
Kevin Luther	30
Natalie McGrady	30

Ages 22 to 73

**Commissioner Board Meetings**  
**Dec 2nd @ 6:30 pm**

#### **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) counts toward 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 2019 property taxes or your 2018 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.

#### **2020 Holiday Schedule**

New Year's Day	Jan 1	Wednesday
MLK, Jr, BD	Jan 20	Monday
Good Friday	Apr 10	Friday
Memorial Day	May 25	Monday
Independence Day	July 3	Friday
Labor Day	Sept 7	Monday
Veteran's Day	Nov 11	Wednesday
Thanksgiving	Nov 26&27	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	Dec. 24,25,28	Thursday Friday Monday

#### **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 2019. They will be emailed to those who have given permission to email those. I hope to have them to you sometime early in January but not sure what date yet.

Also, please go to MUNIS Self Service and check to make sure your personal information is correct. If you have never logged in, you go to the county website, click departments, employee information, and then click Munis Self Service Your user name is first initial, last name, last four of social (ex. jdoexxxx). The password, if you have never logged in before, is the last four of your social and must be changed. If your phone number is incorrect please correct it or if you have a cell number to add, please do so. And if you don't have anybody listed under emergency contact please enter the person who should be contacted if something were to happen to you. You can also look at your pay information, your tax information, retrieve prior year W2s, run a pay simulator and see lots of documents on this site. Please take advantage of this resource—you can find almost any kind of payroll or benefit form there. Forms are found by clicking the word "resources" below your name in the upper right hand corner. If you don't remember your password, the password help portion appears to be working now, so everybody should be able to get into the site.

If you would like something published in the county's monthly newsletter please send info. to Melody in human resources at [melody.johnson@cherokee-county-nc.gov](mailto:melody.johnson@cherokee-county-nc.gov), or call ext 816..

# Be Prepared for Winter Driving

Driving in the winter can be harrowing, especially in snowstorms and icy conditions. By getting your car ready for winter and using some simple tips to drive safely, you can face almost any weather Mother Nature decides to send your way.

## Prepare Your Car for Winter

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze

Remember to keep your car's [emergency preparedness kit](#) fully stocked, too.

## Before You Start Out

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you'll be able to see what's around you
- Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- To prevent [carbon monoxide poisoning](#), never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible; if you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

## How to Avoid a Crash

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

## Know Your Car's Capabilities

[My Car Does What?](#) is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. [Search for your car](#) and find out what safety features are already built in.

[Traction control](#) is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.

[Anti-lock braking system](#) (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles as well. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.

Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.

## AirMedCare Enrollments for 2020

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 10, 2020, pay day and will end on March 20th, 2020 (for three to ten year memberships)—one year memberships will be complete on January 24th.

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 3	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. 4	9-11 am	DSS
	1-3:30	Andrews Rec, Senior, EMS, Landfill, Marble EMS
Thursday, Dec 5	4:30-7:30 pm	Sheriff/Detention/Dispatch
	10:30-11:30	Courthouse for anybody who missed earlier in the week
Friday, Dec 6	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 December 3—10. 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 2019. 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.

## VIEWS OF THE NEW LANDFILL CELL WHERE YOUR FUTURE TRASH WILL GO



### Reminder about AllyHealth

This is just a reminder that if you are covered by the County's health insurance, 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](http://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.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY EMPLOYEES



By applying for membership, I agree to AMCN

Terms and Conditions on the bottom of this document. Initials: **X**

Date: / /

## 1. Member Contact Information (please print)

Primary First Name	Primary Last Name	Date of Birth / /
Home Phone Number ( )	Cell Phone Number ( )	
E-mail Address		
Don't miss out on important AirMedCare Network news and updates... leave us your e-mail address and stay in the loop!		
Mailing Address	City	
State	Zip	County
Home Address (if different than above)		
City	State	Zip

## 2. List Additional Members in Household

Secondary First Name	Secondary Last Name	Date of Birth / /
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth / /
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth / /
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth / /
First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth / /

If more space is needed please use back of this application.

Questions? Contact your Local Membership Sales Manager  
**Michael Headrick 706-483-4428**  
michael.headrick@AirMedCareNetwork.com

GET CODE	TRACK CODE	PLAN CODE
	13933	13711

AirMedCare Network is an alliance of affiliated air ambulance providers\* (each a "Company"). An AirMedCare Network membership automatically enrolls you as a member in each Company's membership program. Membership ensures the patient will have no out-of-pocket flight expenses if flown by a Company by providing prepaid protection against a Company's air ambulance costs that are not covered by a member's insurance or other benefits or third party responsibility, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Patient transport will be to the closest appropriate medical facility for medical conditions that are deemed by AMCN Provider attending medical professionals to be life- or limb-threatening, or that could lead to permanent disability, and which require emergency air ambulance transport. A patient's medical condition, not membership status, will dictate whether or not air transportation is appropriate and required. Under all circumstances, an AMCN Provider retains the sole right and responsibility to determine whether or not a patient is flown.
2. AMCN Provider air ambulance services may not be available when requested due to factors beyond its control, such as use of the appropriate aircraft by another patient, or other circumstances governed by operational requirements or restrictions including, but not limited to, equipment manufacturer limitations, governmental regulations, maintenance requirements, patient condition, age or size, or weather conditions. FAA

## AMCN Membership Terms and Conditions

restrictions prohibit most AMCN Provider aircraft from flying in inclement weather conditions. The primary determinant of whether to accept a flight is always the safety of the patient and medical flight crew. Emergent ground ambulance transport of a member by an AMCN Provider will be covered under the same terms and conditions.

3. Members who have insurance or other benefits, or third party responsibility claims, that cover the cost of ambulance services are financially liable for the cost of AMCN Provider services up to the limit of any such available coverage. In return for payment of the membership fee, the AMCN Provider will consider its air ambulance costs that are not covered by any insurance, benefits or third party responsibility available to the member to have been fully prepaid. The AMCN Provider reserves the right to bill directly any appropriate insurance, benefits provider or third party for services rendered, and members authorize their insurers, benefits providers and responsible third parties to pay any covered amounts directly to the AMCN Provider. Members agree to remit to the AMCN Provider any payment received from insurance or benefit providers or any third party for air medical services provided by the AMCN Provider, not to exceed regular charges. Neither the Company nor AirMedCare Network is an insurance company. Membership is not an insurance policy and cannot be considered as a secondary insurance coverage or a supplement to any insurance coverage. Neither the Company

nor AirMedCare Network will be responsible for payment for services provided by another ambulance service.

4. Membership starts 15+ days after the Company receives a complete application with full payment; however, the waiting period will be waived for unforeseen events occurring during such time. Members must be natural persons. Memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable.
  5. Some state laws prohibit Medicaid beneficiaries from being offered membership or being accepted into membership programs. By applying, members certify to the Company that they are not Medicaid beneficiaries.
  6. These terms and conditions supersede all previous terms and conditions between a member and the Company or AirMedCare Network, including any other writings, or verbal representations, relating to the terms and conditions of membership.
- \*Air Evac EMS, Inc. / Guardian Flight LLC / Med-Trans Corporation / REACH Air Medical Services, LLC—These terms and conditions apply to all AirMedCare Network participating provider membership programs, regardless of which participating provider transports you.
- †In Nebraska, waiting periods are not allowed; however, a member cannot purchase a membership at the time of transport.

## 3. Choose Your Membership Option (select one)

Membership Options	Discount Cost
10-Year Membership*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$520
5-Year Membership*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$275
<b>More Members Choose:</b> 3-Year Membership*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$170
1-Year Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60

\*MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP IS NOT AVAILABLE IN ALASKA, CALIFORNIA AND INDIANA.

## 4. Payroll Deduct Authorization

☐ Payroll Deduct

I authorize Cherokee County Employees to deduct the above selected amount from my paycheck for my AirMedCare Network Membership.

If my employment ends prior to the full membership amount being deducted from my paycheck(s), I understand that the remaining balance will be deducted from my final paycheck.

I hereby authorize automatic renewal at the end of my membership term unless I cancel in writing 30 days prior to renewal or I am no longer employed by Cherokee County Employees.

**X**

Signature required

MONTH DAY YEAR

☐ Membership Opt-Out

I understand the benefits offered and wish to opt out of the AirMedCare Network enrollment being offered by Cherokee County Employees.

**X**

Signature required

MONTH DAY YEAR

I will email everybody who has county email a copy of the application.

This is a little fuzzy. I have originals in my office if anybody wants to come by and pick one up.



I told Santa you had been good this year...and he hasn't stopped laughing since.

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"



**MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY BRIGHT  
WITH A HOLIDAY LOAN**

APPLY TODAY

8005 NC Highway 141  
Marble, NC 28905  
828-637-0460  
www.mountaincu.org

