



February, 2014

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The City of Concord can disseminate time-sensitive information by phone, text, or email to citizens in minutes using the Blackboard Connect System. Weather alerts, service changes, and other important notifications can be delivered to as soon as they're issued. Residents with published landline phone numbers are automatically in the system. You have the ability to update your information in our system to add secondary phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and more so you can be sure to receive information from the City during an emergency. [Click here to update](#) your information now, and [click here for more information](#) about Blackboard Connect.



Rescheduled

Communication Roundtable Discussion

Neighborhood Leadership Council – February 24, 2014 ■ 6:30PM

Join us for the 1st Quarter 2014 Neighborhood Leadership Council meeting, February 24, 2014 at [Fire Station #8](#) (1485 Old Charlotte Rd). Come network and learn about communication strategies and best practices for maintaining open lines of communication with neighbors.

During the Leadership Council meetings, neighborhood leaders share experiences, exchange information, and participate in focused leadership training. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to neighborhood leaders from each of the City's recognized neighborhood organizations. In most cases this is the neighborhood association chair or current president, although any active member is welcomed to attend meetings. Recognized neighborhood organizations are encouraged to designate a primary and an alternate representative to serve as its NLC representative. To RSVP for the meeting or for more information please call me at (704) 920.5298 or send me an [email](#).

February is American Heart Month – Join the Fight!



According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women, but heart disease is preventable and controllable. Maintaining a strong heart is key to a long and healthy life. During American Heart Month, people across the community are working to renew their commitment to fight against the devastating epidemic of heart disease. You can renew your commitment by learning what you can do to both prevent and treat heart disease. Visit the [CDC's website](#) and spread the word.

Someone needs YOU!

Volunteer Opportunities with Cabarrus County Communities In Schools – Performance Learning Center



Did you know that a student drops out of school every 26 seconds in the United States. Students with a caring adult in their lives have a much higher graduation rate – and you can be that person. Cabarrus County Communities in Schools offers a number of volunteer opportunities such as mentoring, tutoring, and job shadowing. These opportunities offer the chance to potentially change lives. If you believe you have something to offer a child within the Cabarrus County School System, consider volunteering today. To learn how you can help contact Maris Williams, Services Coordinator for Communities In Schools – Performance Learning Center 704-795-7074, ext.474 or via email at CabarrusCISPLC@gmail.com. By volunteering, you will see first-hand how important your time is and what a difference you could make in the life of a local youth.

Good Neighbor Tip: Home Occupations.

Good Neighbors know that a home office may be allowed under certain circumstances in a residential neighborhood if the office has been properly approved through the City/County permitting process. Good Neighbors respect the difference between a home office and a business that generates customers, clients and traffic coming to the house. Good Neighbors will adhere to City Code requirements. Finally, Good Neighbors can visit concordnc.gov to obtain licenses and permitting information and will call 704-920-5555 to make a report if they suspect a business being operated from a residential home illegally.



Crime Prevention Tip: Reporting Suspicious or Criminal Activity

What is suspicious activity? An event is out of the ordinary or one that should not be occurring. When it comes to neighborhoods, knowing your neighbors, their habits, and their household composition makes it easier to recognize and report any suspicious activities occurring in your neighborhood.



In case of an emergency, call 911. In non-emergency situations, Citizens can use the telephone reporting service Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. To use the Telephone Reporting Service, call (704) 920-5000 or (704) 920-5580. Staying calm will help you to better respond to questions ask by the dispatcher. Be prepared to give as much information as possible such as your name, address and phone number; location, what is happening, if it is a crime or suspected crime – a description of the suspect, suspect vehicle, direction of travel, and license plate.

News Headlines

Speaker's Bureau available to educate public on City programs and services

The City of Concord is pleased to announce a new effort to enhance its communications and expand outreach to the community. The new Speakers' Bureau is a free educational tool created for citizens to receive information about City programs and services, and other topics of interest. Learn more at the link below or browse topics at concordnc.gov.

Feedback needed. Fair Housing Survey

Are you aware of any unfair housing practices in your community? The City of Concord seeks residents' opinions via an online survey. The survey gives you the chance to express fair housing concerns and what you think are the issues or barriers to fair housing within the community. [Learn More](#)

Jennifer Parsley appointed to fill District 6 Council Member vacancy

At a special meeting on Monday, January 27, the Concord City Council appointed Jennifer Haas Parsley to fill the vacancy left by the death of Hector H. Henry, II. Parsley is a graduate of A.L. Brown High School and King's College, and attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is the owner of AIM Tours, a destination management company. Parsley's appointment will take effect when she takes the oath of office at the February 13 regular session. Learn more at concordnc.gov.

SAVE THE DATE – 2014 Spring Litter Sweep (Apr. 26 - May 10)

Every spring and fall, the City employees together with recognized neighborhood organizations, collect litter along the City's roadsides. The City provides bags and trash pickup, as well as an opportunity for neighborhoods to receive cash awards. The Spring 2014 Litter Sweep is scheduled for April 26 through May 10. Send email to jzarc@concordnc.gov if your organization would like more details. Roadside litter is a problem for all of us. It is unsafe as well as unsightly.

Master Gardener Volunteer Certification offered Thursdays Feb. 13 through May 1

Learn to garden at home and grow those fruits and vegetables that you use in your everyday meals. Participants will be certified through NC State University Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Topics covered include, climate, introduction soils, botany, landscaping and much more. Folks interested in content but do not seek certification are also welcome. The program is hosted by Cabarrus **County Cooperative Extension** Cost: \$55 Call: 704-920-3310.

[Learn More](#)

Neighborhood Meeting Calendar

Click the heading above to access the February 2014 Neighborhood 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.