



Durham

News and Information from the City of Durham

CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

March - April 2012

www.DurhamNC.gov

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City Considers Proposed Utility Rate Increases

To cover costs of operating and maintaining facilities and to comply with state and federally-mandated environmental regulations for Falls and Jordan Lakes, the City of Durham is considering small increases for water and sewer use and stormwater rates for 2012-13. Council is expected to vote in May prior to budget action in June on the proposed rates. For the average residential customer using 635 cubic feet per month (or about 4,750 gallons), the monthly water bill will increase by \$1.98. The annual stormwater bill could potentially increase between \$3 and \$11 per year for residential customers and about \$100 for average size commercial customers.

Both increases are part of planned multi-year rate strategies to help spread out costs for both utilities, while

keeping water, sewer and stormwater rates affordable for all Durham residents. Neither utility is supported by property taxes, therefore operating expenses and capital projects must be covered by rates charged to customers.

Stormwater projects are directly related to requirements of the federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to fund repairs to stormwater infrastructure that prevents flooding, to replace multiple pieces of equipment utilized for stormwater maintenance and to continue meeting Jordan and Falls Lake nutrient rules. To learn more about stormwater utility fees and the Jordan and Falls Lake rules, visit the City's website at www.DurhamNC.gov/Stormwater.

The City's two water reclamation facilities also operate under NPDES permits that have stringent nutrient removal requirements to meet the Falls and Jordan Lake rules which will require significant plant upgrades in the coming years. Extensive construction for upgrades and expansion of water supply and treatment facilities to meet state and federal regulations will begin in the next year. Ongoing rehabilitation and repair of distribution and collection systems, as well as facilities, are also funded by water and sewer rates. For information about current projects, visit www.durhamnc.gov/ich/op/dwm/Pages/Home.aspx.

If approved by City Council, rate increases are proposed to become effective July 2012.

Upcoming City Holidays

Good Friday - Friday, April 6, 2012

For information about City holidays, garbage collection, or other City Services, contact Durham One Call.



Waste Disposal and Recycling Center

211 E. Club Blvd., Durham

Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - noon / Closed Sundays

Accepting old electronics, appliances, tires, yard waste, and other recyclables.

Contact the Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau for public events and non-City holiday schedules at (919) 687-0288.

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.

Subscribe to the City Manager's Report

Receive the latest information and important City news via e-mail with the **City Manager's Report**. To subscribe, visit www.durhamnc.gov/managersreport.

City Briefs

City Lakes Open for the Season – March 15

City Lakes will for the 2012 season on March 15. The lakes will be open from 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the following dates: March 15 - May 27 (Thursday-Sunday) and May 28 - November 11 (Friday-Sunday). The lakes will also be open on Memorial Day (May 28), Independence Day (July 4) and Labor Day (September 3).

Durham Senior Games, More Than Just A Competition

If you are 55 years old or better and never fulfilled your dream to win the gold, it is not too late. On April 16-27, mature adults can display their athletic and artistic abilities and compete in the Durham County 2012 Senior Games and Silver Arts. To participate, you must be 55 years of age by Dec. 31, 2012, A Durham resident or on a team with a person from Durham. Registration will run through March 30. For information, email Jonathan Embler at jonathan.embler@durhamnc.gov or call (919) 354-2710, ext. 27351

Satisfaction Numbers Jump in 2011 Resident Survey

Just released results of the City of Durham's recent resident satisfaction survey show that overall satisfaction has improved since the 2009 survey, with 82 percent of residents rating the city as an "excellent" or "good" place to live and 77 percent rating the city as an "excellent" or "good" place to work. These ratings are up from the 2009 survey, which were 78 percent and 75 percent respectively. Results from the 2011 survey indicate that satisfaction improved in 48 of the 57 areas, including feelings of safety, since the the 2009 survey. For information, visit www.durhamnc.gov.

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.

Durham Parks and Recreation Summer Camps

Online Registration Available

DPR summer camp programs offer a safe, inclusive environment where all children are encouraged to participate. Life skills through group activities and exposure to diverse athletic, environmental and educational experiences are offered.

Onsite and online registration begins on Saturday, March 24 at 9 a.m. Onsite registration will be available on March 24 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the camp location of your choice. Thereafter, registration is available at any DPR facility during normal business hours. Online registration will be available 24 hours a day. To register online, you must have a login and ID. Visit the "Summer Camp" page at www.DPRPlayMore.org to learn more.

Earth Day and Bimbe Volunteers and Vendors Needed

Durham Parks and Recreation is seeking volunteers and non-food vendors for Durham's Earth Day and Bimbe Cultural Arts Festivals. The Earth Day festival will be held on Sunday, April 22 from noon – 5 p.m. and the Bimbe Cultural Arts Festival (featuring national hip hop legend Doug E Fresh) will be on Saturday, May 19 from noon – 8 p.m. These free festivals are open to the public and will be held in downtown Durham. Volunteers are needed to assist with parking, operations, main stage, kids' activities, hospitality and more. For details, call (919) 560-4355 or visit the Special Events page at www.DPRPlayMore.org.

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 ...

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.