



February, 2015

Are you prepared for a Winter Storm?



The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the “Deceptive Killers” because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. People die in traffic accidents on icy roads and hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. It is important to be prepared for winter weather before it strikes. Preparing for winter weather before it strikes is easy and will go a long way to helping you and your loved ones stay safe. Download the [American Red Cross's Winter Storm Safety Checklist](#) and prepare today!

Concord's Snow & Ice Removal Process.

During the winter season, City staff continually monitors the weather forecasts from several sources. Once it is determined that winter weather is eminent, a departmental meeting is called where staff discuss preparedness activities and issues which might arise. From this meeting, a response plan is developed.

Pre-Treating Roads

Depending on the forecast, crews usually begin operations by pre-treating roads. This anti-icing practice involves applying an amount of salt brine before the storm begins. Salt distribution typically continues until all priority roads are completed or until it is no longer effective to salt. If the event is mild, it may be all that is needed to keep the roads drivable.



The Plowing Process

City of Concord snow plow operators work diligently around the clock to plow roads based on an adopted plan. This plan is followed to ensure that the primary or “bare pavement” streets are treated/plowed first. These consist of emergency snow routes and other main collector streets which connect major sections of the City to provide access for emergency fire, police, EMS, commercial businesses or area bus routes. Plowing occurs within the confines of the curb line to curb line of the street. This priority system attempts to keep open the roads that serve the greatest number of people. The City also coordinates with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for plowing of state maintained roads. NCDOT is responsible for all the major roadways such as I-85 and ramps, Branchview, NC Hwy 49, and US Hwy 29.

Please Be Patient

Removal is a time-consuming job and depending on the amount of snow/ice on the roadways it may take longer to clear the roads. City crew work around the clock to plow some 700 miles of roads with 13 trucks. As crews make progress, updates are provided periodically through various channels, including [Facebook](#), [Nextdoor](#) and on the City's [website](#). Visit concordnc.gov for more info and to view the [Snow and Ice Abatement Plan](#).

Welcome New and Returning Neighborhood Leaders!

Congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected neighborhood leaders. Thank you for your dedication to your neighborhood. Your service to your neighborhood will benefit your neighbors and the City of Concord! If you have not done so already, please [click here and provide your organization's updated contact information](#). Simply type in the appropriate cells for your organization and all changes will be saved automatically. Please also verify your meeting information and/or update as necessary. Feel free to [email](#) this information.



SAVE THE DATE

Regional 'Portrait Paint-Off' – Saturday, Feb. 7, 3-6 p.m..

Bring your family and friends to the ClearWater Artist Studios, 223 Crowell Dr. NW, Concord (located in the Gibson Village Neighborhood) on Saturday February 7, 2015, 3-6pm to observe nationally recognized portrait painters from the Concord area. Artist will paint live from a single model in the inaugural Sun Drop Pound Cake Portrait Paint-Off. Sun Drop Pound Cakes will be provided by Concord's Chef's Choice and A Sweet Life bakeries. Spoken Word poets will perform improvised works about what's happening on the spot, and artist studios throughout the building will be open for viewing. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 704-784-9535 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterArtistStudios>.

Dormant Status for Inactive Neighborhoods

Communication is the cornerstone of the relationship that we have with each neighborhood. Therefore, maintaining both contact and an open channel to disseminate city related information when needed is very important. For that reason, two years ago a designation of "dormant status" was established for inactive neighborhood groups. Neighborhoods in "dormant status" will be removed from the official recognized neighborhood listing and are not eligible for NMG funding, until such time as they re-activate their status. This will allow staff to refocus time and resources of the program to neighborhoods that are active.

However so, a goal of the program is to help associations be strong and successful - so if for whatever reason your neighborhood is struggling to hold meetings then please let me know so that I can possibly assist with discovering any significant barriers or to provide one-on-one organizational support.

A notice of the dormant status designation will be sent to the last provided list of elected officers for the neighborhood organization. Designations are also noted on the list of neighborhood organizations – [click here](#) to view the list.

Cabarrus County School offers FREE Parent Resource.

CCS has partnered with *ReadyRosie* to provide high quality early learning experiences to parents and caregivers of 0-5 year olds throughout the community. Every parent and caregiver of a 0-5 year old within Cabarrus County can sign-up for free daily videos, delivered directly to their email. The videos are available in English and Spanish and are designed to equip parents and caregivers with strategies to prepare their children for kindergarten. The videos can be viewed from a smart phone, tablet, or any other computer device connected to the internet. [Read more.](#)



Loose Leaf Collection – Second Chance Collection Program

Solid Waste Services is once again offering the Second Chance collection program for those who missed the last collection and is willing to pay rather than to bag their leaves and avoid the Code Enforcement penalties. The program will be available weekdays from February 2-6 and February 9-13. To participate, residents should call the Customer Care Center at [704-920-5555](tel:704-920-5555). Second Chance collections will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis; the City will only schedule as many collections as one loose leaf crew can provide during the two-week time period. Learn more at concordnc.gov.

Concord Wildlife Alliance needs your help.

To achieve Community Wildlife Habitat Certification, Concord only needs 60 more backyards (apartment balconies count, too!) within Concord city limits to certify. If we receive these before the end of February, we will be the largest city in the state and the fastest municipality in the state to achieve certification.



This is your opportunity to help our community obtain this very important certification. To certify your home, [click here](#) to get started. For more information, contact Concord Environmental Educator - [Mandy Smith-Thompson](#) [704-920-5379](tel:704-920-5379).

Good Neighbor Tip: Vehicle Storage/ DIY car repair

Fixing up that car may be your weekend pleasure, but if it is on the street or visible on your property and not drivable, partially dismantled or wrecked with expired tags, we consider it a “junk motor vehicle.” So to help do your part to keep your neighborhood looking nice, move the vehicle into the garage or an accessory building when you are not doing repairs. Doing this will ensure that your neighbors have a beautiful view and you won’t risk getting cited by City Code Enforcement for a violation. City of Concord Code Enforcement is responsible for enforcing ordinances relating to nuisances. A nuisance can be an overgrown lawn, trash and debris in yards, indoor furniture on porches, appliances in yards, junked or abandoned vehicles, or overgrown vacant lots. To report any code violation, you can call the Customer Care Center at [704-920-5555](tel:704-920-5555).



Crime Prevention Tip: Identity Theft.



Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it without your permission. It’s a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, and reputation — and can take time, money, and patience to resolve. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) estimates that as many as nine million Americans have their identities stolen each year. In fact, you or someone you know may have experienced some form of identity theft. To learn more about preventing identity theft, visit the National Crime Prevention Council’s Web sites at www.weprevent.org and www.ncpc.org. If you are a victim of identity theft, contact the Concord Police Department as soon as possible - call [\(704\) 920-5000](tel:704-920-5000).

[February 2015 Neighborhood Meeting Calendar](#)

Click the above header to view the neighborhood organization meeting calendar.

The calendar includes meeting dates, times and locations for neighborhood meetings, City Council Meetings, Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings and other city events. Please note that meetings date and times are subject to change without notice. This is a live calendar so changes are made immediately after they are reported. For a full schedule of all recognized organization meetings, visit the program’s website concordnc.gov/neighborhoods.

Neighborhood News is published monthly and information from neighborhood associations and others are welcome. Please share this newsletter by forwarding it to your neighbors - post an excerpt in your community's newsletter, post a copy on your community bulletin board, or on your Facebook Page.

[Partnership for Stronger Neighborhoods](#)

BUILDING relationships to
EMPOWER communities
and **CONNECT** citizens to resources.