

# Tu Comunidad—Informative Newsletter



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM

## Tu Comunidad Informative Newsletter

### Message from the Director of Neighborhood Services

Mr. D. Ritchie Brooks



We are pleased to introduce to you our Home Maintenance Program. For most of us, a house is the single most important investment we will make in a lifetime. Acquiring a home takes a significant amount of time, effort and money; and once the purchase is complete, proper maintenance should be a top priority.

A house is built to last many years but it must be kept in repair. There are crucial components that deteriorate over time and accidents may occur. Siding wears out gradually, roofs need repair and painting is necessary over the years. This program is designed to offer helpful tips that will assist with protecting your investment, as well as provide you with long term care and comfort.

In an effort to retain the value of your property, the Rehabilitation Division of the Neighborhood Services Department has designed this program to empower you with the information necessary to better maintain and “protect your home”.

The Center for Homeownership in partnership with the City of Winston-Salem Neighborhood Services Department/Housing Rehabilitation Division is sponsoring a Home Maintenance Workshop entitled “Maintaining Your Investment- Home Maintenance Made Easy”. The classes will be conducted by the Rehabilitation Staff beginning January 27, 2009 and will continue each 4th Tuesday through December 22, 2009. The classes will be held at the Center for Homeownership, 500 West Fourth Street, Suite 200.

The class is free, however; registration is required. Interested participants may contact the Center for

Homeownership at 336.773.0286 extension 101 to register. All classes are scheduled from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

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### Immigration and the Police Department of Winston-Salem — Continuation

Chief Scott Cunningham



The WSPD does not and will not inquire as to immigration status unless there is specific reason to do so. When persons from various countries are detained, we must notify the respective embassy and/or U.S. State department as this is required by various treaties. In these cases we must ascertain the country of citizenship.

If a subject is stopped for a routine traffic violation, we will enforce the pertinent traffic and criminal laws. If the driver does not have a driver’s license in his or her possession, we will check to see if one exists. If so, the appropriate actions will be taken. If a valid driver’s license does not exist, the subject will be treated appropriately and consistently. Depending on the issues surrounding a lack of a driver’s license, the subject may be ticketed or may be physically arrested. This is and will continue to occur regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or immigration status. If the person is checked through the local and national crime computer systems, and there is any kind of order for detention or arrest, that order will be checked and verified. If the order is valid in this jurisdiction, the subject will be detained further and the originating authority will be contacted for further processing. This includes an arrest warrant from another state or a criminal detainer from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These orders will be processed according to existing procedures and guidelines.

All persons in this community are expected to comply with the laws of this community, state, and country. The WSPD does not support nor endorse the violation of any laws.

Those that do not have a driver’s license for whatever reason are advised not to drive. If someone is discovered driving that should not be, appropriate action will be taken. If that action causes other information to be learned (the existence of arrest or detainer orders), then appropriate actions will be taken. The WSPD is not taking these actions based on any other reason than an original violation of some law that we can enforce.

If a person is not abiding by our laws in a substantial manner (such as gang involvement, violence, drugs, guns, etc), we will use whatever legal means exist to remove that person from our community.

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## Continuation—Immigration and the Winston-Salem Police Department

That may include charging offenses as appropriate violation of probation, or notification to ICE. We will not tolerate DWI, violence, gangs, guns, or drugs. **We will fully charge any offenses involving the use of fake or fraudulent documents, licenses, or other identification materials.** We will use whatever lawful, ethical, and professional means are available to keep this community safe. It is imperative that all persons here abide by the laws as they exist.

However, if a person is otherwise law abiding, trying to have a decent environment for their family, and are positively contributing to the greater good of the community, we will not examine legal status. If someone is innocently victimized, we would not serve a minor arrest warrant on them at that time. We would advise them of the issue and direct them to take care of it quickly. We would check back in a reasonable amount of time to ensure that it has been taken care of. Likewise, if someone is victimized and may be an illegal immigrant, we will deal with the crime for which they were victimized. We will not ask about citizenship unless it is directly pertinent to the case.

It is important for all to understand that if one person or group in our community is not safe, then none of us are safe. If criminals can terrorize one group of people, they can terrorize any group. Some criminals are successful because they convince their victims that they will be deported, arrested, or treated poorly by the police. If this were true, (or even believed to be true), these crimes would not be reported. The victims and others will continue to be victimized. The criminals will gain strength and threaten other people. This cannot be allowed to continue. Arresting the victim of a crime for a relatively minor issue, will cause the victim to not report crime. This will allow criminals to remain free to continue to commit crimes. This is not good for individuals or for our community at large. Crime does not recognize borders, political jurisdictions, nor boundaries of race, sex, or immigration status. All crime must be reported and dealt with.

**The last portion of this policy will be published in our next edition.**

### Hispanic Interaction

Bridging the cultural gaps



*Miriam Hernández*  
Minority Owned Business

P.O. Box 17436  
Winston-Salem, NC 27116  
Phone: 336.354-9051, Fax: 336.499-0836  
Website: [www.hispanicinteraction.com](http://www.hispanicinteraction.com)  
Email: [hispanicinteraction@triad.rr.com](mailto:hispanicinteraction@triad.rr.com)

The best way to predict the future is to create it. —Peter Drucker  
Visit our Website for details of all our services.

## Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks

Director: Mr. Tim Grant



Winston Salem has 76 parks that the Recreation and Parks department are responsible for. Recreation and Parks provides activities for people of all ages through recreation centers, parks, athletic fields, pools, golf courses, lakes, and other facilities. Summer camp programs are available for the children also.



There are Rules and Regulations that we need to follow for any facility that we would like to use. We would like to mention them so we can all use our facilities and keep them in good conditions for others.

1. Unauthorized motor vehicles prohibited.
2. Hours: Sunrise to 9 p.m. in the summer, Winter Sunrise to dusk.
3. Alcohol beverages, drugs and weapons are prohibited.
4. Dogs must be kept on leashes and under handlers' control at all times.



For a Fishing and boating heaven in Winston-Salem we have Salem Lake, which offers pier and boat fishing for hybrid bass, large mouth bass, catfish, etc. Salem Lake also is a great place for recreational sailing, picnics, and for jogging or riding bikes along the 6.9 mile trail that rings the lake.

N.C. Wildlife fishing licenses, N.C. boat registration, bait, tackle, snacks drinks and bottled water are available at the Fishing Station. If you rent or bring your own boat you will need to have a life preserver that has been approved by the coast guard.

Our parks are here for your entertainment and use so we ask you don't throw trash, burn illegally, things of that nature are not permitted at the parks. Also four wheelers are not permitted in the parks. For more rules and regulations read the signs posted throughout the parks.



In relation with the Athletic parks we ask that you make a reservation and pay a fee for their use, although there are other parks you can use for free. If there is inclement weather we ask that you do not use the Athletic parks because you can ruin the turf.

You can also make reservations for our Picnic Shelter Rental they are rented from April to October. In addition we have 17 Recreational Centers which have a variety of activities during the entire week.



We do hope you take advantage of all our facilities and enjoy with your family and Friends. For more information please visit [www.cityofws.org](http://www.cityofws.org) or call us at 336-727-2063.



## Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful

Director: Mr. George Stilphen



Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful is a non-profit organization within the City of Winston Salem. We are sustained by the city and we are here to give the citizens the opportunity to take part in beautifying and cleaning its community. We have a variety of projects and events such as the "Community Roots Day" that takes place every spring, this year's date is April 25, 2009. Another community event is the "Big Sweep" to be held this year on October 3, 2009.



The "Flower Bulb Blitz is a great opportunity to beautify Winston Salem. Thousands of flower bulbs will be planted in public areas, such as along the greenways and parks, throughout the city.



Other programs that are year round are Adopt a street, Adopt Stream, Adopt a park and Adopt a Flower bed where groups can adopt certain areas.

The group that adopts is in charge of maintaining the areas clean. We supply all the materials needed so the volunteer just needs to bring the best desire to work. With this program there is a commitment, like adopt a street you sign a contract where you make a commitment to clean every two months for up to four years. The adopt a stream we ask that it be cleaned twice a year for two consecutive years.



To form part of these programs is very simple, you just need to call 336-727-8000 and inform them that you want to take part in one of Keep Winston Salem Beautiful programs or events. Or you can also go to [www.cityofws.org](http://www.cityofws.org) and look for our link. Here you will find all the information related to our programs, and you can also find information for the registration. As soon as you fill out the registration and submit it, we will call you.

One of the questions we frequently get is: how old do you need to be to volunteer. There is really no limit in age for the majority of the programs because we have people from 3 to adult; however, for programs such as adopt a street or adopt a stream we do have an age limit which is 12 and above because we are not present to supervise during these programs. We want security to be the primary priority in these events.

We want the community to know that we are here to help you take charge of your neighborhood. Remember we will provide all the materials, the logistic and infrastructure to do the job, such as: Security vests, gloves, trash bags, and we even provide lunch and refreshments. We extend an invitation to the entire community to take part as a volunteer in one of the events or programs. Being a volunteer in our programs is extremely important to make of Winston Salem a Beautiful place to live and play.

## Neighborhood Services Department



Stephanie Stimpson



The Neighborhood Services Department has a program called TRASH BUSTERS that deals with illegal dumping of trash in our City. This is a problem that happens to often in our city, primarily in vacant lots where no one takes care of these lots so people will throw trash illegally. Because of this issue, the Trash Busters program was created. It's a way to involve the community to help stop the dumping of trash illegally. The program works in the following way: individuals who observe illegal dumping will report information about the perpetrator to the Trash Busters Hot Line 336-734-1268. If the information is used to arrest the perpetrator, the individual receives a cash reward of up to \$250.00.

The program also helps to solve the issue of the dumping of trash where the lot has an owner. The city receives many calls from lot owners complaining about the dumping, therefore, involving the community in this problem helps the City and also the owner of the property. Also, if we want our community to be clean and safe we need to get involved in solving issues in our community. Trash Busters gives one an opportunity to identify the perpetrator and be able to handle the situation with the perpetrator through the legal system because the police will investigate and fine the perpetrator for dumping trash illegally. By identifying the perpetrator we then have a history for that property, and it also alleviates the responsibility that the owner has because the city will eventually charge him/her a fee to clean the lot. When calling with information, please be as detailed as possible. Give (if you know) the name of the person, date and time of the dumping, address where it occurred and a phone number where we can contact you. If you do not know the name of the person, get details of hair color, skin, approximate height/weight, clothes that they wore and if they were in a car, the type of car, color and make if possible. This will help Trash Busters get to the bottom of the situation and if it is all verified you will get your reward of up to \$250.00.



We then ask the community to get involved in the Trash Busters Program because it is a way to get involved in your community and have a safe and beautiful neighborhood.

### Get tough with Illegal Dumpers

A.C. Reynolds, Jr.  
Owner

## Reynolds Automotive

New & Used Auto Parts

6505 University Parkway

(336) 377-2201

## City/County Utilities

### Division

Director:

David K. Saunders



The Utilities Division's primary responsibility is to collect, treat, and distribute water, waste water, and solid waste. Our water distribution and sewer collection and treatment facilities provide high quality water to more than 115,265 customers annually. Our goal is to meet and exceed all state and federal standards as we strive to provide our customers with superior customer care and low-cost quality drinking water. In addition to water and wastewater treatment services, the Utilities Division is also responsible for administering water and sewer rates and fees, water billing, construction and maintenance of water and sewer lines, and management of both Woodland and New Evergreen cemeteries.

In this issue we want to bring you a very important topic: Grease. Ms. Sherry Bagwell Utility Plant Supervisor explains:



When cooking with oils or lard never dispose of them through the sink, nor the toilet. After cooking, permit the grease/lard to cool off and then pour it into a container, a can preferably, and throw it away in the trash. Also, if you do not have a food disposal, throw all food scrap in the trash.

If you throw grease/lard down the drain you will clog the septic system and the only way to unclog is with liquid chemicals at the wastewater treatment facilities. We have a campaign called "Can the Grease" to remind our community to avoid disposing of the Grease through the drain. You can go to [www.cityofws.org](http://www.cityofws.org) and click on the Utility link and you can get more information.



Mr. Mike Alexander our Utilities Plan Supervisor for Wastewater Collection explains what happens in the septic system if grease is disposed of through the drains: When grease is thrown down the drains, the 4 inch pipe that comes from your home gets clogged with the grease and other debris, like we see in this illustration. When this happens we need to take a machine that dispenses, under pressure, hot water to unclog the pipe. However, before all of this you will already be experiencing bubbling in waters in the bathroom and kitchen drains. After leaving the 4 inch pipe, the clog will go into an 8 inch pipe which is the main street pipe and will need to use the same process. If none of these things help, the water will return to your home. Our job is to maintain and prevent that wastewater returns through the pipes and not back into your home.



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Winston Salem, NC 27106

**336 744 5115**

If this happens it could affect your drinking water and this is what we are working on avoiding. When this happens we need to work at the state level to get things cleaned.

Our department will be more than happy to come out to your home to discuss any concerns or problems. To contact us, please call City Link at 727-8000.



**Editor's Corner:** Welcome back to "Tu Comunidad". This is our 2nd publication and we hope it has brought good information about the services our City offers our community to help us live a better and productive life here in Winston Salem. "Tu Comunidad" is based on the TV Show with the same name that airs on Cable 13 totally in Spanish. You may have observed something different in this issue; **YES ADS**. To help our City with the costs of this publication and give our local business the opportunity to announce themselves at a reasonable price we have separated some spaces. If you are interested in purchasing an Ad please call 336-354-9051 or at [hispanicinteraction@triad.rr.com](mailto:hispanicinteraction@triad.rr.com) and we will visit, fax or e-mail you a purchase order form for our next quarterly newsletter. 500 copies of the publication will be distributed in Spanish to local Hispanic churches, PDF file to all ESL teachers and it will be on the City's website on the Neighborhood Services Department link. We hope to bring you useful information that will help you understand our city better.

*Miriam Hernandez*—Editor

#### NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM

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