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West Side Connect: Juneteenth Celebrations

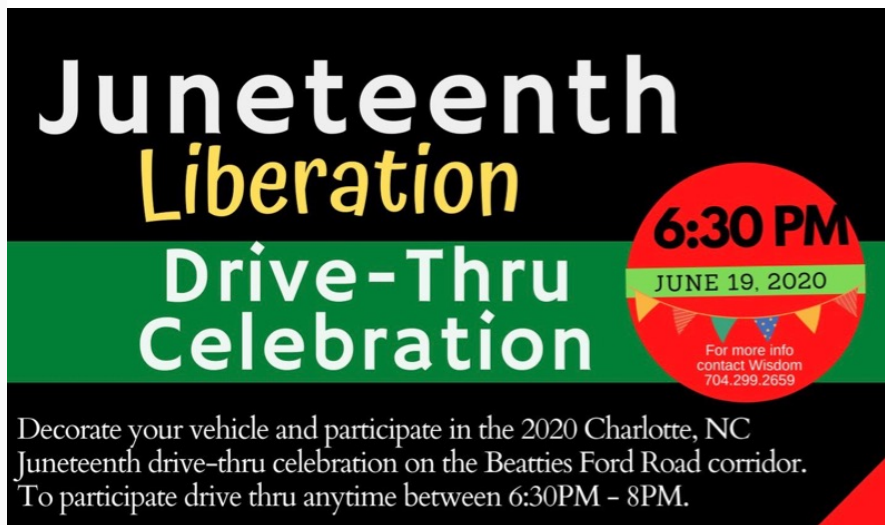
West Side Connect [dstrickland@qcitymetro.com]

Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 7:14 PM

To: Steve Johnston



CULTURE



Community partners jumpstart Juneteenth celebration

Alesha Brown, founder and executive director of For the Struggle, Inc., is passionate about service and social justice, which includes celebrating the culture of black people in spaces created by black people. That's why she was committed to hosting a Juneteenth celebration in Historic West End -- plans that were initially derailed by Covid-19.

But with the help of several community advocates, the [Juneteenth Liberation Drive-Thru Celebration](#) along Beatties Ford Road -- one of Charlotte's historic black corridors -- is back on track and will take place Friday from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

"We recognize that this is a different type of celebration," Brown said. People who attend can expect a festive atmosphere, all while practicing social distancing and being safe, she said.

[Read more about area celebrations.](#) [Brandi Williams]

MCCROREY HEIGHTS



‘Census parade’ had good intentions but poor timing

It was Friday morning as journalist Emiene Wright sat at the writing desk in her living room. The front door was open to let natural light shine indoors as she kept an eye on the block in her McCrorey Heights neighborhood.

Around 12:45 p.m., she heard police sirens as Mecklenburg sheriff’s cruisers zoomed down the typically quiet Patton Avenue. Protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man killed in Minneapolis while in police custody, rocked the west Charlotte community just a week earlier, particularly along Beatties Ford Road. So, the loud sounds and law enforcement presence triggered a physical response from Wright.

It took a few seconds before she realized the cruisers were serving as escorts for a caravan of vehicles riding down her street to promote the 2020 census.

Residents say they understood the intention to make sure everyone participates in the census but noted that execution of the event could’ve been better.

[Read the full story.](#) [Katrina Louis]

WEST SIDE



How is Covid-19 impacting your neighborhood?

Covid-19 continues to spike across North Carolina, and African Americans account for 26% of confirmed cases and 34% of deaths. Today, the state reported 44,119 cases and 1,109 deaths.

In Mecklenburg County, Covid-19 cases also are on the rise, but the percentage of confirmed cases among African Americans has decreased to 18.5% as of June 10. However, the percentage of deaths mirrors the state at 34%.

Stay vigilant: On Friday, the CDC named North Carolina as one of six states where the number of coronavirus deaths is expected to jump in the coming weeks, [The Charlotte Observer](#) reports.

And stay informed: The state and Mecklenburg County update Covid-19 numbers daily, including by zip code, and both provide up-to-date lists of testing sites.

What's the impact on West Charlotte? Nearly 22% of Mecklenburg's confirmed cases are in these four zip codes based on data reported this morning (data from May 30 provided for comparison):

28208: 347 cases, 5 deaths (221 cases, 5 deaths)

28214: 295 cases, 2 deaths (162 cases, 1 death)

28216: 309 cases, 4 deaths (188 cases, 3 deaths)

28217: 611 cases, 4 deaths (322 cases, 1 death)

Mecklenburg County totals: 7,131 cases, 121 deaths, according to NCDHSS [daily dashboard of Covid-19 cases](#).

Find a testing site near you:

Mecklenburg County's [interactive Covid-19 test locator](#)
North Carolina's [interactive test locator site](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS: IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Celebrating the Class of 2020: West Charlotte High School held its virtual graduation and drive-thru ceremony last week. To honor the Class of 2020, local artist [Jamil Dyair Steele painted a mural](#) on the school's "spirit rock."

[Male Mentors Wanted: Charlotte Group Provides Fresh Food, Jobs to Underprivileged Neighborhood](#)

The West Boulevard Neighborhood Coalition is looking for male mentors to help cultivate the next crop of community leaders. (Spectrum News)

[Denied by big banks, Charlotte's black owned businesses get relief from rural community](#)

Several businesses in the Historic West End are obtaining loans from Uwharrie Bank, a small bank in rural Stanly County. (WCNC)

[West Charlotte warehouses to be transformed into office, retail space](#)

An Atlanta developer plans to renovate multiple properties along Tuckaseegee Road, and Gesco and Jay streets into 260,000 square feet of office, showroom and retail space. (WSOC)

EVENTS

Due to North Carolina's stay-at-home order, many in-person events have been postponed or canceled. If you have virtual events to share, please submit them to our [events calendar](#).

TODAY through June 21

[Charlotte Black Virtual Film Festival:](#) The festival celebrates its 10th anniversary and shifts to a virtual format featuring short films, feature films, documentaries, web series and more.

TUESDAY, 8 p.m.

[Keep Jazz A-Live-Streaming, Conversations with Curtis:](#) Grammy Award-winning trumpet player Nicholas Payton will discuss the connection

between music and society, yesterday and today.

Got an event you'd like to post? [Click here to get started.](#)

Give us feedback

Got a story idea for West Side Connect? What about an event you want to share with your neighbors? Perhaps your westside church is hosting a revival or special event. Or maybe you want to advertise or get involved in some other way. Drop us a line at editor@qcitymetro.com.

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