

New Year Reminders

JANUARY 2022

START THE NEW YEAR PREPARED!

Now is the time to prepare for what is sure to come. Those who have lived in Greensboro for a while know what winter and the ice storms can do!

Now is the time to build up your emergency supplies.

- Experts recommend a three to seven-day supply of non-perishable food and water per person.
- Keep enough prescription medications on hand to last for this length of time as well.
- It's also a good idea to have a separate box of clean, warm clothes set aside for emergency use since laundry will no doubt be a problem in a power outage.
- Your emergency stash should also include warm blankets, a battery-powered radio and flashlights with extra batteries, a first-aid kit, and copies of important papers such as insurance policies.
- For families with small children and/or pets, we recommend having a supply of battery-powered candles (and extra batteries) to provide safe lighting.
- Please remember to check on your neighbors, especially elderly ones. A power outage is a time we need to take care of each other! For more information, go to <http://readyguilford.org/>

CHRISTMAS RECYCLING



Cardboard:

Please don't advertise to the criminals what great gifts you received! Boxes from expensive electronics are an invitation for them to "visit" while you're away because they know their mission will be productive. Boxes should be cut up and placed in your brown recycling container.

Electronics:

If you've gotten new electronic items and need to dispose of the old ones, you can recycle anything with a cord at:

- **Guilford County Scrap Tire & White Goods Recycling Center** – 2138 Bishop Road Greensboro. Open 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. (336) 641-9431
- **Ecoflo Inc.** - 2750 Patterson Street Greensboro. Open 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Monday – Friday, Saturday 8:00 AM- 2:00 PM For more information call: (336) 373-2196
- **Guilford County Farm** – 7315 Howerton Road Gibsonville, Open 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday. (336) 641-9431

Happy New Year!

*Make sure your 2022 starts out safely!
Please, don't drink and drive.*

COLD WEATHER PRECAUTION

With cold weather here, many of you will be warming up your cars in the morning. Often, this may mean the car will be left in your driveway with the engine running while you are inside your house getting ready to leave. Criminals take advantage of the cold weather to cruise the streets and look for an opportunity to hop into your car and drive away in YOUR vehicle!



- Have an extra key made for your vehicle so you can start it up and LOCK the doors while it runs.
- Do NOT leave your unlocked car running while you go back inside for “just a minute” and finish getting ready. That minute is plenty of time for a criminal to steal your car.
- Do NOT load your laptop, tablet, etc. into the car prior to leaving for work. Valuables left in sight, even in a locked car, give a criminal good reason to break a window and steal your things.

HELPING THE UNHOUSED

Seeing people standing on the corner holding a sign during freezing weather is heartbreaking! The winter conditions especially bring out a desire to help, but there are better ways to help other than handing them cash. When giving cash, we never know if there's an addiction that has contributed to their current status and is driving them to solicit money. Police suggest, if you wish to give money, it's probably best to contribute to organizations that help people who do not have housing. Some of the most well-known organizations here in Greensboro are

Partners Ending Homelessness	https://pehgc.org/
The Interactive Resource Center (IRC)	https://interactiveresourcecenter.org/
Greensboro Urban Ministry	https://www.greensborourbanministry.org/
The Servant Center - Hayworth House	https://www.theservantcenter.org/donatetoday



It is NOT advisable to

- Give cash that may be used to support their addiction.
- Give grocery store gift cards that may be used to buy alcohol
- Give general gift cards that may be sold for money to support an addiction.

When temperatures drop, and the conditions outside are not comfortable, and you want a more personal interaction with the person holding that sign, here are some suggestions to help:

- **Please remember to keep your personal safety a priority!**
- Interact only in a public place.
- Do not have your wallet or cash on your person.
- Keep a safe distance. It's very possible to talk without being close. Many of these people on the corner have fascinating stories and are interesting to talk with. Always show compassion and kindness. They, too, are human.

What you CAN do:

- Give them a hot cup of coffee, hot soup, or hot chocolate. This will warm their core as they drink it and warm their hands as they hold it.
- Carry healthy snacks to give out. Things like granola bars, nabs, trail mix, fruit, food from a nearby restaurant, etc. In the interest of safety, please don't hand out food prepared at home or food items that have been opened.
- Give them small-sized toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, unopened bar soap (tip: put soap in a plastic zip loc bag for them to use to store it), shampoo, etc. Making a collection of these items in a zip-loc bag will help them keep everything together.
- Amass a collection of hats, scarves, socks, gloves, etc. that will help keep them warm. These can be purchased very cheaply at yard sales! Keep in mind wool will help keep someone warm even when wet. If possible, let them CHOOSE from what you offer, because so often, they never get the chance to decide what they get.
- Go through your closet for cold-weather clothing you no longer wear.
- Lightweight fleece throws can be wrapped around their shoulders and provide warmth while sitting in front of a campfire. Since they are often walking from place to place, these are more easily carried rather than an actual blanket.