

Businesses, groups work to register voters

By Rebecca Walter

Staff Writer

Local organizations and businesses are proactively distributing information about upcoming elections to the public and helping more people get registered to vote.

Several voter registration drives are planned in Henderson and Transylvania counties this month.

Reaching out to community

Josh Williams with J Williams Financial Service is sponsoring a voter registration event this Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at 733 Seventh Ave. in Hendersonville.

Williams said he's a business owner in the same community, and wants more people to have their voices heard.

"This is a time that we as a community can get more involved," he said. "It does matter."

Williams hopes to get as many voters registered as possible. He has 125 forms.

This is the first time Williams has hosted a voter registration drive, although he's been involved in campaigning in the past. Williams, a minority business owner, also works with other local activists, like owner of the Black Business Network of WNC Crystal Cauley, on issues in the Green Meadows community.

Saturday's registration event will include information on becoming a poll worker, sample ballots and mail-in voting. Williams will share a newsletter with additional details for voters.

Williams served in the Navy and Army Reserve, and says his military service also motivates him to stay active and encourage others to do as well.

Registration drives

The League of Women Voters Henderson County continues to host voter

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Williams

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registration drives and events. Future virtual candidate programs are in the planning stages, and over a dozen voter drives are scheduled for September.

Registration drives by the League:

Sept. 3 ? Oskar Blues, Brevard, 4-7 p.m.

Sept. 4 ? Hendersonville Co-Op, 11 a.m. ? 2 p.m.

Sept. 11 ? Bill Moore Community Park, Fletcher, 8-11 a.m.

Sept. 11 ? Blue Ghost Brewing Co., Hendersonville, 5-9 p.m.

Sept. 12 ? Mills River Farmers Market, Mills River, 8 a.m. to noon Sept. 12 ? Smileys, Fletcher, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sept. 13 ? Burning Blush Brewery, Mills River, noon to 3 p.m.

Sept. 13 ? Smileys, Fletcher, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sept. 15 ? BRCC, Brevard campus, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sept. 15 ? Saluda Food Pantry, Saluda, 3-6 p.m.

Sept. 19 ? Mills River Park, Mills River, 8-11 a.m.

Sept. 20 ? Oklawaha Brewing Co., Hendersonville, noon to 3 p.m.

Sept. 21 ? Blue Ridge Health Center, Hendersonville, 9 a.m. to noon

The organization is also sponsoring a video contest that is open to all high school students.

President Rachel Poller announced that high school students are invited to create a two-minute video informing young voters about why voting is important, and what voters need to know and do to be ready to vote, according to a news release. First prize is \$500.

For more information, go to www.lwvhcnc.org.

Sample ballots, mail-in voting

The Henderson County Board of Elections has posted sample ballots online at www.hendersoncountync.gov/elections.

The Board also has more information on voting in this year's election online, including how to vote by mail.

Any registered voter in North Carolina may vote with an absentee ballot by mail.

The deadline to request a ballot for the November election is 5 p.m. Oct. 27. Ballots will start being sent to voters who request them Sept. 4.

The Board says it has been slammed with requests for mail-in ballots this year, mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early voting for the 2020 General Election begins Oct. 15 for Henderson County voters.