



CITY OF DURHAM DIGEST

Quarterly Updates from the City of Durham ★ durhamnc.gov

Durham Digest en español:
bit.ly/espanol-oct2021

OCT. 2021

Solid Waste Collection Schedule Change



Beginning the week of October 4, approximately 20,000 Durham households will have a new curbside collection day for garbage, recycling, and yard waste or a new collection week for recycling. This will help improve customer service by balancing the number of households collected each day.

★ **LEARN MORE:** A postcard was mailed to affected households in September. Find details and check your schedule at DurhamNC.gov/SolidWaste.

Never Miss Collection Day with Durham's Free Rollout App

Our Durham Rollout app sends reminders every week for your curbside garbage, recycling, and yard waste collections and alerts if we have schedule changes due to weather or holidays. You can even search for what's recyclable!

★ **LEARN MORE:** Search "Durham Rollout" in the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) stores.

Protect Water & Sewer: Throw Away Wipes & Grease

Our Water Management Department reminds you to properly dispose of wipes and grease that can cause backups, clogged pipes, and sewer overflows. This can result in potentially serious environmental health impacts and cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage at our wastewater treatment plants, sanitary sewer collection system, and your home.



A Word on Wipes—Do Not Flush!

Most nonwoven products labeled "flushable" can cause major problems when flushed. Unlike toilet paper, these materials don't break down sufficiently in water. Wet wipes, baby wipes, towelettes,

cleaning wipes, tissues, and paper towels can wreak havoc on your home plumbing, septic tanks, and Durham's sanitary sewer collection system. Bottom line—wipes belong in the garbage can!

Don't Pour Grease Down the Drain!

Fats, oils, and grease should also be disposed of properly and kept out of the sink. Grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes on your property and in the streets. This decreases pipe capacity, requires more frequent cleaning or replacement, and hampers effective treatment at the wastewater treatment plant. Reduce these risks by following these guidelines:



- ✓ Pour cooled grease into a container with a lid and place in the garbage can.
- ✓ Scrape cookware grease into the trash using a paper towel or spatula.
- ✓ Place food scraps in the garbage can.
- ✓ Take residential cooking oil to the City's Waste Disposal Center at no cost.

★ **LEARN MORE:** Visit DurhamNC.gov/GreaseReduction.



Vote for Mayor & City Council in the 2021 Municipal Election

Make your plan to vote in the 2021 Municipal Election to select a Durham Mayor and City Council Members for Wards 1, 2, and 3. Early voting will run from October 14-30 with Election Day taking place on Tuesday, November 2.

★ **LEARN MORE:** Visit dcovotes.com for more information including voting locations and bus routes.

2021 Annual Sewer System Report Highlights 20-Year Low in Sewer Spill Volume

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 submitted to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and available for all customers to view.

★ **LEARN MORE:**

- The latest report is now available at durhamnc.gov/CityWastewater.
- Customers may contact City 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.



Easily access the links in this issue by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/english-oct2021

UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

- ★ Veterans Day, Nov. 11
- ★ Thanksgiving, Nov. 25 & 26
- ★ Christmas, Dec. 24 & 27

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CITY BRIEFS

911 Callers Urged Not to Hang Up

The Durham Emergency Communications Center (DECC) is the primary 911 answering point for the City and County of Durham. While the DECC is working to hire additional staff, the public should continue to call 911 in emergencies. Calls are being answered and callers are urged not to hang up—wait and your call will be answered as quickly as possible.

★ **LEARN MORE:** Learn about DECC and job opportunities at DurhamNC.gov/911.

Help Shape Durham's Future Through the Comprehensive Plan

Durham is working on a new Comprehensive Plan—a long range vision that decides what can be built in our community and where. Earlier this year, Community Goals and Objectives, developed from resident input, were adopted by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Our staff is now developing the next phase of community engagement for the fall, focusing on describing and mapping places we want to see in Durham's future.

★ **LEARN MORE:** Check out EngageDurham.com/Comprehensive-Plan to learn about the project and what's next.

Normal Operating Hours Resume at City Hall & Public Facilities

While many in-person services are available, residents are encouraged to access services online when possible to reduce COVID-19 risks.

- **City Hall** is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for water bill payments and Durham One Call assistance.
- The **Development Services Center** at City Hall is open for planning and inspection services Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

★ **LEARN MORE:** Confirm current hours and COVID-19 safety guidelines at DurhamNC.gov/Covid19.

Holiday Fun from Durham Parks & Recreation

Get the whole family into the holiday spirit with these special events.



Barktoberfest (free)
Saturday, Oct. 23, 3-6 p.m.,
Durham Central Park, 501 Foster St.

Presented by DPR and Beyond Fences, canines and their families are invited to enjoy a costume contest, games, a beer garden, pet-friendly organizations and vendors, food vendors, and more!

Trunk or Treat (free, registration required)
Friday, October 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Holton Career & Resource Center,
401 N. Driver St.

This fun-filled, family event features open car trucks displaying candy and decorations. Costumes are encouraged to make the event more exciting, and parents are encouraged to participate with their cars.

★ **LEARN MORE:**

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



Hallow-Eno (free)
Sunday, October 31, 6-9 p.m., West Point
on the Eno, 5101 N. Roxboro Rd.

DPR's 32nd annual Halloween event for the whole family will feature campfire stories and songs, hayrides, treats, face painting, arts and crafts, and more. No need to register, just come out rain or shine!

Laser Light Show
(free, registration required)
Saturday, Dec. 11, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.,
Durham County Stadium, 750 Stadium Dr.

Watch a 30-minute holiday-themed laser light show in your car while enjoying matching music through your car radio. Reservations for this free drive-in event open on November 29. See full rules online.

Start A Rewarding Career with the City of Durham

Join the City's team to make a difference in the community, earn competitive pay and benefits, and advance your career. From 911 call takers to engineers, lifeguards to police officers, street sweepers to mechanics, explore job openings across our 27 diverse departments.

★ **LEARN MORE:** DurhamNC.gov/Jobs



Durham One Call is Here to Help

Get assistance with water bills, garbage collection, and other City services:

Submit Online
at durhamnc.gov/OneCall



Call 919-560-1200
(English or Spanish)



Download Our App
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