

# AT YOUR SERVICE

GREENSBORO CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

JANUARY 2010



## *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 for us to live, work and play. Learn more by visiting [greensboro-nc.gov](http://greensboro-nc.gov) or by calling 336-373-CITY (2489).

## *Holiday trash/recycling schedule*

City of Greensboro offices, buildings and facilities will be closed Monday, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will also be no trash/recycling collection on that day. Monday's collection will take place Tuesday, January 19, and Tuesday's collection will take place Wednesday, January 20. Questions? Call the City's Contact Center at 336-373-CITY (2489).

## *Music Center Mosaic Concert*

The 3rd annual Music Center Mosaic Concert will be held Sunday, January 31, at 4 pm at the War Memorial Auditorium, 1921 W. Lee St. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). Proceeds benefit the Music Center. Learn more about the Music Center by visiting [city-arts.org](http://city-arts.org) or by calling 336-373-2549.



## *January Council Meetings*

Greensboro City Council meets on Tuesday, January 5 and 19, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington St. Council meetings are open to the public and aired live on Channel 13 and online at [greensboro-nc.gov](http://greensboro-nc.gov). Parking is available in the Greene Street Parking Deck.

## Benjamin Library Reopens



After closing for renovation more than a year ago, the Benjamin Branch Library reopens January 7. The newly renovated facility features an updated and refreshed collection of books, periodicals and videos, as well as additional computer stations. It also features separate areas dedicated to teens and children and a redesigned, more inviting meeting room with views to the outside. In addition to these enhancements, public art will be on display inside the library.

These upgrades were made possible by a 2006 voter-approved library facilities bond.

Stop by the branch, located at 1530 Benjamin Parkway, to check out the changes. Also, visit any of the City's library branches for books, videos, story times and much more!

Learn more about the Greensboro Public Library and its services by visiting [greensborolibrary.org](http://greensborolibrary.org).

## Heating Safety Tips

With cold weather upon us, many residents have begun using space heaters and other heating devices to help keep their homes warm. While heaters can be a good way to warm up your home, they can also be dangerous if not used properly. According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2006 heating equipment was the cause of an estimated 64,100 reported home fires, 540 deaths, 1,400 injuries and \$943 million in property damage. Also, heaters are the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

So before you plug your heater up, take the following precautions:

- Pull furniture and other combustible items at least three feet away from any heater.
- Heaters should only be used for a limited amount of time each day.

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## New Director of Parks & Recreation Selected



Gregory Jackson has been selected as the City's new director of Parks & Recreation. Jackson, who is currently director of Park Operations & Athletic Services for Mecklenburg County's Park & Recreation, will oversee the department's efforts to provide quality, diverse year-round leisure opportunities for residents and visitors of Greensboro. He

assumes his duties on January 16.

Jackson brings more than 20 years of experience working in parks and recreation to his new role.

Previous work experience includes serving as park district general manager for Mecklenburg County's Park & Recreation Department, facilities supervisor for Lee County's Parks & Recreation Department in Ft. Myers, Fla., and assistant park program supervisor for Collier County's Parks & Recreation Department in Naples, Fla.

## GTA Enhances Two Popular Daily Routes

Beginning January 2, the Greensboro Transit Authority (GTA) will implement service changes to Route 9-West Market Street and Route 15-Yanceyville Street/Brightwood School Road to better serve customers. Several of route 9's bus stops along Wright Avenue will be relocated, while route 15 will add additional stops in the Yanceyville Street/Lees Chapel Road area. To learn more about these changes, visit [ridegta.com](http://ridegta.com) or call 336-373-6499.

## Choral Society Selects New Conductor

The City's Parks & Recreation Department and The Music Center of City Arts has selected Jon Brotherton as conductor of the Choral Society of Greensboro, a 130-plus member community chorus.

Brotherton is chair of Greensboro College's music department and director of its choral activities.

Under Brotherton's direction, the Choral Society of Greensboro will begin rehearsals on January 5 in preparation for its February 20 OPUS Concert Series performance.



## Exotic Snakes Make Greensboro Home

Bur-Mil Park has added a new snake exhibit at the Frank Sharp Jr. Wildlife Education Center, 5834 Bur-Mil Club Rd. The two-level display features a Ball Python and Rainbow Boa Constrictor. The habitat closely simulates the natural environment of snakes with special attention given to factors such as proper temperature and humidity.

The exhibit is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm and admission is free of charge. Come out and see these exotic snakes and welcome them to their new home! For more information, contact Ben Boven, Bur-Mil Park program coordinator, at 336-373-3819.

## Stay Connected

Get updates on City services on  
[Twitter.com/greensborocity](https://twitter.com/greensborocity)

## Heating Safety Tips (cont...)

- Never run a heater's cord under rugs or carpet.
- Don't place heaters in high-traffic areas of your home.
- Don't place anything on top of your heater.
- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, keep portable heaters away from water and never touch one if you're wet.
- If you're using a kerosene heater, only use crystal clear K-1 kerosene— never gasoline or camp stove fuel.

Along with fire, another potential danger of heating devices is carbon monoxide poisoning. If you have any appliances or equipment that burn propane, natural gas, kerosene, wood, etc., you should install a carbon monoxide detector.

And as always, remember to place at least one smoke detector on each level of your home. The Greensboro Fire Department will provide smoke detectors and/or replacement batteries free to any resident in the city. If you are in need of one, call 336-547-4088.

For more heating safety tips, visit [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org).

## City Makes Disposing Christmas Trees Easy

Now that the holidays are over, you may be wondering what to do with your Christmas tree. No need to worry, the City has you covered. Christmas trees are collected on your regular trash collection day. Be sure to remove all decorations and place your tree at

the curb by 7 am. Trees that are over five feet tall should be cut in half or into manageable segments. Trees may also be disposed of at the White Street Landfill, located at 2503 White St.

Also, please note that wrapping paper is not recyclable. However, it is reusable, as are ribbons, bows, tissue paper and gift bags. Neatly fold them, store them with your other Christmas items and reuse them next Christmas.

For more information call 336-373-CITY (2489).



## For Your Information

~ Beginning January 1, carbon monoxide detectors will be required in all existing rental units and new homes. They will also be required in existing homes that are being upgraded and renovated. For more information, call the City's Engineering & Inspections Department at 336-373-2155.

~ Every 10 years, the US Census Bureau counts everyone residing in the United States. The next census will take place in April and the City wants everyone in Greensboro to be counted. By participating, you can help create a better future for our community. Can Greensboro count on you? Learn more by visiting [2010.census.gov](http://2010.census.gov).

~ The City's annual Loose Leaf Collection Program wraps up January 22. If you missed out, remember that the City offers year-round leaf pick-up. Simply put your leaves in a clear plastic bag or metal garbage can and set them at the curb on your regular trash collection day. For more information, call 336-373-CITY (2489).