

AT YOUR SERVICE

GREENSBORO CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 2011



Black History Month Events

The Greensboro Public Library and Greensboro Historical Museum are hosting Black History Month events for all ages throughout the month of February. Programs include author visits, movies, children's programs, book discussions and live performances. For a complete listing of events, search for library events on the online calendar at greensboro-nc.gov.

March Council Meetings

Greensboro City Council meets on Tuesdays, March 1 and 15, at 5:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington St. Meetings are open to the public and aired live on Channel 13 and online at greensboro-nc.gov. Parking is available in the Greene Street Parking Deck.

Water Rate Reduction

City Council has approved an additional 3 percent reduction in water rates for City residents. This comes as an addition to the 3 percent reduction that went into effect January 1. The new reduction will be applied beginning February 1.

Greensboro Police Win Award

The Greensboro Police Department (GPD) has been selected as a National Award winner by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) for its participation in 2010's National Night Out (NNO) crime, drug and violence prevention program.

Award recipients are selected based on the area's participation and a post-event report detailing what has been done to positively alter crime that year. GPD's report detailed SCORE efforts by each of its Community Resource Team squads and other City department partners. For this year's NNO, GPD registered more than 100 communities as participants.

City Swings into Action for Youth Sports

Have you often wondered what to do with used sports equipment once your kids have stopped playing, or outgrown their gear? A new organization, created in partnership with the Greensboro Police Department (GPD), Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department and Ricky Proehl's POWER of Play Foundation is ready to take that equipment off your hands.

Tyler's Locker is a nonprofit that benefits the underserved youth of the Greensboro Community. The nonprofit solicits and provides sports equipment and participation opportunities to Greensboro youth who otherwise would not have the means to participate in organized sports programs.

Through the program, new and used sports equipment is collected and distribution to youth who have demonstrated a desire to participate in a Greensboro Parks and Recreation organized sports program, but lack the funding and equipment. With former Carolina Panther Ricky Proehl as the charity's spokesperson and Omega Sports as a corporate sponsor, all collected sports equipment and monetary gifts are forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Department for inventory, while the GPD aids in the collection and distribution process. To donate to the program, visit Omega Sports, 2431 Battleground Ave., and drop off any new or used sports equipment or make a monetary donation.



NeighborWoods Grant Program

The City of Greensboro is now accepting applications for its 2011 NeighborWoods Grant. The program provides trees to Greensboro neighborhoods to help replace those that have been damaged or lost.

The NeighborWoods Grant - a partnership between the City of Greensboro, Greensboro Beautiful Inc. and the NC Cooperative Extension Service - provides up to 150 trees and mulch for one neighborhood each year. NeighborWoods representatives also work with residents to educate and assist them in the planting and maintenance of the trees.



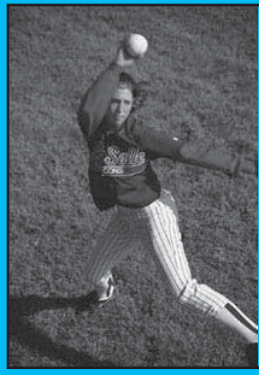
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Registration Now Open for City Sporting Events

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for adult women's softball and the 2011 Greater Greensboro Senior Games and SilverArts competition.

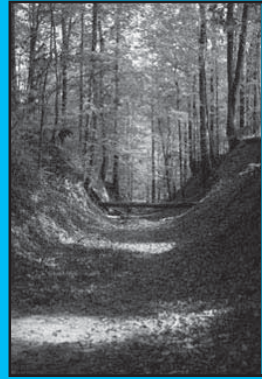
The women's softball league is open to adults, at least 18 years old. Team registration is \$475 for teams inside Guilford County and \$845 for teams outside of the county. Deadline for registration is March 1. Individuals interested in participating should contact Paula Boykin at 373-2946.

Each year, more than 200 seniors (age 55 and older) compete in a variety of sporting events and exhibit their artwork in a number of fine arts categories in the senior games and silverarts competition. Registration to compete is open until March 18. For more information, contact the Greensboro Seniors' Unit at 375-2237.



Trail Building Workshop

The City is seeking assistance from Greensboro residents to help build North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail in Guilford and Alamance counties. Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department and the Haw River Trail Partnership of Alamance County will be hosting an advanced trail building workshop Saturday, March 5, from 9 am to 4 pm. To register for the workshop or learn more about the trail, contact Parks and Recreation at 373-2574.



373-CITY

The City's Contact Center, reached by calling 373-CITY (2489), is available from 7 am to 6 pm, Mondays through Fridays, to answer questions or address concerns from Greensboro residents. For a variety of information on City services, from how to dispose of an old appliance, to reporting a malfunctioning traffic light, to checking on the status of a water bill, the City Services Representatives are available to help.

Daylight Savings Time Begins in March

On Sunday, March 13, Daylight Savings Time begins. The Greensboro Fire Department reminds all residents to change the batteries in their smoke alarms when setting their clocks forward. Residents who have malfunctioning alarms, or who are in need of an alarm, can contact the Fire Department at 574-4088.

Follow the City of Greensboro on Twitter at twitter.com/greensborocity

NeighborWoods Grant (cont...)

Funding for the NeighborWoods program is provided through support from the American Express Charitable Fund and private donations made to the Greensboro Beautiful Tree Fund. Anyone interested in providing funds to purchase trees and mulch for the program should contact Greensboro Beautiful at 373-2199.

Grant applications are available on the City's website at greensboro-nc.gov/neighborwoods and are due by May 31. For more information, contact Greensboro Urban Forester Mike Cusimano at 373-2150.

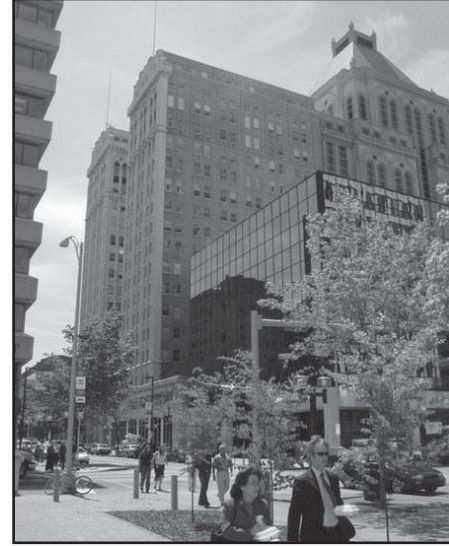
Website Photo Contest

Whether photography is your passion, your hobby, or just an occasional pastime, the City invites you to participate in its website photo contest. The contest celebrates the beauty and unique character of Greensboro, while compiling a collection of the area's best portraits for use on the City's new website, expected to go online this spring.

Winning photos will be displayed on the new greensboro-nc.gov home page, beginning this summer. Both amateur and professional photographers are welcome to participate.

Photographs will be accepted in multiple categories, including the City's downtown, skyline, history, recreation, beauty and landmarks.

For complete contest rules and information, visit greensboro-nc.gov/photocontest.



Latest Statistics Show Crime Reduction

According to annual crime statistics compiled by the Greensboro Police Department, violent crime in the City is down 24 percent, while property crime has decreased by 9 percent compared to the same months measured in 2009. In addition, the police department's clearance rate - or the measure of crimes solved by the department - continues to exceed the national average as the aggravated assault rate is 75 percent, while larceny is 48 percent.

Police Chief Ken Miller says many strategies have led to crime reduction, including an increase in police staffing, crime hot spot targeting and improved communications with City residents.



City Outreach Events on the Horizon

Feedback from Greensboro residents is extremely important to City Council and management. That's why the City is preparing its new slate of spring outreach events, designed to bring representatives from the City to the residents to discuss important topics like the City budget and neighborhood issues. While event dates and locations for budget discussions and the next round of neighborhood walks are not yet finalized, stay tuned to the City's website at greensboro-nc.gov for the most up-to-date information.

