

Flu season is October through May, which means it's not too late to get your flu shot.

In partnership with Novant Health, the County offered free flu shots from Novant's Community Care Cruiser (a mobile clinic) at two locations over the weekend (in Huntersville and Matthews). There will be a third opportunity for residents to get their flu shot on Monday, March 5.

Please check the <u>County's website</u> and social media platforms for the location. Clinic details will be distributed to the media and widely promoted once a location is determined. No appointment is needed. Shots will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information contact Public Health Director Gibbie Harris at 980-314-9020 or Gibbie.Harris@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

2018 NACo Legislative Conference

Next Monday, March 5, I will attend the 2018 NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. and speak at the "Building Citizen Buy-In" workshop at 10:45 a.m.

The workshop will highlight the ways counties can increase citizen engagement in overall operations and management, validating decision-making and working effectively as a community. It will cover the role social media plays in mobilizing a community, successful messaging and other public outreach tools.

I look forward to this opportunity to share what we are doing here in Mecklenburg County.

You can view the agenda for the entire conference here.

Public Health to Participate in March Forth Campaign

Despite significant progress in reducing smoking, tobacco use is still the leading preventable cause of death and disease in our community.

Beginning March 4, <u>Mecklenburg County Public Health</u> and other state and regional partners will be joining the "March Forth" campaign to mobilize local governments to pass comprehensive tobacco-free laws, protecting community members from secondhand smoke and urging youth not

to start using tobacco products.

The County has already taken a leadership role in adopting strong policies and regulations that address the harms of tobacco. We're participating in the campaign by reassessing where we can make improvements in our local polices/regulations over the next year.

The incentive for the campaign comes from the court-ordered release of "corrective statements" from the tobacco industry, with five core messages appearing in 50 newspapers across the country, including the Charlotte Observer. On Sunday, March 4, the fifth full-page ad will appear in The Observer and will focus on the dangers of secondhand smoke. Television ads are airing on major broadcast channels throughout the year.

For more information contact Public Health Director Gibbie Harris at 980-314-9020 or Gibbie.Harris@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

State of the County Address Postponed

The 2018 State of the County Address, scheduled for Feb. 28 at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, has been postponed out of respect for the passing of Charlotte native the Rev. Billy Graham.

A new date has not yet been selected.

Graham's funeral is scheduled for Friday in Charlotte.

Learn About the Northern Regional Recreation Center at Open House March 10

Mecklenburg County is planning a new regional recreation center in north Mecklenburg, and wants to hear from residents.

On March 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the County's <u>Park and Recreation Department</u>, along with the parks departments from the towns of Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville, will host an open house at Bailey Middle School, 11900 Bailey Road in Cornelius, to discuss the planning process for the Northern Regional Recreation Center. The facility will be located at 18121 Old Statesville Road in Cornelius.

Residents are invited to attend the informal drop-in session to learn about the recreation center, share their feedback, and enjoy games, activities and complimentary refreshments. A project overview and presentation will be made in the school cafeteria by the design team at 11 a.m.

The Northern Regional Recreation Center is the second of four planned regional recreation centers throughout the County. Last year, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation began the planning process for the Eastway Regional Recreation Center at Eastway Park.

For more information about the Northern Regional Recreation Center, visit northmeckrec.com. You can also contact Terri Stowers, Community and Recreation Services Division Director, at 980-314-1033 or Terri.Stowers@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will deliver a presentation about the 2019 Revaluation to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Authority Board. The presentation will take place in CMGC Room 267.
- Tuesday, Feb. 27, 3 p.m. BOCC Budget and Public Policy Meeting, CMGC Room 267
- Monday, March 5, 10:45 a.m. County Manager Dena R. Diorio will speak at the 2018 NACO Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.

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