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Community Medical, PA of Marshville and Dr. Gary Henry, along with Brandi Queen, FNP-C, Family Nurse Practitioner, welcomes new patients

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Andrea Harris Environmental Justice and Inclusion Subcommittee Invites Public Comment on Policy Recommendations

The Andrea Harris Task Force's Environmental Justice and Inclusion Subcommittee will host a listening session on Thursday, February 24 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. to hear comments from the public on priorities for addressing environmental justice concerns across the state. Listening session topics range from inequities in housing to overall impact of COVID-19 in North Carolina communities. A full list of topics for discussion are available to view on the Task Force website, ncadmin.nc.gov.

Meeting introductions will be offered in English and Spanish. Comments can be submitted in Spanish and will be translated after the session to ensure accuracy.

How You Can Participate Members of the public can sign up to provide comments by completing the online participant form by 4 p.m. on February 24. Each member of the public will be allowed a total of three minutes to speak.

- Attendees can participate online or by phone.
- Join via WebEx - Webinar #: 2435 790 4502; passcode: BSV68AYfpE7 (27868293 from phones)
- Join via phone: +1-415-655-0003 US Toll; +1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville); Access code: 243 579 04502

Not able to attend the listening session? Members of the public can submit comments through March 17, 2022. You may send your comments/suggestions in one of three ways.

- Complete the Andrea Harris Task Force public feedback form.
- Leave a voicemail at (919) 707-8626
- Mail correspondence to the NC Department of Administration at - Attn: Andrea Harris Task Force, 1301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1301

Established under Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order No. 143, the Task Force's mission is to address the social, environmental, economic, and health disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Task Force is comprised of five subcommittees targeting core areas including Access to Healthcare, Economic Opportunities and Business Development, Educational Opportunity, Environmental Justice and Inclusion, and Patient Engagement. Learn more about the Task Force including 2021 biannual report at ncadmin.nc.gov.

About NCDOA and the Andrea Harris Task Force The N.C. Department of Administration acts as the business manager for North Carolina state government. Under the leadership of Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell, the department oversees government operations and advocacy programs. The department's advocacy programs help to promote and assist diverse segments of the state's population that have been traditionally underserved. The Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force addresses the social, environmental, economic, and health disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Task Force is named in honor of the late civil rights activist, Andrea Harris, who dedicated her life to eliminating disparities in North Carolina, co-founding the non-profit Institute of Minority Economic Development in Durham and serving on the state's Advisory Council for Historically Underutilized Businesses.

Beware of Phony Forms for Free COVID-19 Test

U.S. households can now request free at-home COVID-19 test kits through a new Biden administration program. But as is the case with other major government initiatives, such as the stimulus checks, scammers are sure to try to take advantage. This time, be on the lookout for lookalike websites when requesting your tests. These scam sites may ask for payment or personal information, such as your Social Security number.

How the scam may work You hear about the free COVID-19 tests and do a search for it online. Or you see a post or ad on social media or receive an unsolicited email or text. These communications urge you to request your free tests immediately by clicking on a link.

You follow the link to a website that looks official at first glance. It may have the United States Postal Service (USPS) logo, just like the real website. It also has a form to request your tests. But when you start filling out the form, you notice something unusual. This fake version may ask you for personal information, such as your Social Security number or Medicare ID. It could also request your credit card details, under the guise of needing to pay for shipping (note: the real page does not ask for payment or your SSN). Before you know it, you have given up your information to a scammer.

Tips to identify a fake website

- Look closely at the domain name. One way that fake websites trick people is by using a domain name that is extremely close to a real business's or organization's domain name. For example, the real COVID-19 test request website is special.usps.com/testkits. Scammers may swap two letters or make a slight misspelling. If you find a spelling error in the domain name, you're not on the official site, and it's best to close the tab.
- Watch out for tricky subdomains. Sometimes attackers hope you will confuse a subdomain with the real domain name. For example, a scammer might use the subdomain name usps.faketestkit.com hoping you won't notice that "faketestkit.com" is not the correct domain name to get your free test kit, which is usps.com.
- The real website asks only for your name and address. You do not need to pay for the tests using the government program - even for shipping. And you will not be asked for insurance details, your Social Security number or any other sensitive information.

Highway Patrol Emphasizes Safety During School Year

As students across North Carolina go to school, the State Highway Patrol is requesting the motoring public to keep safe travel a top priority. More than 14,000 school buses will be hit the roadways, transporting over 790,000 children to and from school. With this in mind, motorists are encouraged to plan for delays as congestion is to be expected during the morning and afternoon commute.

Troopers statewide will increase their focus in and around school zones, monitoring driver behavior both before and after school. Emphasis will also be placed on ensuring motorists stop for school buses as troopers will ride on various buses during their respective routes.

According to state law, motorists are required to stop when a school bus is displaying its mechanical stop signal or flashing red lights and the bus is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers. The driver of any other vehicle that approaches the school bus from any direction on the same street, highway, or public vehicular area shall bring that other vehicle to a full stop and shall remain stopped.

"The primary focus of every student across our state should be on education," said Colonel Glenn McNeill Jr., commander of the State Highway Patrol. "Our mission is simple; ensure that focus does not waiver due to safety concerns while traveling to and from school."

Motorists are encouraged to follow the provided suggestion:

- Plan ahead for potential delays between the hours of 6 to 9 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.
 - Never pass a stopped school bus under any circumstance
 - Reduce speeds when approaching school zones
 - Avoid driving distracted
 - Be mindful of school bus stops along chosen routes
 - Stay alert in and around school zones for pedestrians and crossing guards
- While SHP and law enforcement across the state will be partnering to facilitate safe travel for students of every age, this responsibility must be shared by everyone. With this in mind, motorists are encouraged to assist the Patrol in reporting dangerous drivers by dialing *HP (*47) from their mobile device. Callers are requested to provide their location, nature of offense observed and description of the vehicle in question.

L & L Productions Presents a Gospel Dinner Event

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME! Saturday, Feb 26

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Show Time 6pm
Doors Open 5pm

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