

## Neighborhood Improvement Services Department (NIS)

### Neighborhood Matching Grant

Have a neighborhood project in mind?  
Looking for a way to bring your community together?

If so, apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant!  
The City will award up to \$2,500 to successful applicants. Your neighborhood can match that investment with volunteer hours, in-kind donations, or cash.

If you're interested, visit the NMG webpage and complete the interest form to learn more. *\*Information and materials also available in Spanish.\**

We have funding for at least 6 neighborhood projects this year—*will your neighborhood one of them?*

Application deadline: **January 31, 2018**



*Pictured above: Spring 2017 Neighborhood Matching Grant recipient, North Street neighborhood*

#### For more information contact:

*Laura Biediger*  
City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services  
P 919-560-1647 X34259  
or  
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## The Bull Horn



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## Neighbor Spotlight: December 2017



Congratulations to Jeannine Wardrick on being recognized as the December 2017 Neighbor Spotlight for the City of Durham. Ms. Wardrick was nominated for her work in the Ridgefield Neighborhood, where she has lived for about four years.

Ms. Wardrick enjoys living in Ridgefield. She describes it as a quiet neighborhood where “neighbors are wonderful and kind and we look out for each other.” The neighborhood stays informed of relevant information through a neighborhood website. Her main involvement has been on the Health eCommunities project, where they are using technology and community engagement to improve health outcomes. Through this effort, she and others have gotten their neighbors interested in healthy living. Together, they have held multiple meetings to provide information; painted a healthy mile trail in the neighborhood; started a Girl Trek team for women to walk together and build relationships; and have raffled off TOPS (Taking off Pounds Simply) memberships. Ms. Wardrick describes TOPs as an effective program that looks at individuals holistically. All of this work has been accomplished through funding provided by a Neighborhood Matching Grant from the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department.

Despite all of their successes, Ms. Wardrick would still like for the community to come together more. Outside of the new Health eCommunity meetings that have just begun, there is only one primary function annually. She believes additional events would create more opportunities for people to get to know each other as individuals. She is also concerned about recent property violence in the neighborhood. More people have been breaking into cars and garages, but she is happy that the neighborhood website has kept people informed about what is going on and tips on how to stay safe.

Ms. Wardrick’s main advice to other community members is to:

“Know your neighbors. Know your communities. Know what is going on. Everyone is from different races, cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds and neighborhoods should be and can be like a big family. Knowing who lives in your neighborhood can be a blessing in many different ways.”

She also emphasized that all community members should get on board with their own associations and get involved to benefit the community as a whole.

Finally, Ms. Wardrick wants others to continue to get involved in the Health eCommunities project, even if you do not live in Ridgefield. Stay up to date through the website ([www.healthcommunity.org](http://www.healthcommunity.org)), look out for flyers and attend the meetings to learn about the resources and receive the encouragement and tools to get the Ridgefield community and other outside communities to live a healthy life.



## Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Employee of the Month

*Community Engagement Specialist Laura Biediger,  
is Neighborhood Improvement Services employee  
of the month.*

*Congratulations Laura!*

## Durham Hosts E-Waste Recycling, Paper Shredding & Live Christmas Tree Disposal Event

*Free Event Open to All Durham Residents*

Durham residents looking for an easy and free way to recycle electronic waste (e-waste), shred confidential documents, and dispose of their live Christmas trees should attend this City of Durham event next month.

The E-Waste Recycling, Paper Shredding, and Live Christmas Tree Disposal event will be on Saturday, January 20 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Durham County Memorial Stadium on the home side parking lot, located at 750 Stadium Dr. Staff will be on hand to assist with unloading old electronics, paper, and trees.

### **E-waste Recycling**

Nearly all electronic devices with a cord will be accepted including:

- Computers, laptops, keyboards, mice, printers, monitors, speakers, copiers, scanners, circuit boards, hard drives, computer parts, etc.
- Televisions, stereo equipment, tape players, receivers, amplifiers, record players, etc.
- Kitchen electronics, such as microwaves, mixers, blenders, choppers, etc.
- Telephones, cell phones, and fax machines
- Hair dryers, curling irons, alarm clocks, and vacuum cleaners
- Power tools, cordless tools, etc.
- Electronic toys, such as keyboards and video game systems
- This event will **NOT** accept large appliances, refrigerators, air conditioners or any other appliances that contain Freon in non-working condition.

### **Paper Shredding**

Confidential paper shredding will also be provided on site. Shredding requirements include:

- Paper may contain paper clips and staples; however, hanging file folders will not be accepted.
- Only paper should be brought for shredding. CDs, DVDs, and other non-paper items will not be accepted.
- All paper should be loose and not in binders or other binding items made of non-paper.
- Residents may be present to observe their confidential document shredding if the amount to be shredded can fit into one 96-gallon roll cart (approximately 240 pounds of material or approximately eight small, banker boxes of material).
- Participants with larger quantities will have items placed in boxes to be shredded off-site at Shimar Recycling's secure facility.

### **Live Christmas Tree Disposal**

Trees taller than six feet should be cut in half and not placed in bags.

Remove all decorations and hardware, including tinsel, lights, garland, ornaments, nails, and stands.

Durham residents who can't attend this January 20 event can still safely and conveniently recycle their old electronics at no charge at the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center (Transfer Station), 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.

As a reminder, the City's Solid Waste Management Department is also offering free curbside collections of live Christmas trees until February 1. Non-Yard Waste customers must contact Durham One Call at (919) 560-1200 to request a curbside collection of their live Christmas tree. All service requests must be received no later than the end of business on February 1. Once received, service requests will be scheduled for the next available Saturday collection on either January 13, January 27 or February 3. Yard Waste customers should place their live trees at the curb on their scheduled collection day. Tree locations will be noted by their weekly collection crews and added to the next available Saturday collection day on either January 13, January 27 or February 3. A tree collection will not count toward free brush collections for yard waste customers. In addition to free curbside collections, residents may drop off their live Christmas trees at the City's Waste Disposal and Recycling Center at no charge from January 2 until February 3. Trees delivered after February 3 will be subject to the usual yard waste disposal fees. Requirements for curbside disposal of live Christmas trees are as follows: trees taller than six feet must be cut in half; all decorations including tinsel, lights, garland, ornaments, nails, stands, and hardware must be removed; and trees should not be placed in bags.

**DISTRICT 1 SUBSTATION**

919.560.4281

Capt. Demetrius Mock,  
**District Commander**

Lt. Stephen Vaughan  
**Assistant Commander**  
EXT: 29112

Steve Hall

**Community Resource Officer**

**PAC 1 CO-FACILITATORS**

Camryn Smith

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James Chavis

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**Neighborhood Improvement Services**

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**Community Engagement Coordinator**

Jacob Lerner EXT. 34252

**Code Enforcement Officers**

Housing

Cliff Pratt EXT: 34266

Carlos Hernandez EXT: 34286

Dawn Alston-Hill EXT: 34260

Weeds, Junk & Debris

Nancy Kost EXT: 34236

Lester Smith EXT: 34275

**DISTRICT 2 SUBSTATION**

919.560.4582

Capt. April Browne,

**District Commander**

Lt. Melissa L. Bishop

**Assistant Commander**

Laurence Brown,

**Community Resource Officer,**  
EXT: 29292

**PAC 2 CO-FACILITATORS**

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**Community Engagement Coordinator**

Robin Dixon EXT: 34245

**Code Enforcement Officers**

Housing

Robb Damman EXT: 34232

Marcellus Morgan EXT: 34231

Weeds, Junk & Debris

Lester Smith EXT: 34275

**TAX TIME TIPS**

**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. Email is vulnerable to hackers, so avoid emailing your Social Security number or other confidential information to a tax preparer or accountant. 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.

**Beware of scammers posing as the IRS.** Be wary of anyone who calls or emails you and offers to help with your taxes, demands tax payments, or claims to be with the IRS. If you get a call from someone claiming to work with a government agency, ask them for their name, identification number and contact number, then hang up and call them back. Avoid anyone who demands you make immediate payments using methods like gift cards, money orders, or wire transfers.

**Watch out for tax refund thieves.** Tax refund theft is a growing problem. One way to help avoid becoming a victim of this scam is to file your tax return early, before the crooks file their fake return in your name. If you receive a notice or letter from the IRS indicating that more than one tax return was filed in your name, respond immediately to the IRS employee whose contact information was provided. You will also need to fill out IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit.

**Think twice before you opt for an "instant" or "rapid" refund.** Some tax preparers and banks offer a refund anticipation check (RAC). This is a paid service for taxpayers who don't have a bank account to use for direct deposit of their refund, or don't have the money to pay for tax preparation assistance. There's a fee (typically about \$30) to set up the RAC system. The preparer deducts that fee, their tax preparation charges and other fees from the eventual refund. After all that, there may not be much of your actual refund left.

**Get your refund quickly without paying any extra charges.** If you file your taxes electronically and have your refund deposited directly into an existing bank account, your refund will probably arrive in less than three weeks. If you don't have a bank account, you can file your taxes electronically and get a refund check in the mail, or get your refund loaded on a prepaid card you already have.

**You might be entitled to a refund even if you don't owe income taxes.** Call the IRS or visit www.irs.gov/eitc to learn more and see if you qualify for an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families.

**Find trustworthy help with your taxes.**



There are many legitimate charities doing effective work in North Carolina and elsewhere. But unfortunately, some of the people who try to get you to give to charity may be out to scam you. They may even try to use recent events, such as natural disasters, to make their phony pleas for donations sound more believable.

**If you want to give to charity, do your homework first.** Read our tips on how to [check out a charity](#) and learn how it would put your donation to work before you give.

**Watch out for pushy telemarketers.** Telemarketers that refuse to answer your questions, offer to pick up your donation or pressure you are usually up to no good. Also, some telemarketers keep up to 90 percent of the money they collect for charities. Your money will go further if you give directly to the real charity, not to hired fundraisers.

**Don't respond to unsolicited emails and text messages asking you to give.** Even if the message looks legitimate, it could be an example of [phishing](#). The messages may include links to copycat web sites of legitimate charities to try to trick donors.

**Be careful of social networking posts asking you to donate.** The cause may sound worthy, but you have no way of verifying how your money would really be used.

**Watch out for fake charities that sound real.** Some scammers use names that are very close to the names of real charities, non-profits or even law enforcement agencies. If you want to donate, contact the real charity or organization at a website or phone number you know to be valid.

**Don't give cash.** Cash gifts can be lost or stolen. For security and tax record purposes, it's best to pay by credit card. If you pay by check, make it out to the charity itself, not the fundraiser.

**Protect your personal information.** Never give your credit card or bank account number to someone you don't know who contacts you, for any reason.

**Be skeptical if someone thanks you for a pledge or donation you don't remember.** If you have any doubt, check your records. Be on the alert for invoices claiming you have made a pledge when you know you haven't.

**Say no to high-pressure appeals.** Legitimate fundraisers won't push you to give on the spot.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
North Carolina Department of Justice  
Josh Stein, Attorney General  
(919) 716-6400**

#### **DISTRICT 3 SUBSTATION**

919.560.4583

Capt. Robert Gaddy  
**District Commander**

Lt. Mark Morais,  
**Assistant Commander**  
**EXT: 29227**

Erwin Baker,  
**Citizen Observation Patrol**  
**EXT: 29400**

Officer Lawanda Mock  
**Community Resource Officer**  
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CRIME Prevention Office  
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#### **PAC 3 CO-FACILITATORS**

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**Neighborhood Improvement  
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**919.560.1647**

**Community Engagement  
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Laura Biediger EXT: 34259

#### **DISTRICT 4 SUBSTATION**

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Capt. Daniel Edwards ,  
**District Commander**  
**EXT: 29301**

Lt. Denise Campbell,  
**Assistant Commander**  
**EXT: 29302**

Curtis Knight,  
**Community Resource Officer,**  
**EXT: 29452**

Police Non Emergency Line  
**919.560.4600**

#### **PAC 4 FACILITATOR**

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**Community Engagement  
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**Code Enforcement Officers**  
[Housing](#)  
Laurin Milton EXT: 34269  
Michelle Sellers EXT: 34276  
[Weeds, Junk & Debris](#)  
Nancy Kost EXT: 34236

**DISTRICT 5 SUBSTATION  
919.560.4935**

Capt. George Zeipekkis  
District Commander  
EXT: 29303

Lt. Jerry Yount,  
Assistant Commander  
EXT: 29404

Steve Hall,  
Community Resource Officer,  
EXT: 29452

**PAC 5 CO-FACILITATORS**

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**Neighborhood Improvement Services  
919.560.1647**

**Community Engagement Coordinator**  
Robin Dixon EXT: 34245

**Code Enforcement Officer**  
Housing and Weeds, Junk & Debris  
Michael Vaughn EXT: 34225

**TRY PREVENTION TIP**

**RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS EXIST IN MULTIPLE CONTEXTS**

All people have biological and psychological characteristics that make them vulnerable to, or resilient in the face of, potential behavioral health issues. Because people have relationships within their communities and larger society, each person's biological and psychological characteristics exist in multiple contexts. A variety of risk and protective factors operate within each of these contexts. These factors also influence one another.

Targeting only one context when addressing a person's risk or protective factors is unlikely to be successful, because people don't exist in isolation. For example:

**In relationships**, risk factors include parents who use drugs and alcohol or who suffer from mental illness, child abuse and maltreatment, and inadequate supervision. In this context, parental involvement is an example of a protective factor.

**In communities**, risk factors include neighborhood poverty and violence. Here, protective factors could include the availability of faith-based resources and after-school activities.

**In society**, risk factors can include norms and laws favorable to substance use, as well as racism and a lack of economic opportunity. Protective factors in this context would include hate crime laws or policies limiting the availability of alcohol



from

**City of Durham  
Neighborhood  
Improvement Services  
Department**

**RESILIENCE THE MOVIE & DINNER**

Sponsored by  
Together for Resilient Youth  
and

Durham County  
Department of Social Services

JANUARY 19, 2018

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Youth ages 15-17

For more information contact:

Durham T.R.Y.

RECITY

112 Broadway St.

Durham, NC 27701

(919) 491.7811



DURHAM-ORANGE  
LIGHT RAIL



## Light Rail Public Meetings

We're Building the Future. Shape it with us. Join us to craft the look and feel of the Durham-Orange Light Rail system.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Southwest Regional Library  
3605 Shannon Rd.  
Durham, NC 27707

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Chapel Hill Public Library  
100 Library Dr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514



The content of each meeting is the same. The interactive workshop is planned to last the full two hours.

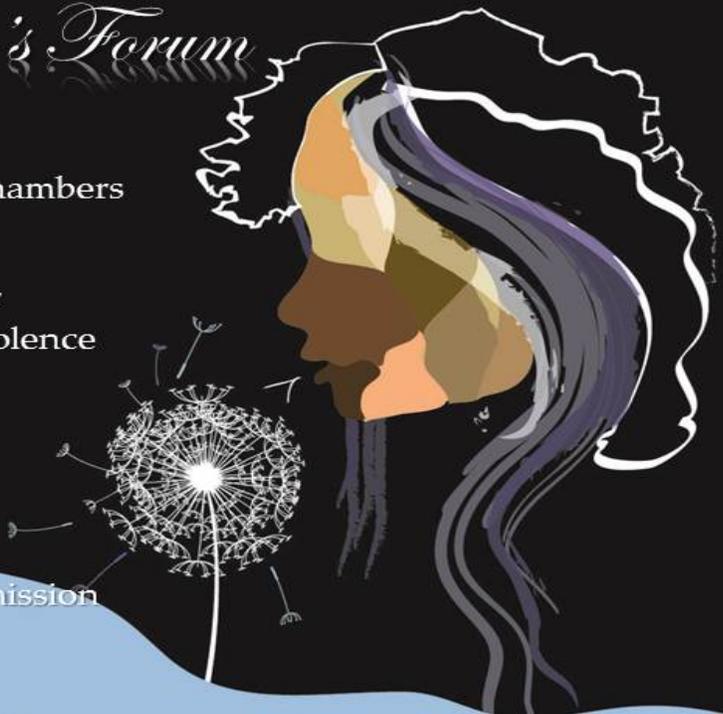
## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Forum

March 22, 2018

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Durham City Hall – Council Chambers

- **Dana Mangum** Exec. Director  
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- **Dr. Yaba Blay**  
Professor and Author
- **Wendy Jacobs**  
Chair, Durham Co. Commission
- **Hilda Gurdian**  
CEO of La Noticia, Inc.



[RSVP@DurhamHumanRelations.com](mailto:RSVP@DurhamHumanRelations.com)



## Neighborhood Improvement Services—Code Enforcement Activities—DECEMBER 2017

	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
B/C Abatement	2	3	1	0	0
Daycare	0	0	0	0	0
Expedited	0	0	0	0	0
Group Home	0	0	0	0	0
PRIP	0	1	0	2	0
Repair Only	18	28	5	22	1
Repair or Demolish	0	0	0	0	0
Self Certification	0	0	0	0	0
Unsafe	0	3	0	3	0
Vehicle	4	4	2	20	1
Weeds/Junk & Debris	33	12	8	18	1
<b>Initial Inspections</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3</b>
Warning Inspections	0	0	0	0	0
Re-inspections	127	100	55	128	4
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>7</b>
# Inspections in Designated Area	12	3	3	30	2
Cases brought in Compliance	62	46	26	73	0
Pending Cases (open cases)	165	116	51	148	9
Residential, initial inspections	53	50	16	64	3
Non-Residential, initial inspections	4	1	0	1	0

**PRIP**  
**Proactive Rental Inspection Program**

**Living with housing code violations?**

- ◆ Leaking plumbing
- ◆ Electrical problems
- ◆ Pest infestation
- ◆ Broken windows or doors
- ◆ General disrepair
- ◆ Other concerns

**Call 919-560-1647 for an inspection**

**Did You Know?**

- It is very important if you own property in Durham County that you keep your mailing address current with the Durham County Tax Department. Information in the tax records is used by City of Durham Code Enforcement and other entities to contact you regarding your property.
- Having up-to-date information helps to facilitate fast and efficient communication.