



# Durham

News and Information from the City of Durham

## CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

July 2015

[www.DurhamNC.gov](http://www.DurhamNC.gov)

FY 2015 - 2016 No. 1

### Durham Budget Maintains Services With No Property Tax Increase

Reflecting on how years of strategic planning and fiscally responsible actions created a tipping point for this year's budget, the Durham City Council has approved a budget that includes no property tax increase – keeping the current tax rate at 59.12 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

“This year's budget represents a tipping point, putting us at a place where we see the vision of just a few years ago taking on all of the characteristics of reality. We can see it. We can feel it. We can put it to use for the benefit of our community,” City Manager Thomas Bonfield said. “It's a vision that's

not yet complete, but one that represents an achievement that is the result of deliberate planning for Durham's future ... a future that we're experiencing now.”

The budget for FY 2015-16 is \$388.2 million, a .5 percent decrease from last year's budget, and includes a \$171.8 million budget for services covered by the general fund, a nearly 2 percent decrease from last year. A tax rate of 59.12 cents per \$100 of assessed property value generates a tax bill of \$985.84 on a house valued at \$166,753,

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#### Upcoming City Holidays

Labor Day, September 7, 2015

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 the first month of each quarter with the water bill. For the most current information, visit the website at [www.durhamnc.gov](http://www.durhamnc.gov).*

#### Outdoor Irrigation Reminder

Durham has adopted a mandatory odd-even watering schedule to help make our community a more sustainable place to live.

Outdoor Watering Schedule		
Day of Week	Even Numbered Addresses	Odd Numbered Addresses
Sunday	Watering Allowed	Watering Prohibited
Monday	Watering Prohibited	Watering Prohibited
Tuesday	Watering Prohibited	Watering Allowed
Wednesday	Watering Allowed	Watering Prohibited
Thursday	Watering Prohibited	Watering Allowed
Friday	Watering Allowed	Watering Prohibited
Saturday	Watering Prohibited	Watering Allowed

Watering is not allowed any day between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Only water when plants or grass need it. July is Smart Irrigation Month. Learn more on water-wise landscaping and smart irrigation at [www.durhamsaveswater.org](http://www.durhamsaveswater.org).

## City Briefs

### Parking Violation Fees Increase

Tickets for parking longer than the posted time in on-street spaces now cost more. Effective this month, parking violations will double, from \$10 to \$20. The increase is a result of more demand for on-street parking created by a growing downtown, with new businesses, hotels, restaurants, and apartments. As an alternative to on-street parking, downtown visitors may also use City parking garages or surface parking lots for \$1 per hour. A map of these parking facilities can be found on the City's website. For information, visit <http://durhamnc.gov/Pages/NNDetails.aspx?detailId=1101>.

### 2015 Rock the Park Movie and Concert Series

Durham Parks and Recreation is offering a summer series that includes concerts and movies in a beautiful setting - Durham's parks. Sit back, relax and enjoy family and friends while grooving to music or watching a movie on a big screen. Both activities are free and open to the public. Food vendors will be available. The series will run through August 22. For the schedule, visit <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/prd/Pages/Rock-the-Park-Movie-and-Concert-Series.aspx>.

### Durham Launches New Open Data Portal

The City of Durham and Durham County governments have launched a new open data portal, Open Durham, which allows users to explore, visualize, and download county and city data. In addition to local data, Open Durham also features data sets from state and federal open data sources. Visit the website at <https://open-durham.nc.gov/page/home/>.

### 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.

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which is the median house value for the city, according to the Durham County Office of Tax Administration.

Other fee changes include water and sewer rate increases. There are no proposed stormwater rate increases.

The FY 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget contains \$12.9 million in general fund capital projects, including \$1.26 million for sidewalk design and repair, \$1.7 million for fire upgrade/Fire Station #18 land acquisition, \$2.7 million for parks repairs and upgrades, \$1.12 million for cemeteries upgrades, and \$395,000 for city-wide fiber optic cable installation. Other highlights include:

- \$600,000 for deferred maintenance (CIP)
- \$5.6 million for fleet vehicles (CIP)
- \$2.1 million for public arts and culture, including the new Durham Sports Commission, Carolina Theatre, Durham Arts Council, St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, American Dance Festival, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Durham Blues Festival, Durham History Hub, and other public art initiatives.

Bonfield also recommended that the City return to its differentiated pay-for-performance plan, rewarding employees according to their performance. While the average increase will be 3.5 percent for general pay plan employees, police and fire pay plan employees will receive between 3 percent and 5 percent increases.

### Durham Releases Drinking Water Quality Report for 2014

The City of Durham's 2014 annual water quality report, "Always Ready: Then and Now," is available at [www.DurhamNC.gov/WaterQualityReport.html](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 2014.

The EPA requires all water systems to provide its water quality report to customers by July 1. Beginning in 2013, EPA regulations allow drinking water providers to distribute the report electronically.

Customers can email [wqreport@durhamnc.gov](mailto:wqreport@durhamnc.gov) or call (919) 560-4381 to have a printed copy of the report mailed to them.