

CONOVER NEIGHBOR



December 2014

25th Annual Christmas in the Park

On December 2nd, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., the City of Conover will hold its twenty-fifth annual "Christmas in the Park" in the Downtown Park Gazebo. This year's community event will feature choruses from local schools, hayrides by Foothills Antique Power Association and the Annual Tree Lighting.

The Conover Fire Department will provide hot chocolate, coffee, cider, and cookies. As always, we expect Santa to stop by sometime around 7:00!



Come join us in the Downtown Park located behind the Post Office on 2nd Avenue NE for this annual Conover tradition.

Santa Cops



This Christmas the Conover Police Department will be accepting donations of new toys and clothing for boys and girls up to age 14. The collection points will be at Conover Police Department, Conover City Hall, Conover Hardware, Untouchables, Dollar General, Sidewalk Cafe, The Green Room, Billy's BBQ, 3M, Hwy 55 Restaurant, Newton-Conover Middle School, Lyle Creek Elementary, LaBella Vita Hair Salon, and CVS in Conover. Donations will be accepted through December 12, 2014. Families of students in the Newton-Conover School System are eligible to apply. Rock Barn Golf & Spa recently held their 4th annual golf tournament in which participants donated toys to the Santa Cops program. Thank you Rock Barn and all participants! If you have any questions please call the Conover Police Department at 828-464-4698.

New Utility Payment Options

As part of our commitment to provide citizens with efficient and convenient services, the City of Conover has partnered with Point & Pay to pay utility bills online.

To pay online go to our website www.conovernc.gov and click on the Point & Pay icon. You can also pay bills over the phone by calling 1-888-891-6064 (toll free).



****NOTE - Payments made after midnight will not be posted to your account until the following business day. If you pay after midnight on the 26th your payment will be considered late.**

Planning Ahead:

City Hall closed for Christmas Holiday December 24-26, 2014

City Council: Meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Conover City Hall

Planning Board: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Conover City Hall

Online Safety Tips from the IT Dept.

Tis the Season to be Cautious

The holiday season is upon us and soon millions of people around the world will be looking to buy the perfect gifts. Many people will choose to shop online in search of a great deal or to avoid long lines and crowds. Unfortunately, this is also the time unscrupulous websites may attempt to scam you by selling counterfeit products, stealing your credit card information or failing to deliver anything. In this newsletter we will cover some of the dangers of shopping online and ways to protect yourself.

Online Stores

A scammer can easily set up a website that appears to be a legitimate store by simply copying the look of other, well-known stores. Once these fake websites are online, scammers prey on people who are looking for the lowest price possible. Shoppers often start by searching on Google or Bing for products they'd like to buy, and then add words such as "cheapest" or "lowest price." In return, the search engine will present many, even hundreds of websites selling the item. Some of these websites may be fake. When selecting a website to purchase your desired item, be wary of online stores offering a price that is dramatically cheaper than anyone else. The reason they may be so cheap is because after you purchase your item, what you receive in the mail is a counterfeit or stolen item, or in some cases is simply never even shipped. Indicators of fraudulent websites include:

- There is no phone number to call for sales or support-related questions.
- The website domain name is different than the domain name it uses for email addresses or other contact information.
- The website uses poor grammar or spelling.
- The website is an exact replica of a well-known website you have used in the past, but the website domain name or the name of the store is slightly different.

Remember, just because the site looks professional does not mean that it is legitimate. If some aspect of the site strikes you as odd, take the time to take a closer look at it. For instance, call the phone number listed in the "contact" section of the website to confirm that the number is valid. Also, type the store's name or URL into a search engine and see what other people have said about the website in the past. If you are still not sure if the website is legitimate, do not use it. Instead, use a well-known website that you can trust, preferably one you, your friends or family members have used in the past. The prices may not be quite as good, but you will receive a more reliable product and be less likely to get ripped off.

Your Credit Card

Be smart with your credit card. This involves keeping an eye on your credit card statements to identify suspicious charges. You should review your statements at least once per month. Some credit card providers even give you the option of being notified by email or a smartphone alert when charges are made to your card, or when charges exceed a set amount. If you believe fraud has been committed, such as never receiving your package even though you have tried to contact the store multiple times, or you see odd charges to your credit card, call your credit card company right away and explain the situation. This is why credit cards are far better for online purchases than debit cards. Debit cards take money directly from your bank account, and if fraud has been committed it is far more difficult to get your money back. Finally, several credit cards give you the option of generating unique card number for every online purchase, or perhaps consider a service like PayPal where you do not have to expose your credit card with every online purchase. Check your credit card company to see what additional services they offer for online purchases.

Information Taken From: The SANS Institute

<http://www.securingthehuman.com>

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”