

City Works

October - November 2008



City of Burlington, NC - "Connecting the Triad & Triangle"

Inside this issue of *City Works*...

COVER

- Heating Safety
- Council Meetings Now Online

PAGE 2

- Fall Leaf Collection
- Council Meetings Now Online (Continued)

PAGE 3

- Yard Waste vs. Stormwater
- Council Chamber's Technology Face-Lift

BACK

- Upcoming Events
- A Bite Out of Bulk
- Project Safe Alamance

Heating Safety is at Your Door

The cold winter months are just around the corner and the Burlington Fire Department wants residents to stay safe while staying warm. Heating safety is always a priority for the fire department but this winter it is of particular concern. Rising energy costs may have many residents seeking alternative and less expensive ways to heat homes. This can be safe as long as it's properly done.

To prevent an increase in the number of home fires this winter the fire department will be going door-to-door with heating information. Firefighters will be leaving door tags for residents to review with information on fireplace safety, electric heaters, and

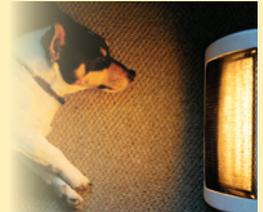


kerosene heaters.

Please review this information when you see it and help the fire department prevent an increase in the number of home fires this winter. For more information visit www.BurlingtonNC.gov/fire.

Heating Tips from the BFD

- Keep all objects at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Do not remove safety devices or guards from heaters.
- Never use your oven or other cooking appliances to heat your home.
- Have chimneys professionally cleaned in the fall before use.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly!



City Council Meetings Now Online

Public meetings held by the City of Burlington are no longer only available on cable television or by purchase, but are now being offered online. Citizens can log onto www.BurlingtonNC.gov and watch meetings live the first and third Tuesday of each month. In addition, archived videos are available 24-7 for on-demand viewing.

"Burlington is committed to open, transparent decision-making," said John Nixon, Public Information Officer. "We've



televised public meetings for years. Now, citizens can see public meetings on their home computers... citizens won't have to have cable to see their elected leaders at work."

Archived videos are available at any time on the City's website and are indexed to increase citizens' ability to access information. After opening a video, citizens can click an agenda item and go straight to the topics that interest them. Additionally, a search field is available to find discussion on any topic throughout the entire archive. "Instead of having to call City Hall to request a copy of a meeting, citizens now can watch it any time from their home or office," said Nixon. "No longer will citizens have to watch an entire meeting to get the items they are concerned..." **See Online Meetings - Page 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 \$0.14 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.

Leaf Collection & Online Video

City of Burlington 2008-09 Leaf Collection Schedule

Collection Guidelines

- Loose leaves should be piled behind the curb or on the shoulder of streets without curb and gutter by 7:00 a.m. on the Monday of the week scheduled for collection.
- Please do not pile leaves in the street, in drainage ditches, or over water meters.
- Do not park in front of, or on leaf piles.
- Leaves which contain gravel, limbs, glass, or other solid matter will not be collected.
- Should you desire more frequent leaf collection, you may place leaves in your yard waste can, box, or in clear plastic bags for collection on your regular trash day.
- Do not mix limbs with leaves. Limbs are collected separately and will result in your leaves not being collected.

Section 1

October 20 - 24
November 3 - 7
December 1 - 5
January 5 - 9

Section 2

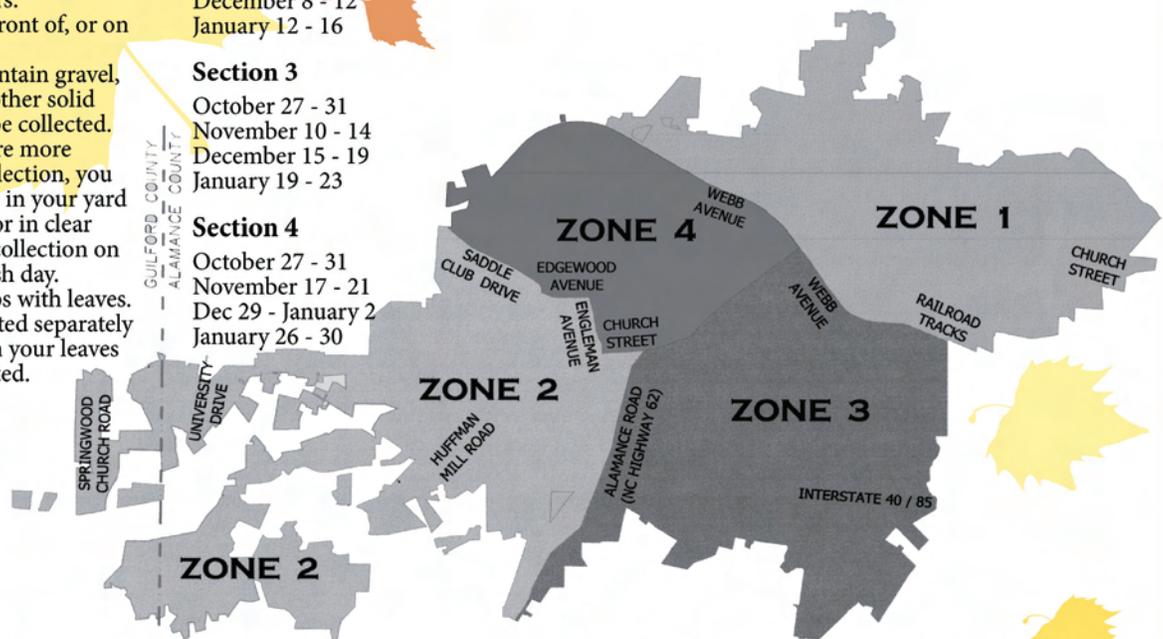
October 20 - 24
November 3 - 7
December 8 - 12
January 12 - 16

Section 3

October 27 - 31
November 10 - 14
December 15 - 19
January 19 - 23

Section 4

October 27 - 31
November 17 - 21
Dec 29 - January 2
January 26 - 30



Questions about leaf collection? Call the City Cemetery Division at 222-5077 or 222-5078 or Public Works at 222-5005.

Online Meetings - From Page 1

...about; one click and they are there.” The City’s website currently offers City Council meetings from August, September, and October. The library will grow over time.

In addition to meetings held by the City Council, editions of the City’s “At Your Service” television show, currently aired on cable Channel 5, will also be available. Other special programming will be available from time to time. Archived videos will be available for at least one year from their original air date.

Granicus webcasting is free to use and works best with DSL or higher Internet speeds. Granicus webstreaming is used by hundreds of

cities, counties, and state agencies across the nation. Burlington joins several other local governments in North Carolina already using the service including: Chapel Hill, Wilson, Durham, Greensboro, Winston-Salem and several others.

“Granicus is a turn-key operation,” Nixon said. “They have created a simple, easy-to-navigate web system that allows city staffers to post videos easily each month. We hope this service provides better and easier access for our residents to feel more connected to their local government and will assist in increasing public awareness and participation on important policy issues and decisions.”

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



Yard Waste & Council Chamber

Did you know that blowing or sweeping grass clippings, fallen leaves, or other yard waste into the street or down the storm drain can cause flooding?

Yard waste can clog storm drains and prevent stormwater from flowing through the pipes. This could create problems in areas which generally are not prone to flooding. So what are alternatives? **Mulch the leaves and use them as fertilizer or compost.** Why?

- **Good for your lawn.** Fallen leaves and grass clippings are a valuable natural resource. Left on the lawn, they can provide up to 25% of your lawn's total fertilizer needs and leaves contain 50 to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. To keep these nutrients where they can nourish your lawn, mulch grass clippings and leaves and leave them on the lawn or compost them.

- **Good for your wallet.** Not only does blowing or sweeping yard waste into the street or nearby storm drain consume taxpayers' money, but bagging this yard waste to be hauled off to the landfill also uses valuable landfill space and costs residents more in increased taxes and service fees. By leaving grass clippings and leaves on your lawn, you are supplying it with natural fertilizers, which means you spend less money on store-bought fertilizers.

- **Good for lakes, streams and creeks.** Yard waste that is left, dumped, blown, or swept in the street or storm drain will eventually be washed into nearby creeks, streams, and lakes during a storm. Yard waste in local waterways can deplete the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life. Chemical fertilizers used on the lawn can also wash down the storm drain. So, by using your yard waste as a natural fertilizer, you can help reduce stormwater pollution.

Another option is to utilize the City of Burlington's Yard Waste and Leaf Collection services. These programs are outlined on the City's website. Visit www.BurlingtonNC.gov/cemetery for the Leaf Collection program or BurlingtonNC.gov/sanitation for the Yard Waste program.



The City of Burlington's Council chamber recently underwent a technological face-lift.

After 40 years of very few changes, the chamber was recently appointed with new viewing screens for the audience and recessed monitors in the Council's dais. With the majority of presentations and documents in electronic form, the new arrangement will help cut down on the amount of paper purchased. Additionally, a new computer system provides the chamber presenters with Internet access, as well as a hookup for laptop presenters. All these advances will work in harmony with the City's current television broadcasts and new webstreaming service to provide viewers with information that was previously only accessible by coming to meetings.

In addition, a new monitor has been added to the lobby of City Hall. As the City's population continues to grow, so have the demands of the 1968 Council chamber. In the past, residents have had to squeeze into the chamber for popular events. This often left concerned citizens out in the lobby with no way of hearing/seeing meetings. The new monitor is coupled with a speaker system that shows current meetings live in the lobby. Chairs are arranged in this overflow space so capacity crowds can easily keep track of meeting events. Since the feed is live, citizens wishing to speak at public hearings can simply get up from their seat in the lobby and enter the Council chamber when called upon.

Aside from overflow use, the new monitor serves a dual role as an electronic message board during the day. The message board features information on upcoming City events and department announcements.



Events, Bulk Waste, & Safe Alamance



Upcoming Events



Oct. 31: Dark In The Park at City Park from 5:00-9:30 PM; fireworks at dusk; amusement rides, costume contests, carnival games, inflatable rides and candy for trick or treating.

Nov. 3-Nov. 8: Alamance County Rabies Clinic; \$5.00 per animal. Call 570-6302, 578-1386 or 570-6367 for times and locations.

Nov. 14-16 & 21-23: Gallery Players present *The Crucible* at the Paramount Theater, a drama about Puritan purge of witchcraft in Old Salem. Call 336-222-TIXS for more information.

Nov. 27 & 28: City offices closed for Thanksgiving holidays.

Nov. 30: Paramount Theater Presents - *Christmas with The Embers*. Call 336-222-TIXS for more information.

Dec. 11-14: A-C-T presents the Best Christmas Pageant Ever at the Paramount Theater. Call 336-222-TIXS.

Dec. 16: Home School Band - Christmas Concert at the Paramount Theater

Dec. 24-26: City offices closed for the Christmas holidays.

Take a Bite Out of Your Bulk Waste!

In addition to weekly curbside garbage collection, the Burlington Sanitation Division provides pickup of yard and bulk waste on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Yard waste may be bagged, stacked, or placed in a container. If bagged, clear plastic bags will be serviced. Clear bags allow our workers to see what is in the bag to ensure that it only contains yard waste. Tree trimmings, cuttings, shrubbery, grass clippings, and other items less than 4 feet long may be placed in containers not exceeding 32-gallons in capacity and/or 50 pounds in weight. Please do not use the rollout container(s) or recycle bin(s) for yard waste. Large quantities of brush or tree limbs less than 6 feet long should be stacked separately and will be collected by a different truck. Yard waste that is bagged, in a container, or placed in small piles is picked up at no additional charge. Or better yet, reuse your leaves and grass clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer.



Bulk trash collection is provided on a convenience basis; as needed or requested. Bulk waste is charged based on the "bite" or scoop from a boom truck. A bite is approximately 1.5 cubic yards, or for example a pile that is about 4 feet by 5 feet by 2 feet. There is no charge for the first bite. The charge for two bites is \$13.50 and each additional bite costs \$6.75. A resident that has a large volume of bulk waste may put out smaller piles each week to minimize the fee they pay, or they may choose to put out a large pile and pay the appropriate bulk waste fee.

Bulk trash includes items that are too large to fit into the 90-gallon rollout container used for garbage collection. Examples include: furniture, mattresses, rolled carpet, metals, and white goods (appliances). Items should not be commingled, but rather separated by type. Different trucks pick-up different types of items.

Items that will not be picked up include: tires, batteries, building materials & lumber, closed containers such as oil drums, liquids, chemicals, hazardous wastes, recyclables, and logs/stumps. Also, items too large to fit into the collection vehicle will not be picked up.

Please call the Sanitation Division at 222-5111 if you have any questions or wish to schedule a pick up of bulk waste.

Project Safe Alamance Reentry Initiative

The Project Safe Alamance Reentry Initiative meets on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00PM in the Emergency Operations Center located at the Burlington Police Department.

If you or your business, church, or organization currently works with offenders or is interested in working with offenders, please join.

For more information, contact Dianne Shipmon, PSA Resource Coordinator at (336) 513-5413.

