



DURHAM CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

News and Information from the City of Durham

FY 2010 - 2011 No. 4 - January - February - Public Affairs Office
101 City Hall Plaza - Durham, NC 27701 - Phone (919) 560-4123 - Fax - (919) 560-4483

Join City Council for Coffee and Conversation

Community Meetings and Citizen Engagement Workshop on the 2011 - 2012 City Budget Set

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 residents the opportunity to provide direct input to council members on the budget for the upcoming 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The City will also hold a Citizen Engagement Workshop this year. This meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 26** at 10 a.m. at the Holton Career and Resource Center. The purpose is to update the community on the City's strategic planning process and to discuss a proposed online dashboard for reporting progress on the plan.

The workshop will be in addition to the Coffees with Council and will be more interactive. Participants are asked to

preregister for the event. Space will be limited, so reservations are required. Reserve a spot by contacting Mildred Rogers at mildred.rogers@durhamnc.gov or call 560-4111, ext. 20284.

The Coffee with Council sessions will include a review of the City's budget outlook for FY 2012 and time to address resident concerns. Residents who have ideas or comments on the use of City resources are welcome to attend any of the meetings listed below:

Saturday, February 12 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., W.D. Hill Recreation Center, 1308 Fayetteville St. - PAC 4.

Saturday, February 19 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Holton Career and Resource Center, second floor Child Care Center, 401 North Driver St. - PAC 1.

Thursday, March 10 - 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., City Hall Council Committee Room, 101 City Hall Plaza - PAC 5 (Spanish translation).

Saturday, March 12 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Community Family Life and Recreation Center at Lyon Park, 1309 Halley St. - PAC 3.

Monday, March 14 - 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Durham Public Schools Resource Center, 2107 Hillandale Rd. - PAC 2.

Upcoming City Holidays

Good Friday - Friday, April 22, 2011

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



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 website at www.durhamnc.gov.

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

Automated Meter Installations Continuing

The City has completed Phase I of the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project. As of early December, 20,487 residential/small commercial meters have been replaced. Pending City Council approval of the next contract, Phase II would begin by April, with installation of another 20,500 meters. Phases III and IV are planned for fall 2011 and spring 2012.

The AMR system benefits both the City and our customers. Research shows the technology can provide better customer service and responsiveness, quicker detection and repair of leaks, saving thousands of gallons of potable water a year. City staff will also be able to detect malfunctioning or tampered meters and provide faster corrective action.

As more of the system is converted to the AMR technology, the City anticipates moving to monthly billing for all customers. Currently, only large meters are read and billed on a monthly basis. Moving to a monthly billing cycle allows customers to better monitor and budget their utility costs.

Continued on Page 2

City Briefs

Durham Accepting Applications for Neighborhood Energy Retrofit Program

The City is currently accepting applications from homeowners, renters, and landlords in eligible neighborhoods to receive energy efficiency home improvements. Homes must be 2,000 square feet or less, single-story, and free of unvented gas appliances. Participating homes will receive insulation, programmable thermostats, air sealing of ducts, air sealing of places where air penetrates the floor of the attic and the ceiling of the crawlspace, high efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators, and carbon monoxide detectors. The funding for the program is provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) and the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Showcase Communities Grant. For more information, and to see a list and map of eligible neighborhoods, visit www.durhamnc.gov/nerp.

Street Repaving Bids Beat Projections

Bids to repave 150 miles of Durham bumpiest streets have come in much lower than estimated, potentially providing the City with about \$1.8 million to repave additional streets. The streets were part of November's voter approved \$20 million bond referendum. The bond was split into four equal repaving projects, and resulted in four contractor bids totaling \$16.1 million, which was below the city engineer estimates of \$4.6 million for each project. At least two of the four contracts will be on the City Council's agenda in February, and contractors will be on track to start repaving come April, City Manager Tom Bonfield said. The decision to split the bond dollars into four contracts allowed the City to bid the projects competitively, and the savings will allow additional repaving beyond what the city projected. The City will continue to keep you informed as it delivers on the commitment to repave 150 miles of streets by the end of the 2012 paving season. To find out more information about the 2010 Street Resurfacing Bond, please visit www.DurhamOperationGreenlight.org.

Continued from Page 1

The technology will also allow meter readers to collect readings much quicker and more safely by simply driving by meter locations.

Streamlining the meter reading process will free staff to take on new responsibilities as AMR becomes fully implemented. AMR will allow the more than 80,000 accounts read on a monthly basis to be read in 5 to 10 working days, using one-third the number of people and vehicles. The project also fits into the community's Greenhouse Gas Reduction plan by decreasing fuel consumption and maximizing the efficiency of the workforce.

Help Stop Clogs and Overflows! Fight FOG In The Sanitary Sewer System!

Did you know that improper disposal of used cooking oil and grease is a major contributor to sanitary system spills and overflows? Improper disposal of fats, oils and grease (FOG) can cause blockages in the City's sewer system, leading to spills and overflows and creating environmental hazards.

Restaurants typically have grease and oil interceptors to capture waste so it doesn't enter the sewer system. Residential customers also need to take steps to prevent clogs in the system. Following are tips on proper grease/used oil disposal:

DO NOT POUR GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN!

- Allow grease to cool to a safe temperature after cooking
- Use a container with a re-sealable lid
- Pour the cooled oil and grease into the container
- Place lid on container and dispose of in the garbage
- Scrape or wipe cookware using a paper towel or spatula into the garbage before washing

CAUTION: Hot oils and grease will burn; allow oils and grease to cool before handling.

Residents can also dispose of grease and oil properly by bringing cooled oil and grease to the Waste Disposal and Recycling Center at 2115 East Club Blvd.

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 ADA@durhamnc.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.



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.