



DURHAM CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

News and Information from the City of Durham

FY 2009 - 2010 No. 4 - January - February - Office of Public Affairs

101 City Hall Plaza - Durham, NC 27701 - Phone (919) 560-4123 - Fax - (919) 560-4483

Join City Council For Coffee and Conversation

In February and March, Durham City Council will host a series of community meetings entitled, "Coffee with Council." These face-to-face meetings with residents will be held throughout the city and are designed to give citizens the opportunity to provide direct input to council members on budget items for the upcoming 2010 - 2011 fiscal year.

The Coffee with Council sessions will include a review of the City's budget outlook for FY 2011 and time to address citizen concerns. Residents who have ideas or comments on the use of City resources are welcome to attend any of the meetings scheduled below:

- **Saturday, February 13, 2010**, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Irwin R. Holmes, Sr., Recreation Center at Campus Hills, 2000 South Alston Avenue, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.- PAC 4
- **Saturday, February 20** - Holton Career and Resource Center, 401 N. Driver Street, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - PAC 1
- **Saturday, February 27**, Neighborhoods Coffee with Council, Holton Career and Resource Center, 401 N. Driver Street, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Monday, March 8**, Durham County School Resource Center, Hillandale and Carver streets, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - PAC 2.
- **Thursday, March 11**, Committee Room, City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. - PAC 5 (Spanish translation).
- **Saturday, March 13**, Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, 1309 Halley Street, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - PAC 3

There will also be two budget public hearings held in conjunction with regular City Council meetings. The first public hearing will be held on Monday, March 1 and the second on Monday, June 7. These are regular City Council meeting dates.

[City of Durham Non-City Agency Application Assistance Session Set for February 17](#)

City of Durham 2010-2011 Non-City Agency (NCA) grant applications will be available through a new, online application process beginning February 17 on the City's [Web site](#). NCA grants fund operations between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. NCA grant funds can be used for any type of expenditure (personnel, operating, capital and administrative or programmatic). Agencies interested in applying for this funding should provide services that support Durham City Council's eight goals. NCA funds can only be used for operations occurring within the city limits. In order to be eligible for NCA funds, the agency must be recognized as a 501(c) 3 non-profit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), must be incorporated in North Carolina, and must provide services in the city.

[Sustainable Landscapes Workshop Offers Guidance for "Greener" Gardens Feb. 15.](#)

Next month, gardeners interested in learning how to create productive garden beds while protecting Durham's water quality at the same time will get their chance at a workshop focusing on sustainable garden management techniques.

On Monday, February 15, 2010, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., workshops participants will learn about a wide variety of techniques to help protect Durham's water sources, such as how to manage soil for best results; smart watering techniques; how to install rain gardens; and how to create raised vegetable beds.

The workshop will be held at the Durham County Cooperative Extension, located at 721 Foster Street, Durham. The cost to attend is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. The registration deadline is Monday, February 8.

Subscribe to the City Manager's Report

Receive the latest information and important City news via e-mail with the City Manager's Report. The report from City Manager Thomas J. Bonfield highlights the latest happenings in Durham City Government. To subscribe, visit www.durhamnc.gov/managersreport.

Police and Fire Alarm Ordinance Update

On January 1 of each year, all alarm users who are currently registered and permitted will have their alarm occurrences reset to zero in accordance with the City's police and fire alarm ordinance.

In January 2006, the City revised its police and fire alarm ordinance to encourage proper use of alarm systems. The ordinance requires residents and businesses to acquire a permit to operate an alarm system after they have an alarm incident deemed to be false. There is no fee to obtain the permit. The civil penalty fee schedule for false alarm activation can be found on the City's Web site at http://www.durhamnc.gov/council/false_alarm.cfm.

For information on the ordinance or to get a permit form, see the City's [Web site](#), call the City's General Billing and Collection Division at (919) 560-4700, e-mail <mailto:falsealarm@durhamnc.gov>, or call Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200.

[Protect Your Pipes From Freezing This Winter](#)

As North Carolina battles this most recent bout of winter weather and below-freezing temperatures, Durham residents should implement these quick and easy tips to prevent water pipes from cracking – and the headache and expense that comes with broken water pipes in the home. According to the City of Durham’s Department of Water Management, when unprotected water lines are subjected to freezing temperatures for several hours, the water in the pipes freezes. As water freezes, it expands and can cause pipes to crack or split – which can lead to significant leaks that can cause extensive water waste and substantial property damage. For a list of tips to prevent pipes from freezing, visit the [Web site](#).

Durham ... Beyond the Headlines

It’s that time of year, when organizations are looking for speakers. The City of Durham is available to talk to you on a wide variety of topics about your city. For us, it’s simple. We want to build strong partnerships with our residents by providing presentations on topics ranging from where your tax dollars go, our water quality, code enforcement in neighborhoods, to parks and recreation and the list goes on... Frankly, we want to be your best resource for getting answers to important questions about Durham. Call us at 560-4123 or email us at speakersbureau@durhamnc.gov. We’re waiting ...

Toilet Rebate Program Still Available

The City of Durham is offering rebates valued at \$100 for qualified water customers who replace their existing toilets with EPA WaterSense labeled High Efficiency Toilet (HET) models. Any toilet that meets the criteria and is purchased after January 1, 2008, is eligible for the rebate. Rebates will be applied as credits to customers’ water bills. For information and the rebate form, visit www.DurhamSavesWater.org.

Your City - Your Channel

DTV8 provides programming to keep Durham informed on the important issues and services involving citizens every day. City government produced programs include scheduled meetings of the Durham City Council and the Durham Planning Commission. The City also produces “City Hall This Week,” a program dedicated to informing citizens on what is going on inside Durham’s city hall, and “CityLife,” a show featuring information on current City issues and upcoming events. For a programming schedule, or to watch DTV8 live on the Web, visit www.durhamnc.gov/dtv8.

Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act

A person with a disability may receive an auxiliary aid or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the ADA Coordinator, voice (919) 560-4197, fax 560-4196, TTY (919) 560-1200, or <mailto:ADA@durhamnc.gov>, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.