



Public Information Report

TDD 341-7873
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Wilmington City Council

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The Public Information Report is published by the City of Wilmington. Comments or suggestions? Contact us at: 910-341-0833 or send an email to: newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov or mail us: Communications Office, P.O. Box 1810, Wilmington, NC 28402-1810
Looking forward to hearing from you!

The city on the web
www.wilmingtonnc.gov

General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information 341-7800
Emergency 911
Police/Non-Emergency 343-3600
Fire/Non-Emergency 341-7846
Parks and Recreation 341-7855
Parks Hotline 341-7852
Street Maintenance 341-7879
Parking 762-5678
Zoning 254-0900
Trash pickup/Recycling 341-7875
Stormwater 341-4646
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority 332-6550
Code Enforcement 341-3266

Want to receive this newsletter by email?

In an effort to save money and trees, citizens can sign up to receive this newsletter by email instead of direct mail. If you are interested, please email the city with your name and regular mailing address to: newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov.

City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, see the city's web site at: www.wilmingtonnc.gov

City Council Meetings on GTV8

Council meetings are broadcast live on GTV8, the city channel on Timewarner Cable. Council meetings are replayed:

- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week of the Council meeting at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, the week after the Council meeting at 11:30 p.m.

This Week From City Hall

Catch a summary of City events and activities on GTV8's "This Week From City Hall," airing twice daily at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., beginning the Friday evening after every Council meeting.

GTV8 online

All GTV8 programming can be found on the city's website, live or on-demand. From the front page, simply click on "online videos." Then, select the program you want to watch.

For questions about GTV8, contact Station Manager Dylan Lee at 341-4675.

Look for the  for information

WILMINGTON
CITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA

City of Wilmington Public Information Report

Summer 2009
Volume 6 Number 3

Celebrate Summer!

Saturday, July 4th
Riverfront Celebration
on Water Street

5pm - 10 pm
Music & Entertainment

9:05 pm
Fireworks

Inside this Issue:

- *Bond Update*
- *Budget Facts*
- *Greenfield Grind Skatepark*
- *City Pools/Splashpad*
- *Summer Camps*

Special Insert:

Stormwater Watch:
2008 UNCW Annual Report
on Surface Water Quality

Newsletter by email?

It's convenient, saves money and paper too! Check the back panel to find out how.

Questions/Comments

Call or email: 910-341-0833
newsletter@wilmingtonnc.gov

www.wilmingtonnc.gov

City faces significant budget shortfall for 2009-10

The city's proposed budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year contains significant staff cuts and other reductions, but does not include a tax increase.

Like other government agencies, the city faces a decline in its primary funding sources – property taxes and sales taxes. Although the proposed budget is balanced at this time, more cuts may be necessary if the state reduces funding for local governments later this summer.

The proposed budget includes a combination of cost-saving strategies as part of an effort to bridge a shortfall of more than \$6.6 million.

“The proposed budget is ‘bare bones’ and any additional reductions next year will likely impact vital services to citizens.”

— *City Manager Sterling Cheatham*

The budget maintains funding for core services, but does include the elimination of more than 30 jobs and many construction projects, as well as a reduction in operating costs for all departments. City Manager Sterling Cheatham says the proposed budget is “bare bones” and any additional reductions next year will likely impact vital services to citizens.

“Because of the number of positions we have eliminated, we will be taking a hard look at what we do and how we do it in the coming months,” Cheatham said.

Cheatham said the city will also continue to look at ways to increase revenues, including new economic stimulus opportunities such as the northern downtown development and pursuing federal and state stimulus funds.



The final vote on the budget is scheduled for June 16. Copies of the recommended budget are available for review at:

- www.wilmingtonnc.gov
- City Manager's Office
- City Clerk's Office
- NHC Public Library-Main Branch
- Budget highlights GTV-8.

Highlights of key reductions

Following are some of the key reductions of the 2009-10 proposed budget.

- No employee merit or cost-of-living raises
- Personnel reductions across all departments (36)
- Reduced number of police officers
- No seasonal landscaping, tree planting
- Elimination of Dock Security
- Cost sharing of health insurance premiums with employees



Splash pad beside Northside Pool

City pools open

Three city pools and the Northside Splash Pad are now open

The Northside Splash Pad features interactive water play for all ages, including geysers, water cannons, dumping buckets and more.

The facility is free of charge and is located at 750 Bess Street (across from the Wilmington Police Department Headquarters). The Splash Pad will remain open through early October, weather permitting.

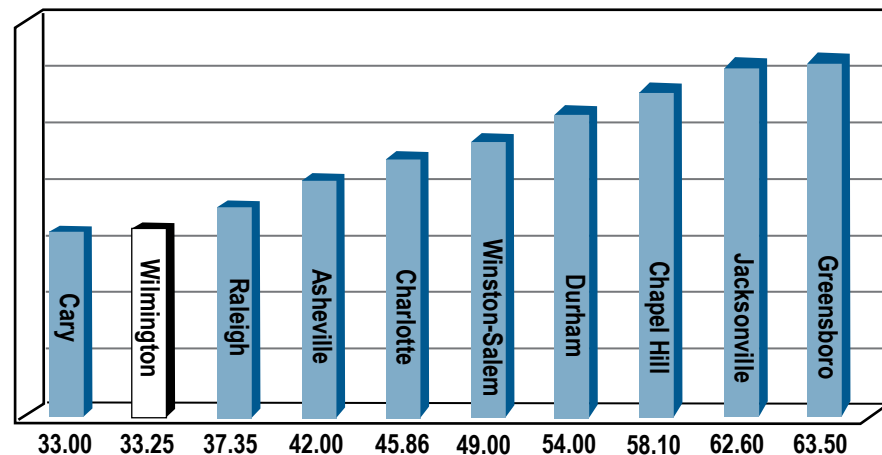
The Legion Stadium and Robert Strange pools are now open from 1-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The Northside pool will open July 1. The pools are closed on Sundays and will close for the season after August 22.

Pool admission is \$1 per child and \$2 per adult. All facilities are handicap accessible and equipped with bathhouses/restroom facilities. Pools also feature lifeguard staff on duty at all times.

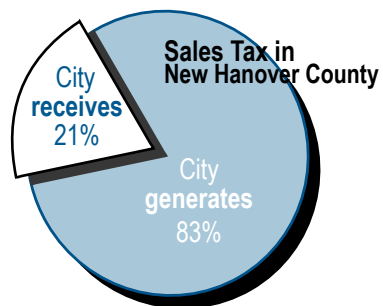
For more information, visit the city's website or call (910) 341-7855.

Budget fast facts

Property Tax. While Wilmington's property tax rate is the second lowest of North Carolina cities with populations of 50,000 or more, the city relies on property taxes for 60% of its funding.



Sales Tax. The city also relies on sales taxes for another 20% of its funding. More than 80% of all taxable sales take place inside the Wilmington city limits, but the city only receives about 21% of those funds.



Public Safety.

- 2009-10 General Fund Budget: \$81 million
- 47% of the city's budget is spent on police and fire services

Greenfield Grind

City skatepark offers safe alternative for skateboarding

Although skateboarding is prohibited on public streets and sidewalks in many locations downtown, the city offers skateboarders another option.

Skateboarding is prohibited in the downtown Central Business District (CBD), Riverfront Park and the Riverwalk. However, the city's Greenfield Grind Skatepark offers a safe and challenging option for skateboarders.

The skatepark is located at the north end of Greenfield Park. It includes a pool design, a half-pipe and street sections as well as a variety of hips, rails and ledges.

The park is fully supervised by staff and is open six days a week, offering both day and night skating. Skate clinics are offered during the summer.



Projects underway this summer

The city is busy upgrading existing facilities and building new ones. Here are just a few of the projects currently underway.

Riverwalk North

The northernmost 800 feet of the Cape Fear Riverwalk is currently under construction and scheduled for completion this fall. This section will run from the Isabel Holmes bridge south to Cowan Street. Another section in front of the convention center will open with the convention center in August, 2010.



Cross-City trail

Work on another section of the Cross-City trail will begin this summer. Much of the work on the trail in the coming year will be funded by federal economic stimulus funds. When complete, the 10-mile multi-use path will cross Wilmington from south to north and to the town limits of Wrightsville Beach. Several portions of the Cross-City trail are already complete.

Archie Blue Community Park at Love Grove

Construction begins this summer on improvements to the Archie Blue Community Park at Love Grove. The project, part of which is funded by the 2006 parks bond, includes construction of a parking lot, bathrooms, basketball court, playground equipment, and canoe/kayak launch into Burnt Mill Creek.



Maides Park

Maides Park, located at 1101 Manly Avenue, has just reopened after spending the last year getting a \$1.46 million facelift. The project, funded largely by the 2006 parks bond, included the renovation and expansion of the recreation center, athletic field lighting, sidewalks and walking trails, restrooms, a picnic shelter, grills and a playground.

Independence Boulevard widening

This project, set to get underway in early June, will widen Independence Boulevard from Shipyard Boulevard to Carolina Beach Road to four lanes. This \$6.4 million project is funded by the 2006 Transportation Bond and is expected to be completed in August, 2010.



Safe Routes to Schools

In an effort to provide safe walking routes to schools, work will begin this summer and be complete by the beginning of the school year on the following projects:

- Construction of a 3100-foot long sidewalk between Bradley Creek Elementary School and Greenville Village mobile home park. This project is funded by a Federal "Safe Routes to Schools" grant.
- Construction of a 1600-foot-long sidewalk from Blair Elementary School and Noble Middle School to Green Meadows Drive. This project is funded by the city.



Greenfield Grind Skatepark

Summer camps

Halyburton Park 341-0075

- **Nature Discovery Camp**
June 22-26, Ages 5-6, 8-12 noon
- **Jr. Naturalist Camp**
Reptiles & Amphibians
July 13-17, Ages 7-9, 8-5:30 pm
- **Eco-Camp**
Exploring Nature in Wilmington
July 20-24, Ages 10-12, 8-5:30 pm
- **Eco-Explorer Camp**
Exploring Nature in North Carolina
August 10-14, Ages 11-13, 8-5:30 pm

Martin Luther King Center 341-7803

- **Believe to Achieve Basketball Camp**
June 15-19, Ages 8-15, 9-12 noon
- **MLK Day Camps**
Various sessions-June 22-August 21;
Ages 8-12, 8-5:30 pm

Hemenway Center 341-4633

- **Teen Camp**
Various sessions-June 22-August 21;
Ages 12-15, 9-3:00 pm

Greenfield Grind 362-8222

- **Skateboarding Camp**
1st Session Ages 8-11, June 15-19
2nd Session Ages 12-15, August 3-7

Adventure Pathways 341-0836

- **Adventure Camp**
July 6-10, Ages 10-13, 8-5:30 pm
- **Eco-adventure/Volunteers Camp**
July 27-31, Ages 11-14, 8-5:30 pm