



WILCOX COUNTY COMMUNITY IN ACTION

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**Be Smart. Be Sober. Be Safe.
Travel Alcohol & Drug Free!**

Public Messages Alcohol Awareness Month April 2023

Alcohol use is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. No one should die from this preventable disease. In 2006, Congress enacted the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act (Public Law 109-422) to acknowledge that: a multi-faceted effort and a coordinated approach is needed. Of the 97,000,000 individuals, ages 12-20 in Alabama, in the past month 16.4% have used alcohol (2021 Report to Congress by SAMSHA). According to the Alabama Substance Abuse Block Grant Prevention Annual Report 2020-2021, Wilcox County has only one Intervention program implemented.

The legal drinking age in Alabama for consumption of an alcoholic beverage is 21. Purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcohol prior to your 21st birthday is a first-degree misdemeanor. The maximum penalties associated with this offense are six months imprisonment or a \$1,000 fine or both.

For further details: <https://responsibility.org/prevent-underage-drinking>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1, 2023

SRBWI Cultural Street Fair
Union & Planters Street
Camden, AL
10:00 a.m.

April 3, 2023

City Council Meeting
Camden, AL
6:00 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2023

Communities of Transformation
Pine Hill United Methodist Church
Pine Hill, AL
6:00 p.m.

April 5, 2023

Lenten Lunches
Camden United Methodist
Church
Camden, AL
12:00 p.m.

April 5, 2023

United Way of Southwest AL
Community Network
Virtual
1:00 p.m.

April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

April 10, 2023

Wilcox County Family Summit
J.E. Hobbs Elementary School
9:00 a.m.

April 10, 2023

Wilcox County
Commissioner's Meeting
Courthouse Annex
5:30 p.m.

April 10, 2023

Pine Hill City Council Mtg.
Pine Hill, AL
6:00 p.m.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

PINE HILL MISSION and FOOD BANK

The Pine Hill Mission and Food Bank held its Food Distribution Drive By for the community. Charitable food services, including food banks and pantries, support individual and households' food access, potentially maintaining food security and diet quality during emergencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of food banks and pantries has increased in the United States.



April 10, 2023

Central Alabama Regional
Child Abuse Advocacy
Center Pinwheel Ceremony
Veteran's Memorial Garden
Camden, AL
12:00 p.m.

April 10, 2023

CPC Family Summit
J.E. Hobbs Elementary School
Camden, AL 36726
1:00 p.m.

April 11, 2023

Wilcox County Coalition in
Action (Virtual)
Monthly Meeting
12:00 p.m.

April 12, 2023

Wilcox County Board of Ed
Regular Meeting.
5:00 p.m. (Virtual)

April 14, 2023

Wilcox County Chamber Mtg.
Camden, AL
12:00 Noon

April 15, 2023

BAMA Kids Arts Explosion
Wilcox County Family
Resource Center
12:00 p.m.

April 15, 2023

Courthouse Renaming
Recognition Ceremony
12 Water Street
Camden, AL
2:00 p.m.

April 17, 2023

Drive-By Food Distribution
Yellow Bluff Baptist Church
Yellow Bluff, AL
10:30 a.m.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

GEES BEND NUTRITION CENTER

TALKING TO SENIORS ABOUT UNDERAGE DRINKING

The role of caring for grandchildren is being passed down to their grandparents. The senior citizens enjoyed a day of awakening. They learned how to have that important conversation with their grandchildren about underage drinking. The Prevention Coalition Coordinator used the SAMSHA and Responsibility.org websites to present the "Talk They Hear You" campaign.

The Prevention Coalition Coordinator started the campaign by asking each participant to introduce themselves. We continued with the poster showing "What Alcohol does to the brain." Many of the regular participants did not attend this session due to the wintry weather. They all called and asked me to schedule another meeting during the summer months.



April 19, 2023

Pine Hill Mission
Drive-By Food Distribution
Pine Hill, AL
10:00 a.m.

April 20, 2023

Women in Agriculture
Workshop
Ferry Terminal-Camden, AL
9:30 a.m.

April 20, 2023

St. Thomas A.ME.
Drive By Food Distribution
4:00 p.m.

April 22, 2023

Mar Curl BBQ Cook-Off
Dolly Parton Imagination
Library Kick-Off
9:00 a.m.

April 23, 2023

R.E.A.A.L. Youth Mentoring
Camden, AL
3:00 p.m.

April 29, 2023

National Drug Take-Back Day
Wilcox County Sheriff
Department
Courthouse annex
Camden, AL
10:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY BASED PROCESSES



Jessie brought a wonderful message on how going through fires makes us stronger. She talked about how the mighty Sequoia trees need fire to drop their seeds to produce more trees without the hardship they would die out. Jessie also shared summer job opportunities for students at Blue Lake, Arlington and Pine Hill Methodist Churches and United Women for Christ brought us a wonderful meal!

COMMUNITY BASED PROCESSES

LITTLE BLESSINGS: Arlington-Pine Hill Methodist Church Women's Organization gives Easter baskets to Senir Citizens and the local Nursing Home

Putting a natural smile on the elderly faces is what these Easter bags does each year. Elderly residents enjoyed their Easter Bags filled with snacks, snacks, snacks!



PLANT A PINWHEEL GARDEN

Numerous organizations and community showed the Wilcox County community that they support children's healthy development with a pinwheel garden during Child Abuse Prevention Month April 10th! Pinwheel gardens represent our effort to focus on community activities that support families and public policies that prioritize prevention right from the start to make sure child abuse and neglect never occur. Pinwheels are used to help educate communities about the importance of supporting children and families. Shining in the sun, the pinwheel is reflective of the bright future all children deserve and our belief that getting it right early is less costly. This year 84 pinwheels were planted representing Wilcox County children involved in an abuse investigation last year.





A family summit is deeply, deeply important for a couple reasons. One, there's no other organizational structure that doesn't do something like this. Almost all businesses do off-sites, do retreats, do quarterly summits or meetings, and then they certainly do some type of end of the year review is sometimes what they call it. Churches do this with planning out the content and the sermons and the vision from the elders. I mean, every single organizational structure has some level of marking the annual rhythm to look back, look forward.

And what is also really true about those, that also we don't do as much in our personal ones, is a lot of them spend almost just as much time looking back as they do looking forward. I think so much when we get to the personal, we just like goals, goals, goals, future, future, future. We're not like, you know, I think they do that in those, but a lot of times, even what I just said with the business, it's called an end of the year review. So that actually has nothing to do with next year. It's like you're just looking at this last year. And what that does is looking back at the last year automatically already starts kind of setting the tone for next year, if that makes sense. You almost know what you need to work on by looking at last year. You almost don't even have to have that conversation by looking at the review.

And I think reflecting is really important. In general, what would it look like to set a day or two aside, and for us, when I say a day or two, I mean, we did it in blocks, just kind of a couple hours here, back with the kids, couple hours there, where you're kind of setting aside time to ask yourself the big questions, to ask yourself what worked, what didn't work, to look at everything from the spiritual, the emotional, to the physical, and just assess, just take a stock and an assessment of how did the family do this year? Was it healthy? Were we thriving? What worked? What didn't work? How was our team? Just like any team should assess their team, and looking at all of those different things ([How to Lead an Annual Family Summit - Family Teams](#)).



FYI.....



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF **AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES**

Alabama Agriculture & Industries – Farmers Market Authority

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BENEFIT CARDS AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS



MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is a federally funded program administered by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries' Farmers Market Authority Section. The SFMNP provides eligible seniors with a \$50 benefit card to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from certified farmers at farmers markets and farm stands in the state of Alabama. You can apply at <https://agi.alabama.gov/> or <https://agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/>. A sample photo of what the card looks like is attached to this release.

"The SFMNP card monetary increase from \$30 to \$50 will allow senior citizens to purchase more local products. I want to encourage those who are eligible to apply and begin shopping local!" said Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries Rick Pate. "ADAI looks forward to another year of supporting Alabama's farmers and senior citizens through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program."

Important Notice

The Benefit Card will replace the paper vouchers issued in the past. Seniors are encouraged to keep this card in a safe place once it is received. Benefits will be loaded to this same card each year after an application is submitted, therefore, it is especially important to keep the card.

The SFMNP provides eligible seniors with a \$50 benefit card to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from certified farmers at farmers markets and farm stands in the state of Alabama. This program has limited funding and food benefits are available on a first come, first serve basis until available funds are committed. Seniors are encouraged to complete an application as soon as possible.

Eligibility:

- Age — Must be 60 years of age or older on the day of application, AND
- Income — Applicants' gross household income must not exceed these limits:
\$2,096 monthly ... for a household of ... 1
\$2,823 monthly ... for a household of ... 2

Visit <https://agi.alabama.gov/> or <https://agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/> if there are more than 2 people in the household.

How to apply:

Applicants must apply online at <https://agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/>. Unfortunately, applications cannot be taken over the phone or by mail. If you have the Benefits card from 2022, you will need your card number to renew that card and submit your application. If eligible and your application submission is completed, a benefit card will be mailed to the address provided on the application for new recipients. Applicants must reapply every year. However, it is important to keep the benefits card since new benefits will be loaded on the card each year after an application is received.

For more information about the SFMNP, visit <https://agi.alabama.gov/> or call 334-240-7247 or 1-877-774-9519.