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Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"

Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 4:04 PM**To:** Steve Johnston

MECKLENBURG COUNTY GOVERNMENT



An update to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners
from the County Manager

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May 15, 2017

'Spiral Odyssey' Sculpture Placed at Romare Bearden Park

I am excited to announce a new artistic centerpiece located at Romare Bearden Park. Over the weekend, crews installed a sculptural work created by renowned artist Richard Hunt. The piece, known as Spiral Odyssey, stands almost 30 feet tall and weighs about 8,000 pounds.

Hunt is a nationally celebrated artist, with his most recent work being featured at the new Smithsonian Museum of African American History in Washington D.C.

It is a pleasure for us to include this amazing artwork in our County park. If you haven't seen it already, I'd encourage you to come down to Romare Bearden and see it for yourself.

For more information, contact Park & Rec. Division Director Lee Jones at 980-314-1017 or Lee.Jones@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

Legislative Update

Last week, I joined a County team made up of Chair Scarborough, Commissioners Dunlap and Fuller, and Legislative Affairs Liaison Jonathan Sink to travel to Raleigh for County Assembly Day. We engaged in meetings with members of the Mecklenburg legislative delegation, advocating for the Board's 2017 legislative priorities.

Among the items discussed were sales tax redistribution, economic development incentives, water buffer legislation, and local bills of interest to Mecklenburg as well, including a police jurisdiction bill and a Cornelius annexation bill. The group also attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) morning program, where Governor Cooper, Senator Harry Brown, and House Speaker Tim Moore spoke to commissioners and county leadership from across the state. The program also included a panel discussion with two of the state's foremost political consultants, to look to North Carolina – as the "purple state" that it is – to be the top focus of national elections for years to come.

Also on May 10, the Senate budget bill was released. The bill is more than 360 pages and includes a wealth of highlights that are of interest to Mecklenburg County, including nearly 2400 additional NC pre-K slots, a 9.5 percent teacher pay raise over two years (which would purportedly put NC at 35th in the country for teacher pay, up from 48th four years ago), potential changes to DSS services, and tax cuts. The Senate passed its budget proposal at 3:00 a.m. Friday. The House's

budget proposal is expected to follow in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact Legislative Affairs Liaison Jonathan Sink at 980-314-2884 or Jonathan.Sink@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Budget Presentation Set for May 30

I will present my FY18 recommended budget to the Board on Tuesday, May 30 at 11:30 a.m. inside the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center.

The presentation will be [streamed live](#) on mecklenburgcountync.gov and live updates will be provided on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Just prior to the meeting, I will host an informal Q&A session at 9:30 a.m. for employees inside the Chamber. The session will be streamed on the County's internal site for employees who are unable to attend.

Child Support Staff Beginning Mediation Training

This week, the staff of Child Support Enforcement (CSE) is beginning the process to become North Carolina certified mediators. Trainers with The Dispute Settlement Center will be here for three days and return next month for six more training days.

After completing this training module, staff will be better qualified to bring about a peaceful settlement of disputes and prevent the escalation of conflict whenever possible. This is one of many steps CSE is taking to move toward a more family-centered practice in child support services.

For more information about mediation certification training, contact Child Support Program Supervisor Kelly R. Little at 980-314-8762 or Kelly.Little@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

6th Annual Crowns of Enterprise Awards Ceremony Set for Wednesday

This [6th annual Crowns of Enterprise Awards ceremony](#) will take place this Wednesday, May 17, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Harvey B. Gantt Center, 551 S. Tryon St., Charlotte.

The awards recognize and honor the hard work and resilient efforts of our local small businesses, illustrating the positive footprint and economic impact they have on our community. The program nurtures relationship building between businesses, officials and government agencies.

Anyone interested in attending the event can reserve tickets [here](#).

For more information, contact Teresa McDow at 980-314-2940 or Teresa.McDow@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, May 16, 8:30 a.m. – County Manager Dena R. Diorio will speak to students at Pioneer Springs Community School about Mecklenburg County government.
- Tuesday, May 16, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Tuesday, May 16, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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