

# Positively UC

*A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day*



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*Ice from the weekend's storm still clings to this UCHRA Public Transportation van in Clay County as of Thursday afternoon.*



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH WINTER WEATHER CHALLENGES

This past weekend, the Upper Cumberland experienced significant winter weather, with Macon County among the hardest hit. Many residents are still recovering from snow, ice, and freezing temperatures, and some remain without power.

In response, members of the UCDD and UCHRA teams traveled to Macon County to deliver supplies, share resources, and offer support to residents affected by the storm. Their efforts focused on meeting immediate needs and checking in with neighbors—showing up and helping where it mattered most.

For those needing assistance with property

cleanup following the storm, free help may be available through volunteer organizations across Tennessee. Staff and community members are encouraged to review the image below for full details on available cleanup resources.

For continuous updates, guidance, and resources, please visit the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency website here: [January 2026 Winter Weather Updates](#).

Thank you to all team members who helped support our neighbors during this challenging time and for continuing to uphold UCDD and UCHRA's commitment to the communities we serve.

# READY. SET. DRIVE.

## UCHRA DRIVER'S ED PROGRAM GEARS UP FOR 2026 CLASSES

UCHRA has announced its 2026 Driver's Education class dates, continuing its commitment to helping new and inexperienced drivers build the skills and confidence needed to drive safely and responsibly.

UCHRA's Driver's Education Program is designed to go beyond the basics, preparing students for real-world driving situations.

The six-week program combines 30 hours of classroom instruction with 6 hours of behind-the-wheel driving to create a strong foundation in traffic laws, defensive driving, and safe decision-making.

Students must be 15 years or older and hold a learner's permit prior to the start of class.

A final exam is administered on the last day, and students who pass with an 80 percent or higher receive a certificate required by the DMV to move forward with licensure.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-8 p.m., with driving instruction scheduled on weekdays and Saturdays.

The total cost of the program is \$375, with multiple payment options available. Participants will be contacted prior to the start of class to confirm dates, times, and location. Refunds are available for withdrawals made before the class begins.

For additional information, contact Mike Brown at 931-261-3752 or [mbrown@uchra.com](mailto:mbrown@uchra.com).

### WHO WE ARE

#### OUR MISSION

*To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.*

#### OUR VISION

*A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.*

**get plugged in.**

Follow us on social media for the latest updates.







## COMMUNITY SCREENING SPARKS DIALOGUE ON HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

Recently, McMinnville and Warren County residents gathered at the Park Theater for a free screening of *Beyond The Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness*, hosted by MATCH (McMinnville Action to Create Housing). The documentary highlights successful, community-driven approaches to homelessness, drawn from producers Don Sawyer and Tim Hashko's 40,000-mile journey across the country.

A Town Hall Meeting followed the screening, bringing together local leaders to discuss collaboration and evidence-based solutions such as permanent supportive housing.

Panelists included Mayor Ryle Chastain, County Executive Terry Bell, Sheila Fann of H.O.M.E., Neal Kelley of Saint Thomas Ascension Hospital, and Mark Farley, Executive Director of UCDD and UCHRA.

UCDD and UCHRA staff were also in attendance, underscoring the agencies' continued commitment to regional partnerships and coordinated strategies to address homelessness. The event served as an important opportunity to raise awareness and strengthen community collaboration around housing solutions.

## EMPOWERING BAXTER SENIORS THROUGH INFORMATION AND CONNECTION

Last week, Jessica Roberson, AAAD Community Liaison, presented at the Baxter Senior Center, sharing information about the services offered through the Area Agency on Aging and Disability at UCDD. She provided an overview of available resources and distributed informational materials to help reinforce the topics discussed.

Participants also completed the Aging Well survey, offering valuable input to support continued efforts to understand and address community needs. The presentation served as a meaningful opportunity to connect with local residents and share resources designed to promote healthy, informed aging.

