

CONOVER NEIGHBOR



June 2014

Conover Code Enforcement

If you drive around the City of Conover there should be something very obvious, once you are aware of what you are looking for, the absence of countless signs along the roadway that advertise everything from handyman work to palm reading.

With the exception of the time around elections, Conover does not allow any signage to be placed within the public right-of-way that is not traffic related. The public right-of-way is the space between the edge of the road or curbing and the legal property line. Most cities have zoning code that does not permit this type of signage but do not have a dedicated Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Department to remove signs and inform the sign owners of the violation.

The next time you are out and visit another town or city, take a look around, see how many signs are cluttering the roadways. Did you ever notice them as much before? Have you become so use to them on the edge of the roadway that they are overlooked and not noticed? After you notice the difference between the roadway signs, are you delighted that your hometown puts forth the effort to keep the scenery clear of these signs?

We, the Planning Department and Code Enforcement, are proud to continue to remove these signs and educate those who place them in our city about the zoning code. This effort keeps the roadways cleaner and safer for Conover residents and its visitors.

The Sign Code has been developed over time to help the overall appearance of Conover. If you are an individual or business and wish to place a sign anywhere in the city limits, it is always a good idea to call the Planning Department at 828-464-1191 or Code Enforcement at 828-464-4698 to ensure your sign meets the Zoning Code.



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

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

Conover IT Department



The Local Government Federal Credit Union announced Chris Niver and the City of Conover have been named this year's winner of the Government Innovation Grant Awards (GIGa) presented by the UNC School of Government and North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association (NCLGISA).

The GIGa award is presented annually to recognize efforts and reward technology-based innovation across governments in North Carolina by offering incentives to those governments engaged in innovative, repeatable endeavors which help improve citizen services by increasing efficiencies, effectiveness, and possibly creating cost savings. More importantly, the grant program will elevate the importance of technology in the public sector and result in increased managerial and elected official interest in governmental technology investments.

Mr. Niver partnered with NC Wireless to provide a no cost WiFi network throughout downtown Conover. The public private partnership utilizes the city's water tank to offer high speed broadband for paying customers. Typically the city would charge a private provider a lease. However the city is waiving the lease in lieu of free public WiFi in the downtown. City Attorney Monroe Pannell helped draft a contract that other local governments can replicate throughout the state. For Mr. Niver's efforts the City was awarded \$10,000 from the UNC School of Government for the first place effort displaying a public private partnership, and was also awarded \$1,000 for the most "liked" presentation.

Furthermore Mr. Niver and Conover were recognized for the Connect2Conover mobile app with another \$1,000 award in Spiceworks' March Mayhem. Spiceworks is an online IT provider offering assistance over the internet to IT specialists around the world. They created a contest looking for innovative IT solutions with small or no budget resources.

Mr. Niver competed against 16 innovative ideas from around the world and came out on top.



The City of Conover was awarded a two (2) year SAFER grant in the amount of \$226,434.00 through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to cover the salary and benefits for three (3) full-time firefighter positions for a period two (2) years.

The SAFER grant is offered through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA to provide funding directly to local governments to assist them in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet recognized national response level standards.

Congressman Patrick McHenry presented the Fire Department and City Council with a check on May 5th.