

Notes for Friday Conference Call, May 29, 2020

Status: 595 [up from 546] cases in Chatham; 25 deaths

Hello, again. This is our 11th consecutive Friday morning conference call with you (almost 3 months). I hope all is well.

As we normally do, we will pause a minute to think about the frontline heroes who are helping protect and otherwise serve us during this COVID-19 pandemic. The CDC recently reported that about 63,000 healthcare workers have contracted COVID-19 and nearly 300 have died across the U.S.—this is said to be a very conservative estimate. This pause will also give you an opportunity to grab a pen and paper in case you want to take any notes during the call. Don't rush, we'll wait for you.

As I mentioned last week, we have two special treats for you today. First, us another guest, **Pandora Paschal**, who is director of the Chatham County Board of Elections. The second is our SilverArts performers. We have three performing acts for you near the end of the call—you will definitely want to hear them perform. Liz Lahti will be introducing our performers.

With so much exciting going on this morning, I will be more concise in my remarks. So, let me begin my turning the microphone over to Pandora. She will give us the latest news on registering to vote and how voting *might* happen this year. Pandora, let Krista know when you are ok taking some questions and we will open the lines.

Thanks so much Pandora. **Krista, let's keep the lines open a bit longer as I am going to move ahead with a few trivia facts and questions**—in keeping with what Pandora shared with us today:

Why a Tuesday in November? In 1792, law officially designated this day as Election Day each year because this guaranteed that no more than 34 days could pass between the first Wednesday in December, which is when the Electoral College met to vote on the President and Vice President. An early November date was also considered a wise idea because it enabled more voters to go to the polls. Back then, most Americans were farmers, so this date ensured that farmers weren't trying to find time to vote during the busy harvest season but the date wasn't so late in the year that voters

Yes, We Are Still Working for Chatham Seniors and Their Families and Yes We Still Very Much Miss You.

needed to battle winter storms while they walked, rode horses, or drove buggies to the polls.

Never voted? [I hope all of you vote unlike President Zachary Taylor who reportedly never voted prior to his electoral victory in 1848.]

Who was our youngest President? Theodore Roosevelt was the youngest person to ever become president. He was only 42 years old, and as William McKinley's vice president, became president when McKinley was assassinated. President Kennedy was the youngest to be elected to the office, at age 43.

Who was the oldest president? Donald Trump is the oldest to be elected at 70, while Ronald Reagan was the oldest to *hold the office* – he was 77 years old when he finished his second term.

Raise your hand. In the early days, votes were not cast by a secret ballot but by raising hands or by voice. What was the first state to require ballots to be secret--Massachusetts in 1888. The trend spread across the United States and in 1891, Kentucky was the last state to adopt this law.

When did women get the right to vote?

1776

1820

1892

1920

1936

The Nineteenth Amendment was adopted in 1920, giving women the right to vote, and since 1964, more women voters have gone to the polls than male voters during presidential election years. And in my humble opinion, that's a good thing.

Who is the only person to have served as president and vice president without having been elected to either office? **Gerald Ford**

And I will end with two facts about what happened on May 29th in American history:

Yes, We Are Still Working for Chatham Seniors and Their Families and Yes We Still Very Much Miss You.

In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the **United States** Constitution. In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th **state of the** union.

Krista, please mute the phones again.

Last week Renae Minor of Social Services reminded us of the current period of raising awareness about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Again as citizens, we not only have a responsibility to vote but also to report to Social Services if suspect abuse or exploitation. You can call Chatham Social Services at 919-642-6988 Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm. And guard yourself against scams.

I also want you to know that you can call us at the Council on Aging if you need assistance with food, supplies, assistive equipment, or just want a friendly call. We also have a supply of **box fans**. While the 1st official day of summer is June 20th, temperatures are already getting a bit warm, especially with the humidity. You know our numbers: at the Pittsboro Center, 919-542-4512, or the Western Center in Siler City at 919-742-3975.

In addition, don't forget these numbers:

the NC BAM **Hopeline**—866.578.4673 [staffed by the NC Baptist Aging Ministry] and the Friendship Line—800.971.0016.

For those of us who may be experiencing emotional or mental health distress, you can call 855.587.3463 for support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is called the **Hope4NC Helpline**. You can also call the **Cardinal Innovations Help-line** at **275.

To reach Chatham's Domestic Violence Helpline call 919-545-7867.

Another way to stay connected is through our extensive calendar of activities—some are available through the phone like this conference call—others through the Internet. Liz and Jackie—do you have anything you want to share?

Thanks so much. I really hope that all of you can take full advantage of these opportunities.

Before concluding my remarks today, I want to remind and update you on a few other items:

The Interfaith Food Shuttle out of Raleigh is hosting a Mobile Market next Thursday, June 4th from 11AM - 4PM at St. Julia's Catholic Church (near Siler City). They will have supplies to serve 1,500 families!!!

I learned this week that the CVS pharmacy at Cole Park is now certified to do COVID testing. It is the only CVS in Chatham doing this. To get tested, you have to first be screened to see if you qualify. This is done by going through the CVS minute clinic—[cvs.com/minuteclinic](https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic). I also confirmed with the State SHIP Office that coronavirus testing is covered under Medicare Part B. There is no deductible, coinsurance or copayment. The phone # at this CVS is 919-929-5664; address: 11314 US 15-501N, Chapel Hill.

Calls wanting to schedule Tax appointments

Taxes are due July 15th. While we are no longer scheduling any more VITA appointments for this year, Orange County is still providing some assistance and has opened their service to Chatham residents as well.

Call 919-245-4242. _____

Medical rides

We are still working through Chatham Transit to schedule essential medical rides. Again, before you call us though, contact your medical provider to be sure they still want you to come to their office. If they do and you need a Chatham Transit ride, you can schedule through Sigi Markworth by calling 919-542-4512, ext. 222.

Again, Chatham Transit is now requiring riders to:

1. wear a face covering (a mask, or anything covering your mouth and nose, i.e., a bandana)

Yes, We Are Still Working for Chatham Seniors and Their Families and Yes We Still Very Much Miss You.

2. let Chatham Transit or us know if your healthcare provider requires you to wait in the car/van before entering for your appointment.

SHIIP

All NC SHIIP/Medicare related calls are still being handled by the State SHIIP Office through their toll free line at 1-855-408-1212.

Census

Don't forget to participate in the Census. This is very important. We want every person counted—it makes a difference in our funding.

Make Chatham count by completing your 2020 Census online (my2020census.gov), by phone (844-330-2020), or by mail when the questionnaire arrives to your home!

Response Rates

National Rate: **60.1%** North Carolina Rate: **56.4%** Chatham Rate: **63.9%**

The lowest response areas in Chatham are **Siler City (North)** and **Goldston/Gulf**.

Siler City (North) - 47.4% of households have completed the 2020 Census
Goldston/Gulf - 51.3% of household have complete the 2020 Census

Some Added Good News: We have been awarded a grant from the **Home Depot Foundation and Meals on Wheels America** to help older Veterans in Chatham with needed home modifications and repairs. We are one of only three agencies across the country to get this award. If you or someone you know needs help, please give us a call.

Before I turn it over to Liz, I want to encourage us all to **continue being smart and careful. Remember staying at home means:**

- Avoid gatherings, hang-outs, and parties, even with family that do not live with you. Remember: If one person at your family gathering is infected, your whole family will be at risk.

Comments of Dennis Streets, Chatham CCCOA Director

Yes, We Are Still Working for Chatham Seniors and Their Families and Yes We Still Very Much Miss You.

- Keep distance from others if you must go out, wear a cloth face covering, and limit the number of trips you make.
- Stay in touch with loved ones by phone or video apps.
- Look out for each other, but from a distance.

Stay home. Stay safe. Save lives.

Take care of yourself and let us know if you think we can assist in some way.

Remember to wash your hands often –try not to touch your face; keep your distance from others; sanitize contact surfaces (especially if someone has entered your house). And a few more things: Stay hydrated—drink lots of water. Get plenty of sleep.

3Ws= Wear ... Wait ... Wash

Krista, let's open up the phone one last time for any questions and comments.

If you want to say something, just state your name first. Please try not to speak over someone who is already talking.

Thanks for sharing. Remember we will meet again at 10:15 next Friday morning.

Now I am turning the call over to Liz and get ready for three wonderful performances.

Again I look forward to talking with you next Friday at 10:15. In the meantime, take care. Know that we at the Council on Aging are working as hard as we can for Chatham seniors and their families.