



Community Engagement NEWSLETTER PAC District 3

“To keep the city safe is a fundamental task of a city’s streets and its sidewalks.”
Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), American-Canadian urbanist, writer, and activist.

Durham Residents Invited to Join the City Council for Coffee and Conversation

Community Meetings and Second Annual E-Town Hall Set for 2014-2015 Budget

Durham residents interested in giving their input directly to the City Council on the City of Durham’s budget should mark their calendars now to attend an upcoming “Coffee with Council” meeting as well as participate in the second annual E-Town Hall.

Hosted by the Durham City Council, the Coffee with Council sessions are a series of face-to-face meetings designed to give residents the opportunity to provide direct feedback to council members on budget priorities for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The sessions also include a presentation on the City’s budget outlook for the upcoming fiscal year. Residents who have ideas or comments on the use of City resources are welcome to attend any of the meetings scheduled below:

Saturday, February 8 from 10 a.m. to noon – Lyon Park Community Family Life and Recreation Center, 1309 Halley St. (PAC 3)

Monday, February 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Durham Public Schools Resource Center, 2107 Hillandale Road (PAC 2)

Saturday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to noon – Campus Hill Recreation Center, 2000 S. Alston Ave. (PAC 4)

Thursday, March 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – City Hall Committee Room, Second Floor, 101 City Hall Plaza (PAC 5; Spanish translation will be provided)

Saturday, March 15 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Holton Career and Resource Center’s Child Care Center, Second Floor, 401 N. Driver St. (PAC 1)

There will also be two budget public hearings held in conjunction with regularly scheduled City Council meetings. The first public hearing will be held on **Monday, March 3** and the second public hearing will be held on **Monday, June 2**.

In conjunction with the June public hearing, residents are also invited to participate in the second annual E-Town Hall. City Council members will again take part in the interactive event, addressing questions submitted by Durham taxpayers regarding how tax dollars are allocated in the proposed budget and what the priorities are for the upcoming year based on the City Manager’s budget presentation, which will take place on Monday, May 19. Residents will be asked to submit their questions by May 30 through Facebook at <http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC>, on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>, or by email at eTownHall@DurhamNC.gov. Residents can upload a video of their question to YouTube and then share the link by email at eTownHall@DurhamNC.gov.

FEBRUARY 2014

Inside this issue:

New CityLife Examines Police Actions During Recent Protests 2

Beware of Cash for Pension Scam 3

District 3 Contact Information 4

911 Center Non-Emergency Number

Barking dogs, loud music, burglaries occurring hours or days earlier and vandalism to public or private property are just a few examples of the types of calls that can now be reported to Durham’s new, non-emergency phone number.

The new number, **(919) 560-4600**, was established by the Durham Emergency Communication Center (DECC) to free up 911 lines for life threatening or in-progress emergencies.

Report code violations, call Durham One Call! 919.560.1200

*a publication of the
Department of Neighborhood
Improvement Services*

New CityLife Examines Police Actions During Recent Protests

Airing Now on DTV8 and YouTube

Last November, an incident occurred that would shake Durham. A young man died from what was determined to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound while in the back of a police car. Whether you had an opinion about the incident or not, you probably watched and read about the follow-up protests closely.

CityLife host Beverly B. Thompson is joined by Mayor Bill Bell and Durham Police Department Deputy Chief Larry Smith to talk about what's happened during these protests, why the police department responded in the manner they did, and their expectations for how people should behave during any future protests.

Tune into DTV8 (Time Warner Cable channel 8 with a cable box, digital converter or channel 97-5 with a QAM tuner) to watch this new episode or watch on demand at <http://youtu.be/Sfn2dEjF5HU>.

About CityLife

CityLife, a talk show that features information on current City issues and upcoming events, airs daily at 8:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. on DTV8 (Time Warner Cable channel 8). The show is also available for on demand viewing at <http://www.DurhamNC.gov/DTV8> or on the City's YouTube channel at <http://www.YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC>. For more information, call the City's Office of Public Affairs at (919) 560-4123, like <http://www.Facebook/CityofDurhamNC>, or follow <http://www.Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>.

Durham Hosts Landlord Training Workshop February 20

*Monthly Workshop to Help Landlords Effectively Manage Properties and Halt
Illegal Activity;
Pre-Registration Deadline February 17*

What: February 2014 Landlord Training Workshop

Who: City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, Durham Police Department, Solid Waste Management Department, Public Works Department Stormwater & GIS Services Division, Water Management Department, and the Durham City/County Planning Department. Other sponsors include Durham Housing Authority and Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.

When: Thursday, February 20, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department
Main Conference Room
807 E. Main St., Suite 2-300
Durham, N.C. 27701

Fast Facts:

- The Landlord Training Workshop is specifically designed to assist landlords, property managers, resident managers, and any others who are actively involved in managing rental housing. The Landlord Training Workshop is conducted on the third Thursday of every month as part of the Proactive Rental Inspection Program to provide regular training opportunities to help landlords become more effective property managers.
- This monthly workshop will demonstrate effective property management practices to significantly contribute to safe and decent housing as well as provide successful techniques on how to halt illegal activity on rental properties. Workshop topics will include how to build landlord, renter, homeowner, and business relationships; applicant screening techniques; rental agreements and fair housing issues; management techniques; the eviction process; how to achieve a stable, satisfied tenant base; how to maintain property to habitable standards; City code enforcement; Proactive Rental Inspection Ordinance (PRIP); and the Property Management Entrepreneurs Program Plan (PMEP).
- The cost to attend is \$10 per person and includes workshop materials. Seating is limited. Attendees may pay by check or money order before Monday, February 17, 2014.
- Interested participants may contact Lynwood Best, community engagement manager with the City's Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, at (919) 560-1647, ext. 34254 or by email at Lynwood.Best@DurhamNC.gov.

Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services

Code Enforcement Activities District 3
Items that have been cited for the month
of **January 2014**

6 Vehicle inspections

17 Weedy lot & junk and debris inspections

6 PRIP

1 Abatement

83 Residential

1 Non-Residential

114 Total initial inspections

41 Re-inspections

155 Total inspections

122 Cases brought in to compliance

43 Pending Cases

Beware of Cash for Pension Scam

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

If you're a retiree receiving a pension, beware of a new scam: offers that claim to let you borrow against your pension without actually taking out a loan.

Pension advance companies promises retirees quick access to cash. The catch? You're signing over the rights to your pension — often for years.

Recently, North Carolinians have been filing complaints with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division about pension advance companies. These companies disguise high-interest rate loans as pension advances, with fees and interest rates often exceeding 100 percent of the amount borrowed. One military retiree received an "advance" of \$10,000 but must pay back more than \$25,000 thousand from his future pension payments.

This scam can have long-lasting effects on retirees' finances and plunge them further into debt. To evade laws designed to protect pensions, pension advance companies often require retirees to set up separate bank accounts, which the company then controls. The company then collects payments and fees from the account for several years.

Favorite targets of the scam include military veterans, retired teachers, firefighters and police, as well as other retirees with a pension income.

Protect your hard-earned pension. Don't sign over your pension rights without first obtaining legal or financial advice from an independent professional.

If you're being pressured to sign for a pension advance loan or have signed up for one, report it to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or [file a complaint](#) at www.ncdoj.gov.

Finding Tax Help You Can Trust

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

Tax time can be stressful, especially if the person you turn to for help with your taxes doesn't do the job you expected.

Each year during tax season, my office hears from consumers about tax preparers who do poor work, file documents without consumers' approval and charge unreasonably high fees.

For example, more than 100 consumers complained to us about a Charlotte area tax preparer that filed people's tax returns without their permission and charged excessive fees for tax preparation services. We took the company to court to get it to change its business practices and won \$60,000 back for consumers.

So how can you make sure you get trustworthy help with your taxes? There are many reputable tax preparation services that do a good job for their clients. If you're considering using a tax preparer, keep the following tips in mind:

- Check out the tax preparer's credentials and experience. To see if they've had any complaints filed against them, call my office at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll-free within North Carolina or your local Better Business Bureau.
- Before you enter into a written agreement with a tax preparation service, be sure to find out the total cost and read the contract or other paperwork carefully before you sign it.
- Be careful about emailing information to a tax preparer or accountant because email is vulnerable to hackers. If you're using a website to file your taxes, make sure your information is protected by looking for the lock icon on the address bar.
- Guard your personal information. Identity thieves can use your Social Security Number to take out loans, open credit cards or even collect your tax refund. Be wary of anyone who calls or emails you and offers to help with your taxes or claims to be with the IRS. If the IRS needs to contact you, it will do so by mail—not by email, phone or text message.
- Beware of tax preparers who try to sell you an extra guarantee. These guarantees claim that the company will reimburse you if they make a mistake with your tax returns and your filing has to be amended.
- Be skeptical of ads that promise to help resolve your debt to the IRS for cents on the dollar. Many of these companies charge hefty fees but rarely get results.

If you have questions about something a tax preparer tells you about your taxes, check it out. You can contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or the NC Department of Revenue at 1-877-252-4052.



District 3 Contact Information
Partners Against Crime District 3 (PAC 3)
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pac3/>

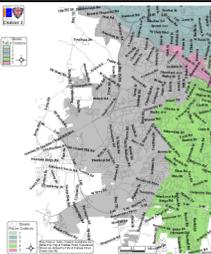


Facilitators: DeWarren K. Langley, JD politicallyactive@gmail.com (919) 423-8089
 Conni Rivers riverstilbury@yahoo.com (919)294-6703

Durham Police Department
Sub Station District 3
 #8 Consultant Place, 27707
 919.560.4583
Commander
 Capt. David Addison
 919.560.4583 x 29352
David.Addison@durhamnc.gov
Assistant Commander
 Lieutenant Terrence Sembly
 919-560-4583 x 29354
Terrence.Sembly@durhamnc.gov
Citizen Observation Patrol (C.O.P.)
Master Officer
 Erwin Baker
 919.560.4438 x 29400
Erwin.Baker@durhamnc.gov
Community Resources
 Master Officer Jeffery Fair
 919.560.4404 x 29417, 919.591.1783 (c)
Jeffery.Fair@durhamnc.gov
High Enforcement Abatement Teams (H.E.A.T.)
 Unit Supervisor Sgt. Tracey Bobbitt
 919.560.4583 x 29371
Tracey.Bobbitt@durhamnc.gov
Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.)
 Sgt. Glen Price
 919.560.4583 x 29359
Glen.Price@durhamnc.gov

Victim/Witness Service Unit
 Lukas Strout
 919.560.4404 x 29293
Lukas.Strout@durhamnc.gov
Durham County—Sheriff Support Services
 Major Paul Martin
 919.560.0884
pmartin@durhamsheriff
Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Community Engagement Manager/District 3 Community Engagement Coordinator: Lynwood Best
 919.560.1N1S (1647) x 34254
Lynwood.Best@durhamnc.gov
Fair Housing (Housing discrimination issues) Larry Revelle
 919.560.4107 x 34278
Larry.Revelle@durhamnc.gov
Code Enforcement Officer (Houses)
 Bennie Fields
 919.560.1N1S (1647) x 34286
Bennie.Fields@durhamnc.gov
Code Enforcement Officer (Weedy Lots/ABVs)
 Dawn Hill-Alston
 919.560.1N1S (1647) x 34260
Dawn.Hill-Alston@durhamnc.gov
Impact Team Manager
 Daryl Hedgspeth
 919.560.1N1S (1647) x 34255
Daryl.Hedgspeth@durhamnc.gov

Solid Waste Management
 Andrew Martin
 919.560.4186 x 32245
Andrew.Martin@Durhamnc.gov
Parks and Recreation
 Director Rhonda Parker 919.560.4355
Rhonda.Parker@durhamnc.gov
Planning and Zoning
Zoning Enforcement Officer
 Karen Swope
 919.560.4137 x 28242
Karen.Swope@durhamnc.gov
Zoning Enforcement Supervisor
 Grace Smith
 919.560.4137 x 28215
Grace.Smith@durhamnc.gov
Transportation (speed humps, speed limit, streetlights)
 Terry Thompson
 919.560.4366 x 36407
Terry.Thompson@durhamnc.gov



Partners Against Crime District 3

Communities working together to find sustainable solutions to community crime and quality of life issues.

Join us!!

Second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Community Family Life & Recreation Center at Lyon Park

1309 Halley Street, Durham, North Carolina 27707

Join our PAC 3 LISTSERV:

- [Http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pac3](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pac3)
- Access recent and archived newsletter and minutes

- Post community and neighborhood alerts and criminal activity
- Keep informed about PAC 3, City and County of Durham government organized events and news.

Subscribe to other PAC LISTSERV

- PAC 1- Subscribe@yahoo.groups.com
- PAC 2- Subscribe@Yahoo.groups.com
- PAC 4- Subscribe@yahoo.groups.com
- PAC 5- Subscribe@yahoo.groups.com

Latest City of Durham news and information—sign-up at: www.durhamnc.gov

City of Durham
Police
Non-Emergencies
Numbers
919.560.4600
919.560.4601