

Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"



From Mecklenburg County <web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov>
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Date 2021-06-07 19:49



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June 7, 2021

COVID-19 Update

As of 5:00 p.m., there were 113,286 cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with 975 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](#).

Mediate Over Adopted Budget Amount

So far, no resolution following a Monday mediation hearing over the County Commission's FY22 Budget for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System (CMS).

The \$2 billion budget goes into effect July 1 and includes more than \$525 million in operational funds for CMS, a \$6 million increase, and a condition on the allocation of \$56 million. The County is requesting that CMS provides a detailed plan on how it plans to reduce the educational attainment gaps in their system.

Former Charlotte City Attorney Mac McCarley presided over the hearing at the Valerie C. Woodward Center. It was the first fully public meeting since the pandemic began in March 2020.

No agreement was reached Monday. Both Boards presented their cases to each other, the public and McCarley, who is seeking to help resolve the dispute.

County Manager Dena Diorio told the group that CMS has received \$3.8 billion in County funds over the last eight years, much of it far beyond what the County is legally obligated to provide. It translates into an average of \$170 million additional funding per year or a 5.5 percent increase.

In addition to the operating expenses, the County's budget supports items that exceed basic education needs. Included in the FY22 budget is the following:

- \$87 million for teacher supplements

- \$280,000 for teacher bonuses
- \$3 million for additional pay to teachers
- \$64% or \$36.9 million of all technical and administrative Salaries
- 47% or \$28.3 million of all administration salaries
- \$694,000 in one-time bonuses to operation support staff
- \$10.1 million for deans/facilitators
- \$945,000 for travel reimbursements

This is the fourth time in the last several years that the County has held money with a condition on allocation, in all three previous times the money was eventually released.

The entire meeting can be viewed [here](#), including presentations from the County and CMS. CMS has now requested a second, private mediation to resolve the impasse

Mecklenburg County Wins 13 NACo Achievement Awards

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards, which recognize innovative county government programs that increase services to residents, will present Mecklenburg County with 13 awards. Staff from various County departments submitted award applications this past spring for programs that were implemented during 2020.

This year's announcement marks the 51st year of the awards program. The 13 awards will officially be presented to the County on July 11, 2021, at NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition (hosted in-person and virtually), in Prince George's County, Maryland.

See the following list of Mecklenburg County award-winning programs:

- [Connecting Data to Decision-making: Housing & Homelessness Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-Safe Waste Reduction and Recycling Outreach](#)
- [Tax, Finance, and Office of Management and Budget Interdepartmental Sales Revenue and Tax Collections Dashboard](#)
- [Breathing Room: A Proactive Approach to Addressing Air Pollution](#)
- [Idle Reduction Project](#)
- [Empowering Fathers Program](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Economic Services Division All Access Mobile Application](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Economic Services Division Transformation - Maximizing Resources](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Senior Citizens Nutrition Program - Bridging the Gap to Provide Nutrition Support to South Asian Seniors](#)
- [Unified Workforce Development Program](#)
- [Finance Department Data Mart and Dashboard Analytics Project](#)
- [GovOnline: Digitalizing the Process to Comply with Air Quality Regulations](#)
- [MeckTech Kits for Mecklenburg County's Most Vulnerable Population](#)

Founded in 1935, NACo connects counties across the United States through a membership network of 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. The organization encourages county officials to advocate for county government priorities in federal policymaking, optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings, and enhance the public's understanding of county government.

For more information regarding this year's NACo Conference and Achievement Awards Luncheon visit www.naco.org/annual.

Mecklenburg County Expands Programs to Address Food Deserts and Food Insecurity

Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH) is expanding its programs to make fresh fruits and vegetables available to residents who live in food deserts or who might experience food insecurity. Nearly 15 percent of households in Mecklenburg County are considered food insecure.

Among the programs is an expansion of "You SNAP, We Match," with initial funding by [Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina](#). This initiative allows residents to utilize their SNAP/EBT benefits at participating [farmers markets](#), while receiving a dollar-for-dollar match on their purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables. Public Health has partnered with the [American Heart Association](#) (AHA) to promote this program and other healthy food options throughout the priority areas—zip codes 28205, 28206, 28208, 28212, 28216, 28217. The joint effort is intended to expand local community knowledge and awareness of the access, availability, and affordability of fruits, vegetables, and other healthy food choices in these neighborhoods. This initiative also welcomes four new farmers markets to Mecklenburg County in 2021.

Other initiatives that are expanding this year to address Mecklenburg County food insecurity include:

- A refrigerator pilot program through the County's [Healthy Corner Store](#) initiative, providing healthy fruits, vegetables, and other foods at locally-owned corner grocery stores. This program includes promotion by the American Heart Association of healthy options and signage for recipes.
- Development of additional locations of community orchards and gardens through the [Edible Landscapes Program](#).
- A partnership with [Rivendell Farms of the Carolinas](#) to develop and expand interactive online food resource maps, with information including food banks and boxes, delivery, free lunches, farmers markets, and more.
- A partnership with [Reinvestment Partners](#) to expand its food as prescription program model in Mecklenburg County grocery stores.

For more information on food insecurity efforts and resources in Mecklenburg County visit [FoodSecurity.MeckNC.gov](https://www.foodsecurity.mecknc.gov).

County's Park and Recreation Department Offering Free Fans to Seniors This Summer

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department is helping Mecklenburg County seniors and adults receiving disability income to stay cool this summer by offering free box fans.

Mecklenburg County residents age 60+ and adults age 18 to 59 who receive disability income can register to pick up a free box fan while supplies last. County residents who qualify are required to pre-register by visiting <https://bit.ly/2Rml88m> or www.ParkandRec.com. Residents can also call the locations listed below to register.

- Albemarle Road Recreation Center – (980-314-1101)
- Bette Rae Thomas Center – (980-314-1111)
- David B Waymer Rec/Senior Center – (980-314-1127)
- Eastway Regional Rec Center – (980-314-3772)
- Mallard Creek Recreation Center – (980-314-1121)
- Southview Recreation Center - (980-314-1105)
- Tyvola Senior Center – (980-314-1320)

Qualifying residents will be required to show a valid driver's license or state ID providing proof of age and a current Mecklenburg County address when picking up their fan. There is a one fan limit per person. Fans are provided through a grant from Duke Energy Carolinas.

For additional questions or information, please contact Revolution Park Sports Academy at 980-314-1116.

Mecklenburg County Launches 'Alternatives to Violence' Program

In partnership with the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County will launch Alternatives to Violence (ATV) in the Beatties Ford area. The collaboration is geared toward approaching violence as a public health issue by identifying the root causes of this epidemic and using data, tools, and evidence-informed best practices to address those causes.

Earlier this year, the County and City [announced](#) that [Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.](#) (YAP) was selected as the vendor for Cure Violence implementation. Implementing the Cure Violence methodology through ATV is just one initiative to reduce violence in Mecklenburg County. Other upcoming initiatives include a Violence Prevention Comprehensive Plan, the 100 Youth Advisory Council, and the Peacekeepers Academy.

More information about ATV is [available here](#).

News Releases:

- [Board of County Commissioners Appoints New Clerk](#)
- [In Partnership with the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Launches 'Alternatives to Violence' Program](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Creates Disengagement Plan After Issues with Cardinal Health](#)
- [MCPH offers \\$25 Cash Cards for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [BOCC Adopts \\$2 billion Operating Budget for FY2022](#)
- [An Open Letter from Park and Recreation Director W. Lee Jones](#)
- [Discussions with Dunlap Episode 3](#)
- [County Addressing Lifeguard Shortage](#)

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

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, June 8 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, Budget/Public Policy meeting (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center) - 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 15 – Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, Regular meeting (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center) – 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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