



**Neighborhood Newsletter for September 2014**

**Neighborhood Leadership Council Meeting – September 25<sup>th</sup> ■ 6:30 PM**

Join us on Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> for the 3rd quarter 2014 Neighborhood Leadership Council Meeting. The meeting will be held at [Fire Station #9](#) (1020 Ivey Cline Road). Come network and learn about the Appreciative Inquiry process which will help you utilize neighborhood assets as a means for reaching goals. You will have a chance to practice with real examples that you can take home and put to work right away.



During the Leadership Council meetings, neighborhood leaders share experiences, exchange information, and participate in focused leadership training. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to neighborhood leaders from each of the City's recognized neighborhood organizations. In most cases this is the neighborhood association chair or current president, although any active member is welcomed to attend meetings. Recognized neighborhood organizations are encouraged to designate a primary and an alternate representative to serve as its NLC representative. To RSVP for the meeting or for more information please call (704) 920.5298 or send an email to [jzarc@concordnc.gov](mailto:jzarc@concordnc.gov).

**Basketball Goals obstruct the right-of-way.**

Did you know that City Code section 50-41 prohibits obstructions within the street right-of-way? This includes portable basketball goals. Many neighbors are surprised to hear this – especially if they have customarily placed portable basketball goals or other sports equipment at the curb or on the sidewalk in the past.



While we certainly understand that basketball goals provide youth with much needed outdoor recreation, they present a very serious hazard to those who play in the street if the goal is placed at the curb. Within your neighborhood, the public right-of-way includes the street, driveway apron, and sidewalk.

If you have questions about City Codes, contact Concord Police Code Enforcement. David Barnhardt is the Code Enforcement Manager for the City of Concord and can be contacted at 704-920-5144. To report any code violation, call the Customer Care Center at 704-920-5555.

Let's continue to work together to keep Concord a clean and safe place to live. Learn more at [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov).

**September 11<sup>th</sup> Patriot Day Event – Community Celebration**



The Concord Fire Department invites the public to a community-wide Patriots' Day remembrance ceremony at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 11. The brief memorial service will be held at Concord Fire Station 8, located at 1485 Old Charlotte Road.

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## Good Neighbor Tip:

### Good Neighbor Day – Sunday September 28

Not so long ago, the world felt like a smaller place, and folks knew their neighbor's names. Now, many of us aren't familiar with our neighbors, and only speak to them in passing. Why not use National Good Neighbor Day as an opportunity to lend a proverbial cup of sugar, and get to know the people who live nearby?

National Good Neighbor Day was the brainchild of Mrs. Becky Mattson. Becky and her husband Dick lived in Lakeside, Montana in the early '70s and realized the importance of knowing your neighbors. Together they worked with the local and state elected officials and got Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter to sign proclamations for National Good Neighbor Day. In 2003, the U.S. Senate finally passed a resolution that officially made September 28th National Good Neighbor Day.

Here are few a simple ways to say thanks to your neighbors:

- Roll in the empty trash cans from the curb
- Rake the first of the fall leaves, even if they are not technically on your property line
- Hand deliver some homemade cookies or invite someone over for coffee
- Organize a Neighborhood walking tour
- Wave, smile, and say hello– you'd be surprised how far a little gesture can go

Whatever you do, remember that the simple goal of National Good Neighbor Day is to bring neighbors together and to help enhance neighborhood connections. Being good neighbors is an important part of the social fiber that makes this country so great.

Please email me and let me know what your neighborhood organization is doing to encourage your members to celebrate National Good Neighbor Day. Also, Nextdoor, the private social network for neighborhoods, is celebrating Good Neighbor Day with [Nextdoor's Good Neighbor Award](#). Learn more here: <https://nextdoor.com/goodneighborawards/>

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## Crime Prevention Tip:

### Never let your gun get in the wrong hands.



Click the image above to view a short PSA about gun safety from the National Crime Prevention Council.

Responsible firearms owners understand that that owning a firearm comes with both rights and responsibilities. They also know that firearm safety should be a priority if we want to better protect our children, prevent avoidable injury, and keep our communities safe.

Takes steps today to educate yourself on how to properly [store](#) and lock firearms where children, at-risk youth, potential thieves, and those who intend to harm themselves or others, cannot access them.

Remember, we all have a role to play in making our neighborhood safe. For more information on gun safety and safe firearm storage, visit [www.projectchildsafe.org](http://www.projectchildsafe.org).

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## **Fire Prevention Tip: Hoarding and Fire Safety**

Hoarding is the excessive accumulation of materials in home to the point that it is no longer able to function as a viable living space. Hoarding makes it difficult for first responders to help in the event of an emergency. It increases the risk of fire due to the accumulation of combustibles such as papers, clothing and rubbish. Many occupants die in fires in these homes. Often, blocked exits prevent escape from the home. In addition, many people who are hoarding are injured when they trip over things or when materials fall on them.



The prevalence of hoarding is unknown because it is often a hidden problem, but it is thought that 1.5 – 3 million Americans suffer from hoarding. What can you do to help?

- Recognize the warning signs: cluttered living spaces, inability to discard items, difficulty managing daily tasks, poor organization, shame or embarrassment, limited or no social activities
- Try and speak to the person, or a member of their family about seeing a doctor or mental health professional
- If you believe the conditions are a health or safety risk to the person or community seek help from the Concord Fire Department
- In the event of an immediate emergency contact 911 right away.

If you or someone in your life is a hoarder, don't ignore the problem. [Click here](#) for some information that may help. Visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more fire safety tips or contact Education Specialist Jeff Bostian, [bostianj@concordnc.gov](mailto:bostianj@concordnc.gov).

## *News Headlines*

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### ***Free workshop for teen drivers***

Concord Police will be present at the Bridgestone Teens Drive Smart Driving Experience, September 6 and 7 at zMax Dragway. The free, half-day workshops teach new drivers the skills needed to better handle accident avoidance situations, ways to eliminate distracted driving behaviors, and basic vehicle maintenance tips to keep cars running newer, longer. It's fun. It's free. But most of all, It's an important first step for a lifetime of smart driving decisions. Register at [teensdrivesmarttour.com](http://teensdrivesmarttour.com).

### ***Backyard composting made easy***

In the latest episode of [Successful Gardener](#), Concord's Environmental Educator, Mandy Smith-Thompson joins Cabarrus Cooperative Extension Agent David Goforth to discuss [backyard composting](#). By composting you can recycle some kitchen and yard waste items in your backyard, and produce a great nutrient-rich supplement for your garden soil. Check out the episode on Cabarrus County's Channel 22 or [anytime on the YouTube channel](#). You can also get tips for taking care of our environment at [facebook.com/ConcordEnvironmentalEd](https://facebook.com/ConcordEnvironmentalEd).

### ***Rider Transit hosting second workshop for proposed service changes***

Rider Transit is hosting its second public workshops to gather feedback on proposed service changes on Thursday, September 4 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Rider Transit Center located at 3600 South Ridge Avenue in Concord. The public is invited to attend and share thoughts and provide feedback on the changes that will impact all seven routes this fall. Some routes have small but key changes. For additional information and a preview of the proposed service changes, visit [ckrider.com](http://ckrider.com).

## **Cabarrus County Fair - September 5-Saturday, September 13**

Fun for everyone at the Cabarrus County Fair. Discounted advance tickets available online through September 4, while supplies last. [Learn more](#): Call 704-786-722.

### **Parks and Recreation highlights**

Check out the [Summer 2014 issue of Leisure Times](#) for a full list of programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Stay Connected!**

Visit the City's website for the latest information and updates at [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov). Check out our page on [Facebook](#) and our other [interactive features!](#)

Visit [concordnc.gov](http://concordnc.gov) to learn how you can be sure to receive timely updates from the City via phone, text, or email.

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## **Neighborhood Meeting Calendar**

**Click the heading above to access the September 2014 Neighborhood Meeting Calendar.** The calendar includes meeting dates, times and locations for neighborhood meetings, City Council Meetings, Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings and other city events. Please note that as reported by the organization. Meetings date and times are subject to change without notice. This is a live calendar so changes are made immediately after they are report. For a full schedule of all recognized organization meetings, visit the program's website [concordnc.gov/neighborhoods](http://concordnc.gov/neighborhoods).

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Please share this newsletter by forwarding it to your neighbors - post an excerpt in your community's newsletter, post a copy on your community bulletin board, or on your Facebook Page.

### **Partnership for Stronger Neighborhoods**

**BUILDING** relationships to  
**EMPOWER** communities  
and **CONNECT** citizens to resources.