

## Food insecurity in Mecklenburg

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### Happy Wednesday, QCity!

We hope you all had a restful Veterans' Day. Thank you to all who served.

Last week, we asked about the best time to put up Christmas decorations. Here's what you told us:

- 63% said after Thanksgiving
- 26% said the first week of December
- 8.7% said the first week of November
- 2.2% said before Halloween

**In today's newsletter:**

- Local food pantries feel the impact of hunger in Mecklenburg
- A free health-focused event to know about
- A quote of the day

**Today in History:** In 1977, Ernest Morial was elected as New Orleans' first Black mayor.

**We need your help:** Join the 300+ readers who give to support QCity Metro.

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-- Glenn H. Burkins, publisher



NourishUp's food pantry in northwest Charlotte. (Amanda Harry/QCity Metro)

## Local pantries feel impact of SNAP benefit gaps

by **Amanda Harry**

The ongoing government shutdown, now the longest in US history, has significantly increased demand for local food pantries, especially after the lapse of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for 42 million Americans on Nov. 1.

**Why it matters:** Local nonprofits and county governments cannot fill the massive funding gap left by SNAP, which provides nine meals for every one provided by food banks.

NourishUp, a Charlotte pantry, saw a 20% increase in visitors since the shutdown began, from 2,700 to about 3,000 people per week.

[See how the community is responding.](#)



*Stock photo from Shutterstock*

# Community expo to offer free food, health screenings and resources

by Amanda Harry

A free health-focused community event is coming to Charlotte this weekend. The Black Health Matters Fall 2025 Health Summit & Expo will offer attendees health screenings, speakers and connections to local resources on Nov. 15 at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

What to expect:

- Free health screenings for prostate cancer, kidney disease and heart disease
- Celebrity guests include Basketball Hall of Famer Alonzo Mourning, US Rep. Alma Adams and actor Timon Kyle Durrett
- Complimentary breakfast and lunch

[Read more about the event.](#)

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# Experience Aquarium Aglow

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This month through December, the South Carolina Aquarium opens after dark for Aquarium Aglow! From festive-photo ops and sweet treats to immersive installations and Scuba Claus, discover Charleston's most unique holiday tradition.

**Visit now!**

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What's happening  
**Charlotte?**



## HAPPENING TODAY

**HEALTH:** An enlightening event where you will delve into addiction and recovery through diverse perspectives. | 12:30 p.m. | \$10 | [Link](#)

**ART:** Enjoy self-directed, creative fun for children and adults. This season explore fiber art, drawing and painting, collage, plus rotating seasonal activities. | 5 p.m. | Free | [Link](#)

**WELLNESS:** Use themed journaling prompts, breath work, and grounding practices to help you reconnect with your center and move through your week with clarity and intention. | 7:30 p.m. | \$11 | [Link](#)

**KARAOKE:** Show off your skills at karaoke night or sit back and listen other's sing. | 7 p.m. | Free | [Link](#)

**See our full events calendar**

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## 4th Annual Carolina Holiday Light Spectacular

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Experience the magic of the Carolina Holiday Light Spectacular in Charlotte — over one million lights and 25+ scenes! Open Nov. 28–Dec 30. Tickets start at just \$10! [Get tickets.](#)



*"It's been such a great career. I'm ready, I don't have any regrets. You're not going to hear me say 'I can't wait to be out of here,' or 'I can't wait to be done,' or anything like that. What you'll hear me say is, 'I gave it everything I have.'"*

*CMPD Police Chief Johnny Jennings*

## Quote of the Day: CMPD Police Chief Johnny Jennings

by Amanda Harry

Just weeks out from the start of his retirement, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) Chief Johnny Jennings spoke at the Sarah Stevenson Tuesday Forum yesterday.

Jennings spent 33 years with CMPD, five of which were spent as police chief. His retirement begins Jan. 1, 2026.

“I know that it's time, and I know that I'm at peace with the decision to move on and start the next chapter,” Jennings said during the forum.

Estella Patterson, a veteran law enforcement officer who led the Raleigh Police Department for nearly three and a half years, [will succeed Jennings](#).

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# A 'Passport Through the Arts' at Jazzy Gala 2025

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**On Dec. 5**, visit the Harvey B. Gantt Center for an unforgettable evening. Explore the heart of four iconic American cities – New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans and Washington, DC – each with its rich artistic legacy and global influence.

- ✨ Special performance by R&B legend **Chanté Moore**
- 🍴 **Chef-led dinner** by a James Beard Award-winning culinary master

[Get tickets now!](#)

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## In other news

🇺🇸 **Border patrol:** Charlotte will be the next city where Border Patrol will begin an immigration enforcement operation, according to a report from NBC News. ([WCNC](#))

🐾 **Pet surrender:** NA troubling trend for animal shelters across North Carolina may be pointing to something bigger happening in the economy. Shelter staff in Charlotte say more families are being forced to give up their pets, which is a sign that many owners are struggling to make ends meet. ([Spectrum News](#))

🧠 **Volunteer recruitment:** Mecklenburg County plans to host a forum on Wednesday to recruit volunteers for the upcoming Point-In-Time count that assesses the state of homelessness. ([WFAE](#))

🏨 **New hotel:** The Mecklen — a new hotel honoring Mecklenburg County's revolutionary roots — has opened in University City. ([Axios](#))

[Charlotte](#))

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### How did we do today?

We love reader feedback, so [drop a line](#) with comments or concerns.

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