



Conover Neighbor

FALL 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Leaf Collection	2
Snow Removal	2
Winter Fire	3
Holiday Tour of Homes	4
From the Department of Information Technology	5
Freezing Temperatures	5
Conover Farmers Market	6
Solid Waste Holiday Collection	6
Plan On It...	7

23rd ANNUAL "CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK"

On December 4th, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., the City of Conover will hold its twenty-third annual "Christmas in the Park" in the Downtown Park Gazebo. This year's community event will feature choruses from local schools.

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.



City Hall will be closed on:

Thanksgiving:
Thursday,
November 22nd &
Friday, November
23rd

Christmas:
Monday,
December 24th,
Tuesday,
December 25th,
and Wednesday,
December 26th

New Year's:
Tuesday, January
1st, 2013



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, and Wal-Mart in Conover. Donations will be accepted through December 14, 2012. If you have any questions call the Conover Police Department at 828-464-4698.

LEAF COLLECTION

NOVEMBER 1, 2012 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2013



During leaf season all leaves and grass clippings will need to be placed at edge of property for pickup by the Conover Public Works Department. The department highly encourages residents to take advantage of the City's vacuum service.

Citizens are reminded that bagged yard debris is not recommended during leaf season. Please remember to separate leaves/grass from other yard debris for collection.

We remind citizens that yard debris should not be placed in curbs, gutters, ditch line, sidewalks or streets. This will pose a serious danger to pedestrians, traffic and the environment.

Loose (vacuum) leaves can be requested by City of Conover residents for use in gardens and planting beds. Information about leaves should be directed to Public Works Department at 464-4808.



Snow Removal Schedule



When roads become impassable due to fallen snow or ice, the Street Department has several objectives. These objectives include providing clear passage for emergency vehicles, reducing hazards for motorists and pedestrians, and minimizing the economic loss to the community caused by the workers' inability to travel to their respective jobs.

When roads reach impassable conditions, arterial roads (major roads and streets that carry large volumes of traffic) are given first priority. These roads are scraped as bare as possible following two or more inches of snow accumulation, then once every four hours, unless extreme conditions require that more frequent scraping be done. Parking lanes and shoulders will be cleared as soon as the travel lanes are open. Further, collector streets (general access and residential streets) are scraped following three or more inches of snow accumulation and plowed every four to five hours as conditions dictate. If ice conditions are anticipated the City has the means to Liquid Brine the streets prior to icy conditions. Each quadrant of the City will be dealt with equally. When extreme cold conditions exist, sand will be spread. The City does scrape some state roads, excluding Interstate 40, in residential and downtown areas.

For more information on road conditions during snow or ice periods, call the Public Works Department at 464-4808, or the Catawba County Communications Center at 464-3112.



WINTER FIRE SAFETY: TIPS FOR THE HOME

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and man-made logs. All of these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

KEROSENE HEATERS

Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon build-up. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.

Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (kerosene, coal or propane, for example) produces deadly fumes.

Use **ONLY** the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **NEVER** introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.

Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.

NEVER fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. Use caution with cold fuel for it may expand in the tank as it warms up.

Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors).

Keep young children safely away from space heaters -- especially when they are wearing nightgowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard. To use them safely:

Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (360°) from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection.

Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.

Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.

Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.

Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.

Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.

Keep flammable materials away from your mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.

If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

FURNACE HEATING

It's important that you have your furnace inspected to insure that it is in good working condition.

Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.

Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.

Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.

Check the flue pipes and pipe seams. Are they well supported? Free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.

Is the chimney solid? No cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.

Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

Never use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating devise. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.

Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.

FINALLY ...

Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

Contact the Conover Fire Department at 464-1295 for advice if you have a question on home fire safety.



Newton-Conover Education Foundation
HOLIDAY
Tour of Homes
 Presented By Elliott Design

Located This Year At

Abernethy Laurels
A Lifetime of Traditions

Thursday, December 13, 2012
 5-8:30 PM

Tour includes five residences and the
 UCHS Corporate Headquarters
 featuring entertainment by carolers

Special menu served at the Village Bistro
 featuring live holiday piano concerts

Shop for gifts at the NCEF Holiday Market
 featuring fine area retailers

Park and ride, the tour locations will be
 accessible via regularly scheduled shuttles

Raffle of great prizes for ticket holders

Tickets \$15 Each

elliottdesign.com/ncefholidaytour.htm
 or Call 828.465.3738 for details



FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Do you have a smartphone? Would you like to participate in our Mobile project? Give it a test drive and let us know what you think!

Please shoot the QRCode below with your smartphone or type www.bit.ly/coc-mbl into your phone's browser. Be sure to bookmark it once you're there!

We are always looking for new ways to keep our citizens engaged with the City and we appreciate your participation in this project.



IN CASE OF FREEZING TEMPERATURES.....

During winter months water system failures can occur due to freezing temperatures.

Frozen service lines can cause service disruptions or high usage due to a break in the line. We advise that service lines underneath homes in unheated areas and outside faucets be insulated to protect against freezing.

Please remember to turn off and drain hoses after each use to prevent the hose from becoming cracked during cold weather.

CONOVER FARMERS MARKET

The Conover Farmers Market will hold their fourth annual Holiday Fest on Saturday, November 17th. A group of 40 vendors will offer foods for your Thanksgiving table, Christmas gift ideas, quality crafts, home made baked goods, produce, local cheeses, meats and much more.

There will be live music and hot food. The event will take place at the Conover Post Office Parking Lot from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Come join us for this local holiday event. For more information please call Market Manager Julie Lehmann at 828-234-7075.

www.conoverfarmersmarket.org

www.facebook.com/conoverfarmersmarket



2012 Solid Waste Collection Holiday Schedule



The City of Conover's Solid Waste department will be collecting only garbage and recycle during the observed holidays for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. No yard debris or bulk items will be collected over the observed holidays.

Thanksgiving Holiday Collection Schedule by the City: Collection for Thursday, November 22nd, 2012 will be collected on Thursday. Collection for Friday November 23rd, 2012 will be collected on Monday, November 26th, 2012.

Christmas Holiday Collection Schedule by the City: Collection for Monday, December 24, 2012 will be collected on Monday. Collection for Tuesday, December 25, 2012 will be collected on Wednesday, December 26, 2012. Collection for Wednesday, December 26th will be collected on Wednesday.

New Year's Holiday Collection Schedule by the City: Collection for Tuesday, January 1st, 2013 will be collected on Tuesday.

Please call Conover Public Works Department at 828-464-4808 if you have any questions.



City of Conover

Conover Neighbor

P.O. Box 549

Conover, NC 28613-0549

City of Conover
101 First Street East
Post Office Box 549
Conover, NC 28613
(828) 464-1191
voice / TDD
(828) 465-5177 fax

Police Department
(828) 464-4698
Fire Department
(828) 464-1295
Public Works
Department
(828) 464-4808

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

The City of Conover does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability in employment or the provision of service.

Public Meeting Dates

City Council

(First Monday of Each Month at 7:00 pm)

November 5, December 3, January 7

Planning Board

(Third Tuesday of Each Month at 7:00 pm)

November 20, December 18, January 15

CITY HALL CONTACT INFORMATION

City Manager.....Donald E. Duncan, Jr.
City Clerk.....Cara C. (Chris) Reed
Public Works DirectorJimmy A. Clark
Fire ChiefJ. Mark Hinson
Police ChiefSteven W. Brewer
Finance Director Vickie K. Schlichting
IT Director.....Christopher M. Niver
Planning Director Q. Lance Hight

PLAN ON IT.....

FALL LEAVES AND STORM DRAINS



Ever jump in a big pile of fall leaves as a kid? Leaves look pretty, are fun to jump in, and – in the mountains – there is an entire tourist industry devoted to looking at them. But after the party’s over, somebody has to clean up. For most of us, that means raking or blowing them into a big pile – and then what?

Here in Conover, most of us put leaves at curbside for pickup by the City’s public works department. That’s great, unless they are placed on the street side of the curb or the street itself. What’s bad about that? Rain carries leaves placed in the street or street side of the curb to the nearest storm drain. In large quantities, they block drains and contribute to localized flooding. In smaller quantities, the storm drain takes them to streams and creeks where they cause havoc with the ecosystem.

But, haven’t leaves been falling into streams and creeks forever? Sure, and if each creek or stream only had to handle what fell into it naturally, they’d be just fine. But by the time you and your neighbors rake your yards, that’s more leaves than the creek or stream can handle. Excess leaves shade aquatic life that needs sun to live, result in decreased oxygen content for stream life, and as they decompose, release nutrients that stimulate algae growth.

A great alternative to placing leaves at the curb is to compost and add them back to the lawn or your garden and flower beds. **If you do blow or rake your leaves to the front yard for pick up, please remember it is a violation of the City of Conover Code of Ordinances and a misdemeanor to place them on the street side of the curb or on the street itself!**