October 13, 2008 Page 1 of 3



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Search

Go





Up To City Connections

Back Issues

April 21, 2008

April 23, 2007

April 7, 2008

April 9, 2007

August 11, 2008

August 13, 2007

August 27, 2007

August 7, 2006

December 10, 2007

February 11, 2008

February 25, 2008

January 22, 2008

January 25, 2006

July 14, 2008

July 23, 2007

July 24, 2006

June 11, 2007

June 12, 2006

June 23, 2008

June 25, 2007

June 26, 2006

<u>June 9, 2008</u>

March 10, 2008

March 12, 2007

March 24, 2008

March 26, 2007

May 12, 2008

May 22, 2006

May 27, 2008

May 7, 2007

November 12, 2007

City Council Action Wrap-Up

Resolutions approved are aimed at supporting business growth and protecting the public.

At its October 7 meeting, City Council took action to encourage the continued growth of new jobs and capital investment downtown and protect people who go to clubs and bars.

The Council adopted an economic incentive to provide reduced cost for parking for employers who create new jobs downtown. They can get a free parking spot at a city deck or transit pass for one year for each new job. The new policy is meant to encourage job growth in the center city and encourage use of public transportation services. The plan is effective immediately. Requests for spaces should be directed to the City Manager's office at 373-2002.

Eligible City-owned parking decks covered under the policy include those on Bellemeade, Davie, Church and Greene streets.

Also, the Council increased fines for overcrowding and other violations in Greensboro clubs and bars. It will now cost business owners \$100 per person over the posted occupancy if they have an overcrowded establishment and \$500 per blocked, locked or obstructed emergency exit. The fines for obstructed exits are graduated and increase to \$1,000 per exit for a second violation and \$1,500 per exit for a subsequent violations.

The new fines will start 30 days from approval.



At the October 7 meeting, Council also honored those who worked on Greensboro's Bicentennial celebration by presenting certificates of

Did You Know

Get ready to be spooked at the annual Lake Higgins' Haunted Trail at 4235 Hamburg Mill Road in Summerfield. Opening day is October 17 from 7:30-11 pm. Price is \$10 per person (the event is not recommended for children under six-years-old). The half-mile 'haunted' trail will also be open October 18, 24 and 25 at the same times. Proceeds from the event support the Watershed Parks' environmental programs. For more information, call 643-4295.

Community and homeowner safety is a priority, so the City encourages you to report non-working or damaged streetlights as soon as you see them. Call the Contact Center at 373-CITY (2489) with the location or address of the light and directions to it from a major street or intersection. Also include the type of problem, such as the light cycles on and off or the fixture or bulb is damaged, etc. You may also file a report online.

The City will present the full draft plan for enhancing High Point Road and West Lee Street from South Eugene Street to Interstate 40 during a public meeting on Wednesday, October 22. The meeting will take place from 6-8 pm at the Doubletree Hotel, 3030 High Point Road. During the meeting, the public can review and comment on recommended actions to create significant new public and private investments, enhance the area's overall appearance and function, and improve levels of public safety and perception of the area. More information can be found here.

A public hearing to consider policy changes to SCAT paratransit services will be held on October 22 at 6 pm in the boardroom of the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center, located at 200 N. Davie Street in Greensboro. Policies to be addressed include cancellations and no-shows on the SCAT ADA complementary service, standing orders, and the free use of fixed route service for certified SCAT riders

Country Park's annual "Paws in the Park" fundraiser will be held October 26 from 1-5 pm at 3902 Nathanael Greene Drive. There will be a Halloween costume contest for your pooch and humans may dress up as well. October 13, 2008 Page 2 of 3

November 13, 2006

November 26, 2007

October 13, 2008

October 22, 2007

October 23, 2006

October 27, 2008

October 9, 2006

September 10, 2007

September 11, 2006

September 22, 2008

September 24, 2007

September 25, 2006

September 8, 2008

April 10, 2006

January 31, 2006

March 13, 2006

March 27, 2006

April 24, 2006

May 8, 2006

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appreciation to the Bicentennial Commissioners (pictured here), volunteer committee chairs and other volunteers.

Houses and Lots Available for Sale

The City works with others to help provide affordable housing to residents.

The City's Housing and Community Development Department helps the <u>Redevelopment Commission of Greensboro</u> and the <u>Greensboro Housing and Development Partnership</u> in marketing properties that are for sale. Currently both groups have several homes and vacant lots available for purchase. Information about these properties can be found <u>here</u>. Financial assistance is available.

The City also works with <u>Self-Help</u> in Greensboro, which creates and protects home ownership and economic opportunity for people of color, women, rural residents and low-wealth families and communities across North Carolina, Washington, DC, California, and many other states.



On October 6, the Central Library welcomed its 10,000,000th visitor to its 219 North Church Street facility-local resident Jewel Thomas and her son Corey. Thomas was honored with a bouquet of balloons and several gifts. The milestone also marked the 10 year anniversary of the library's move from its former home at the corner of Greene Street and Friendly Avenue.

Kids, Cans & Cash Kicks Off

Participating schools are paid for every pound of aluminum they collect.

The "Kids, Cans & Cash" recycling challenge lets students in Guilford County Elementary Schools protect the environment and earn money for their schools by collecting aluminum beverage cans from October 27 to November 10. The annual challenge is held in recognition of America Recycles Day, which is November 15 annually.

In the challenge, schools that deliver the most pounds of aluminum cans to participating material recovery facilities in Greensboro or High Point will win special prizes including a trophy, pizza party, food coupons and much more. Each school is paid for every pound of aluminum it collects and it gets to use the money however it wants to.

Schools are divided into three categories by enrollment size: fewer than 399 students; between 400-599 students; and 600 or more students. To enter a school in the challenge, download a <u>registration form</u>.

Voting Day is Fast Approaching

Early voting days, times and locations are available here.

Are you registered to vote on November 4? Do you know where to

Other activities include games, demonstrations, contests, a silent auction and fashion show starring local dogs who are up for adoption.

Where and how will you travel around Greensboro 25 years from now? Come to an open house on Thursday, Oct. 30 and take a peek into the future of transportation in our area. The open house will be held at the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington Street. Drop by any time between 4 and 7 pm to share your thoughts and ideas. For more information, call 373-4368 or visit online.

October 13, 2008 Page 3 of 3

go to cast your ballot and what times the polls are open? Visit the Guilford County Board of Elections <u>website</u> for answers to those questions and more.

One local issue Greensboro residents will be asked to vote on is the approval of these separate bond proposals:

- \$134 million for street improvements
- \$50 million to remodel War Memorial Auditorium
- \$20 million for parks and recreation projects
- \$1 million for housing programs.

Learn more about the bonds by watching this video.

Questions or comments about this newsletter should be addressed to: Jim Collins 373-2105 or $\underline{\text{email}}$.

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