

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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Featured Dates:

Fourth Fridays

July 25, 4:30-9pm
Downtown Burlington

Sunset Rhythms

Aug. 8, 7-9pm
City Park Amphitheater

Pet Adoption Discounts

Aug. 15-16
Pet Adoption Center
(336) 578-0343

Back 2 School Party

Aug. 29, 6-9pm
Thataways Youth Center
(336) 222-5134

National Night Out: August 5, 2014

Save the date of August 5, 2014 for National Night Out. This event, also known as "America's Night Out Against Crime," began in 1984 and brings community watch groups together to promote crime prevention. During this night, community watch groups organize block parties to which Burlington Police Officers, Firefighters, other City Officials, and the District Attorney's office are also invited. This provides an opportunity for increased communication and a sense of camaraderie between neighbors, neighborhoods, and the city officials that serve them. This event also serves to send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and will not tolerate crime.

If your neighborhood watch group has not participated in the past, please let your Block Captain know that you are interested. If your neighborhood would like to start a community watch group, contact the Burlington Police Department's Crime Prevention Division at **(336) 513-5449** to learn how to get started.

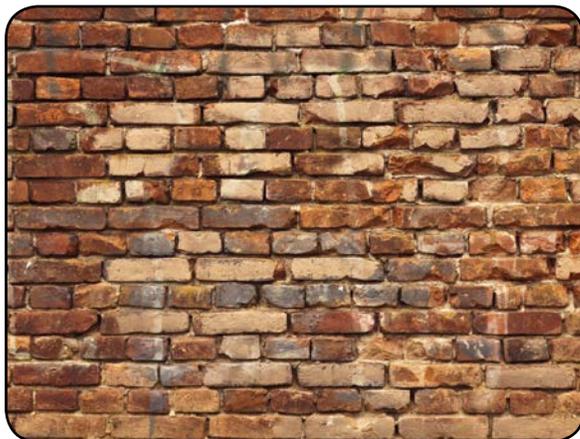
National Night Out is a lot of fun, but most importantly, it brings our community together, back to our roots, and makes us safer through our connections. Learn more about National Night Out at **www.natw.org** or by contacting Greg Turner at **gturner@ci.burlington.nc.us**.



Graffiti Control & Removal Ordinance

In late 2013, the Burlington City Council approved a Graffiti Control and Removal ordinance defining graffiti as a public nuisance and assigning responsibility to property owners for removal of all instances of graffiti on their property. This ordinance went into effect on June 1, 2014.

The ordinance outlines the prohibition of defacement by applying graffiti. The existence of graffiti is a violation of the ordinance and it must be removed by the property owner as soon as possible, or within ten days of a notice of defacement by the City. If graffiti is not removed within ten days, the City will declare the property a public nuisance, subject to nuisance abatement by the City's Code Enforcement division.



Burlington Police Chief Smythe says, "Graffiti is a statement by gang members that they are claiming a neighborhood. As responsible citizens, our response should be swift and sure. We should be committed to promptly removing graffiti. This is our statement back that we own these streets and criminal conduct will not be tolerated."

The elimination of graffiti reduces crime, improves economic development opportunities, and improves neighborhood appearance, garnering increased community pride. The Burlington Police Department is committed to charging individuals found guilty of vandalism to the greatest extent of the law.

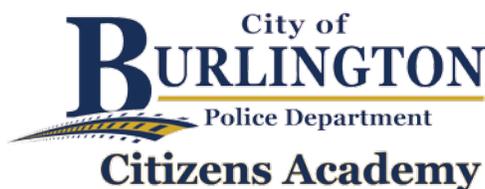
If a Burlington resident or business owner is the victim of graffiti, they are encouraged to call the Burlington Police department at **(336) 229-3500** to report the crime. If graffiti is noticed within the Burlington city limits, residents are encouraged to report it by calling the Connecting Burlington Communities hotline at **(336) 222-5024** or online at **www.BurlingtonNC.gov/CBC**.

Police Citizens Academy

See why Police Citizens Academy graduates are saying things like "This has been one of the best experiences in my lifetime" and "The Citizens Police Academy was a BLAST!"

The Police Citizen's Academy is now accepting applications for its third session, beginning on September 11th and running through mid-November.

The Academy is an 11-week program during which residents get to experience police work first hand. Learn more on the web at **www.BurlingtonNC.gov/PDCitizensAcademy** or by calling **(336) 229-3146**.



Pet Waste & Stormwater

When you think of water pollution, you probably do not think of your pet. However, if pets' waste is not collected and disposed of correctly, it can cause serious water quality issues. More than half of all U.S. households own a dog, cat, or other pet.

Genetic studies of the water pollution from fecal waste in this country have found that a large percentage of it comes from dogs. This water pollution promotes the growth of aquatic weeds and algae, which then limit light penetration and reduce oxygen levels. This creates a deadly environment for fish and other aquatic life.

Although dog waste has been found to be the largest contributor of fecal waste in urban surface waters, other pets have an impact as well. Cats, horses, or rabbits are just a few that many people have at their home.

Pollution from pet waste also poses a health hazard to human beings, whether it's in water or on land. Bacteria and parasites contained in the waste can infect adults and children. Roundworms, E. coli, and Giardia are just a few of the many harmful microorganisms that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans.

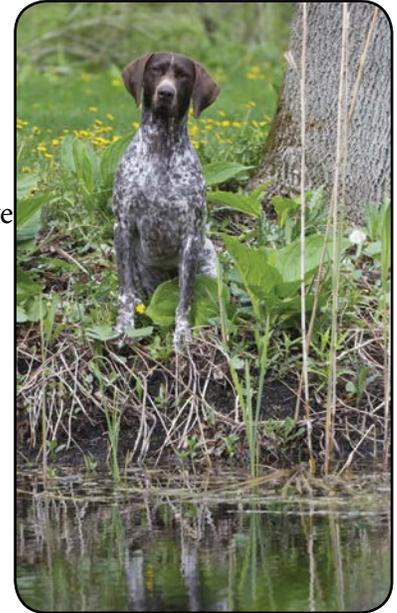
Pet waste will seldom cause water pollution if you take these simple precautions:

- Clean up waste in areas near water bodies, ditches, and storm drains.
- Don't allow pet waste to accumulate in pens.
- Don't leave pet waste on a sidewalk, street, or driveway where it can be washed into storm drains.
- Always clean up after your pet.

There are three easy ways that you can dispose of pet waste and minimize water pollution risks:

- Flush it down the toilet. To prevent plumbing problems, don't flush debris such as rocks, sticks and cat litter; dispose of these in the trash.
- Put it in the trash. Be sure to put your pet waste in a closed, tied trash bag so that it will not spill during trash collection.
- If you have a yard, you can bury your pet waste. Dig a hole or trench that is about 5 inches deep in an area away from streams or drainage ditches. Put the waste in the hole and cover it with dirt. The waste will break down and release nutrients that will help your plants. But, you need to be careful. To prevent disease, don't bury pet waste near vegetable gardens, and don't add pet waste to your compost pile. Most small household compost piles do not get hot enough to kill the disease transmitting organisms that might be found in pet waste.

Remember "Only rain down the drain." If you would like more information, please contact the Stormwater Division at (336) 222-5140 or stormwater@ci.burlington.nc.us.



Be Healthy, Be Active, RKRE8...After School!

Summer is flying by and the first day of school will be here before we know it. As summer comes to an end and school begins, how will your child spend their afternoon hours? Burlington Recreation & Parks wants children to be excited about the end of the school day! Recreation & Parks Afterschool Programs are offered across Burlington for students of Andrews, Hillcrest, Grove Park, Newlin, Smith Elementary, Clover Garden, Rivermill Academy, and Turrentine Middle School.

Children get a healthy snack, homework assistance, and organized games, keeping them engaged in physical activities. Special activities are provided throughout the school year, including field trips, special guests, and free tennis lessons provided through a NC CAP and the USTA grant. Full-time, part-time, and drop-in options are available!

Burlington Recreation & Parks also offers care during teacher workdays, holidays, and snow days through the "Fundays" Program. The 7:30am-6pm program is offered at Thataways Youth Center and is included free for Full Time Afterschool participants. For more information or an Afterschool/Fundays registration form, please visit www.BurlingtonNC.gov/youth or call (336) 222-5072. Complete a registration form today! Sites are tentative based on enrollment.

Homeowner Repair Programs & Funding

The City of Burlington has received \$50,000 from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency under the Urgent Repair Program. This program provides funds to assist very-low and low-income households in Alamance County. These households must have special needs in addressing housing conditions such as those that pose imminent threats to life and/or safety. Other special housing needs include accessibility modification or other repairs necessary to prevent displacement of very-low and low-income homeowners with special needs, such as frail elderly and persons with disabilities.



This is a loan program, which is forgiven at a rate of \$1,000 per year, and has a maximum loan amount of \$8,000.

The City will start accepting applications by early August. To get specific information on the program and application deadlines please contact (336) 222-5070.

The City of Burlington also provides assistance to Low and Moderate Income homeowners to rehabilitate their homes through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs. Rehabilitation is different than remodeling. Home rehabilitation makes sure that major housing codes are met and structural problems are corrected. Special City financing has increased home values and has given residents freedom from worry about major repairs and lead paint hazards.

Find out if you qualify for these home-saving programs by contacting the City's Community Development staff today at (336) 222-5070.