

CONOVER NEIGHBOR



September 2014

Penny Poll

How would you balance the City's priorities? Conover is currently preparing a strategic plan that will guide the City's future growth and investment. Over the next six months at various public events such as City Council meetings and Planning Board meetings a penny poll will be open to the public. You can also stop by the Planning Department at City Hall anytime to cast your vote. You will be given a stack of ten pennies and you can "spend" them on the issues that are important to you. Issues include, but are not limited to; maintaining a clean city, creating a more walkable city, focusing on jobs and economic development and providing exemplary city services. You can put as many of your ten pennies as you wish in each of the jars. All citizens are welcome to visit and share their thoughts.



CAFR Award



The City of Conover Finance Department was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This certificate represents a significant accomplishment by a

government and its management. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals. Finance Director Vickie K. Schlichting accepted the award on behalf of the City.

Planning Ahead:

September Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 2nd due to the Labor Day Holiday

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

Code Enforcement – Excessive Barking

The City of Conover noise ordinance is in place to help keep Conover a peaceful place to live and relax during the day and night. The ordinance is in effect 24 hours a day unlike many neighboring cities in the area where the ordinance can only be from late evening to early morning. With a 24 hour noise ordinance any continuing noise may be subject to review by the code enforcement officer but there are issues that can pose problems and prevent quick results.

A large number of noise complaints come from nuisance dog barking which can be a tricky issue to correct. Though coordination with the Conover police officers, the code enforcement officer establishes that there is a real issue of continued barking that is both unprovoked and excessive. This dog barking investigation begins with a call from the unfortunate resident that feels that they have had enough barking.

After the initial call the code enforcement officer will locate the dog in question and observe. While observing various things will be noted; the time of day, issues that may provoke the dog and frequency and duration of dog barking. Sometimes, no matter how many times the dog barks, the observation period can be silent, not a single bark. Other times the dog barks and keeps barking. When the dog has been found barking the owner will be informed of the noise ordinance and that a complaint has been observed by the police. We ask that if they hear their dog barking excessively they take measures to find out why it is barking and correct any issues causing barking.

In some cases this will get the dog owners attention and have them quickly quiet the dog down when excessive barking occurs. In other cases, the barking continues without correction resulting in another complaint. When a second complaint is received and more barking is observed, the dog owner will receive an official notice of the ordinance. The official notice includes the city ordinance code 16-13(3) and the potential for fines should the ordinance be ignored. The ordinance states that frequent or long continued noise by an animal or bird that disturbs the comfort or repose of any persons in the vicinity is a violation of city code.

With an average of 1 dog per 5 people in the United States and an average of 2.5 people per household, we can assume that half of the homes out there have at least one dog. Some dogs are inside dogs, some dogs are outside and some are both, most of them bark, some of them bark a lot. Chances are there are a number of you out there that know of a dog barking for what feels like hours on end, and you can understand why the dog owner would ignore their furry friends barking.

In some cases, a neighborly visit can correct the problem, in others it can place tension between neighbors so you may feel having code enforcement address the problem will work better for you. If this is the case, you can call the Police Department at 828-464-4698 to report excessive barking any time of the day or night.

Rarely are noise citations issued and they are only given as a last possible resort. In most cases, we attempt to work with both sides of the issue to allow for responsible pet ownership while maintaining a peaceful city.

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