

# City of Durham Approves FY 2012-2013 Budget

## Modest Fee Increases For Water & Sewer and Stormwater Rates

The Durham City Council approved the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget on June 18, which includes a 1-cent tax increase per \$100 of assessed property value. That increase raises the annual taxes for the owner of a \$150,000 home by \$15, and brings the total tax rate to 56.75 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The new tax, generating about \$2.4 million over a year, will create a dedicated funding source for housing initiatives. The total budget is \$373.2 million, an increase of a little more than \$10.5 million from last year's budget of \$362.5 million, including a 3.4 percent smaller general

fund budget of \$176.7 million as compared to last year's budget for the City's core services.

Small rate increases for water and sewer volume and service charges averaging about \$1.26 more per month for the average household that uses about 4,750 gallons per month are also included, along with an average \$5.40 yearly increase for stormwater rates. The water and sewer increases will support operations and maintenance of water and wastewater facilities, water pipelines, and infrastructure. Stormwater fee increases support major capital projects for compliance with state and federally-mandated environmental regulations for Falls and Jordan Lakes and other state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandated water quality standards.

The final budget also includes public safety needs, with this budget funding all sworn law enforcement positions and a framework to fill vacant positions in a timely manner. Special attention will continue for the Operation Bull's Eye areas, with additional overtime dollars allocated to increase police presence in those areas. Funding is also included to continue the joint city/county warrant control office, along with money for a domestic violence judge. Three additional firefighter positions, along with safety equipment, also are funded.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Upcoming City Holidays

Labor Day - Monday, September 3, 2012

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



### Waste Disposal and Recycling Center

2115 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](http://www.durhamnc.gov).*

## 2012 Golden Leaf Awards - Call for Entries

Nominations are open for the 2012 Golden Leaf Awards presented by the City-County Appearance Commission, Keep Durham Beautiful, Inc., and the Environmental Affairs Board. The awards recognize innovative design in buildings, residences and landscapes that contribute to the character of Durham's neighborhoods. Visit [www.durhamgoldenleaf.org](http://www.durhamgoldenleaf.org) for information and nomination forms. Nominations must be received by July 30. For sponsorship information, visit [www.keep-durhambeautiful.org](http://www.keep-durhambeautiful.org).

# City Briefs

## **Rock the Park Movie and Concert Series**

Durham Parks and Recreation is offering a new summer series that includes music and concerts in a beautiful setting – Durham’s parks. Participants can sit back, relax and enjoy family and friends while grooving to music and/or watching a movie on a big screen. Concerts are held from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and movies are held from 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Both activities are free and open to the public. For information, call (919) 560-4355 or email Amber Walker at [amber.walker@durhamnc.gov](mailto:amber.walker@durhamnc.gov).

## **Warehouse Blues**

Got the blues? If so, make plans to attend Durham’s award winning Warehouse Blues Series. The concerts are free and family friendly. Bring your lawn chair, have a picnic and enjoy the blues. The concerts, sponsored by Parks and Recreation and Capital Broadcasting Company, Inc., will be on Friday evenings at Durham Central Park, 502 Foster St. For information, call (919) 560-4355.

## **Your City - Your Channel**

DTV8, Time Warner Channel 8 provides programming to keep Durham residents informed on the important issues and services every day. 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,” 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](http://www.durhamnc.gov/dtv8).

## **Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Durham**

In observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15), Durham Parks and Recreation will host its 8th Annual Latino Festival on Sept. 29 from noon to 5 p.m. at Rock Quarry Park, 701 Stadium Dr. The rain location is Holton Career and Resource Center, 401 N. Driver St. Vendor and volunteer opportunities are available. For information, email [DPRVolunteers@durhamnc.gov](mailto:DPRVolunteers@durhamnc.gov).

### **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](mailto:ADA@durhamnc.gov), as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

## **Continued from Page 1**

Other budget highlights include:

- A 2 percent increase for general pay plan employees along with 0.5 percent increase to employee 401(k) plans.
- \$400,000 for neighborhood commercial revitalization in targeted neighborhoods.
- \$313,000 for small business and underutilized commercial properties in downtown.
- \$100,000 for a joint city-county disparity study for compliance with legal guidelines to administer programs to help small and disadvantaged business.
- Establishment of a Business Improvement District for enhanced services downtown – funded with a 7-cent tax rate.

A copy of the approved budget is available on the City’s website at <http://DurhamNC.gov/ich/as/bms/Pages/Home.aspx>.

## **Get in the Know with the City on Facebook and Twitter**

The City now has a new Facebook page and Twitter feed, making it even simpler to stay up-to-date on what’s going on with your City government. Simply “like” the City’s Facebook page at <http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC> or follow the City’s Twitter feed at <http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>. To check out a listing of all of the City’s social media pages, visit the Office of Public Affairs web page at <http://DurhamNC.gov/ich/pa/Pages/social-media.aspx>.

## **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. Call us at 560-4123 or email us at [speakersbureau@durhamnc.gov](mailto:speakersbureau@durhamnc.gov). We’re waiting ...

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