

# City Works



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

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## Councilman Honored For Service



The late Councilman Donald C. Starling was remembered at the December 2, 2008 Burlington City Council meeting by fellow Councilmembers, as well as family and friends. Mayor Ronnie K. Wall addressed the family and read

aloud a plaque eulogizing Starling's life as a public servant. In addition to the plaque, the family was presented with flowers while Councilmembers reflected on the contributions Councilman Starling brought to the City over his distinguished

career. Beginning in 1982, Starling served on the Planning and Zoning Commission and eventually became the committee's Chair in 1986. In 2004, he was selected by the City Council to fill a vacant seat left open by Steve Ross after his election to Mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem David Huffman remembered the selection process and that "Don was the perfect person to fill the role with his 20 years of experience... he always did his homework."

Councilmember Jim Butler also had kind words of remembrance, recalling that Starling had shown kindness towards him during Butler's inaugural period on Council. Mayor Wall recalled Starling's love of playing golf with his grandson and commented on just how much the Councilman valued his family. All members present echoed that Starling would be sincerely missed.

## Receiving Warnings Saves Lives - NOAA Weather All Hazards Radio

The deadly tornadoes which raced across Johnston and Wilson counties the morning of November 15th have many people asking, "How do I receive tornado warnings in the middle of the night and how can I protect my family?" The answer is a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio. When it comes to tornadoes and severe storms, seconds save lives. On the night of the deadly tornadoes the National Weather Service, who's mission is the protection of life and property, was able to provide an average warning lead time of 29 minutes meaning warnings were issued for the tornadoes well in advance to their touching the ground. NOAA Weather Radios across both Johnston and Wilson counties were sounding the alarm the

morning of the tornadoes, but many households do not have these life saving devices. Even with the warning lead time, night time tornadoes are always extremely dangerous since many people are asleep and not monitoring local television or radio. Again NOAA Weather Radio is one of the best ways to receive warnings at night.

NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NOAA Weather Radio is provided as... **See NOAA on Page 2**

*City Works* is a quarterly 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.

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

# NOAA Continued & Pet Safety

**NOAA from Page 1** ...a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, part of the Department of Commerce. NOAA Weather Radio includes 1000 transmitters, covering all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. In North Carolina nearly 30 NOAA Weather Radio broadcast stations provide weather forecast and warning for all 100 counties. No matter where you live there is a NOAA Weather Radio station nearby.

NOAA Weather Radio will alert you 24 hours a day to the following weather hazards in your county: Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, Flash Floods, River Floods and Winter Storms.

NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz): **162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525, 162.550.**

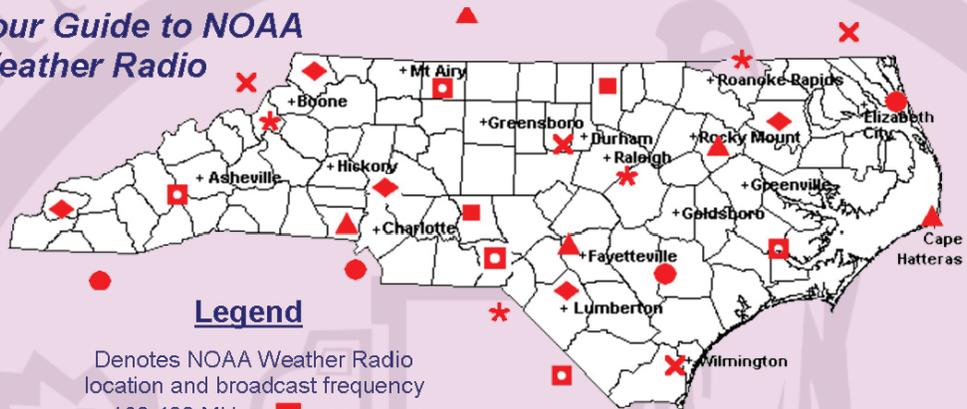
These special receivers range in price from \$20 to \$65, through most radios cost less than \$40. The weather radio's round-the-clock protection can be a life-saving investment. Radios can be found in most electronic stores and on many popular shopping websites. When purchasing a NOAA Weather radio consumers are recommended to buy a radio with the S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Encoded) technology. The S.A.M.E. technology allows

the user to program specific counties into the radio such that it only receives alerts for the desired county or counties. This greatly reduces the number of alerts received.

For America to be as safe as possible, NOAA Weather Radio needs to become as common in homes, schools, businesses and public places as smoke detectors. Today, only 5 to 10 percent, a fraction of all Americans, now own one. With an average cost around \$35, NOAA Weather Radio is a small investment which just might save your life. For information on NOAA Weather radio including where to buy and how to program please visit <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>.

For details about NOAA Weather Radio in North Carolina please visit <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rah/ncnwr/>.

## Your Guide to NOAA Weather Radio



### Legend

- Denotes NOAA Weather Radio location and broadcast frequency
- ◻ 162.400 MHz
  - 162.425 MHz
  - ★ 162.450 MHz
  - ▲ 162.475 MHz
  - ◼ 162.500 MHz
  - ◆ 162.525 MHz
  - ✖ 162.550 MHz

## Keep You & Your Pets Safe: Remember a Leash

When walking your dog within City limits, remember to keep you and your best friend safe. Burlington's leash law requires dogs to "be under the control of a competent person and restrained by a chain or leash or other means of adequate physical control" when away from a person's property. No person "owning or having possession, charge, custody or control of any animal shall cause, permit or allow the animal to stray or in any manner to run at large in or upon any public street, sidewalk or park or upon the property of another" (Ord. No. 75-48, § 2, 5-6-75; Ord. No. 95-18, § 1, 5-16-95).

Have a small/no yard and want Fido to get some off leash exercise? Check out the City's new dog park at City Park. The dog park is located on the corner of East Kitchin St and Overbrook Rd. Areas are available for both small and large breed dogs. Remember to keep you and your pets safe this winter.



## Burlington City Council

- Ronnie K. Wall, Mayor (336) 587-5160
- David R. Huffman, Mayor Pro Tem (336) 570-2823
- James B. Butler, Councilmember (336) 524-8291
- David L. Maynard, Councilmember (336) 228-6776
- Larry W. Sharpe, Councilmember (336) 532-8002



# e-Newsletters & VITA Volunteers

## Notify Me e-Newsletters & Other e-Communication: Keeping You Informed on Topics That Concern You

Did you know that in addition to this printed newsletter the City offers several other sources of timely information? The City recently began publishing a semi-monthly electronic newsletter called "This Week in Burlington". It is sent out to subscribers the Fridays following City Council meetings and contains information on events that took place during the meeting, as well as other news and upcoming calendar items for the City. Just log onto **BurlingtonNC.gov** and click on "Notify Me eNewsletters" in the left-side menu.

After you are on the website, you'll notice several other options to stay informed. In addition to signing up for News and Announcements, citizens can get regular updates from Council meetings, subscribe to news and events from the Recreation and Parks Department, or even get e-mail job listings. One of the most recent additions to eNewsletters is "Esta Semana en Burlington." This is a Spanish version on "This Week" which will be published in tandem with its English counter-part.

Another recent addition to the City's communication portfolio is the use of the social networking site Twitter.com. The City is using Twitter, a free web-based tool, to keep citizens informed of traffic and utility notices throughout the day. Citizens can setup a Twitter account for free and then "follow" the City of Burlington at [Twitter.com/BurlingtonNC](http://Twitter.com/BurlingtonNC). Users are able to receive notices in several different ways with the most popular feature being text messages. After registering a phone number, citizens can elect to have alerts sent to their cell phone (standard text messaging rates apply). For example, a citizen may setup an account and register their cell phone number; then, throughout the day citizen will be notified of traffic incidents and/or utility announcements such as water lines being flushed.

Twitter is a free, third-party service. It is not designed to be the City's primary form of communication. The City will still post official announcements at [BurlingtonNC.gov](http://BurlingtonNC.gov) and with local media outlets. This service is a convenience option for citizens. To learn more about Twitter visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section at <http://help.twitter.com/>.



## VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Volunteers Needed for the 2008 Tax Season

The Weed & Seed Initiative at the Burlington Police Department is partnered with the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Justice, Hocutt Memorial Baptist Church, Freedom Fellowship Church and Centro La Comunidad to provide free tax preparation to low income and elderly residents.

Volunteers will be trained and certified in tax preparation and law as well as gain valuable tax knowledge and experience. This will also be an opportunity to enhance your resume, gain pride in helping your community and being part of a national effort. We also need Spanish translators to assist our tax preparers.

Please call **Carolyn Boggs** at (336) 570-6530 or (336) 513-5412 for information or e-mail [cboggs@ci.burlington.nc.us](mailto:cboggs@ci.burlington.nc.us) or [gsimmons@ci.burlington.nc.us](mailto:gsimmons@ci.burlington.nc.us)



# Upcoming Events, Bill Pay, CBC



## Upcoming Events



**January 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday, City Offices Closed

**February 1:** Kiwanis Club Travel Film Series at the Paramount Theater, 128 E Front Street

**February 3 & 17:** Burlington City Council Meetings - Municipal Building at 425 S. Lexington Avenue at 7:00 PM.

**February 12:** Times News Spelling Bee at the Paramount Theater, 128 E Front Street

**February 20-22 & 27- March 1:** Gallery Players present *The King and I* at the Paramount Theater. Call 336-222-TIXS for more information.

**March 3 & 17:** Burlington City Council Meetings - Municipal Building at 425 S. Lexington Avenue at 7:00 PM.

**April 10:** City offices closed for Good Friday.

**April 17-19 & 24-26:** Gallery Players present *Love, Sex & the IRS* at the Paramount Theater. Call 336-222-TIXS.

## New Year's Reminder: Numerous Ways to Pay Utility & Tax Bills



The City of Burlington offers even more ways to pay utility and tax bills with the recent addition of a new building and online bill payment. Citizens can now choose to mail, drop off, drive-thru, setup a bank draft or pay bills online.

“We try to offer citizens as many options as possible,” said Frank Hope, Director of Administrative Services. “In this busy day and age, we understand that customers have hectic schedules... we like to provide as much convenience as possible.”

Customers now have the following methods of payment available to them:

### 1. Municipal Building at 425 South Lexington Avenue

- In-Person: Customer Service is open on the second floor in Suite 207; Available from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday\*
- Drop-Box (Available 24/7 next to the building's back entrance)

### 2. 244 West Davis Street Building (Former First Union bank building)

- Drive-Thru Service only available from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday\*
- Drop-Box (Available 24/7 on the building's side)

### 3. BurlingtonNC.gov

- Online bill payment; click on “View/Pay Utility Bills” in the left-side menu; a \$1.99 transaction fee is applied to online payments only.

### 4. By Mail

- Payments may be mailed to P.O. Box 1358, Burlington, NC 27216-1358

### 5. By Recurring Bank Draft

- Contact 336-222-5100 and ask about the Burlington Utility Bank Draft Plan

\*Excluding holidays.



## Staying Strong

More than a year after its implementation, the Connecting Burlington Communities (CBC) program is still going strong. Since its implementation the program has addressed thousands of tips that have poured into the CBC Hotline at **222-5024** or from the City's website which allows citizens to monitor the status of their tips.

To learn more about CBC or to submit a tip go to **BurlingtonNC.gov/CBC**. CBC involves all City departments, community leaders, and citizens to improve the overall quality of life for residents. Tired of Gangs, Graffiti, & Neglected Lots? Call CBC today!