



# Piedmont Parks & Recreation News

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## How to Get to AMAZING!!!

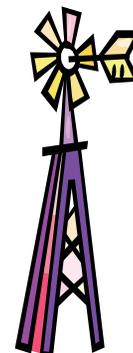
*Health and education are two of the biggest issues in our daily lives. Below is an article that was written for boards of schools and hospitals about how their actions and decisions can help make a community an amazing place to live. The message in the article is timely because Piedmont is getting ready to develop a 2030 comprehensive plan.*

*The article talks about the value of including and engaging the community. The city of Piedmont is depending on your input and participation in the development of the plan. In the coming weeks and months, you will be given multiple opportunities to get involved.*

*Although Piedmont doesn't have a hospital, it does have a school board. But it's not just the school board that impacts the community. Other groups such as our churches, sports organizations, Kiwanis, TRIAD, neighborhoods, students, and even informal groups of friends, are in a position to impact the future of Piedmont. Experiences and ideas of individuals are invaluable also.*

*The city has contracted with a firm that includes planners and architects, and the person working with Piedmont has personally helped over 75 communities create a vision and a plan. The comprehensive plan that Piedmont creates will be adopted by the city council and it will become the document upon which the council will base their decisions on issues such as land use, transportation, public utilities, parks and recreation, health and education, housing, economic development, and the future growth and development of our city.*

*Read the article, start conversations in the groups to which you belong, and jump into the discussions to create a 2030 comprehensive plan. That's how we'll make Piedmont and AMAZING place to live!*



## 7 Things Schools and Hospitals Can Do to Make Their Communities Amazing Places to Live

There are no more important issues for the future of our communities than education and health. And because we have been spending more and more time with leaders in both fields over the past few years, we have observed some interesting trends, at least among the people who bring us in to talk about their communities (a self-selected sample, if ever there were one!)

In healthcare, these are individuals who are tired of talking about community sickness in the guise of community health; folks who are tired of aiming all their efforts at creating non-sickness, instead of talking about what health would really look like.

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In schools, these are folks who are tired of talking about drop-out rates and gang violence. They want to move forward to talk about changing the face of education in our communities, in our country.

In both healthcare and education, knowing that we typically get what we aim for, these are individuals who are tired of aiming their most creative discussions at a negative best case scenario: Ending what they do NOT like about their communities. These are individuals who want to begin aiming instead at beginning and creating something amazing.

Both schools and hospitals tend to get so bogged down in the day to day. How can our school districts (and where applicable, individual charter and/or private schools) look up from the morass, to aim at creating a community that is educated, brilliant, wise? How can hospitals, who (like it or not) have become the critical centerpiece in community health discussions, aim our communities at being healthy, resilient places to live?

We hope these 7 ideas get you thinking. Because we are creating the future, whether you are thinking about that or not!

### **1) Holding Ourselves Accountable for the Community's Future**

Is your board creating a future you would want to be held accountable for? You are creating the future whether you hold yourselves accountable for it or not. And you will be held responsible for the consequences your actions and decisions cause, in the short term and the long term. All that is true, whether you want to think about it or not.

So then, what future do you want to hold yourselves accountable for creating? When your community looks back in ten years and twenty years and fifty years, what do you want to be held responsible for?

### **2) Planning for the Future You Want to Create**

Is your board planning for the future you want for your community? If you hold yourselves accountable for the future you are creating, that will require aiming for that future more consciously as you plan. What do you want the future to look like for the community you serve? How can you plan to make that vision of the future a reality?

### **3) Are You Measuring Success or Lack of Failure?**

What are you measuring when you measure "success?" are you measuring something incredible, something horrible, or something irrelevant? Is your board leading a hospital, are you measuring lack of sickness? Or are you working to determine what indicators might show real community health and strength?

If your board is leading a school or school district, are you measuring test scores, or are you measuring learning? Are you measuring knowledge and wisdom, and trying to determine what indicators might show that? Or are you looking at negative indicators such as drop-out rates?

And here's a riddle: If you are uncertain how to measure those things right now, do you want to create a future where you continue not knowing how to measure what is most important to your community? Or do you want to stake a claim in determining those indicators, and starting to measure them?

### **4) Community Engagement**

Are you engaging the community in building their own health and their own knowledge and learning? Or are you making decisions for them? How much less stress would there be if we engaged folks in big issues before making decisions, rather than taking the heat after making the decision for them (and often having to reverse that decision)?

Community problems and issues deserve community discussion. Not a gathering of the likely suspects - the city council and other big wigs. And not a public hearing where you will listen obligatorily as citizens voice their opinions.

Engaged discussion encourages you to ask yourselves, for every issue of importance, "Whose future (and present) will this affect? How can we engage them in creating that future for themselves?"

Remember: Strong leaders do not make decisions FOR people; they make decisions WITH people. And that is especially true if you want to create an amazing future for your community.

### **5) Walking the Talk / Doing Your Work with Integrity**

When we focus on creating the future of our communities, and we consider engaging the community in that discussion in a very real way, we begin to recognize the importance of behaving well together - doing our work in a way the community can not help but admire. This is not about whatever the final decision or action is. It is about the actions you take to get there. It is about walking the talk.

Can your community always say, "I may not agree with their decision, but the decision was made in as fair and inclusive a way as I have ever seen." That is more likely to happen if the community can say, "We created that decision together," rather than, "They acted like they were listening, but did what they wanted to do anyway."

Doing our work in a way that forces us to rationalize our behaviors squanders our resources, and it squanders our potential. And those actions themselves are going to be creating the future - is that the kind of future you want to create?

### **6) Building Upon the Community's Strengths**

When you build programs, are you starting from zero and building from the ground up? Or are you building those programs upon a core of shared community resources, at every possible point? Are you engaging your community's physical resources, its human resources, your own mission's resources, the resources of the for profit and government and non-profit sectors?

When people get involved by sharing what they have, they feel ownership of the very issues you grapple with every day. And the effort becomes stronger just from that shared infrastructure.

### **7) Building a Culture of Possibility**

The first and last things that stand between any of us and a better place to live is the belief that such a future is possible. If we do not believe it is possible, we will not aim for it. And when we fail to aim we are almost guaranteed to not get there.

A better future for our communities is possible, simply because it is not impossible. While the past is gone, and there is little about today we can influence, the future is where all our power lies.

Our communities' schools and hospitals are making decisions every day that will help create that future. The choice is ours.

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Hildy Gottlieb is co-founder of Creating the Future, a living laboratory for building healthy, vibrant communities. Hildy is also author of *The Pollyanna Principles: Reinventing "Nonprofit" Organizations to Create the Future of Our World*.

Discover how you can create the future of your community at <http://creatingthefuture.org/>

## Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies

If you are like millions of animal owners nationwide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.



Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

**Food** - Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.



**Water** - Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.



**Medicines and medical records** - Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

**First aid kit** - Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.



**Collar with ID tag, harness or leash** - Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.

**Create or other pet carrier** - If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation, take your pets and animals with you provided that it is practical to do so, in many cases, your ability to do so will be aided by having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

**Sanitation** - Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.



# March Community Calendar

Piedmont Service Center Food Pantry & Clothing Closet, 415 Piedmont Road N, open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, 373-4022

**1-4, 7-11, 14** (9:00-4:00 pm) - Angel Food orders can be placed at the Baptist church and picked up on Saturday, March 19 from 8:30-10 am, 373-2420

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29** (10:00 am) - Preschool Story Time at the Library, free, 373-9018

**2** (10:00 am) - Preschool Music and Movement with Miss Bonnie at the Library, children ages 2-5, free, 373-9018

**2, 9, 16, 23, 30** (noon) - Senior Adults lunch and fellowship at the Methodist church, \$3, for reservations call 373-2905

**3** (noon) - Chamber of Commerce meeting at city hall, Commissioner David Anderson will speak on the special election to use county sales tax for jail construction, optional lunch \$8, 373-2234

**3, 10, 17, 24, 31** (7:30-8:30 pm) - Zumba class at city hall, beginners welcome, \$3, 650-0229

**5** (9:00-11:00 am) - Piedmont Recycling at the former Co-Op, 373-2905

**5, 12, 19, 26** (10:00-2:00 pm) - Historical Society Museum is open, free, 823-1345

**5** (1:00-3:30 pm) - Piedmont Area Rocketry Club for all ages, at the civic center, free, 488-5999

**8-25** - Blue & Gold sausage (\$6.50), bacon (\$14.25) chicken (\$17.50) being sold by Boy Scout Troop 374, 570-1957, 301-2754, or 426-2688

**8** (6:30 pm) - Canadian County Tuff Riders 4-H equine program for 9-18 year olds, don't have to own a horse, at the library, free, 820-6728

**8** (7:00 pm) - Sit. Stay. Read. (kids read to dogs) at the library, all ages, free, 373-9018

**9, 16, 23, 30** (10:00-noon) - Library Quilters for anyone interested in quilting, at the library, free, 373-1662

**9** (7:00 pm) - Ash Wednesday Worship Gathering at the Nazarene church, 373-2308

**10** (6:30-8:30 pm) - Piedmont Parent Network at Methodist church, free, 514-9248

**10** (6:30 pm) - No-Experience-Necessary Writer's Workshop for adults, at the library, free, 373-3788

**11** (5:30-11:00 pm) - Stamp Camp at the civic center, \$5, RSVP 535-8849

**16** (2:00-4:00 pm) - Ranger's Apprentice Party for elementary aged kids, at the Library, free, 373-9018

**17** (2:00-6:00 pm) - Name Art for all ages, at the Library, come 'n go, free, 373-9018

**25** (5:00-9:00 pm) - El Chico Night inside Quail Spring Mall donating part of the night's proceeds to Piedmont Primary School for playground equipment, tell them you're with Piedmont Primary, 373-4848

An expanded version of the calendar is online at  
[PiedmontParksAndRec.com](http://PiedmontParksAndRec.com)