

AT YOUR SERVICE

GREENSBORO CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

January 2012



Happy New Year from the City

Happy New Year from the City of Greensboro! The City offers a variety of services to make Greensboro a great place to live, work, and play. Learn more by visiting www.greensboro-nc.gov or by calling 373-CITY (2489) if you have any questions, concerns, or are in need of service.

New Year's Trash/Recycling Schedule

City offices, buildings and facilities are closed Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's. No garbage, recycling, bulk trash, yard waste, and appliance collections take place on New Year's. Monday's collections take place on Tuesday, January 3. Tuesday's collections take place on Wednesday, January 4.

January City Council Meetings

Greensboro City Council meets on Tuesday, January 17. Meetings are open to the public and aired live on Channel 13 and at www.greensboro-nc.gov. Parking is available in the Greene Street Parking Deck.

Call for E-Waste Pickup Service

Need to dispose of old electronics such as televisions and computer equipment? Greensboro residents can now call 373-CITY (2489) to schedule next day collection service. Items will be taken to the City's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center where they will be safely dismantled and their parts recycled. Greensboro residents can also take electronic items to the HHW Collection Center, 2750 Patterson St., themselves. Hours are 10 am to 6 pm Wednesdays through Fridays and 8 am to 2 pm Saturdays. For more information, call 373-CITY or visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/HHW.

City ED Business Office Opens



John Shoffner, EDBS's economic development manager

The City's new Economic Development and Business Support (EDBS) office is now open and ready for business. The office is conveniently located inside the 300 W. Washington St. entrance to the Melvin Municipal Office Building. EDBS' goal is to create economic development opportunities with an emphasis on helping businesses create jobs, grow, and succeed, while offering great customer service. The

focus is on small business creation and retention by coordinating activities and initiatives with local and regional organizations. EDBS will also make presentations to City Council, community groups, and City management on behalf of small businesses. To assist, the City has hired Reggie Delahanty as its Small Business Coordinator to work with the small and emerging business community. For more information, call 373-2489 (CITY) and select business services option #2.

Greensboro First NC City to Receive IAS Accreditation



E&I Department Director Butch Simmons (left) and the now retired Development Services' Manager David Jones

The City's Engineering and Inspections Department's building division is the first city department in North Carolina to receive the International Accreditation Service (IAS) award, and is only the thirteenth department in the world to receive the accreditation. The department was evaluated on IAS criteria including basic jurisdictional information, department staff, permitting, budget, construction codes, plan reviews, professional credentials/licenses, inspections, certificates of occupancy, on-site evaluations, annual reports, and complaints/appeals. Other assessments

included document and policy review, and interviewing customers, staff, and City officials. Construction sites were also visited to appraise the performance of the City's inspection process.

2012 Housing Summit is February 29

On February 29, from 8:15 am to 2 pm at Emerald Event Center, 2300 E. Wendover Ave., residents will have the opportunity to learn about living in a "green and healthy" community. The cost is \$30 for Greensboro Coalition members and \$40 for non-members if received by February 19. After that date, the cost is an additional \$5. Registration is due by February 20. For a registration form, go to www.guilfordnonprofits.org and "Events." Payments may be mailed to Greensboro Housing Coalition, 122 N. Elm St., Suite M-2, Greensboro, NC 27401. For more information, call 691-3521.

January is Child Internet Safety Month



Children spend a lot of time online. To keep them as safe in the virtual world as they are in the real world, follow these tips:

- Talk to your child about the risks of Internet use. Set boundaries on your child's use of the computer. Discuss what types of sites are off-limits, and what types of messages are inappropriate. Then, supervise your child while he or she is online until you build trust.
- Place computers in an open area where their use is easier to monitor. Avoid having computers in a child's room; privacy can be detrimental.
- Know what online video games your child is playing. Gaming systems with Internet access allow cyber-predators to play alongside youth.
- Install content blockers and filters. They allow you more control over where your child goes and what he or she does online.
- Consider tracking software. This software enables you to see what sites your child has visited by tracking a path online.
- Check your child's e-mail, social media sites, and text messages to ensure content is age-appropriate and not harmful. Cyber-bullying is largely undetected because it occurs in the context of taunts or malicious messages sent electronically.

Loose Leaf Collection Underway Through January

The City's annual Loose Leaf Collection program is underway. Leaves that were curbside by December 19 will be picked up by January 27. To view an interactive map showing leaf collection status, go to www.greensboro-nc.gov/leafcollection.com.

City Revises Efforts to Collect Unpaid Fines and Fees

Starting in January, the City is referring unpaid parking tickets and inactive water bills that are more than 45 days past due to an outside collection agency. In addition, the collection agency will refer all debt that it is attempting to collect to a credit reporting agency (Experian, Equifax, Trans Union, etc.).

Residents who owe on an unpaid ticket or water bill are encouraged to contact the City at 373-CITY (2489) to make the payment. Once an account is referred to the collection agency, the City will still accept payment, but payment arrangements (installment agreement or plans) may no longer be an option.

Payments can also be made in person by visiting the Collections Office at 300 W. Washington St. or the cashier window at 2602 S. Elm St. between 8 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, or by mail by sending checks to the City of Greensboro, Collections Division, PO Box 3136, Greensboro, NC 27402.

2012-2013 Trash/Recycling Schedule

For changes in collection service days due to holidays, refer to the following schedule for 2012-2013:

No collection on New Year's Day - Monday, Jan. 2

Monday's collection is on Tuesday, Jan. 3
Tuesday's collection is on Wednesday, Jan. 4

No collection on MLK Birthday - Monday, Jan. 16

Monday's collection is on Tuesday, January 17
Tuesday's collection is on Wednesday, January 18

No collection on Good Friday - Friday, April 6

Thursday's collection is on Wednesday, April 4
Friday's collection is on Thursday, April 5

No collection on Memorial Day - Monday, May 28

Monday's collection is on Tuesday, May 29
Tuesday's collection is on Wednesday, May 30

No collection on Labor Day - Monday, September 3

Monday's collection is on Tuesday, September 4
Tuesday's collection is on Wednesday, September 5

No collection on Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 22

Thursday's collection is on Wednesday, November 21
Friday's collection remains the same

No collection on Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

Monday's collection remains the same
Tuesday's collection is on Wednesday, December 26

No collection on New Year's Day 2013 - Tuesday, January 1

Tuesday's collection is on Monday, December 31

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