THE VANDEMERE VOICE

EDITION 6 NO 4 FOR THE MANY; NOT THE FEW OCTOBER 2026

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If you would like to be a Trunker and pass out candy from your car please contact us at 252-745-5473. Set up time starts at 4:30 pm. Please no scary costumes. For everyone's safety, please provide only individually wrapped candy. **It's a fun time!**

Thanksgiving Outreach

The Town of Vandemere, along with Camp Vandemere, and Squidders will hold a Food Drive November 1-19 to provide 3 to 5 Vandemere families with a complete Thanksgiving Basket.

HOW TO DONATE

Monetary donations are preferred to purchase gift cards for the Turkey and perishable items, and to ensure the baskets are complete.

Suggested items to donate include: cranberry sauce, Red Lobster biscuit mix, crispy fried onions, cream of mushroom soup, chicken broth, Stove Top Stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, mac-n-cheese, rice, canned yams, marshmallows, pudding mix, coffee/tea/cocoa.

Donations can be dropped off at Town Hall or Squidders Bait and Tackle during business hours.

You can nominate a family for these baskets at Town Hall or Squidders. Any extra donated food will go to establish a Camp Vandemere Community Food Pantry.

For more information call 252-745-5473.
Thank you for your support!

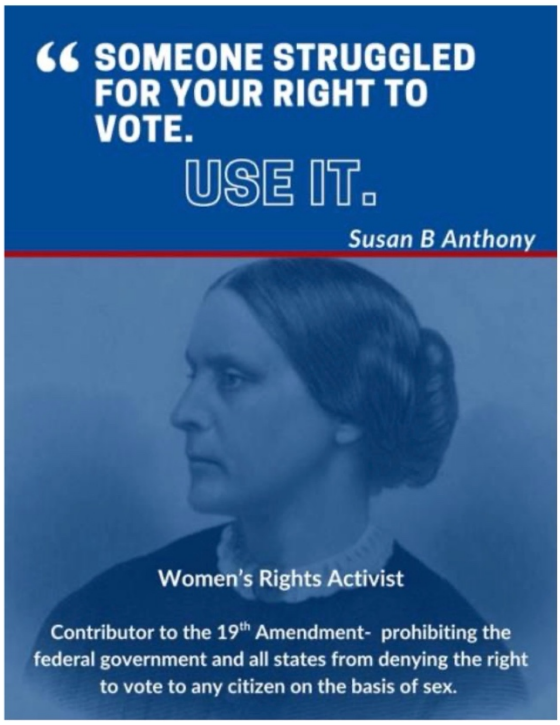




The Mayor's Memoir by Sandra Snipes

Our Sons and Daughters

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."



Above is the oath I took as an Army officer each time I was promoted during my 25 years of service. I am proud to be among the 6% of Americans who have ever chosen to serve our country in uniform. The personal and family sacrifices, successes, and failures came in many forms, and they shaped the person I am today. My journey of military service was unforgettable, and I would not change a thing.

North Carolina Board of Elections

Registration to vote on Election Day was October 9 by 5 p.m.

HOWEVER,
Individuals who miss the deadline may register and vote during the early voting period at any early voting site in their county (Pamlico County Courthouse). "Same-day registrants" must attest to their eligibility, including U.S. citizenship, provide proof of where they live, and show an acceptable form of photo ID.
Early voting period
begins Oct. 15 and ends Oct. 31.

As a young officer, I often would run across the words "our sons and daughters," whether hearing it in a military speech or reading it in a historical document. These words did not resonate with me in the way they eventually would. Back then, I was a bedside nurse following orders alongside my peers and doing what we had been trained to do: helping patients heal and recover. We were a team—brothers and sisters in arms training together in the field and working in hospitals; proud to serve our country through the challenges and feeling like the future was bright regardless.

As I matured in the Army and grew as a leader, I began to see my responsibility differently. I was no longer responsible only for my own performance. I was responsible for my team's growth, their service, and the care they provided to others. And at home, I was a wife to a supportive husband and a mother of two, doing my best to raise happy, loved children who would grow into well-rounded and successful adults.

Through my years of service, I had the privilege of working with courageous young Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen who were intelligent, professional, dedicated, sharp—and increasingly, around the same age as my own children. The words "our sons and daughters" began resonating with me. The phrase became real and no longer a distant story. The responsibility to my team became much more personal. It was the same responsibility I felt toward my own children: to guide them, protect them, help them grow, and give them every opportunity to succeed in life and in service to our country. "I get it!" **These are our sons and daughters, and as Americans we ALL have a responsibility to them.**

One of the greatest loves many of us will ever experience is the love we have for our children. As a midwife, I have witnessed the spark in a family's eyes as they journey through the learning curve of pregnancy and becoming parents.

I have witnessed the inconsolable grief that comes with the loss of a child and the overwhelming joy that arrives with a new life. As an officer, I have witnessed the pride on a family's face when their son or daughter was promoted through the ranks. And I have witnessed the heaviness of those moments when a flag was presented to a family member in honor of a fallen service member at their funeral. These are our sons and daughters.

These are our sons and daughters, and they are the courageous few who volunteer to serve, stand on the front lines, and accept a responsibility that most will never even consider or carry. They take the oath to serve knowing that military service can ultimately demand the greatest sacrifice—the loss of their life. They are among the few who protect the freedoms and democracy we too often take for granted. And still, they raise their hands to serve. In essence, they are saying, **"Me before you."**

Our sons and daughters, in service to the nation, defend the rights and freedoms that belong to all of us, like those protected under the Fifteenth Amendment:

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Our rights and freedoms, in part, have been written in the blood of our nation's sons and daughters willing to risk their lives for what they believed in and what they took an oath to protect. We have the responsibility to follow through, participate, and simply vote for the future of our country.

Our vote is powerful, and with that power comes responsibility. That responsibility reaches beyond political party, religion, race, or any other difference that can divide us. When decisions affect future generations, when economic challenges confront our communities, when our nation faces conflict, and when lives are changed or lost, those predicaments connect to the choices we make as citizens when we vote—or when we choose not to vote at all. We all have a responsibility.

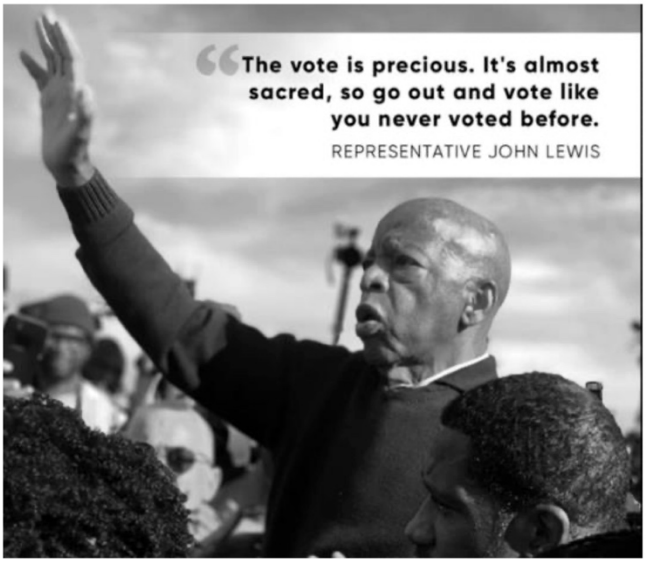
As my Dad, a Vietnam Veteran, would have said, **"The time is now!"** The ultimate gesture of patriotism and love of country is to vote. I promise you every Veteran, and every person throughout our history who has advocated for the pursuit of a *"more perfect Union"* would agree.

PAMLICO COUNTY INFORMATION
pamlicocounty.org

Qualifications to register to vote in North Carolina include:

- You may only register to vote in the county where you reside
- You must have been a resident of North Carolina, this county, precinct, or election district for 30 days before the next election in which you intend to vote
- You must be a US citizen by birth or naturalization
- You must be 18 years of age by the next general election
- If you have been convicted of a felony, your rights of citizenship must be restored.

Please contact the Pamlico County Board of Elections Office for more information at 252-745-4821.



Patriotism and love of country is having the courage to face the realities and challenges within our own country, and the determination to remain present, informed, and participate by voting. We all have that responsibility to care about the future of our country, and to fill the voting polls so our voices can be heard in unison and strength. **So… register to vote and then vote. Vote from your heart for the future you would want for yourself, and, most importantly, vote for the future of all our sons and daughters and the generations to come.**

Reasons to Celebrate!

OCTOBER
National Hispanic Heritage Month
School Librarian Day; 16
Make a Difference Day; 28

NOVEMBER
National Family Caregivers Month
Election Day; 3
Veterans Day; 11

DECEMBER
Universal Human Rights Month
Teacher Appreciation Day; 7
Bake Cookies Day; 26

The Craven-Pamlico Regional Book-Mobile is coming to Camp Vandemere! Contact Bridget Flori, outreach tech, 252-638-7804 to coordinate checking out specific books or to learn more information about this awesome community resource!

DUKE ENERGY®

SAVINGS & SOLUTIONS

Duke Energy is the primary company providing power to Vandemere. There are multiple programs available to help you conserve energy and save money. Available programs can be found through the QR code below:

You can also call 844.346.4366 to see if you are eligible for a free in-home energy assessment.

https://www.duke-energy.com/home/products

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Visit Our Website
www.vandemerenc.com

VOTE

Early Voting	OCT 15-31	at Pamlico County Courthouse
Election Day	NOV 3	at Vandemere Town Hall 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

On the Vandemere Ballot: Mayor- Sandra Snipes; Commissioners- Koen VanMeeteren, David Snipes, Carolyn Jones, Melvin Mann, Beth Sanderson, Steve Lacy

Community Reflections… Love: The Secret of Success

By Pastor Edwin Roman

Fear of failure, it's haunted all of us at some time in our lives. Popular psychology tells us to adjust to it. But the word of God tells us that there is a failure proof way to live without it. It is the way of love.

If you want to know real success, you must learn to be moved and motivated by love. That's how Jesus was when he was on the earth. Even when John the Baptist was senselessly, brutally murdered and Jesus went away to be alone, he didn't deviate from the way of love.

For Matthew 14: 6-14 says that even then in that emotionally taxing time when the people followed him and would give him no solitude, he was moved with compassion and healed their sick. I used to wonder how Jesus could just turn away from that terrible crime and not retaliate. What I didn't realize was that he did retaliate. He overcame the works of Satan with compassion. He defeated hatred with love. He attacked Satan in the spirit realm by destroying his works of sickness and disease. Compassion doesn't strike at the surface of things. It goes to the root of the problem. That's why it always succeeds.

"But wait"! You may say, "I can't operate like that. I'm not Jesus". Yes, you can because the word of God says that His love has been shed abroad in your heart! Romans 5:5 and 1 John 2:5 says, His love is perfected in you as you keep His word. Commit to living the life of love today. Watch God turn failure into success at home, at work in any situation. Love never fails!

1 Corinthians 13:8