

# The Bull Horn



## Mr. & Mrs. Claus Spread Holiday Cheer!

Staff from Community Engagement and Code Enforcement partnered together to spread some Holiday spirit on December 20, 2019.

Mr. & Mrs. Claus came all the way from the North Pole to double check their Christmas list with students at Holt Elementary School. As the Christmas music played, The Clauses handed out goodie bags stuffed with a CE yo-yo, fruit, candy canes, and chocolates.

Students were sad to see them go, but definitely were understanding. With Christmas just a few days away, there was plenty of work to finish up at Santa's Shop.

Special Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Claus!



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## Together for Resilient Youth (TRY) TIP January 2020

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Prevention - What Everyone Should Know



**CO poisoning is entirely preventable. Protect yourself and your family by learning the symptoms of CO poisoning and how to prevent it.**

When winter temperatures plummet and home heating systems run for hours the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning increases.

Every year, at least 430 people die in the U.S. from accidental CO poisoning. Approximately 50,000 people in the U.S. visit the emergency department each year due to accidental CO poisoning.

There are steps you can take to help protect yourself and your household from CO poisoning. CO is found in fumes produced by furnaces, kerosene heaters, vehicles “warmed up” in garages, stoves, lanterns, and gas ranges, portable generators, or by burning charcoal and wood. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned and can die from breathing CO.

#### **How to Recognize CO Poisoning**

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping or who have been drinking alcohol can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

CO poisoning is entirely preventable. Protect yourself and your family by learning the symptoms of CO poisoning and how to prevent it.

#### **CO Poisoning Prevention Tips**

Change the batteries in your CO detector every six months. If you don't have a battery-powered or battery back-up CO detector, buy one soon.

Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.

Keep vents and flues free of debris. Debris can block ventilation lines.

Never leave the motor running in a vehicle parked in an enclosed or partially enclosed space, such as a garage.

Never run a motor vehicle, generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from an open window, door, or vent where exhaust can vent into an enclosed area.

Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.

Never run a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine inside a basement, garage, or other enclosed structure, even if the doors or windows are open.

If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 or a health care professional right away.

**CO poisoning is entirely preventable.** You can protect yourself and your family by learning the symptoms of CO poisoning and how to prevent it.

Citation: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/copoisoning/index.html>



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[DurhamTRY.org](http://DurhamTRY.org)

## November 2019 Neighbor Spotlight: Connie Becker and Brenda Barbour, Creekside at Bethpage

Congratulations to Connie Becker and Brenda Barbour! They are the City of Durham's Neighborhood Spotlight for November 2019.

Connie and Brenda were recognized for their work in Creekside at Bethpage, the 55+ community where they have lived for three years. Brenda and Connie, are retired nurses from Iowa, who decided to make Durham their new home.

Connie and Brenda moved to Creekside at Bethpage when the community was in the beginning stages of development. They describe their neighborhood as a "friendly and close-knit place, it is the people that make the community". The retired nurses organize and lead information seminars such as "Vile of Life," and "Get your Affairs in Order," which encourages residents to plan for emergencies, and unexpected life events. Brenda and Connie were able to see the needs of their aging community, and it compelled them to organize a Community Medical Equipment Loan Closet, where residents could borrow medical equipment at no cost.

Seeing the success of the Medical Equipment Loan Closet in their community, Brenda and Connie decided to organized the "Pay It Forward Team". The concept, according to the ladies, is a community effort where "neighbors help neighbors." With their medical background, the ladies assess the needs of neighbors, and suggest ways the team can support residents who may need additional support. They visit the resident to evaluate the ways the residents may be supported and send out emails to specific volunteers that may assist the residents in need with a variety of services. The "Pay It Forward Team" can assist resident in a variety of ways, ranging from help with transportation to grocery store runs, or more hands-on support. Additionally, the ladies organize and promote monthly activities and events for all residents.

Brenda and Connie would like to encourage all to get involved in their communities!  
Brenda and Connie, thank you for commitment to making your community a better place!



## December 2019 Neighbor Spotlight: Thelma White, Emorywoods Estates

Congratulations to Thelma White! She is the City of Durham's Neighbor Spotlight for December 2019.

Mrs. White was recognized for her work in Emorywoods Estates, where she has been the President of the Neighborhood Association since 2016.

Mrs. White has been a resident of Durham for over forty years! She takes pride in her community and the relationships the neighbors have built over the years. "We are a close community, we know who lives where and how we are all doing," says Mrs. White about the residents of Emorywoods. To help keep Emorywoods "clean and beautiful," Mrs. White carries a trash bag on her daily walks to pick up the trash that she sees on the way. Because she enjoys a clean community, Mrs. White led a community gutter clean up to ensure that gutters were not clogged in her neighborhood.

Mrs. White is also noted for other kind gestures, which include helping elderly residents with their trash bins, providing landscape advice, helping neighbors with busy schedules, and ensuring her neighborhood is safe by reporting suspicious activity and patrolling the neighborhood.

Mrs. White is concerned about the changes taking place in Durham, particularly the amount of development occurring on highway 55- around Emorywoods Estates. She is also concerned about the development that is affecting traffic and how it will change Emorywoods Estates, a Historic Black Community, especially with gentrification taking place in Durham.

Mrs. White advises all to work hard to keep their neighborhoods clean and safe. Mrs. White thank you for your commitment to your community!



## North Carolina Department of Justice: Work-at-Home Scams

Work-at-home scams advertise on flyers, signs and television, in newspapers and magazines, and over the Internet. What all of these scams have in common is that the company asks for an up-front fee before you can start working. The company may claim that the money is a registration fee, a deposit on materials, or payment for instructional books or computer disks. The truth is that most work-at-home schemes are too good to be true. If it were that easy to make money, then we'd all quit our jobs and work from home. Protect yourself by learning how to spot the most common types of work-at-home scams.

- **Medical Billing Work:** These scams claim that there is a growing market for you to prepare bills for doctors' offices from your home computer. The company sells you software and training materials for hundreds or thousand dollars and promises to give you a list of clients. When you call these potential clients, you learn that the medical billing field is already dominated by large and well-established firms and you can't find any work. Similar scams offer to set you up in debt collection or bad check recovery.
- **Envelope Stuffing:** This long-running scam offers to pay you for each envelope you address or stuff. You send the company money for a start-up kit and materials. In return, you get a list of companies that either do not exist or do not pay people to stuff envelopes.
- **Starting a Home Business:** You pay for instructions on how to place ads like the one you answered and get unsuspecting consumers to send you money.

**SEWING/CRAFT/ASSEMBLY WORK:** SOME SCAMS SELL A LIST OF COMPANIES THEY CLAIM WILL PAY YOU TO MAKE PRODUCTS AT HOME. WHEN YOU CONTACT THE COMPANIES, YOU FIND THEY WILL NOT PAY FOR THAT KIND OF WORK. OTHER SCAMS SELL YOU THE MATERIALS FOR PRODUCING THE ITEMS BUT NEVER PAY YOU FOR THE COMPLETED PRODUCTS.  
HOW TO AVOID WORK-AT-HOME RIP-OFFS

- **Never pay for information** about a work-at-home offer, or for any kind of start-up kit, instructional booklet or list of clients.
- **Be skeptical about earnings claims that sound too good to be true.**
- **Use common sense.** In these days of automation and high-speed printing and mailing equipment, it's unlikely a company would pay several dollars for each envelope you stuff and mail.
- **Keep in mind that just because an ad appears in a reputable newspaper or magazine doesn't mean that it's legitimate.** Ask detailed questions about what exactly you will have to do to earn money with the program. Who will pay you? Will you be paid on commission? Will you be asked to buy supplies or pay for postage? Will they send you a contract that puts all of this in writing before you sign up?
- **Think it over.** It's very hard to get your money back once you send it. After a few months, many work-at-home scammers simply change their company name and address and start all over.

**IF YOU RESPOND TO A WORK-AT-HOME ADVERTISEMENT, BE PREPARED TO GET FLOODED WITH OTHER SUSPECT OFFERS.** THE PEOPLE WHO RUN THESE SCAMS SHARE NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

**If you have a complaint about a work-at-home scam, contact us for help toll free within North Carolina at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.**

## Goose/Ellerbe Creek Cleanup

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, community volunteers along with city employees took part in efforts to revitalize the natural environment of Goose/Ellerbe Creek Watershed.

City employees from Neighborhood Improvement Services and City of Durham General Services departments worked along with volunteers and residents from District 1. They worked diligently beginning at 10:00am through the early afternoon walking along the creek embankment and through the water to collect trash and any discarded items that needed to be removed.

Despite increased environmental awareness, some people still use waterways as a repository for unwanted items to dispose of that will become unsafe for the environment. These neighborhood cleanups provide an aesthetic and environmental benefit, reconnect citizens and the community to the neighborhood and its culture.

A special thanks to the volunteers and residents for work well done!



CITY OF DURHAM - NEIGHBORHOOD  
IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

# NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING GRANTS

Looking for a way to bring your community together?



**Application Deadline: January 31, 2020**

**Award Amount: Up to \$2,500**

**To get started, please go to:**

**[www.DurhamCommunityEngagement.org](http://www.DurhamCommunityEngagement.org)**

**For Questions, please contact Alexis John at**

**[Alexis.John@Durhamnc.gov](mailto:Alexis.John@Durhamnc.gov) or call (919) 560-1647 X34252**



Our Community Engagement team is excited to begin accepting applications for the Spring 2020 Neighborhood Matching Grants. Through a competitive process, neighborhood-based organizations can apply to receive up to \$2,500 to assist in making Durham's neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play.

Please go to [www.DurhamCommunityEngagement.org](http://www.DurhamCommunityEngagement.org) to see examples of past projects funded by this program.

## Neighborhood Improvement Services Code Enforcement Activities December 2019

	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
B/C Abatement	2	1	1	0	0
Daycare	0	0	0	0	0
Expedited	0	0	0	0	0
Group Home	0	0	0	0	0
Repair Only	60	21	37	42	2
Repair or Demolish	1	0	0	0	0
Unsafe	0	0	0	1	0
Vehicle	16	14	7	18	4
Weeds/Junk & Debris	33	61	4	96	1
<b>Initial Inspections</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>7</b>
Warning Inspections	17	0	0	19	0
Re-inspections <sup>126</sup>	126	112	65	134	11
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>18</b>
# Inspections in Designated Area	30	2	13	19	7
Cases brought in Compliance	71	67	24	59	7
Pending Cases (open cases)	154	133	64	150	10
Residential, initial inspections	110	0	25	157	7
Non-Residential, initial inspections	2	5	24	0	0



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

### Fair Housing is Your Right... USE IT

For information contact:  
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 807 East Main Street, Suite 2-300  
 Phone: 919-560-4107  
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