

# the RECYCLER

Issue 5 | August 2016

**WIPE OUT WASTE**  
Waste Reduction in Mecklenburg County

WipeOutWaste.com



To start things off, we wanted to bring to your attention that Mecklenburg County has changed fees at our 4 full service recycling centers.

For a detailed look at the new fees click the box on the right or visit [www.WipeOutWaste.com](http://www.WipeOutWaste.com).

We have been extremely busy over the last 3 months with everything from Earth Day events, Recycle the Runway, and so much more. In the 5th issue of The Recycler I'll Share with you the successes that we have seen over the last few months, as well as a great Spotlight article on Opera Carolina who is going above and beyond with their "Opera Recycles" program and their plans for future recycling ventures. Also, based on some feedback that I received from the community, there will be an in-depth look at everything our Commercial Recycling programs have to offer. As with everything, we want this to be sustainable, and that starts with you! Send me an e-mail ([Aaron.Caudle@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Aaron.Caudle@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov)) letting me know what you think about The Recycler. Tell us your solid waste and recycling challenges and accomplishments for a chance to be featured as our above and beyond spotlight business.



Without further ado, let's jump in!

## KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP



### THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!

The 2016 Great American Cleanup had 213 cleanup events from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. We had an incredible **3,081 volunteers** that collected **3,196 bags of trash** and **796 bags** of recyclable material. These cleanups took a total of **11,755 hours** to complete. We could not be more excited about the success we saw at this year's Great American Cleanup, and it's all thanks to the volunteers!

# 2016 RECYCLE THE RUNWAY WINNERS



Recycle the Runway was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at North Lake Mall. It was a wonderful event that saw 9 Schools compete with 18 Fashions (2 from each school) presented, with a special appearance from Opera Carolina who modeled their recycled gowns from their Opera Recycles Program.

AWARD	PLACE & SCHOOL	TITLE OF PROJECT	WINNINGS
<b>Best in Show</b>	.....Mallard Creek HS, Viloki Patel .....	<i>With the Hot Pink Shoes</i> ....	\$5,000
<b>Creative use of Recyclable Materials</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> .....William Amos Hough HS, Sylvia Miller-Smith ....	<i>Monarch Butterfly</i> .....	\$2,000
	2 <sup>nd</sup> .....West Charlotte HS, Nakesha Meachem .....	<i>Pages of a Dream</i> .....	\$1,250
	3 <sup>rd</sup> .....Harding Unoiversity HS, Kim Aldridge .....	<i>Night on the Town</i> .....	\$750
<b>Greatest # of Different Recycled Materials</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> .....West Charlotte HS, Nakesha Meachem .....	<i>Mardi Gras</i> .....	\$2,000
	2 <sup>nd</sup> .....Mallard Creek HS, Viloki Patel .....	<i>Industrial Rose</i> .....	\$1,250
	3 <sup>rd</sup> .....Providence HS, Jill Simpson.....	<i>Princess Warrior</i> .....	\$750
<b>Mr. ConGreeniality</b>	Metro School, Kim Bumgarner.....	<i>King &amp; Queen of Hearts</i> ....	\$250
<b>Opera Carolina Tickets</b>	Harding University HS, Kim Aldridge .....	<i>Spain</i>	





### Opera Recycles Program

**WHO THEY ARE:** Founded in 1948 by the Charlotte Music Club, Opera Carolina is the largest Opera company in the Carolinas; annually serving more than 70,000 people in North and South Carolina through its main-stage productions and education programs.

In June of 2015, Megan Miller, the newly hired Director of Marketing at Opera Carolina, sat at her new office staring at a wall of stacked cardboard boxes that she was told to throw away. Peeking out of the top of the boxes were the brochures, postcards, bookmarks and other printed material that Opera Carolina used to promote their main-stage performances the previous year. Megan, raised to be environmentally conscious through her time spent on the coast of Florida with the Jupiter High School Environmental Research & Field Studies Academy, saw an opportunity. Rather than dump all the no longer needed printed material into the recycling bin she envisioned the collateral as high fashion couture that not only promoted the opera but also allowed for a creative use for now unneeded materials. And thus, Opera Recycles was born. The first Opera Recycles dress stemmed from collaboration with Kristen Alyce, CEO and designer of Garbage Gone Glam. Based out of Florida Garbage Gone Glam focuses exclusively on creating couture fashion out of recyclable material. In addition to the Garbage Gone Glam dress Opera Carolina also partnered with local designers, Emily Kramer and Sarah Danee. All three designers created dresses featuring a variety of different collateral that once lived, neglected, in the cardboard boxes. All three dresses have walked various runways in the past year. Kramer and Danee's dress were featured at Passport to Fashion while the dresses designed by Garbage Gone Glam and Kramer walked the runway at Charlotte Mecklenburg County's Recycle the Runway. Along with their runway debuts each dress was modeled live at its corresponding production to delight the opera attendees.

To date, through the Opera Recycles initiative, Opera Carolina has converted more than 7,500 pieces of marketing material into fashion pieces. Be on the lookout for their dresses around Charlotte! Starting late summer the dresses will have new temporary homes in storefronts across Charlotte. Heading into its second year, four more dresses have been commissioned for the 2016/17 season created from over 500 pounds of collateral and they promise to be as glamorous and creative as their predecessors.

You can see the new Opera Recycles dresses during Opera Carolina's 2016/17 main-stage productions: Barber of Seville (October 22, 27, 30), La Traviata (January 22, 26 28) and The Girl of the West (April 23, 27, 29) at Belk Theater.



# Learn about Mecklenburg County's Business Recycling Programs that could help YOUR company HERE

## WOW Ambassador Program's Summer Luncheon & Tour: Ritz-Carlton

The Ambassador Program's Summer Luncheon & Tour welcomed 40 attendees at the Ritz-Carlton Charlotte on June 7th. As The Ritz-Carlton's first LEED Gold Certified building, sustainability is incorporated from top to bottom of this premier luxury hotel.

The tour began on the Hotel's Green Roof—a unique feature designed to reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect and to lower the Hotel's energy consumption. The second stop of the tour was the Hotel's renowned Punch Room, located on the 15th floor. Surrounded by plush furnishings and floor-to-ceiling city views, attendees learned how the hotel successfully recycled 87% of the waste generated during construction. The final stop of the tour highlighted the Hotel's compost operations. Located on the ground floor, the Hotel's compost program captures the food waste produced during the preparation of the Hotel's cuisine.



## Business Recycling Ordinance

In 2002, Mecklenburg County and local business leaders worked together to create the Source Separation Ordinance. This law requires Mecklenburg County businesses to recycle corrugated cardboard and office paper, and to keep these materials separate from nonrecyclable trash. To assist your business in meeting its obligations under the ordinance, we have developed this quick-reference.

### Does My Business Have To Comply?

Your business must comply with the Source Separation Ordinance if:



- It is located in Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, the towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill or Pineville
- Your business is contracting for  $\geq 16$  cubic yards of garbage service per week
- Your business is generating more than 500 lbs/month of corrugated cardboard and/or office paper.

### How to Comply

Keep corrugated cardboard and office paper separate from your business' non-recyclable trash. For the purpose of recycling, contract with a vendor to pick up your recyclables or self-haul these materials to one of our free and conveniently located Commercial Drop-off Centers.

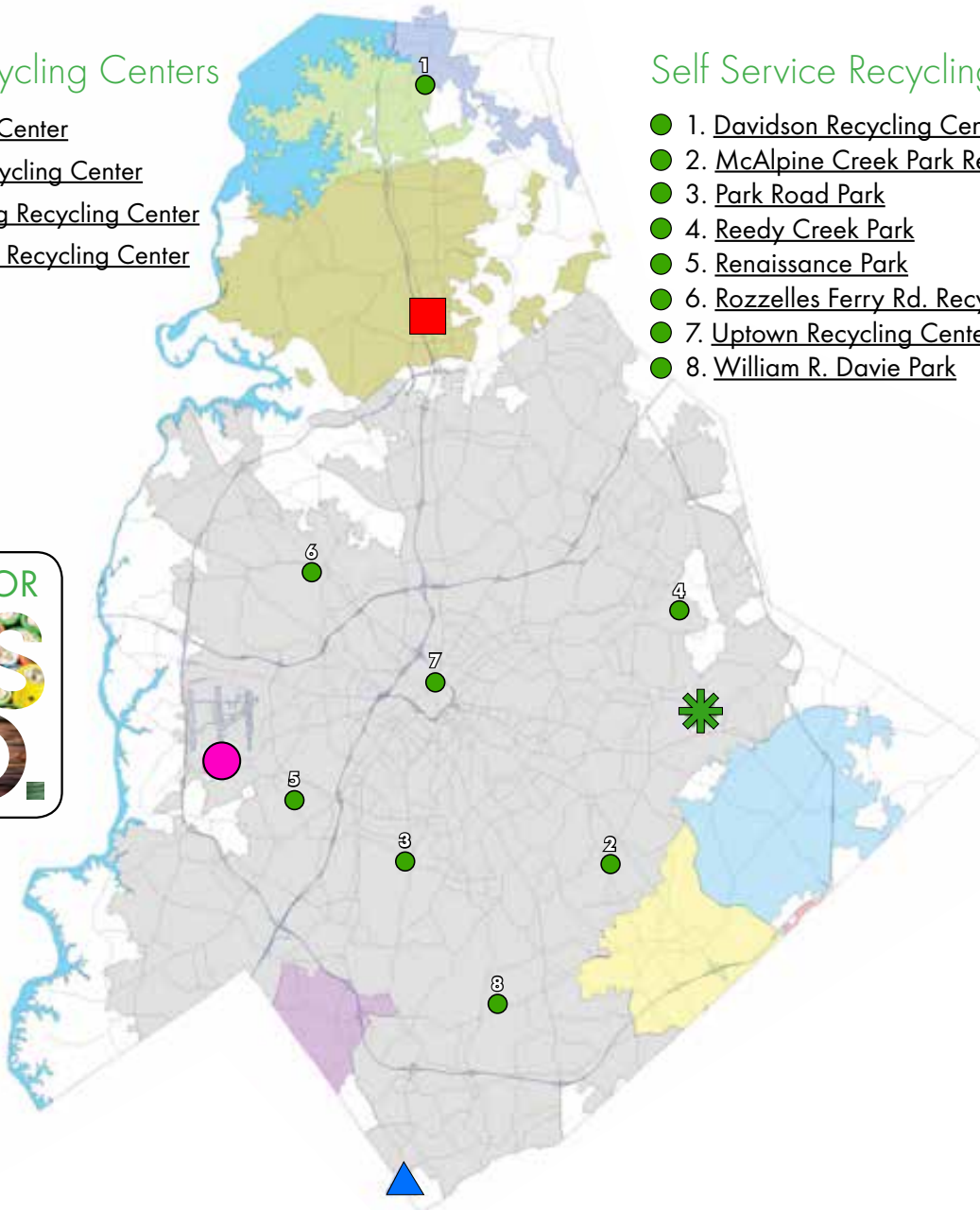
# Full Service & Self Service Recycling Centers

## Full Service Recycling Centers

-  [Foxhole Recycling Center](#)
-  [Hickory Grove Recycling Center](#)
-  [North Mecklenburg Recycling Center](#)
-  [West Mecklenburg Recycling Center](#)

## Self Service Recycling Centers

-  1. [Davidson Recycling Center](#)
-  2. [McAlpine Creek Park Recycling Center](#)
-  3. [Park Road Park](#)
-  4. [Reedy Creek Park](#)
-  5. [Renaissance Park](#)
-  6. [Rozzelles Ferry Rd. Recycling Center](#)
-  7. [Uptown Recycling Center](#)
-  8. [William R. Davie Park](#)



Mecklenburg County businesses may only drop off recyclables, construction and demolition debris (C&D), and yard waste, provided vehicles meet the requirements stated in the [Full Service Recycling Center Guidelines](#). Fees may apply to C&D debris and yard waste.



# Comments or Questions?

Feel Free to Contact Mecklenburg County Solid Waste Management

**Please Note: Our telephone numbers have changed**

Commercial/Business Recycling

**Ryan Johnson** ..... 980-314-3872

Source Separation Ordinance & Inspections

**Aaron Caudle** ..... 980-314-3854

Residential Recycling

**Derrick Harris** ..... 980-314-3859

Keep Mecklenburg Beautiful

**Isaac Nicholson** ..... 980-314-3861

Construction & Demolition Recycling

**Michael Talbert** ..... 980-314-3868

Environmental Supervisor

**Derrick Harris** ..... 980-314-3859

Environmental Manager

**Laurette Hall** ..... 980-314-3865

**For City of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County Information call 311.**

# Towns' Information



Cornelius  
704.892.6031



Davidson  
704.892.7591



Matthews  
704.847.3640



Mint Hill  
704.545.9726



Huntersville  
704.875.6541



Pineville  
704.889.2291

## The following residential items can be taken to any of the 4 Mecklenburg County Full-Service Recycling & Convenience Centers:



Household Hazardous Waste



Used Motor & Cooking Oil



Electronics



Batteries (Including car batteries)



Appliances



Small Appliances



Scrap Metal & Auto Parts