



DURHAM CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

News and Information from the City of Durham

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

Make Your Yard A Water-Wise Yard

Whether you're developing a new landscape or revitalizing an existing one, now is the time to start planning to make your yard or garden more water efficient.

Start by identifying features and use areas. This will help you determine which areas get more wear and tear, which spots make for great viewing areas, and which areas might need less water, such as at the bottoms of slopes or shady places. Identifying these locations can aid plant selection and help you group plants according to their needs. To reduce watering and maintenance, group plants with similar watering requirements together. Keeping plants with similar needs together allows you to provide just enough water to keep them healthy.

An important step to remember this spring is to improve

your soil. Carefully prepared plant beds can reduce water usage by almost half. Good soil absorbs and holds moisture better and encourages plants to grow deep roots so they can access moisture, even when topsoil is dry. Improving soil now can help plants become healthier and better suited to handle low-water conditions later, especially during hot summer months.

Another way to save water is to cut back on grass. Start by giving up turf areas that don't get much use, such as those near foundations, along medians, or on slopes. Replace these turf areas with groundcover, flower gardens, ornamental shrubs, and shade trees that are water-wise and drought resistant. In the end, your water-wise yard will look far more interesting than it ever did with just plain turf.

Inefficient irrigation is the biggest culprit of water waste in the yard. Regardless of whether you use an automated irrigation system or water by hand, you need to know how much water plants need and how to apply water efficiently. Here are some additional watering ideas:

- Morning is the best time to water.
- Put a rain gauge in your yard – you can adjust the amount of watering you do based on natural rainfall – you can also use this to help gauge how much water your sprinklers put out.
- If you have an automatic sprinkler system, install a rain sensor or moisture sense shutoff device.
- Use a rain barrel to collect rainfall and runoff from

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Upcoming City Holidays

Good Friday - April 10

For information about City holidays, garbage collection schedules or any City service, call your local government customer service and information center.



Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The City's household hazardous waste facility at 1900 E. Club Blvd. is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call 560-4186, ext. 227, for more information.

The Citizens' Newsletter is published every other month with the water bill on a staggered schedule. Information can be dated for some receiving their bill at the end of the mailing cycle. For the most current information, visit the Web site at www.durhamnc.gov.

Contact the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau for holiday schedules and events at 687-0288.

Subscribe to the City Manager's Report

Receive the latest information and important City news via e-mail with the new 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/departments/public/managers_report_signup.cfm.



Senior Games Registration Under Way

Durham Parks and Recreation will host the Durham Senior Games and SilverArts on April 18 – May 2. Mature adults ages 55 and better must register by April 3 to display their athletic and artistic abilities. Registration is now open. For information, call 688-8247 or visit www.durhamnc.gov/departments/parks.

Stormwater Advisory Group

Durham’s Environmental Affairs Board is creating a subcommittee to serve as a Citizen’s Participation Group for Stormwater Management. The City values the concerns and interests of citizens in the protection and recovery of urban streams and regional watersheds. The City is looking for interested citizens willing to make a commitment of at least one year with meetings on a monthly to quarterly basis. For information, call Michelle Woolfolk in Stormwater Services, (919) 560-1328, ext. 253.

Celebrate the Earth at Durham’s Earth Day in April

On Saturday, April 25, the City of Durham will host its Annual Earth Day Festival. Activities will be held at the CCB Plaza (201 Corcoran Street) and Historic Parrish Street from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. In addition to great food and music, Earth Day participants will learn ways to help Durham “go green.” There is no cost for admission and the event will be held rain or shine. For information, call Durham Parks and Recreation at (919) 560-4355 or visit www.durhamnc.gov/departments/parks.

Watch “CityLife”

“CityLife” is a half-hour television show that informs citizens about Durham City government services, issues, and upcoming events. The program airs twice daily. Log onto www.durhamnc.gov, click on Public Affairs for times.

Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act

The City of Durham will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communications, or assistance to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact the office of Stacey Poston, Acting ADA Coordinator, Voice: 919-560-4197 x254, TTY: 919-560-4809; Stacey.Poston@durhamnc.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Durham Toilet Rebate Program Now Available

The City of Durham Department of Water Management is offering rebates valued at \$100 when qualified water customers replace their existing toilets with EPA WaterSense labeled High Efficiency Toilet (HET) models.

Any toilet purchased MUST be a High Efficiency Toilet (HETs use an average of 1.28 gallons per flush) and MUST be on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) WaterSense list to be eligible for the rebate. Any toilet meeting the criteria and purchased after January 1, 2008, will be eligible for the rebate. Rebates will be applied as credits to customers’ water bills. To apply for the rebate/credit, residential customers will need to submit all of the following:



- the original dated sales receipt for your toilet
- a copy of your most recent water bill
- a completed Rebate Application Form

The rebate form, a link to approved toilets and more details are available from www.DurhamSavesWater.org.

Rebates will be offered on a first-come, first served basis, with one toilet rebate allowed per single family residential customer. Durham anticipates rebating approximately 3,000 toilets this year.

For more information on Durham’s Toilet Rebate program, visit www.DurhamSavesWater.org or call (866) 522-3806.

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downspouts. The Department of Water Management makes rain barrels available to city water customers at a wholesale price. Contact conservation program staff for more information.

For more details on water wise gardening, request of a copy of our Water Wise Landscaping & Watering Guide by emailing savewater@durhamnc.gov or call (919) 560-4381. For more ways to save water, visit www.DurhamSavesWater.org.

Tune In To “City Hall This Week”

A half-hour television show on Time Warner Cable channel 8, “City Hall This Week” informs citizens about what is going on in City Hall and important issues facing City Council. The program airs twice daily. Log onto www.durhamnc.gov, click on Public Affairs for times.