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# Separate and Unequal

West Side Connect [dstrickland@qcitymetro.com]

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 7:43 PM  
To: [Steve Johnston](#)



## TOP STORY



### School shutdown sends parents scrambling – in different ways

In an expansive and airy neighborhood clubhouse in Ballantyne, about 40 parents gather on a Sunday afternoon to talk about the online school year that lies ahead.

In addition to focusing on academics, the parents also express concern that their children should socialize as much as possible. “I think that emotional component for our children is so, so important, and we’re missing so much right now,” said one mother.

Drive 18 miles west, toward Wilkinson Boulevard in west Charlotte, and the conversation is starkly different.

For many parents there, the worries are far more basic, and concerns about their kids' socialization feel like a luxury. Without the safety nets that money, internet connectivity and vast social networks provide, staying academically on track is not a given.

[Read our full article.](#) [Charlotte Ledger]



## Census caravans aim to drive participation rates higher in Black and Brown communities

About 61.5% of the households in Mecklenburg County had completed the U.S. Census as of July 21, but in nine census tracts that include six zip codes — 28262, 28213, 28217, 28208, 28210 and 28223 — participation rates are 40% or less.

As the Oct. 31 census deadline approaches, organizers are looking to push that number higher — especially among "hard-to-count" populations, which are often poor, black, immigrant and transient. Black males between ages 18 and 35 also are historically undercounted.

**Why it matters:** Census data is used for a variety of purposes, including deciding how federal tax dollars -- which help to pay for things such as roads, hospitals, schools, and social services -- will be spent at the state and local levels. So communities that are undercounted in the census effectively end up sending those tax dollars to other communities.

Before Covid-19, volunteers used parties and social events to drum up support for taking the census. Now, James Lee (shown above) and other volunteers at Project 70Forward have been organizing census caravans to travel through Black and Brown communities. The [first caravans](#) were in the Lockwood and Beatties Ford Road neighborhoods. Lee said the group will drive through Hidden Valley on Aug. 22.

[Read the full story.](#) [Glenn Burkins]

## ICYMI



[The story behind Charlotte's Black-owned pizza franchise and how it's surviving the pandemic](#)

Mr. Jim's.Pizza #77 sits at the corner of West Boulevard and Remount Road, neighboring the Williams' hair salon. Their delivery service spans a five-mile radius, including the Beatties Ford Road corridor, uptown, and parts of South Boulevard and east Charlotte.

[Charlotte woman plans to start a community garden to help kids on the West side](#)

One west Charlotte woman is looking to make a difference with a community garden. Jenee Anderson wants to teach kids, who may live in some tough neighborhoods, how to grow fruits and veggies. (WBTV)

[Curtis Carroll earns Charlotte Post Foundation Educator Of Year](#)

Honoree Curtis Carroll retired as principal of Vance High School in February, ending 28 years with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He will be celebrated at the Foundation's annual banquet on Oct. 10 at the Hilton Center City. (Charlotte Post)

[Charlotte Man Uses Art To Help People Learn About Neighborhood](#)

Ricky Singh moved to Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte around 12 years ago. The former New Yorker says it just felt like home. But his home hasn't had a lot of good news recently. "We dealt with...a massacre," Singh said. (Spectrum News)

## 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](#).

**WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.**

[Our Health, Our Community: Mobilizing for the Survival of Black Women Beyond COVID-19](#): Black Women's Health Imperative, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., and EBONY are joining forces to mobilize, support, and advocate for Black women and their families in an effort to create post-pandemic solutions that contribute to healthy, resilient Black communities. Registration required.

#### **THURSDAY, 7 p.m.**

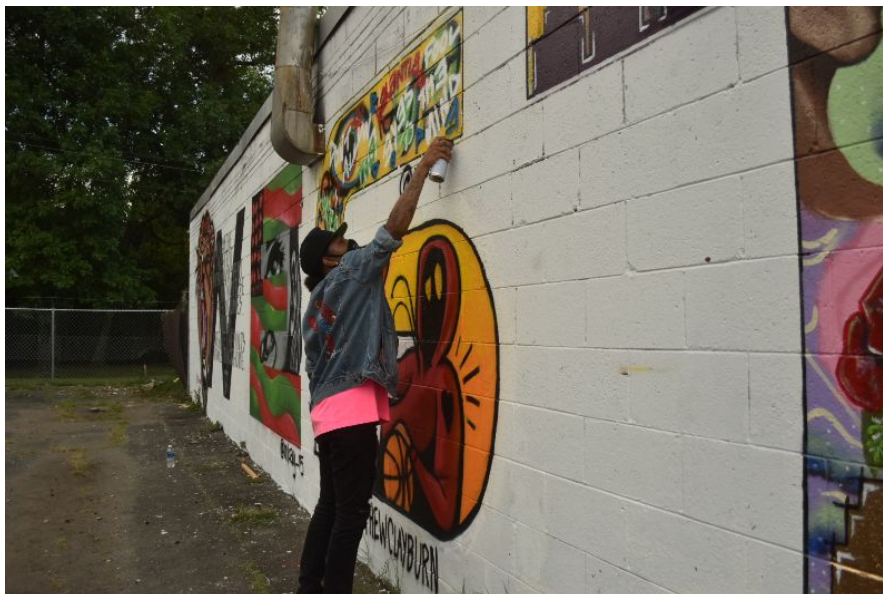
[#ShapingCLT: Virtual Town Hall with CMPD Chief of Police, Johnny Jennings](#): In light of the recent civil unrest and calls for police reform, the general public is scrutinizing the role of police and its policies more than ever, particularly in dealing with and policing communities of color. Join us for a conversation and virtual town hall with Chief Jennings. Submit questions to [storymining250@gmail.com](mailto:storymining250@gmail.com).

#### **AUG. 5, 6 p.m.**

[Ignite Summer Dance Fest](#): Keep your girls moving with FREE community dance classes live on Zoom. Explore different types of movement such as African, hip hop, and modern. Classes will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesdays, Aug. 5-26. Girls age 6 or older, and teens are welcome. Register [online](#) or call 704-221-4787.

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

#### **SCENE IN THE CITY**



Last weekend, artists and residents gathered for the Beatties Ford mural art installation celebration. LordPhly was one of 10 artists involved in the project. Read about how two murals on Beatties Ford Road are bringing positive vibes to Historic West End at [westendclt.com](http://westendclt.com). Photo: Katrina Louis

#### **We're listening**

Who's doing good work along the West End corridor? [Drop us a line](#). We

love to spotlight people who are making a difference.

*West Side Connect is powered by QCity Metro under a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation*

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