



Durham

News and Information from the City of Durham

CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

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Our Trail - Our Town Community Effort Taking Ownership Of The ATT

The following article by City Manager Tom Bonfield was published in the Durham Herald-Sun newspaper.

It's something we all agree on: The American Tobacco Trail is one of Durham's most treasured community assets. Hundreds of people use it every day for walking, biking, or even encouraging their rambunctious children to burn off extra energy before bedtime. You may not realize that it's also a transportation corridor that helps with some other vital needs including getting to and from work and grocery shopping.

The trail is about seven miles that winds through lushly wooded areas, through neighborhoods and busy urban

areas that make it unique and the envy of other cities throughout the state and nation. We, as residents and users of the trail, owe it to ourselves to protect it, to maintain it and keep it safe for users.

As with crimes in other areas, the City, including the police department, takes each incident that has occurred on the trail very seriously ... there have been 13 this year. I commend the Police Department for making arrests in many of these cases.

I also commend the community for taking ownership of this historic greenway. As one person was recently quoted in the newspaper, "We make a big difference by just being present on trail." Residents, including Council member Steve Schewel, have organized citizens' walks, rides and volunteer bicycle patrols. These events have and will continue to make a difference.

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Upcoming City Holidays

Thanksgiving - Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23, 2012

Christmas - Monday - Wednesday, Dec. 24-26, 2012

New Years - Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013

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.

Too Many Leaves to Pick Up? We're Here to Help!

Who loves fall? We do, even if it means extra yard work thanks to all of those falling leaves. For Durham residents, convenient and affordable help is here to haul away all of those leaves and other yard debris throughout the year. Doing so keeps them out of our stormwater drainage system and keeps your yard looking great.

Take advantage of Solid Waste Management's curbside yard waste service for an annual fee of \$60 plus \$18 for the cart. Remember service is from July to June of each year and renewals for our existing customers will begin with reminder notices in your March/April water bills. Get details on the City's Yard Waste Program on the Solid Waste Management Department's homepage at www.DurhamNC.gov. Not a customer yet? Contact Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200 to begin your new service today.

City Briefs

Holiday Event Dates Set

Mark your calendar now for these annual holiday events sponsored by Durham Parks and Recreation:

Holiday Fun Fest

Saturday, Dec. 1 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Durham Central Park, 201 Foster St.
For information, call (919) 560-4355

Senior Holiday Party

Tuesday, Dec. 11 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sheraton Imperial Hotel, 3700 Emperor Blvd.
For information, call (919) 560-4355

Kwanzaa Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 30 from noon to 6 p.m.
Holton Career and Resource Center, 401 N. Driver St.
For information, call (919) 354-2750

Don't Pour Grease Down The Drain!

The Department of Water Management offers the following tips for residential disposing of used cooking oil:

- 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 a lid on the container and dispose of in the trash
 - Scrape or wipe cookware using a paper towel or spatula before washing
- Help prevent sanitary sewer overflows.

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 (919) 560-4123 or email us at speakersbureau@durhamnc.gov. We're waiting ...

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In addition, your actions work in tandem with what the City is doing to improve safety on the trail. You may already heard about police utility terrain vehicles, providing better accessibility along the trail, bike patrols, and hundreds of directed police patrols, specifically targeting areas of the Trail where crime has occurred. However, you may not know that the City is taking a lot of other measures to improve safety.

Durham Parks and Recreation and General Services staff recently joined with members of the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission and Recreation Advisory Committee to walk the trail to determine how it could be made safer. As a result, overgrown vegetation has been pruned and trimmed, vertical mile markers have been installed to help users identify their location on the trail, and signs with safety tips have been installed.

Many other maintenance activities are scheduled to make the trail safer as well as visually appealing. And other actions that aren't so visible are also happening to help with emergency response on the American Tobacco Trail as well as other trails in Durham.

Some have suggested more costly solutions ranging from call boxes, cameras and additional lighting. Rest assured that the City is reviewing those measures as well, as part of a comprehensive plan to deter and solve crimes along the trail.

Although any incidence of violence or crime is bad, the misbehavior of a few has prompted Durham again to show its esprit de corps – that Durham is our city, and that the American Tobacco Trail is our trail. We all must work together to preserve the American Tobacco Trail, an asset that we can continue to be proud of.

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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.