OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
MAY 2026

WHEREAS, Buncombe County is home to **82,160** older Americans over the age of sixty, who contribute their time, wisdom, and life experiences to our community, thus, benefiting the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of Buncombe County, and;

WHEREAS, communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are welcomed, included, and supported, and;

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners and partner agencies recognize the need to create an age-friendly community that provides the services and supports older Americans' need to thrive and live independently for as long as possible, and;

WHEREAS, Buncombe County works to build an even better community for our older residents by:

- Planning programs that encourage participation and promote social connections in work, civic, and community life
- Ensuring activities are responsive to individual needs and preferences
- Increasing access to services that support aging in place
- Preventing abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Embracing the diversity of older Americans in our community
- Emphasizing the positive views of aging and acknowledging that all of us are aging

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims **May 2026** as **Older Americans Month** in Buncombe County. The 2026 theme, ***Champion Your Health***, highlights prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as foundations of healthy aging. It encourages all of us to take an active role in managing our health, advocating for ourselves and others, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.

We urge every resident to join us to celebrate and recognize the contributions of our older citizens who are redefining what it means to age. By working together to help create an inclusive community and supporting our older residents to age well in Buncombe County we can build a healthier and meaningful future for all.

This 19th day of May, 2026.

Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners