

Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"

Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

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To: sjohnston@tueforumclt.org



MECKLENBURG COUNTY GOVERNMENT



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

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January 20, 2015

Romare Bearden Update at Board Meeting

Several of you have asked questions following a civil rights complaint last week regarding stair access to the water feature at Romare Bearden Park.

I plan to update the Board about our progress resolving the situation during my Manager's Report at Wednesday night's regular meeting. Park and Recreation and Facilities Management staff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss the issue.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Tax Refunds for Kimmerly Woods

At the Jan. 6 Board meeting you corrected the values, by resolution, of 33 townhomes that were previously submitted by Pearson Appraisal Services, PAS, in July 2014 as land only.

Due to this error 27 homeowners received either refunds or releases of property taxes in the amount of \$67,278.28. Since that time 21 additional refund checks were mailed.

Here is how the error occurred:

- The refunds are generated through an automation program developed for the Revaluation Review project.
- The incorrect values, from PAS, went through the automation process and created the first round of refunds.
- The adjustments to the 2014 tax bills were also caught by the automation process and lowered the liability for 2014.
- Those properties that were paid for 2014 were then picked up by the automation and created the additional refunds.

Because of these errors, we are putting together a checklist of items that need to be completed if we have a similar situation occur before the revaluation review project ends. Due to the fact that the 2014 taxes were already included in the \$67,278.28, the amount of liability has not changed.

If you have any questions, contact Ken Joyner at 704-562-8106 or Ken.Joyner@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Legislative Update

The General Assembly officially convened on Wednesday, Jan. 14. As expected, Representative Tim Moore, an attorney from Cleveland County, was elected Speaker of the House; Senator Phil Berger, an attorney from Rockingham County, was re-elected as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Moore is serving his 7th term in the House and his first as Speaker. Berger is serving his 8th term in the Senate and 3rd as the chamber's leader. Following the election of leadership, both houses adjourned until Jan. 28.

Also last week, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) convened its legislative goals conference and representatives of 89 counties adopted its 2015-2016 legislative agenda. Chairman Fuller served as Mecklenburg's voting delegate, while Commissioners Scarborough, Leake and Dunlap also participated. The adopted legislative goals can be found here: <http://www.ncacc.org/index.aspx?nid=480>

For more information, contact Brian Francis at 919-244-2005 or Brian.Francis@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Bethlehem Center Update

During our regular inspection of Bethlehem Center (now located in the old Tryon Hills Elementary School), we discovered peeling paint on an old breezeway that tested positive for lead. At this time, no child is known to have come into contact with the lead paint. Health Department staff has notified 250 households and is working with the center to correct the problem and ensure safety for all students.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Marcus Plescia at 980-314-9020 or Marcus.Plescia@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

LUESA Air Quality Division Awarded 'Clean Fuels Advanced Technology' Grant

LUESA will get a chance to be on the cutting edge of less polluting, hybrid vehicle technology.

The Air Quality division was recently awarded partial funding to purchase a 2015 Ford CMAX Energi plug-in electric car. It will replace an aging 2002 Chevrolet Blazer, the most polluting passenger vehicle in the County fleet. The Energi will contribute 96 percent fewer ozone-forming oxides of nitrogen (NOx) than the Blazer.

LUESA's Air Quality division recently received a \$9,491 grant from NC State's Clean Air Technology Center to make the change. It is also part of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding provided from the NC Department of Transportation.

Every year, Air Quality analyzes the County fleet and identifies opportunities to reduce air pollution. It was this process that identified the 2002 Chevrolet Blazer for replacement. As a public service, Air Quality will also conduct this analysis for other interested fleets.

For more information, contact Megan Green at 704-336-5583 or Megan.Green@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Park and Recreation Opens Newtown Memorial Playground

Memories live on for those who lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Park and Recreation has opened a playground at Park Road Park that honors the students and teachers who were killed Newtown Connecticut on December 14, 2012.

More than two years in the making, the playground was built by volunteers and features a unique design inspired by students from Pinewood Elementary School in south Charlotte.

Public Information has chronicled the project from design to completion and posted this [video](#) documenting the work.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Wednesday, January 21, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH 14
- Wednesday, January 21, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Tuesday, February 3, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH 14
- Tuesday, February 3, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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