

Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"



From Mecklenburg County <web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov>
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May 17, 2021

COVID-19 Update

As of 8:30 a.m., there were 111,740 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with 960 deaths due to COVID-19 reported among Mecklenburg County residents.

Click [here](#) for the latest data report. To learn about vaccination sites please click [here](#).

County Manager and Mecklenburg County Receive Top Honors at Region of Excellence Awards Ceremony

The Centralina Regional Council (Centralina) recently awarded Mecklenburg County with a Region of Excellence award in Cross Community Collaboration for Public Health's community partnerships during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council also awarded the County with a special COVID-19 Resiliency Recognition award for the Mecklenburg County COVID-19 Policy Group, chaired by County Manager Dena R. Diorio.

Additionally, Diorio was recognized with the James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership Award for outstanding leadership throughout her career at the County, especially through the challenges brought on by COVID-19 over the past year.

Established in 1968, Centralina was created to serve the needs of a nine-county region, which includes Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Lincoln, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union counties. The organization encourages collaboration, successful initiatives, and innovative local government action. The annual [Region of Excellence Awards](#) recognize outstanding achievements in support of Centralina's mission to expand opportunity

and improve quality of life.

Mecklenburg County Honors 12 Local Businesses at 10th Annual Crowns of Enterprise Awards

In celebration of Small Business Month, 12 local businesses were honored at the 10th Annual [Crowns of Enterprise Awards](#) virtual ceremony on May 13, 2021.

Hosted by the Mecklenburg County Office of Economic Development and City of Charlotte Business INclusion, the program recognizes businesses demonstrating exemplary leadership and sound business strategies. Due to COVID-19, the event was postponed last year. This year's event honored the following outstanding businesses and individuals for 2020 and 2021:

- Amplify Charlotte - 2020 Certified Minority Business Enterprise of the Year
- BSI Solutions, Inc.- 2021 Certified Minority Business Enterprise of the Year
- MORCON - 2020 Certified Small Business Enterprise of the Year
- Asfalis Advisors - 2021 Certified Small Business Enterprise of the Year
- Kim Brattain Media LLC - 2020 Certified Woman Business Enterprise of the Year
- A Home on the Go - 2021 Certified Woman Business Enterprise of the Year
- Jose Hernandez - Paris (Latin American Coalition) - 2020 Diversity Advocate of the Year
- Renee Hode (South Piedmont Community College) - 2021 Diversity Advocate of the Year
- CES Group Engineers LLP - 2020 Prime Contractor of the Year
- McFarland Construction - 2021 Prime Contractor of the Year
- Popcorn Heaven - 2020 Rising Star of the Year
- Beyond Decadence, Inc - 2021 Rising Star of the Year

Click [here](#) to view the entire ceremony.

County's Criminal Justice Services' S.T.E.P. (Supervision, Treatment, Education, and Prevention) Program Celebrates National Drug Court Month

This May, drug courts throughout North Carolina will join the nearly 4,000 such programs nationwide in celebrating National Drug Court Month. This year alone, more than 150,000 individuals nationwide who entered the justice system due to addiction will receive lifesaving treatment and the chance to repair their lives, reconnect with their families, and find long-term recovery. National Drug Court Month is a celebration of the lives restored by drug court, and it sends the powerful message that these programs must be expanded to reach more people in need.

In 1995, Mecklenburg County's first drug court opened its doors with a simple premise: Rather than continue to allow individuals with long histories of addiction and crime to cycle through the justice system at great expense to the public, use the leverage of the court to keep them engaged in treatment long enough to be successful. Today, drug courts and other treatment courts have proven that a combination of accountability and compassion saves lives while also saving valuable resources and reducing exorbitant criminal justice costs.

Numerous studies have found that treatment courts reduce crime and drug use and save money. Research

shows treatment courts also improve education, employment, housing, financial stability, and family reunification, which reduces foster care placements. Treatment courts represent a compassionate approach to the ravages of addiction.

County Recognizes National Bike Month with Park and Rec Educational Video Series

May is National Bike Month! To encourage more residents to get out on two wheels, Mecklenburg County's Park and Recreation Department, in collaboration with Public Health's Active Living and Injury Prevention team, has launched a series of virtual educational programs. They aim to increase and improve opportunities for physical activity with a focus on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Residents can visit the County's [YouTube page](#) to take advantage of the virtual programs or visit [ActiveLiving.MeckNC.gov](#) to learn more about best practices and the unique benefits of biking and active lifestyles.

Community Support Services Announces the Completion of The Evaluate Upstream Blueprint

[Mecklenburg County Community Support Services](#) is excited to share that [Evaluate Upstream](#), a year-long, community planning process to develop a comprehensive and sustainable prevention assistance system for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, concluded its work in April 2021. The planning process was funded by a Continuum of Care planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and executed by Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS).

Evaluate Upstream had the following goals: to document existing prevention resources across Charlotte-Mecklenburg and determine whether and how they work together; to design an optimally functioning prevention network; and to develop an evaluation framework for an impactful homelessness prevention system in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The culmination of this work is reflected in the [Evaluate Upstream Blueprint](#), which was released on Thursday, May 6 via the [Building Bridges blog on the County's Housing & Homelessness Dashboard](#).

Evaluate Upstream represents an important milestone in the community fight to end and prevent homelessness. The blueprint forms the prevention pillar of the [2025 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing & Homelessness Strategy \(CMHHS\)](#). The Prevention Workstream of the new CMHHS Strategy will pick up the next stage of the work: to outline the roadmap that will transform the recommendations in the Evaluate Upstream Blueprint into action, embodying both the guiding principles of the blueprint and the core values of the overall planning process. The new division in CSS, focused on housing strategy, policy, and alignment, will be responsible for implementation oversight of the recommendations of Evaluate Upstream.

Information regarding Evaluate Upstream, including the Blueprint, can be found at www.evaluateupstream.com.

News Releases:

- [County Manager Dena R. Diorio Recommends \\$1.99 Billion Budget for FY2022](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Recognized During Region of Excellence Awards](#)

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, 2020, 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, May 18 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting – Virtual, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 26 – BOCC Budget Straw Votes - Virtual, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 27 – BOCC Budget Straw Votes - Virtual, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 1 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting, Virtual, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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This email was sent to sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Mecklenburg County Government · 600 East Fourth Street · Charlotte, NC 28202 · 704-336-7600 (311)