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CITY gram

Stay in the know about the City of Graham. This newsletter is your source for updated resident information.



MAKE NC COUNT
CENSUS 2020

Census Day is observed nationwide. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

Census data is used to bring over \$675 billion of your tax dollars back to your community. Funding for health care programs (Medicaid and Medicare), infrastructure programs (Highway Planning and Construction Grants and Community Development Block Grants), child services (Foster Care, Title I Education Grants, National School Lunch Program), and more rely on Census data. Census data is also used to support preparation for local planning for schools, roads,

water/sewer, and electric needs. Businesses use Census data to determine where to place stores, assess potential workforce, and evaluate markets. Future funding and planning in your community depends on accurate Census data.

WHO IS COUNTED IN THE CENSUS?

Everyone. The Census counts everyone living in the United States, regardless of citizenship status or age. To learn more, www.2020census.gov

Earlier this year, the City of Graham was selected as one of six communities from a competitive application process for acceptance into the Downtown Associate Community Program (DAC) coordinated under the NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center at the North Carolina Department of Commerce. This allows NC Main Street and Rural Planning Center staff to work with the City's Downtown Development Coordinator to build a sustainable, organizational foundation and conduct economic development planning. The partnership will strengthen downtown development efforts over the course of the next three years before the City is eligible to be designated as a Main Street community. Stay informed with the progress of this program by attending community meetings, following the City of Graham on Facebook and Instagram, or by sending the Downtown Development Coordinator an email at mfaucette@cityofgraham.com, requesting to be added to the email distribution list for the DAC.



Mowing Time Again



As the weather warms up, the City of Graham would like to remind you to keep your yards and vacant lots mowed. The City's ordinance states that weeds, grass or other noxious growth cannot be in excess of 18 inches. If the City has to send a mowing violation, the owner of the property has 10 days to have it mowed. If within 10 days the property has not been mowed, the City shall have the grass cut at the owner's expense. The cost, in addition to an administrative fee of \$50.00, will then become a lien on the property unless paid in full within 30 days.

Connect with the City of Graham on Social Media!



Pet Waste

As Spring approaches, keep in mind it is unlawful to not clean up after your pet on any street, sidewalk or publicly owned park. Dog waste is raw sewage and carries many harmful microorganisms that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans. Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash. Let's all do our part to keep Graham safe and clean!



GRAHAM RECREATION & PARKS

THURSDAYS AT SEVEN
4TH THURSDAYS
MAY - SEPTEMBER
7-9PM • FREE ADMISSION
DOWNTOWN GRAHAM
WEST ELM STREET
PRESENTED BY




STAGE SPONSORS








LEARN MORE & STAY CONNECTED:

 GrahamRecreationAndParks.com

 @Graham.Recreation

 @GrahamRecNC

 @GrahamRecNC

 336.513.5510

#GrahamRecNC #ThursdaysAtSeven #DowntownGrahamNC

5/28
THE HOLIDAY BAND

6/25
THE SAND BAND

7/23
BOUNCE

8/27
THE CASTAWAYS

9/10
CAT5

9/24
MASON LOVETTE BAND

Graham Athletics

Summer Sports Camps

Registration: May 1 until the Friday prior to the camp start date. Camp details (i.e. ages, location, times) will be released closer to the time of registration.

Soccer Camp: June 22 - 25 (joint camp with Burlington Recreation & Parks and Burlington Soccer Club)

Basketball Camp: July 13 - 16

Lacrosse Camp: July 20 - 22 (joint camp with Mebane Recreation & Parks)

Fall Soccer

Registration: May 1 - July 1

All teams are co-ed. Practices begin in early August and games begin the Tuesday after Labor Day. Games are played Tuesday and Thursday (exception: 14U will play on Monday and Wednesday). Age cut off is August 1 of the playing year.

Fall NFL Flag Football

Registration: May 1 - July 1 | Ages 6 - 12 (boys & girls)

Practices begin mid-August and games begin in early September. Practices and games will take place on Monday and Wednesday nights. Age cut off is August 1 of the playing year.



Slice of Summer

June 20th | 4 - 8PM

Slice of Summer is a water based festival held in downtown Graham around courthouse square. This is a free family-friendly event. Enjoy food trucks, live music, lots of fun splashing in the streets, and a Slip 'N Slide down Main Street! Patrons should wear appropriate clothing for getting wet! Appropriate clothing for this event: quick dry clothing - shirts and shorts must be worn on all rides/attractions, tennis shoes or water shoes. No smoking allowed, no pets, no drones.



Courtney Denton Photography

Graham-Mebane Lake

Graham-Mebane Lake Hours: (closed every Tuesday)

March: 8:00AM – 6:00PM

April: 7:00AM – 7:00PM

May, June, & July: 6:30AM – 8:00PM

August: 7:00AM – 7:00PM

September: 7:00AM – 6:30PM

October: 8:00AM – 6:00PM

November: 8:00AM – 5:00PM (weekends only)

December: CLOSED

To learn more about kayaking and canoeing on the lake, as well as upcoming events and programs, including Family Day at the Lake, Youth Fishing Day, the Big Bass Tournament, and Catfish Tournaments, visit the GRPD's website.

Graham Recreation & Parks offers online registration at www.GrahamRecreationAndParks.com

For age range information, registration, pricing and other information, please visit GrahamRecreationAndParks.com or call 336-570-6718.

NO FOG, NO CLOG...Keep Fats, Oils and Greases Out of the Sewer!

You can help prevent sewer overflows by following a few simple suggestions:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal or recycling (where available).
- Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and then empty them into the trash.



DON'T BE A PAIN IN THE DRAIN.....



Be Stormwater SMART! Recycle your Grass

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Grass clippings and bits of leaves that are blown into the street after lawn maintenance can be just as bad as other forms of litter. They clog up gutters and storm drains, and what doesn't get stuck ends up in the nearest waterway (stream, pond, lake, and/or river) causing further problems. Any material (litter, grass clippings, leaves, etc.) in the storm drains reduces the amount of stormwater that can move through the drain system. Stormwater that should move quickly through the system may begin to back up; causing high water on roads or other, more hazardous, flooding situations.

Yard wastes contain an abundance of nutrients from fertilizer and natural sources; however, sometimes too much of a good thing may be harmful. When these wastes decompose, the nutrients fuel excessive and uncontrolled growth of aquatic weeds and algae, and offset water conditions which can lead to fish kills.

Always have your soil tested and only apply organic, slow-release, or water insoluble fertilizers.

Herbicides and insecticides remain on the grass for some time, and some make the clippings unsuitable for mulch, so it's important to cut it and leave it when you use weed killers. Too much herbicide can burn the lawn, kill nearby plants, and contaminate waterways. Instead of repeated whole-lawn application of weed killers, try a one-time pre-emergent weed killer and spot application if your lawn has only a few weeds.

MAINTAINING YOUR LAWN

To maintain your lawn properly, mow high and mow often, so that you only take off about 1/3 of the length of the grass. This will result in an attractive, neatly trimmed lawn, and clippings will disappear when they filter down to the soil. To shade the soil, cool the roots, and block weed growth, most lawns should be mowed 2-3" high especially in summer.

Controlling watering rates will help your lawn grow at manageable levels and still stay healthy. Don't water until the lawn is dry. If it turns blue-green or gray, or if footprints don't spring back, it's time to water. Provide about an inch at a time for clay soils. If managed carefully, water will soak four to six inches down, just right for building healthy root systems and greener growth. Early morning watering conserves water by preventing evaporation.

SO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH CLIPPINGS?

Leave clippings on the lawn and sweep any that fall on paved surfaces back onto the lawn where they will naturally decompose and fertilize. You can also rake and blow clippings into a compost pile. If you use a lawn maintenance company, please be sure they do not blow or dump yard wastes down the storm drain inlets.

Remember, there is no treatment or filtering of stormwater between the drain on your street to the nearest body of water. Even though grass clippings, leaves, and soil are natural forms of debris, when they are put into the storm drain they can destroy the balance of our waterways. Storm drains are not garbage disposals!

Events

Alamance Creek Week

March 28-April 4, 2020

Recreational, educational, and hands-on experiences that allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy and contribute to healthy waters in Alamance County!

<https://alamancecreekweek.wordpress.org/>

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

April 18, 2020 8AM-12PM

100 Stone Quarry Rd. Haw River
Alamance County will provide a FREE opportunity for citizens to dispose of hazardous waste including household cleaners, automotive products, & pesticides. No Business/Commercial waste accepted! www.alamance-nc.com

Bal Populaire

May 29, 2020

5p – 8p | Alley Dinner Parties
8p – 10p | Dancing in the Streets
Hosted by Culture Mill,
Alamance Arts & the City of
Graham
Alleyways & 100 block of West
Elm Street

Graham Food Truck

Rodeo

June 13, 2020

3p – 8p
100 block of West Elm Street



Graham Business Appearance Award 2020

The Graham Appearance Commission is now accepting nominations for the 2020 Business Appearance Award. This initiative aims to recognize business owners for their beautification efforts in the City of Graham. The winning business will receive a plaque which can be displayed to recognize the business's excellence in improving the aesthetic character of the community.

If you would like to nominate a business, please send the name of the business and the address of the property to the Planner, by email at planner@cityofgraham.com with the subject line Business Appearance Award Nominee by May 4th, 2020. If you are a local business owner, self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. Nominees will be evaluated and selected at the Graham Appearance Commission at their meeting on May 18, 2020.



**Spring forward!
Test your smoke
alarms.**

Change replaceable batteries at least once a year.



Holiday Garbage Schedule

Good Friday

No garbage collection on Friday, April 10th.

Friday routes will be collected on Monday, April 13th.



Memorial Day

Monday, May 25th collections will follow the regular schedule.

Independence Day

Collections will follow regular schedule.

Labor Day

Monday, September 7th collections will follow the regular schedule.

Graham Historical Museum



Be sure to stop by the Graham Historical Museum...so much to see in such a small space!

Open every Friday and Saturday from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

Located at 135 West Elm Street, downtown Graham

Group tours available by appointment.
Cost: Free

Mercury Education

Many household items, such as appliances, batteries, electronics, jewelry, lightbulbs and thermometers may contain traces of Mercury. Please recycle mercury-containing products rather than disposing of them in regular household trash. Recycling mercury-containing products is one of the best ways to help prevent mercury releases to the environment by keeping these products out of landfills and incinerators. Once landfilled, mercury from the products may end up in groundwater, and potentially in sources of drinking water. Once incinerated, mercury may end up in the air. To find places for proper disposal of the items go to earth911.com and look under **Where to Recycle**.

RECYCLING SCHEDULE

APRIL	8 th	22 nd	
MAY	6 th	20 th	
JUNE	3 rd	17 th	
JULY	1 st	15 th	29 th
AUGUST	12 th	26 th	
SEPTEMBER	9 th	23 rd	

Volunteer Opportunities

The Graham City Council invites you to take a more active role in municipal affairs by applying for membership on one of the City's advisory boards or commissions.

If you have an interest in public service and possess the desire to serve the City of Graham in such a capacity, this is your opportunity to express this interest and to contribute to the betterment of the City. Please visit www.cityofgraham.com/city-hall/boards-and-commissions/ for more information and to apply.

Please contact Darcy Sperry, City Clerk, @ dsperry@cityofgraham.com if you should have any questions.

The City Gram provides residents with information related to City happenings. Comments or questions may be sent to City of Graham, PO Drawer 357, Graham, NC 27253 or call 570-6705.

GRAHAM CITY COUNCIL
JERRY PETERMAN , MAYOR
CHIP TURNER, MAYOR PRO-TEM
MELODY WIGGINS, COUNCIL MEMBER
JENNIFER TALLEY, COUNCIL MEMBER
RICKY HALL, COUNCIL MEMBER