From: Code for Asheville <code4asheville=gmail.com@mail124.suw17.mcsv.net>
Sent: 1/28/2018 4:23:44 PM
To: ejackson@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: [Test] Vote in the National Advisory Council Election!

"Here's the draft of the newsletter. I plan to send it out Tuesday unless it takes longer to get the link to the candidate forum recording (no later than Wednesday though)." — Eric Jackson

To send feedback about this test campaign, reply with a message above this bar.

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

View this email in your browser

In this edition:

- Website-raising on February 8 - come pitch in!
- Report on the 1/13 Transportation for Seniors Hackathon
- Vote in the brigades National Advisory Council Election 1/29 - 2/9
- Free tickets to the Code for America Summit

Check it out below!

February 8 - Come Help Revamp Our Website

Please join us on February 8 at our next Community Night to completely revamp the Code for Asheville website. The site has suffered an ongoing identity crisis for a couple years now and it's time to give it some real love.

We'll begin by working together to identify just who the site should serve and what questions it should answer. After identifying key requirements for the home page, we'll break into smaller groups to go deep on the major sections:

- Home
- Blog (and newsletter archive)
- What We Do
- Who We Are

Our hope is to end the night well on our way to a new and more effective website.

We'll need some Wordpress and design and web development folks, but we also especially need people who don't know a lot about Code for Asheville, Code for America, civic tech, or coding (since that's largely who the website is for). We're also hoping for at least one seasoned developer to figure out a way to automatically convert MailChimp newsletter articles into blog posts.

We'll be at the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center on Thursday, February 8, 2018, from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. You can RSVP here.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Making Transportation Access Easier

I want to share the following report from Code for Asheville member Tracy Schmidt on the Transportation for Seniors Hackathon on January 13. Special thanks to the other Code for Asheville members who showed up so strong: Eric Jackson, Jesse Michel, Sabrah n'haRaven, JeriBeth Stevens, and new member, Alyx Perry! Great job! Thank you. - Jim March

Meet the Geeks, Code for Asheville, and UniteWNC put a call out for members to pitch in at a Transportation for Seniors Hackathon earlier this month and 30 folks answered that call. The Hackathon resulted in five solution ideas to minimize seniorsâ€™ isolation and keep them integrated into the community.

The solution voted most promising is a web-based application that will help seniors successfully navigate transportation options by bridging currently disconnected systems (ART, Mountain Mobility, Trailblazer, Lyft/Uber, etc.) from the perspective of the individual traveler. Users can add constraints to their searches (time, money, mobility, etc), to return most accurate and usable information. The vision is to turn our current transportation options from a competing system to a cooperative collection of transportation offerings. This app would not only benefit seniors but all residents. The initial scope of this project would be for Buncombe County.

Be on the lookout for a planning meet-up on this project as we continue to research other solutions from other cities and put together a project plan and solution approach for this vision. If this project excites you and youâ€™d like to get more involved, send an email to t4s@unitewnc.io.

Tracy Schmidt
UniteWNC

National Advisory Council Elections!

Elections for the Code for America Brigades National Advisory Council will be held from this Monday, January 29 through Friday, February 9. All Code for Asheville members* are invited to participate.

These are the folks who represent you and Code for Asheville to the national Code for America organization and to other brigades, so please use your voice and vote!

You can find the ballot and candidates guide here, including our own Eric Jackson. In addition to the guide, you can hear candidates answer questions at the Candidate Forum that was held on Monday, January 9.

The election will run until Friday, February 9, 2018, and winners will be announced February 12. You can find more details on the election in this post.

*We have always defined membership in Code for Asheville fairly loosely. If you have attended at least one Code for Asheville Community Night, hack night, hackathon or planning meeting and consider yourself to be a member, you're a member.

Upcoming events

2/8 Monthly Community Meetup
Our next Community Night will be on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 5:30pm, at the Stephens-Lee Recreation Center. We'll be doing a complete revamp of the Code for Asheville website. We need people who know a lot about Code for Asheville and people who know every little, coders and designers and just plain folks! RSVP on meetup or just show up.

Community nights occur on the second Thursday of each month at Stephens-Lee Recreation Center.

2/20 Brigade Planning Meeting
Our next regular planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 20 at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange. RSVP here or just stop by.

2018 Code for America Summit - May 30 - June 1
Registration is now open for the seventh annual Code for America Summit and we have two pay-what-you-can tickets available! If you've never been, the Summit is an opportunity not to be missed, bringing together more than 1,200 public servants, civic technologists, brigade members, entrepreneurs and technology companies to share whatâ€™s working and whatâ€™s not when it comes to government getting the full benefit of technology for better services, better outcomes and better value for money. This yearâ€™s event will take place May 30th - June 1st in Oakland, CA.

Code for Asheville gets *2 free tickets* to the event - is one of them for you? Contact Eric Jackson if you are even a little bit interested.

Have a Story to Share?

We'd love to have your contribution. You can write something up about a Code for Asheville event or share something else going on in the civic tech world. Email us at code4asheville@gmail.com.

Sign up for this newsletter

Join the CfA Discussion on Slack

(It may take a moment for the form to load)

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