

# City Works



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

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

For more info, contact:  
rhawley@ci.burlington.nc.us  
(336) 222-5076

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**Dates to Remember:**

**FREE Bulk Waste Pick-Up**  
March 3 - May 2  
222-5111

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
April 19, 10:00am  
City Park, Field #1  
222-5030

**Senior Games**  
April 7 - May 15  
Call to register  
222-5135

**City Holiday**  
Offices Closed  
April 18

## \$5 Rabies Clinic: April 12th

With the arrival of spring and longer, warmer days, we all like to spend more time outdoors, including our pets. With the increased time outdoors comes the increased risk of rabies exposure for people and their pets. Now is the time to be sure your pet is current on their rabies vaccination. It is state law for dogs and cats, age 4 months or older, to have a current rabies vaccine and it is the only way to protect your pet from this fatal disease.

In North Carolina, raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes are the main carriers of the rabies virus. In 2013, there were 8 confirmed cases of rabies in Alamance County. If your pet does not have a current rabies vaccine and comes into contact with a rabid animal, you must either euthanize your pet or have it quarantined at an approved facility for 6 months at your expense.

Burlington Animal Services will hold a rabies clinic on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Burlington Pet Adoption Center, 221 Stone Quarry Rd., Haw River. The cost is \$5.00. Dogs must be on a leash and cats in a carrier. Call 336-578-0343 for more information.

For more information about rabies, go to [www.BurlingtonNC.gov/pets](http://www.BurlingtonNC.gov/pets) and click on the Rabies Information tab.



## Fair Housing: It's Your Right

Did you know that The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination in housing because of:

- Race
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Handicap
- Familial Status



Many acts of discrimination can only be investigated if someone reports them. You have protection under the law against intimidation or harassment because you have exercised your right to report discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. Reporting discrimination in housing access is the first step to stopping discrimination from occurring in our community.

If you believe that you or someone you know has experienced discrimination in housing access based on any of the above listed factors, please contact the City of Burlington at 336-222-5070, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development at 800-669-977, or the North Carolina Human Relations Commission at 1-866-324-7474. You can also learn more about fair housing on the web at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

## An Important Notice About Your Water

The City of Burlington, along with 7 other regional water providers, will conduct a routine water quality preventive maintenance program beginning April 14, 2014 and ending May 11, 2014. This process will involve temporarily switching the disinfectant from chloramines to chlorine. This change will help prevent the buildup of certain microbes that can impact long term water quality.



There will be no negative safety impacts as a result of the temporary disinfectant change for most water users. Both chlorine and chloramines are safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and other general uses. However, water users may notice a change in the taste or odor of the water during this time.

There are three specialized groups that may need to take special precautions. Individuals or companies that use City water for processes where, residual chlorine is a consideration, such as **kidney dialysis**, in **fish tanks or ponds**, or in **specialized industry production** such as food or beverage preparation, commercial laundering, laboratory procedures, or seafood handling may need to make arrangements to accommodate this change.

Please contact the City's Water Resources Department at 336-222-5133 with specific questions.

## Be Smart When Using Fertilizer



Using too much fertilizer and other lawn care products can cause water pollution. The same rain that helps turn your lawn green also washes excess fertilizer, pesticides, and other pollutants into the nearest creek, creating a negative impact on water quality.

Fertilizer consists of nutrients which help plants grow and reproduce. In water, these nutrients feed naturally occurring algae and can lead to massive algae blooms, particularly during the warm summer months. An algae bloom is an explosion in the algae population that turns the water green, shutting out sunlight needed by bottom-growing plants and leading to oxygen depletion that kills fish and other aquatic creatures.

As we approach this spring season, take care to apply the appropriate amount of fertilizer for your lawn and plants. Here are some practical tips which will limit the amount of fertilizer available to be washed into storm drains and streams:

- Have your soil tested. Then apply only the kinds and amounts of nutrients that your grass and plants need. Visit the Alamance County Cooperative Extension Office at 209-C N. Graham-Hopedale Road, or contact the Extension Office at (336) 570-6740, for additional information on this topic.
- Once your soil has been tested, follow the instructions that come with commercial fertilizer to make sure you apply the appropriate amount.
- Apply fertilizer in the fall when it is most beneficial to cool season grasses and least likely to end up in runoff.
- Avoid leaving fertilizer on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways where they are most likely to be washed into a storm drain, where it will end up in a stream. Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces onto the lawn or into the garden.
- Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use.
- Consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.
- Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.
- Avoid applying fertilizer just before a rain storm.

Research in recent years has found that more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like excess fertilizer applications, cars leaking oil, pet waste and other activities associated with residential living. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. Each of us can do small things to help keep our water clean, and collectively, this means big gains in pollution prevention! Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. All of us benefit from a clean environment - and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater clean. If you would like more information, contact the Stormwater Division at 336-222-5140 or [stormwater@ci.burlington.nc.us](mailto:stormwater@ci.burlington.nc.us).

# 2014 Recycling Reminder

Recycling calendars for 2014 were distributed in water bills during the month of October in 2013. This schedule reminder includes modifications to Christmas Holiday collections on Thursday and Friday of the red collection week. Your holiday garbage collection will also follow this recycling calendar. Find your collection day below, or you may type in your address through a link available at [www.BurlingtonNC.gov/Recycle](http://www.BurlingtonNC.gov/Recycle).

All carts and materials should be placed at the street by 7:00am and removed by 7:00pm on your collection day. Carts should be located 5 feet away from any obstruction, garbage cart, mail box, shrubbery, or anything that could prevent automated collection trucks from picking up the recycling cart. The cart handle and wheels should be facing your house. Carts that are improperly placed cannot be collected.

Do you have additional questions? Call 336-222-5111 to speak with the City Sanitation Department or 336-229-0525 to speak with Waste Industries.

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