

# City Works



*Sharing City Services With Burlington's Citizens*

Inside this issue of *City Works*:

### COVER

- Gang Prevention Initiatives
- Save Our Sewers!

### PAGE 2

- Gang Prevention Initiatives
- Save Our Sewers!

### PAGE 3

- Police Reaccreditation
- Smoke Detectors
- Animal Services

### BACK

- Upcoming Events
- Spring Fitness Safety
- Gang ID Tips

## Gang Awareness Takes Center Stage City Council Takes Strong Response to Local Gang Activity

The Burlington City Council continues to take a proactive approach in addressing gang related issues within the City. At the Council's retreat on February 13, City staff presented the latest information on gang related initiatives and their results so far. Additionally, Police Chief Michael Williams reported on successes related to the Connecting Burlington Communities (CBC) initiative where tips from citizens have helped to improve the City's quality of life by removing the criminal element and paving the way for restoration. Two specialized teams that have helped to carry out these objectives are the Community Crime Abatement Team (CCAT) and the Gang Investigations Unit.

The Burlington Police Department recognizes that city gang activity is a priority; however, activity does not end at the city's limits. In response, several law enforcement agencies have come together to ensure criminals are removed from the area regardless of where departmental jurisdiction may rest. The result is the Alamance County Gang Crimes Task Force. This group is made up of officers from every municipal law enforcement agency within Alamance County. Its members share county wide jurisdiction...



See **Gangs** on pg. 2

## Save Our Sewers! Stop Grease & Protect Our Environment

In January, Burlington experienced another sewer overflow due to a block in the City's sanitary sewer system. The blockage resulted in approximately 4,150 gallons of untreated wastewater reaching surface waters. Sadly, similar instances of sewer overflow occur throughout the year and fines can cost the City up to \$25,000. Most incidents can be averted if citizens address the primary cause... **grease**.



Unlike other liquids introduced to the system, grease has the tendency to congeal into a solid mass that blocks the flow of water through the sewer. The primary introduction of grease is via citizens' kitchen sinks. Over time,

cooking grease, fats and other oils poured down the sink harden resulting in a backup of wastewater which in-turn rises to the surface. The City is reminding citizens to put grease in its place, the garbage!

### Tips for Disposal of Grease and Cooking Oils

- Save old food cans or jars as grease containers;
- Pour grease into these containers instead of down the drain;
- Place grease in the freezer before disposing in the trash;
- Mix liquids with absorbent materials such as used paper towels or coffee grounds before disposing in the trash;

The City of Burlington's Utilities Dept is committed...

See **Grease** on pg. 2

*City Works* is a bi-monthly publication from the City of Burlington's Public Information Office. It is distributed to citizens via water bills at a cost of \$0.13 per issue.

Editor: John Nixon,  
Public Information  
Officer

City of Burlington  
P.O. Box 1358  
425 S. Lexington Ave.  
Burlington, NC 27216  
(336) 222-5076

Visit the City of  
Burlington on the web  
at [burlingtonnc.gov](http://burlingtonnc.gov)

# Gang Awareness & Grease Continued

## Gangs from Page 1

...through mutual aid agreements between participating agencies. Currently headquartered out of the Sheriff's Department Gang Unit Offices, members work together to address the rising problem of street gangs in our various communities. The Task Force is heavily involved in every aspect of gang prevention, intervention, and suppression, and is currently investigating numerous gang related incidents throughout Alamance County. In addition, the Task Force has connections with Federal and State Law Enforcement organizations through continued work with North Carolina Probation & Parole Officers, Alcohol Law Enforcement Agents, the State Bureau of Investigations, and participation in the newly formed Federal Bureau of Investigation's Regional Gang Crimes Task Force.



### Prevention:

Members of the Alamance County Gang Crimes Task Force routinely use tactics aimed at preventing the growth of street gangs within our cities and county. These tactics include various outreach, educational, and awareness activities designed to prevent further membership in gangs, educate families, and bring attention to the current climate of gangs within our communities. Task Force members conduct these initiatives on a daily basis. Some of the tools used include: G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education & Awareness Training), formal presentations to civic, professional, faith-based or business organizations, and one-on-one contact with at-risk youth in our communities. These youth are routinely referred to social assistance organizations and other available programs.

### Intervention:

Members of the Alamance County Gang Crimes Task Force also take part in providing intervention counseling to youth who may be affiliated with or are known to be members of a gang. This counseling is usually conducted on a one-on-one basis while Task Force members are out working an investigation, or conducting some form of prevention, intervention, or suppression action. In addition, Task Force members seek out senior/older members of street gangs in an attempt to persuade these individuals to help affect change in a given community. Task Force members often provide the parents of these individuals with their direct contact information so they can call a unit member directly when a concern or problem arises. Task Force members also solicit the help of agencies which provide counseling and or social assistance to individuals and families alike.

### Suppression:

Suppression efforts conducted by members of the Alamance County Gang Crimes Task Force include the use of field contacts made during a member's shift, and other law enforcement tactics. Task Force members often conduct and participate in the execution of search warrants, undercover drug buys from gang members, and surveillance operations. Gang member validations and intelligence tracking are a key factor in not only suppression activities but in prevention and intervention tactics as well. When encountered in public, gang members and their tattoos are commonly photographed and complete documentation of their activity is made. If possible, they are interviewed as to their participation in the gang.

Suspect gang activity in your community? Call the CBC Hotline at **222-5024** or submit a CBC Tip card at a City facility or online at **BurlingtonNC.gov/CBC**.

## Grease from Page 1

... to keeping the City's communities and waterways clean for the health and enjoyment of all citizens; however, this can only be accomplished with the help of the community. The City strives to reduce the number of sewer spills to help achieve this goal. *You can help by taking the time to dispose of your grease and oils properly.*

Residential partnerships are only one part of the solution. Businesses should ensure that their employees understand the proper means of grease disposal. All restaurants should have adequate grease control measures in place.

**REMEMBER:** Grease blockages don't only come from grease and oils, they also develop from the disposal of greasy foods items via your garbage disposal. If you have greasy food scraps, remember to "freeze and throw away" the food with your other cans/jars of frozen grease.

## Burlington City Council



Ronnie K. Wall, Mayor  
(336) 587-5160

David R. Huffman, Mayor Pro Tem  
(336) 570-2823

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

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

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

# *BPD Review, Alarmed, Animal Services*

## **Burlington Police Department Completes Reaccreditation Process**

The Burlington Police Department had a re-accreditation on-site assessment March 15-19, 2008. Three CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc)

Assessors reviewed documentation to support compliance of 459 standards for the past three years.

A final report will be sent to the department's Program Manager at CALEA, and then onto the full Commission for review and a decision. Chief Williams and others from the department will appear before the Commission and receive the outcome in July 2008.



## *Burlington Brief*

The Burlington Fire Department recently began the third phase of the Get Alarmed Grant Program through the North Carolina Department of Public Health.

This third phase provided an additional 250 smoke alarms to be installed for residents inside the city limits of Burlington.

City residents wishing to receive a free home inspection and free smoke alarm may call 229-3132.



## **Animal Services Reminder: Have Proper Pet Identification**

**B**urlington Animal Services takes in thousands of lost or stray animals each year. By law, the City is required to hold a stray animal for 3 days. Burlington does not include the day a stray comes in, holidays, and/or weekends in this hold period. This hold time is not required for animals surrendered to the shelter by their owners.



Unfortunately, most of these animals have no identification of any kind, making it nearly impossible to find the owner. Surprisingly, many people never think to look for their pet(s) at the shelter. Sadly, without proper identification, most pets never make it back home.



owner through a database. Furthermore, a microchip can't come out or get lost!

Thanks to this technology, Burlington Animal Services, as well as many veterinary clinics and other animal care agencies, can scan animals and find their owners. Most veterinarians in Burlington provide this form of permanent identification.

Remember, pets can't carry a wallet or speak for themselves, so don't take the risk of not being able to find your pet should they get lost. Make sure your pet has proper ID today!

# Upcoming Events, Safe Walking, Gangs



## UPCOMING CITY EVENTS FOR APRIL AND MAY



**April 8** - Reverse Mortgage; Kernodle Senior Center; 10:15 AM; Consumer Credit Counseling will conduct a seminar on Reverse Mortgages. Call 222-5135 to register.

**April 12** - Kite Flying Derby; Burlington Tennis Center & Maynard Aquatic Center Field; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM; All Ages; Call 229-3148 or 222-5030.

**April 26** - "What's After High School?" Expo 2008; Mayco Bigelow Community Center; 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM; Explore your options after high school at this second annual expo. Call the North Park Public Library at 226-7185 for information.

**April 26** - Bass Tournament; Lake Mackintosh; Ages: 16 & up; 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM; Entry Fee: \$35.00

**May 3** - MackFest; Lake Mackintosh; 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Escape from the hustle and bustle and breathe in the outdoors at Lake Mackintosh. Call 229-3148 or 222-5030.

Rain date: Sunday, May 4th, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**May 10** - Lake Clean Up Day; Boaters, fishermen, canoeists & kayak users: be sure to grab a bag and help pick up trash. All participants will receive a free day at the lake for helping in the clean-up efforts. Call 449-2078.

**May 4 - August 3** - Sunset Rhythms Concert Series; Fridays & Sundays; Enjoy an evening downtown or in a beautiful park enjoying a wide variety of musical formats. Call 222-5030.

**May 26** - City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

## Spring Safely Into Fitness

As we enter the time of year where people begin to enjoy the outdoors more, it's important to remember personal safety when exercising on City streets. Remember, when walking be sure to face traffic. This helps to ensure your safety as well as any vehicles that may be sharing the road.

According to North Carolina General Statute § 20-174 (d) and § 20-4.01 (38), *when a sidewalk is available, pedestrians must use the sidewalk instead of walking on the roadway, which is defined as the part of the highway that is paved, graveled, or otherwise improved for vehicle travel.* Additionally, § 20-174 states that *when sidewalks are not provided, pedestrians walking along or on the highway should, when practicable, walk on the extreme left of the roadway or shoulder facing traffic and must yield the right-of-way to traffic.*



Don't forget bicycle safety either. In North Carolina, the bicycle has the legal status of a vehicle. This means that bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle. North Carolina traffic laws require bicyclists to: ride on the right in the same direction as other traffic, obey all traffic signs and

signals, use hand signals to communicate intended movements, and equip their bicycles with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector that is visible from a distance of 200 feet when riding at night.

Regardless of if you are out walking, riding, or driving a motor vehicle, remember to share the road.

## Recognizing Gang Activity At Home



Preventing youths from entering gangs starts at home. Below are warning signs to look for if you suspect your child may be involved in gang activity.

- Shows an unusual interest in one or two particular colors of clothing or a particular logo;
- Has an unusual interest in gangster-influenced music, videos, movies, or websites;
- Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends;
- Has specific drawings or gang symbols on school books, clothes, walls, or tattoos;
- Comes home with unexplained physical injuries (fighting-related bruises, injuries to hand/knuckles);
- Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry;
- Has been in trouble with the police;
- Exhibits negative changes in behavior such as: withdrawing from family, declining school attendance, performance, behavior, staying out late without reason, displaying an unusual desire for secrecy, exhibiting signs of drug use, breaking rules consistently, speaking in gangstyle slang.