

AT YOUR SERVICE

GREENSBORO CITY GOVERNMENT NEWS & INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 2009



Youth First Teen Summit slated for October 26

The City's Youth First Program invites all Guilford County middle and high school students to a fun-filled day of discussing teen topics and learning about local teen services and programs. The annual Youth First Teen Summit takes place from 8:30 am to 4 pm on October 26 at Greensboro Coliseum's Special Events Center. For more information, call 373-7710 or 297-5019.

GYC seeks volunteers

Guilford County teens interested in gaining leadership experience, making new friends, and having fun while earning community service hours should call the Greensboro Youth Council (GYC) at 373-2738. Be one of hundreds of high school students who have already volunteered thousands of hours to their community through GYC.

Fire Prevention Week puppet shows scheduled

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, the Greensboro Fire Department is presenting weekday fire safety puppet shows at the Public Safety Training Facility, 1510 N. Church St. Show times are 9:30 am and 10:15 am Monday through Friday. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 373-2177. For fire prevention tips, visit greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Fire/prevention.

October City Council meetings

Greensboro City Council meets on Tuesdays, October 6 and 20, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Council Chamber, Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington St. Council meetings are open to the public and are aired live on Channel 13 and through videostreaming online at greensboro-nc.gov.

Greensboro goes 'green'

The City takes seriously its responsibility to protect the environment and to promote 'green' initiatives. Greensboro officials are constantly implementing sound, cost-effective energy management and investment practices to enhance environmental stewardship.

Current City-wide energy conservation measures are aimed at lowering energy costs, creating a more comfortable living environment, improving residents' health and safety, reducing fossil fuel emissions, slowing climate



change and aiding in the preservation of our natural resources for future generations. Read more about how Greensboro is going green at greensboro-nc.gov/GreensboroGoesGreen.

Crime stats show decrease in crime

Crime statistics comparing the first half of 2009 with that of 2008 show a 3 percent overall decrease in crimes in the City.

Violent crimes decreased 9 percent in the first half of 2009 compared to the first half of 2008, down from 926 in 2008 to 846 in 2009.

Violent crimes include murder, rape, commercial robbery, individual robbery and aggravated assault. Property crimes, which include burglary, larceny and auto theft, also decreased from 7,593 in 2008 to 7,363 in 2009, a drop of 3 percent.

Double-digit decreases were seen in murder, aggravated assault, auto theft and rape - down 27 percent, 22 percent, 19 percent and 16 percent, respectively - compared to the first half of 2008.

Share your thoughts

There's still time to share your opinions on the City's latest Land Development Ordinance (LDO) draft, which is the source for standards and regulations related to land-use and development in Greensboro. Deadline for public comment is September 30. For information on how to submit comments and for a copy of the draft itself, go to greensboro-nc.gov/LDO.

Latest City awards

Crime Stoppers receives FBI award

Greensboro's Crime Stoppers program has won an FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for its efforts in combating crime, terrorism, drugs and violence.

Crime Stoppers is a community-oriented program that uses law enforcement, the community, and the media to fight crime. Since its inception in 1981, calls to Crime Stoppers have recovered more than \$16 million in drugs and property in Guilford County alone. For more information on Crime Stoppers, visit greensboro-nc.gov/crimestoppers.

GIS technology honored for innovation

The City has been honored with the Special Achievement in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Award from the Environmental Systems Research Institute for its integration of GIS with the City's Contact Center and Asset/Work Management technologies.

Tying these three technologies together enables residents to call a single telephone number (373-CITY) to request a City service. It also allows City staff to improve responsiveness and track the progress of residents' requests, while reducing costs.

The City's Contact Center expects to receive its one millionth call in October, which coincidentally is National Customer Service Month. Learn more about the Contact Center at greensboro-nc.gov/373CITY.

Library program wins diversity award

The Greensboro Public Library has won first place in the 2009 Diversity and Outreach Fair at the annual American Library Association conference for its LifeVerse project.

LifeVerse poets and community volunteers take poetry programs into nursing homes, assisted living centers, worship places and adult day cares to spark memories of verses from the past. Volunteers are always needed. Call 373-3636 for more information.

Helpful reminders

~ Whether or not you get 'swept' up in Greensboro Beautiful's annual Big Sweep citywide cleanup on September 19, always strive to keep the area's waterways, streets, neighborhoods, and communities clean.

~ The City does not close its buildings and facilities on Columbus Day, October 12. It's business as usual on that Monday.

~ The City also does not determine which day or times children should trick-or-treat, but the Parks and Recreation Department can help everyone celebrate Halloween in special ways. Check out its fall/winter *Leisure Magazine's* calendar of events at greensboro-nc.gov/FallWinterLeisure.

37 police recruits graduate

By the end of September, the City will have 37 new police officers, all of whom will be assigned to the Patrol Division for field training. The officers are September 18 graduates of the Greensboro Police Department's 90th Police Basic Introductory Course (PBIC).



The Police Department is now preparing for the 91st PBIC, set to begin in October. Applications for the department are accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information, call 1-888-GPD-JOBS or visit greensboro-nc.gov/police.

Police complaint review process outlined

Law enforcement personnel must enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner while protecting the rights of all parties involved. If you feel you have been treated improperly, you may file a complaint to ensure Police Department employees perform their jobs in accordance with department rules and regulations.

Voice a complaint by calling the Police Department at 373-2468 or the Complaint Review Committee of the Human Relations Commission at 373-2038. If you have been assisted by a Police Department employee and you want to praise or commend him or her, call the Office of the Chief of Police at 373-2450.

These Greensboro residents are just a few who took a stand against crime and drugs in their neighborhoods on August 4 by participating in National Night Out (NNO). Neighborhoods throughout the city sponsored NNO events in support of law enforcement agencies and crime prevention programs.



Greensboro's 'cold cases'

The Greensboro Police Department continues to try to solve old cases, so-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. The police ask for information and assistance in apprehending those responsible for these crimes.



On July 28, 2003, James A. Williams was found shot to death in his home at 309 Holt Ave. The suspects reportedly drove a white Jeep Cherokee. Crime Stoppers has offered a cash reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. If you have information on this or any other unsolved case, call Crime Stoppers at 373-1000.

At Your Service Readership Surveys
Thank you to our readers who took our survey in July's issue of *At Your Service*.
We are still receiving and reviewing all responses.