



PJ'S IN "BUY LOCAL" CHALLENGE — PJ's Seafood in Bethlehem is welcoming customers to register in the "Buy Local" Challenge through June 28. Pictured above are Chloe Sellers and Autumn Brown.



PART OF "BUY LOCAL" CHALLENGE — In preparation for the official Ice Cream Month coming up in July, be sure to stop by Morgan's Dairy Bar & Calf-A and register for their \$25 gift card. Shown is Morgan's Dairy Bar & Calf-A employee Bella Pennell.



STOP IN TO REGISTER AT SHAGGY'S — Shown above, left to right: Rachel Quarles, Colin Martin and Shana Helton with Shaggy's Good Buys in Bethlehem invite customers to stop by and enter to win in the "Buy Local" Challenge through June 28.

"Buy Local" Challenge begins, has \$4,475+ in prizes: \$1,000 and \$500 shopping sprees, Dollywood trip, \$100 prize available



The 2026 Buy Local Challenge, which began June 3, 2026, is offering local customers a chance to win big prizes from 44 participating businesses. It is a partnership of *The Taylorsville Times*, Alexander County government, and the Town of Taylorsville.

This year, the promotion is back and it's as strong as ever with over \$4,475 in prizes up for grabs from multiple businesses. Shoppers are urged to visit local participating businesses and register for the individual store prizes.

Readers are urged to

register at as many local merchants as possible, as the more you visit and shop with, the more chances you have to win the \$1,000 Alexander County shopping spree Grand Prize, the Dollywood trip package, and the \$100 gift certificate. A \$500 shopping spree prize is being provided by the Town of Taylorsville. All local merchant prize registrations roll up to enter you for those top three prize drawings as well.

Michael Worley, Alexander County Economic Development Executive Director, stated, "This initiative isn't just

about shopping—it's about making a real difference in our community. When you choose to buy local, you're choosing to strengthen our economy, support neighbors, and keep Taylorsville and Alexander County thriving. Help build a stronger, more connected community—one local purchase at a time."

"The Town of Taylorsville is contributing a \$500 prize to encourage community participation. Together, we're committed to strengthening our local economy," said Taylorsville Town Manager Nathan Hester.

The list of participating businesses and their corresponding prizes is detailed in the special "Buy Local" Challenge is inserted in this

week's issue of *The Times*. The promotion ends

June 28, 2026. Top prize winners will be an-

nounced on July 8 in *The Taylorsville Times*.

Alexander County provides update on water and sewer infrastructure projects

Alexander County continues to make significant investments in water and sewer infrastructure. Several major projects are currently underway and are expected to be completed over the next year.

One of the county's largest efforts is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) water line expansion project, which is scheduled for completion in fall 2026. Initially approved by the Alexander County Board of Commissioners in 2022, the work utilizes federal ARPA funds allocated to the county in 2021, with a total cost of approximately \$6.4 million.

The initiative includes approximately 42,500 linear feet of water lines in areas where residents expressed interest in obtaining water service. Project areas include Stan-De-La Drive/Gina Drive/Dwayne Drive, Greene Street, Caldwell Pond Road/John Cline Road, Jenkins Moose Road, McAlpin Lane, Advent Church Road, Shepherd

Court, Hefner Lane, Kirby Lackey Road/Glass Road, Shook Lane/Jimmy Shook Lane, Hickory Hollow Lane, Bowman Court, Twins Cove Road, and Laurel Ridge Lane.

Construction also continues on improvements to the Bethlehem water system, including a new elevated water tank and booster station that will improve pressure and reliability for current and future needs.

The Bethlehem water tank, expected to be completed in fall 2026, includes construction of a 750,000-gallon elevated tank along with water line improvements. The total cost is approximately \$5.4 million, with the majority funded through state grants totaling more than \$4.6 million. Work is currently underway.

The Bethlehem booster station, expected to be completed in spring 2027, will support operation of the new water tank. The booster station will be located

at the corner of Shiloh Church Road and Steel Bridge Loop. The total cost is approximately \$2.4 million and will be funded entirely through county water and sewer revenues, with no property tax dollars required.

Progress is being made on the Bowman Court sewer project, which is expected to be completed this summer. The work includes approximately 6,500 linear feet of force main extending from Bowman Court to Chigger Ridge Road along Rink Dam Road.

The total cost is approximately \$2.7 million, of which \$2.3 million is being funded through state grants, with the remaining balance paid through the county water and sewer fund. The pump station has already been installed, and the county is currently awaiting delivery of the generator needed to complete the work. No property tax dollars are being utilized for this project either.

COME CELEBRATE
FATHER'S DAY
WITH US!

twinn
BROTHER'S
AT
PLAYER'S RIDGE
GOLF COURSE
HICKORY, NC

Twinn Brother's
at
PLAYER'S RIDGE
1159 Players Ridge Rd
Hickory, NC 28601

FREE
ESTIMATES

- Grading
- Underground Retention
- Erosion Control
- Clearing
- Roads / Driveways
- Foundations

SIEMER
GRADING & EXCAVATING
828-303-0848
Exceeding Expectations Since 2014

siemergrading@gmail.com • siemergrading.com

COMPLETE EYE EXAMS

Our basic eye exam includes test for:

- Visual Acuity (Near and Far)
- Glaucoma, Cataracts, and other Ocular Pathology
- Refraction for Glasses or contacts
- Visual Field Screening
- Ocular Motility
- Muscle Posture
- Convergence
- Color Vision
- Depth Perception
- And Other Test (all on an as needed basis)

Michael Sigmon, OD • Elizabeth York, OD • Donald York, OD

Vision First
OPTOMETRY
174 Bolick Lane, Suite 201, Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-495-1234
EXPANDED HOURS

Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
NEW PATIENTS ACCEPTED

Welcoming New Patients in Taylorsville!

Catawba Valley Family Medicine—Taylorsville is ready to see new patients of all ages with the help of our newest providers, April Phares and Sandi Reed, both Certified Family Nurse Practitioners. Well or sick visits are welcomed.

Visit our website or call to learn more about how we can be your first line of defense in guarding your most valuable possession of all: your health.

50 Macedonia Church Rd., Suite A Taylorsville, NC 28681
Phone: (828) 732-5300

**CATAWBA VALLEY
FAMILY MEDICINE**
TAYLORSVILLE

CatawbaValleyHealth.org/Taylorsville

April Phares, FNP

Sandi Reed, FNP