

the bizBUZZ

A YVEDDI Quarterly Newsletter Publication for Staff and Volunteers

SPRING 2026
(APRIL/MAY/JUNE)



Farewell YVEDDI Yadkin Valley Senior Center Closed February 27, 2026

After 29 years of dedicated service to the community, the YVEDDI Yadkin Valley Senior Center permanently closed on February 27, 2026.

Since opening its doors, the Center has provided health promotion programs, nutrition services, safety education, and meaningful community engagement opportunities for older adults throughout the community. We are proud of the positive and lasting impact made on the lives of seniors in the area.

Over the years, we have remained committed to responsible stewardship and high-quality operations and proudly achieved the "Senior Center of Excellence" distinction. Despite careful financial management and sustained fundraising efforts, including significant facility improvements, ongoing funding challenges and operating deficits have made it no longer feasible to continue services. This decision follows thorough evaluation and the exploration of all reasonable alternatives.

Our doors at the senior centers in Yadkinville, East Bend, Mount Airy, and Pilot Mountain remain open and welcome all seniors in the surrounding areas. We remain committed to serving older adults through these locations and encourage community members to reach out for continued programming and support.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our participants, volunteers, staff, partners, and supporters who have helped make the Center a trusted and welcoming space for nearly three decades.

We are pleased to share that the Town of Jonesville hopes to reopen the facility as the Jonesville Civic Center. The Town intends to continue offering event space and additional services to the community with the support of volunteers. We are encouraged by this effort to maintain the building as a place of community connection.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served this community for 29 years.

YVEDDI Board of Directors and Management

Newsletter Editor:
Donna Rutledge, Communications Specialist



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April	
Annakaye Shokoya	4/1
Brenden Stillwagon	4/1
Jennifer Somers	4/2
Gelee Beal	4/3
Julie Chappell	4/5
Valeria McDaniel	4/10
Alvin Scales	4/13
Tracey Speight	4/20
Katrinka Rinehart	4/22
Patricia Hernandez	4/23
Sherman Smith	4/30

May your Birthday and every day be filled with smiles, laughter, love, and cheer.

May	
Joel Wooten	5/3
Connie Eddleman, Jr.	5/10
Dario Rodriguez	5/16
William Wheeler, Jr	5/16
Candie Young	5/26
Kimberly Antunez	5/31

June	
Alicia Ray	6/1
Kathryn Riojas	6/6
Janet Phillips	6/7
Elizabeth Martin	6/7
Anthony Aquilano	6/12
Jameca Adams	6/13
Mary Owens	6/14
Beth McCraw	6/14
Betty Tucker	6/14
Gary Hicks	6/19
Ricky McKnight	6/21
Kristofer Stevens	6/25
Larry Pinnix	6/28

Thank you for your years of dedicated service!

Anniversaries

10 Years
Susan Lawrence

5 Years
Tina Anderson
Joseph Valliere Jr

Please submit your newsworthy articles and pictures to drutledge@yveddi.com

- Outstanding Achievements of an Employee
- Employee/Volunteer of the Month or Year
- Engagements/Weddings/Births
- Special Events
- Favorite Recipes
- Quotes/Jokes



Remember In Prayer

Board

Mickey Cartner (wife and son's illness)
Van Tucker (wife Karen, illness)

Staff

Grason Boles, TSP (Grandchild, Banks Marion, hospitalized since birth)
Carolyn Gentry, SCSC (daughter, Katelyn Gomez, stage 4 ovarian cancer)
Jason Hill, WEA (father passed 1/25/2026)
Ben Pendleton, TSP (brother passed 2/16/26)
Mavis Moore, HS (grandson passed in January)

MAY YOU BE PROUD OF THE
WORK YOU DO THE PERSON YOU
ARE AND THE DIFFERENCE
YOU MAKE

Congratulations



New Hires	
Carpenter, Denver A	Driver
Johnson, Brandi D	Head Start Substitute Teacher
Martin, Elizabeth	Head Start Substitute Teacher
Scales, Alvin	Driver
Shokoya, Annakaye	Head Start Teacher
Watson, Celena E	Head Start Health Coordinator

Holiday Schedule

April 3
Good Friday

May 25
Memorial Day

Mission Statement

Dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families in Davie, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties through a variety of programs and partnerships to build stronger communities.

Resource Reminder:

For your convenience, employees may access YVEDDI's Facebook page for news and events or policies and procedures at www.yveddi.com.

Please consult your supervisor if you need a password for the website staff page. YVEDDI documents and forms can be downloaded from the P: drive. Reminder: Please do not leave your information on the forms.

East Bend Senior Center Veterans Coffee Connection



East Bend Senior Center Dementia training with Kelley, Mountain Valley Hospice



YVEDDI CSBG is working with Wheels 4 Hope to obtain vehicles for participants.

Wheels4Hope is a non-profit, faith-based car donation program that turns donated cars into local blessings. We are located in the Triangle and Triad areas of North Carolina. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable transportation to economically vulnerable families and individuals who are referred to us by one of our partner agencies. As an IRS approved 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Wheels4Hope exists only through the contributions of numerous donors, volunteers, congregations, and partner businesses who understand that reliable transportation is a vital component for self-sufficiency.

The details are located on their website.

<https://wheels4hope.org>

Also, if anyone would like to donate a vehicle, they will tow it and will take vehicles in any condition.

Call (336) 355- 9130 for more information



East Bend Senior Center

Dwain Hunt completed the black and white Elvis Puzzle. (It took him six months to complete it.)



A Prayer for Staff

I pray that You would give all employees wisdom and strength for the tasks at hand and that You would guide their steps and their decisions.

Help them to work together in harmony and to support one another in times of need. I ask that You bless our work environment and bring about positive change where it is needed. Amen

A Prayer for Drivers

Lord, guard us and our vehicles Lord, guard us and our cars from any danger and keep us safe on our journeys.

Give us strength and courage to face the day and help us to be successful in all our work and efforts.

We thank You for Your grace and mercy in Jesus name, Amen.



www.NC211.org

Need Help, But Don't Know Where To Turn?

DIAL 2-1-1

Free • Confidential • 24 Hours a Day • Any Language

Your connection to:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Basic Needs
(food, clothing, shelter) | • Health Care |
| • Child Care Services | • Housing |
| • Consumer Help | • Senior Services |
| • Counseling | • Support Groups |
| • Crisis Intervention | • Volunteer Opportunities |

Yadkin Valley Senior Center

Prayer Shawl Dedication with Mountain Valley Hospice 02-11-26.
84 prayer shawls were given to Hospice after many prayers for the ones who will receive them. I'm so thankful for each one of these people and their concern for the sick and suffering.



Pilot Mountain Senior Center

March 2026

Gardening Workshop

We had a great turnout for this workshop and so many smiles. A huge thank you to Robin Portis for all of her hard work and dedication!



Delivering with Purpose

BECOME A MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER

Help Deliver More Than Just Meals

Meals on Wheels of Surry County is looking for compassionate, reliable drivers to bring meals and warm smiles to homebound neighbors in our communities.



Service Area: Pilot Mountain, NC

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- ✓ Make a real difference in someone's day
- ✓ Build meaningful connections
- ✓ Mileage reimbursement available

Please Call And Volunteer Today!

(336) 368-2012 Option 6

Katrinka Rinehart

Pilot Mountain Senior Center

873 Old US 52 Bypass • Pilot Mountain, NC 27041



www.yveddi.com



YVEDDI Resource Center

401 Technology Lane, Suite 100 • Mount Airy, NC 27030

Spaghetti Dinner

Dine In or Take Out

\$10
per plate

Friday, April 24, 2026

Take-Out: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Dine-In: 6:00 – 8:00 PM



Includes Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Roll, Dessert, and Drink

Door Prizes (1 ticket for every meal)

Silent Auction at 7:00 PM (Must be present for Auction)

50/50 Raffle

Take-out order tickets must be purchased in advance by April 20, 2026

Call (336) 593-2071 for more details or to get advance tickets.

Check out the YVEDDI Resource Center Facebook page to get up-to-date information on auction items.

Raffle • Silent Auction • Door Prizes



Your Father's House SOAP

SUPPLY DRIVE

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Toiletries
- Non-Perishable Foods
- Gift/Gas Cards

Drop off location:

YVEDDI Resource Center • 401 Technology Lane, Suite 100 • Mount Airy, NC 27030

(336) 415-4256



Your Father's House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2001 as a recovery house for men who are recovering alcoholics and addicts.

Christian Recovery Houses for Men



HR Minute

WE ARE HIRING!

Visit <https://yveddi.com/employment-opportunities>

Be Aware - Cons of Using Chat GPT in the Workplace

The use of ChatGPT in the workplace presents several potential drawbacks that organizations should consider before integrating it into their work processes. Here are some of the key cons:

Inaccuracy of Information: ChatGPT's responses may not always be accurate, especially in fields requiring precision and up-to-date knowledge, such as medical advice or legal matters.

Dependency on Technology: Employees may become overly reliant on ChatGPT for information, potentially reducing their ability to think critically and solve problems independently.

Ethical Concerns: The use of AI in sensitive areas can raise ethical concerns, such as the potential for bias or discrimination in AI-generated content.

Data Privacy: ChatGPT stores responses in a database, which raises concerns about data privacy and the potential for breaches of sensitive information.

Loss of Human Touch: The lack of human interaction can lead to a loss of empathy and emotional support, which are crucial in customer service and other areas where human interaction is necessary.

Manipulation Risks: ChatGPT can be manipulated to produce harmful or misleading information, which can have serious consequences for organizations.

Never include names, addresses, or sensitive information in your ChatGPT sessions. New organizational policies are in development.

Human
Resources

Transportation

Happenings

WE ARE HIRING!

Visit <https://yveddi.com/employment-opportunities>

New Vans

In the last newsletter, we reported that we had received 5 of the 10 new vans ordered in FY24. We have since received the remaining 5 vans from FY24 and all 10 vans ordered for FY25. This brings our total to 31 new vans delivered and in use by our agency in the last 12 months. We still have 10 new vans on order for FY26. Our vendor has received some of these vans, and we expect those and the remaining vans to be delivered by June 30, 2026.

We are very pleased to see the new vans coming in because they help reduce maintenance costs for our system and provide more comfortable rides for the passengers.

Outreach

Our Transportation Mobility Manager recently had the pleasure of participating in the Senior Expo held in Mocksville. This event provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with members of the community, share the many services YVEDDI has to offer, and build meaningful new relationships with residents.

Remembering in Prayer

Small children hold a special place in our hearts because they are so full of life and innocence. Today, we are asking for your prayers and support for our Transportation Maintenance Coordinator, **Grayson Boles**, and his family. Grayson's grandchild, **Banks Marion**, has been in the hospital since his birth last September. Banks faces a serious heart and lung condition, and the journey has often been touch-and-go. Through it all, Banks has shown remarkable strength and resilience—truly a fighter from his very first day.

Please keep **Banks Marion** and the entire Boles family in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to navigate this difficult time.

Need a Ride? Call (336) 679-2071

Weatherization

Happenings

Testimonial

They worked well, with professional results. I love the outcome and information that was given. No complaints, they just really wanted to do their job in the best way they could. I am grateful for what has taken place. For them to be out in the cold weather, it showed how much they must love what they do.

Thank you.



Head Start

Happenings



Former Head Start Child Receives Scholarship

We are excited to announce that a former Head Start student has received a scholarship from the North Carolina Head Start Association. Lizbeth Salgado-Jacobo, a graduating senior at Starmount High School, was presented with the award at the annual NCHSA Annual Conference on March 19, 2026. Lizbeth will attend Appalachian State University and major in Special Education. The scholarship is awarded each year to a Head Start graduate who is making a significant contribution to their community and to encourage their continuing education. We are proud to have had Lizbeth representing YVEDDI Head Start at the award ceremony. We will present her with a certificate and a special cord to wear at the graduation ceremony on May 7.



Congratulations, Lizbeth!

For enrollment information for your 3- or 4-year-old, please contact the Head Start Office at 336-367-4993 ext 232.

WE ARE HIRING!

Would You Like to Join Our TEAM?

Are you interested in helping young children learn, grow, and succeed?

We are now hiring dedicated, caring professionals to join our early childhood education team! Visit the website at www.YVEDDI.com for more information and to submit your application.

Call 336-367-4993 for more information.



Do you qualify for food assistance?

If yes, your child qualifies for Head Start!

Today's List

~~1% milk~~
~~butter~~
~~sandwich bread~~
Head Start



YVEDDI Head Start

Do you or someone you know have a child that will be 3 or 4 years old on or before August 31?

If so, you can complete an application for your child NOW for the 2026-2027 school year.

Scan the QR code below with your camera to contact us!

For more information call: (336) 367-4993 x 246 or 232

SERVICES OFFERED

- NO COST Preschool Program
- Qualified Nurturing Teachers
- Fun Educational Activities
- Family Services and goal setting
- Healthy meals and snacks
- Ensure delivery of Health and Dental Services



SCAN ME

NEEDED FROM PARENTS

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Shot Record
- Proof of income for each parent/caregiver
- Insurance/Medicaid Card

Call Today to Enroll!

Save Time – Application available Online!

Visit our website: www.yveddi.com and click Head Start

Davie County Office
(336) 284-2374

Surry County Office
(336) 786-6155
Ext. 506/507/508

Stokes County Offices
Sandy Ridge (336) 871-5022
King (336) 983-2344

Yadkin County Offices
Boonville (336) 469-4563
Yadkinville (336) 367-4993 Ext. 239

