

March 5, 2018

Equity and Inclusion Initiative Update

Earlier this year, I communicated to you the County's plan to implement our Equity and Inclusion Initiative, which aims to ensure that equal services are available for every resident and that our valued employees view the County as a fair and equitable place to work.

We've been working with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) to develop and implement the first phase of the Equity and Inclusion Initiative. In February, we conducted focus groups with over 125 employees representing frontline staff, supervisors, mid-level managers, and Cabinet members from all departments. Now, it's time to put the next step of the project into action. Last week, we sent a survey to all employees to allow them to provide their feedback. Employees will have until March 16 to complete the survey. All responses are anonymous.

The survey is designed to give an inside look at how each employee perceives equity. The results of the survey will be reviewed and analyzed by GARE and Mecklenburg County leadership.

The survey data will be used to give us the information we need to understand perceptions of bias and to move forward with developing leadership training and an action plan to advance equity and inclusion.

Substance Use Program to Host Open House

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS) invites commissioners and residents to learn about the <u>Community Resources for Empowerment and Wellness</u> (CREW) program at an open house this Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 443 Billingsley Road, Cottage C. Parking will be available at the CHS parking lot, 429 Billingsley Road or the Health Department parking lot, 249 Billingsley Road.

CREW, a five-year grant funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, provides holistic substance use and mental health services for people living with HIV and transgender individuals. The program is brought to the community by the Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research at Duke University in partnership with Community Support Services.

During the open house, guests will be able to hear client testimonials, enjoy light refreshments and more.

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For more information, contact CSS Director Stacy Lowry at 980-314-8903 or Stacy.Lowry@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Making a Big Difference with The Big Spring Clean

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services is hosting The Big Spring Clean on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is our annual stream cleanup event that was formerly called Big Sweep.

Each year, about 500 volunteers remove an average of 10 tons of trash. Volunteers have fun, make a big difference and learn the importance of taking care of our local waterways.

This year's event will feature service projects at several staffed locations around the County. For a full list, click here.

For more information, contact Deania Russo, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, at 980-314-3225 or Deania.Russo@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Monday, March 5, 10:45 a.m. County Manager Dena R. Diorio spoke at the 2018 NACO Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.
- We dne sday, March 7, 11 a.m. County Manager Diorio will participate in a panel discussion about the ransomware attack at the PRSA Charlotte Communication Symposium.
- Wednesday, March 7, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Wednesday, March 7, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Wednesday, March 7, 6 p.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will present about the 2019 Revaluation to the First Ward Neighborhood Association.
- . Friday, March 9, 8:30 a.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will present about the 2019 Revaluation to the Charlotte Chamber - East Chapter.

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