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# Obituaries

## Mr. Braxton Everette Williams

Mr. Braxton Everette Williams, 85 passed away Saturday, March 14, 2020, at Autumn Care of Marshville. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at Gospel Tabernacle Church. Burial followed in the Peachland City Cemetery.

Born April 25, 1934, in Anson County, Mr. Williams was a son of the late Ray Sanford Williams and Bessie Hasty Williams. He was also preceded in death by sons, Barry Lynn Williams and Kerry Devin Williams; and his brothers,

Harold Williams and Ray Williams, Jr.

Mr. Williams worked with Maleck Wood Craft for many years, and served as volunteer fireman with Peachland and Polkton fire departments, where he enjoyed working the BBQs there. He was a Boy Scout Master in Anson County, a member of the Anson County Beekeeper's Association and a member of Stanly Coin Club. Mr. Williams enjoyed cooking BBQs for family and friends and flounder from beach fishing trips. He and Betty made many trips to the mountains where they would buy apples and other produce to sell after they returned home.

Mr. Williams is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Betty Jean Preslar

Williams, Frances Williams Davis and Elizabeth Williams Treadaway, both of Peachland; and his many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express a special thanks to the staff at Autumn Care, family and friends for the visits and prayers while Everette was sick.

Morgan & Son Funeral Home is serving the Williams Family.

Memorials should be made to Peachland City Cemetery, c/o Peachland Cemetery, 1642 Upper White Store Road, Peachland, NC 28133.

Notice: Morgan & Son Funeral Home will be enforcing Gov. Roy Cooper's 100 person gathering mandate at the visitation and funeral.

## Taking Down Tobacco

March has arrived and this month the Anson County Health Department is supporting the youth by participating in the national "Taking Down Tobacco Day" on March 18th. This event was created by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids organization. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is represented all over the United States and in other areas of the world. Taking Down Tobacco Day originally known as "Kick Butts Day" is a national day of engagement that allows youth to stand out, speak up, and grab control against tobacco. The first Taking Down Tobacco day was held in 1996 and has been presented every year since. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is expecting participation in more than 1,000 activities in schools and communities across the United States and other parts of the world.

On Taking Down Tobacco Day youth, schools, health advocates, and other organizations raise awareness of tobacco and the harm it causes to our citizens and our communities. This event helps our young people reject the use of tobacco products and encouraging others to stay tobacco free.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids provides an activities guide for all organizations that desire to participate in Taking Down Tobacco Day. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids also works with multiple organizations to promote, expose, strengthen, mobilize, power, and inform the public on the consequences of tobacco use. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is a non-profit organization that accepts donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other non-profit organizations.

The Anson County Health Department is supporting The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and the national Taking Down Tobacco Day event will be ready to view on March 18th. The ACHD will have a visual display set on the front lawn of the Health Department. The powerful displays will help our children and our community realize the deadly consequences of tobacco use. The public is encouraged to come by the Anson County Health Department to view the display.

Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States and around the world. Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. Cigarette smoking increases risk for death from all causes in men and women. Cigarette smoke contain over 7,000 chemicals and more than 70 are linked to cancer. Cigars, smokeless tobacco, vapors, electronic-cigarettes, and hookah, all contain chemicals such as nicotine, just as cigarettes, making them unsafe for both children and adults. Smokers are more likely than nonsmokers to develop heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Smoking causes about 90% of all lung cancer deaths. In addition, since 1964 secondhand smoke has caused about 2,500,000 deaths. Smoking can also affect a baby's health before and after birth. Quitting smoking prevents several health related risks.

In addition, The CATCH My Breath program is being provided by Dinikia Savage, the Health Educator and Tobacco Leader of the ACHD. The CATCH My Breath Youth E-cigarette Prevention Program's goal is to increase students' knowledge of E-cigarettes, nicotine and addiction dangers while cutting their intended use of the product in the future. CATCH My Breath includes active student-centered learning. The program offers in-class activities, teacher education, online resources, and take-home materials for parents. The program is based on tobacco awareness and prevention. The curriculum consists of 4 lessons.

Tobacco Cessation classes are still being offered at the ACHD for free. For more information or to schedule a one-on-one tobacco cessation session or a CATCH My Breath class session please contact Dinikia Savage at 704-994-3342.

For more information about The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids or Taking Down Tobacco Day, please visit their website at [takingdowntobacco.org](http://takingdowntobacco.org).

The visual display of the deadly consequences of tobacco will be available for viewing Monday-Friday, 10:30am-4:00pm, March 18th through March 20th. The Health Department is located at 110 Ashe Street in Wadesboro.

## North Carolina Recommends New Steps to Protect Against COVID-19

Governor, DHHS urge North Carolinians to follow guidance.

This release was sent out before Governor Cooper closed all North Carolina public schools for two weeks beginning March 16.

Governor Roy Cooper announced that North Carolina is taking proactive steps to protect the health and wellbeing of our state in the face of growing cases of the coronavirus COVID-19 around the nation and here in North Carolina. Included in today's guidance is a recommendation to cancel or postpone gatherings over 100 people and telework if possible.

"North Carolina has more tough decisions ahead, and we will be ready to make them. We have the benefit of learning from other countries and other states about the best ways to fight this pandemic," said Governor Cooper. "We know that if we can slow the spread of this virus now, then fewer people will be infected or become seriously ill. And we can be more effective in avoiding an overload of our medical system. It will save lives."

NC DHHS is making the following recommendations for all North Carolinians to reduce the spread of infection while we are still in an early stage in order to protect lives and avoid strain on our health care system. NC DHHS is making these recommendations for the next 30 days and will re-assess at that point.

**1. SYMPTOMATIC PERSONS** If you need medical care and have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspect you might have COVID-19, call ahead and tell your health care provider you have or may have COVID-19. This will allow them to take steps to keep other people from getting exposed. NC DHHS recommends that persons experiencing fever and cough should stay at home and not go out until their symptoms have completely resolved.

**2. HIGH RISK PERSONS WITHOUT SYMPTOMS** NC DHHS recommends that people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should stay at home to the extent possible to decrease the chance of infection.

People at high risk include people:

- Over 65 years of age, or
- with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, or
- with weakened immune systems.

**3. CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES** NC DHHS recommends that all facilities that serve as residential establishments for high risk persons described above should restrict visitors. Exceptions should include end of life care or other emergent situations determined by the facility to necessitate a visit. If visitation is allowed, the visitor should be screened and restricted if they have a respiratory illness or potential exposure to COVID-19. Facilities are encouraged to implement social distancing measures and perform temperature and respiratory symptom screening of residents and staff. These establishments include settings such as nursing homes, independent and assisted living facilities, correction facilities, and facilities that care for medically vulnerable children.

**4. SCHOOLS** We do not recommend pre-emptive school closure at this time but do recommend that schools and childcare centers cancel or reduce large events and gatherings (e.g., assemblies) and field trips, limit inter-school interactions, and consider distance or e-learning in some settings. Students at high risk should implement individual plans for distance or e-learning. School dismissals may be necessary when staff or student absenteeism impacts the ability to remain open. Short-term closures may also be necessary to facilitate public health investigation and/or cleaning if a case is diagnosed in a student or staff member.

**5. WORKPLACE** NC DHHS recommends that employers and employees use teleworking technologies to the greatest extent possible, stagger work schedules, and consider canceling non-essential travel. Workplaces should hold larger meetings virtually, to the extent possible. Additionally, employers should arrange the workspace to optimize distance between employees, ideally at least six feet apart. Employers should urge high risk employees to stay home and urge employees to stay home when they are sick and maximize flexibility in sick leave benefits.

**6. MASS GATHERINGS, COMMUNITY, AND SOCIAL EVENTS** NC DHHS recommends that organizers of events that draw more than 100 people should cancel, postpone, modify these events or offer online streaming services. These events include large gatherings where people are in close contact (less than 6 feet), for example concerts, conferences, sporting events, faith-based events and other large gatherings.

**7. MASS TRANSIT** Mass transit operators should maximize opportunities for cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces. People should avoid using mass transit (e.g. buses, trains) while sick.

As the number of cases of COVID-19 rise in North Carolina and the United States, and with the designation of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization, the state is responding with a whole government response. COVID-19 is a new infection that is particularly severe in older persons and those with medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and weakened immune systems.

At this time there are no approved treatments and no vaccine to prevent it. However, there are known methods to reduce and slow the spread of infection. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes. Community-based interventions can also help slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes measures collectively known as "social distancing." Social distancing measures aim to reduce the frequency of contact and increase physical distance between persons, thereby reducing the risks of person-to-person transmission. These measures are most effective when implemented early in an epidemic. We are at a critical inflection point where we may have the opportunity to slow the spread of this epidemic by taking proactive steps now.

Because COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets, North Carolinians should take the same measures that health care providers recommend to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses, including washing your hands, avoiding touching your face, staying home if you are sick and covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow.

It is important to make sure the information you are getting about COVID-19 is coming directly from reliable sources like the CDC and NCDHHS. For more information, please visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and NCDHHS' website at [www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus), which will also include future positive COVID-19 test results in North Carolina.

Going forward, the Department of Health and Human Services will update the count of positive test results daily on online at [dhhs.nc/coronavirus](http://dhhs.nc/coronavirus).

## Ribbon Cutting for Drake Gallery Addition

Join the Anson County Arts Council, along with the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, to celebrate the opening of the new addition to the Drake Gallery and the Drake Gallery Studio. The event will take place on Thursday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m.

The address is 108 South Rutherford Street in Wadesboro. For more information call 704-694-4950. Come out and support the arts!

## DELINQUENT LISTING

The purpose of delinquent listings is not to call out non-payers. We advertise delinquents to satisfy the general statutes of North Carolina so that taxpayers can verify that their paid tax payments were posted correctly by the County Tax office. Also, escrow agents often err when reporting to the tax collector's office and payment errors can be made then. The tax office provides the payment information we have used as a means of transparency for the general public to compare with your personal records.

Two errors have been reported. Lonnie Threadgill and Katie Trexler did not have delinquent taxes.

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