



May, 2015

Community Building Ideas for Neighborhoods

Parties, Parades and More

Neighborhood Parades, Parties, and festivals are a great opportunity to build relationships. These events help to promote neighborhood unity and cohesiveness. These events can celebrate food, music, film, community assets or community history, and they don't have to be on the Fourth of July! People do not join Neighborhood Associations just to attend meetings, they join to either accomplish a goal or to build a stronger connection to the neighborhood they live in. Whether you choose to have a party for one block or the entire neighborhood, good planning is key to your success.

To bring neighbors together, consider one of the following fun celebratory type events:

- Neighborhood Parades - Bike parade - Pet parade
- Sponsor a holiday celebration such as an Easter egg hunt, a Fourth of July bike parade and party, Oktoberfest with grilled bratwurst, or a Halloween block party
- Neighborhood block party or picnics
- Hold small music concerts on a common green. Encourage karaoke (responsibly).
- [National Night Out Celebration](#) – Tuesday August 4, 2015
- Organize and present a annual home tour to raise money for the organization or a charity.
- Host a movie night or music concert on a common area.
- Organize a new kind of Neighborhood Watch and host service related events that helps out with dinners and errands when neighbors need a hand, and/or host an emergency preparedness night in which you get organized and learn about your neighbors' special skills (CPR training, etc.).

Community building is important work for every neighborhood organization. Just interacting with the people you live near can significantly strengthen your community and spur organization. Remember you are only limited by your imagination! If your organization needs assistance with developing a community building plan, send an email to jzarc@concordnc.gov or call (704) 920-5298.

Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

Pre-application workshop scheduled for May 13th



The Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) program was established to assist recognized neighborhood organizations in funding projects which will enhance and strengthen neighborhoods. The program awards up to \$3,000.00 in matching grant funds to eligible recognized neighborhood organizations.

Organizations interested in applying for grant funds should make plans to send a representative to the pre-application workshop which will be held at 6pm on Wednesday May 13, 2015 in Fire Station 3 - 100 Warren C. Coleman Blvd (Training Room #2).

Remember, it pays to plan ahead! It's never too early to start planning your neighborhood improvement projects. [RSVP Today!](#)



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Good Neighbor Tip: Curb appeal makes a difference

Good Neighbors know that first impressions are everything. A house with curb appeal - one that appears tidy and well-cared for - not only makes a difference to the neighborhood but can make a substantial difference to the value of your home. Conversely, a home that is unkempt can lower its value, and the value of its neighbors' homes! Crime and other negative impacts are also related to the appearance of homes and overall neighborhood appeal.



So be a good neighbor and spend some time this weekend outside basking in the beautiful weather - freshening the paint, fix up the front door, add a bit of glam to your mailbox, or plant some flowers!

Crime Prevention Tip: Driving Safety-Aggressive Driving



Any unsafe driving behavior, performed deliberately and with ill intention or disregard for safety, such as tailgating, erratic lane changes, or illegal passing can constitute aggressive driving. Aggressive driving is a major concern of the American public and a real threat to the safety of all road users. Increasingly congested roadways are a growing source of driver frustration that can lead to aggression while driving, but studies suggest

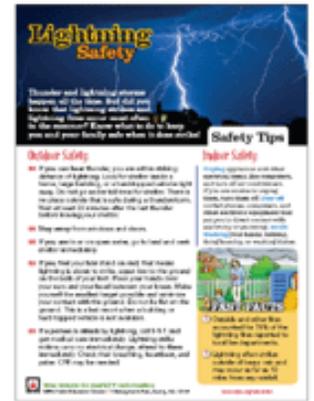
the real root of aggressive driving lies within each of us. Drivers can cope by taking an honest look at their driving behavior and attempting to reduce their stress level behind the wheel. How can you avoid being the victim of an aggressive driver? – read the [AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's informational guide brochure](#). Remember, if you are a victim of crime, contact the Concord Police Department as soon as possible – call 911 for emergencies and (704) 920-5000 for non-emergency information, or to meet the officers assigned to your district.



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Fire Prevention Tip: Lighting Safety

Spring and summer months are the peak time of the year for lightning strikes and lightning fires. However, thunder and lightning storms happen year round. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike! [Click here](#) to download NFPA's informational flyer to share with neighbors.



Outdoor safety

- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away. Do not go under tall trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, that means lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and get medical care immediately. Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge; attend to them immediately. Check their breathing, heartbeat, and pulse. CPR may be needed.

Indoor safety

- Unplug appliances and other electrical items, like computers, and turn off air conditioners. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.

News Headlines

Spring into Arts Festival – Saturday May 2

On Saturday May 2, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Concord Downtown Development Corporation will host the 2015 Spring Into Arts Festival on Union Street in Historic Downtown Concord. The festival is an annual family-friendly event in Downtown Concord that showcases and promotes the visual and performing arts. Enjoy the juried art show, musical entertainment, fantastic food, and a children's area that inspires the artistic side of all of us! The Spring into Arts Festival is supported by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, and the Cabarrus Arts Council. Visit www.concorddowntown.com for more info.



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Free CPR Training beginning May 8

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. The first class will take place May 8; more information and registration are now available at concordnc.gov.

Park & Recreation offers Couch to 5k Challenge

Get off the couch and onto the road with the City's Couch-to-5K program for beginners. This group training and exercise program is designed to encourage, motivate, and challenge the individual to compete with his or her peers. No running experience is necessary. The final goal is to run the Streetlight 5K on Friday, July 10. Meets at Dorton Park Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. between May 5 and July 7. Learn more and register at concordparksandrec.org.

Roberta Farms Neighbors welcome's the Feaster Family

Join in the celebration on May 5, 2015 and help Roberta Farms neighbors welcome staff Sergeant Anthony "Tony" Feaster and his family to their new home. It started in the late summer/early fall and all that construction is virtually completed and the new Feaster home is ready! For more information about the Anthony Feaster Celebration, visit Operation [Finally Home](#) or contact [Molly Halliday](#) (615) 414-9004. Thanks to the BCMC Build team, in October, 2014, the Feaster family was surprised with the news that they will receive a new mortgage-free home in the Roberta Farms Neighborhood. To view the Feaster Surprise Video, copy and paste the link: <https://youtu.be/tWcLSOxdvM>

Extension Teaches Grant Writing

Minnie Mitchell-Bishop, Cabarrus County Extension Agent, is teaching a grant writing course for anyone interested in understanding the process of writing grants. The class is offered Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the NC Cooperative Extension-Cabarrus County Center, 715 Cabarrus Avenue-West, Concord. [Click here](#) for more information or to register online.



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Neighborhood Meeting Schedule

May 4

Gable Oaks Annual Meeting – Community Pool, 7PM

May 5

Wyndham Place – 434 Wyndham Pl NE, 10AM
Residents of Historic Concord – 2 Gals Kitchen
(Union Street South), 7PM

Covington HOA Annual Meeting - Speedway Club in
Room 600, 6:30PM

*Roberta Farms POA – Fire Station #9

May 11

Oakleaf – Community Clubhouse, 6PM

May 12

*Morris Glen – Fire Station #9, 6:30PM

Brandon Ridge – Fire Station #8, 7PM

Laurel Park Board Meeting – Community
Clubhouse, 7PM

Governor’s Point – TBD, 7PM

May 18

Kings Crossing – Community Clubhouse, 6:30PM

Oak Park – Community Clubhouse, 7PM

*The Woodlands – 5719 Woodridge Ct NW, 7PM

May 19

Silver Hill Community Meeting – Silver Hill

Primitive Baptist Church (162 Penrod Drive), 6PM

Zemosa Acres – Fire Station #7, 7PM

May 20

*Sheffield Manor – Clubhouse, 6:30PM

*Highland Creek - Community Clubhouse, 7PM

May 21

Winecoff School Rd & Belvedere - Flow Harris

Presbyterian Church, 7PM

May 28

Meadowbrook HOA Annual Meeting – Fire Station
#9, 6:15PM

May 31

Mountain Laurel Summer Meeting – Community
Playground, 4PM

**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.