

# Randolph County Leads Georgia in COVID Vaccination of Seniors

The Randolph County Democratic Committee and other community partners are supporting the Health Department by helping residents register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The project is led by Joyce Barlow, RN (as project manager) and former Randolph County Superintendent of Schools Bobby Jenkins, Chair of the Randolph County Democratic Committee. This program is to assist Randolph County seniors to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine. A team has been recruited, trained and will go into the field on Monday, February 22, to assist seniors in Randolph County to register for COVID-19 vaccinations.

This effort is unique and the first of its kind in Georgia using strategies for door-to-door canvassing based on a program called Neighbor 2 Neighbor. A dozen

volunteer canvassers have each been given lists of seniors in district "turfs" throughout the county. The canvassers approach the seniors and socially distance them at their doors, provide them masks for safety and interview them to ascertain whether they have registered with the Georgia Department of Public Health (GDPH) for a COVID vaccination and offers to assist with that registration. If the senior citizen is interested, the canvasser will use an app on her/his phone to take that person's information (name, age, phone number, etc.) and enter it directly into the GDPH database. That data entry will then trigger a call from the GDPH to the senior citizen give her/him an appointment for their vaccination. The canvassers' training includes a range of information about the vaccines including safety, efficacy, need

for two vaccinations, etc. The canvassers are local residents who have had experience in Neighbor 2 Neighbor "deep canvassing." The program is non-partisan, multiracial and locally based.

Bobby Jenkins said, "Randolph County seniors are in danger of being left behind in the state's efforts to vaccinate the public. Most of our seniors are in the highest risk categories for contracting COVID-19's most severe symptoms." Ms. Barlow said, "There is nothing as reassuring to seniors, especially those in remote parts of the community, than to have a neighbor come to their door to offer help. The Neighbor 2 Neighbor style of canvassing is how we take care of our own in Southwest Georgia."

The program will expand to other counties depending on availability of volunteers.

## Food Feature Cheese Cake

Who doesn't like cheese cake? Whether you serve it plain or topped with one of the many delicious toppings from berry sauces, caramel or chocolate a cheese cake is always a crowd pleaser.

Cheesecake is a sweet dessert consisting of one or more layers. The main, and thickest layer, consists of a mixture of soft, fresh cheese, eggs, and sugar. If there is a bottom layer, it often consists of a crust or base made from crushed cookies, graham crackers, pastry, or sometimes sponge cake. Most cheese cakes recipes are baked but some are not.

The problem most cooks have while baking a cheese cake is the crack that sometimes appears on the top. Baking the cheesecake in a water bath helps to bake it evenly and helps to prevent the crack on the top. It is also a good idea to allow it to cool in the oven for 1 hour with the oven off and the oven door slightly open. A quick change in temperature can cause the center of the cake to drop and or the top to crack. After remov-



the bottom of pan and about 1 inch up the sides. Set aside.

### Filling

In the bowl of a stand mixer (can use a hand mixer) combine sugar, cream cheese and lemon zest on medium speed until well blended and smooth.

Add the sour cream and vanilla, mix to incorporate.

Add one egg at a time mixing on low speed between each egg until well blended.

Pour filling mixture into the pan over the crust.

Place a roasting pan in the lower middle rack of the oven. Put the spring form pan in the roasting pan. Fill the roasting pan with hot water half way up the sides of the spring form pan.

Bake for 1 hour. Turn off oven, open oven door slightly and leave pans in oven for 1 hour. Cool on counter before putting in the refrigerator for 4 hours or overnight.

### Cranberry Topping

In a medium sauce pan combine sugar and corn starch, stir to combine.

Add cranberries, orange juice, orange zest to the sauce pan, stir to combine.

Put sauce pan over medium high heat and cook until the mixture thickens. Some berries will remain whole. The sauce will continue to thicken as it cools, if it gets too thick add more orange juice.

Top individual pieces with topping as you serve. If the top cracked a little, don't fret, the topping will cover it.

### Cranberry Cheese Cake

#### Crust

1 3/4 cup crushed graham crackers

1/3 cup sugar

1/3 cup melted butter

#### Filling

1 cup sugar

24 ounces of cream cheese (3 - 8 oz blocks)

1 cup sour cream

2 teaspoons vanilla

1 teaspoon lemon zest

3 eggs

#### Cranberry Topping

3 cups fresh or frozen cranberries

1 teaspoon orange zest

1 1/2 cups orange juice

1 cup sugar

2 teaspoon corn starch

Preheat oven to 350\*

#### Crust

In a large bowl combine graham cracker crumbs and sugar.

Add the melted butter and stir until all crumbs are moistened with the butter

Press crust mixture into a 10-inch spring formed nonstick pan. Use a flat-bottomed item to press the crust into

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### NO COMMENT

By Daniel Mauer, edited by David Steinberg

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121																			
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