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Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"
 Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]
 Sent: Monday, August 05, 2019 8:59 PM
 To: [Steve Johnston](#)



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Aug. 5, 2019

August is National Breastfeeding Month

August is National Breastfeeding Month, August 1-7 is World Breastfeeding Week and Black Breastfeeding Week is August 25-31. Educating, normalizing, supporting and encouraging breastfeeding is part of [Public Health's](#) Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health (ICO4MCH) strategy to improve community outcomes for maternal and child health.

[Public Health](#) is working to expand education efforts to communities by engaging businesses, faith-based organizations, childcare facilities, and local hospitals to normalize breast feeding and increase community support for breastfeeding families. There is still stigma around breastfeeding, especially breastfeeding in public in many communities, but breastfeeding saves lives. North Carolina's infant mortality rate is the 12th highest in the Country. If 90 percent of families exclusively breastfed for six months, nearly 1,000 infant deaths could be prevented.

There are also benefits beyond infant mortality:

- It saves money. Formula feeding supplies can cost more than \$1,500 a year.
- You can combine breastfeeding with WIC benefits.
- The United States would also save \$2.2 billion per year. This is because medical care costs are lower for fully breastfed infants than never-breastfed infants.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Public Health Director [Gibbie Harris](#) at 980-314-9020.

STEP Program Highlighted for its Efforts to Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities within Recovery Courts

[Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services'](#) STEP (Supervision, Treatment, Education and Prevention) Program was recently highlighted for its efforts to address Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) within the Recovery Courts. STEP served as a pilot site for a RED Program Assessment Tool developed by the Justice Program Office at American University.

In May 2019, the STEP Program's Superior Court Recovery Court utilized this new tool to assess the program's operations and procedures. The RED initiatives are part of the County's strategic focus and are incorporated into the National Best Practice Standards for Treatment Courts.

In addition, the STEP Program participated in a panel presentation at the 2019 National Association of Drug Court Professionals annual training conference where staff were able to highlight their experience using the tool and ongoing efforts around RED within Mecklenburg County.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Criminal Justice Services Director [Sonya Harper](#) at 980-314-1701.

County Participates in National Night Out Tomorrow

Each year, Mecklenburg County participates in National Night Out, a celebration of community building, safety and crime prevention. This year's event is set for tomorrow evening beginning at 6 p.m. and is free to attend. Mecklenburg County Commissioners and multiple County departments will participate. Staff will be located at several sites in Charlotte and the surrounding towns to educate the community about County services. Details are available [here](#).

For more information about National Night Out, [click here](#) or contact Community Relations Coordinator [Christine Edwards](#) at 704-975-5042.

McDowell Campground Honored as Best Campsite in North Carolina

Congratulations are in order to our [Park and Recreation](#) staff at McDowell Nature Preserve.

Recently, the [McDowell Campground](#) was named the best campsite in North Carolina by MSN and Trip Advisor.

This honor is a strong testament to the hard work and great customer service that nature preserve staff provide daily. It is also evidence of the importance of the natural areas that we have protected in Mecklenburg County. Our Nature Preserves help ensure that residents can always enjoy the beauty of nature, right here in their own community.

You can read about the honor [here](#).

For more information about McDowell Campground or other Park and Recreation amenities, contact Park and Recreation Director [Lee Jones](#) at 980-314-1017.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 8 a.m. – Tax Office and Assessor's Office staff will participate in the Northlake Mall Walkers program to share information about tax bills, the 2019 revaluation and exemption programs.
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – BOCC Economic Development Committee Meeting, CMGC 11th Floor Large Conference Room
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2-4 p.m. – BOCC Performance Review Committee Meeting, CMGC 11th Floor Large Conference Room
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 5-6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 6 p.m. – BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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