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 Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 4:05 PM
To: Steve Johnston



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Nov. 25, 2019

FY2021 Resident Budget Priority Survey and Public Engagement Kick-off

Mecklenburg County's FY2021 budget season begins Monday, Dec. 2 with the launch of its Resident Budget Priority Survey and public engagement activities.

The survey is one of several public engagement strategies created and presented by the Office of Management & Budget and approved by the Board of County Commissioners during the Sept. 24 Budget and Public Policy meeting.

The Resident Budget Priority Survey will be featured on the County's website www.MeckNC.gov and can be accessed in 100 different languages. Paper copies will also be available in English and Spanish at 23 locations across Mecklenburg County (19 libraries, three senior centers and the County's Community Resource Center). The survey will be available until Jan. 8.

For the first time ever, the County will also debut a budget simulation tool. The purpose of the "Meck Budget Simulator" is to help educate the public on the County's budget by allowing residents to prepare their own version of the budget by adjusting expenses and revenues. The results of the tool will be used to gain insight into residents' priorities.

The County will be employing interns from UNC-Charlotte's Master of Public Administration program and Johnson C. Smith's Political Science program to assist with this project. Engaging future government leaders is an essential component of the County's public engagement strategy.

The Board will receive an update on the results of the survey and simulation tool during the annual Budget Retreat in January. Additional budget engagement activities including community budget workshops, presentations from advisory boards, and a public hearing will be held prior to the annual Board Retreat.

For more information on the FY2021 budget cycle or the budget public engagement activities or tools, contact Management & Budget Director, [Michael Bryant](#) at 980-314-2925.

Capital Improvement Website Update

Mecklenburg County's Capital Improvement Plan website has been updated! The CIP showcases the \$1.6 billion capital investments Mecklenburg County is making through the FY2019-FY2023 CIP. Through the site, the public can learn more about the CIP and through GIS maps, the public

can see where each project is located, the expected total cost, and the timeline. The update features new projects and changes, including \$37 million in greenways to accelerate and add projects and meet the goal for 30 miles of greenway completed by FY2023, and \$2 million for Park land.

For more on the Capital Improvement Plan or to view the interactive site visit <https://www.mecknc.gov/Finance/CapitalImprovementProgram/Pages/default.aspx>.

LIEAP Applications Accepted Starting Dec. 2

Starting next month, the Department of Social Services will begin accepting applications for LIEAP. LIEAP also known as the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, is a federally funded program provides for one-time payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills.

During the month of December, DSS will be accepting LIEAP applications from individuals with disabilities who receive services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services or households in which a member of the household is age 60 or older.

Individuals can apply at the Valerie C. Woodard Center, 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 1800, Charlotte or Homebound, elderly or disabled persons unable to apply in person can contact J1C (Just 1 Call) at 704-432-1111 or the DSS Customer Connection Call Center at 704-336-3000.

Applications for all other households will be taken from Jan. 2 through March 31, 2020.

For more information, contact Social Services Manager, [Famatta Galloway](#), with DSS at 980-314-7062.

CSS Celebrates Successful Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) continues to embody the heart of Community Support Service's (CSS) goal to deepen the understanding of domestic violence issues, share resources and support survivors. Activities included four proclamations to honor the awareness month and survivors, County staff wearing purple, a comprehensive social media campaign and a mural installation, all while staff and volunteers ensured domestic violence resources reached thousands of people in the community.

DVAM 2019 highlights include:

- **Community Reach:** Prevention and Intervention staff and volunteers reached nearly 3,500 individuals at 53 DVAM-specific events, as compared to 2,076 individuals in 2018.
- **Resources:** More than 2,000 domestic violence resource guides, 2,500 safety cards, and 5,000 awareness bracelets were distributed.
- **New Partnerships:** CSS connected with 24 new organizations across Mecklenburg County including, Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, Southeastern University, Judah Church, Healing Vine Harbor, Ramses Temple, Your Destiny Learning Center, Midwives Gathering, and Southern Knowledge.
- **Domestic Violence Speakers Bureau:** Trained eight new volunteers to be a part of the Mecklenburg County Domestic Violence Speakers Bureau.
- **Social Media:** Increased social media page likes by three percent (62 likes); Increased Facebook page impressions by 59.3% percent compared to the month prior; 62 DVAM-specific posts with combined post engagements at 5,310 – an average of 85 engagements per post (80.7% increase compared to the month prior); participated in first-ever Facebook Live event resulting in nearly 6,000 views; took over the Mecklenburg County Instagram story – the archive is now housed on the homepage of the County Instagram account– 341views; 432 impressions; eight shares and three replies.
- **Web Presence:** The DVAM page was the top viewed page of CSS' web pages in October. This page had 1,023 total page views. This is up 639 views from 2018.
- **New This Year:**
 - Four proclamations in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 - Hope Mural CLT - partnership with Thread Talk and Little Sugar Creek Greenway Mural – partnership Park and Recreation
 - Partnership with Mecklenburg County Health Department, including articles in their publications, wearing purple together and participation in events.

For more information, contact CSS Prevention and Intervention Services Division Director Elyse

[Hamilton-Childres](#) at 980-314-8940.

Edible Landscape Project

The National Association of Counties (NACo) award winning Edible Landscape Project, targets food security in public health priority areas ensuring increased access to healthy, fresh and affordable local fruits and vegetables while diversifying Charlotte's tree canopy. To date, a total of four community orchards have been established potentially reaching over 30,000 people.

The fourth edible landscape and fruit tree orchard was established earlier this month at Faith CME Church, in Northeast Charlotte. 145 trees including 75 edible fruit trees and 70 non-edible canopy trees were planted in partnership with Public Health's (MCPH) food security team, Faith CME Church, Mecklenburg County Cooperative Extension, TreesCharlotte, Village HeartBEAT, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, Novant and The Males Place Inc. The Edible Landscape Project is an example of how community representatives and food security stakeholders are engaged in the design of an intervention to address a public health priority.

The three other Edible Landscape Orchards are located at: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (planted Oct. 15, 2016), Rockwell AME Zion Church (planted Nov.18, 2017) and Reeder Memorial Baptist Church (planted Oct. 6, 2018).

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

Mecklenburg County Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Mecklenburg County offices and agencies will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29, 2019 in recognition of the Thanksgiving Holiday. Our next Board Bulletin will be issued on Monday, Dec. 2, 2019.

I am truly thankful for the support the County receives throughout the year! Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Thursday, Nov. 28 & Nov. 29, – Mecklenburg County Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. – BOCC Audit Review Committee
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 3:30 – 5:00 - Economic Development Committee Meeting, CMGC 11th Floor Large Conference Room
- Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Meeting, CMGC Meeting Chamber

The latest
[MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](https://www.mecknc.gov)

Board Bulletin

is [now available](#) online.

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