

City Works



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

City Works is a publication of the City of Burlington Office of Public Information.

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Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Have you or someone you know been the victim of a crime or a witness to a crime? This is a difficult and frightening circumstance in which to be. The Burlington Police Department Victim/Witness Assistance Program provides free and confidential assistance to victims and witnesses of crime in order to lessen their needs due to victimization. Assistance is available to any victim or witness of crime committed within the jurisdiction of the Burlington Police Department.



The Victim/Witness Advocate acts as a liaison between the victim/witness and the Criminal Justice System, which would include law enforcement officers, the District Attorney, the Courts, and the Probation and Parole system. The Victim/Witness Advocate can escort the victim or witness

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Homeowner Rehabilitation and Repair Program

Did you know that the City of Burlington's Department of Planning and Community Development provides a housing rehabilitation program to help low and moderate income homeowners repair their homes? By assisting families and individuals in detecting and correcting housing problems early, the City is helping citizens to maintain the condition and value of their home and the viability of Burlington's neighborhoods.



The City receives funding from two federal programs, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership through which rehabilitation loans are available. These programs offer options for deferred or regular low-interest loans to help homeowners make vital home repairs.

See **REHAB** on Page 2

Upcoming Events

For Info Call 222-5030

Senior Trip
(to Abingdon Va.)

11/10-11/11

Christmas Parade
(Register 10/3-11/18)

11/19

A Dickens Christmas
12/9

Senior Trip
(to Barn Dinner Theater)
12/13

Christmas in the Park
12/22

E-Waste Recycling & Home Rehab

Back By Popular Demand, FREE E-Waste Recycling

The City will, once again, host a free e-waste recycling event on **January 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Synergy Recycling of Madison, NC, will provide the service to be held at the Public Works parking lot at 234 East Summit Avenue. This event is free and will be restricted to residents of the City of Burlington. Business disposal will not be allowed.



Effective on July 1, 2011 electronic items cannot be set out at the curb for pick-up. State law requires that these items be recycled. At the last recycling event in July, over 98,000 pounds of e-waste was collected. Items that are eligible to be dropped off are home electronics (audio/video equipment, telephones, televisions), personal computers (including peripherals and cables, typewriters, copiers, servers), and many other miscellaneous electronics. Other non-electronic items, white goods (such as large home appliances) and air conditioning units cannot be accepted.

The City cannot accept alkaline batteries (D, C, AA, AAA); however, computer UPS batteries will be accepted.

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So, how does the Housing Rehabilitation Program work? Follow these ten steps to find out:

1. Call the Planning and Community Development Department at 336-222-5070 and a rehabilitation staff member will give you all the details of the program.
2. An application will be mailed to you.
3. The ability of funding will determine if eligible applicants will receive a loan through the programs.
4. If you qualify, your home will be inspected to determine what repairs are needed.
5. Cost estimates of the work will be reviewed with you.
6. Should you choose to proceed, a cost estimate will be done and your work will be bid out to eligible contractors who work with the program.
7. A loan closing will be held.
8. Work will not start until a proceed order has been issued.
9. To protect you, City staff will inspect the contractor's work regularly.
10. When all work is completed and a final inspection is conducted, a final close-out will be held, and any warranties will be turned over to you.

VITA & Victim Assistance

We Want You... To Volunteer for VITA



The Burlington Police Department's Community Relations Division is seeking volunteers to serve in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Each year, the Community Relations Division hosts the VITA program which provides free tax preparation services by trained volunteers to low and moderate income families. Volunteers will receive training and certification by the IRS, valuable knowledge and expertise, an opportunity to enhance their resumes, and pride in being an integral part of a high impact project that is working to rejuvenate the economy and our community by restoring the budgets of low-income families. If you would like to learn more about becoming a VITA volunteer, contact Carolyn Boggs at cboggs@ci.burlington.nc.us or (336) 570-6530.

VICTIM *from Page 1*

through the court process and provide support. The Victim/Witness Advocate will assist in keeping the victim/witness informed about each step in the criminal justice process.

In addition, the program helps with:

- Understanding your rights as a victim
- Giving referrals to available services according to your specific needs
- Providing crime prevention information such as domestic violence, breaking & entering, identity theft, robbery, larceny, sexual abuse, etc.

Victims of crime always need the support of their family and friends to help them deal with the trauma. Sometimes this support is not enough, and additional help or information is needed. A Victims' Assistance Advocate is someone who is available to assist victims of crime and their families. For further assistance or information, contact:

Patricia Farmer (336) 229-3582

Belinda Parker (336) 229-3538



What Do You Know About Fair Housing?

It's the law! The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, national origin, religion, sex, handicap/disability, or familial status.

What Housing is Covered?

The Fair Housing Act covers most types of housing. In some unique circumstances, the act exempts housing operated by private organizations that limit occupancy to members.



Why should I Report Fair Housing Issues?

- Many acts of discrimination can only be investigated if someone reports them.
- You have protections under the law against intimidation or harassment because of exercising your right to report Fair Housing Act violations.
- Reporting discrimination is the first step to stopping it in your community.

What is Prohibited?

Based on race, color, nationality, religion, sex, familial status, no one may:

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Make housing unavailable
- Deny a dwelling
- Set different terms/conditions
- Provide different services/facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available
- For profit, persuade owners to sell or rent
- Deny anyone access to membership in a facility or service related to sale/rental of housing
- Refuse to make a mortgage loan
- Refuse to provide information regarding loans
- Impose different terms/conditions on a loan
- Discriminate in appraising property
- Set different terms/conditions for purchasing a loan
- Threaten coerce, intimidate, or interfere with anyone exercising fair housing rights
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation based on protected statuses

Put Sewer Pipe Clogs on Ice... Freeze the Grease!

When fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) from your kitchen go down the drain, they can create a major pain! Sewer pipe clogs created by FOGs can cost you and the City money and could even harm the environment. Remember four easy steps for keeping the pipes running free and clear all year long:

1. Never pour FOGs down the drain.
2. Scrape grease and food scraps into a can.
3. Freeze the can.
4. Toss the can into the garbage.