GREENSBO

AT YOUR SERVICE

GREENSBORO CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

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Protecting planet Earth

The City of Greensboro takes seriously its responsibility to protect the environment and to promote "green" initiatives. From land use policies to alternate transportation options, from energy efficiency to fuel efficiency, and from sustainability to air quality, City officials are committed to protecting our environment.

This issue of *At Your Service* features several environmental articles to help you help us.

Meanwhile, plan to attend the Earth Day 2009 celebration on Saturday, April 4 from 1-5 pm at Price Park/Kathleen Clay Edwards Library, 1420 Price Park Rd. Exhibitors will offer information on alternative fuel, recycling, transportation, solar power, electronic waste and global warming. Also planned are nature crafts, live entertainment, hayrides, hands-on activities, live animals, face painting, games and more.

Pay parking tickets online

If you have an unpaid parking ticket issued by the City of Greensboro, you can now pay it online with your Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card using a secure web payment service. Once your payment is processed, your records will be updated accordingly.

A flat rate convenience fee of \$1.95 will be charged, but the amount charged to your credit/debit card will show as one transaction total. For example,

if you authorize a payment of \$10 plus the \$1.95 convenience fee, the total reflected on your card statement will be \$11.95.

To use the online service, go to greensboro-nc.gov/payonline.

Beginning January 1, the Greensboro Police Department started towing cars that had at least three tickets more than 90 days overdue. Drivers won't be able to collect their cars until the fees are paid.

Project reduces energy usage

A \$6.1 million energy management project approved by City Council in December will reduce the City's energy usage by 28 percent and will pay for itself through energy savings over the next 13 years.

The contract with Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) provides for replacement of outdated equipment in several City buildings and offers innovative ideas to achieve additional energy savings. Work is expected to be accomplished in about one year, but the savings would continue for years to come.

If projected savings aren't reached, PEPCO will pay the difference to the City.

The contract provides for new energy-saving light fixtures, air handles, chillers, LED lighting, and solar hot water in various City buildings, among other improvements.

Once the changes are in place, the City will significantly reduce its carbon footprint by eliminating 11 million pounds of carbon dioxide and 28,000 pounds of nitrogen oxide each year, which is the equivalent of planting 1,733 acres of trees.

While PEPCO will manage the project, most of the work will be performed by local companies, including a

commitment of 10 percent minority contract representation.



Water rates increase Jan. 1

Beginning January 2009, the City's Water Resources Department is implementing a 9 percent rate increase, which is the average for residential customers inside City limits, to help offset the continuing costs of capital improvement projects and to meet environmental regulatory requirements. To learn more, visit greensboro-nc.gov/water.

Taking into account the rate increase, Greensboro's water rates are still the fourth least expensive in the state for residential customers when compared to similar municipalities. The City's drinking water annually meets or surpasses all state and federal standards.

Christmas tree & leaf pick-ups

Discarded Christmas trees will be picked up on your regular trash collection day. Simply put your tree at the curb of your home after removing all lights, ornaments, wires, tinsel and the tree stand. Cut trees taller than five feet in half or into manageable segments.

Collected trees are made into mulch to fertilize City gardens and landscaped areas. The mulch is also for sale at White Street Landfill, 2503 White St.

Trees may also be disposed of at the White Street Landfill, but normal yard waste disposal fees apply. For more information, call 373-CITY (2489).

Meanwhile, leaves raked to the curb by December 8 will be picked up by January 16. This is the second of two scheduled leaf collections by the City. During the first round, more than 4,665 tons of leaves were collected, which is 1,890 tons more than collected during the same time period last year.

Help prevent accidental fires

Help prevent fires in City trash and recycling collection trucks by never putting hot ashes, batteries or gasoline or motor oil in your trash container.

Let ashes cool completely first, and take all batteries, gasoline and motor oil to the City's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center (see article on the right). For more information, call 373-CITY (2489).

Moving forward on sustainability

Learn more about ways you can help protect our environment by attending a meeting of the Community Sustainability Council (CSC). The public meetings take place from 3-5 pm on the second Monday of each month in the Plaza Level Conference Room, Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington St. For more information about CSC, visit greensboro-nc.gov/citygovernment/sustainability.

Upcoming Trash/Recycling Holiday Schedule Changes

Martin Luther King Day

No collection on Monday, January 19.

Monday collection moves to Tuesday, January 20.

Tuesday collection moves to Wednesday, January 21.

Good Friday

No collection on Friday, April 10.
Thursday collection moves to Wednesday, April 8.
Friday collection moves to Thursday, April 9.

City of Greensboro offices will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For more information, call 373-CITY (2489).

Scrapping the old analog TV?

February 17, 2009 is the day all television broadcast stations in the United States must complete the transition from analog to exclusively all-digital broadcasting. If your televisions are analog and use an antenna - as in rabbit ears or a rooftop antenna - to access local broadcast stations, your options are to:

- Subscribe to cable to receive the all-digital broadcast signal.
- Purchase a digital-to-analog converter box for your analog television if it has a built-in digital tuner.
- Purchase a new television.

If you need to discard your old televisions, please do so properly by bringing your televisions to Greensboro's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Center at 2750 Patterson St.

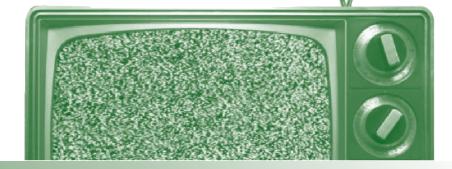
Old electronics, like televisions, computers, monitors, CPUs, fax machines, radios, copy machines, printers, and cell phones, are commonly called e-waste. They contain toxic metals such as lead, cadmium, and mercury that can contaminate the environment.

The HHW Collection Center offers Guilford County residents free and convenient service that protects our environment from these and other materials.

The center also accepts corrosive, reactive, flammable, or toxic materials, such as antifreeze, batteries, cleaners, drain openers, motor oil, paints, pesticides, and herbicides.

Hours of operation for the HHW Collection Center are Wednesdays through Fridays, 10 am to 6 pm, and on Saturdays from 8 am to 2 pm.

For more information, call the HHW hotline at 373-2196 or visit greensboro-nc.gov/hhw.



GTA emphasizes rider etiquette

Public transportation is just that, public, and there are rules to follow that make the ride more enjoyable for everyone. To emphasize rider etiquette, GTA has kicked-off "United We Ride."

Riders are encouraged to observe simple courtesies on buses such as not eating, not talking loudly on cell phones and not blasting music. For more information, visit GTA's Web site at greensboronc.gov/departments/GDOT/divisions/gta.

Meanwhile, get GTA and HEAT updates and information, service changes, route detours, weather delays and more by text message. Sign up by texting *follow gtaheat* to *40404*.

Coming soon: Personal trip planning using Google Transit.

Get updates on these and other City services on Twitter.com/greensborocity