



Durham

News and Information from the City of Durham

CITIZENS' NEWSLETTER

July 2016

DurhamNC.gov

FY 2016-2017

FY 16-17 City Budget Addresses Growth and Needs

The Durham City Council has approved the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget, which includes a 1.66 cent property tax increase over the revenue neutral rate, creating a new tax rate of 56.07 cents per \$100 of assessed value to meet Durham's growing priorities including public safety, affordable housing, and capital improvements.

While the new tax rate is less than last year's tax rate of 59.12 cents, the 1.66 cent approved

rate is an increase above the City's revenue-neutral rate of 54.41 cents per \$100 of assessed value following Durham County's most recent revaluation of real property. The new tax rate generates a tax bill of \$1,005.32, which is a \$29.77 increase over last year, on a house valued at \$179,297.50, the median value for a home located within city limits, according to the Durham County Office of Tax Administration.

The total budget for FY 2016-17 is \$404.9 million, a nearly 4 percent increase from last year, and includes a \$181.6 million budget for services covered by the general fund, a little more than 5 percent increase from last year.

Fighting crime and funding other public safety needs continue to warrant a significant portion of the City's budget with about \$2.5 million dedicated for public safety pay and retention. Also included is funding for 20 additional sworn officers and a three-year phase-in of a Take-Home Car program to encourage officers to live in Durham

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Smart Irrigation Month

Irrigation during summer months can increase demand on Durham's treatment plants between 20 and 40 percent. For that reason, July has been named as Smart Irrigation Month to increase public awareness about simple practices and innovative technologies that homeowners, businesses and property managers can use to reduce consumption.

These practices can also minimize impact on

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Upcoming City Holidays

Independence Day - July 4
Labor Day - September 5

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 durhamnc.gov.

City Briefs

Durham's Finest Trees

Nominations for the second year of Durham's Finest Trees recognition will continue through Oct. 1. The partnership between Trees Across Durham and the Durham County Extension Master Gardners promotes awareness of trees and helps identify trees to preserve and catalogue. Visit the [website](#) to nominate a tree.

City Lakes Open

Little River and Lake Michie are open for the season now through Nov. 14. Enjoy Durham's lakes Friday - Monday from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Get Your Citizens' Newsletter Online As Soon As It Is Published

You don't need to wait until you get the water bill to get your Citizens' Newsletter. The newsletter is published in July, October, January and April. Visit the [website](#) to get the latest issue or visit the website's [Notify Me](#) section of the website to receive the newsletter in your email as soon as it is published.

Your City - Your Station
Durham Television Network
TW Cable Ch. 8 and ATT U-verse Ch. 99

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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 919-560-4196, TTY 919-560-1200, or at ADA@durhamnc.gov as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event or deadline date.

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neighborhoods and promote community policing.

The budget also includes a continuation of the "penny for housing" as well modest water and sewer rate increases that were approved by the City Council during its May 2 meeting. There are no stormwater rate increases.

Other highlights include:

- \$3 million for street resurfacing
- \$700,000 for deferred maintenance
- \$45,400 for the return of the Holiday Parade
- A new Development Services Center to create a business-friendly environment that will provide time-sensitive and an easy-to-navigate development review process
- Continuation of the pay-for-performance including a 3.8 percent average pay increase for general and fire employees and 4.5 percent average increase for police employees
- Employee health care premiums will rise by 10 percent while dental premiums remain the same

For complete information on the budget, visit the [website](#). To view the approved budget, visit the [budget web page](#).

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infrastructure, save money, and preserve our precious natural resource.

Don't forget that the City of Durham has adopted a mandatory odd-even watering schedule to help make our community a more sustainable place to live.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
EVEN		ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD
						

Customers may irrigate on their assigned day only before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

For information on smart irrigation and water-wise landscaping, or to request a copy of our WaterWise Landscaping guide, visit DurhamSavesWater.org, or call 919-560-4381.