



CITY OF DURHAM DIGEST

Durham Digest en español:
bit.ly/espanol-oct2020

OCT. 2020

Quarterly Updates from the City of Durham ★ durhamnc.gov

City Council Appoints Interim City Manager



The Durham City Council has appointed Deputy City Manager Wanda Page to act as the interim city manager as of October 1. The appointment was made after City Manager Tom Bonfield notified the Council of his plan to retire effective September 30, after serving in the role for 12 years. Page will serve in the interim role while the City Council begins a national search for a new city manager. “We are so lucky to have Deputy City Manager Wanda Page step in as our interim city manager,” said

Mayor Steve Schewel. “Wanda has vast experience, rock-solid judgment, deep knowledge of our government and our community, and the trust and support of the entire organization.” Page joined the City of Durham in 1987 as a senior staff accountant and has served in various roles including assistant finance director/controller, internal audit director, and assistant city manager, and has served as one-of-three deputy city managers since 2008.

Freelon Appointed to Fill Ward 3 Council Vacancy

At the August 31 City Council Special Meeting, the Council voted 4-2 to appoint Pierce Freelon to fill the Ward 3 vacancy. Freelon was sworn-in on September 3 and attended his first meeting on Tuesday, September 8. “Among an exceptionally strong field of candidates, Pierce Freelon emerged as the Council’s choice because he is generous, brave, straightforward, incredibly knowledgeable on the issues that face us, and a powerful voice for the new generation of Durham residents who are taking on the mantle of leadership in our city now,” said Mayor Steve Schewel.

If you leave home, know your 3 Ws!



WEAR

a cloth mask over your nose and mouth.



WAIT

6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.



WASH

your hands or use hand sanitizer.

Find City of Durham COVID-19 updates at durhamnc.gov/covid19.



Vote Early in Durham County

You’re invited to VOTE EARLY at 14 Durham County voting sites open every day between October 15 and 31. All sites are open to Durham County voters and same-day registrants. All polling sites will follow extensive COVID-19 protocols to keep Durham safe! Voters will receive the winning “I Voted” sticker design shown above.

LEARN MORE: Visit dcovotes.com, follow @dcovotes on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, or call 919-560-0700.

2019-2020 Annual Sewer System Report Now Available

Each year, the City of Durham prepares a report outlining our wastewater treatment processes, compliance with permit conditions, and maintenance activities in the collection system. Also included is a list of reportable sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that have occurred during the most recent fiscal year. This report is available to all customers and is submitted to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

LEARN MORE:

- The latest report is now available at durhamnc.gov/CityWastewater.
- Customers may also contact Water Management staff at 919-560-4381.
- View Durham County’s annual wastewater treatment plant report at durhamnc.gov/CountyWastewater.

This newsletter provides a quarterly snapshot—visit durhamnc.gov for the latest news.

CITY HOLIDAYS: The City’s non-emergency offices will close for: Veterans Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 26 & 27; Christmas, Dec. 24 & 25 ★ **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

American Tobacco District Waterline Replacement Project

The American Tobacco District Waterline Replacement Project will replace approximately 10,000 feet of waterlines to improve service delivery. Construction has just begun and will bring new traffic patterns, detours, and other temporary changes.

LEARN MORE: For more information, visit durhamnc.gov/2780.

Never Miss Your Trash Collection With the Durham Rollout App

Download the five-star-rated Durham Rollout app so you can receive reminders to set out your trash and recycling carts, and get notifications about service changes. The free app is available for Apple and Android.

LEARN MORE: Search “Durham Rollout” in the Apple or Google Play app store.

“Our Community Stories” Series Features Durham’s Historically Black Neighborhoods

Join the City’s monthly history series, “Our Community Stories,” to hear and learn from community members and neighbors who share memories and recollections of life in Durham’s historically Black neighborhoods. Hosted by the City’s Community Engagement Team to promote equitable community engagement.

LEARN MORE: View upcoming events and RSVP at bit.ly/DurhamStories.

Durham Releases First Small Business Survey Results

The City of Durham now knows more about its small business community and what they need to thrive thanks to the results from its first-ever business survey. The report is available on the Open Data website including data focused on race and gender equity.

LEARN MORE: View the report at bit.ly/DurhamBusinessSurvey.

Return to Regular Water Billing and New Western Union Payment Option



In mid-September, the Water Management Department resumed regular billing practices including cutoffs for nonpayment. We understand these are trying times. Residents who have fallen behind can visit durhamnc.gov/944 to apply for the Water Hardship Fund or set up a payment plan. We’ve also introduced a new arrangement with Western Union to let customers pay at any one of their 40 Durham locations. Most are open seven days a week and in the evenings. There is a \$1.50 transaction fee to pay your water bill at a Western Union office.

Find the latest water and billing updates at durhamnc.gov/water, and follow @durhamwater on Facebook and Twitter.

Play More With Durham Parks and Recreation!

During these challenging times, the health and safety of Durham residents and Durham Parks and Recreation’s (DPR) staff is our top priority. Many DPR programs are being offered virtually via Zoom and YouTube, including fitness, trivia, crafts, storytime, games, scavenger hunts, and chalk art. Some in-person programs have resumed including fitness classes, leagues, tours, school-age care programs, and My Durham Teen programs, to name a few. You can also find ideas for at-home activities on DPR’s “Play More!” Blog.

For the most up-to-date information on DPR’s openings and closings, program offerings, and more, visit DPRPlayMore.org, and follow @dprplaymore on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.



Bull City Reels on Wheels

In partnership with Durham County Memorial Stadium, DPR will offer a series of free drive-in movies for residents to enjoy from the comfort of their cars. Bull City Reels on Wheels will be held at the Durham County Stadium (750 Stadium Dr.) once a month through December. Times vary, and the gates open one hour before show-time. There is no cost for entry to the movie, but complimentary tickets must be reserved online. A variety of food trucks will be on-site with food and dessert options.

LEARN MORE: Find the schedule, list of rules, and frequently asked questions at DPRPlayMore.org/469.



Parks and Trails

Get outdoors and explore DPR’s 68 parks and 29 miles of paved trails. All park and trail users are required to comply with local and state restrictions, including mass gathering size. As you enjoy Durham’s parks and trails, model social distancing by maintaining a safe distance (at least six feet) between yourself and others. If you are unable to stay at least six feet away from others outside of your household, please wear your mask or face covering. We have assigned off-duty officers to monitor our parks. We also ask that residents call the Police non-emergency line at 919-560-4600 to report any violations of the Safer-at-Home Order or unsafe behavior.