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Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"
 Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Steve Johnston



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Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

While Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH) considers novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to be a very serious public health threat, the current immediate health risk to the general public in North Carolina is considered LOW at this time.

MCPH has been preparing for potential COVID-19 cases to protect public health by working with and following guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Following State guidance, IF there is a confirmed case or the risk to the community changes, this information will be shared promptly with the public.

In the interim, Mecklenburg County is encouraging employees to stay healthy by practicing good hygiene i.e. handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying at home when you are sick.

In addition, the following changes have also been implemented:

- Enhanced cleaning of County facilities including disinfecting commonly used surfaces
- All non-essential business air travel is suspended until further notice
- Employees are strongly encouraged to refrain from personal travel to areas where there is sustained community transmission

The best place to find updated information on COVID-19 may be found [here](#) on the County's website, MeckNC.gov. The County has also established a public health COVID-19 information line for anyone to call with questions at 980-314-9400.

For more information, contact Public Health Director, [Gibbie Harris](#).

BOCC and Gaston County Board of Commissioners to hold Joint Meeting

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners will join the Gaston County Board of Commissioners for their first joint meeting on Wednesday, March 11 at the Harris Campus of Central Piedmont Community College. The meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. and will be streamed live on [MeckNC.gov](#).

The joint meeting will set the foundation for collaboration among the two counties so the Boards can form an effective advocacy approach related to established areas of mutual interest.

Agenda items will include a discussion of shared waters and regional transportation.

Event Details:

- BOCC and Gaston County Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting
- Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- CPCC Harris Campus, 3210 CPCC Harris Campus Drive

For additional information, contact Legislative Liaison [Starla Tanner](#).

2020 Mecklenburg County Community Pulse Report Now Available

The 2020 Community Pulse Report is now available on [MeckNC.gov](#). The bi-annual report sheds light on the external factors that influence the business of the County.

Factors highlighted in the 2020 report include population growth, economic growth, employment and jobs, education, income, living wage and other social factors (e.g., cost of living, health and wellness).

These factors are considered during the County's strategic business planning efforts and drive many decisions that are made by the County. The report data shows that Mecklenburg County continues to see strong population and economic growth and a relatively low cost of living.

However, there are opportunities to address disparities in education as seen in various health and wellness metrics.

You can view the report [here](#). For more information, contact Director of Strategic Planning and Evaluation [Monica Allen](#).

DSS Launches New Online Tool for Professional Reporters

The Department of Social Services Youth and Family Services Division will launch its new Child Protective Services (CPS) Online Reporting Tool next week.

Law enforcement officers, medical staff and educators who may encounter a child that is a suspected victim of child abuse, neglect or dependency will have exclusive access to the tool, enabling them to make non-emergency reports from the field. Reports that are logged will be managed by teams of social workers. This tool is one of the first of its kind in North Carolina. DSS partnered with staff from the County's Information Technology Services (ITS) to complete this innovative project.

As an addition to the CPS hotline that was launched in 2017, DSS leaders found that it would be convenient and beneficial to have a separate channel for this group of users to help provide a more efficient reporting process. The tool will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays. For more information, contact DSS Youth and Family Services Deputy Division Director, [Kelly Myers](#).

Public Health Adds SNAP/EBT Benefits at 7th Farmers Market

Mecklenburg County Public Health's Food Security Team has added South End Market at Atherton to the list of farmers markets that accept SNAP/EBT benefits. The South End Market at Atherton began accepting SNAP/EBT benefits last month.

That brings the total number of farmers markets in Mecklenburg County to offer the benefit to seven, with six of the farmers markets offering "double bucks": doubling SNAP dollars up to \$20.

Participating farmers markets include:

- Rosa Parks Farmers Market, 3725 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte
- Seeds for Change Farmers Market, Market, 2901 Romare Bearden Drive, Charlotte
- The Bulb Mobile Market, visit [www.thebulbgallery.org](#) for locations
- Cotswold Farmers Market, 309 S Sharon Amity Road, Charlotte
- Davidson Farmers Market, 120 S Main Street, Davidson
- Matthews Farmers Market, 188 N Trade Street, Matthews

With 16 percent of families in Mecklenburg County characterized as "food insecure," the

acceptance of SNAP unlocks affordable access to fresh fruits and vegetables. As a result, families can eat better, reducing the risk of diet-related illness and improving community health. It also generates greater income for our local farmers and vendors.

For more information, contact Public Health Director [Gibbie Harris](#).

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

Board Bulletin

is **now available** online.

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