



At Your Service

News & Information

City Ranks High in Affordability & LGBT Issues

Among the five largest cities in NC, Greensboro ranks in the middle when it comes to a homeowner's costs for property taxes and fees for services, according to the City's Budget and Evaluation Department's annual comparison of property tax rates and major user fees.

When comparing Greensboro to Charlotte, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and Durham and their respective counties, the Gate City ranks third with a combined city and county taxes and user fee average of \$2,613, based on a home with an assessed property value of \$150,000.

Also, the City scored an 80 out of 100 possible points in the latest listing of the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI). The score ranks Greensboro first among all cities in NC and SC for the second consecutive year.

MEI examines the laws, policies and services of municipalities and rates them on the basis of their inclusivity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people who live and work in the city.

Be Safe During the Holidays

Visiting family and friends during the holidays? Decking out your own home with all the trappings? If so, make sure you and your loved ones stay safe.



For tips from the

Greensboro Police Department on enjoying a drama-free holiday season, visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/HolidaySafety.

3 New Public Spaces Now Open



The Van Dyke Performance Space, Declan's Playground and Kiwanis Nature Play Yard are all now open to the public.

Located at the Greensboro Cultural Center, the Van Dyke is a 7,500 square foot black box, multi-use performance space named for the late Jan Van Dyke. A modern dance virtuoso, Van Dyke donated \$1 million to the project to ensure local artists would have a place to perform works before medium-sized audiences.

Declan's Playground, located at 3299 Starmount Dr., was built in partnership with the Friends of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Declan Donoghue Foundation, which is dedicated to building places to play.

The Kiwanis Nature Play Yard at Ole Asheboro Park, 200 E. Gate City Blvd., was built with \$30,000 of financial support from the Kiwanis Club of Greensboro. The yard offers children a chance to engage with natural elements and wooden play structures, some of which were built

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Attend a City Council Meeting

Greensboro City Council meets at 5:30 pm on December 6 and 20 and January 3. Meetings are open to the public and air live on Greensboro Television Network. Review council's full 2017 meeting schedule at www.greensboro-nc.gov/CouncilMeetings.

City Offices Closed 2 Days in January

City offices and facilities close Monday, January 2 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

There are no trash/recycling collections on either of those Mondays. Instead, collections on those days take place on Tuesdays and Tuesdays' collections take place on Wednesdays. Questions? Call the City's Contact Center at 336-373-CITY (2489).

Piedmont Winterfest Returns

Now through January 29, WFMY News 2 Piedmont Winterfest offers public ice skating and special events at



LeBauer Park, 208 N. Davie St., in downtown Greensboro. Free parking is available along Elm Street and paid parking is available at the Church and Davie Street parking decks.

For information on skate times, pricing and group activities, visit www.PiedmontWinterfest.com.

by the City's Parks and Recreation Department staff. The yard was designed by the Natural Learning Initiative, a program of NC State University's College of Design.

Need 2017 Holiday Trash/ Recycling Schedule?

To understand when your trash and recycling will be picked up during the new year, you first need to know if your collection day falls within a blue or red week. To learn this, visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/Schedule and type in your address. The website will then bring up a link to your week's collection schedule.

Also, remember that during the holidays, your regular trash, recycling, yard waste and bulk collection day may change. Trash collection may occur even though City facilities and offices are closed.

Visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/HolidaySchedule for specific holiday schedules. Questions? Call 336-373-CITY (2489).



Recycle Holiday Refuse Properly

After the holidays have ended, remember that live Christmas trees will be collected on your regular trash collection day if

they are curbside by 7 am that day. Guilford County also has drop-off sites for Christmas tree disposal for your convenience.

And remember that electronic waste cannot be put in your garbage or recycling cans. These items must be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Center. Learn more at www.greensboro-nc.gov/HolidayRecycling.

Nonprofit Funding Requests Now Being Accepted

Nonprofit organizations that want funding from the City for FY 2017-18 have until December 30 to apply. Download an application and read more about the requirements at www.greensboro-nc.gov/CommunityPartners.

New Feature

Each month, At Your Service will publish a feature from "Made in Greensboro," a photo series and social media campaign that celebrates local entrepreneurs, creative professionals, community builders, and the next generation of leaders. Launched in 2015, the campaign is a joint effort of Action Greensboro and the City. Learn more at www.madeingso.com.

Nineteen years ago, a teenage Justin Smith devised a solution to his family's Christmas decoration installation issues: a homemade potato gun. Load it up and you can easily get the chicken wire light balls high into the trees.

Since then, the DIY project has become something much more for Smith's Sunset Hills neighborhood. Every year, neighbors get together to learn how to make light orbs and help each other hang them from trees, transforming the area into a tourist attraction residents have used to collect canned goods and money to feed local families.

Perfecta Visuals



MLK Memorial Breakfast is January 16

Greensboro's Human Relations Commission hosts its 30th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast at 7:30 am Monday, January 16, at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center. The breakfast is in honor of King's contributions to human rights.

For more information about the event, how to become a sponsor, or to purchase tickets call Marion Davis at 336-373-2038.

Loose Leaf Program Underway

The City's annual Loose Leaf Collection program continues. Leaves that were curbside by November 7 will be picked up by December 22 and leaves curbside by December 28 will be picked up by January 20.

Visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/Leaves to view an interactive map showing leaf collection status in your area and learn more about the program.

Entries Now Being Accepted for Water-Related Contest

Guilford County students in grades 1-9 are invited to enter an annual contest co-sponsored by the City's Water Resources Department. Depending on grade-level, the contest involves either posters, essays and speeches about water conservation and water quality.

Contest rules, judging guidelines, prize information and entry forms can be found at www.greensboro-nc.gov/Posters and www.peachjar.com.



Visit us online at www.greensboro-nc.gov

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