



Neighborhood News

June 2016

PLEASE...Report Crime Promptly.

Neighbors sometimes fail to report criminal activity because they don't want to bother the police, or they make a lot of assumptions – like police are too short-staffed to respond, or perhaps they believe that there isn't much police can do about a given problem. Whether the issue is petty vandalism, hearing gun shots, vehicle break-ins where nothing was stolen, or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. If you are aware of criminal activity, act quickly and make the report. Also, don't assume someone else has called. Make the call yourself.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIAL 911?

When you dial 911, a Professional Emergency Dispatcher answers the call and request information about your emergency. Dispatchers are trained to ask specific questions in a predetermined order, using the answers as a roadmap on which question to ask next. The answers to the questions help them determine the who, what, where, how and why (as well as the what should/can/might be done) in a multitude of circumstances. While these questions are being asked the dispatcher is entering the information into a computerized dispatch system. Other dispatchers can see that information and



send help to you while they are still talking to you on the phone. **Answering questions does not delay response.** In fact, dispatchers will often keep you on the phone and obtain more information to give the emergency personnel responders, or the dispatcher may be able to provide you with emergency

instructions. So stay on the line until the dispatcher hangs up. Based on the nature of the emergency, the dispatcher will summon police, fire, or emergency medical response.



Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) Update

Through the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program, the City of Concord is helping neighborhood organization implement a variety of neighborhood improvement. The program awards up to \$3,000.00 in matching grant funds to eligible recognized neighborhood organizations. Grants are awarded annually by City Council. For FY 2016, all eligible recognized neighborhood organizations were invited to apply for funding. The submittal deadline was Tuesday May 31, 2016 and eleven (11) neighborhood organizations submitted applications. These applications will be reviewed. An award recommendation will be forwarded to Council in July. Grant recipients will be notified. Feel free to call or email me if you need additional information.

For more information on the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant Program, visit the program's website at concordnc.gov/neighborhoodgrants.



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Join Concord 101 to learn more about your community

The City of Concord is accepting applications for the 2016 Concord 101 program, an annual course designed for citizens to learn about their local government. The free fourteen-week session begins August 16 and culminates with a graduation ceremony in November. Residents of Concord age 18 and older are invited to submit an application by July 25. Class size is limited to 30 participants.



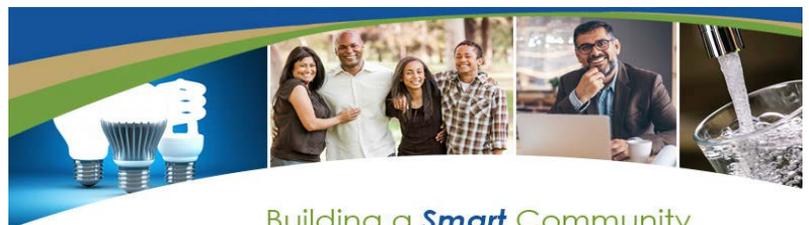
The course was designed to give citizens the opportunity to interact closely with City staff members, who will conduct weekly classes from 6:15 until 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. Citizens will get a first-hand look at what it takes to run City services such as solid waste, water, police, fire, parks and recreation, and much more. In addition, several community partners will be on board to give a behind-the-scenes look at what makes Concord such a great place to live.

In addition to learning about Concord, the City hopes participants will provide input and take a more active role in their neighborhoods and community. For example, Council Members Jennifer Parsley and John Sweat are Concord 101 alumni.

More information, the application, and the class schedule are available on the City's website, concordnc.gov. Residents may also call the City Manager's Office with questions at 704-920-5215.

Investment in new technologies to bring benefits to Concord customers

The City of Concord is committed to providing the best service and investing in technology that helps us better serve our customers. That's why we have launched the Smart Community program, which includes the city-wide upgrade of our electric and/or water meters for those serviced by the City. This new technology will open the door for the introduction of a new online portal that includes tools to help you take better control of your electricity and water usage. The new technology will be installed starting in the summer of 2016, with the customer portal being offered sometime in 2017. The project has been named Smart Community, reflective of the enhanced communication and other benefits that will be available to customers.



Building a **Smart** Community

To learn more about the advanced meters and how you can prepare, read through this website or call us at 704-920-5555 with questions. You can also read our [letter](#) from City Manager Brian Hiatt.



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Litter Sweep/ Great Neighborhood Challenge And the Winners Are...

Every spring and fall, the City employees together with the neighborhood organizations, collect litter along the City's roadsides. The City provides bags and trash pick-up, as well as an opportunity for neighborhoods to receive cash awards.

A big "Thank You" goes out to the following neighborhoods for participating and collecting litter during the Great Neighborhood Challenge / Litter Sweep—Gibson Village, Brown Mill, and Christenbury. Combined, these three neighborhoods collected 127 bags of litter. In the Most Bags Contest, cash prizes were awarded to Gibson Village - \$100, Christenbury - \$75, and Brown Mill - \$50. Gibson Village is the winner of the Great Neighborhoods Earth Day Challenge and will receive the "Great Neighborhood Earth Day Challenge Sign". Please help me congratulate the winners and we look forward to a successful clean-up in the fall.



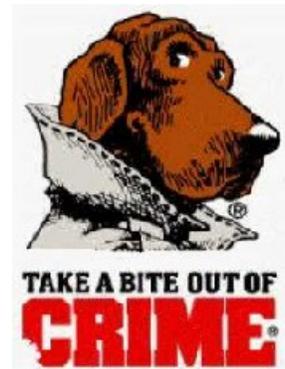
The Great Neighborhood Challenge and Litter Sweep campaign are designed to assist recognize neighborhoods combat litter and or beautify their neighborhood. Through coordinating a community cleanup you can make a visible difference in your neighborhood, and get to know neighbors that wish to make a difference too! For more information on how participate in the next scheduled litter sweep event or organize a community cleanup call (704) 920-5298. [Adopt a Street Program](#), contact your neighborhood liaison.

Crime Prevention Tip:

Take away the opportunity for crime.

One of the most important things to remember about criminals is that they look for easy opportunities. So thinking about your home, your car, and even your lifestyle - ask yourself what can I change to take away the opportunity for crime. Here are a few quick tips:

- Lock your car doors, and never leave valuables in plain sight.
- Trim bushes or trees on your property to allow a clear view of your front door from the street.
- Light is a great crime deterrent. Light up all dark areas, especially doors and windows. Motion sensors/detectors to activate outside lights automatically are great added features. Use light timers when on vacation.
- Take walks around the neighborhood - familiarize yourself with the environment and meet your neighbors.
- Keep your doors locked at all times (even when you are in your house).





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- Notify a trusted neighbor, family and/or police if you are planning to be away from home for a few days.
- Most importantly get to know the police officers who patrol your neighborhood.

If you are a victim of a crime, remember you are not at fault. Please report ALL suspicious activity or crime promptly. Dial 911 or (704) 920-5555 for Police Non-Emergency.

Be a Good Neighbor

Keep Sidewalks clear for pedestrian to pass safely

Use of the sidewalks is an important part of community life in most neighborhoods and obstructing the sidewalk may create an impassible and dangerous barrier, especially for those who have mobility or vision impairments. In fact, many people utilize the sidewalks as a safe place to walk as a form of recreation. Warmer weather will mean an increase in the number of pedestrians running or walking throughout the neighborhood. If there are instances where sidewalks are blocked then pedestrians are forced to venture into the public street where cars pass, and this is very dangerous. So be a good neighbor and keep the sidewalks clear. Also, did you know that obstructing sidewalks by cars or construction equipment, etc. is prohibited by [City Code](#)? Encourage neighbors to keep the sidewalk clear for pedestrians to pass safely. To report obstructions along the sidewalk in your neighborhood call the City of Concord's [Customer Care Center](#) at 704.920.5555.



Neighborhood Street Sign Toppers

Available for all recognized Neighborhoods.



In some instances, the exact boundaries of neighborhoods are undistinguishable. There are, after all, no lines on the ground to delineate the boundaries. However, with sign toppers, the curious need only look up. Sign Toppers help build community identity and pride by cultivating an awareness that you have arrived in a distinct area.

The City's [Neighborhood Street Sign Toppers Program](#) is designed to help build stronger neighborhoods by enhancing their visibility through the placement of identification sign toppers at prominent intersections within the neighborhoods boundaries. The toppers are available to recognized neighborhoods at a cost of \$37 per topper. Click here for the [application form](#) and [data sheet](#). For more information, visit www.concordnc.gov/neighborhoods.



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The John F. McLinnis Aquatic Center is officially open!

The John F McLinnis Aquatic Center is officially open. The Aquatic Center will open on weekends only until June 13th. The Aquatic Center is located at 151 Academy Ave SW, behind the Academy Recreation Center. Join in the fun. The center offers both child and adult swimming lessons, water aerobics and public swim. Patrons must purchase a Privilege Pass I.D. in order to swim. For more information about hours of operation and costs, visit concordparksandrec.org

ClearWater Artist Studios guest artist show, THE GO-BETWEEN on view; Artist Talk June 11

The new Clearwater Artist Studios Guest Artist Exhibit, THE GO-BETWEEN kicked off with an opening reception Friday evening May 20, and is now on view in the Main Gallery of ClearWater Artist Studios through June 30th. 'The Go Between' features the paintings and sculpture artwork of Phillip Larrimore, of Wingate, NC. Larrimore will present an Artist Talk for the public, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 11 as part of the June 2nd Saturday Open Studios (every month at ClearWater, 10am-4pm on 2nd Saturdays). . Visitors may stop by to view the exhibit most any afternoon Tue-Fri, + most Tuesday evenings until 7pm; exceptions are when the Manager must move a shift, as for 2nd Saturdays-- when other artist studios will be open throughout the buildings. 223 Crowell Dr. NW, off Kerr St. in the Gibson Village Neighborhood. For more information, visit clearwaterartists.com or call 704-784-9535.

Summer 2016 Art Camps at Clearwater Artists Studio Will Open June 13

Concord Parks and Recreation, and ClearWater Artist Studios in Gibson Village, are pleased to offer Summer Art Camps and Classes for kids and teens, for the first time, this Summer! Classes are to be taught by both ClearWater Resident artists, as well as other local artist-teachers; all will take place at ClearWater either in their Gallery, open Market Space or their rustic Great Room in the lower level. Registration must be done in advance, through Parks and Recreation's registration process. See the new 'Leisure Times' Summer 2016 online catalogue at the Parks and Rec website, at <http://www.concordnc.gov/Departments/Parks-Recreation>; or pick up a hard-copy version of Leisure Times if it's not mailed to your home. Classes and camps take place from June 13 throughout the Summer. There are also some Adult classes!

Union Street Live Concert & Block Party

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the free, outdoor Union Street Live concerts the third Thursday of every month from May through August. Concerts take place on Means Avenue, next to the historic Cabarrus County Courthouse located at 65 Union Street, South. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. These free outdoor summer concerts feature regionally recognized musical entertainment in a family-oriented environment. For more information about this event, visit www.concorddowntown.com or call Concord Downtown Development Corporation at (704) 784-4208.



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Neighborhood Meeting Schedule

**Board Meeting*

June 2

*Province Greene - 632 Weyburn Drive, 7PM

June 4

Fairway Ridge Annual Meeting – Front entrance of the neighborhood, 11AM

June 6

Gable Oaks Board Meeting, TBD 7PM
Residents of Historic Concord – 205 S Union, 7PM
Morris Glen – TBD, 6:30PM

June 7

Roberta Farms - Crossroads Church, 7PM

June 8

Winding Walk HOA – Clubhouse, 630PM
*Wyndham Place – 434 Wyndham Pl NE, 10AM
*Brandon Ridge – Fire Station #8, 7PM

June 9

[City Council Meeting – City Hall, 6PM](#)
Yates Meadows - Roberta United Methodist Church, 7PM

June 12

Mountain Laurel - common area playground, 3PM

June 13

Oakleaf – Clubhouse, 6PM

June 14

Glen Grove– Fire Station #8, 6PM
Ashford Green – TBD, 7PM
Gibson Village – Clearwater Artist Studio, 6:30PM
*Highland Creek - Community Clubhouse, 7PM
*Laurel Park – Community Clubhouse, 6:30PM

June 15

*Winding Walk - 10660 Fairwoods Dr, 6PM

June 16

*Sheffield Manor – Clubhouse, 6:30PM
[Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 7PM](#)
Wincoff School Rd & Belvedere - Flow Harris

June 20

*Christenbury – Manor House, 7PM
* Kings Crossing – Clubhouse, 7PM
*Oak Park – Community Clubhouse, 7PM
*The Woodlands – 5719 Woodridge Ct NW, 7PM

June 21

[Planning & Zoning, 6PM](#)
*Carriage Downs - Clubhouse, 7PM
Silver Hill - Primitive Baptist Church, 6PM

June 27

Logan Community Meeting - Logan Multi-Purpose Center, 7pm
Moss Creek - Clubhouse, 6:30 PM

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, website, Facebook or Nextdoor page.

[Partnership for Stronger Neighborhoods](#)