



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.

JULY 2014

Inside this issue:

Hello Partners Against Crime (PAC):

Below are a few Durham Police Department news items about recent and upcoming events and happenings:

Enroll in the 42nd Session of the Citizens Police Academy

See the Durham Police Department behind the scenes! Durham residents interested in learning about police operations and services can register for the 2014 session of the department’s Citizens Police Academy. Applications are being accepted for the six-week academy which will hold classes August 26 through October, 2, 2014. The application deadline is August 19. The classes, which are free of charge, will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Durham Police Headquarters (505 W. Chapel Hill Street). For a flier and for an application click the links below:

Flier: <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/DPD/Documents/2014CPAFlier.pdf>

Application: <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/DPD/Documents/CitizensPoliceAcademyApplication2014.pdf>

DPD, 911 Featured in Law and Order Magazine

Did you know that DPD and 911 are cited nationally for Text-to-911 PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) technology? Check out the May 2014 issue of *Law and Order* magazine to learn more. The article - “Moving PSAP Operations to the Cloud” - was published at the beginning of June 2014 (as *Law and Order* publishes at the end of the month rather than the beginning). Click the link below to read the article and to see DPD Officer Ryan Ingram and Durham 911 employees who are prominently featured.

Link to Scanned Article with photos:

<http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/DPD/Documents/LawandOrderMagazineJune2014.pdf>

Link to online article:

http://www.hendonpub.com/resources/article_archive/results/details?id=5036

Community Invited to Police Graduation

Durham Police Department’s Training Division cordially invites the community to the graduation ceremony of Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Academy #39. The graduation will be held Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church (504 W. Chapel Hill Street). Click link below to view graduation invite/flier:

<http://durhamnc.gov/ich/op/DPD/Documents/BLET39GraduationInviteCommunity.pdf>

National Night Out Registrations (NNO) Strong...

NNO neighborhood registrations ended this past Monday, July 7 with more than 100 Durham neighborhood and community groups registering to observe *America’s Night Out Against Crime* on Tuesday, August 5th. Stay tuned for more information as the observance approaches.

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Don’t get hit by storm scams 2

Don’t Be Guilty of Falling For a Jury Duty 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

... working together for a better Durham

Don't get hit by storm scams, warns AG Cooper

Look out for hit and run scammers

"Crooks use natural disasters and storms to take advantage of consumers who are eager to get damaged property repaired," said Cooper. "Consumers can avoid problems from the start by learning the warning signs before the threat of severe weather arrives."

The vast majority of contractors, tree removal companies and car repair shops in North Carolina are good business people, and many local merchants pitch in to help their community recover from disaster. However, some unscrupulous scammers travel to areas that have been hit by natural disasters to take advantage of consumers, Cooper warned. North Carolina residents can report scams and frauds to Cooper's office by calling toll-free 1-877-5-NO-SCAM within the state or by filing a consumer complaint at www.ncdoj.gov.

Cooper offered the following tips to consumers:

- Safety first. If you need to evacuate on short notice, don't risk your safety by gathering your personal items. After the storm has passed, do not attempt to move downed power lines or attempt dangerous repairs on your own.
- Take important financial documents with you if you evacuate, including insurance policies, mortgage documents, an inventory of the contents of your home, and any bills to pay. Also take your insurance agent's phone number and the number for the Consumer Protection hotline, 1-877-5-NO-SCAM, with you.
- If the storm damages your property, contact your insurance company. Some insurance companies require an adjuster's approval before work can be done. Take pictures and videos of the damage, if possible. Cover holes in your roof or walls with a tarp to prevent additional damage if you can do so safely.
- Don't pay for work up front. Inspect the work and make sure you're satisfied before you pay. A small down payment may be required for some projects, but don't pay anything without getting a written contract. Avoid paying with cash; use a check or a credit card instead.
- Beware of any contractor who tries to rush you or comes to your home to solicit work. If an offer is only good now or never, find someone else to do the work. Seek recommendations from friends, neighbors, co-workers and others who have had work done on their homes.
- Get three written estimates, if possible, and compare bids. Check credentials and contact the Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau to learn about any complaints against the contractor. Ask to get the contractor's certificate of insurance directly from their insurance company, not from the contractor. Before work begins, get a written contract detailing all work to be performed, costs and a projected completion date.
- For car repairs, shop around and compare written estimates. On major jobs, get a second opinion. If the mechanic recommends replacing parts, ask for the old parts back. You may get credit on some parts if the mechanic wants to keep them.
- Beware of charity scams that use disasters to make phony pleas for donations sound more real. If a caller refuses to answer your questions about the charity, offers to come to pick up a donation in person or calls you and asks for a credit card, bank account or Social Security number, it may be a scam. To report telemarketing fraud, call the Attorney General's Office. To check up on a charity, call the Secretary of State's office toll-free at (888) 830-4989.

For more tips on hurricane preparedness, visit readync.org.

"Scammers look for any opportunity to take your hard-earned money," said Cooper. "My office stands ready to help if you think someone has taken advantage of you."

Durham Hosts Fair Housing Seminar for LGBT Community

What: Fair Housing Seminar: HUD Equal Access Rule and the LGBT Community

Who: City of Durham Human Relations Division with the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the LGBTQ Law Center

When: Thursday, July 17, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Hilton Durham (near Duke University) 3800 Hillsborough Rd. Durham, N.C. 27705

Fast Facts:

This half-day discussion will focus on housing discrimination in the LGBT community and the ways state and federal laws have increased access to fair housing for LGBT people and families. This training will focus on HUD's recently released Equal Access Rule and is designed to educate members of the LGBT community, housing providers, and the general public of the new obligations this rule creates. Presenters for this event will include Policy Counsel Ashland Johnson with NCLR's District of Columbia office, and representatives from the LGBTQ Law Center in Charlotte, N.C.

This event is free and open to the public. A continental breakfast will be provided for attendees. For more information on the topics to be covered, or to register to attend this event, visit <http://bit.ly/iXyT5a>.

Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services

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

10 Vehicle inspections

39 Weedy lot & junk and debris inspections

0 PRIP

0 Abatement

18 Residential

1 Non-Residential

68 Total initial inspections

80 Re-inspections

148 Total inspections

79 Cases brought in to compliance

46 Pending Cases

Don't Be Guilty of Falling For a Jury Duty Scam

Serving on a jury is one of our most important responsibilities as citizens, but scammers try to use jury duty to steal from the innocent. In the latest version of this common scam, people in the Fayetteville area have gotten phone calls from a man who claims to be a Cumberland County Sheriff's Deputy. If you answer one of these calls, you're told that you'll be arrested for failing to appear for jury duty unless you pay a fine immediately.

These calls aren't legitimate and are trying to scare you into paying money you don't really owe.

In other versions of the jury duty scam crooks use pre-recorded messages instead of live calls, and sometimes they try to scare people into providing personal financial information which the scammers can then use to steal money and commit identity theft.

To avoid jury duty scams, remember:

- Court officers won't ask for personal information or seek payment for fines or fees over the phone. Most court related correspondence takes place through the mail.
- Never agree to send money to someone who calls you out of the blue. Many scams ask you to wire money or send it via a [Green Dot MoneyPak Card](#).
- Never share personal information, such as your Social Security Number or bank account number, with anyone who contacts you.

If you receive one of these calls, immediately hang up and report it to your local police department and the Attorney General's Office by calling 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or filing a complaint online at www.ncdoj.gov.

Crooks Embrace Crowdfunding

For years, scammers have exploited people's sympathy by setting up fake charities supposedly to help those in need. But these heartless crooks now have a new way to divert donations to their own pockets.

Crowdfunding takes place when someone sets up a way for people to make donations, usually online, for a cause such as helping someone cover hospital bills after an illness or accident. Although many of these efforts are legitimate, hosting websites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe don't screen those who want to set up a fundraising operation.

These campaigns can be started by people who make up a fake tragic story to swindle you out of your money. Or sometimes the tragic story is real, but the person raising the money is completely unknown to the victims and their families. [North Carolina law](#) requires that a charity get permission before fundraising in a person's name.

To avoid getting pulled into an illegitimate crowdfunded project, know who and what you're really donating to before you donate. You can learn more about crowdfunding from the [Better Business Bureau](#). Report potential scams to the Attorney General's office by calling 1-877- 5-NO-SCAM or [filing a complaint](#) at www.ncdoj.gov, where you can also find more tips on [giving to charity](#).

Durham Hosts Landlord Training Workshop July 17

Monthly Workshop to Help Landlords Effectively Manage Properties and Halt Illegal Activity;

Pre-Registration Deadline July 15

What: July 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, July 17, 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 Tuesday, July 15, 2014. To download the workshop brochure and registration form, visit <http://bit.ly/1kjjjYu>.
- Interested participants may also 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.

Facilitators: Conni Rivers riverstilbury@yahoo.com 919-294-6703
JoAnn Comis jcomis@mindspring.com 919-225-5176

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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
Tracy.Bobbitt@durhamnc.gov

Criminal Investigation Division

(C.I.D.) Sgt. Glen Price
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Victim/Witness Service Unit

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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)(Weedy Lots/ABVs)

Bennie Fields
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Code Enforcement Officer
Dawn Hill-Alston
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Impact Team Manager

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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

Become a member of the Durham Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC)

There are five vacancies being advertised. Appointments made by the City Council and Board of County Commissioners. The primary purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) is to provide advice to the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners on bicycle and pedestrian issues. The Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the 2nd Floor Committee Room of Durham City Hall. Members serve without compensation. If you have questions or need more information, contact Dale McKeel at 919-560-4366, ext. 36421 or dale.mckeel@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