

Booster ...from Page 1A

to get one, but with limited vaccine supplies persisting for the time being, a phased allocation remains necessary.

Even though Public Health is not actively taking new appointments for COVID-19 vaccination due to this limited availability, people trying for an appointment with the Health Department should continue checking the phdistrict2.org sign-up portal.

Alternatively, people can

call 770-531-5692 to check on appointment availability, and if someone doesn't answer, call back again, as demand has greatly impacted the district's ability to get to all callers immediately.

"We are still experiencing limited supplies of vaccine," District 2 Public Information Officer Dave Palmer said. "Due to this, we don't know how much vaccine we might receive, so we ask people to continue to monitor

our online registration tool or call the Call Center for any possible open appointments.

"At present, all of our vaccine is committed to confirmed appointments. When we begin to get vaccine in a steady supply, we will begin to announce a couple of days before adding appointments to the registration tool."

For a regularly updated list of locations receiving vaccine shipments in each county, visit dph.georgia.gov and click on the link for the "Vaccine Orders List." People can also find vaccine providers

at <https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/covid-vaccination-site>.

Synergy Health continues to add patients to its vaccine wait list at ngvax.com, where people receive immediate confirmation once they sign up successfully. Vaccine registrants will be notified once an appointment becomes available, so there's no need to call the office to verify.

Additionally, to take advantage of further collaborative mass vaccine efforts between the Union County Government and the Health Department, be sure to check in regularly with unioncountygga.gov to see when new appointments come online as supplies become available.

As previously reported, Union General Health System is not currently offering vaccines to the public, but

once it finishes administering second doses in-house, the hospitals have committed to helping with vaccinating eligible residents if their access to vaccine supplies continues.

Ingles Pharmacies are also waitlisting people for vaccination at <https://www.ingles-markets.com/pharmacy/pg1/pharmacy-sub/vaccinations>.

More than 1.4 million combined Pfizer and Moderna vaccine doses have been administered to date in Georgia, with all vaccine recipients being asked to maintain COVID best practices even after vaccination.

People should be aware that anti-inflammatory medicines may depress immune responses to vaccination, which is why District 2 Public Health says folks should avoid them unless needed.

"We recommend that people do not take anti-inflammatory drugs before vaccination unless it is part of their routine treatment for other conditions," District 2 PIO Palmer said. "Also avoid after vaccination unless necessary for the control of fever or pain or is part of their routine treatment for other conditions."

"Acetaminophen use is preferred over anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen."

Appointments for free Public Health COVID-19 testing can be made at <https://mako.exchange/splash/GAMakotesting/>.

This free testing takes place Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Hall County, at the Allen Creek Soccer Complex located at 2500 Allen Creek Drive.

'Night to Shine' ...from Page 1A

done is create a video. It won't be live, but it will be something that they can play from their home or wherever.

"It is about a 45-minute video, and they can watch it whenever they want. There are some elements where the Tim Tebow Foundation has set up text messaging or an email address where they can send a little message throughout the event."

While the festivities could not take place at the usual First United Methodist Church venue, the Tatmans put their own spin on the event, creating something memorable for virtual guests in the form of volunteer-packaged and delivered gift baskets to mark the occasion.

"We are bringing them sodas, snacks, pizza donated by Sicily's Pizza, and tiaras and

crowns, just things that they would normally get while they are here," Joe said.

Over the last four years, the Tatmans have worked to make the "Night to Shine" as accessible as possible for surrounding areas, with some guests coming from as far away as Jasper to celebrate the day, and they're thankful for the foundation helping with logistics.

"Tim Tebow Foundation provides the structure for it and helps you navigate it," Joe said. "In essence, it is just a big prom. There are a lot of little moving pieces that they want us to have, and we keep it consistent."

"We have done this for the last four years, and we have been working to keep it going and do what we can here in the community. We love to do it,

and it is always great seeing the guests come through so happy."

Pam Jordan with Circle of Love through First United Methodist Church volunteered her time with the group preparing for deliveries on Thursday, Feb. 11, inside the church.

"We volunteer for this every year, and it is something good that we can do in our community," Jordan said. "Circle of Love does a lot of service projects, but this is one of our favorite times of the year. It is sad this year that it is happening like it is."

"We won't get to see them; they will get some joy, but it is not like watching them dress up and dance and be the kings and queens that they are. When we found out we could do one little thing, we jumped right on it, and we are happy to help."

Farmers Market...from Page 1A

about the market coming back since before Christmas, shortly after the conclusion of the 2020 season Oct. 31, and folks are ready for a return not just to the market but also to some semblance of normal living.

"Regular vendors are asking because they want to plan for their next season, and we get new vendors asking because they're hoping to get in," Market Manager Mickey Cummings said. "And people call up all the time, asking if we're planning on opening again."

"Last year, we had a track record where we did things and made sure it was safe, and people now realize that, because we had no problems last year. So now, they're asking, are you going to do things to ensure we maintain our safety?"

All of the mitigations from 2020 are returning to make Tuesday and Saturday market days safe in 2021: masking by vendors, regular bathroom cleanings, hand sanitizing stations, no food sampling or live performances, and restrictions on handling crafts prior to purchasing.

New in 2021, vendors will be able to choose between wearing masks, installing plexiglass barriers at their booths, or placing double tables separating themselves from customers.

And while masks are not required to be worn by members of the public, the market encourages people to wear them, having handed out last year over 1,500 masks to the public.

Behind the scenes, excitement is at an all-time high, likely due in part to people being tired of staying cooped up for COVID-19, and the market is anticipating a

full slate of vendors returning in 2021.

This means limited space, if any, for new vendors, with the caveat that agriculture vendors will always take priority over craft and other vendors, even if they're new, which makes sense — it is called the Farmers Market, after all.

"There are a few new ag vendors that have expressed an interest in participating this year," Cummings said, adding that walk-ins are always welcome to inquire in case a regular vendor has to miss a day at the market.

Special events by outside organizations were disallowed at the market in 2020, though such events may very well return in 2021 pending the status of COVID in the community come May, with vaccines expected to help on that score. Indeed, several events are already scheduled.

"People who come in are going to have to adhere to our policies to make sure there are no outbreaks," Cummings said.

It's too early to say if the popular Trash & Treasure Yard Sale will return this year, as the market requires individuals selling things not to pass wares back and forth between customers, which will be difficult for second-hand items.

Fortunately, the Canning Plant located inside the Farmers Market will open by appointment only in July. Folks will be required to wear masks, get temperatures checked, and generally stay safe as they can their produce and other items brought from home or purchased right at the market.

"If people want to participate in the Canning Plant, they need to find jars and lids now," Cummings said. "Last year, we ran into a serious problem where we had people cancel on us because they couldn't find jars or lids."

Additionally, Cummings

said the Farmers Market is making regular onsite improvements, like plans for walking trails, a blacksmith shop at the Hunter-England Cabin to better demonstrate old-fashioned homesteading, and more giant pumpkin growing for Union County 4-H'ers.

"The whole idea behind the Farmers Market was to provide a place for the community to come together, and we keep that in mind for anything new that comes by," Cummings said. "We want to show people what farm life was like years ago in the mountains, and we continue to do that every year."

Added Cummings, "The people of Union County own this, and we want it used. People walk out here, and we want them to be here, we enjoy them being here, because it's being used. We want people to think of this as their own, and we welcome any new ideas on ways to make this place better."

More information on the upcoming Farmers Market season will be available toward the end of February at UCFarmersMarket.com, at which point vendors will be able to apply for a booth reservation in 2021.

"If you were a vendor last year and want to be a vendor this year, we do our best to accommodate people," Cummings said. "But — and this is a big but — if we have a new ag vendor that wants to come in, something's got to give."

In other news, the Farmers Barket off-leash dog park adjacent to the Farmers Market has stayed busy through the winter, and people are asked to clean up after their pets when they use the bathroom, both inside and outside the park.

Sometime in the next couple of months, the Farmers Barket will likely have to close for a spell, as the Farmers Market will be seeding the interior of the park with grass.

Car Theft...

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was not aware the vehicle had been stolen.

The runaway juvenile got on Georgia State Patrol's radar Monday evening when he was clocked driving at an excessive speed, at which point a chase ensued and the trooper successfully executed a pursuit intervention technique to end the chase, Osborn said.

Currently, the boy is being detained at Dalton Regional Youth Detention Center, facing juvenile complaints from White County for running away, Union County for theft of a motor vehicle, and unconfirmed charges stemming from the chase with GSP in Fannin, Osborn said.

Unfortunately, the vehicle was totaled in the pursuit, though the owner is happy that no one was hurt in the incident, Osborn said.

"She's the type that understands you can replace a vehicle, but you can't replace a life," Osborn said.

Navy Seabees' to host annual All Military Ball; get tickets now



The Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-3 is once again sponsoring an All Military Ball. This is in recognition of the 79th birthday of the U.S. Navy Seabees,

to be held at the Ridges Resort on March 6.

This Ball is shaping up to be the biggest yet with a number of folks coming from out of town to attend. We have a full evening of fun planned to include good food, fellowship, drawings, music and dancing.

Tickets are \$50 and on sale until March 1. Checks can be mailed to the NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville GA Commander at:

Edwin M. Crenshaw, 9021 Sharons Way, Young Harris, GA 30582.