

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**



From Sen. Natasha Marcus <natasha.marcus@ncleg.gov>
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Date 2022-10-14 17:15

Natasha
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NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

October 14, 2022

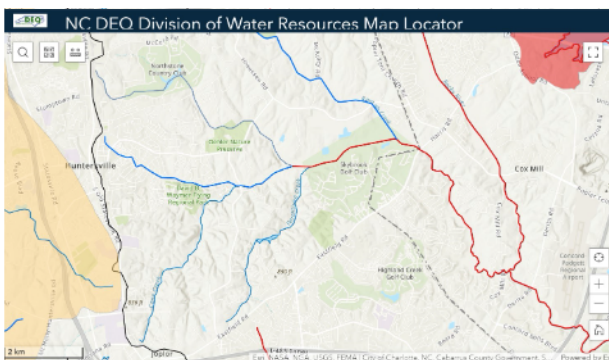
The General Assembly did not convene for session over the past 2 weeks. So there are no votes or committee meetings to report.

SD41 Museums Awarded NC Science Museum Grants



Congratulations to the [Carolina Raptor Center](#) and [Discovery Place Kids in Huntersville](#) for being awarded [NC Science Museum Grants](#)! Both museums were awarded approximately \$100,000. These grants were made possible by the NCGA's appropriation of federal ARPA funds to the NC Science Museums Grant Program.

Alert Concerning Clean Up at Colonial Pipeline Leak Site



Colonial Pipeline has applied for a permit to treat contaminated water onsite and then release it directly into the North and South Prong Clarke Creek in Huntersville. This would allow Colonial to stop having to truck contaminated water offsite, which is costly and requires many trucks to come and go from the site. The contaminated water cannot be treated at a municipal treatment plant, because those systems do not accept water that's contaminated in this way (benzene and related chemicals are obviously present in high amounts).

While this idea to treat and release the water may be a good alternative to trucking it offsite, **I have concerns about whether the permit specifies the appropriate safety standards, i.e. the water quality standards approved by the NCDEQ and the EPA. It is imperative that the water be fully treated to within safe standards before it's released into the creek.** Although the site of the contamination, the Oehler Nature Preserve, is just outside of the designated protected watershed, there are standards that should be met. In addition, sections of Clarke Creek are considered impaired by the state; adding more pollution to an already impaired stream is not ideal. It's important to note that the North and South Prongs flow to Clarke Creek, through the Skybrook Golf Club (Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Counties), to the Rocky River (Union County) and eventually to the Pee Dee River. See the map above.

It's also unclear how disruptive an on-site water treatment system will be to the neighbors. The design plan is not included in the permit application. So, I am seeking details about the design plan as well.

I believe that NCDEQ should hold a public hearing on the permit to ensure a) the public is aware of the plans, b) people's questions are answered, and c) safety concerns are fully resolved before the project is approved. The more public interest there is, the more likely it is that a public hearing will be held.

NCDEQ is taking public comments on the permit request through October 24.

You can submit your questions, concerns, or support by email to Derek Denard, Environmental Program Consultant, Division of Water Resources, at derek.denard@ncdenr.gov or publiccomments@ncdenr.gov. Or if you prefer to write a letter, mail it to:

NCDEQ/DWR/NPDES
 Water Quality Permitting Section
 1617 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Feel free to include in your comments whether you believe a public hearing should be held.

I have talked with the Executive Director of the Yadkin Riverkeeper, who is urging members to submit comments and request a public hearing. You can reach that organization at [this link](#).

I will be sure to keep everyone updated on this newsletter and social media as I learn more information.

Senator Marcus in the Community



Last week I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for [North Academy of World Languages](#) in Huntersville. This CMS magnet school opened in 2021, but had to delay their formal ribbon cutting due to the pandemic. NAWL is a K-8 language immersion school specializing in German, French, and Chinese. So the audience was treated to performances in all three languages - fantastic! Enrollment is free and on a lottery system. Key dates for the 2023-24 school year can be found [here](#).



I had a great time at [National Night Out](#) in Davidson last week, an event that works to bring the community together and build trust with the town's police officers. The photo above is with Police Chief Penny Dunn. She is retiring soon and we are going to miss her in Davidson.



I attended the breakfast fundraiser for the [Davidson-Cornelius Child Development Center](#) on October 7th. Their mission is to provide high-quality, affordable early education and care for any child of our community without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or socioeconomic status, and to embrace and foster diversity in a safe learning environment.



On October 11, I attended the [Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce](#) in Henderson. It was wonderful to learn more about all the businesses and non-profits in the area. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy.



On October 8, I attended the dedication of the restored [Historic Lingle Hut](#) at the Reeves Temple AME Zion Church in Davidson. The Lingle Hut has been a community gathering place and site of worship for several generations of Davidson residents.

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice Webinar



[The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice](#) (TREC), led by Attorney General Josh Stein and NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Anita Earls, met last week to discuss their **goals and progress in addressing policies and procedures that disproportionately affect communities of color in our criminal justice system.** The meeting included brief remarks from Governor of Cooper, discussing how they can hone their data to determine benchmarks for success, and hearing from the public about their progress and room for improvement. You can watch the full meeting [here](#).

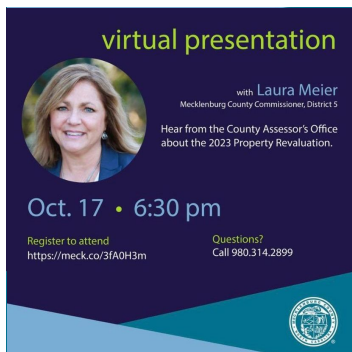
Free Visit to the NC Zoo for Students



During the traditional school year, starting the day after Labor Day, **schools registered with the state of North Carolina can receive free admission for their students to the North Carolina Zoo!** Public, private, charter and home schools are eligible. (Perks of a state-owned Zoo)!

Reservations are required and can be made by calling 336-879-7700. More information [here](#).

Virtual Presentation on 2023 Property Revaluation



virtual presentation
with Laura Meier
Mecklenburg County Commissioner, District 5
Hear from the County Assessor's Office about the 2023 Property Revaluation.
Oct. 17 • 6:30 pm
Register to attend
<https://meck.co/3fA0H3m>
Questions?
Call 980.314.2899

Mecklenburg County Commissioner Laura Meier and the County Assessor's Office are holding a virtual presentation about the 2023 property revaluation process this Monday, October 17th.

You can sign up using [this link](#) and if you have questions you can call (980) 314-2899.

Smart Start of Mecklenburg County Accepting Innovation Grants



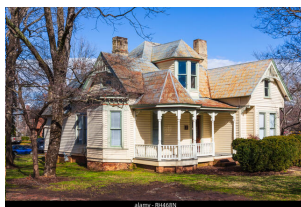
Smart Start of Mecklenburg's vision is that every child in Mecklenburg County enters kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. To advance this vision, Smart Start of Mecklenburg County (SSMC) is seeking **letters of intent for one-time funding to encourage the development of innovative ideas.**

This year's *Innovation Grant* cycle focuses on systems-building activities that advance positive, long-lasting change for young children and their families. This approach presents an opportunity to support community initiatives addressing the root causes of seemingly intractable or "sticky" problems and/or barriers. While many community programs provide needed services and support, system work elevates interventions beyond short-lived solutions.

- [Click here](#) to learn more about Smart Start's approach, focus, process, timeline and to apply.
- Learn about the success of the 2021 *Innovation Grants* [here](#).

To be considered, please submit the completed pre-application form and budget statement to Jennifer Stamp at jstamp@smartstartofmeck.org. The pre-application is a document designed to introduce your proposed project to the SSMC team who will work with you towards the submission of a full proposal.

State and Federal Grant Funding for Davidson Property



Davidson has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the State Historic Preservation Office for a conditions assessment and study of the [Sloan House](#). This study will determine the overall health of the building and will create recommendations for ongoing maintenance. Read more about the grant [here](#).

FAFSA Applications are Live for the 2023-2024 School Year



High school seniors should complete the FAFSA to seek Pell Grants and state grants (Longleaf Commitment Grants) for community college or university/higher education. The application is complicated and long, but makes students much more likely to attend and complete college by relieving the financial burden. You can read tips on FAFSA [here](#).

CMS Community Engagement Survey on Superintendent Search



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board wants to know what parents and community members are looking for in a new Superintendent. The school board hopes to gather as much input from as many perspectives as possible before the end of 2022. Please participate to help inform the School Board's candidate search in 2023.

[Take the Survey](#)

North Carolina Ranks Among Top States for Renewable Energy Growth



North Carolina was recently named one of the top states in the nation for renewable energy growth -- from wind to solar to electric vehicles. This top ranking is in large part thanks to Governor Cooper's leadership with [Executive Order 246](#) and the bipartisan energy bill, [HB951, Energy Solutions for North Carolina](#). You can watch the news story with more information about NC's renewable energy growth [here](#).

One of the key players in our state's transition to clean energy is Duke Energy. Unfortunately, its current energy plan does not meet the goals of HB951, prompting contentious debate between Duke Energy and the North Carolina Utilities Commission. You can read more about this issue [here](#).

International E-Waste Day: Recycle Old Devices



Mecklenburg County and Goodwill are partnering for an e-waste recycling event. Collect your old devices and donate them at 140 Valleydale Road in Charlotte tomorrow from 9AM to 12PM. You can learn more about the county's drop-off sites for electronics [here](#).

CLT Aviation Academy is Accepting Applications



The 2023 [CLT Aviation Academy](#) provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity to better understand the inner-workings of Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) and its contributions and impacts on our economy, transportation system and community. Aviation Academy participants will gain **behind-the-scenes access to current operations and future CLT planning efforts that will impact our local economy**. The CLT Aviation Academy is open to public sector, private sector and community leaders from across the greater Charlotte region.

The 2023 CLT Aviation Academy class will be limited to 25 participants selected based on a competitive admissions process. If you are interested in being part of the 2023 CLT Aviation Academy, please visit the links below. **Applications due by Monday, November 14, 2022.**

[Apply Here](#)

Mecklenburg County Waste Reduction Event



[Mecklenburg County Waste Reduction](#) is hosting a shredding event for sensitive papers in Senate District 41 at Compost Central at 140 Valleydale Road in Charlotte on October 15th. You can reserve a spot [here](#). Please do not bring materials in plastic bags, but plastic file boxes are acceptable (3 box limit per person).

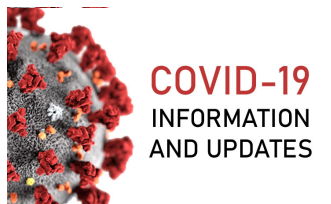
Financial Update on the State's General Fund

Beginning Cash, Friday, September 30	11,881,161,304.13
Add Receipts:	
Tax and Non-Tax Receipts	435,423,272.27
Coronavirus Relief Receipts	0.00
Other Receipts	2,276,398,022.63
Less Disbursements:	
Payroll	159,525,097.00
State Aid	6,934,796.74
Medicaid/Other Provider Payments	1,076,771,366.42
Tax Refunds/Distributions	24,019,167.71
Debt Service	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Transfers Out	0.00
General Operating	1,996,964,949.80
Ending Cash, Friday, October 7	11,328,767,221.96
Less Reserved Cash:	
Due to Local Governments – Sales and Use Tax Payable	935,533,053.04
Other Reserves	4,625,869.70
American Recovery Plan Act Reserve	39,300,936.33
Carry Forward Reserve	415,312,006.20
Clean Water Drinking Water Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Capital Projects Reserve	0.00
Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve	0.00
Economic Development Project Reserve	1,068,625,000.00
Federal Infrastructure Match Reserve	106,000,000.00
Housing Reserve	35,000,000.00
Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Reserve	69,412,696.11
Information Technology Reserve	108,943,174.00
Local Fiscal Recovery Reserve-ARPA	0.00
Local Govt Coronavirus Relief Reserve	0.00
Local Project Reserve	0.00
Medicaid Contingency Reserve	326,512,736.00
Medicaid Transformation Reserve	267,497,810.00
NC GREAT Reserve	0.00
Opioid Abatement Reserve	9,306,230.02
Public School Contingency Reserve	0.00
Public School Need Based Capital Reserve	100,000,000.00
Repairs and Renovations Reserve	0.00
Retiree Supplement Reserve	35,954,763.00
SCIF General Fund Reserve	250,000,000.00
Savings Reserve	4,115,993,278.98
Stabilization and Inflation Reserve	200,000,000.00
State Emergency Response/Disaster Reserve	227,986,189.29
Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve	40,000,000.00
Wilmington Harbor Enhancements Reserve	283,800,000.00
World University Games Reserve	25,000,000.00
Unreserved Cash Balance, Friday, October 7	2,663,963,478.69

The Office of the State Controller (OSC) released the General Fund Cash Watch numbers for the week ending Friday, October 7, 2022. OSC provides a weekly update on the State’s General Fund cash position which can be found at osc.nc.gov. **The current unreserved cash balance in state coffers is \$2.664 billion.**

The State Controller is North Carolina’s chief fiscal officer and serves as an independent resource to ensure the financial integrity of the State.

COVID-19 & Monkeypox Updates



An updated COVID-19 booster is available now for people 12 and older, two months after they finish their primary series or any booster dose. It offers the most up-to-date protection against the latest Omicron variants. Omicron is the most common form of COVID-19. [Find a booster near you.](#) You can see updates on the key data points (wastewater testing, hospitalization, vaccine rates, etc.) on the [DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard.](#)

For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](#). Project ACT is also providing free COVID-19 at-home tests for certain zip codes in SD41, you can check if your home zip code is eligible [here.](#)

Monkeypox Updates:

DHHS has established a [monkeypox website](#), which serves as an informational resource hub. Updates are made to this site frequently, included case counts and demographic data.

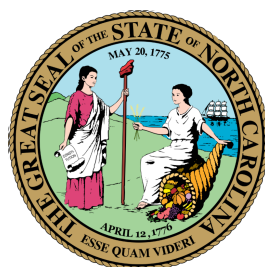
Monkeypox vaccines are free and available in Mecklenburg County. If you are experiencing symptoms or believe you have been exposed, contact your doctor or local health department to get tested. In Mecklenburg, that number is 980-314-9400.

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 Rm. 519
 Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



Sen. Natasha Marcus, District 41 | 300 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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