

Legislative Update

Several legislative happenings and bills of interest were filed recently that could affect our County. The voter identification law has been delayed with the passage of <u>Senate Bill 214</u>. The new law delays the implementation of voter IDs until 2020, thereby not affecting the special elections in the state's 3rd and 9th Congressional districts and municipal elections.

<u>House Bill 370</u> titled "Require Sheriff Cooperation with ICE" was filed last week. The legislation requires compliance with ICE detention orders and denies prohibition of federal law enforcement officers from entering and conducting enforcement activities at a County jail, local confinement facility, district confinement facility or satellite jail/work release unit. Noncompliance could lead to daily penalties.

<u>House Bill 320</u> was also filed. The legislation would require the Department of Health and Human Services to suspend development of the North Carolina Families Accessing Services Through Technology (NC Fast) System as related to case management functionality for the Child Welfare System and Aging and Adult Services' Programs. This is an important issue for the County, as we have significant concerns about NC Fast implementation and the impact it will have on County service delivery.

<u>Senate Bill 246</u> and a companion House bill were introduced last week. Both are related to craft beer distribution. The legislation would end a two-year debate over a current law that brewers claim stifles their growth by limiting production. This issue was a previous legislation agenda item for the County and is sponsored by several delegation members.

County staff will continue to monitor issues such as funding for school construction, Medicaid expansion and other legislative items.

For more information, contact Starla Tanner, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at 980-314-2884.

CSS Veterans Services Partners with NCDHHS Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to Host Community Lunch and Learn

<u>Community Support Services Veterans Services</u> (CSS) and the NCDHHS Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing recently hosted a community lunch and learn at the Mecklenburg County Veterans Services Office to provide access to information and services to deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind veterans and their families.

During the session, more than 40 veterans and their family members received an overview of the services and programs that the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provides to the community. CSS also led a presentation on the supportive resources our Veterans Services Office provides to residents.

For more information about this event, please contact Veterans Services Division Director <u>Janene</u> <u>McGee</u> at 980-314-1901.

LUESA Staff Makes Big Donation

There is a new motto at <u>Land Use and Environmental Services</u> (LUESA): "Give us a goal. We will not only beat it, we will shatter it." This axiom is based on the overwhelming success of the LUESA YOU's public service project where employees were encouraged to donate children's books to Promising Pages.

LUESA's goal was to collect 2,500 children's books with 100 students receiving 25 books each. In the six weeks prior to LUESA YOU on March 7, employees accumulated 12,851 books (five times higher than our goal), which will be cleaned and sorted to be distributed to 500 students at 25 per child. The donation to Promising Pages was their largest one-time contribution.

During the LUESA YOU event, staff cleaned books and made bookworm buddies (small worm made with pom-poms) for children to read out-loud to when a parent is not at home. Letters of encouragement were written to the students for motivation and to let them know someone cares.

The LUESA service project was not only a success by sheer volume of books, but also by the large number of children who will now have their own little in-home library.

For more information, contact <u>John Wendel</u>, Senior Communication Specialist with Storm Water Services, at 704-577-0553.

Mallard Creek Recreation Center Turns 20

<u>Mallard Creek Recreation Center</u> is turning 20 this month. To mark the special occasion, <u>Park and</u> <u>Recreation</u> is inviting commissioners and the public to a birthday celebration on Thursday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m. inside the rec center.

Come and enjoy a musical performance by Nicci Canada, help us recognize past and present employees, and learn why this center is so special to the community. Guests will also have the opportunity to sign a framed portion of the old gym floor that will hang permanently in the rec center.

For more information, contact Park and Recreation Director Lee Jones at 980-314-1017.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, March 19, 11:45 a.m. County Assessor's Office staff will speak about the 2019 Revaluation during a luncheon hosted by the mayor of Huntersville.
- Tuesday, March 19, 1:30 3 p.m. BOCC Health and Human Services Committee Meeting, Valerie C. Woodard Center, Suite 4000 Conference Center
- Tuesday, March 19, 3:30 4:30 p.m. BOCC Economic Development Committee Meeting, CMGC 11th Floor Large Conference Room
- Tuesday, March 19, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Tuesday, March 19, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m. District 5 Commissioner Susan B. Harden will host a town hall meeting at Myers Park Baptist Church, 1900 Queens Road, Charlotte.
- Friday, March 22, 11 a.m. County Assessor's Office staff will speak to the Greater Area Apartment Association about the 2019 Revaluation.

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