

# City Works



## Sharing City Services With Burlington's Citizens

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## New City Council Seated

### Dr. David L. Maynard Appointed to Vacancy



The new year welcomes new faces to the Burlington City Council. The results of the 2007 election

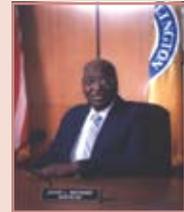


moved councilman, Ronnie K. Wall, to the seat of mayor, while incumbent councilman, David Huffman, solidified another term in office. First-term councilman James B. Butler, was also sworn into office and joins the group with high ambitions for the new year.

With Wall now mayor, a vacancy was created on the Council for the remainder of his term. In response, Council accepted letters of inquiry from the citizens who wished to serve

on Council. After carefully evaluating each candidate, Council voted on the replacement at their January 2, 2008 meeting.

With a 3-1 vote, Dr. David L. Maynard was appointed to the vacant seat. This marks Dr. Maynard's eighth time on the Council with twenty-eight years of previous experience. A resident of east Burlington, Council looks forward to Maynard's experienced perspectives on tough issues that face the City. For more information on the new Council (including individual profiles and contact information), visit the Mayor & Council section on [burlingtonnc.gov](http://burlingtonnc.gov).



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at [burlingtonnc.gov](http://burlingtonnc.gov)



## Drought Presses On... City Water Supply Remains Adequate



Burlington's water supply has improved after several days of rain in late December; however, despite these beneficial gains the majority of the State still remains in an exceptional drought. The long-term forecast still predicts no extended periods of rain through spring. With this in mind, mandatory conservation measures are still in place; however, the City will continue to monitor the situation, adjusting conservation levels as needed.

"The City's reservoirs are slowly recovering with each storm... but we will still need several long soaks before our reservoirs are full again," said Steve Shoaf, Burlington's Utilities Director. "Citizens should remember that

it took many dry months for us to enter this drought and it will take several wet ones to bring us back out."

In addition, Governor Easley is continuing to call on local municipalities and other water utilities to reduce consumption. In a January 3rd news release Easley said, "While the rain last week (December's storms) was most certainly welcome, it frankly did little to improve our very severe situation. We all must continue our strong conservation efforts so we are able to make the most out of the modest water we did receive since the extremely dry conditions are predicted to continue."

While Burlington maintains an adequate...  
See **Water** on page 2.

# CBC Success & Water Conservation

## CBC Success Stories

Since the **Connecting Burlington Communities** (CBC) initiative launched on November 1, citizens have sent over 300 tips to City Staff via e-mail, telephone calls, and tip card submissions (as of January 6, 2008). These tips have helped to reduce crime, improve the community's appearance and called City Staff's attention to a number of important issues. For those citizens who chose to include their contact information on their tip cards, Staff has provided individuals with updates on the status of their inquiries.

Some of the program's many successes include the removal of illegal drugs and weapons from the City's streets. On Friday, December 14, 2007 officers from the Burlington Police Department's Community Crime Abatement Team (CCAT) and Special Operations Unit executed a search warrant at a residence on Mebane Street. Recovered from the occupancy were four weapons and ammunition, including a 12 gauge shotgun, a 30/30 Rifle, a .38 revolver and .32 revolver, as well as, marijuana, cocaine, scales and a wireless video surveillance system. Another search warrant on Thursday, December 20, 2007, resulted in two arrests as officers from the CCAT/Special Operations Divisions searched a residence for potential drug activity on Morningside Drive. Officers arrested two gentlemen who were charged with possession of cocaine, maintaining a dwelling to keep or sell drugs, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Connecting Burlington Communities



Linking Awareness to Action

"The fact that the complaints were generated from neighbors who were concerned enough to make the call to the CBC Hotline, and the fact that illegal drugs were found at the residence, indicates that the system is doing exactly what it is designed to do." said S/Sgt. Steve Foust. "This is another quality of life issue, and should go a long way in making the Morningside Drive area a better place to live" said Foust.

Although not all CBC concerns are criminally related, the program has allowed Staff to connect with citizens and address concerns that each community has about Burlington. When a tip turns out to not be the responsibility of the City, Staff will work with citizens to direct them to the appropriate agency. Citizens are encouraged to use CBC as a tool that can help bring positive change in their communities and serve as a learning tool to citizens on what their tax dollar pays for.

Live assistance is available on the **CBC Hotline (222-5024)**, Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Messages left after hours will be responded to the next business day. Additional information can also be accessed online at [burlingtonnc.gov/CBC](http://burlingtonnc.gov/CBC) along with a description of the program and an interactive reporting form. Finally, CBC tip cards are available at all City facilities. These can be mailed to the address on the card or dropped off where indicated. Help keep your community strong by contributing your knowledge to CBC today!

## Water from Page 1

supply of water compared to many surrounding communities, City Council has agreed with staff's recommendations to continue water conservation measures.

City Council and staff would like to thank citizens for their cooperation in helping to conserve water. Staff has received several calls from citizens and businesses checking to make sure they are in compliance with the mandatory restrictions. A complete description of the City's mandatory water restrictions can be picked up from the Public Information Office in City Hall or can be accessed through the City's website at [burlingtonnc.gov/drought](http://burlingtonnc.gov/drought).

For more information on water conservation or to report a misuse of City water, call the Burlington drought hotline at 222-5007 or fill out a report form at [burlingtonnc.gov/drought](http://burlingtonnc.gov/drought).

## Burlington City Council



Ronnie K. Wall, Mayor  
(336) 570-6090 Ext. 150

David R. Huffman, Councilmember  
(336) 570-2823

Donald C. Starling, Councilmember  
(336) 228-8202

James B. Butler, Councilmember  
(336) 524-8291

David L. Maynard, Councilmember  
(336) 228-6776

# Explorers, Signal Safety, & Tasty Tap

## Burlington Fire Department's Explorer Program

The Explorer Program is offered via a partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, and is open to males and females 14 to 20 years old. The Explorers help with Fire Prevention programs, Community Services, Special Olympics, and other programs. Explorers is geared to young people who are interested in a career with the fire department.



Latest group of Burlington Explorers

To find out more information on the Burlington Fire Department's Explorer program, call Captain Tim Allbritton at 229-3574.

## Burlington Brief

Did you know that according to a New York Times report (10.10.07) municipal tap water is more closely regulated than bottled water? The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for tap water standards while the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water. The EPA requires water utilities to publish an annual water quality report for populations over 10,000. While most bottled water is regulated to the same standards, if it is declared simply as "water," "carbonated water," "disinfected water," "filtered water," "seltzer water," "sparkling water," or "soda water," it is not considered "bottled water" by FDA and is not regulated to the same level.



## Snow Storm, Ice Storm, Thunderstorm.... What Do You Do When a Traffic Signal is Out?

With the winter storm season in full force, electrical outages tend to become more common. As with all inclement weather, it's best to stay at home and not venture out on unsafe roads; however, if travel becomes necessary, citizens will often come into contact with "dark" or "unlit" traffic signals. For the City's Streets Division, placing stop signs at all the City's intersections right after the power goes out is nearly impossible, and difficult at best. Even after the signs have been put out, the automatic restarting of various signals around the City can leave workers scrambling to remove signs before any traffic confusion can occur. With that in mind, the Burlington Traffic Signal Division wants citizens to know that it's important to understand the law when approaching a traffic signal with "dark" or "unlit" heads.



North Carolina law [G.S. 20-158(b)(6)] states:



"When a traffic signal is not illuminated due to a power outage or other malfunction, vehicles shall approach the intersection and proceed through the intersection as though such intersection is controlled by a stop sign on all approaches to the intersection. This subdivision shall not apply if the movement of traffic at the intersection is being directed by a law enforcement officer, another authorized person, or another type of traffic control device."

\*\*\*REMEMBER\*\*\* In the event of a power outage at a traffic signal, please obey the law; it may save a life.

# Upcoming Events & CBC Related Tips



## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH



**February 1** - Guilford Mackintosh Park & Marina Opens for the Spring Season at 8:00 AM

**February 4** - Kernodle Senior Center: Free Hearing Screening, 12:00 - 3:30 PM by appointment, Ages: 55+ Call 222-5135.

**February 7 - April 3** - Recreation & Parks: Toddler Recreation Station, Thursdays from 10:00am-11:00am for ages 2-5. \$5 per child; \$2 discount for additional children. For more information or to register call 222-5072.

**February 7 - 10** - Paramount Theatre Acting Company's Production of RUTHIE, 7-9th, 8:00 PM; 10th at 3:00 PM. Admission: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$9 for students, seniors 55+ and groups of 10 or more. Suitable for all audiences.

**February 29** - Kernodle Senior Center: Senior Trivia Day, Ages: 55+; Cost: Free; Bring a covered dish and enjoy a game.

**March 21** - City Offices Closed for Good Friday

**March 21** - Recreation & Parks: Glow In The Dark Egg Hunt 6:30 PM; Ages: 1-5; Admission: Free; Mayco Bigelow Community Center

**March 22** - Burlington City Park Hunt; 10:00 AM; Ages: 0-12; Admission: Free; There will be age divisions throughout the park. The Easter Bunny will also visit.

**March 29** - Recreation & Parks and the Burlington Kiwanis Club: Kite Making Clinic, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM; All Ages; Admission: Free; Thataways Youth Center. Call 229-3148.

## Junk Cars, Graffiti, and Landscaping... Oh My!

As Burlington's CBC program continues, City Staff have seen that some citizens may be unaware of certain City policies and ordinances that address community appearance. The following is a list of some common CBC requests that the City has limited authority over.



**Junk Cars** - Junk cars are a type of "abandoned motor vehicle." Both abandoned vehicles and junk cars are subject to action by the City, but that action changes based on the offense.

To be an "abandoned motor vehicle," a vehicle must:

- 1) be left on a street in violation of a parking law, or
- 2) left on City property for over 24 hours, or
- 3) left on private property without consent, or
- 4) left on any public street or highway for longer than seven days.

A "junked motor vehicle" is an "abandoned motor vehicle" that also:

- 1) is partially dismantled or wrecked, or
- 2) cannot be self-propelled or move in its original manner, or
- 3) is more than five years old and worth less than \$100.00, or
- 4) does not display a current license plate.

**Graffiti** - Although spray painting property or "tagging" occurs more often in the warmer months, graffiti is an issue that faces all of Burlington year-round. The City only removes graffiti on City property; however, several local pressure washing companies are beginning to offer this service.



**Landscaping** - During the autumn the City provides leaf pick-up to citizens who place their leaves at the edge of their property. Please do not place leaves in the street where they can stop stormwater drainage. Additionally, when mowing a lawn, please do not blow grass clippings and/or put other yard waste into the street. This can also clog storm drains.

If you wish to report junk cars, graffiti on City Property, or debris being placed in the roadway, please call the CBC at 222-5024 or log on to [burlingtonnc.gov/cbc](http://burlingtonnc.gov/cbc) to fill out an online tip card.