



July, 2015

## Tips for Using Speakers Successfully

Just a little advance planning and clear communications will go a long way toward ensuring a successful meeting with a guest speaker. Here are a few tips:

- ✓ Select speakers and topics of interest to your members. A program topic may be tied to a particular challenge or opportunity facing your neighborhood or organization.
- ✓ Contact your speaker at least one month in advance and always follow up with speakers the day before the event.
- ✓ Follow up with your speaker via a written invitation with detailed directions and expectations.
- ✓ Discuss with speakers exactly what they will speak about and give them a time limit (Usually ten minutes to speak followed by ten minutes for Q&A is sufficient), and discuss and supply needs such as audio-visual equipment, extension cords, and electrical outlets.
- ✓ Decide in advance whether the guest speaker will go before or after your regular order of business. This decision may depend on the speaker's schedule and the length of your agenda. (For example, many neighborhood groups allow police officers to go first so they can get back on their beats.)
- ✓ Remember to thank your speaker. Send a thank-you card following the event.
- ✓ Keep an open ear for issues and concerns expressed by your neighbors, and set aside time at the end of your meetings to ask for program ideas for future meetings.

Consider forming a program committee to handle these tasks so that they do not fall on a single person.

Looking for a speaker? Consider using the [City's Speakers' Bureau](#). The Speakers' Bureau is a free educational program which was created for citizens to receive information about City programs and services, and learn about topics of interest.

If you need addition information or to view a full list of available topics, visit [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov).

### Creative Meetings:



Have a trivia contest with questions about your neighborhood's history.

Make your meeting family friendly. Enlisting the help of neighborhood babysitters in exchange for the "Marketing Opportunity" or hold the meeting in a near by park.

Have a meeting in a neighbor's yard and invite a landscape designer to give some ideas.

Have a "Potluck Progressive Meeting": start a meeting in one home for a meal and move to another for dessert.

Have a dessert contest and invite an elected official, police officer or firefighter to judge the tasty treats.

If you have a culturally diverse neighborhood, hold an international pot-luck dinner. Encourage neighbors to include written insight about the dish.



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## Gary Gacek will serve as Concord's New Police Chief



On June 12, the City Manager Brian Hiatt announced the hiring of Gary Gacek as Concord's chief of police. Gacek comes to Concord from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and brings with him extensive law enforcement and police management experience. The position has been vacant since March, when former chief Guy Smith retired. Deputy City Manager and former chief Merl Hamilton has been serving as interim police chief during the search process.

Gacek was selected out of over 100 applicants. After initial interviews of top applicants, six candidates were invited to participate in an assessment center with three panels made up of area law enforcement executives, community and neighborhood representatives, and City staff, designed to provide feedback to the City Manager on the candidates' job-related knowledge, skills, and abilities. Gacek was one of two finalists selected by the City Manager for follow-up interviews.

"Concord has a strong Police Department made up of dedicated coworkers who care about our growing community," said Hiatt. "We were looking for a leader who can work with management, elected officials, and coworkers to develop and articulate a clear vision for the future. We also heard from the department that its leaders should have the skills to build upon our strong relationships within neighborhoods and with community groups. Chief Gacek's broad experience in Milwaukee, combined with his law enforcement knowledge, has prepared him well for the job."

Gacek is married to his wife, Valerie, and they have two sons: Tyler, 14 and Colin, 12. He holds a master of arts degree in public service from Marquette University, with a specialization in criminal justice administration. When he is not working he enjoys long distance road cycling, golfing, home improvement projects, and going to concerts. He is also a NASCAR fan, with his favorite driver being Wisconsin-native Matt Kenseth. He will begin work in Concord at the end of this month, and the City will plan an event to introduce him to the community. For more details, visit [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov).

## 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. All projects are initiated, planned and implemented by neighborhood members. The program awards up to \$3,000.00 in matching grant funds to eligible recognized neighborhood organizations. For the FY2016 funding cycle, all eligible recognized neighborhood organizations were invited to apply for funding. The submittal deadline was Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and nine neighborhood organizations submitted applications. These applications will be reviewed and award recommendations will be forwarded to Council for consideration. Once approved, 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 [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov).





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## Good Neighbor Tip: Get to know your neighbors

Good Neighbors understand that building strong neighborhoods starts with getting to know the neighbor nextdoor.



How do you view your neighbors? Are they the couple that lives next door, or the woman with the large dog? Perhaps you don't know them at all because you just don't have the time to make that connection. But knowing the people who live around you is one of the best ways to strengthen your sense of safety and pride in your neighborhood. Make attempts to get to know your neighbors. Instead of hanging out in the backyard, why not spend more time in the front yard? Take time to meet the children and young adults who live on your street. Greet them by name. This is one of the simplest steps an adult can take yet is can make a profound difference should there be a future need for adults and young people to speak to each other in the midst of a neighborhood crisis. Research shows that you have more in common with your neighbors than you think, but you'll never know if you don't make the connection. People who get to know their immediate neighbors—whether they live in a rural area, suburban neighborhood, townhouse community or apartment complex—are more likely to look out for each other, exchange occasional favors and enjoy where they live.

## Fire Prevention Tip: Fireworks Safety

Although fireworks are one of the things we enjoy most about the Fourth of July holiday, they are also one of the greatest safety concerns. Fireworks can cause serious injuries, including burns, lacerations, eye injuries, vision loss, dismemberment and even death. Sadly, children and young adults were the most frequently affected by fireworks accidents that required emergency room treatment. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, on average of 240 people were admitted to the emergency room due to fireworks-related injuries in the month around July 4, 2014. Many of those injuries were young children who suffered burns from sparklers, which are often mistakenly considered safe for kids. You can help make the holiday safe for your family and friends by ensuring that fireworks are used in a legal and appropriate manner.





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The State of North Carolina and the City of Concord only allow the sale or use of certain “permissible” fireworks. These are fireworks that, according to state and local regulations, do not explode, rise in the air, travel laterally on the ground, or fire projectiles into the air. These permissible fireworks may only be sold to those 16 years of age or older, and include sparklers, fountains, smoke devices, snake and glow worms, trick noisemakers such as party poppers, string poppers or snappers, and toy pistol caps. These are distinguishable from other fireworks such as **firecrackers, Roman candles, missiles, bottle rockets, and shells, which are not legal in North Carolina.** Be responsible and safe and enjoy the Fourth of July Holiday!

For more information, contact the Concord Fire Department at (704) 920-5517.

## Crime Prevention Tip: How to Start a Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Apartment Watch, Crime Watch – no matter what it's called, this is one of the most effective and least costly answers to fighting and preventing crime. A neighborhood watch helps to place other sets of eyes on your property when you are away. Your neighbors get an idea of who belongs there and will more easily recognize something out of the ordinary. Most neighborhoods don't consider a neighborhood watch until there is already a problem. Don't wait until there is a problem. Organize today. Contact Sergeant Vashon Clark - Concord Police Department, Community Services Unit 704-920-5063, Email – [clarkv@concordnc.gov](mailto:clarkv@concordnc.gov). Sergeant Clark will send a “starter packet” that will include, among other items, a form to collect information from your neighbors. To participate in the program, you must obtain signatures from at least 25% of the residents within the defined boundaries who commit to become actively involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program.



## News Headlines

### Streetlight 5K and Frolic coming soon

The annual Streetlight 5K and Frolic will take place on Friday, July 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Historic Downtown Concord. Pre-registration is \$15 and available through July 2 at the Academy Recreation Center or by July 3 at [concordparksandrec.org](http://concordparksandrec.org). Race day registration will be \$20. All pre-registered runners are guaranteed goodie bags and t-shirts. This event is family friendly, and will include activities for children and music from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m.

### Free CPR Training – Next class: July 24, 2015

Concord Fire Department, in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department offers Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class at no charge to the public. This class is not for certification, but is a class intended to educate the public in the lifesaving skill of CPR. The latest research indicates that "hands only" or compression only CPR has a tremendous positive effect on the survivability rates in cardiac incidents. Participants will learn the fundamentals of CPR, in adults and infants, and the use of an automatic electronic defibrillator. Class will be



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held from 6:00-8:00pm at Fire Station #9, 1020 Ivey Cline Rd. Concord 28027. For more information, visit [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov).

### Register open for Fall Youth Baseball

Registration begins July 1<sup>st</sup> for youth ages 7-16. Registration will also be available online at or at any of the City's 3 recreational centers - Academy Rec Ctr., 147 Academy Ave, Concord, Hartsell Rec Ctr., 60 Hartsell School Rd or Logan Multi-Purpose Center. Please call 704-920-5600 for more information.

### Learn to pickle at home, Thursday July 16 (1PM-5PM)

This hands-on workshop will introduce the basics of pickling. You will prepare fresh packed "Bread and Butter Pickles," process them in a boiling water canner and also process a "Quick Pickle" recipe during the workshop. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Classes will meet in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Cabarrus County Center, 715 Cabarrus Avenue West, Concord, NC 28027. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. [Click here](#) for more information or call Pam Outen, Extension Agent at (704) 920-3322.

### Free Disaster Preparedness & Safety Camp for Rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 5th Graders

Sign up today! This free one or two day disaster preparedness and safety day camp is designed with a variety of entertaining and educational activities to teach campers about safety guidelines, disaster and emergency preparedness.. The camp day is from 8:30am to 4:30pm .Camp Ready Kids is sponsored by The American Red Cross. Concord Fire, Police, and other local public safety agencies will participate, and every camper will receive a beginner Disaster Preparedness Kit through the [Pillowcase Project](#). Several sessions are available in Concord in the surrounding area in June, July, and August. For additional information, please call the Red Cross Office at 704-633-3854 or visit [campreadykids.org](http://campreadykids.org).

### July 16 – 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](http://www.concorddowntown.com) or call Concord Downtown Development Corporation at (704) 784-4208.

### August 4, 2015 National Night Out

Don't forget to register your neighborhood's National Night Out Event. This year will mark the 14th year of National Night Out celebration for the City of Concord. If you have questions about the City's National Night Out Celebration, contact Captain Betty Stock at (704) 920-5010 or send email to [stocks@concordnc.gov](mailto:stocks@concordnc.gov). To learn more about National Night Out visit [www.nno.org](http://www.nno.org).

### Second Saturday Open Studios at ClearWater

Visit [ClearWater Artist Studio](#) on the Second Saturday of each month and observe Artists on-site working in their Studios. Explore the Gallery and take your time examining exhibits; ask artists questions, see art being created, participate in the larger, fun energy of "artists camaraderie" that only happens on these relaxed gathering days! You never know when someone might start playing the banjo. Doors open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. Families Welcome. 223 Crowell Drive NW, Concord, NC 28025 Call (704) 784-9535 for more information.



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**Neighborhood Meeting Schedule**

**July 6**

Gable Oaks Annual Meeting – Community Pool, 7PM

**July 7**

Wyndham Place – 434 Wyndham Pl NE, 10AM

**July 9**

Brown Mill Meeting, Harmony UMC, 6PM  
Weddington Woods Meeting - Fire Station #7 , 7PM  
Yates Meadows HOA Meeting - Roberta United Methodist Church, 7PM

**July 13**

Oakleaf – Club House, 7PM

**July 14**

Asheford Greene – TBD, 7PM  
Brandon Ridge – Fire Station #8, 7PM  
\*Laurel Park – Community Clubhouse, 7PM  
Morris Glen HOA – Speedway Club, 6:30PM

**June 15**

\*Sheffield Manor – Clubhouse, 6:30PM  
\*Highland Creek - Community Clubhouse, 7PM

\*Winding Walk - 10660 Fairwoods Dr, 7PM

**July 16**

Covington Kings Crossing – Community Clubhouse, 6:30PM  
Wincoff School Rd & Belvedere - Flow Harris Presbyterian Church, 7PM

**July 20**

\*Kings Crossing - Community Clubhouse, 6:30PM  
\*Oak Park – Community Clubhouse, 7PM  
\*The Woodlands – 5719 Woodridge Ct NW, 7PM

**July 21**

\*Carriage Downs – Clubhouse, 7PM

**July 25**

Glen Grove Summer Pool Party 1PM-6PM

**July 27**

Moss Creek – Clubhouse, 6:30PM

*\*Board Meeting*

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**

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