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**To:** sbarnwell@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** This Thursday 11/9 - Help Launch Asheville Stories

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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This week's newsletter is action-packed, i.e., packed with invitations for you to take action. Come to Thursday's Community Night and help us launch our new Asheville Stories platform, answer Jen Pahlka's call to help identify the principles and values we share as Code for America participants across the country, or check out a citizen-led redistricting project to address gerrymandering. See details below.

**Writing our principles and values, together...**



Jennifer Pahlka, Founder and Executive Director of Code for America, has asked Code for Asheville members for help. During the Brigade Conference, there was a discussion about Code for America's principles and values (for details, see [Jennifer Pahlka's post](#)).

Following up, and giving all Code for America members the opportunity to express their opinions, she would like us to read and give our questions, comments, and suggestions about the purpose and substance of [Code for America vision, mission, values, and operating principles](#).

This is your chance to give your input to the direction of Code for America. Don't pass it up!

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## Thursday: Help Launch Our New Stories Platform

In September we [kicked off the creation of a platform](#) to let community groups collect and share stories. The focus of the platform is on stories that give voice to the most vulnerable in our community and those typically marginalized by our current systems, as well as stories that highlight the efforts of those working to bring positive change to Asheville.

Jesse Michel has been hard at work building the basic functionality as a Wordpress site and we're ready to make it real with your help. Here's what we hope to accomplish this Thursday:

- Start collecting stories about Code for Asheville members - be the interviewer or the interviewee!
- Develop content for the Contact Us, Questions, Code of Conduct, Report Abuse and Terms of Use pages.
- Make decisions about names, whether we collect donations, etc.
- General user testing.
- Tee up the next stories project

Please join us and help us get the platform off the ground!

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## Project Opportunity

## Citizen Redistricting NC

Citizen Redistricting NC is a grassroots group working on gerrymandering reform here in North Carolina. Their goal is to replace the current dysfunctional system, where politicians get to choose their own voters, with a model in which districts are drawn using maps submitted by ordinary citizens. These maps would be scored according to objective criteria that would include compactness, one person-one vote, and minimal division of cities, counties, and precincts. The highest scoring maps would be selected as the basis for our elections.

They are developing software for drawing and scoring redistricting maps. They have made [solid progress](#), but need help. If you are a developer and would like to advance a reform that would literally reshape the way we elect our representatives, please contact [Gary Cole](#).

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## 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](mailto:code4asheville@gmail.com).

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## Upcoming events

### 11/9 Monthly Community Meetup - This Thursday!

Our next Community Night is this Thursday, November 9 at the Stephens-Lee Community Center, 30 George Washington Carver, Asheville. We'll be working on our new community stories platform. [RSVP here](#) or just show up.

Community nights normally occur on the second Thursday of each month. The location rotates among different Asheville community centers.

### 11/21 Brigade Planning Meeting

Our next regular planning meeting will take place Tuesday, November 21 at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange. These planning meetings are on the second Tuesday after each community night. [RSVP here](#).

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