

CITY OF DURHAM DIGEST

Quarterly Updates from the City of Durham ★ durhamnc.gov

Durham Digest en español:
bit.ly/espanol-jan2020

JAN. 2020

Are You Recycling Right?

You may have heard recycling is in trouble in some places, but in Durham and North Carolina it's actually changing for the better. Before 2018, most recycling materials in the U.S. were sold to China. Now China has restricted the amount and types of recyclables it will import. As a result, what was once a source of profit is now an expensive operation in many U.S. communities.

KEEP THESE OUT OF THE RECYCLING BIN!

- ⊗ Aerosol cans
- ⊗ All batteries
- ⊗ Ceramic items
- ⊗ Clothing or textiles
- ⊗ Diapers
- ⊗ Disposable cups (plastic and paper)
- ⊗ Electronics
- ⊗ Food-tainted items
- ⊗ Household glass
- ⊗ Medical waste
- ⊗ Hazardous waste
- ⊗ Plastic bags/wrap*
- ⊗ Scrap metal/wood
- ⊗ Shredded paper
- ⊗ Styrofoam/peanuts
- ⊗ Tangles (cords, hoses, wires, etc.)
- ⊗ Tires
- ⊗ Toys

Because of rising costs, recycling programs have been phased out in some places. Luckily, North Carolina has a strong market for quality recycled materials.

In order to help maintain a successful recycling program, it's important for Durham

residents to help reduce recycling contamination. Contamination refers to trash and non-recyclable materials that are not acceptable in the recycling program, and lead to higher costs. Durham, which recycles 15,000 tons of materials a year, has an average contamination rate of 15% to 20%.

Do your part to help by following these tips:

- Reduce the trash and non-recyclables in your blue recycling cart. Not sure what to recycle? Search the City of Durham's Waste Wizard at: durhamnc.gov/862
- Reduce single use. Many single-use products (disposable cups, straws, lids or to-go containers) are not recyclable.
- Visit the City's Waste Disposal & Recycling Center to drop off items such as textiles, paint, batteries, household chemicals, used tires, appliances, electronics, and more. Learn more at durhamnc.gov/898.

LEARN MORE: Find details at durhamnc.gov/832 or RecycleMoreNC.org.

E-Waste Recycling, Paper Shredding & Live Tree Drop-Off Event

JAN 18 The City's Solid Waste Management Department will host a free event to collect old electronics (e-waste), papers for shredding, live trees, and old clothes and textiles.

- Saturday, January 18, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Durham County Memorial Stadium, 750 Stadium Dr.
- Find details at bit.ly/ewasteJan2020.



In addition, the City offers several free ways to dispose of your live Christmas tree during January through February 1, including curbside pick-up and various drop off locations. Find details for the option that is most convenient for you online at: bit.ly/DurhamTreeCollection.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
**Census
2020**

Help Make North Carolina Count

During Census 2020, the Census Bureau will count every person living in the U.S., and this information will help make sure our community gets: fair representation in Congress; financial resources for health, schools, transportation, and more; and, information to help leaders plan for our community's future.

In addition to completing the census for your household, there are several other ways to stay informed and get involved in making North Carolina and Durham count:

- Join the NC Census Listserv to receive Census 2020 updates.
- Follow @nccensus on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Apply for a job with Census 2020 – temporary jobs are available nationwide.
- Form a complete count committee in North Carolina, or join an existing one.
- Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about why it's important to participate in the census.

LEARN MORE: Visit census.nc.gov to learn more and make sure you are counted!

Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Durham County (RSVP) will be offering free tax preparation assistance for Durham residents. Tax preparation services are first come, first served, with no appointment needed. There are multiple locations in Durham that are open February 1, 2020 - April 15, 2020.

LEARN MORE: Locations and schedule can be found at: bit.ly/RSVPTaxHelp.

CITY HOLIDAYS: City Hall and non-emergency offices will close for: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday, Jan. 20; Good Friday, April 10
★ **DURHAM ONE CALL:** For info about water bills, garbage collection, or other City services, call 919-560-1200 or visit durhamnc.gov/onecall ★ **FIND US ONLINE:** Visit durhamnc.gov and follow @CityofDurhamNC on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

CITY BRIEFS

ENGAGEDurham
Our Future Together

Help Plan Durham's Future

In mid-November, about 350 people attended Listening and Learning sessions to discuss the future of Durham. Input was collected on two broad questions: What does an ideal Durham look like to you? And; What else is on your mind about Durham? The City and County will use this feedback to help develop a new Comprehensive Plan and Transit Plan.

If you didn't have a chance to participate in the workshops, an online survey allows you to respond to the same questions from the workshops. In addition, community members, known as Engagement Ambassadors, are helping the City and County reach those whose input has been underrepresented in previous plans. The feedback will be shared with the community, and additional opportunities to give input on the Transit Plan will take place in February or March and the Comprehensive Plan in April.

LEARN MORE: Find the survey and learn more at ENGAGEDurham.com.

Correction: No Voter ID Needed to Vote in March Primary

On December 31, 2019, a federal district court blocked NC's Voter Photo ID requirement from taking effect. The edition of this newsletter that went out with January water bills stated that an ID would be necessary to vote in upcoming elections. Unfortunately, the newsletter had already been printed and mailed before the court issued its decision. **Please note that this has changed, and no ID will be required to vote – this includes the upcoming March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary and other contests.**

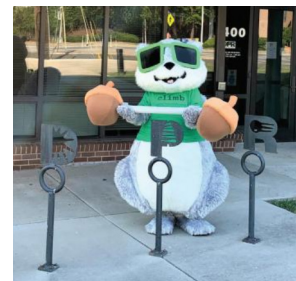
LEARN MORE: Find the most current voting information at www.dcovotes.com.

Play More in 2020 with Durham Parks & Recreation

DPR has you covered with opportunities for wellness and recreation!

Health and Wellness in 2020

Purchase a DPR Wellness Package and work out at any recreation center or take a fitness class for an affordable monthly price. For details about the package or the fitness programs available, visit DPRPlayMore.org.



Durham Senior Games 2020

Registration opens Monday, February 3

Events begin Monday, April 13 in various locations

Sign up to participate in the 2020 Durham Senior Games and Silver Arts Program. Mature adults (age 50 or better) will compete in more than 30 sporting events and 20 art forms.

Summer Camp 2020

Registration opens Monday, March 16; Camp programs run June 22-August 14

DPR offers summer camp programs in a safe and inclusive environment where all children are encouraged to participate. The camp is designed to develop the camper through group activities and exposure to diverse educational and athletic experiences. Those who will submit or renew a sliding fee scale application must do so by Friday, February 14 to have a decision before registration.

City Lakes Open Mid-March 2020

DPR will open Little River and Lake Michie for the season from mid-March to mid-November. Enjoy some of the best fishing in the area, peddling water bikes, renting a canoe or kayak, launching your motorboat in Lake Michie, or sitting on the dock reading a book from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday-Monday.

"Go Green" at Durham's Earth Day Festival – FREE

Sunday, April 19, noon-5 p.m.; Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.

Join DPR for a fun day filled with an eclectic mix of music, great food, hands-on environmental education activities and much more!

LEARN MORE:

- Learn about these events and more at dprplaymore.org or (919) 560-4355.
- Follow @dprplaymore on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

Protect Your Pipes! Home Winterization Tips

Don't let "Old Man Winter" wreck your home by freezing - and potentially bursting - your home's plumbing pipes. Take simple steps now to winterize your home.

Preventing Frozen Pipes Inside

Frozen water can crack and tear plumbing systems. Follow these prevention tips:

- Wrap pipes with insulation, especially in unheated spots like your garage and crawl space. Hardware stores sell pipe wrap that you can cut to size.
- Open cabinet doors underneath kitchen and bathroom sinks. This allows warm air to circulate around the plumbing.
- Allow faucets to drip slowly so that water can't pool inside exposed pipes.

Preventing Outdoor Plumbing Issues

Outdoor components are often at an even greater risk due to exposure. Take the following preventative steps:

- Disconnect, drain, and properly store hoses.
- Close foundation, crawl space vents.

LEARN MORE: Call Water Management at 919-560-4381, or visit DurhamSavesWater.org.

Don't pour grease down the drain!

- Pour cooled grease into a container with a re-sealable lid.
- Place the lid on the container and dispose of in trash.
- Scrape cookware grease into the trash using a paper towel or spatula.