



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

New Budget Maintains City's Highest Priorities

The Durham City Council adopted a \$345.6 million budget for FY 2009-2010 at its June 15 meeting. While the property tax rate will remain the same, at 54 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the 2009 - 2010 plan reflects a 3.1 percent decrease from last year's adopted budget. The budget went into effect July 1.

City Manager Thomas Bonfield called this year's budget preparation "extraordinarily difficult" given the current national recession and its impact on the City's two largest sources of revenue : property taxes and sales taxes. "We have been closely watching current economic trends, and it appears that residential real estate and personal property tax growth will remain mostly stagnant, sales tax revenue will decline, and that overall City revenue growth will also decline for the next fiscal year," Bonfield said. "Under these tough circumstances, we were charged with developing a budget that continues to deliver vital public services without raising the property tax rate. We began this process facing a projected \$24 million to \$40 mil-

lion deficit, and we had to make some tough decisions in order to deliver a balanced budget to the Council – and ultimately to the community."

Citing the feedback received from Durham citizens through the course of the budget development process, Bonfield stated that this budget continues the City's focus on public safety; the delivery of quality core services; support of youth program and activities; improved City infrastructure, including further reduction in the City's backlog of deferred maintenance; continued neighborhood engagement and revitalization; continued neighborhood-based economic development; and the timely delivery of capital projects.

With the property tax remaining at \$0.54 for \$100 of assessed value, the proposed budget will establish a \$750,000 neighborhood revitalization fund; a \$500,000 deferred maintenance fund; and will include an average water and sewer rate increase of 9.25 percent for a typical residential customer, which is less than the 9.5 percent projected earlier this year.

Bonfield stressed that the impact on services to citizens was top-of-mind in developing this budget, which is why no programs have been eliminated, but some services affected, including the suspension of new street light requests; the suspension of new traffic calming requests; and adjusted operating hours at some City recreation centers based on utilization.

Bonfield also noted that non-city agency contributions will be reduced to \$480,155, which will fund 36 non-city agencies to provide arts, public safety, youth, community development programs and other activities for Durham citizens.

The FY 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was also presented to the City Council in a companion document to the proposed budget. The capital improvement budget includes \$71 million for both new projects and to complete

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Upcoming City Holidays

Labor Day - September 7

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 for 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 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.



Stormwater Residential Bills To Be Sent Annually

Effective July 1, residential stormwater fees will be billed once a year. Residential customers that formerly received a water and sewer bill with stormwater charges added also will now receive a bi-monthly water and sewer bill and an annual stormwater bill.

Also beginning July 1, residential properties with more than 4,000 square feet of hard surfaces, such as roofs and driveways, will be charged a new rate of \$9 per month for an annual rate of \$108.

Per City ordinance, the stormwater fee is the responsibility of the residential property owner. Tenants currently paying stormwater fees for residential properties are encouraged to contact the Stormwater Services Billing Unit at (919) 560-1258 or by e-mail at swbu@durhamnc.gov to move the stormwater fee into the owner's name, unless an owner/tenant agreement is in place with the City.

For information, visit www.durhamnc.gov/stormwater.

National Night Out 2009

The Durham Police Department is looking forward to another award-winning National Night Out program with great community participation. NNO will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 4. Neighborhood registrations can be completed and submitted online at www.durhampolice.com/nno. For information, call 560-4322, ext. 29194.

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 requiring 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, ext. 21254, TTY: (919) 560-4809; Stacey.Poston@durhamnc.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

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existing projects.

Copies of the budget are available at the Durham County Library, the Durham City Clerk's Office, the City's Department of Budget and Management Services, and on the City's Web site at www.durhamnc.gov/citybudget.

Updated Water Rates Take Effect in August

In June, the Durham City Council approved new water consumption (usage) charges for the existing Tiered Rate structure. Rate increases were made only to the water consumption charge for Tiers 2 through 5. There will be NO increase to the Tier 1 water consumption charge. There will be NO increase to the sewer consumption charge nor to existing water and sewer service charges.

For bills generated after August 1, 2009, the *monthly* residential rates will be:

- Tier 1 (0 – 200 cubic feet): \$1.72 per 100 cubic feet
- Tier 2 (>200 – 500 cubic feet): \$2.59 per 100 cubic feet
- Tier 3 (>500 – 800 cubic feet): \$2.84 per 100 cubic feet
- Tier 4 (>800 – 1500 cubic feet): \$3.71 per 100 cubic feet
- Tier 5 (>1500 cubic feet): \$5.56 per 100 cubic feet

The rates above apply to single-family residential customers only. All non-residential and multi-family residential customers pay a set usage charge equivalent to the Tier 3 rate for all consumption. Also, all dedicated irrigation accounts pay a usage rate equivalent to the Tier 5 rate for all usage.

The monthly sewer usage charge will remain at \$3.28 per 100 cubic feet. The water and sewer service charges, as based on meters size, will remain the same for all customers (for example 5/8 inch meter charges will remain at \$5.12 per month for water and \$5.71 per month for sewer).

Based on usage, different customers will see different percentage increases in actual bills. For example, a residential customer using 652 cubic feet (Tier 3) would pay \$3.64 more per month. A residential customer using 369 cubic feet (Tier 2) would pay only \$1.32 more per month. Residential customers that stay within Tier 1 (less than 200 cubic feet per month) will not see any increase at all.

For more information about Durham's Tiered Rates Structure and for tips and ideas on ways to get the lowest rates, please 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.