



Neighborhood Newsletter for December 2014

Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!



Christmas is the time to celebrate peace and joy. It's the time of family and friends togetherness and to reflect on the many things that we are grateful for. So, on behalf of the City of Concord's Partnership for Stronger Neighborhoods Program, best wishes to you and the families within your neighborhood for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!

Holiday Social Event Scheduled for December 10, 2014

Attention Neighborhood Leaders!! Join us on December 10, 2014 for a "Meet & Greet" social event. Come and meet with neighborhood leaders from the City of Concord's Recognized Neighborhood Program. The event will be held in downtown Concord at [Ellie's Coffee Shop \(37 Union St. S\)](#) from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Learn about how the City is using Nextdoor to connect with the neighbors and to network with other neighborhood leaders. Send email to izarc@concordnc.gov or call (704) 920.5298 to RSVP for this event. *Light refreshments will be served.*



Neighborhood Liaisons



A key component of the City's Partnership for Stronger Neighborhoods Program is the relationship that each recognized neighborhood has with their assigned staff Liaison. Neighborhood Liaisons are City employees who are specifically appointed for an indefinite term by the City Manager to be responsible for and accountable to recognized neighborhoods in a specific geographic area of the City. Liaisons are selected based upon their skills and experience or upon their expressed desire and ability to serve in this role.

The liaisons are an information resource for guidance in working with city staff in other departments. Whether you're trying to find out more about a development in your neighborhood, plan a block party, understand how city government works or just need help finding the right person to talk to in the city, your liaisons can help. The neighborhood liaisons regularly attend neighborhood meetings and can be contacted via phone or email. They are a valuable source of information and assistance to neighborhoods throughout Concord. Whether you are a neighborhood leader, concerned citizen or business owner, we encourage you to utilize your Neighborhood Liaisons on a regular basis. [Check here](#) to see which liaison represents your area. For more information, visit the neighborhood program website concordnc.gov/neighborhoods.



86th Annual Concord Christmas Parade

First, a big THANK YOU goes out to the neighborhood representatives who joined us on November 22nd. We certainly had a fun time as this event provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the faces of the neighborhoods participating in the program. It was a beautiful day! Visit the City's [Flickr Photostream](#) to view images from the Christmas Parade. We are looking forward to next year's parade and hope that more neighborhoods will join in the fun. This event is sponsored by the [Cabarrus Events Association](#).

Good Neighbor Tip: Dealing with Aggressive or Stray Dogs

Good Neighbors realize that your pets are neighbors too. If you own an aggressive dog, please keep it in a secure location at all times. Remember, you as the owner will be held responsible if the pet causes harm to someone else or someone else's property.



It can be frightening if you are walking either alone or with your dog and an unleashed dog comes toward you. If you encounter an aggressive dog, avoid all threatening gestures and avoid eye contact. In some instances waving your arms or yelling might scare the dog away; however, it could cause the dog to advance further. Instead, remain completely still and back away slowly if the dog relaxes. If the dog attacks, pick up an item (rock, briefcase or anything within reach) for the dog to bite. Remain holding the object until the dog releases.

Always call and report any contact with aggressive dogs or sightings of stray animals - Concord Police Department at (704) 786-9155 or

911 if it is an emergency, Cabarrus County Department of Animal Control at (704) 920-3288. Also, if your pet is missing, visit the [Concord Cabarrus County Human Society](#) website to read descriptions and view images of Lost and found pets.

Crime Prevention Tip: Don't Let the Grinch ruin your holiday. Play it safe!

Online shopping can offer a comfortable respite from unruly crowds, but it has its own hazards. Many people who have gifts shipped to them have the packages left at their doorsteps by their mail carriers, and these unattended parcels prove irresistible to thieves. Here are some tips to keep in mind during the holiday season regarding package deliveries:



- Choose a shipping option that requires you to sign for delivery.
- Check on the package's delivery status online so you can try to be home when it arrives.
- Leave a note asking the delivery service to leave the package with a neighbor.
- Have the package shipped to another location where someone can receive it, like your office or a friend's home.
- Ask the delivery service to hold your package for customer pick-up.

- File a theft report immediately if you think your package was stolen, and contact your credit card company to find out if it offers a purchase-protection service that might reimburse you for stolen purchases.



Fire Prevention Tip: Christmas Tree Fire Safety

Before you head out and select a Christmas Tree, click on the image below and take one minute to check out the NFPA's video message. The video provides good tips for picking out a Christmas Tree and proper precautions to take to prevent fire.



Christmas Tree Fire Safety Tips from NFPA

 National Fire Protection Association

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NFPA's Lisa Braxton has a few simple safety tips to consider this holiday to keep you and your family safe and sound. For more information, download and read the [Home Christmas Tree Fires Fact Sheet](#).

News Headlines

Edwards named new HR Director

City Manager Brian Hiatt has announced Rebecca Edwards as Concord's new Human Resources Director. Edwards comes to Concord from the City of Charlotte, and brings 13 years of experience in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors. Assistant City Manager Merl Hamilton has served as Interim Human Resources Director since Jeannine Sargent's retirement in late June.

"We welcome Rebecca to the City of Concord," said Hiatt. "We are particularly excited about the combination of technical expertise and interpersonal skills she will bring to our organization, and how that will positively affect our customers." Learn more at concordnc.gov.

Concord Electric Presentations - New Smart grid technology.

Staff representatives from Concord Electric would like to attend your neighborhood meeting to introduce residents to a new smart grid technology. This new technology called "smart" meters will allow the transmission of data instantly between Concord Electric and its customers using wireless technology. This technology will also allow consumers to monitor their own electricity usage and provide a number of other benefits to Concord Electric and customers. Concord Electric plans to employ this technology in 2015. For more information or to request this presentation, contact your assigned neighborhood liaison.

A friendly reminder about storm drains

Would you believe that leaves and grass clippings can kill fish? When yard waste is washed into local bodies of water via storm drains and ditches, the unnaturally high amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus they contribute (nutrient pollution) causes algal blooms. Subsequent algal die-off and decomposition deplete dissolved oxygen levels, which can suffocate gill-breathing animals like tadpoles, fish, salamanders, crayfish, and freshwater mussels. Pet waste and fertilizers are also sources of nutrient pollution. Please place all yard waste (bagged or loose piles), bulky waste, and roll-out carts at the top of the curb, in the grass if possible, keeping everything out of the street gutter. Learn more at concordnc.gov.

Cabarrus-Rowan Community Health Centers offer health care enrollment assistance

For coverage starting in 2015, the healthcare.gov Open Enrollment Period is available through February 15, 2015. The Cabarrus-Rowan Community Health Centers are offering free enrollment assistance appointments at various locations in Concord and the surrounding area. Call 704-79292260 or visit crhc.org for more information.

[Neighborhood Meeting Calendar](#)

Click the heading above to access the December 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 as reported by the organization. Meetings date and times are subject to change without notice. This is a live calendar so changes are made immediately after they are report. For a full schedule of all recognized organization meetings, visit the program's website concordnc.gov/neighborhoods.

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