

CONOVER NEIGHBOR



March 2015

Conover Station Recognized as 2015 Harvard Ash Center Bright Idea in Government



The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, recognized today **Conover Station Redevelopment Project** as part of the 2015 Bright Ideas program. This year's cohort includes 124 programs from all levels of government—school districts; county, city, state, and federal agencies; as well as public-private partnerships—that are at the forefront in innovative government action. The City of Conover purchased a vacant, downtown former factory site in 2005. Since that time, the city has transformed the once derelict site into an example of community-based revitalization for the future.

By obtaining over \$6.4 million dollars in grant funding, the city has completed a LEED certified rehabilitation of a 1924 mill building into a new public library and community space and constructed a new 6.8 acre environmentally educational public park. Conover also partnered with the Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC) to build a revolutionary new facility to promote job creation. The MSC has been working for over two decades to assist industries, both locally and nationally through materials testing, streamlining design and manufacturing innovations. MSC has worked with over 1,100 different business and industrial clients in 48 states and 35 countries. Most recently, a new \$4.4 million dollar commercial building and fitness center is under construction at the Conover Station site that will be the largest new building constructed in the downtown in decades.

“The Bright Ideas program demonstrates that often seemingly intractable problems can be creatively and capably tackled by small groups of dedicated, civic-minded individuals,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in Government Program at the Ash Center. “As exemplified by this year’s Bright Ideas, making government work better doesn’t always require massive reforms and huge budgets. Indeed, we are seeing that, in many ways, an emphasis on efficiency and adaptability can have further-reaching effects than large-scale reforms.”

This is the fourth cohort recognized through the Bright Ideas program, an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program. For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching and have sufficient operational resources and must be administered by one or more governmental entities; nonprofit, private sector, and union initiatives are eligible if operating in partnership with a governmental organization. Bright ideas are showcased in the Ash Center’s [Government Innovators Network](#), an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions.

For more information, contact: Daniel Harsha, Associate Director for Communications, Ash Center 617-495-4347 or Lance Hight, City of Conover Planning Director, 828-464-1191

About the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institution worldwide. Through its research, education, international programs, and government innovations awards, the Center fosters creative and effective government problem solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world’s citizens. For more information, visit www.ash.harvard.edu.

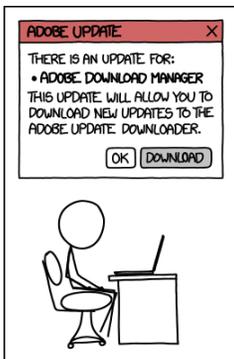
Planning Ahead:

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

From the Information Technology Department

Keeping your computer software up to date - Anyone who owns a Windows PC or laptop should be pretty familiar with Microsoft Windows updates hitting your machines at least once a month, generally on the second Tuesday of each month. However, along with these often critical Windows updates, there are several other pieces of software installed on most every machine that need security updates installed regularly. The most exploited software includes Adobe's Reader and Flash Player as well as Oracle's Java. Most users don't even know these programs are installed on their computers, but these little 3rd party programs allow you to read .PDF documents and are necessary for most websites to display correctly.

So, Why Do Adobe Reader and Java Update So Often? - Talk about a couple of nags. Adobe Reader and Oracle Java are almost constantly asking to install new updates. What's with these two, and do you really have to accept all the updating? Hackers can exploit Adobe's Reader (which opens PDF files) and Oracle's Java (a platform that runs various programs and Web apps) to wreak havoc on your PC. Some Reader and Java updates will improve the software's performance or stability, but most are made to plug security holes--so you should definitely install updates as they become available.



www.xkcd.com

The bad guys are well aware that these programs often go unpatched and malicious websites can try to trick you into installing rogue 'updates' that will only infect your computer. If a website you're visiting tells you to update these programs, completely close your browser immediately to avoid infection! To be safe, always go directly to the source to update these programs.

For Adobe Reader and Flash Player, go to www.adobe.com.

For Java, go to www.java.com and click the "Do I have Java?" link on the homepage.

Surf Safe!

-Conover IT Department

Conover Code Enforcement

As Spring 2015 draws near we will see some warmer days ahead and Conover residents will begin to enjoy the extra daylight and increasing temperatures. Things that may have gone unnoticed during the dreary days of winter are now an eyesore to the community and may be hurting your pocket as well as your health.



Nuisance Code Violations in Conover can be anywhere and in any neighborhood. Overgrown grass, furniture stored outside, unused construction items and automotive parts are the most common. These items and many others can pile up and give a less than desirable appearance to an entire neighborhood and if left to fester, they can effect property values.

In addition to issues that can hurt your property value, in some cases, there are nuisances that can hurt your health. Stagnant water and piles of nuisance items can promote mosquito breeding and rodent infestation. Water supporting mosquitoes can be found in just about any item that can hold water. This is often an old bucket or open trash can. Piles of any type of debris can create a labyrinth of hiding places for mice and rats. Both of these types of pests can severely hurt your health by either being bitten by an infected mosquito or unknowingly contacting rodent excrement.

The Code Enforcement program is here to help protect property values and promote a healthier environment. When you see items like this you can contact the Conover Code Enforcement program and we will investigate to see a violation exists. Report violations: Phone - Conover Code Enforcement - 828-464-4698 Email - codeofficer@conovernc.gov Web form - www.conovernc.gov

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