

City Works



Sharing City Services With Burlington's Citizens

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2008-2009 City Budget Approved No Tax Increase

At the June 3, 2008 meeting of the Burlington City Council, City Manager Harold Owen presented Council with a budget that held Burlington's tax rate at 62.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. In light of the steep climb in fuel prices and economic hardships, both Council and staff felt it was important for there to be no property tax increases at this time.

The proposed General Fund budget for 2008-2009 came to \$48,068,219. Burlington has been able to hold the line on tax increases by maintaining a diversified fund base.

Less than half of the City's General Fund budget comes from property taxes; instead,



it is comprised of sales taxes, fees, and other cost reimbursements.

The approved budget distributes funds throughout the City's various departments, concentrating funds on police and fire protection corresponding Council's continued emphasis on public safety. Four new patrol officers will be funded to further enhance BPD's commitment to improving the quality of life for all Burlington residents.

Additionally, water rates will not incur any additional charges for the third consecutive year in a row. Several major infrastructure repairs will help to preserve the city's robust water and sewer systems in FY 08-09. Repairs are planned for inflow & infiltration reduction, dam repairs at Lake Cammack & Stoney Creek, and water...

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Visit the City of Burlington on the web at burlingtonnc.gov

Burlington Fire Dept. Recommended for OSHA Star

The Burlington Fire Department was recently recommended for the North Carolina Public Sector STAR safety award. After 8 months of hard work and dedication, the Burlington Fire Department, with the leadership of Deputy Chief Todd Bradley, is poised to become the first stand-alone fire department in North Carolina to achieve the Public Sector STAR safety award. There are 230,000 employers in North Carolina but only 103 of these have been named Carolina STAR sites. Furthermore, out of these 103 sites, only 8 of these have earned the Public Sector STAR award.

STAR involves an extensive application process, including a score of at least 65 on the examiner's rating sheet. The Burlington Fire Department finished the evaluation

process with a score of 90.

Kimberly Bostic, a NC Department of Labor STAR Program Consultant delivered the

good news at the end of May. She also informed the Fire Department that they may request the Public Sector STAR award be presented by a representative of the Department of Labor in a public ceremony. BFD is expecting the final approval by July or August.

Congratulations to the Burlington Fire Department and Deputy Chief Bradley for their hard work in creating a safer work environment for all employees!



Stormwater Tips & Budget Continued

Summertime Stormwater Tips

As the season's begin to warm up, Burlington residents start spending more time outdoors manicuring their lawns and gardens to perfection.... but did you know that your vegetation helps maintain the drinking water supply? Vegetation helps a lawn retain water and prevents erosion, but those grasses, trees, and other plants also help slow down and absorb rainwater as it makes its way to the city's stormwater drains. This not only helps reduce runoff on your property, but it also helps prevent sediment from being carried down storm drains which can reduce water clarity and even destroy aquatic habitats.

REMEMBER: NC is prone to periodic droughts, so when you plant your garden make sure to use plants that are native to the Piedmont Triad area. This will help avoid excessive water, fertilizer, and pesticide use.

Speaking of pesticide, did you know that many gardeners use pesticide amounts up to 20 times more than the rate of farmers? A little spray can go a long way, try to use pesticides, chemicals, and fertilizer sparingly. Avoid spraying these chemicals when rain is in the forecast. This prevents them from simply washing off and into city streams. Be sure to clean and rinse any equipment over the lawn or garden, not on the sidewalk, driveway, and never down a storm drain.

Chemicals aren't the only thing that need caution around the city's storm drains; plenty of natural materials can also cause issues. When grass clippings, leaves, and other yard materials are blown into city streets, they will eventually be washed into stormwater systems. This debris can get caught in a drain or culvert causing local flooding, instead of flowing through stormwater systems directly into rivers and streams.

Some may think that since yard debris is organic, how does it hurt the city's reservoirs and streams? As this organic material enters reservoirs and streams, it decays and eats up the oxygen in the water. This can adversely affect aquatic life causing unsafe oxygen levels in the water. Want to catch the next big bass at Recreation and Parks next fishing event? Help keep their environment healthy by keeping your storm drains clean and clear.



So, instead of blowing grass clippings down the drain, keep in mind grass clippings do not cause thatch build-up in your lawn. Thatch is last year's roots and stems, not clippings. So, when mowing your lawn, try leaving the grass clippings. Those clippings can provide 1/3 to 1/4 of the nutrients your lawn needs in a year. This can save a fertilizer application each year. You can also compost leaves and grass clippings at home.

For more information of how the city's stormwater system functions, log onto the city's website and search for keyword "Stormwater" and click on the "Public Education" section. Here you will find information on stormwater management, FAQs, tips and fees. You may also call Public Works at (336) 222-5005.



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... line replacements. All of these repairs help to ensure taxpayers' investments continue to serve the community for many years to come.

Sewer rates will increase by 4% to help pay for over \$6 million in annual expenditures. Despite this marginal increase, Burlington sewer rates will still remain significantly lower than many surrounding communities.

The average city utility customer, using 6,000 gallons per month, spent \$43.89 last year

(including stormwater, solid waste/recycling disposal). The sewer rate increase will raise that estimated rate to \$44.67 in FY 08-09, while a single person household using 2,500 gallons will only see an increase of one cent.



Burlington City Council

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(336) 228-6776



Memorial Gazebo and Bark Park

Betsy Brown Chandler Gazebo Dedicated



On Saturday, May 17, Betsy Brown Chandler was honored at Burlington City Park with a gazebo named in her honor. "Betsy's spirit is here in City Park with the whistle of the train, the music from the carousel and the laughter of children playing nearby," reads a plaque now adorned to the structure.

Mrs. Chandler (1956-2003) was an inspirational worker and outstanding employee for the Burlington Recreation and Parks Department. Her vision for the development of the Senior Adult Activities Program can be seen at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Center and in the annual play of Senior Games.



She left her mark on the Burlington Athletic Division, the Special Olympics, and souvenirs at the Carousel Festival. She was a beloved wife, sister, daughter and friend; Burlington employees hold a special place for her in their hearts.



Jiggs Askew Memorial Bark Park Now Open

Located on the corner of Overbrook Road and Kitchen Street, the Jiggs Askew Memorial Bark Park offers residents a place to take man and woman's best friend for some off-leash, outdoor fun. Divided into two sections (one section for larger dogs and the other for smaller dogs) the park offers canines ample space to play and socialize.

The park is named in memory of the Alamance Kennel Club's former president, Jiggs Askew. Mr. Askew was a dog trainer and a lover of canines.

The facility was made possible with land set aside by the city and a \$40,000 gift from Alamance Kennel Club to build the site.



Events, Summer Tips, & Briefs



UPCOMING CITY EVENTS FOR JUNE AND JULY



June 26 - 29 - Paramount Theater: P-A-C Cole's Dairy Lunch; (336) 222-TIXS

July 3 - Independence Day Celebration at City Park with fireworks and festivities from 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM; Performances by the Embers and the Company Shops Concert Band

July 4 - City Offices closed for Independence Day

July 6 - Sunset Rhythms Concert Series: Craicdown (Celtic, French and Brazilian Music); Willowbrook Park at 6:30 PM; Call 222-5030.

July 10 - Paramount Theater: Rick Alviti; *Elvis: The Way It Was*; (336) 222-TIXS

July 13 - Sunset Rhythms Concert Series: Triad Youth Jazz Society (Youth Jazz Group); North Park at 6:30 PM; Call 222-5030.

July 26 - 31 - East Coast Baseball Trip; See six professional baseball teams play in 3 stadiums in one trip; Package includes tickets to 3 games, 5 nights of hotel accommodations, bus transportation, breakfast each morning & baggage handling; Call 229-3148.

Safe Fun In the Summer Sun



Fireworks:

Certain fireworks are legal for use in North Carolina as long as they are used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Prohibited fireworks include:

- Fireworks that propel themselves or leave the ground.
- Fireworks that contain a report (loud bang).

Child Passenger Safety:

- Make sure your kids are secured in the appropriate child safety seat or safety belt for their age and size.
- Kids should always be secured in the back seat.
- Study both your vehicle owner's manual and child safety seat instructions carefully.

Swim Safety:

- Always supervise young children near water, including pools, spas, toilets, bathtubs and buckets.
- Insist your children wear personal flotation devices when out on boats, near open bodies of water or participating in water sports.



Bicycle Safety:

- Make sure your kids wear properly fitting helmets and other protective gear every time they ride their bikes, scooters, inline skates or skateboards.
- Teach your children the rules of the road and practice obeying traffic laws with them.

Heat Related Emergencies:

- Stay hydrated with plenty of water.
- Wear light colored clothing to help keep the body cooler.
- Learn the signs of heat exhaustion and heat strokes.

For more information visit www.usa.safekids.org or www.nfpa.org and type summer safety in the search bar.

Burlington Briefs

New Website Pages Added

New pages have been added to the City of Burlington's website to address two pressing issues: Jordan Lake Rules and Gangs.

[BurlingtonNC.gov/
JordanLake](http://BurlingtonNC.gov/JordanLake)

AND

[BurlingtonNC.gov/
Gangs](http://BurlingtonNC.gov/Gangs)

Both contain updates & information on these important topics.

Time Warner Phone Number Change

Time Warner Cable's maintenance and repair number is changing to: 866-874-2380.

