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Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"

Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Steve Johnston

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COVID-19 Update

As of 8:30 a.m., there were 38,342 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with 420 deaths due to COVID-19 reported among Mecklenburg County residents.

Click [here](#) for the latest data report.

FY2022 Resident Budget Priority Survey Available Now

The [FY2022 Resident Budget Priority Survey](#) is available now through Dec. 23!

The survey, which is in its third year, is designed to allow residents an opportunity to participate in the budget process by sharing their input on budget priorities before the budget is adopted.

The survey covers a variety of priority areas such as Education, Affordable Housing, Recreation and the Environment.

Also, available now for FY2022 is the [Meck Budget Simulator](#). The Meck Budget Simulator is another tool designed to gather public input by allowing residents to prepare their own version of the budget by adjusting expenses and revenues.

The survey and [Meck Budget Simulator](#) may be found on MeckNC.gov. Paper copies of the survey will be available at libraries across the County.

And new for FY2022 -- residents now have the option of texting the word "budget" to 1-833-686-1234 to receive and complete the survey via their smartphones.

Results from the budget [survey](#) and Meck Budget Simulator will be shared with the Board of County Commissioners during their retreat in January.

For more information on the budget survey, Meck Budget Simulator or other FY2022 budget events, contact Acting Budget Director [Adrian Cox](#).

2020 Community Survey Results Now Available

Each year Mecklenburg County conducts the Community Survey, a public opinion poll to assess awareness and perceptions of County services. The 2020 Community Survey represents the eighteenth year that residents have been asked for their feedback in this way. The survey is updated each year to reflect new initiatives and priorities within the community. The 2020 Community Survey also included new questions around the perception of Mecklenburg County as a place to retire, raise children, and start a business. A few highlights from the survey include:

- Residents gave Mecklenburg County the highest rating as a place to LIVE, LEARN, WORK, and RECREATE in the last five years
- Residents noted affordable housing remains the most important issue facing Mecklenburg County
- Resident use of social media for receiving County information continues to rise, while television remains the preferred source of communication

In addition to the main Community Survey, Mecklenburg County conducted two additional surveys to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 event on residents. Some of the highlights from those surveys conducted in August 2020 include:

- Residents remain in good spirits, while feeling stressed and worried in the midst of the pandemic
- Residents experienced significant and severe disruption with accessing childcare

- Residents who identified as African-American and Hispanic were more likely to have been furlough or lost a job

The presentation (downloadable below) contains information from all three surveys, including trend data and some benchmark questions that compare Mecklenburg County results to national survey results. A detailed report on the FY2020 Community Survey is also available for download (below). You can also access the main Community Survey data via an online interactive dashboard that allows for exploration of the data and trends. That dashboard is [here](#).

Quit and Stay Quit Monday

Mecklenburg County is joining the Monday quitters movement—quitting smoking, vaping, and other tobacco use. *Quit and Stay Quit Monday* is a tool designed to encourage tobacco users to quit or recommit to quitting every Monday.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 16—in conjunction with the Great American Smokeout this week—Mecklenburg County will share the campaign's inspirational Monday messages with all County employees, encouraging them to put tobacco down forever. Mecklenburg County will also promote *Quit and Stay Quit Monday* to the community at-large through social media and other channels, including [TobaccoFree.MeckNC.gov](https://www.tobaccofree.mecknc.gov).

There's never a better time to quit, as cigarette smoking and vaping increases the risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Anyone can call 1-800-Quit-Now for free quit coaching and if eligible, free nicotine replacement therapy.

The 12-week *Quit and Stay Quit Monday* campaign is spearheaded by the Mecklenburg County Public Health, Human Resources, and Public Information departments.

News Releases:

- [FY2022 Resident Budget Priority Survey Available Now](#)
- [Mecklenburg County COVID Data for November 11](#)
- [2020 Community Survey Results Now Available](#)
- [COVID-19 Update on United House of Prayer](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Celebrates America Recycles Day](#)

Click [here](#) to view a full list of news releases.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

As the pandemic continues to have an impact on 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. Testing locations can be found [here](#).

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.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, Nov. 17 - BOCC Health and Human Services Committee Meeting – Virtual, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 17 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting - CMGC Room 267, 5:00 p.m.

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

Board Bulletin

is **now available** online.

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