

News

Beltline Expansion Behind Schedule

By Sarah Kiser, Editor-in-Chief

In August of 2017, the Meredith College community was informed that the North Carolina Department of Transportation was planning to take up to 19 acres of its land that borders on the beltway where there is currently a sports field, foliage, and the Raleigh greenway. *The Meredith Herald* spoke with NCDOT employee John Williams to cover the issue in that same month. The NCDOT informed the public that a decision on a design-build construction design would be made by February about what to do at Wade Avenue. Months passed and no one heard anything. Meredith students left in the spring expecting to return to wonderland to find it torn and trampled by bulldozers. This was not the case. The same grassy field and line of ancient trees waves in the wind as before.

That means either something or nothing occurred which protected Meredith's land for the time being. Representatives of the College, students, and alumnae raised concerns to the NCDOT that the land they intend to take is the only land Meredith has left for future expansion since this is not the first time the State of North Carolina has closed in on the College's property.

While documents distributed by the NCDOT in August of 2017 read that the Final Environmental Document was anticipated to be published in Nov. 2017, the NCDOT's website says, as of Sept. 25 2018, that the document was finalized in May 2018.

Sean Williams, a public relations officer for the NCDOT, was not sure why the environmental document was finished later than expected. Williams said that since August of 2017, "the division has been filing requests for proposals." After three rounds, there are 4 shortlisted teams: Archer Western Construction, LLC, Granite Construction Company, S.T. Wooten-Zachary Design-Build Team, and The Lane Construction Corporation.

On Oct. 2, the division will open price proposals "with award coming soon after" according to Williams, meaning that a bidder will be picked and the project can move forward. Then the amount of land to be taken from Meredith College's property will be determined.

After that date, the public may hear more news. Right of way acquisition and construction under design-build contract are both planned to occur sometime this year.

Sizzlin' September in October

By Abigail Ojeda, Features Editor

Do you want to meet up with friends that you didn't see over the summer, or get to know other Meredith students? Save time for the Meredith Sizzlin' September Street Fest that has been rescheduled for Oct. 12, from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the chapel parking lot.

The best part about this weekend plan is that it's completely free, and there will be live music, food trucks, carnival games, activity booths, and giveaways. Students can sign up for free meal vouchers to choose from one of four food trucks (check your emails in the coming days for the link).

Emily Berrier, '19, said that Sizzlin' September has been a way for her to spend time with old friends while reconnecting with people she

didn't know as well: "I went last year with my little, but spent time with friends who I didn't know as well and wanted to get to know better," she said.

Live music will be played throughout the evening. The Catalinas, a beach music band, will kick off the event followed by the N.C. State acapella group, Grains of Time.

Last year, Maggie Mertz went as a freshman and enjoyed the combination of music, food, friends, and having fun: "It's a great time to socialize and get to know new people," she commented. This event is sponsored by the Meredith Activities Board, and guests are welcome to come and participate. Don't miss out on this annual event!

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We Want YOU to Vote!

By Olivia Slack, Staff Writer

On November 6, get ready to cast your ballots, because it's Election Day 2018. For some students, this may be their first time voting, so here are a few ways you can get ready for the big day.

First thing first, you have to register to vote. Meredith makes it easy to do this, as they provide a link to a website called TurboVote where you can register to vote. You can find the link to TurboVote on the right side of your Brightspace home page underneath your course list. Make sure to register by October 12, or else you won't be able to vote in November.

Once you're registered to vote, make sure that you inform yourself on candidates and their positions on issues that are important to you. No matter if you consider yourself a Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or other, a responsible voter should look into the positions of all candidates. Make sure that you don't just vote along party lines, but for individuals who represent your beliefs, even if they are from the "other party." Take just a little bit

of time and research the candidates running for office in your area.

Third, be sure that you know where you can vote. You can find your assigned polling place by visiting www.wakegov.com/elections/voters. If you're unable to get to the polls on November 6, there are a few options for you. First, you can vote early at one of nine different locations, October 17 through November 3. To find out more information about early voting in Wake County, you can visit www.wakegov.com/elections/info/early. You can also request an absentee ballot from the State Board of Elections website.

Finally, please do cast your vote this year; do right by yourself, your country and Meredith College! In 2016, Meredith was given a silver medal for voter registration and participation, and had the highest rates in the state.

As a citizen, the best way to ensure that your voice is heard is to elect representatives who will advocate for you. Exercise your right to vote this Tuesday, November 6.

Retraction from September 12: In "Plant Blindness" *The Herald* mistakenly reported a sequoia tree in front of Harris Hall instead of the correct Sycamore tree.