

Latest Updates from the NCGA



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NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

December 15, 2023



January 8:

First Mecklenburg Delegation Listening Session of 2024

On **Monday, January 8th**, members of the Mecklenburg delegation to the NC Senate and NC House will host a **listening session** in the Cornelius Town Hall Community Room (21445 Catawba Ave, Cornelius, NC 28031). This is your opportunity to tell us about the issues you would like us to work on in the 2024 Short Session and give us feedback on the work we've done to date. The listening session will begin at 6:30 PM, and I **encourage everyone to attend, whether you live in SD41 or in the vicinity.**

2023 Legislative Session Is Over



The NCGA ended our long session in October, following passage of the budget and the completion of redistricting. As a result, there have been no committee meetings or votes over the last two weeks. I'll keep you posted about any special sessions that may arise.

House Select Hearing on Auto Insurance



Last week, the North Carolina House of Representatives held a Select Committee hearing on auto insurance oversight and reform. North Carolina's auto insurance system includes what's known as a Reinsurance Facility to cover people with poor driving records, which is subsidized by fees that all drivers pay on their insurance policies. A [report commissioned by the legislature](#) found that roughly a quarter of insurance policies end up in the Reinsurance Facility, which it says is far higher than other states. The hearing included testimony from Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, who argued that the Reinsurance Facility is a necessary program. It is likely that more hearings on this issue will be held in the future. Read more [here](#).

Colonial Pipeline Reporting Update



According to a summary statement for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality submitted by Colonial Pipeline earlier this month, the monitoring systems put in place after the August 2020 fuel spill have recorded the following data:

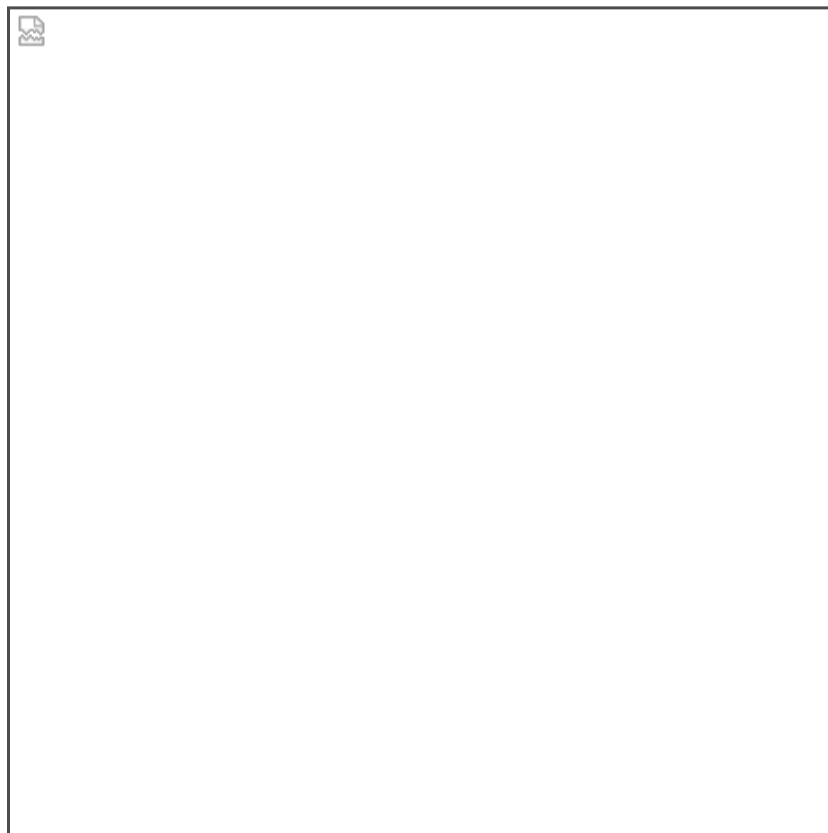
- **System status:** Both systems are currently online and operating as expected.
- **Recovery:** The in-situ recovery volume from the installed well network on November 29, 2023, was **1,445,863 gallons of product** and **16,828,836 gallons of petroleum contact water**. The total gallons of product recovered, including that recovered from the well network, soil excavation, soil vapor, and emergency response activities, is **1,772,112 gallons**.
- **Benzene monitoring** at all site-wide and frack tank locations have had no detections.
- Colonial Pipeline plans to continue product recovery and optimization of pump depths in recovery wells, as well as benzene and ambient noise monitoring. Petroleum contact water and water supply watershed sampling will continue to occur on a weekly basis, and sitewide groundwater sampling on a monthly basis. The company also plans to expand the air sparge system on the southeast of the work area, and drilling for that project began earlier this month.

Senator Marcus in the Community



After filing for Insurance Commissioner in Raleigh earlier this week, I made it back home to Davidson in time to keep my promise to Pack 58, which meets at the Davidson United Methodist Church. I talked with the scouts about what it's like to serve in the NC General Assembly and answered their (very good) questions about how government works. My favorite question was "Why do we have to wait until we're 18 to vote?"

Surveys for Town of Cornelius Residents



The Town of Cornelius has launched its annual Citizen Budget Survey and asks that you take just a few minutes to respond. Survey results will assist the Town Board and Manager in developing a fiscal year 2025 budget that is responsive to the needs and preferences of the community. You may complete the survey [here](#).

Additionally, the Town is developing a new Comprehensive Parks & Greenways Master Plan, and Cornelius residents are invited to provide input on facility needs. The survey is open until December 21. Read more about the Master Plan and link to the survey [here](#).

Golden Leaf Grant to Camino Community Development Corporation



The Golden LEAF Board of Directors voted to award \$169,850 to [Camino Community Development Corporation](#), an existing food bank partner agency in Mecklenburg County, for building renovation and to purchase equipment and a box truck to enable the organization to pick up, store, and distribute more food. The award was funded by the recent state appropriation to Golden LEAF for the Food Distribution Assistance Program. This program is funded by federal State Fiscal Recovery Funds through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services Flood Control and Restoration Project: Barlowe Road



Mecklenburg County Storm Water Services will conduct a flood control and restoration project in SD41 stretching 630 feet along County-owned property and a privately-owned residence at 606 Dewolfe St. The project will consist of removing a section of the bridge and road on Barlowe, adding wetlands, and restoring nearby Stewart Creek to reduce sediment loss. The work will help reduce the risks of flooding and improve water quality in the area. Mecklenburg has been awarded a grant of \$150,000 from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund Flood Risk Reduction Grant Cycle and \$500,000 from the North Carolina Land and Wildlife Fund to accomplish this project. Learn more [here](#).

CleanAIRE NC Awarded Grant to Improve Air Quality in North Mecklenburg Communities



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded [CleanAIRE NC](#) funding to expand community air monitoring across four underserved communities in north Mecklenburg County in SD41: Huntington Green (Huntersville, NC); Pottstown (Huntersville, NC); Smithville (Cornelius, NC); and West Davidson (Davidson, NC). These areas experience higher pollution exposures than the more affluent neighborhoods surrounding them, resulting in vastly different experiences and health outcomes. The project targets longstanding health and environmental injustices caused by air pollution. CleanAIRE NC will work with community partners to distribute robust systems that capture local air quality data. Learn more [here](#).

COVID Updates and Information



Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order an additional four free at-home tests beginning November 20. If you did not order tests this fall, you may place two orders for a total of eight tests.

Your order of COVID tests is completely free, including shipping. Order your free at-home tests [here](#), or call 1-800-232-0233 for help.

Links to Helpful Information

Domestic Violence Hotline: If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or partner abuse, please call [Safe Alliance](#) at **704-332-2513** and they can help you.

Mecklenburg's County Bar [website](#) provides a list of pro bono resources for those unable to afford legal counsel.

Mecklenburg's Department of Community Resources provides individuals and families with [immediate access](#) to a diverse range of Mecklenburg County Health and Human Services programs and community partner services in Community Resources Centers throughout the County.

Mecklenburg's Energy Assistance Programs: Do you need help paying your heating or cooling bills? Mecklenburg offers [two different programs](#) to help eligible low-income households with their energy needs.

Property Tax values and histories in Mecklenburg County can be searched on [this site](#) that includes links to Polaris and information about past assessments. You can find more detailed information on real estate values on the [Mecklenburg](#) site.

Suicide Prevention: If you have thoughts of harming yourself, **please call or text 988**, the Suicide Prevention Hotline for help.

Unclaimed Cash! Visit [NCCash.com](#) today to see if you have unclaimed property under the supervision of the NC Treasurer's office. More info [here](#).

Voter Information: You can find your current information on the [NC Voter Lookup page](#).

Free Property Tax Assistance Services



Do you need help with your property taxes? The [Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy](#) is providing free assistance to help homeowners prepare their NC property tax relief applications. Call **980-256-7952** or visit their website to learn more [here](#).

Contact Our Office

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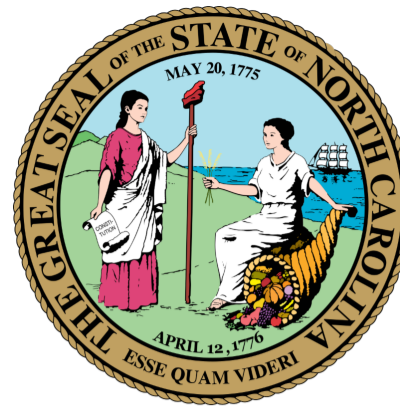
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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