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## NC Criminal Justice Fellows Program Opens Applications for Second Annual Class

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows (CJ Fellows) program is now accepting applications for its second class and encourages high school seniors and graduates in North Carolina to use the opportunity to pursue careers in law enforcement. The program, run by the North Carolina Department of Justice and the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, is accepting applications until May 31, 2020.

"North Carolina's communities are facing serious challenges – the opioid epidemic, sexual assault, consumer scams, and online crimes," said NC Attorney General Josh Stein. "To meet these challenges, we need well-trained law enforcement officers who are committed to protecting our communities. To North Carolina's young people, I ask that you consider this opportunity to serve our state. I know that you are up to the task and can help make our communities safer and stronger."

The CJ Fellows program began last year with an incoming class of 14 students, who are currently pursuing education opportunities in community colleges across the state. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the program has 100 available fellowships in 65 eligible counties in North Carolina. This fellowship will fund an Applied Associate Degree in criminal justice or Committee-approved related field of study from any North Carolina community college.

"The CJ Fellows program is helping me continue my education beyond high school," said Hannah Billings, a Criminal Justice Fellow at Wilkes Community College. "After I graduate at the community college, I plan to do BLET, then hopefully work at one of my local police departments! My motivation is knowing that I am lucky enough to continue my education and be a first-generation college student."

High school seniors and graduates from eligible North Carolina counties who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to the school and community, and a desire to serve the state of North Carolina in a field within the criminal justice profession can apply to the program. Upon graduation, students who receive the educational loan would have it forgiven if they enter and remain in a criminal justice profession within North Carolina for four years in an eligible county. If not, they would have five years to repay the loan.

The criminal justice profession offers a wide variety of career opportunities. Students who graduate can go into any job overseen by either the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission or the Sheriffs' Standards Commission, including becoming law-enforcement officers, state correctional officers, and state juvenile justice officers, other correctional officers maintained by local governments and juvenile justice agencies, sworn sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, detention officers, and telecommunicators.

More information on the Criminal Justice Fellows program is available at:

[ncdoj.gov/law-enforcement-training/criminal-justice-fellows-program](http://ncdoj.gov/law-enforcement-training/criminal-justice-fellows-program).

## Parks & Recreation Winter Basketball Registration

Anson County Parks & Recreation is offering a Winter Basketball program, and registration is open now.

This program is available to:

- Micro Basketball (Ages 3-4)
- Youth Basketball (Grades K-2; 3-4; 5-6)

The cost is \$25 per child.

You may come to the Parks & Rec office to register. It is located in Little Park, 845 Airport Road in Wadesboro. For more information call Jeff Waisner, Director, at (704) 695-2550 or [Jwaisner@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:Jwaisner@co.anson.nc.us); Wendell Small at (704) 695-2782 or [Wsmall@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:Wsmall@co.anson.nc.us); or Allen Jackson II at (704) 694-5751 or [Ajackson@co.anson.nc.us](mailto:Ajackson@co.anson.nc.us).

## Frigid Temperatures and Holiday Cooking Create a Recipe for Home Fires

Combine the recent cold snap across North Carolina with that of fires that stem from holiday cooking and you have an increased potential for home fires, warns Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey.

"The holidays are a dangerous time of the year for fires because of the use of space heaters as well as the increase in cooking and baking," said Commissioner Causey. "That's why it is important for family members to know the dangers space heaters present and to be careful while using the oven and stove, especially with children roaming around the house."

Each year during the winter months, there is an increase in the number of home fires related to the various forms of heating. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating is the leading cause of fires in U.S. homes. Nearly 90 % of home heating fire deaths involve stationary or portable space heaters. The leading factor that contributes to home heating fire deaths was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.

Home fires peak on major U.S. holidays that traditionally involve cooking with Thanksgiving listed as the holiday with the most reported cooking fires, according to the NFPA. According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), there are approximately 2,000 home fires that occur each Thanksgiving that result in deaths, injuries and millions of dollars in property loss. Many of those fires are caused by turkey frying.

So far in 2019, 96 people have lost their lives in North Carolina because of fire.

The North Carolina Department of Insurance, Office of State Fire Marshal and Safe Kids NC recommend the following NFPA safety tips to prevent fire, injury or poisonings:

### Heating

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container, placed on a non-combustible area and stored a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

### Cooking

- Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you need to leave the kitchen, turn off the stove.
- Keep flammable items such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains away from the cooking area.
- Establish a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and other areas where hot food or drink is being prepared or carried.
- Be alert when cooking. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't cook.
- If your stove catches on fire, when in doubt, just get out! Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.

To learn more about fire and holiday safety, visit the OSFM website, <https://ncdoi.com/OSFM>.

## Uwharrie Capital Dividend Declaration

Uwharrie Capital Corp, parent company of Uwharrie Bank, Board of Directors has declared a 2% stock dividend to be paid to common stock shareholders on December 9, 2019.

Shareholders of Uwharrie Capital Corp, as of the record date November 25, 2019, will receive the dividend, which will be paid electronically via book-entry. No stock certificates will be issued. Shareholders will receive a Direct Registration System (DRS) statement indicating the new shares gained. If the stock is held in a brokerage account, shares will be electronically delivered directly to the appropriate account. Only whole shares of stock will be issued. If applicable, a check for payment of a fractional share may also be issued or deposited electronically.

Contact David Beaver, Chief Financial Officer at 704-991-1266 for further information.

## Leadership Anson 2020 Applications

Applications for the 2020 Leadership Anson class are now being accepted.

For more information contact Shelby Emrich at the Anson County Chamber of Commerce, 704-694-4181 or [semrich@ansoncountychamber.org](mailto:semrich@ansoncountychamber.org).

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