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Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"

Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

Sent: Monday, October 05, 2020 3:14 PM

To: Steve Johnston

MECKLENBURG COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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COVID-19 Update

As of 8:30 a.m., there were 29,497 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with 363 deaths due to COVID-19 reported among Mecklenburg County residents.

Click here for the latest data report.

Public Health Director Receives 2020 Pegasus Award

PRSA (Public Relations Society of America) Charlotte has announced that Mecklenburg County Public Health Director, Gibbie Harris, is the 2020 Pegasus award honoree.

The award is given to a respected leader outside the public relations profession who has made significant contributions to the betterment of the community, enhancing its reputation and prestige through the effective use of exceptional communication and public relations practices. Harris was selected for the award due to her successful leadership of the Mecklenburg County Public Health Department and the Mecklenburg community during the COVID-19 pandemic and for her efforts to inform, educate and calm our community during COVID-19. From weekly news conferences and hundreds of media interviews to special testing events and mask distributions, there's rarely a week (or day) that goes by where the work by Mecklenburg County isn't noted by the media.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Harris will be honored during a celebration via Zoom later this month and will receive her award during a drive-through awards program Nov. 19.

Crisis Intervention Team Records Podcast Episode for Huntersville Police Department

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Supervisor Ebony Rao and Coordinator Johanna Covault were guests of the Huntersville Police Department (HPD) for their new podcast series. Ebony and Johanna discussed the CIT Program, its mission of best-practice police responses for individuals living with mental illness, special needs, substance use, increasing access to services in our community, and how the public can access the help.

The HPD HQ podcast is available on the Apple, Google and Podbean platforms.

HOMES Program Provides Grant Money

Ten homeowners have received grants through the HOMES program. Funds are still available. HOMES (Helping Out Mecklenburg's homeowners with Economic Support) is a public assistance program designed to assist low to moderate income qualified Mecklenburg County homeowners keep their homes by providing financial assistance. This grant program will provide $250,000 in total to help reduce the financial burden resulting from rising values.

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners approved the program in September and the deadline to submit applications is **Oct. 19, 2020**. The County Assessor's Office, the Office of the Tax Collector and the Department of Social Services are working together to implement the program. Eligible homeowners must:

- Live in Mecklenburg County.
- Own a residential property or occupy a property with a qualifying life estate.
- Have lived in this primary residence for the past three consecutive years.
- Not have more than one delinquent property tax bill in the last three years.

- Have total household income that does not exceed 50% of the Area Median Income set by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For example, a family of four's household income limit is $41,750.

The HOMES program application can be found on the Mecklenburg County's taxes website: https://mecknc.gov/taxes. Applicants can request a paper application by phone, 980-314-4226 or by visiting the County Assessor's Office lobby at 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 3500, Charlotte.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library Offers Free Computers Through the MeckTech Program

1,400 free computer devices will be made available to eligible households adversely affected by COVID-19 thanks to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library's new pilot MeckTech program. The program, which launched on October 1, is made possible thanks to funding by Mecklenburg County, the grantee of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The goal of the program is to provide up to potentially 5,000 devices to eligible families in need once the model is proven.

It is estimated that nearly 20% of all households (or 80,000 households) in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community lack a computer in the home.

Each computer will come loaded with a Microsoft Office suite, online educational apps and videoconferencing software, and will include all hardware needed for setup (monitor, keyboard, mouse, power cord, webcam, speakers and microphones).

Applicants must:

- Be 18 years old and a resident of Mecklenburg County
- Impacted by COVID-19 in one of the following ways:
  - Health and Human Services / DSS client (TANF, Unified Workforce, Seniors) who cannot access virtual services due to COVID-19
  - Older adults (60+ years old) experiencing social isolation due to COVID-19
  - Adult who lost a job due to COVID-19
  - Adult needing to reeducate and reskill for the job market due to COVID-19
  - Adult needing access to telehealth services due to COVID-19

The MeckTech Program is expected to run through the end of 2020 or until all the computers have been distributed. Residents wishing to apply can find more information online at www.mecktech.org or by calling 704-416-0100.

News Releases:

- Public Health Director Receives 2020 PRSA Pegasus Award
- Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Data for September 30
- National Virtual Walk to School Day

Click here to view a full list of news releases.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

As the pandemic continues to have an impact the community, click here to view a list of COVID-19 symptoms.

COVID-19 Testing and Medical Advice:

Residents who believe they may have been exposed to the virus can contact the County's Public Health Hotline at 980-314-9400 to speak with a medical professional or for guidance on testing.

What to Do If You're Feeling Sick:

Click here for more information on what to do if you think you may have been exposed to the virus.

Frequently Asked Questions - Residents:

Click here to view a list of the most frequently asked questions related to COVID-19.

Resources for County Employees:

Employee Rights Under Families First Coronavirus Act

On April 1, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was signed to help provide additional paid leave for government employees affected by COVID-19.

Click here to learn more about the act.

<div align="center" style="color:red">CALENDAR REMINDERS</div>

- Tuesday, Oct. 6 - BOCC Economic Development Committee Meeting - Virtual, 3:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Oct. 6 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting - CMGC Room 267, 5:00 p.m.

The latest
MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Board Bulletin

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