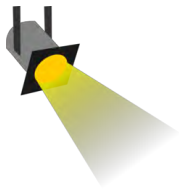


CONNECTIONS



Guilford County Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Division of the Guilford County Planning & Development Department functions as the solid waste, recycling and environmental enforcement arm of Guilford County government. Staff operates and administers the electronics waste management program, the scrap tire disposal program, the white goods disposal program, the household hazardous waste program and the residential recycling drop-off program for the entire County, including the Cities of Greensboro and High Point. Materials are collected, processed and transported for disposal or marketing through the Division's recycling facility, located at 2138 Bishop Road, Greensboro.



Environmental Services Staff, from Left: Doug Springer, John Hemrick, Wallace Owens, Charles Smith and Susan Heim.

The solid waste program provides waste collection and disposal options for Guilford County residents, and staff also investigate illegal dumping and illegal burning complaints.

In FY 2015-16, Environmental Services underwent a major transition, going from 15 years of operating with a staff of 4 plus 2 inmate labor crews, to operating with a staff of 6. Following the closing of the Guilford County Sheriff's Prison Farm, enhancements were made at the recycling facility to accommodate two additional permanent staff members, plus the equipment that had been formerly housed at the prison farm.

The Division owns three large dump trucks, two with articulated booms, which are used for picking up and transporting materials to and from government facilities, service providers and clean-up sites. A Bobcat, two New Holland skid steers and a heavy duty portable rim crusher complete the Division's current compliment of equipment.

Susan Heim came to the Division in 2003 as the Environmental Services Coordinator for Solid Waste. She recently moved to the position of Environmental Services Program Manager, responsible for overseeing all of the County's

solid waste programs. Doug Springer, Lead Operator at the recycling facility, and Charles Smith have worked in Environmental Services since the opening of the Bishop Road facility in 2005. Doug, who oversees operations at the recycling facility, is also the quintessential equipment operator, with skills that have been honed to the point of being able to perform delicate operations with a grapple bucket. He also moonlights as the Division's recycling mascot, PETE. Charles processes and palletizes materials and develops load plans for transporting them to processors and recyclers for final disposal. John Hemrick and Wallace Owens came on board at the start of the current fiscal year, and have quickly become key members of the Environmental Services team. John brings considerable skill in engine maintenance and repair as well as carpentry to his job. He is currently working to develop a vehicle/equipment maintenance tracking program for the Division. Formerly a member of the Sheriff's Department, John worked with the Environmental Services staff for several years prior to the closing of the prison farm and already was familiar with the Division's facility, equipment and programs. Wallace worked with Division staff as a temporary employee during the prison farm transition, allowing him to become acquainted with Division equipment and activities. Since starting with us last summer, Wallace has become very adept at operating the skid steers, and is working to obtain his commercial driver's license.



John and Charles sort through a load of electronic waste in one of the boom trucks.



Electronics palletized and stacked on the loading dock using the skid steer

First, special collection events are provided for residents of the County, allowing them to dispose of regulated wastes (tires, appliances, televisions, computer equipment, household hazardous waste) by dropping them off at these events without charge. Last year, almost 2,000 vehicles passed through the 5 clean-up events staged for residents by Environmental Services.

Annually, Environmental Services collects, processes and transports more than 700 tons of electronics and televisions, 100 tons of white goods (large appliances) and scrap metal, 7500 tons of scrap tires, and 8 tons of residential comingled recyclables. These state-mandated programs are partially funded by point of purchase disposal tax distributions from the State, with a small percentage of funding provided by the County.

In addition to operating these programs, Environmental Services also is mandated to provide environmental education and outreach to the citizens of the County. Outreach is accomplished in two ways.





Students at St. Francis Day School learn about recycling.

Second, outreach is provided through participation in community events, through presentations made to civic organizations, and through programs presented in schools throughout the County. Environmental Services staff provide as many as 50 public outreach and education events and programs every year.



Environmental Services staff participate in the annual Mcleansville Lions Club Community Day.

This year, more than 8,000 elementary school students participated in Kids, Cans & Ca\$h: Guilford County's Elementary Recycling Challenge. Schools collected 2500 lbs. of aluminum cans and received over \$1,100.00 for their efforts.



Part of the haul of aluminum cans collected by Guilford County elementary schools for the 10th annual Kids, Cans & Ca\$h recycling challenge.

The Magic of Recycling is a program developed in conjunction with Guilford County Schools, to help provide recycling education as a part of the core curriculum for elementary science and social studies. Environmental Services staff work with a professional magician to convey the basics of recycling to elementary school students through a fun, engaging magic show. This year, 8 elementary schools will profit from this program, educating more than 2,500 students about the benefits of recycling.



The Principal and students from Southern Elementary School celebrate their Kids, Cans & Ca\$h victory at the school's championship party!



"Susan and the Environmental Services team have done an outstanding job with our programs and have managed our most recent market challenges and operational transition well," says Guilford County Planning & Development Director, J. Leslie Bell. Anyone interested in more information about the Environmental Services Division and Guilford County's solid waste program is invited to visit the recycling facility, located at 2138 Bishop Road, or to find out more about us on the web -- <http://www.myguilford.com/planning-and-development/environmental-services/>

Planners Hold Community Informational Meetings

On County Area Plans

During the months of October and November, County Planners conducted a series of community input meetings on seven of the nine Guilford County Area Plans. These meetings gave citizens, stakeholders and adjacent municipalities the opportunity to review the current plans and speak with Planning Staff about changes since the last plan updates approximately eight years ago.

At the meetings, using a series of maps, planners presented information on the area plan history, recommendations, past and future road projects, environmental impacts, water and sewer impacts, past annexations and inconsistencies surrounding jurisdictional plans and those of unincorporated Guilford County. Citizens provided feedback on past, current and future planning issues, completed surveys, and one-on-one discussions with staff.

All information gathered at these meetings will be used to update the plans to reflect changes on past rezoning, annexations, and mapping discrepancies. The proposed updates will be presented to both the Guilford County Planning Board and County Commissioners in early 2016 for adoption. Additionally, the results will be used to determine the need for future planning studies, small area plan development or special area studies. Overall attendance for all meetings was approximately 70 citizens, but meeting turnout varied across the County.

Citizen concerns were diverse depending on the area but some common themes included:

- Balance growth and conservation;
- Watershed and farmland protection;
- Environmental impacts of growth;
- Centralize commercial and service uses;
- Plan implementation and coordination; and
- Infrastructure support for growth.

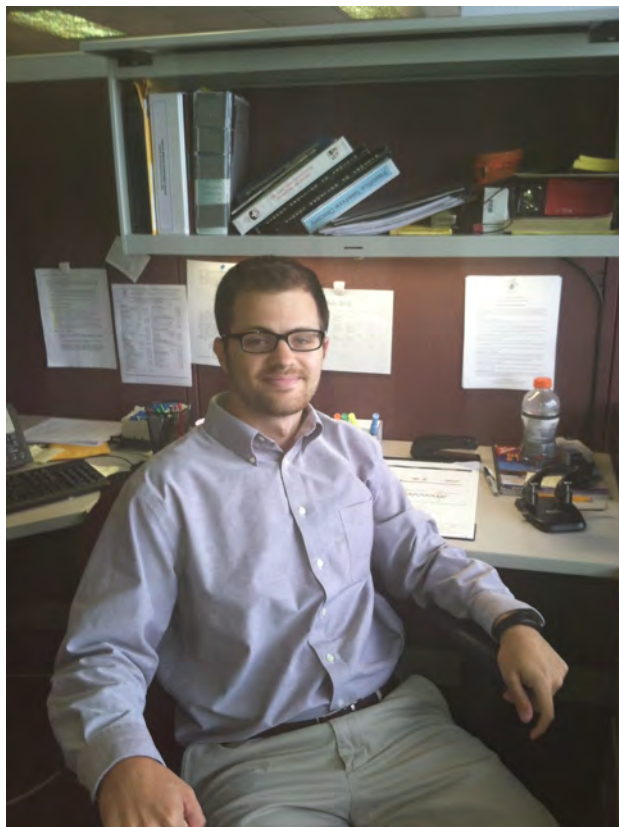
For more information and/or to provide input prior to staff finalizing, please contact Oliver Bass at the Guilford County Planning Department, Phone # 336-641-3578 or Email: obass@myguilford.com



Welcome

COLE RENIGAR, ZONING INVESTIGATOR

My full name is Cole Conrad Renigar. I listed my full name because my middle name is a family name and very important to me. It is passed down through the male side of my family to honor my late grandfather, Jack Conrad Renigar. I never met him, but he died when my dad was 14. He was shot on duty as a sheriff. I grew up in Pfafftown, right outside the limits Winston-Salem. I have one older sister who lives in New York and is four years older than me. My parents reside in Pfafftown still. I love to watch most sports and my favorite sports are NFL and college basketball. My NFL team is the New York Giants. However, I do not only watch these sports. Basically any sport from volleyball to cricket I enjoy watching. I was always very active growing up and always have enjoyed sports. I attended Ronald Reagan High School and played soccer and golf for four years. I still occasionally play golf with my father. After high school I attended East Carolina University, go Pirates. I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in Community Development and I am a Geography minor. After school I was a bus boy at Olive Garden for 3-4 months before I got my first full time job in the Planning Department of Virginia Beach. I worked in the Development Services Center working primarily on intake as a Planning Aide II. After 10 months I was promoted to a Permit Tech I. A month after being promoted I accepted an offer at the City of Hampton. I joined the staff as a Subdivision Agent I/Site Plan Reviewer. After four months, I decided to leave for this position. I am very happy to be back in North Carolina close to my family and friends. I hope to be working for Guilford County for a long time and get to know all of you very well.



2015 205(j) Grant Has Been Awarded To...



In collaboration with Guilford County's Planning and Development Watershed Protection/Stormwater Management Section, the Guilford Soil & Water Conservation District, American Rivers, and the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC), Guilford County has been awarded a 2015 205(j) Water Quality Management Planning Grant. The FY2015 grant cycle was extremely competitive with a total of 9 applications received and this effort aims to directly and immediately mature Guilford County's water quality and recovery areas. The awarded 205(j) Grant is a federally funded program administered in North Carolina by State Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Water Resources.

The goal of the 205(j) Grant project is to support a multi-party partnership to identify priority watersheds in Guilford County for fecal coliform concerns with a GIS- based tool; ground-truth the findings of this tool through in-stream sampling and field surveys; and engage the public at potential restoration sites on what they can do to sustainably improve and protect local streams, especially from fecal coliform bacteria. Guilford County is the third largest county in North Carolina, home to the Cities of Greensboro and High Point, and has a diverse landscape of heavily urbanized areas as well as large agricultural land within the un-incorporated areas. The overall purpose of the project is to address water quality needs of Guilford County, assisting the Planning Department's Watershed Protection/Stormwater Management Section with compliance for the Jordan Lake Rules and numerous local Total Maximum Daily Load(s) (TMDLs). This effort is aimed at reducing levels of fecal coliform through the identification of non-point sources of pollution, and engaging the public on reducing smaller loadings from diverse sources, in accordance with the County's assigned regulated Waste Load Allocations (WLA) specified in approved TMDLs for streams throughout Guilford County. The proposed project affords PTRC an opportunity to apply and validate an award-winning watershed prioritization tool at the local catchment scale; Guilford County an opportunity for collaboration between the Planning Section, Soil & Water Conservation District, and Stormwater program, with common water quality goals to realize and implement a Water Quality Recovery Plan. This plan will identify specific goals and strategies, and by partnering with the national non-profit American Rivers, provide an opportunity to bring successful outreach tools to the Haw River Sub-basin of the Jordan Lake watershed that will include other Piedmont Triad communities.



Justin Gray (Guilford County Stormwater Administrator, *left*) and Frank Park (Chief Plans Examiner, *right*) discuss stormwater and watershed observations with Guilford County Planning & Development Director, J. Leslie Bell, *center*.



SAFETY MATTERS

This issue's safety tip from Chief Electrical Inspector Dee Hand:

Portable Generators

With winter coming on I can't help but think of those ice storms we are all too familiar with. Along with the storms comes the dreaded power outage and with the outage comes the use of generators. Today I would like to talk with you a little about the hazards associated with the use of portable generators. Right up front let me say that you should never use an internal combustion engine in a confined area. **DO NOT USE A GENERATOR INSIDE.** I have to cover this, it seems as sad as it is someone always loses their life from this type mistake. Now that we have covered that issue, let me move on to some other problems associated with the use of portable generators. A generator should be connected to your electrical system through a Transfer Switch. This is a device that prevents your system from being connected to the local utility power sources and the generator sources at the same time. If this connection is not made properly, shock and fire hazards can occur as well as risk of damage to your electrical system, damage to appliances, TVs, range, refrigerator, microwave, computer and so on. Also use care when fueling these portable units. I have personal knowledge of a home owner setting himself on fire while fueling a generator. Be safe this winter and let's hope for more snow and less ice.



5K Walk for United Way 2015...



The Guilford County Planning and Development Department hosted a phenomenal 5K Walk on November 1st to benefit the United Way of Greater Greensboro. There was a great turn-out with approximately 100 individuals attending despite the drizzle. The 5K Walk special event was the collaboration between the Korean First Presbyterian Church and the Guilford County Planning and Development Department. This was truly a creative initiative in which community, family, and faith were celebrated, and with an emphasis on health and wellness. Despite the weather, the Department (under the coordination of Frank Park, Plans Engineer) raised a total of \$1,133 in 5K Walk contributions.

The United Way Agency speakers (Family Success Center, Reading Connections, Hospice, & the YWCA) did a wonderful job highlighting their programs. Additionally, it was an extremely enjoyable experience becoming acquainted with church members and leadership, and the Planning and Development staff in an informal setting. The food, beverages, and raffle also were an added treat.

The Guilford County Planning and Development Department considered it a privilege to support the efforts of the United Way of Greater Greensboro in its focus on addressing poverty in the Greensboro area and strengthening our communities.



Jane Gibson, J. Leslie Bell & Kimberly Newson



Representatives from Reading Connections



Kimberly Newson and Frank Park

Great Job Frank!
Thanks for everyone's
support.

It's time for this edition's "guessing game".....The picture below was taken in 1938. Can you guess where this is???

** Answer at the bottom of the last page.





Think Green Even After the Holidays – Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

It's beautiful and fragrant during the holidays, but after Christmas you must find a way to dispose of the tree. Why not **recycle** it? Each year, Guilford County provides residents free disposal for live Christmas trees at the Guilford County Farm (formerly the Sheriff's Prison Farm), located at 7315 Howerton Road, Gibsonville. The site is open from just before Christmas (in case you celebrated early!) through January 15th. There are a few pointers to remember:

- **Please remove** all lights, decorations, bags, stands and covers from trees before dropping them off to be recycled.
- Wreaths, garland and artificial trees **are not accepted**. These items are made with wire and staples that make them unsuitable for the chipping equipment.
- **No business waste is accepted at this site.**

Some towns and cities in Guilford County provide residential curbside collection of Christmas trees:

- **The City of Greensboro** collects trees curbside. Be sure that you conform to the city's yard waste collection procedures to take advantage of this service. Call 373-CITY for more information.
- **The City of High Point** collects trees curbside through January 31st. Call 883-3111 for more information.
- **Jamestown** residents also have curbside tree collection available. Just place your tree out with your trash on your regular pick-up day. Call the town hall at 454-1138 with questions.
- **Residents of the Town of Gibsonville** may put their trees out at the curbside for collection during their extra pick-up weeks. If you have questions, call the town hall at 449-4144.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and HAVE A SAFE NEW YEAR!

From the Guilford County Planning & Development Staff.

We look forward to serving you in 2016!

**Former American Exchange National Bank at intersection of Elm & Market Streets (downtown Greensboro).