

# Legislative Update

North Carolina is only weeks away from the start of the short legislative session which convenes on May 16.

The Board's Intergovernmental Relations Committee heard proposed items for the legislative agenda at their April 24 meeting. The full Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners will consider 2018 legislative priorities at the upcoming Board meeting on Tuesday, May 1.

A breakfast with the Mecklenburg Legislative Delegation will also be held at MEDIC on Friday, May 11.

For more information, contact Starla Tanner, Legislative Affairs liaison, at 980-314-2884 or Starla. Tanner@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

## County Adoption Conference Being Held This Week

The 6th Annual Mecklenburg County Adoption Conference is set for this Friday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Hilton Charlotte University Place at 8629 JM Keynes Drive. The event will feature several speakers who will discuss current trends in adoptive care, offer advice for supporting an adoption transition, and present opportunities for those interested in beginning the adoption process.

This is a great event, and I'd like to commend the dedicated group at DSS/YFS for working tirelessly to find forever homes for the children who need them.

For more information, contact Tammera Nelson at 980-314-4101 or Tammera.Nelson@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

#### County Recognizes Air Quality Awareness Week

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated April 30-May 4, 2018 as "Air Quality Awareness Week." This week, the County celebrates decades of air quality improvements while reminding residents that work continues to further reduce local air pollution.

Currently, Mecklenburg County meets all national health-based air quality standards, and in 2017,

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received a historic "attainment" designation for EPA's new ground-level ozone standard.

However, the region still experiences a few days each year with unhealthy air quality, especially in the summer months. County employees are currently working on a new effort to put additional "Breathing Room" between local compliance values and the health-based standards. To spread awareness, employees are meeting with various groups throughout the County to get public input. This work is being completed in line with LUESA's Strategic Business Plan, Goal 3, Objective 1.

For more information about local air quality or the Breathing Room effort, contact the Air Quality Director Leslie Rhodes at 980-314-3366 or Leslie.Rhodes@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

#### Mecklenburg County Pretrial Services Receives National Accreditation

Congratulations to Criminal Justice Services' Pretrial Services for receiving national accreditation through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA).

Mecklenburg County is the first stand-alone jurisdiction to receive this prestigious recognition.

Accreditation standards are based on legal and evidence-based practices in pretrial services; the standards are echoed in the American Bar Associations' standards for pretrial detention and release as well. To be accredited, a pretrial services program must demonstrate that it provides the criminal justice community a robust array of pretrial services, and at a high level as determined by NAPSA.

This significant accomplishment is a clear demonstration that Mecklenburg County Pretrial Services has implemented best practices in its delivery of services. Some notable highlights include implementing the Public Safety Assessment -- an objective risk assessment that is used by judicial officials when determining conditions of release -- and providing meaningful supervision in the community to justice-involved individuals that promotes public safety and court appearance.

For more information, contact Jessica Ireland, Pretrial Services manager, at 980-314-5056 or Jessica.Ireland@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

### CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, May 1, 10 a.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will speak about the 2019 Revaluation at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership Tax Relief Clinic.
- Tuesday, May 1, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Tuesday, May 1, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Thursday, May 3, 10 a.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will speak about the 2019 Revaluation at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership Tax Relief Clinic.
- Friday, May 11, 9:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast to be held at MEDIC, 4425 Wilkinson Blvd.

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