

EXHIBIT __: Ex Parte 14CVD305 Caused or having to be caused arson and/or “staged loss court audio recorded hearing” Judge R. Les Turner”

District court resumes in Greene County after courthouse fire



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A week after a courthouse fire in Greene County and District Court will resume on Friday.

Last Friday, fire damaged the clerk of courts office, shutting down the court system for the second time since February. A February 20th fire in the same office was ruled accidental.

District Court will be relocated to the Lenoir Community College Auditorium on West Harper Street in Snow Hill. Court will resume at its regular time, 9:00 a.m.

If you have questions about your court case, the clerks office is temporarily located at the magistrate's office in the Greene County Justice Center.

Greene County officials have yet to say how long the old courthouse will be closed.

Previous Story

Three days after a fire shut down a local courthouse, the facility is still closed. Clerks remain on the job, however, and attempt to keep up with the caseloads.

Six Greene County clerks are now crammed into the Magistrates Office, located behind the Courthouse facility.

According to the Clerk of Courts, they are required by law to stay open for filings and process paperwork for court. She says there were some files lost in the fire, but they do have it backed up onto computers.

Superior Court Judge Paul Jones says while they held court Monday for a few cases inside the conference room of the Board of Elections, it's up to the County Manager to find alternate space.

In the meantime, they don't want to keep all the cases on hold while a decision is being made.

"We'll continue to play it day by day," says Judge Jones. "In coordination with the Clerk of Court and my assistant, the Trial Court Coordinator will try to find facilities and make sure the criminal justice system does not stop or the civil court system does not stop."

The Clerk of Courts tells us they are notifying defendants about court dates, but say you should also look at the North Carolina Courts website.

Previous Story

County officials say they could know later today exactly how much damage was caused by Friday's fire inside the Greene County Courthouse.

Friday's fire was the second one in just over two months that started in the clerk of courts office. The February 20th fire was possibly caused by a space heater, authorities said.

The cause of the latest fire was ruled as undetermined, but not suspicious, according to County Manager Kyle DeHaven.

Superior Judge Paul Jones says a lot of court records were lost in the fire, but they have computerized copies which will have to be reproduced.

He asks people who have upcoming court dates to check with the clerk's office, which has a temporary location in the magistrate's office.

Judge Jones says their courtroom suffered some smoke damage, but structurally it appears to be sound. He says they could be back in the courtroom by Friday.

The register of deeds is still operating in the basement of the courthouse.

Previous Story

Greene County says the cause of Friday morning's courthouse fire has been ruled as undetermined.

But, County Manager Kyle DeHaven says the fire, the second to hit the clerk of courts office in just over two months, is also "non-suspicious in origin."

Fire crews rushed to the courthouse in Snow Hill shortly after 1:00 a.m. ATF agents on Friday assisted local authorities to investigate the fire.

DeHaven says the clerk of courts office and the register of deeds office were affected by the fire, and plans for their continued operations are being reviewed.

Superior Court for Greene County is cancelled for Monday, but DeHaven says the grand jury will convene as scheduled. They are to report to the lobby of the Greene County Justice Center.

The clerks office will be operating from the magistrate's office at 8:00 a.m.

Friday's fire is the fourth to hit the courthouse complex since February.

On February 20th, a fire at the court clerks office caused considerable damage. Authorities said they believed that was caused by a space heater. The same day there was a small electrical fire at the probation office across the street.

Then on March 17th another fire struck the probation office which was declared a total loss. A preliminary investigation showed an electrical problem caused that blaze.

Previous Story

Federal agents are now investigating the fourth fire this year at the Greene County Courthouse complex.

Shortly after 1:00 a.m. fire crews were called to the courthouse. Two front windows on the left side of the building are broken out with fire damage. Officials say the fire again happened within the clerk of courts office.

Three fire departments with some 25 firefighters extinguished the blaze.

County Manager Kyle DeHaven says the cause of the fire is under investigation. He says agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are now at the scene.

Court for Friday has been cancelled and old section of the courthouse is closed. The newer portion, which contains the sheriff and magistrates offices, remains open.

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After the first fire, the clerks office and all courts were closed for two weeks because of the damage.

Previous Story

Fire crews were at the Greene County Courthouse early Friday morning.

The Snow Hill Fire Department and Greene County Sheriff's office were at the courthouse at 301 North Greene St. in Snow Hill, with flashing lights and fire trucks. The trucks were on the scene until 4:30 a.m.

The courthouse windows were visibly burned, and people on scene said there was a distinct burning smell.

Officials gave no comment at the time, but said County Manager Kyle Dehaven will address the media in the coming hours.

This comes two months after the courthouse caught fire, back on February 20th. At the time, the Snow Hill Fire Department said the cause may never be known, but could have been caused by a space heater.

We also reported a fire at the probation and parole building across the street back on March 18th. Officials said that building was a total loss and caused by a breaker problem with a panel box installed just the night before.

Crews did not expect arson in either case.