

AT YOUR SERVICE

GREENSBORO CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

MAY 2010



Holiday Trash/Recycling Schedule

City of Greensboro offices, buildings and facilities will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. There will also be no trash or recycling collection on that day. Instead, Monday's collection will take place Tuesday, June 1, and Tuesday's collection will take place Wednesday, June 2. For more information, call 336-373-CITY (2489).

Parisian Promenade

Join Greensboro Beautiful on Sunday, June 6, from 1-5 pm as it recreates the sights and smells of a spring afternoon in Paris. Enjoy sidewalk artists, live music, a sidewalk café with French food, a poodle parade, activities for children, and much more! The free event will be held at Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden, 1105 Hobbs Rd. For more information, call 336-373-2199.

Upcoming Coliseum Events

The Greensboro Coliseum hosts a broad range of events, including concerts, plays, sporting events, and much more. Upcoming events include the Triad Antique & Collectible Toy, Hobby & Sports Card Show held June 12-13, Super Flea Market held June 12-13, and the Southern Trophy Hunters Big Buck Expo held July 23-25. Get a complete list of upcoming events online at greensborocoliseum.com or by calling 1-800-745-3000.

June Council Meetings

Greensboro City Council meets on Tuesday, June 1 and 15, beginning 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 are aired live on Channel 13 and online at greensboro-nc.gov. Parking is available in the Greene Street Parking Deck.

Access Water Bill Info Online

The City is making it easier for you to access information about your water bill with a new online feature called WebConnect. WebConnect is a secure way for you to pay your water bill online, make changes to your billing information, and review usage trends and flow amounts.

The service is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. You can also use WebConnect to sign-up for E-Bill to receive your water bill via e-mail.

Sign-up for WebConnect today at greensboro-nc.gov/onlineservices. For more information, call 336-373-CITY (2489).

Crime Declines in First Quarter

Crime rates from January to March of 2010 have declined compared to the same months last year, according to the Greensboro Police Department (GPD). Violent crime is down by 24 percent, property crime by 2 percent and homicides have dropped by 80 percent.

"We monitor crime trends regularly and have seen a steady reduction over the last year. Now, the challenge we face is driving those numbers even lower and stabilizing them at a lower level. That's a task we have to have the community involved in," said Police Chief Tim Bellamy.

Bellamy also links the decrease in crime to the decline in the number of weapons seized as evidence, which has decreased by 40 percent compared to last year.

According to Assistant City Manager Michael Speedling, the crime data suggests police and residents are working together effectively. "A lot of factors affect crime and some of those are harder to interpret than others. One thing I'm sure of is that we wouldn't have such significant drops if we weren't all working toward the same goal of creating a safer City."

New Assistant City Manager Selected

A new assistant city manager for public safety and human resources has been selected. Michael Speedling, who has served as interim assistant city manager for public safety and human resources since February, will oversee activities of the City's police, fire and human resources departments, as well as Guilford Metro 9-1-1.



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Asst. City Manager - cont.

He will also continue to oversee the City's security division, which was his role prior to joining the city manager's office.

This is a new senior-level position created by City Manager Rashad Young in response to the priority of Greensboro City Council to address two of the City's most critical needs—public safety and human resources.

Speedling, who joined the City in 2007 as director of security, was selected for this position because of his extensive background in emergency services and preparedness, which spans more than three decades.

Guilford Metro 9-1-1 Awarded Second International Accreditation

Guilford Metro 9-1-1 (GM 9-1-1) was recently awarded international accreditation as an Emergency Medical Dispatch Center of Excellence from the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED), a standard-setting organization that promotes safe and effective emergency dispatch services world-wide. This is the second accreditation GM 9-1-1 has received from IAED in less than four months; the first was for achieving the Emergency Fire Dispatch Center of Excellence accreditation.

GM 9-1-1 is now the 134th emergency communications / 9-1-1 center in the entire world to be awarded this distinction, and becomes only the fifteenth emergency communications center in the world to hold dual accreditation in Emergency Medical Dispatch and Emergency Fire Dispatch.

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 — previously unsolved cases like the one below are randomly highlighted.



On January 25, 2009, the Greensboro Police Department responded to Campus Courtyard Apartments, 805 Homeland Ave., and found Dennis Hayle shot to death. Anyone with information on this murder is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 336-373-1000. Crime Stoppers

offers a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. In addition to the Crime Stoppers reward, the family is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 and Pickering & Company is offering a reward of up to \$1,000. All calls are confidential and are not traced or taped.

When you start your spring cleaning, remember to separate yard waste from trash and recycling. To dispose of yard waste, can it, bag it or bundle it, and place it on the curb on your regular trash collection day. Call 336-373-CITY (2489) for more information.

Celebrate Bike Month by Putting Safety First

May is National Bike Month and in recognition of it, the City wants to remind riders how to keep themselves and others safe.

First, bicycles are defined as vehicles by state law. That means bicyclists should behave like drivers by:

- Riding with traffic, not against it
- Stopping at all stop signs and red lights
- Signaling their intentions
- Not passing on the right unless in a bike lane or shoulder
- Using lights when riding at night

Bicyclists should also ride as far to the right as possible, while avoiding hazards like potholes and parked cars. Also, under state law, all bicyclists under 16 must wear a helmet and it is recommended that all riders wear one.

Motorists can also do their part to keep bicyclists and themselves safe by:

- Looking for bicyclists before turning and before opening car doors
- Not driving or parking in bike lines
- Not passing a bicyclist when making a right turn; instead, slow down, merge and then turn

Learn more about bicycle safety by visiting GSOSharesTheRoad.org.



Get Hurricane Ready



Hurricane season begins June 1 and will run through November 30. North Carolina's coastline is vulnerable to direct hurricane hits, but inland cities like Greensboro can also be devastated by high winds, heavy rain and potential tornados, storm surges, flooding, and landslides associated with these systems.

If you haven't already, now is the time to develop a family emergency plan. Sit down with your loved ones and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Write the plan down and keep a copy of it in a safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Now is also the time to make your family emergency kit. Items you should include in your kit are:

- Water and food (at least a 3-day supply)
- Cash
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Clothes
- Over-the-counter and any prescription medicines
- Sanitation supplies (hand sanitizer, soap, toilet paper, etc.)
- Battery powered weather radio (with extra batteries)

Get more tips on preparing for hurricane season by visiting GreensboroReady.com.

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