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## Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"

Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, March 06, 2017 4:21 PM**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

# MECKLENBURG COUNTY GOVERNMENT



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

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### Legislative Update

Multiple bills garnered attention in Raleigh this past week, most notably the STOP Act legislation. The STOP Act is a bill aimed at eliminating opioid addiction in North Carolina.

If passed, the bill would limit initial prescription of Schedule II through V drugs to five days, at which point a reevaluation of the continued necessity of the drug would be required. The STOP Act would also require physicians to personally consult with nurse practitioners to determine whether the prescription is appropriate for a patient. Rep. Craig Horn is one of the bill's primary sponsors, while Representatives Belk, Bradford and Stone from Mecklenburg signed on as co-sponsors.

A bill was filed last Thursday that would allow concealed carry holders in North Carolina to carry their concealed firearms on the campuses of North Carolina's community college and UNC system schools.

Another piece of legislation that attracted attention was a Senate bill that would allow county commissions across the state to authorize restaurants to serve alcoholic drinks as early as 10 a.m. on Sundays. Advocates of the bill say that it is good for businesses across the state, while opponents say that the bill is contrary to traditional values. Sen. Kathy Harrington (R-Gaston) is one of the bill's primary sponsors and Sen. Jeff Jackson (D-Mecklenburg) has signed on as a co-sponsor. The bill is currently in the Senate Rules Committee.

For more information, contact Legislative Affairs Liaison Jonathan Sink at 980-314-2884 or [Jonathan.Sink@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Sink@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).

### Snapshot Report Explores Problems of Family Homelessness

The [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Family Homelessness Snapshot Report](#) is now available online. Information in the Snapshot covers a year's timeframe (2014-2015) and uses data to define and describe family homelessness.

The report describes the impact of family homelessness on families and children and what it looks like in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. It also outlines national best practice interventions and strategies to end and prevent family homelessness. Understanding the challenges and long-term effects for families experiencing homelessness in Charlotte-Mecklenburg can help the community find solutions to the problem.

To learn more, [click here](#) or contact Community Support Services Director Stacy M. Lowry at 980-314-8903 or [Stacy.Lowry@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Stacy.Lowry@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).

## Celebrating Two Years of Tobacco-Free Mecklenburg

This month marks the second anniversary of Mecklenburg's Board of Health Rule for smoke-free government grounds and the County Ordinance for tobacco-free parks.

We have found that smoke-free and tobacco-free environments are proven strategies for helping to reduce tobacco use in communities. They promote tobacco-free role modeling and provide the support/motivation to tobacco users who want to quit.

In Mecklenburg County, 72 percent of adult smokers tried to quit last year. Tobacco-free policies help to take the "trigger" away.

In 2012, the adult smoking rate in Mecklenburg County was 20 percent -- that rate in 2016 fell to 16 percent. This decline is due to a number of factors, and certainly having local tobacco control policies in place contributes to the decline.

The feedback from the public has been positive. We have received some complaints about violations, and we respond to these to improve compliance.

In addition, County regulations have influenced the following tobacco-related policies:

- Healthy Charlotte – promoting tobacco-free worksites
- Charlotte Housing Authority continues to increase their facilities that have Smoke-Free policies
- Greater Charlotte Apartment Association is implementing a new Smoke-Free Housing Certification this spring for apartment complexes

You can learn more by [clicking here](#) or contacting Public Health Director Dr. Marcus Plescia at 980-314-9020 or [Marcus.Plescia@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Marcus.Plescia@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).

## Colonel Francis J. Beatty Memorial Plaque Dedication Set for March 14

On March 14, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation and the Beatty Family will dedicate a memorial plaque honoring Colonel Francis J. Beatty at the park named in his honor. The ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at Colonel Beatty Lake Pointe Hall.

Colonel Beatty was a highly decorated Army colonel who fought against Poncho Villa along the Mexican Border, in France during WWI and in the Philippines during WWII.

He was awarded the Knight of the Malta, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a layman in the Catholic Church. He was a civic leader who committed himself to education, social services and health initiatives in the community throughout his life.

For more information on the dedication, contact Park and Recreation Director Jim Garges at 980-314-1012 or [James.Garges@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:James.Garges@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov).

### CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, March 7, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Tuesday, March 7, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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