

CATS Joins Travel Information Network

Commuters in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region now have a new source for accessing transit information any time of the day. The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) has joined the North Carolina 511 Travel Information Network.

511 is part of a nationwide effort to give commuters travel information via telephone. The voice-activated system provides travel details on public transportation, highway conditions and weather as well as rail, tourism and ferry services. CATS' information can be accessed through the network by calling 511 or 1-877-511-INNC (4662). Press "2" for public transportation, then press "1" for CATS and you will be connected to CATS information. Calling 511 costs no more than the cost of a local call. For wireless customers, normal airtime minutes apply.

North Carolina 511 provides coverage of more than 13,000 highway miles, more than any other state. Log onto www.ncsmartlink.org for more information about 511. For more information about CATS and its services, visit www.ridetransit.org or call (704) 336-RIDE.



Good Neighbor Program focuses on standards, relationships



The Good Neighbor Program encourages strong relationships among neighbors to ensure a healthy community.

said Stephanie Small, Neighborhood Services Manager. "For example, we encourage people to welcome new residents to the neighborhood in order to start the discussion of standards instead of just waiting until a neighbor is in violation."

While the City hopes citizens foster these types of relationships among each other, the program also understands some neighborhoods suffer from apathetic landlords or neighbors, who refuse to comply. "We are not unrealistic. We understand that some people will not comply with basic standards regardless," Small said. "In these instances, we will work with them to ensure these neighbors adhere to the basic code and zoning laws."

The City offers a Good Neighbor Class, which provides instruction on subjects ranging from codes and standards and developing "good neighbor" relationships to conflict resolution and addressing diversity in neighborhoods. For more information on the Good Neighbor Program, call 704.336.2061 or visit <http://goodneighbor.charmeck.org>.

Clean your gutters. Schedule bulky items for pick up. Don't park your car on the lawn or play loud music after 10 p.m. These are a few do's and don'ts for a good neighbor and are among a list of tips from a program geared to improve conditions in Charlotte's neighborhoods. The City initiated the Good Neighbor Program to connect residents with information and resources necessary to maintain or improve conditions in neighborhoods. The program offers a range of services from full scale training to helpful hints in keeping a community healthy and stable.

"We want people to engage their neighbors in an effort to ensure a community standard,"

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Public Safety Training for Youth

The Charlotte Fire Department (CFD) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Academic Internship Program (AIP) are sponsoring a:

Summer High School Fire Training Internship July 17 - 21

The Fire Training Internship will allow students to:

- Work and train with CFD personnel
- Participate in the same hands-on training as fire recruits
- Receive academic credit on their high school transcripts
- Prepare for a career in fire service.

Any rising 10th, 11th, or 12th grader with an interest in a fire protection career is encouraged to apply. Students must complete the CFD application and the AIP application. All applications received by April 30 will be considered.

For more information, contact Sarah Price, Academic Internship Coordinator, at 980.343.2642 or Captain JD Thomas at 704.432.1706.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) is offering an opportunity for young people interested in a law enforcement career to get hands-on experience at the:

High School Police Academy July 17 - 21

Students who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply:

- A rising 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grader
- Attend a school in Mecklenburg County (Public, Private or Home School)
- No arrests
- No out of school suspensions for the 2004-2005 school year
- Must maintain a "C" average or better
- Must participate in all activities (academic/physical)

For more information or to request an application, contact Officer Tom Barry at 704.432.1637 or tbarry@cmpd.org.

Keep bulky items from ruining your neighborhood's curb appeal

Is your neighborhood suffering from visual blight from unscheduled bulky items? The City of Charlotte Solid Waste Services has a solution – the Call and Send program.

The Call and Send Program, is a partnership among Solid Waste Services, neighborhoods, and the City's Neighborhood Development department. The program began as a pilot in five Charlotte neighborhoods and produced a 58% reduction in unscheduled bulky items.

To find out more about the Call and Send program, send an email to curbit@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

The Call and Send program may not be right for every neighborhood, but scheduling bulky items is for every Charlotte resident...including you. Items such as household furnishings, household appliances, mattresses, box springs, lawn equipment, and similar junk items too large to be placed in the rollout cart are considered bulky items. These items must be scheduled for collection. To schedule, call 311.

You also can schedule online at curbit.charmeck.org. Click CURB IT!, then bulky items. Enter your request into the scheduling system, and you will receive a confirmation number at the end of your session.

Have questions? Log on to <http://curbit.charmeck.org>.



The Call and Send Program reduced the number of unscheduled bulky items by 58% in the targeted neighborhoods.