



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.

JUNE 2014

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Durham Residents Invited to Review Efforts to Address Homelessness

Durham residents interested in helping address homelessness are invited to a community meeting later this month to review what’s being done, and to explore opportunities to participate in community-wide collaborations addressing homelessness.

The Homeless Services Advisory Committee (HSAC) in cooperation with the Council to End Homelessness in Durham (CEHD) are hosting a meeting for Durham’s Continuum of Care to discuss the community’s visions for addressing homelessness on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza.

The meeting will include updates on collaborative activities designed to address homelessness, distribution of information about how to make suggestions to improve proposed policy statements for the Durham Continuum of Care, an invitation to enroll as a member of the Continuum of Care, and networking opportunities. Business leaders, people of faith, representatives of organizations that address the housing and service needs of homeless people, homeless and formerly homeless people themselves, as well as concerned community members are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will also be served.

The HSAC is the primary decision-making body of the Durham Continuum of Care and provides advice to the Durham City Council and the Durham County Board of Commissioners on plans, programs, and proposals for homeless services for the City and County. The CEHD is a coalition of homeless housing and service providers that works to analyze the problems and obstacles encountered by homeless people in Durham, to advocate for the development of public policies and strategies that will address the needs of homeless people, and to put into action programs that will end homelessness in Durham County.

Pre-registration for the meeting is not required, but is encouraged at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/durham-homeless-stakeholderscoc-meeting-tickets-11824592675>.

For more information contact Project Managers Lloyd Schmeidler or Matt Schnars in the City’s Community Development Department at (919) 560-4570 or by email at Lloyd.Schmeidler@DurhamNC.gov and Matthew.Schnars@DurhamNC.gov.

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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

Durham Announces Solid Waste Collection Summer Schedule

Earlier Collection June 9 through October 6

To help employees who work outside avoid heat-related illnesses and injuries, the City of Durham’s Solid Waste Management Department will begin collecting solid waste, yard waste, recycling, and bulky items earlier each day this summer.

Starting Monday, June 9 through Monday, October 6, the department is asking residents to place their carts and bulky items on the curb the night before their normal pick-up day since work crews will start collections at 6 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.

Solid waste collectors will make every effort to complete their regular routes each day. However, during times of extreme temperatures, it may not be possible. If a pick-up is missed on a regular collection day, residents should leave their carts at the curb and contact Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200 to report the missed pick-up.

*a publication of the
Department of Neighborhood
Improvement Services*

... working together for a better Durham

Phony Card Cancellation Notices Arrive Via Phone

Consumers in North Carolina are receiving automated telephone calls saying that their credit or debit card has been canceled or deactivated. The message offers recipients a way to get their card back into service. The calls are coming from a variety of numbers. Sometimes Caller ID displays only a partial number, or a number with no area code. The company or financial institution that issued the card is not named in the message.

Some recipients are instructed to "Press 1" (or 2), while others are given a telephone number to call. Regardless of the approach, eventually they will be asked to enter their credit or debit card number, or other confidential information.

Consumers are getting better about recognizing these scams and fortunately none of the many consumers who have reported to our office in the last 24 hours have fallen for it. One was glad to have been warned about these kinds of scams because "in the past I would have immediately called them back."

Text or voicemail messages warning of problems with your account and offering a "fix" if you enter your account information are always phony. A legitimate company might use a message to let you know of a problem, but only if you have previously provided your number and specifically asked to be notified in that manner. But they will never ask you to supply information.

If you believe that you've been scammed, 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.

Avoid Home Break-ins While on Vacation

Planning to travel over the weekend, or looking forward to a trip later this summer? Before you leave, take some simple steps to keep your home and belongings safe while you're away.

Burglars are always on the lookout for empty houses. Protect yourself by NOT sharing your travel plans on social media sites. If a burglar knows you'll be away, your home could be an easy target.

Once you're packed and ready to leave, follow these safety tips to get your home ready:

- Make it look like someone is home. Leave lights on inside and out, or install motion-sensor or timer activated lights. Consider leaving a TV or radio on, or put them on a timer.
- Leave a car parked in the driveway, if possible.
- Check that all exterior doors and windows are securely locked. Don't hide your extra house key where it can be found easily, such as near a door.
- Close the blinds or curtains on windows.
- Hide jewelry, cash and other valuables in creative places. Avoid the usual hiding spots like under mattresses and in dresser drawers.
- Don't let mail, newspapers or packages pile up while you're away. Stop delivery or ask a neighbor to pick them up for you.
- Ask a trusted neighbor, friend or family member to keep an eye on your home. By reporting suspicious people or vehicles to local law enforcement, they may be able to help prevent crimes.

Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services

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

8 Vehicle inspections

25 Weedy lot & junk and debris inspections

8 PRIP

2 Abatement

20 Residential

0 Non-Residential

63 Total initial inspections

13 Re-inspections

76 Total inspections

28 Cases brought in to compliance

46 Pending Cases

Durham Hosts "Get Your Grass Off Gas" June 21

Opportunity to Purchase Deeply-Discounted Electric Yard Equipment

With mowing season underway, area residents have an opportunity to trade in their old gas-guzzling mowers and other yard equipment and take advantage of steep discounts on cleaner and greener electric versions.

The 4th Annual "Get Your Grass Off Gas" event will be held in the parking lot at the corner of East Main Street and Queen Street on Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event will be held rain or shine.

Hosted by the Durham City-County Sustainability Office, this event provides residents with the opportunity to purchase discounted electric yard and garden equipment to help get polluting gasoline-powered equipment "off the grass" and into the recycling bin. Discounts will range from 17 to 35 percent depending on the model. Available equipment includes lawnmowers, trimmers, edgers, blowers, vacuums, and loppers. Residents who do not have older equipment to trade in can still purchase electric models at the events, but with a smaller discount.

For more information on mower models and prices, and to pre-register to reserve specific mowers, visit <http://www.GreenerDurham.net>. Pre-registration is not required; however, event organizers cannot guarantee a particular model will be available without pre-registration.

All gas-powered equipment brought in to be recycled must be drained of fluids before being dropped off. Used motor oil can be dropped off at the City of Durham's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center, located at 2115 E. Club Blvd. The facility is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information about this event, contact Sustainability Specialist Megan Carroll at (919) 560-7993 or by email at mcarroll@dconc.gov.

Daily Deal Sites: Are you getting all you bargained for?

By Attorney General Roy Cooper

The deals are enticing—half off dinner at a cool new restaurant or professional carpet cleaning for a fraction of the price. Many of us have signed up to receive offers from daily deals websites that fill up our inboxes with advertisements for goods or services at discounted prices. While these offers are tempting, make sure you're really getting a deal before you shell out your hard-earned money.

Sometimes, these seemingly great deals turn out to be a great disappointment. My Consumer Protection Division has heard from consumers who purchased deals that businesses were unable to honor. Others complained that the product or service didn't meet their expectations. Generally, we've had success helping consumers resolve complaints with sites such as Groupon or Living Social, but we'd rather help you avoid trouble from the start.

Keep the following tips in mind before you click to purchase the deal of the day:

- **Check out the company.** Do a quick Internet search to look for reviews from other consumers who've done business with the company. Also, contact my Consumer Protection Division or your local Better Business Bureau to see if there are any complaints against the company.
- **Read the fine print.** Most offers come with restrictions on when and how they can be redeemed. For example, if the deal is for a restaurant, find out if tax and gratuity are included, if you are required to have a reservation, or if there's a limit to how many in your party can use the deal. Be sure you are familiar with these terms before you purchase the deal.
- **Make sure it's actually a good deal.** Some offers may simply advertise the regular price available to all customers, or you may be able to get a better deal by shopping around. Don't assume the price offered is actually a good deal.
- **Pay attention to how many offers have been sold.** Small businesses that sell a ton of daily deal coupons may have trouble honoring all of them. For example, if the offer is for a stay at a small bed and breakfast, you only have two months to redeem it, and 1,000 vouchers have already been purchased, chances are you may have trouble redeeming the offer if you buy it.
- **Check the expiration date.** Most deals are only good for a short period of time. However, if you forget to redeem it in that timeframe, the actual value you paid should last longer. For the amount you pay, Living Social vouchers are good for five years while Groupon vouchers never expire. For example, if you pay \$10 for \$20 worth of groceries, the promotional \$20 value may expire December 31 but you can use the \$10 you paid for years to come—assuming the business is still open.

If you've run into trouble with a daily deal website or business, my Consumer Protection Division may be able to help. To file a complaint call 1-887-5-NO-SCAM (toll-free in NC) or visit www.ncdoj.gov.

Durham Hosts Landlord Training Workshop June 19

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

Pre-Registration Deadline June 16

What: June 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, June 19, 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, June 16, 2014. To download the workshop brochure and registration form, visit <http://bit.ly/1cad77s>.
- 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.



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

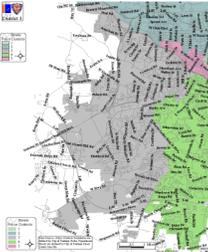


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Transportation (speed humps, speed limit, streetlights)
 Terry Thompson
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Partners Against Crime District 3

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.

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 PAC 5- Subscribe@yahoo.groups.com

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