October 7-13 is Fire Prevention Week

Did you know that on average, U.S. fire departments respond to a fire every 24 seconds? On average, fire claims seven lives every day. You can help prevent this from happening to you. You have to be aware. Fire can happen anywhere. When you look, listen and learn you are keeping yourself and others safe from fire. For more information visit www.firepreventionweek.org

LOOK

Look for places fire can start. Take a good look around your home. Gather evidence of fire dangers and address the problems.

Look in the kitchen:
- Flammable objects off the stove.
- Keep pots off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops.
- Make sure someone is closely watching any food being cooked.

Look at your heaters:
- Keep anything that can burn three feet away from heating equipment.
- Get heating equipment and chimneys checked and inspected.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Put a screen in front of the fireplace.

Look at your electricity:
- Make sure all electrical work is done by a qualified electrician.
- Use only one heat-producing appliance per outlet at a time.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.
- Be sure light fixtures use light bulbs with the correct number of watts.

LISTEN

A working smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire. Fire moves fast. You could only have minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. When the smoke alarm sounds off:
- Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what do when they hear it.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure someone can help them.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Go to your outside meeting place. Call 9-1-1.
- Never go back inside for people, pets or things.

Smoke alarm basics:
- It is important to test them monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not respond when tested.
- Alternates for deaf/hard of hearing:
  - Strobe lights flash on alternate devices when the smoke alarm sounds.
  - When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape.
  - When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, an alert device that uses a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound can wake them. They may find a pillow or bed shaker helpful.
- These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.

LEARN

No matter where you are—at home or in a public building—it’s important to think about your safety from fire. Home is the place where fires happen most often, but fires can happen at other places as well. Learning two ways out of every room could save your life.

At home:
- Make a home escape plan with all household members. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show everyone all doors and windows. Make sure you have two ways out of every room.
- Practice day & nighttime fire drills.
- Share your escape plans with guests.
- If you live in an apartment or condo, talk to the building manager about the evacuation plans.
- If smoke or fire is blocking one of your exits, use your second exit to escape to safety.

At places of public assembly:
- When you enter a building you should look for all available exits.
- Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use main exit.
- Make sure aisles are wide enough and not blocked by chairs or furniture.
- Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained.
- If there are not at least two exits or if exit paths are blocked, report the violation.

City of Salisbury
Rallies Against Florence

In preparation for the storm, City staff provided tips to keep residents safe and comfortable in the event of power losses. Tips, which can also apply to winter weather situations, included:
- Maintain enough food for 72 hours per person in your preparation kit.
- Have at least one gallon of water, per person, per day.
- Be sure to fill any prescriptions you may need in advance, as well as extra diapers for the little ones.
- Have a battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Never use a generator or grill inside your home or garage.

Florence damage estimates are still being calculated.
Families Invited to the Fun Fest

It’s almost time for Halloween candy, fall colors and the City of Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department’s annual Halloween Fun Fest! Halloween Fun Fest will bring an array of joyous fun to residents and visitors of Salisbury and beyond on Saturday, Oct 27 from 3-6 p.m. The City Hall parking lot, located at 217 S Main Street, will transform into a Halloween carnival featuring music, costume contests, haunted trolley rides, bounce house, face painting, trick or treating and more.

Attendees can also purchase a $5 pass for unlimited game play and activities. For more information, visit www.salisburync.gov/PLAY

A Family Celebration

National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 through October 15. In honor of this annual recognition, the Hispanic Coalition of Salisbury will once again host its annual La Fiesta de Rowan celebration in downtown Salisbury. The event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 12 to 5 p.m. in the 200 block of W. Fisher St.

La Fiesta de Rowan has been held in Salisbury for 12 years, consistently drawing large diverse crowds of over 500 people. The event is a fun way for the entire community to connect with Hispanic and Latino culture. Activities include music, games, dancing and variety of food.

The event also provides information on health, education, legal services, immigration, housing, business and social development. It is a great opportunity for all who wish to learn more about the culture.

Una Celebración Familiar

El 15 de Septiembre hasta el 15 de Octubre es el mes de la herencia Hispana nacional. En honor de este reconocimiento, La Coalición Hispana de Salisbury tendrá el evento anual, La Fiesta de Rowan, en el centro de Salisbury. El evento será el sábado, 6 de Octubre desde las 12 del día hasta las 5 pm en el bloque 200 de West Fisher Street.

Este evento se ha tenido por 12 años y ya atrajo constantemente más de 500 personas. El evento es una manera para divertirse, para todos en la comunidad, para conectarse con la cultura Latina. Las actividades incluyen música, juegos, baile y una variedad de comida. El evento también tendrá información de agencias sobre la salud, educación, servicios legales, inmigración, vivienda, negocios y desarrollo social. Es una gran oportunidad para todos que deseen aprender más de la cultura. No se lo pierdan!

Fibrant Transition to Hotwire

Fibrant services have transitioned to Hotwire Communications and thus ended the City’s operation and management of the Fiber optic network. While the transition is bittersweet on the Fibrant side, Hotwire’s debut in the community brings excitement and opportunity for all. The Fibrant website will now redirect you to Hotwire, including the Notification of Fibrant Issue Report, while Fibrant’s social media platforms have now been suspended. By Monday, Oct. 1, all Fibrant customers should have received information in the mail from Hotwire Communications. This very important letter contains details about new Hotwire Communications’ accounts and how to reach its 24/7/365 Customer Service department. For more information on Hotwire Communications, please go to www.hotwirecommunications.com or call customer service at (800) 355-5668.

The next steps for project developer Black Point Investments, LLC, is to solidify financing and continue to work with the National Register of Historic Places. To date, multiple Open Houses have been held for residents and community partners to hear from project developers, ask questions and view proposed project timelines and architectural renderings. In addition, local civic and business organizations have heard from one of the local developers, Britt Weaver, about BPI’s plans and expectations for the future apartment property. For more information on the Empire Hotel, a list of FAQs, the development and rental agreements and artist renderings, please visit www.empiresalisbury.com.