



Eastern Carolina Council

ECC Weekly Information Bulletin

February 5, 2010

Quote of the Week: What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality. *Greek author Plutarch*

WCPS Schools Make the Grade in U.S. News & World Report's Education Report—Congratulations!

Wayne County Public Schools had three schools recently receive “Silver” and “Bronze” medal designations in U.S. News & World Report's “America's Best High Schools” rankings. U.S. News & World Report in collaboration with School Evaluation Services -a K-12 education, data research, and analysis business run by Standard & Poor's- analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 21,000 public high schools to find the very best across the country. Top schools were placed into gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention categories. Eastern Wayne High School was one of 11 North Carolina public high schools to receive a silver medal ranking. Goldsboro High School and Wayne Early/Middle College High School were two of 31 North Carolina public high schools to receive bronze medal designations. The three schools were among 44 public high schools statewide to have earned bronze, silver, or gold designations. Only two North Carolina school districts, Wake County with five schools and Surry County with four schools, had more high schools than Wayne County identified for gold, silver, or bronze awards. “We are very appreciative of U.S. News & World Report's designations for these three schools in its rankings of ‘America's Best High Schools.’ The schools are to be commended for their achievement,” states Dr. Steven Taylor, WCPS Superintendent. To be classified as one of America's Best High Schools, judges looked at three performance indicators. The first indicator was how students performed in math and reading compared to their peers across the state. The second indicator factored in each school's percentage of economically disadvantaged students to see if they were performing better than their statistical expectations. The third indicator considered college readiness based on AP test scores and International Baccalaureate test data. For more information, contact Ken Derksen at 919-705-6125.

Gov. Perdue establishes NC Complete County Committee for CENSUS 2010

As you may know, Governor Perdue signed Executive Order 33 establishing the North Carolina Complete Count Committee (NC CCC) to promote Census 2010 participation in our state. The NC CCC met last Friday at Shaw University in Raleigh. A new North Carolina 2010 Census website has also been released. The new site has information about the Census including how to apply for Census jobs, a calendar of Census events in the state, and a census blog. Browse the new NC Census website at - <http://2010census.nc.gov/>. There are two logos on the main page. Feel free to use them as links from your website to the NC Census site. If you have Census related activities in your area that you would like included on the NC Census calendar, please notify: Bob Coats (919) 807-4781 bob.coats@osbm.nc.gov

Workshop: Utility Rates 201

The NC American Water & Wastewater Association-Water Environment Association Finance & Management Committee is proud to announce their upcoming workshop: Utility Rates 201, February 23rd at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. Topics discussed in this workshop will include: *Financial Performance Benchmarking; Designing a Rate Structure for your Customer Base; Allocating Costs among Customers; Forecasting Demand and Revenues; Developing and Using a Rate Model; and Water System Tap and Impact Fees in North Carolina.* Speakers include private consultants specializing in rate setting and finance, the Environmental Finance Center at the UNC School of Government and water utility professionals as well as staff to the NC Local Government Commission. To learn more or to register please visit: <http://efc.unc.edu/training/2010/UtilityRates201.htm>.

SOG: Coates Canons: 'Email as Public Record: Five Things You Should Know'

You probably already know that the definition of public records in our state law is extremely broad, and certainly includes electronic records like email. This means that email is subject to both the public access and records retention aspects of that law. Here's a list of five other things you should know about email as a public record. You may view the latest post at <http://sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/localgovt/?p=1712>

Federal grant: Develop solutions to resolve police motor vehicle pursuits & minimizing potential for damage

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP). NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ solicits applications to inform its search for the knowledge and tools to guide policy and practice. NIJ is interested in applications for funding to develop solutions that can resolve police motor vehicle pursuits, while at the same time minimizing the potential for injury or damage to property. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/s1000923.pdf>

Eat Smart—Move More—and NC initiative to improve the health of Carolinians

Each month we strive to provide you with tips and tools to help you eat smart and move more every day! [Click here](#) to access the February 2010 edition of the Eat Smart, Move More NC newsletter!

SOG Coates Canons: 'The ABCs of ABC Boards'

A \$12,000 dinner for Mecklenburg ABC employees paid for by a liquor broker. A \$280,000 salary for an ABC administrator in New Hanover County — finally disclosed after the ABC board first refused to release public information about salaries. A dispute over the location of an ABC store in Currituck County. Each of these issues has generated considerable local controversy — and statewide interest — in recent weeks, and each has prompted the affected boards of county commissioners to think about their role in the oversight of local alcoholic beverage control systems. This blog reviews the basics of the relationship between county commissioners and city councils and their local ABC boards. You may view the latest post at <http://sogweb.sog.unc.edu/blogs/localgovt/?p=1704>

Performance Driven: New Vision for US Transportation Policy

National transportation policy has lost direction and a clear sense of purpose, threatening substantial costs to our collective prosperity, security, environment, and quality of life. The National Transportation Policy Project (NTPP) is recommending bold and comprehensive reform founded on a relatively simple proposition: U.S. transportation policy needs to be more performance-driven, more directly linked to a set of clearly articulated goals, and more accountable for results. <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/library/report/performance-driven-new-vision-us-transportation-policy>

Capital Budgeting and Finance: A Guide for Local Governments

This SOG book is a comprehensive guide for planning and financing capital projects. It clearly explains capital budgeting approaches and methods, especially for local jurisdictions under 200,000 in population, and it is a valuable resource for city and county managers, finance and budget officials, planning directors, public works administrators, and other officials involved in decisions to meet public infrastructure and facility needs. The 2009 federal stimulus package directed additional resources to local governments' infrastructure improvement, so local officials increasingly feel pressured to be ready for new projects. The capital planning process prepares for just that. To purchase a hard copy: <http://shopping.netsuite.com/s.nl/c.433425/it.A/id.2323/f?sc=7&category=4147> Title: Capital Budgeting and Finance: A Guide for Local Governments, Second Edition; Author: William Rivenbark, Jack Vogt, and Justin Marlowe; No. of pages: 296; Order number: 2009.21; Price: \$110.00, plus 7.75% tax. If you have questions, please email sales@sog.unc.edu or call (919) 966-4119, then press #1.

White papers on innovation-based strategy

The Baton Rouge Area Chamber has published two white papers on the need to adopt an innovation-based strategy for economic development. Both papers focus on the needed components of a statewide strategy: research and commercialization, entrepreneurship and workforce development, risk capital, and statewide coordination. [Read more...](#) (Source: Southern Compass)

Study Finds Positive Link Between Neighborhood Walkability and Housing Values

More than just a pleasant amenity, the walkability of cities translates directly into increases in home values. Homes located in more walkable neighborhoods—those with a mix of common daily shopping and social destinations within a short distance—command a price premium over otherwise similar homes in less walkable areas. Houses with above-average levels of walkability command a premium of about \$4,000 to \$34,000 over houses with just average levels of walkability in the typical metropolitan areas studied. [Read more...](#) (Source: Southern Compass)

Top Ten Higher Education Issues in 2010

A new report from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities presents the top 10 issues most likely to affect public higher education across the 50 states in 2010. The synopsis is informed by a scan of state policy activities of the past year, an analysis of trends and consideration of events that will likely shape the policy landscape. [Read more...](#) (Source: Southern Compass)

Workshops/Meetings/Events/Deadlines coming up soon

- 2/12 STEP applications due to Rural Center <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/smalltowns/selection.htm>
- 2/21-25 2010 Land Grant and Sea Grant National Water Conference in Hilton Head, SC
<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=aa264916-889a-4bb1-84af-9139e3d69b88>
- 3/2-3 Planning for NC's Future: Ask the Climate Question Workshop in Raleigh www.climatechange.nc.gov
- 3/6 NCSU Raleigh: 7th Annual Urban Design Conference: Creating Value: Designing for Resilient Cities
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z29BYDG>
- 3/11 ECC Executive Committee Meeting at ECC office—2nd Floor Conference Room 6 PM
- 3/21-23 Governor's Conference on Hospitality & Tourism in New Bern [Governor's Conference agenda](#).
- 3/29 Water Harvesting Workshop in Raleigh <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/stormwater/training/waterharvesting.html>
- 3/29-30 NC BIWA Annual meeting at Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium <http://www.ncbiwa.org/RegFormLocGovt10.pdf>
- 3/30-31 WRRI 12th Annual meeting: State of Water Resource in Raleigh <http://www.ncsu.edu/wrri/conference/cfa.html>

Note: The material contained in this bulletin is a compilation from a number of electronic and print sources.

Eastern Carolina Council P0 Box 1717 New Bern, NC 28563-1717

Phone 252.638.3185 Ext. 3005 Fax 252.638.3187 Web <http://www.eccog.org> email jhills@eccog.org