

City Page

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Let's Discuss Your Drain's Worst Enemy

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Grease Free team is happy to stop by your neighborhood association meetings to educate residents about the hazards created by dumping fats, oil and cooking grease down the drain or kitchen disposal. Many folks don't realize these pipe-blocking hazards often lead to in-home sewer backups and costly repairs. Grease dumping affects houses, condominiums and apartments all the same. Homeowners have to pay for their own cleanup and plumbing repairs; tenants can face higher rents if property managers and owners incur repeated cleanup and repair costs.

The Grease Free team is on a mission to raise awareness of this nasty problem. If you'd like a speaker or more information about Grease Free, visit www.cmutilities.com or call 704.399.2221.

And remember...after cooking with any kind of fat, oil or grease, be sure to:

- Allow it to cool, and then drain all animal fat into a disposable can. Freeze it or give it more time to fully harden before throwing the can in the trash.
- Use a lidded, disposable container to mix liquid vegetable fats and an absorbent material - cat litter, newspaper or coffee grounds, perhaps - then put the container in the trash.

You also can dispose of grease at one of Mecklenburg County's four full-service recycling centers. To find the one nearest you, call 704.336.2673. Spread the word or give us call, and thanks for helping us teach Charlotte-Mecklenburg how to be Grease Free!



Get Involved!

National Night Out, August 2, seeks to heighten crime prevention, support local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirits and improve police-community partnerships.

Several Charlotte communities already participate in the event. For communities wanting to start an event or gather new ideas, a special training session will be held on Saturday, July 23 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center, 601 East Trade Street.

For more information contact the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 704.336.2310 or crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org to register. For more information about events taking place in your neighborhood contact your community police officer or your community recreation center.

Community University is a training program with classes and course topics designed to increase the knowledge and skills of neighborhood organizations. Enroll in the next summer session to be held July 21, 28 and August 4, 11, 18, 25 from 6 - 9 pm.

For more information, contact Cynthia Woods at 704.336.2646 or cwoods@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

Get in the Loop. Join the Charlotte Department of Transportation for a community workshop on modifications to the I-277 Loop. The site and schedule identified in the City's bid for the NASCAR Hall of Fame have created a need to accelerate the overall study of the loop.

Thursday, July 21
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Charlotte Convention Center, Rm. 203B
501 S. College St.

Participants will be able to review and comment on the following:

- Relationship of I-277 Loop to Center City transportation
- Potential traffic operation modifications (including Caldwell St. and South Blvd.)
- Pedestrian modifications
- Urban design considerations

For more information, contact Howard Landers at 704.432.2673.

CATS Implements Additional Security Measures

In response, to the Department of Homeland Security's raising the threat level from yellow (elevated) to orange (high) for the nation's transit system after bombings in London's transit facilities and buses, CATS implemented additional security measures on Thursday, June 7.

These extra precautions include:

- Alerting all bus and trolley operators to conduct extra sweeps of their vehicles and increase their diligence in observing or identifying objects or activities of a suspicious nature.
- Increasing staffing and visibility at the Charlotte Transportation Center and making extra patrols and sweeps around the facility and monitoring the remote video camera system.
- Conducting additional monitoring of all other facilities including park and ride lots, transit centers and garages.

"CATS previously has taken measures to train personnel on what to look for to ensure security of the transit system," said Ron Tober, CATS' Chief Executive Officer. "In addition CATS is involved in the Federal Transit Administration's Transit Watch that encourages our customers in being diligent on security matters."

Finally, CATS is coordinating its activities and is in communication with local and federal agencies involved in homeland security and will continue to monitor the London situation.

In spite of the increased vigilance on the transit system, local public safety and homeland security authorities have recommended the threat level for the at-large community to remain at the yellow level. "We have recommended to the Mayor and City Manager that we stay at the yellow alert level," said Chief Luther Fincher, Charlotte Homeland Security Director and Charlotte Fire Chief. "Our readiness state is excellent. We are prepared to activate the necessary resources in case additional information makes it necessary to do so."



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Furry Friends Need Loving Homes

Spring and summer are busy times at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Control. More than 2,000 animals were dropped off at the shelter in June. There are numerous animals in need of adoption, and Animal Control needs your help in finding them loving homes. If you are looking for a new companion to share your life, you can't go wrong with a furry friend. Whether you want a dog, cat or rabbit, you will be able to find what you're looking for at the shelter, which offers two specially designed bonding areas for people to interact and play with the animals they are considering for adoption.

For more information visit the shelter at 8315 Byrum Drive or call 311.



Chase and Rosie are among numerous animals up for adoption.

Pet Fact

Did you know one pair of cats can produce 12 offspring in a year? Those 12 cats can produce 66 more eventually leading to 73,000 cats in seven years and 80 million cats in 10 years. Overpopulation of pets is the largest concern for animal control agencies nationwide, so remember to have your pets spayed or neutered.

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