

Meta's New Subscription Service - Here's What You Need to Know

On Sunda Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg announced that the company is introducing Meta Verified, a paid "blue verification badge" for Facebook and Instagram that will be available later this week. According to the news release (located at: about.fb.com/news/2023/02/testing-meta-verified-to-help-creators) the monthly subscription service includes a verification badge, protection against impersonating accounts, increased visibility, priority customer service and other exclusive features. Previously, Twitter announced its blue checkmark program.

As with any new program, there can be initial confusion on what it all means, and scammers are waiting in the wings to grab at any new opportunity. Be sure you have the facts and protect yourself against future scam artists. Better Business Bureau (BBB) is a trusted resource to help guide consumers and businesses to accurate information.

Here's what you need to know:

- Regular Facebook and Instagram users do not have to pay. The subscription service is an option to help creators and businesses build their communities.
 - The optional Meta subscription service will cost \$11.99 per month on the web and \$14.99 for the iOS and Android app. Twitter's blue check is \$8 a month for web and \$11 for iOS and Android. Twitter also announced an upcharge for its new secure text messaging program.
 - Meta Verified is only available in New Zealand and Australia this week (2/21/23) but may expand globally soon and to business accounts eventually. Twitter Blue is available in many countries, including the U.S. and Canada.
 - Users must meet the minimum requirements, be at least 18 years old, and submit a government ID that matches the name and photo on Facebook and Instagram to be eligible for a verification badge.
- Be on the lookout for potential scams:**
- Watch out for phishing emails, texts, and direct messages offering upgrades to your Facebook or Instagram accounts. Don't send a photo of your government ID to a scammer!
 - Go to BBB's Spot a Scam page to see what fake emails, texts and web pages may look like. www.bbb.org/all/spot-a-scam
 - Older adults may be more vulnerable to scams. Reassure your friends and loved ones that they don't have to pay anything right now.
 - Beware of impostors pretending to be from Meta, Facebook, or Instagram. In December, Twitter experienced a wave of fake verified accounts after introducing Twitter Blue.
 - Always check links before clicking; go directly to the source.
 - Fact-check all information. Go directly to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter help pages if you are unsure.

Anson Schools Sports Update

Anson High School Wrestling

Update on February 13 - This past weekend (February 10-12) your Wrestling Bearcats participated in the NCHSAA Mid-West 2a Regional Tournament at Walkertown High School. Our five young men put on a great test of will, discipline and technique. Omarion McCune, Drekwon Owens, Javen Reyes-Garcia, Jackson Stinson and LaBrian Bowen all showed class with initial losses on Friday.

Owens, Garcia, and Stinson all powered back on Monday, February 13 with back-to-back wins, while Bowen and McCune were taken out of contention early in 1st round consolations. Garcia lost a well fought match with 1 second left on the clock. Owens lost to a technically sound senior who won 4th place for his weight class. As usual, Stinson had stiff competition from more experienced wrestlers, but his never quit attitude earned him the respect of his opponents.

However, Lee Chambers was our superstar this weekend with 2 commanding wins on Friday and placed himself in line for the podium and he proved why he earned his team name - The GOAT. Lee went on to win 4th place overall for his weight class and punched his ticket to attend the NCHSAA State Wrestling Tournament the weekend of February 16-18.

Our male and female teams wrestled very well this year considering more than 2/3s of our team had never wrestled before. Though we will miss our seniors, we are proud of the new legacy that stands before us.

The Month of February

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means "to cleanse." The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year.

February Calendar

- February 2 is Groundhog Day - the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early.
- February 5 Full Snow Moon
- February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday. The 16th president of the United States was born in a one-room, 16x18-foot, log cabin with a dirt floor.
- February 14 is always Valentine's Day. Heads up, lovebirds! Today, the holiday is celebrated with love, flowers, and chocolate.
- February 15 is Susan B. Anthony's Birthday.
- February 20 brings Presidents' Day, a federal holiday also known as Washington's Birthday that is celebrated on the third Monday in February. (George Washington's actual birthday is February 22!)
- February 21 is Mardi Gras, (aka "Fat Tuesday" or Shrove Tuesday), which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday.
- February 22 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent.

February's Birth flower is violet and the primrose. The violet signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness. Give a violet to someone to let them know that you'll always be there for them. The primrose lets someone know that you can't live without them.

February's birthstone is a purple color. It's the beautiful amethyst. The amethyst was thought to prevent intoxication and keep its wearer thinking sharply. It was worn by English royalty in the Middle Ages.

Church News

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FEBRUARY 25

Five Below Yard Sale

at Harris Chapel AME Zion Church in Morven, 9am-12 noon. New with tags & slightly used housewares, clothes, shoes, kitchenware, bedding, handbags & lots more! Nothing over \$5.

FEBRUARY 26

Family & Friends Day

At Henry Grove Baptist Church, 3588 Vintage Rd in Lilesville, 11am with Rev. Jeff Adams, Pastor of Chambers Grove Church in Marshville. You are cordially invited.

Appreciation Service

For Elder Pandora Little at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3pm with Pastor Sandra Ellerbe.

MARCH 3

BBQ Plate Sale

At Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, 378 Pleasant Hill Church Rd (109 South) in Wadesboro, starting at 10am. Plates \$12 & bulk \$13. All are invited for a delicious barbecue meal!

MARCH 4 & 5

1st Appreciation Service

for Pastor Tobias Wall & Lady Janetta Wall at Saron Missionary Baptist Church. Sat-3pm & Pastor Wall Sun-11am.

MARCH 5

Family & Friends Day

At Victory Temple Miracle Center, 4pm with Rev. Christian Hall of Flakes Chapel.

MARCH 19

Pastor's Appreciation Service for Bishop James Glenn & Lady Glenn at Victory Temple Miracle Center, 4pm. Public is invited.

MARCH 26

Twelve Tribes Program at Rock Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 3pm. All are invited.

Events

FEBRUARY 23

Beekeepers Meeting

At Welika Fish House. 6pm if you want to eat, 7pm meeting. Open to anyone interested in having bees for honey & pollination. Info 704-272-7154 or Facebook page.

FEBRUARY 24

BBQ Fundraiser

For Anson County Domestic Coalition, 10am-6pm at Calvary Episcopal Church, 304 E. Wade St. in Wadesboro. Take-out & delivery only. Sandwiches \$5, pints \$12, quarts \$22, plates \$10 with chopped bbq, slaw, beans, roll & dessert. Deliveries 5 or more orders 704-694-4499.

FEBRUARY 27

Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Internet Safety Policy will be covered. Closed Session 4:00pm, Open Session 5:30pm. View at Anson County School's YouTube page. (Search YouTube for Anson County Schools.) Meeting takes place in Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro. For public comment sign up in-person. Sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting.

North Carolinians Impacted by Dementia Urged to Attend State Alzheimer's Advocacy Day on March 15

Advocates for all forms of dementia will address the need for public health prioritization

The Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter and Alzheimer's Association - Eastern North Carolina Chapter are calling on North Carolinians to turn the North Carolina State Capitol purple for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia on Wednesday, March 15. The date marks North Carolina Advocacy Day 2023 when advocates from around the state will convene in Raleigh to support the fight against Alzheimer's.

The event - which takes place from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. beginning at the North Carolina Museum of History - will be an opportunity for the public and those affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia to take action and speak up for the needs and rights of people living with and their families. Attendees will learn about the legislative process; meet face-to-face with elected officials; share their personal story with key decision makers; and bring awareness to the importance of the Alzheimer's Association's public policy priorities.

The costs of Alzheimer's on North Carolina are unsustainable. Dementia caregivers bear nearly twice the average out-of-pocket costs of non-dementia caregivers, having to cover medical care, personal care and household expenses for the person with dementia. In 2022, the total national cost of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementia is projected to reach \$321 billion. The Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's in the state are estimated at \$1.3 billion. By 2025, these costs are projected to increase by 22%.

"Alzheimer's disease is one of the most critical public health issues in America. This is why we unrelentingly advocate for public policies that increase quality of life and support all those affected," said Katherine L. Lambert, CEO of the Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter. "Representation from our communities across North Carolina is paramount. That's why we urge as many people as possible to join us for our North Carolina Advocacy Day. By working together, we are making an impact."

Attendees will hear an overview of the public health crisis of Alzheimer's in North Carolina, as well as updates from the task forces for the North Carolina BOLD Core Capacity grant and the Dementia Capable NC State Plan. Advocates will be speaking to elected officials and their designated representatives regarding a few key areas:

- Codifying the Dementia-Capable North Carolina State Plan to ensure infrastructure is established to address the growing dementia crisis.
- Inclusion of dementia into relevant existing public health outreach campaigns, particularly in communities at greater risk of developing dementia.
- Incorporation of dementia as a noted medical diagnosis on discharge paperwork to help those navigating the appeals process for an involuntary discharge notice.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is required to ensure an accurate headcount. No prior experience required, but attendees will be asked to participate in a training call prior to the event. Sign up at tinyurl.com/ALZNCStateAdvocacyDay2023 or by calling 800-272-3900.

Additional Facts and Figures: (alz.org/facts)

- An estimated 6.5 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia, including 180,000 North Carolina residents, a number estimated to grow to as many as 210,000 by 2025.
- Nationally, more than 11 million caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. In North Carolina, 356,000 caregivers provide a total of 514 million hours of unpaid care, valued at a total of \$7.3 billion.
- One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or other dementia.
- Nearly two-thirds of those with Alzheimer's - 3.9 million - are women.
- Older non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanic Americans are disproportionately more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's or other dementias.

MIKE SESSIONS
Utilities Director



Anson County Utilities

PHONE: (704) 694-5986 or (704) 694-5208

FAX: (704) 694-7549

CHRIS HARRINGTON
Distribution System
Superintendent

Dear Anson County Water Customer:

In a continuing effort to provide clean, safe drinking water, Anson County Water is conducting a Water Quality Preventive Maintenance Program. This program involves temporarily switching water disinfectants from chloramines to chlorine to optimize water quality.

This switch will last from Wednesday, March 1 through Friday, March 31, 2023.

During the Preventive Maintenance Program, some water customers may notice temporary taste, color or odor differences in their water. This is a normal component of the process. Water quality is not affected and remains safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other general uses.

Although most customers will not notice any difference in their water, Anson County Water recommends that three groups of water users take special precautions prior to March 31:

- 1) Kidney dialysis providers/patients
- 2) Fish, pond, pool and aquarium owners/operators
- 3) Businesses that use water in their production process

The customers listed above are advised to seek professional advice for the appropriate steps to accommodate the change in water disinfection.

When the program is completed, Anson County Water will return to using chloramines to treat your water.

Please visit <http://www.co.anson.nc.us/> for more information about the switch.

Sincerely,

Anson County Water Customer Service