

# AT YOUR SERVICE

Greensboro City Government News & Information

October 2010



## Holiday Trash/Recycling Schedule

City of Greensboro offices, buildings and facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, in observance of Thanksgiving. There will be no trash or recycling collection on that Thursday. Instead Thursday's collection will take place Wednesday, November 24. Friday's collection will remain the same. Questions? Call 373-CITY (2489).

## Annual NeighborWoods Event



The City, in collaboration with Greensboro Beautiful Inc., the NC Co-operative Extension Service in Guilford County, and the Storrington Neighborhood Association will hold the 2010 NeighborWoods Tree Planting event at 9 am Saturday, November 6. The purpose of the event is to educate residents about the importance of trees. Anyone interested in volunteering to plant trees in the

Storrington Neighborhood should call Karen Markovics, City planner, at 412-5759.

## November Council Meetings

Greensboro City Council will meet on Tuesday, November 2 and 16, at 5:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington St. Council meetings are open to the public and aired live on Channel 13 and at [greensboro-nc.gov](http://greensboro-nc.gov). Parking is available in the Greene Street Parking Deck.

**View more City of Greensboro events at [greensboro-nc.gov/calendar](http://greensboro-nc.gov/calendar).**

## Loose Leaf Program Begins Nov. 1

Picking up leaves can be a chore, but the City's annual Loose Leaf Collection Program, which runs from November 1 through January 22, 2011, makes it easy.

The program offers two collection periods:

- Leaves that are curbside by November 1 will be picked up by December 11.
- Leaves that are curbside by December 13 will be picked up by January 22.

It's easy to participate in the program. All you have to do is:

- Rake leaves to the edge of your yard behind the curb. Remember not to rake leaves in the street, because it creates a road hazard.
- Remove rocks, sticks and other debris.
- Do not park vehicles on, in front of, or near leaf piles.

Also, please note that the schedule may change due to inclement weather. Changes will be posted at [greensboro-nc.gov](http://greensboro-nc.gov) and on Channel 13. The City does not collect loose leaves from homes on private streets. For more information, call 373-CITY (2489).



## City Changes Water/Sewer Billing

The City has changed the way customers are notified about their water and sewer delinquency status. Written notification of delinquency will now be noted on the regular bill notice mailed out each month. Customers will no longer receive a separate delinquent notice in the mail.

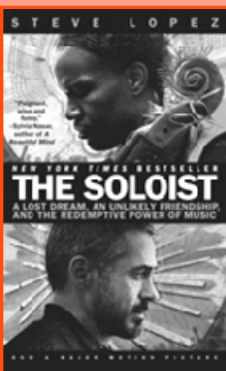
With the new process, customers will see a change in the type of bill they receive each month. Accounts that are paid up, have credits on them, or have a past due amount of \$10 or less will receive the regular green notice. Any accounts with past due amounts of over \$10 will receive a pink delinquent notice that still contains regular billing information, but also explains the delinquent status of the account, penalties, and payment instructions. This will be the only written notification before service is cut off.

The due date on both types of bills will be 20 calendar days after the bill date.

## City Council Seeks Residents for Property Owners Review Team

The City is currently taking applications from residents who are interested in being a member of the new City Council-appointed Property Owners Review Team (PORT). The team will review downtown development proposals that do not meet enough of the recently approved Downtown Design Overlay and Manual guidelines and will review any development proposal that cannot be approved in the routine staff process.

Anyone interested in joining PORT should complete a boards and commissions interest form at [greensboro-nc.gov/citygovernment/boardsandcommissions](http://greensboro-nc.gov/citygovernment/boardsandcommissions), attach a resume or bio, and mail them to the City Clerk's Office at PO Box 3136, Greensboro, NC, 27402. Interested residents may also call the City Clerk's Office at 373-2397 for additional information about serving on the team.



### One City, One Book

This year's One City, One Book selection is "The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music," by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez. "The Soloist" is the moving story of the remarkable bond between a journalist in search of a story and a homeless, classically trained musician. Participate in

One City, One Book and read the book today! Learn more about One City, One Book and get a list of events at [greensborolibrary.org](http://greensborolibrary.org).

### Greensboro Named 'Playful City USA' Again

The City has once again been named as a Playful City USA community, recognizing that it ensures its children are active and healthy despite difficult budget constraints.

Playful City USA is a national recognition program honoring cities and towns that ensure children are healthy by providing the time and space for play. This year KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit dedicated to saving play, recognized 118 cities across the country, including Greensboro. The City was also named a Playful City in 2009.

### Greensboro's 'cold cases'

*The Greensboro Police Department continues to try to solve old cases, called "cold cases." Each month on its Web page -- [greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Police/coldcases](http://greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Police/coldcases) -- previously unsolved cases like the one below are randomly highlighted.*

On February 18, 2006, Jimmy Fields was found fatally shot inside a running vehicle in the parking lot of Hickory Trails Apartments. Anyone with information on this case is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 373-1000. Crimes Stoppers has offered a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. Calls are not traced or taped.

## City's Population Up from Last Year

The annual estimate for Greensboro's official population as of July 1, 2010 is 260,083. This represents a slight increase (.8 percent) from last year's estimate of 257,997.

Factors influencing this year's official population estimate include:

- The use of a three-year (2006-2008) American Community Survey (ACS) for Greensboro rather than single-year data, which is more consistent due to the larger sample size. Five-year ACS data will be available next year and will then replace the three-year ACS data for calculating population estimates.
- The average household size increased from 2.30 to 2.32 persons per household.
- Growth occurred despite higher residential vacancy rates, particularly in rental units (13.3 percent in the 2009 estimate versus 14.2 percent in the 2010 estimate).
- The reduction of approximately 660 people as a result of a court-ordered de-annexation, which is currently under appeal by the City of Greensboro.

Throughout the decade, population growth in Greensboro has averaged 1.6 percent a year with the most notable increase of 5.5 percent occurring between 2007 and 2008, due in large part to significant City-initiated annexations.



## Greensboro Beautiful Accepting Applications for Neighborhood Grants

Greensboro Beautiful Inc. is now accepting applications for the 2010-11 Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to provide funding to neighborhood groups initiating beautification and ecology projects that enhance and/or restore city property. Grants awarded under this program range from \$250 to \$1,000 and will be announced January 2011.

This program is sponsored in partnership with the Greensboro Parks and Recreation and Field Operations departments. Neighborhood associations, civic groups, and clubs are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is October 29.

Guidelines and application forms may be downloaded from [www.greensborobeautiful.org](http://www.greensborobeautiful.org). For more information or to have an application sent to you, call the Greensboro Beautiful office at 373-2199.

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#### Call the City's Contact Center at 373-CITY

Get answers to questions and help with concerns about City services.