



December, 2013

Happy Holidays Neighbor!

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!

84th Annual Christmas Parade

First, a big THANK YOU goes out to the neighborhood representatives who joined us on November 23rd and rode on the Neighborhood Program's parade float during the Concord Christmas Parade. We certainly had a fun time as this event provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the faces of the neighborhoods participating in the program. After the parade I received lots of compliments and inquiries about the program. 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.

Neighborhood Leaders "Meet & Greet" Social Event Scheduled for December 12, 2013

Attention Neighborhood Leaders!! Join us on December 12, 2013 for a "[Meet & Greet](#)" social event. Come and meet with neighborhood leaders from the City of Concord's Recognized Neighborhood Program and share stories of community work. The event will be held in the community room at Fire Station #8 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Learn about Neighborhood Program enhancements and network with other neighborhood leaders. City staff will also be on hand to meet with neighborhood leaders. Send email to jzarc@concordnc.gov or call (704) 920.5298 to RSVP for this event. *Light refreshments will be served.*

Concord launches Nextdoor to Improve Citizen Engagement



Concord joins more than 120 cities across the country using [Nextdoor](#), a private secure social network specifically designed for neighborhoods. Nextdoor is free for Concord residents and the City.

The City will use Nextdoor to share information with neighborhoods – individually and collectively - information shared on the Nextdoor website might include updates on area street projects, event announcements, crime prevention and safety tips, and emergency bulletins. While we will be able to share information with you, your neighborhood's Nextdoor

website is still kept private to only those who live in the neighborhood and who have a verified address. For more information, visit concordnc.gov. If you are interested in starting a Nextdoor website for your neighborhood, go to www.nextdoor.com/priority and enter your address.

Concord City Council Awards Neighborhood Grants

On November 14, 2013, Concord City Council has awarded \$19,767.50 in Neighborhood Matching Grant funds to eight recognized neighborhood organizations. Projects to be completed include:

1. *Glen Grove- Neighborhood Gathering Place (Phase 1)*
2. *Yates Meadows* – Community Announcement Board/ Landscaping Beautification
3. *Kings Crossing* - Decorative Street Signs Project
4. *Afton Village* - New Entrance Sign & Beautification Project
5. *Roberta Farms* - Playground Improvement Project
6. *Zemosa Acres* - Printing of Newsletters and Neighborhood Directory
7. *Brandon Ridge* - Playground/Park Improvement Project
8. *Carriage Downs* - Upgrade lighting system in neighborhood Project

Visit concordnc.gov/neighborhoodsgrants for more information on the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant Program, or feel free to contact me directly.

Good Neighbor Tip:

Organize neighborhood service activity for your community.

The holiday season is a magical time. Some refer to this time of year as the season of “good will”. Recently, a neighbor organized a clothing drive by placing boxes on her front door step and asked neighbors to drop off clothing. Another neighbor organized an effort to donate to the local food bank instead. She hosted her own food drive and set up several drop off places in the neighborhood, making it easy for people to donate. In addition to giving back, these activities often provide opportunities for neighbors to get to know one another. It also helps to strengthen connections and trust and contributes to a happier neighborhood for everyone. Whether inspired by events happening in the greater Concord community or catalyzed by an opportunity provided through a personal acquaintance, school, foundation or government supported initiative, you can make a difference by working developing a service activity for your neighbors to participate in.

Crime Prevention Tip:

Safe guard your holiday packages.

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 Safety Tip: Christmas Tree Safety Tips



Concord Fire & Life Safety's holiday wish is for all residents to have a merry, bright and SAFE holiday season. According to information from the [NFPA](#), Christmas tree fires are not common but when they occur, they are likely to be serious. With some awareness and caution, you can make sure your Christmas tree is a source of joy this holiday season. Follow these maintenance and decorating tips to prevent Christmas tree fires:

- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Natural trees should be cut at a 45 degree angle 2" from the base of the trunk and placed in water.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Inspect lights for frayed wire or other defects before use.
- Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Lastly, for many folks, it's hard to let go of the holiday spirit, and taking down the Christmas tree isn't nearly as much fun as putting it up. But the longer a tree stays up, the dryer it will become then the greater a fire hazard it becomes. It is best to discard the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. By following these fire prevention tips, you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home, and enjoy a safe holiday season. [Click here](#) to download the informational flyer to share with neighbors.

News Headlines

Connect our Future – Input needed to understand housing needs

You can help plan for the future of housing in the region by providing input on housing challenges and its impact on the community. The CONNECT Our Future project, a fourteen county area of North and South Carolina and led by the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) is soliciting input from stakeholders and residents within the 14-county region to better understand the barriers that exist in our region for fair housing. The purpose of this survey is to identify whether barriers to fair housing choice exist, such as limitations in available choice in rental markets, public and private policies and practices that inadvertently lead to housing discrimination, or poor practices in mortgage lending, insurance, or appraisal industries. [Click here to access](#) the Fair Housing Survey. The feedback will be incorporated into the final findings of the study and the housing strategy for the region. To learn more about this initiative, visit ConnectOurFuture.org.

85th Annual Concord Christmas Parade airing on Channel 22 - [Watch now](#)

The 85th Annual Concord Christmas Parade, presented by ACN, marched through downtown Concord on Saturday, November 23. The parade will air now through mid-December on TimeWarner Cable Channel 22 or digital channel 97.2. Don't have cable? Watch anytime, all year long, on [Cabarrus County's YouTube channel](#).

Planning a reunion? The Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau can help!

Reunion planning services from the [Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau](#) make it easy to create an unforgettable experience. From securing hotel rooms for out of town guests to selecting the ideal venue and arranging activities, the Visitor Bureau’s tools will help you spend more time looking back and laughing with loved ones. Welcome your guests with customized goody bags that include area information and special deals to help them make new memories at Cabarrus County’s exciting attractions like legendary Charlotte Motor Speedway and Concord Mills—the largest shopping and entertainment destination in the Carolinas! Get started today by contacting Carrie Hendrickson, Leisure Sales Manager at (704)456-7969 or Carrie@VisitCabarrus.com. Plan your next reunion right here in Cabarrus County—“Where Racing Lives!” www.VisitCabarrus.com

[Neighborhood Meeting Calendar](#)

Click the heading above to access the November 2013 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.