

# City Works

Spring 2009



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

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## World Premiere at the Paramount! Civil War Play "The Last Encampment"

*The Last Encampment*, a drama of the American Civil War, will make its world premiere at The Paramount Theater of Burlington, June 25-28. The play, a fictionalized account of historical events in Piedmont North Carolina at the end of the war, is the sixth world premiere production by Burlington's Paramount Acting Company.

Set in Company Shops (now Burlington,) on the night of April 25, 1865, the play focuses on members of the storied 37th Alabama regiment of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Having participated in some of the most savage fighting of the War, the men have recently encamped at The Shops after losing the Battle of Bentonville.

Lee has already surrendered at Appomattox and the Army of Tennessee's commander, General



Joseph E. Johnston, is negotiating with Union General William T. Sherman. While Johnston and Sherman want both a political and a military agreement, the post-Lincoln administration in Washington delivers orders to Sherman: give Johnston forty-eight hours to surrender or cross the Haw River and annihilate the Southern forces.

As they remain in their encampment, pondering their fate, the men's thoughts turn to the War...

See **WORLD PREMIERE** on Page 2

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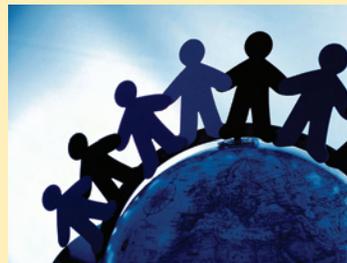
Visit the City of Burlington on the web at [BurlingtonNC.gov](http://BurlingtonNC.gov).

## Annexation 101

### What is annexation?

Annexation is an authority granted by the N.C. General Assembly to cities and towns. N.C. cities and towns can expand their boundaries (corporate limits) through several types of annexation: citizen-requested; city-initiated; and by local bill enacted by the General Assembly.

Citizen-requested annexations occur when property owners ask to become part of the city or town. This requires



100 percent of the property owners in an area to submit a petition requesting annexation.

Cities and towns can expand their boundaries through city-initiated annexations when an area is developed to urban standards as defined by state statutes, the municipality meets other requirements specified in the law, and it can show that it will be able to provide the municipal services to the proposed areas.

The N.C. General Assembly also may enact a local bill that adds property to a city or town.

When property becomes part of a city or town, it still is a part of the county. The county does not lose population, land or property tax base when the annexation occurs.

See **ANNEX** on Page 3

# Premiere Continued & Sharpe Sworn In

## WORLD PREMIERE from Page 1

itself: why did we fight, was it worth the cost and what might the future be like following the War? Tensions between them run high, particularly after their regimental colonel concocts a plan to continue and win the War. Compounding the situation are reports of a hijacked Confederate gold shipment, rumored buried in the immediate area around Company Shops.

The play's author, David Anthony Wright, says, "This is not an historical pageant. It is a drama depicting men in conflict. That a Burlington-based acting company will be performing a play set in its hometown is just icing on the cake."

The play is the fifth Wright has authored or co-authored. His most recent work, *Ruthie*, a modern adaptation of the Old Testament Book of Ruth, won the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's 2007 "Scriptworks" competition and received its professional premiere at SART in July 2008.

Wright says, "The Civil War was the event that defined our nation's history. However, the debate on its causes and justification



continues more than 140 years after hostilities ended. This play concentrates on the War from the common soldier's point of view." He added that the play contains mild profanity and racial language and is therefore suggested for mature teens and adults.

Wright's interest in the subject of the American Civil War was heightened when recently uncovered genealogical information confirmed family stories, indicating all four of his great, great, great grandfathers fought in the conflict: three in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and one in the Army of Tennessee, the latter being the element of the Confederate army featured in the play.

"While the names of the members of the 37th Alabama were utilized as names for seven characters in the play, I chose Demosthenes (Mos) Rainey as the name of my protagonist," Wright stated. "Mos was my ancestor on my father's mother's side of the family. He served for a year in the 22nd NC Infantry before being sent home 'on account of age.' Two years later, he rejoined the 6th NC Cavalry and was paroled at the end of the War."

Show times for the play are at 8:00 PM, June 25-27, with a matinee performance at 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 28. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and \$9 for seniors, students and groups of 10 or more. Credit card reservations (VISA/Mastercard/Discover) can be made at 336-222-TIXS. The Paramount Theater box office is open weekdays 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM and one hour prior to the curtain. Tickets go on sale May 1 at 12:00 PM.

The Paramount Theater, a City of Burlington Recreation and Parks Department facility, is located at 128 E. Front Street in downtown Burlington.

## New Councilmember, Larry Sharpe, Sworn In



**F**ormer County Commissioner Larry Sharpe took the Oath of Office at the January 6 meeting of the Burlington City Council to become the newest City Council member.

Sharpe was unanimously elected by the Council to fill the seat previously held by the late Don Starling.



## 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) 532-7500



# Annexation Continued & F.O.G.

ANNEX from Page 1

**When annexed, a resident continues to pay county property taxes as well as city or town property taxes. This is because the majority of county spending is on education and human services, while city or town taxes and fees pay for increased levels of urban services such as police and fire departments, streets and transportation. Cities and towns do not fund schools, and counties do not pay for roads.**

## The power to set boundaries

In North Carolina, the General Assembly has the constitutional power to incorporate or form cities and towns and set municipal boundaries. It does so by a local act that is a charter. This municipal charter and other applicable state laws spell out the powers and authority that the city or town may exercise. Prior to 1947, the legislature had to pass a local act to allow any expansion of municipal boundaries. Between 1947 and 1959, cities could annex, but were required to hold a referendum if 15 percent of the voters in the area proposed for annexation called for a referendum.

In 1959, after a legislative study commission looked at the issue for two years, the General Assembly enacted a law based on the principle that "what is urban should be municipal."

The three citizen-requested and city-initiated annexation methods mentioned above were established in the 1959 statutes. For city-initiated annexations, the statutes set out what level of development is required before land is eligible for annexation and the steps that municipalities must follow in order to annex. There are different standards for municipalities under and over 5,000 in population.

The laws have been amended and revised several times since 1959, most significantly in 1983 and 1998.

## The process for city-initiated annexation

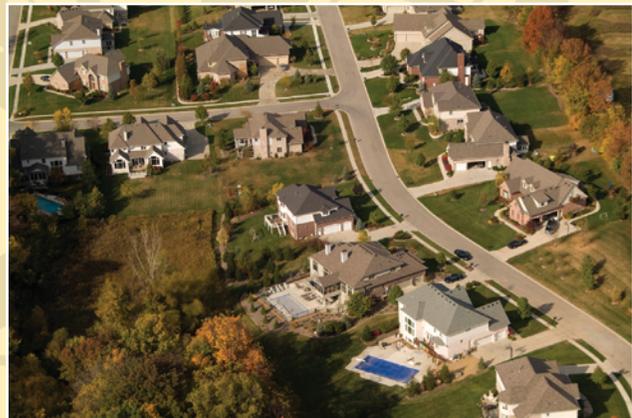
A city or town studies an area to determine if it is developed enough to qualify for annexation and whether municipal services can be provided in a financially sound manner.

Each step in the process is set out in the state statutes. Steps include:

- Resolution of intent;
- Informational meeting;
- Preparation and publication of a detailed written report;
- Public hearing; and
- Adoption of the annexation ordinance.

The complete process may take more than a year. The annexation ordinance typically has an effective date some months after adoption to allow time for additional information to go to citizens and for the transition of services.

If residents in the area proposed for annexation do not believe the area does not qualify under the standards for annexation or that services will not be provided as required, they may file a lawsuit. Annexations cannot become effective until the outcome of all judicial challenges is determined.



## Keep Your Sewer Safe! Stop Fats, Oils and Grease From the Start

**F**ats, oils, and grease (FOGs) come from fats in food scraps, as well as cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream.

When FOGs get poured down drains they begin to accumulate inside sewer pipes like... See FOG on Page 4

# Upcoming Events, F.O.G., Volunteer

## Upcoming Events

**April 10:** Good Friday Holiday, City Offices Closed

**April 10:** Glow-N-The-Dark Easter Egg Hunt; 6:00 PM  
Ages: 2-5 Admission is free. Mayco Bigelow Community Center.  
For more information call 222-5138.

**April 11:** City Park Easter Egg Hunts; 10:00 AM  
Ages: 12 & Under Admission is free. Various age divisions.  
Additional egg hunts will be held in other parks and facilities, see  
**BurlingtonNC.gov** for a complete list.

**April 13-17:** Spring Break Fundays; 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM  
Ages: 4-12; Thataways Youth Center & Fairchild Community  
Center. Call 222-5072 for more information or to register.

**April 25:** "What's After High School?" Expo 2009; 10:00 AM  
- 1:00 PM at Mayco Bigelow Community Center. For more  
information call the North Park Public Library at 226-7185.

**April 26:** Chromed Out Car Show at North Park;  
Check-In: 11:00 AM Gates Open: 1:30 PM; Admission: \$5,  
12 & Under Free; Call 222-5138 for registration information.

**May 25:** Memorial Day Holiday, City Offices Closed

**June 6:** Kids Bank Fishing Tournament; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Ages: 1-15; Cost: Free; Guilford Mackintosh Park & Marina  
For information or to register, please call 449-2078.

### FOG from Page 3

cholesterol in an artery. As FOGs build up, they restrict water flow and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses. Backups can also occur outside through manholes which can overflow into parks, yards, streets, and even into storm drains that feed our local drinking water. These overflows must be reported and stiff penalties are imposed on the City. These fines can end up costing the City several thousands of dollars. Communities throughout the country spend millions of dollars every year unplugging or replacing grease-blocked pipes, repairing pump stations, and cleaning up costly and illegal wastewater spills.



There are things you can do to make sure this doesn't happen in Burlington.

### Do

- Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash. If you have a lot of oil to dispose of, use clay cat litter. Just mix the litter, a little at a time, into the oil. When all the oil has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag, seal the bag, then dispose of it in your regular trash.
- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink. Garbage disposals do not remove grease!
- Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Then throw away the paper towels.
- Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when rinsing dishware, or when peeling or trimming food to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Throw the scraps in the trash.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the fats, oils, and grease (FOG) off the dishes and into the sewer pipes. Later on in the sewer, the hot water will cool and the FOG will clog the pipes.

### Don't

- Don't pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings, or sauces down the sink or toilet or into street gutters or storm drains.

## Volunteer with the City

*Looking for a way to  
get involved with your  
community?*

The City of Burlington is seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks in many of its departments. Those who wish to give their time will also have the opportunity to learn, through hands-on experience, more about the services offered by local government.

Interested individuals should contact the Human Resources Department at (336) 222-5105.

