



Durham

News and Information from the City of Durham

CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

July-August 2013

www.DurhamNC.gov

FY 2013 - 2014 No. 1

City of Durham Approves FY 2013-2014 Budget

The Durham City Council approved the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget on June 17, which includes no property tax increase, leaving the tax rate at 56.75 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The total budget for fiscal year 2013-14 is \$376.5 million, about \$3.4 million or a little less than 1 percent higher than last year's budget, including a 4 percent smaller general fund budget of \$169.6 million as compared to last year's budget for the City's core services. This decrease represents the establishment of a special revenue fund for last year's penny tax increase for housing and moving other property tax revenue into dedicated funds primarily for debt service and transit.

The balanced budget also includes public safety needs

by funding all sworn law enforcement positions as well as new technology for police and emergency response vehicles to maintain access to criminal information and to decrease emergency response time. The City will also continue sharing costs with the County for a gang reduction initiative and the warrant control office. Funding for three new positions is also included for the police department's forensics unit to improve crime analysis.

Other fees or increases include a monthly \$1.80 monthly solid waste collection fee for capital needs; a \$10 per month parking fee increase for parking lots and decks; a \$1 special event parking increase; and water and sewer as well as stormwater rate increases that were approved by Council at its May 6, 2013 meeting.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget contains nearly \$53 million, including \$26 million for water and sewer infrastructure, for new projects, and to complete existing projects. CIP funding is provided through impact fees, water and sewer revenues, revenue bonds, stormwater fees, and program income.

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Upcoming City Holidays

Labor Day, Monday, September 2, 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.

Durham Releases 2012 Annual Water Quality Report

The City of Durham's 2012 annual water quality report, "The Value of Every Drop," is now available on the City's website at <http://www.DurhamNC.gov/WaterQualityReport.html>. The report, required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), shows that the City had zero violations of any water quality standards in 2012.

"Water Management staff work diligently to provide clean, safe drinking water for more than 250,000 people every day," said Don Greeley, director of the City's Water Management Department. "By making this report available, we hope customers will understand the tremendous effort that goes into producing this valuable resource."

Greeley added that staff were pleased that the EPA

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City Briefs

CenterFest Arts Festival Set for Sept. 21-22

Join art and festival lovers from throughout the Triangle in September for The 39th Annual CenterFest Arts Festival. Durham’s longest running outdoor arts festival will take place Sept. 21 and 22 and feature more than 130 juried visual artists and craftsmen from all over the country. They will be joined by performing artists and groups on five stages, Kids Zone art activities, food and festival favorites. For information, visit www.centerfest.durhamarts.org.

Rock the Park

Durham Parks and Recreation continues its Rock the Park Movie and Concert Series through Aug. 17. Sit back, relax and enjoy family and friends while enjoying 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. Food and non-food vendors will be available. For information, visit www.durhamnc.gov/ich/op/prd/Pages/Rock-the-Park-Movie-and-Concert-Series.aspx.

Latino Festival Returns Sept. 28

Latin music lovers will "feel the music" at Durham’s Annual Latino Festival Sept. 28 from noon to 5 p.m. at Rock Quarry Park, 701 Stadium Dr. The festival shares Latino and Hispanic traditions and folklore with Durham residents. Dance to live music, taste authentic foods, shop the marketplace for arts and crafts, and learn about health, education and employment opportunities available in the community. Children will also enjoy hands-on activities and create traditional Latin crafts. For information, visit www.durhamnc.gov/ich/op/prd/Pages/Latino-Festival.aspx.

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.

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Other highlights of the FY 2013-2014 final budget include:

- \$500,000 for deferred maintenance
- \$750,000 for street repaving
- \$64,000 for street lighting
- \$141,000 for forensic accreditation
- \$75,000 for youth opportunity initiative
- \$6 million for solid waste, stormwater and water management fleet
- \$1.6 million for arts and culture including the Carolina Theatre, Durham Arts Council, St. Joseph’s Historic Foundation, American Dance Festival, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Durham Blues Festival, and other public art initiatives

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

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listened to stakeholders about more cost-effective ways to distribute the required report. Prior to this year, the EPA required all water systems to mail a copy of its water quality report to customers by July 1. The EPA’s new regulations allow drinking water providers to distribute the report electronically. Customers can email WQReport@DurhamNC.gov or call (919) 560-4381 to have a printed copy of the report mailed to them.

Watch “CityLife”

“CityLife” is a half-hour television show that informs citizens about Durham City government services, issues, and upcoming events. The program airs three times daily. Log onto www.durhamnc.gov, click on Public Affairs for times.

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