



Durham

News and Information from the City of Durham

CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

July - August 2014

www.DurhamNC.gov

FY 2014 - 2015 No. 1

City Approves FY 2014-2015 Budget

The Durham City Council approved the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget on June 16, which includes a 2.37 cent property tax increase. The budget creates a new tax rate of 59.12 cents per \$100 of assessed value for voter-approved debt, public safety and parks maintenance, and solid waste fleet capital needs.

The total budget is \$389.9 million, a 3.4 percent increase from last year's budget, and includes a \$175 million budget for services covered by the general fund. The 1.29 cent portion of the property tax increase is needed for voter-approved debt service costs from previous bonds and to cover 16 police officers and 15 firefighters' salaries that had been paid by recently expired federal grants. An additional half-cent portion of the new tax will hire 12 new employees each with full-time assign-

ments for inspecting, repairing, cleaning, neatening and landscaping the City's parks and greenways. A further 0.58 cent will be used to cover solid waste fleet capital needs, which had previously been collected with a \$1.80 monthly fee that has now been eliminated. A tax rate of 59.12 per \$100 generates a tax bill of \$1,064.16 on a house valued at \$180,000.

Other fees include a \$1 per month yard waste service fee increase; a \$2 increase per ton fee increase for commercial municipal solid waste disposal; and a 3 percent water and sewer rate increase as well as a 7.5 percent stormwater rate increase, both of which were approved by Council at its May 19, 2014 meeting.

The FY 2014-2020 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget contains a little more than \$93 million, including \$44 million for the new police headquarters, \$7 million for fire equipment and Fire Station 17, \$4.2 million for park upgrades, and \$20.5 million for water and sewer improvements. 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, Sept. 1, 2014

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 Drinking Water Quality Report for 2013

The City of Durham's 2013 annual water quality report, "Always Ready," is now available at 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 2013.

"The Water Management Department has more than 300 employees who work to make sure clean, safe water is always ready for our customers when they turn on the tap," said Don Greeley, director of the City's Water Management Department. "We hope that by reading this report, our customers will get a better understanding of

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City Briefs

Phone Option Added For Water Bill Payments

Making your water bill payment just got a little easier. City water customers can now pay their bills by phone. Just call Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200 (press option 3) or (919) 407-8959 with your account number ready. Through the phone system, you'll be able to pay using your checking or savings account, or a Visa, MasterCard or Discover debit or credit card. There will be no charge for this service. Visit <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/dwm/Pages/Home.aspx> for information.

Alarm Registration Program

Do you have an alarm system at home or work? If so, take note that all alarm users and providers are required to register by law after having an alarm at their business or residence deemed to be false by police or fire personnel. Public Safety Corporation, through the use of its CryWolf software, is now coordinating alarm registrations, false alarm notifications, billing and collections for the City of Durham. For information, visit www.crywolf.us/durhamnc or call (877) 665-2982.

CenterFest 2014

The Durham Arts Council will present the 40th Annual CenterFest Arts Festival Sept. 20 and 21. Durham's largest and longest-running outdoor arts festival, the event features more than 135 juried fine visual artists and craftsmen, more than 60 juried performing artists and groups on five stages. For information, visit www.centerfest.durhamarts.org.

Newsletter Becomes Quarterly

Due to changes in water bill payment schedules, the Citizens' Newsletter will now be published and distributed quarterly, starting in September. The newsletter can still be found online at durhamnc.gov/ich/pa/Pages/Citizens-Newsletter.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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The budget also maintains fund balance reserves at 13.27 percent for FY 2015 year-end, with \$815,250 of these funds to be used for one-time expenditures including sidewalk repairs, to cover the state legislature's immediate restriction on business license fees, and Web 2.0.

Other highlights of the FY 2014-2015 final budget include:

- \$500,000 for deferred maintenance
- \$1 million for street repaving
- \$6 million for fleet vehicles
- \$1.7 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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what it takes to provide this valuable resource."

The EPA requires all water systems to provide its water quality report to customers by July 1. Beginning last year, new EPA 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.

Durham's Water Into Trees Program Makes Donating Easy

Tree lovers in Durham now have a new and easy way to support the City's efforts to plant more trees ... straight from their keyboards.

The "Water Into Trees" program is offering an online site to make it easy for residents to plant trees in Durham. Through this new online form, residents can elect to make a tax-deductible donation with each residential water bill payment or a one-time contribution. These funds are then used by the City's Urban Forestry Division to purchase additional trees for streets, parks, and green spaces.

Donations can now be made at www.DurhamNC.gov/WaterIntoTrees.