

Growing  
with



Granville County Government  
Monthly Employee Newsletter

December 2021 

## United Way Campaign



Employees of Granville County Government raised a final total of \$4,008 for the Granville County United Way during the 2021 fundraising campaign! The local United Way helps meet the needs of our citizens and serves approximately one-third of county residents each year through community, educational, health and income services, as well as providing food, clothing, and shelter during a crisis.

United Way partners include the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Granville County 4H, Smart Start, the Harold Sherman Adult Day Center, the Senior Services Lifeline, Granville Nutrition Program, the American Red Cross, Back Pack Buddies, Lifeline Outreach, and other organizations and agencies throughout our community. In addition, communications efforts through Connect Granville and NC 211 are made possible through the Granville County United Way.

Granville County's fundraising campaign kicked off on Oct. 22 at the Granville Athletic Park to coincide with our "Spirit Week" celebration and the "Make A Difference Day" national observance. Almost \$100 was raised by our employees as they tried to "dunk" County Manager Michael Felts and Commissioner Tim Karan during the employee picnic at the Granville Athletic Park. The campaign extended through Nov. 12 with pledge cards and weekly prize drawings. (Participation in the campaign was voluntary).

Congratulations to Jennifer Seeley (Tax Administration) who was our Week 1 prize winner and received Haunt Farm tickets and t-shirts; Bonita Tingen (Senior Services), winner of the Week 2 prize drawing who won the Visit NC Farms gift pack; and Terry Hobgood (Administration), who won the United Way gift package during Week 3. Grand prize winner was Edward Cash (Detention Center) who won the Kindle Fire and a United Way T-shirt.

Thank you to Angela Allen of Granville County Tourism and the Granville County United Way for providing prizes for the weekly drawings, and to everyone who participated in this fundraising campaign. Together, we are helping to make a difference!



**"Happy Birthday"**  
to the following  
employees:

- Dec. 1:** Bryan Carey  
Monica Livengood  
Collin Morrison
- Dec. 2:** Brad O'Briant
- Dec. 3:** Charlene Allen  
Janee Long
- Dec. 4:** Angela Jenkins  
Daniel Tillotson
- Dec. 7:** Byron Currin  
Tiana Jones
- Dec. 8:** Crystal Pippins
- Dec. 9:** Korena Weichel
- Dec. 10:** Melanie Baldwin
- Dec. 12:** Joshua Bailey
- Dec. 13:** Kerry Boyd  
Lynn Cooper
- Dec. 14:** Edward Cash
- Dec. 16:** Jessica Jefferson
- Dec. 19:** Lamar Krider
- Dec. 20:** Justin Ayscue  
Kimberly Grissom
- Dec. 21:** Lara Goss
- Dec. 23:** Stacy Adams  
Matt Faucette
- Dec. 26:** Brittany Gilreath  
Melva Martinez
- Dec. 27:** Latoya Watson
- Dec. 29:** Vivian Wright
- Dec. 30:** Maria Thorpe

**facebook**

**Do you "follow" us ?**

For up-to-the-minute news and photos, visit, "like" and "follow" our Facebook page!



The following employees have recently joined the Granville County Government team:

Jessica Daniels, Detention Center  
W. Brandon Long, Detention Center

*Welcome to our staff!*

Congratulations to the following recently retired employees:

Sharon Jones, Tax Administration  
Glen Klein, Detention Center  
LaVerne Smith, Social Services

*Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!*

the **WELLNESS** corner

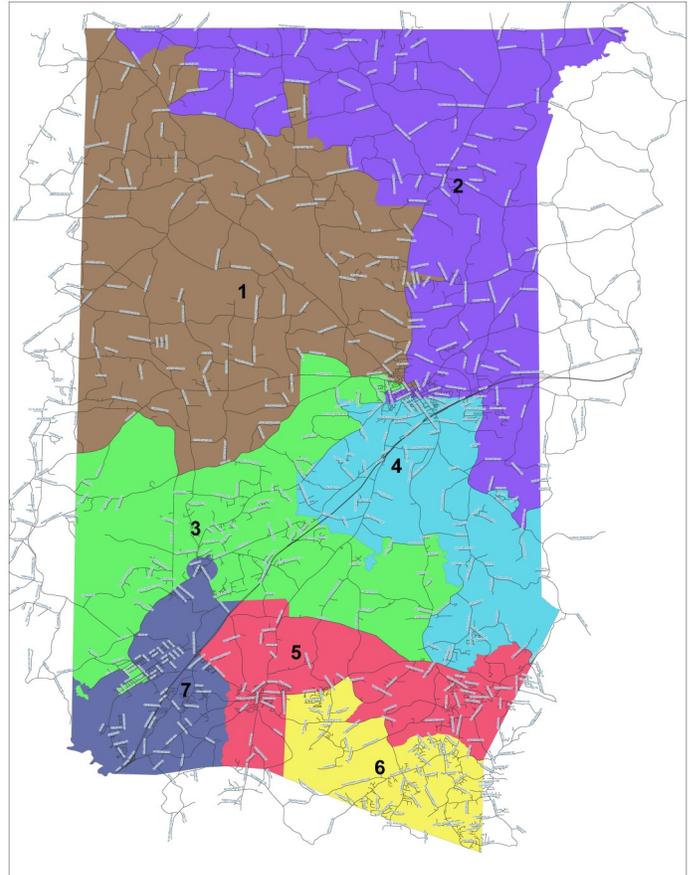
## Just in Time for the Holidays Challenge

The "Just in Time for the Holidays" challenge was a four week individual wellness challenge where each participant had to complete various healthy habits each week. Participants who completed at least 8 challenges received 20 wellness points and a chance to win a raffle prize (Fitbit 2 Smart watch). We had a total of 17 out of the 44 registered participants eligible for the drawing. The winner was Diane Williams!!



## New District Map Approved

County Commissioners and School Board Redistricting Map



The Granville County Board of Commissioners and Granville County Board of Education approved new district maps after several joint meetings and the opportunity for public input. All districts were redrawn due to the results of the 2020 Census to ensure that each of the seven districts in the county receive equal representation and voting power via their elected representatives on the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education.

Redistricting does not change election polling places, but may change who represents different communities in Granville County.

The district lines are drawn utilizing Census Block data, and provides the most accurate possible population and demographic counts to maintain compliance with state and federal voter protection laws.

*What's going on in Granville?*

Visit <https://visitgranvillenc.com/> to learn more!

## LaVerne Smith Celebrates Career with Department of Social Services



Granville County staff and members of the Board of Commissioners gathered on December 3, 2021 to celebrate the exemplary career of LaVerne Smith who contributed nearly 30 years of service to the Granville County Department of Social Services.

Smith began her career with Social Services in 1992 as a Child Protective Services In-Home Treatment Social Worker. In 2000, Smith moved to the role of Licensing and Adoptions Specialist where she has helped the children of Granville County find loving and supportive foster and forever homes for the past 21 years. In this role, she was responsible for the recruitment, training, and licensing of our foster families to ensure that the children had safe, nurturing, skilled families for children needing such transitional placements. Under LaVerne's guidance and support, many of the foster parents that started as temporary homes, have become the adoptive parents for the children in their care.

## Pat Huff Recognized for Years of Outstanding Service to Environmental Services

On December 10, Environmental Services staff gathered to recognize Pat Huff's over 26 years of service to their department, and to the citizens of Granville County. Solid Waste Management Director Jason Falls spoke about Pat's service, stating, "for the last two plus decades, Pat has worked for Environmental Services, first as a Landfill Clerk and eventually serving as the Landfill Manager for a number of years. Mrs. Huff has done an exceptional job serving the public in all these years. She treated everyone equally and fairly during her time working with the county. Rest easy! You will always be one of my few work buddies!"

Jason Falls presented Pat with a plaque on behalf of Granville County Government.



## Help ACIM End Hunger in Granville County

Granville County Area Congregations in Ministry (ACIM) distributes over 1.5 million pounds of food to those facing food insecurity in Granville County every year. On a monthly basis, that can mean providing services to almost 6,500 people. The COVID-19 pandemic and the holiday season have only increased the need for services for residents in Granville County. ACIM has provided this community service for over 35 years, and relies on food and monetary donations as well as volunteer service hours to help end hunger in Granville County.



### Ways to Help

- Monetary donations may be made in person on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the ACIM facility at 634 Roxboro Road in Oxford from 9 a.m.—12 p.m., by US Mail sent to PO Box 398 Oxford, NC 27565, or via CashApp (\$acimfood).
- Food donations may be delivered to ACIM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the ACIM facility at 634 Roxboro Road in Oxford.
- Volunteers may contact ACIM at (919) 690-0961 or email [director@acimgranville.org](mailto:director@acimgranville.org) to set up a one-time or monthly volunteer work schedule. Volunteers are needed to pack food boxes and other important services.
- Visit [www.acimgranville.org](http://www.acimgranville.org) for more information.

# Holiday Shopping Tips from the Sherriff's Office



## Shopping Safety

- A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.
- When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- When returning to your vehicle, look around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.
- If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.

## Credit Card Fraud

- Keep a close watch on your credit card every time you use it, and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible.
- Never write your PIN number on your credit card.
- Never leave your credit cards or receipts lying around.
- Shield your credit card number so that others around you can't copy it or capture it on a mobile telephone or other camera.
- Shred anything with your credit card number written on it.
- If you're not comfortable submitting your information through the internet, call the seller and give them your information over the telephone. Never send your credit card information via email.
- Check the company information. Only do business with companies that provide a physical address and telephone number.
- Keep good records. Always print out a copy of any online products or services you purchase.

## Gift Card Fraud

- Never buy gift cards from online auction sites. This is a large source of gift card fraud. Many of the gift cards are stolen, counterfeit or used.
- Only buy gift cards directly from the store issuing the gift card or from a secure retailer's website.
- Don't buy gift cards off publicly displayed racks in retail stores because these are more susceptible to tampering or theft. Only purchase gift cards at the sales terminal from the cashier.
- Always carefully examine both the front and back of a gift card before you buy it. If you see a PIN number, ask for a different card. If the card looks like it has been tampered with in any way, do not purchase it.
- Always ask the store cashier to scan the gift card in front of you. This will guarantee that your card is valid when you buy it and that it reflects the balance you just charged on it.
- Always keep your receipt as a proof of purchase if there is money stored on the gift card.
- If possible, register your gift card at the store's website.
- Never give your Social Security number, date of birth or any other unneeded private information when purchasing a gift card. No reputable company will ask for this information.

# Veterans Recognized by Granville County Senior Services



Granville County Senior Services and Amedisys Home Health had a fantastic event honoring local Veterans on November 10!

Pictured are Granville County Economic Development Director Harry Mills and Granville County District 5 Commissioner Russ May. Both of these Veterans received a pin and goody bag in appreciation of their service to our nation!



# Safety Corner



## Holiday Stress

The holiday season brings with it a mix of joy and stress. Between professional responsibilities and personal commitments, it's all too easy to become overwhelmed during the holiday season. We want you to enjoy the season with family and friends and avoid burnout that could carry over into the new year. Try these tips to reduce stress for your health and safety:

- **Prioritize:** Before leaving work, list priorities for the next day. Keep a separate list for off-the-job to-dos.
- **Organize your workspace:** If you're taking time off, organize your desk before leaving and leave a list of projects you're working on. If something needs to be done while you're out, leave written instructions.
- **Take Care:** Eat right, get enough sleep, drink plenty of water, and exercise regularly.
- **Breathe:** If work becomes too stressful, stop and take a number of slow, deep breaths. Inhale, count to 3 slowly and gradually exhale. After 4 or 5 breaths, you probably will feel much more relaxed.
- **Take a break.** A short (1- or 2-minute) break a few times a day can help you stay energized and productive. Stand up, stretch, breathe deeply, and clear your head. Avoid the temptation to work through lunch.
- **Ask for help.** Accepting help from supportive friends and family members can help you better manage your stress. Take advantage of employer-based services like an EAP, counseling, work/life balance programs, or referrals to mental health professionals.
- **Do something to remember the real spirit of the holidays.** Consider donating gifts to a needy family or collecting canned food for a local shelter. This may be the best stress reliever of all!

"Looking Back" at Granville County history...

## "Looking forward" to the holiday season!

In celebration of Granville County's 275th Anniversary, *Looking Back: 275 Years of Granville County History* by local author Lewis Bowling is available for Christmas gift giving!

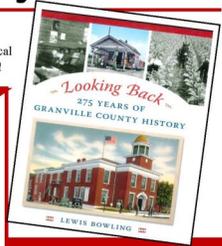
**\$50.00**  
each

These commemorative books can be ordered online\* at [www.granvillecounty.org](http://www.granvillecounty.org) and are also available for purchase at the following Granville County locations:

- Ace Hardware, 119 Hillsboro Street, Oxford
- Berea Branch Library, US 158, Oxford
- Butler Town Hall, 415 Central Avenue
- Creedmoor City Hall, 111 Masonic Street
- Granville County Chamber of Commerce, 124 Hillsboro Street, Oxford
- Granville County Administration Office, 104 Belle Street, Oxford
- Granville County Historical Society Museum, 1 Museum Lane, Oxford
- Oxford Public Ledger, 200 West Spring Street
  - Richard H. Thornton Library, 210 Main Street, Oxford
- Stovall Branch Library, 200 Main Street, Stovall
  - South Branch Library, 1550 South Campus Drive, Creedmoor
  - This 'n That, 125 Main Street, Oxford

(A limited number of signed copies are also available!)

Please note that online book orders will incur an additional \$5.00 shipping fee.



Looking for a stocking stuffer? 275th Anniversary souvenir coins are also available for only \$5.00 each!



For a signed book copy or for a list of coin locations, call 919-603-1308 or visit [www.granvillecounty.org/275th](http://www.granvillecounty.org/275th).



## BE WINTER READY

For more information on how to prepare for winter storms, visit the ReadyNC website ([readync.gov](http://readync.gov)), and follow these simple tips:

- Always keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food in your home.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand for weather radios and flashlights.
- Dress warmly. Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators outside and away from open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Monitor for changing weather conditions.
- Keep alternative heating sources and fire extinguishers on hand. Be sure your family knows how to use them.
- Store an emergency kit in your vehicle. Include scraper, jumper cables, tow chain, sand/salt, blankets, flashlight, first aid kit, and road map.
- Don't forget to include pets in your emergency plans. Bring pets inside when temperatures drop below freezing.

## December Observances:

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day

Dec. 21: First Day of Winter

Dec. 25: Christmas  
(Offices closed 23, 24, 27)

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

### Weekly Observances:

Winter Weather  
Preparation Week  
(Dec. 5 through Dec. 11)

Older Driver Safety  
Awareness Week  
(Dec. 6 through Dec. 10)

### December is:

National Impaired Driving  
Prevention Month

Stress-Free Holidays  
Awareness Month

## Monique Heggie Completes UNC School of Government Leadership Program



Monique R. Heggie, Internal Auditor for Granville County Government, has completed the "Leading for Results" program at the UNC School of Government as a Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) Fellow. Heggie was among 120 candidates to apply during a competitive selection process and was one of only 24 participants selected to participate in the leadership training program.

The "Leading for Results" program focuses on personal and professional development while introducing participants to management and leadership tools and strategies. LGFCU Fellows have an opportunity to gain insight into their individual leadership styles and strengths while practicing ways to improve effectiveness within their organizations.

"The Fellows program allowed me to engage with and learn from other government representatives with different careers across the state," Heggie said of her experience. "My key takeaway was that 'leadership is an action, not a position.' Overall, it was a very positive experience."

Heggie successfully completed the leadership program on Oct. 15.

For more information about courses available for employees at the UNC School of Government, visit [sog.unc.edu](http://sog.unc.edu).

### Recipe of the Month!

## Slow Cooker Cream Tuscan Chicken Pasta

(Courtesy of Jennifer Brown, NC Cooperative Extension)

2 1/2 cups chicken broth, low sodium  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 pk (20oz) boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1 1/2 inch pieces  
1/2 cup chopped, drained, sun-dried tomatoes with herbs  
1 pkg (8oz) cream cheese, reduced fat, cut into cubes, softened  
1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (4oz), low fat  
1 pkg (5oz) fresh baby spinach leaves  
1 Tbsp Italian seasoning  
1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes  
8oz uncooked penne pasta



- Spray 5qt slow cooker with cooking spray.
- In slow cooker, mix broth, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper flakes. Stir in chicken.
- Cover; cook on High heat setting 1 1/2 - 2 hours or until chicken is cooked to 165 degrees. Stir in pasta and tomatoes.
- Cover; cook on high heat setting 25-30 minutes or until pasta is tender; stirring twice.
- Stir in cream cheese and Parmesan cheese until cheeses melt. Stir in spinach until wilted.
- Let stand covered 5-10 minutes or until slightly thickened. Stir before serving.