



MR. AND MRS. TOM PAGELS  
2019



MR. AND MRS. PAGELS  
1969

## Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Tom and Rosanne Pagels of Bethlehem celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 2, 2019. The Pagels' were married August 2, 1969, at St. Boniface Church in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Their children are Jill DeVries and husband Mark DeVries, and Lynnae Drollinger and husband Patrick Drollinger. Their grandchildren are Kate, Anna, Luke, Evan, Alex and Ryan DeVries. Tom is retired from Mecklenburg County Government and Rosanne is retired from Mecklenburg County Catholic Schools. They are members of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

## Lenoir-Rhyne responds to teacher shortage with fully-online, self-paced education module

Reflecting a national trend, the shortage of teachers in North Carolina has been an increasingly serious concern over recent years, affecting school districts throughout the state. As a result, school districts throughout North Carolina fill the vacancies with residency licensed teachers, or individuals with a bachelor's degree in a specific subject but without a full teaching license.

Lenoir-Rhyne University is responding to the teacher shortage by offering a non-degree residency licensure program for teachers. Offered fully-online, LR's education module is competency-based for teachers working under the new residency licensure legislation. LR is one of only a few public or private universities in the state to offer a program of this kind.

"Lenoir-Rhyne is building on a long history of exceptional undergraduate and graduate programming in education," said Hank Weddington, professor and dean of the College of Education and Human

Services. "Building on that reputation, we designed a program that is responsive to our education needs in North Carolina while providing an alternative option to those who require full licensure and flexibility to do it while employed as a teacher."

This residency licensure program is intended to respond to school districts' needs to hire qualified, licensed teachers in grades 6-12. PE and music at the K-12 level is also available. It is designed to recruit mid-career professionals with a bachelor's degree in a content area they want to teach and are seeking a career change. LR's self-paced module provides an opportunity for these individuals to be employed as a teacher under restricted license while completing professional education coursework to become fully licensed.

Offering flexibility with open enrollment and registration, this pathway allows teacher-candidates to balance their coursework with a job and personal commitments. The

residency program, which allows students to meet all required North Carolina teacher licensure competencies, can be completed in approximately one year and costs \$700 a month. Beyond the module tasks, individuals will also be supervised and evaluated in the field by an LR faculty member and the public school administrative staff. The application process opened August 1 with a program start of September 1, with the option for residency licensed teachers to start anytime that is convenient for their schedule and conducive to their school districts' employment requirements.

Applicants must either currently hold a teaching position or have been informally offered a teaching position at a North Carolina school. In addition, applicants must submit a \$50 deposit and transcripts must be provided with a 2.7 GPA in an undergraduate major that matches the applicant's content area.

Additionally, LR offers a Master of Arts in Teaching to provide students the opportunity to earn both a graduate degree and North Carolina teaching certification. Offered online with real-time instruction, this 34 credit hour program is also designed for the working professional.

To learn more about either program, visit the Lenoir-Rhyne website at lr.edu/teaching-licensure or contact Amy Rottmann at amy.rottman@lr.edu or 828.407.4273.

## Shiloh Lutheran to hold chicken pie supper

Shiloh Lutheran Church will hold a chicken pie supper on Saturday, September 14, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or until sold out. All proceeds will go to Hospice of Alexander County. The menu will include chicken pie, green beans, slaw, desserts including cobblers, and drinks - coffee, tea, or water. All dine-in and carry-outs will be \$8.00. A 9 x 9 chicken pie can be purchased for \$12.00. Shiloh is located in Bethlehem at the intersection of Shiloh Church Rd. and Hubbard Rd. This event is sponsored by the Parish Activities Committee. For more information, contact Nancy Bowman at 381-2637 or Helen Bowman at 308-3393

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# Chairman's Chat

## Growing opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and improve lives in Alexander County



**Dr. Jeff Peal**  
Alexander County  
Commission  
Chairman

Wow, it's hard to believe it's already the middle of August! As your County Commissioners, we've been working hard to improve this great county while making strides in providing services to you - our citizens.

We're currently conducting a parks survey, and we need your help. The county is working with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to gather input from citizens, businesses, and visitors about the needs at our existing parks, as well as park amenities that will serve us for years to come.

The easiest way to take the survey is online. It only takes about 10 to 15 minutes, and it's completely anonymous. This is a great way for you to voice your opinions and ideas about how we can improve our parks and recreational opportunities. Here's the link to the survey: [www.bit.ly/AC-parks-survey](http://www.bit.ly/AC-parks-survey).

If you prefer to complete a paper survey and mail or deliver it, there are copies available at most county buildings. I encourage you to help us spread the word about the survey so we can get as much input as possible before the deadline of September 30th. Also, we have planned five community input meetings to discuss our parks system with our citizens in person. Whichever way you prefer, I urge you to get involved and be heard.

While we're talking about parks and recreation, I wanted to share some exciting news about two access areas on Lake Hickory. Alexander County recently signed 40-year lease agreements with Duke Energy for Dusty Ridge Park and the Wittenburg Access Area. Many of these additions will be funded by Duke Energy, with some financial backing from the county. Also, the county plans to apply for a North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (NCPARTEF) grant to make significant additions to the Alexander County Courthouse Park in downtown Taylorsville.

Dusty Ridge Park is about 78 acres and currently has three athletic fields, restrooms, concession stand, trails, picnic shelter, and paved parking, as well as boat access and fishing. With the new lease, proposed amenities include a mountain bike trail, disc golf course, soccer fields, as well as additional trails, restrooms, picnic shelters, and parking.

Wittenburg Access Area totals 26.7 acres, and currently has paved parking, boat access, and a fishing pier. Again, in partnership with Duke Energy, the proposed amenities include picnic areas, trails, a swim beach, restrooms, and additional parking.

Being a fishing enthusiast myself, I'm excited that Alexander County is able to be a part of such awesome additions on the lake as part of our parks system. These new amenities will serve our citizens well, while attracting visitors to our county. Any time we can enhance our green-space activities at a minimal cost, I think we should take advantage of those opportunities.

As Commissioners, we know that the lack of broadband internet is a huge issue here in Alexander County, and fortunately we have a project that is now beginning to take shape. In conjunction with the Alexander County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), the county is working to improve the availability of broadband to unserved and underserved areas. The EDC Board of Directors awarded a contract to Open Broadband to conduct a pilot program to bring broadband to more households and businesses. The company is currently assessing the county's vertical assets, such as towers, mountains, etc., to determine the coverage area. If this pilot program proves to be successful, we hope to further invest in this effort and provide broadband to as many citizens and businesses as possible.

I also wanted to provide you with an update on the county's water line extension project. Commissioners recently awarded the construction bid to Buckeye Bridge LLC in the amount of \$4,699,248 with \$117,481 in contingency funding. This project includes the installation of 71,090 linear feet of water lines to the county's water system, reaching almost 300 households on 12 roads. Buckeye completed the Shurtape sewer project, so we feel comfortable having prior experience with the company. Construction is expected to begin in early October, which is exciting news for residents in these areas. Also, water tap fees have been reduced to only \$541 through December 2020, which eases the burden on citizens who would like to tap on to the county's water system. Construction is expected to take about 300 days. It's exciting to expand our water system to citizens who want and/or need county water.

In addition, there is going to be some amazing growth in the Bethlehem community in the coming months and years. On the horizon, we have the Bethlehem sewer project, which will include more than 30,000 linear feet of sewer lines, the upgrade of two pump stations, and the installation of a new pump station. The project has been approved by the NC Department of Transportation and Duke Energy, but we're awaiting approval from the NC Department of Environmental Quality. Bids will hopefully be awarded in late 2019. Once the bid is awarded, the project should take approximately one year to complete. The project will cost approximately \$5 million, but fortunately we have obtained zero or low-interest loans to fund this project. In addition to the sewer project and potential housing developments, the widening of NC Hwy. 127 to four lanes will provide opportunities for tremendous development in this area of the county.

I hope you've enjoyed this brief update of some of the things happening here in Alexander County. I encourage you to keep up-to-date with Alexander County news and events on our website at [www.alexandercountync.gov/news](http://www.alexandercountync.gov/news).

On behalf of the Alexander County Board of Commissioners, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you -- the fine citizens of Alexander County -- and to make wise decisions that will make a positive, lasting impact on our community.

## Fundraiser Supper for Remi set at Antioch Baptist Aug. 17

Fundraiser Supper for Remi, sponsored by Harry's Hands of Antioch Baptist Church, will be held Saturday, August 17, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

The menu will be: hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, dessert, and drinks. Donations only.

The supper will be held in the Antioch Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 580 Antioch Church Road, Taylorsville, NC 28681.

The supper will be either dine-in or carry out; donations accepted.

For more information, call (828) 632-2929.



MR. AND MRS. CHARLIE  
LEATHERMAN, SR.  
1949



MR. AND MRS.  
LEATHERMAN  
2019

## Celebrate 70th Anniversary

Charlie (Sr.) and Dorothy Leatherman of Brook Hollow Lane, Taylorsville, celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on August 21. The couple was married August 21, 1949, in Gaffney, South Carolina. They are planning a beach trip at a later date as part of their celebration. Their children are Larry and Sandy Leatherman of Lincolnton; Bruce and Florence of Marion; Charlie, Jr. and Kim Leatherman of Marion. Mr. and Mrs. Leatherman are members at The Chapel in Hickory.

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