

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Fall 2017

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Special insert:

City Government Goes Green

City crime rate continues to drop

The FBI's annual crime report has been released and Wilmington's overall crime totals and rates for 2016 improved over the previous year. The violent crime rate per 100,000 population dropped by 16% in 2016. Along with a drop in some violent crimes, Wilmington also saw decreases in property crimes. However, homicides both locally and nationally have risen over the past year, much of that connected to gang-related violence.

In response, the city has continued to work with the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney on a multi-pronged approach on both enforcement and prevention efforts.



"We know we have more work to do. I believe the improvement we've seen is a reflection of our efforts to focus on gang violence as well as our joint efforts with partnering law enforcement agencies," said Wilmington Police Chief Ralph Evangelous.

"None of this would be possible without our community and those who go the extra mile to support us in the fight against crime," he said.

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- WPD Chief Ralph Evangelous

Downtown riverwalk completed

After more than 30 years and \$33 million, the city has completed the 1.75-mile Riverwalk in downtown Wilmington.

Construction of the Riverwalk has taken place in sections since the early 1980s. The northernmost sections were recently completed and the Riverwalk now stretches from the foot of Nun Street on the south end to the Isabel Holmes Bridge on the north end.



Since 1980, the city has invested more than \$33 million in additions, improvements and repairs to the Riverwalk, which has significant maintenance needs because of the Cape Fear River's swift currents. Over \$10 million has been spent in the last three years. The city's public investment has helped stimulate economic development along the riverfront, including planned or completed private sector projects totaling almost \$200 million this year.

 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Riverwalk

Investing in our future

5 YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

5-year plan projects

Medical Center Drive, Glen Meade Road paving projects complete

Crews have completed the repaving of Glen Meade Road between Canterwood Road and Marlwood Drive in September. In August, a portion of Medical Center Drive was repaved between 17th Street and Wisteria Drive.



Glen Meade Road

Work progressing in Pine Valley

This project involves drainage improvements and the repaving of 2.8 lane miles on portions of Semmes Drive, RL Honeycutt Drive and all of Donald E Gore Drive in the Pine Valley neighborhood. Paving on Donald E. Gore Drive has been completed and the road received drainage improvements earlier this year. Crews are now completing the installation of drainage improvements to portions of Semmes and RL Honeycutt drives, then each road will be paved. The entire project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.



Donald E. Gore Drive

Work started on Peachtree Avenue

Beginning in November, crews began installing stormwater improvements in several locations along Peachtree Avenue and 39th Street. After this work is completed, the roads will be repaved. Following this work, stormwater improvements and new pavement will be installed on Audubon Boulevard and Floral Parkway.

While work is underway, there will be some intermittent lane closures, however two-way traffic is expected to be maintained at all times.



Semmes Drive

Yard waste collection reminders

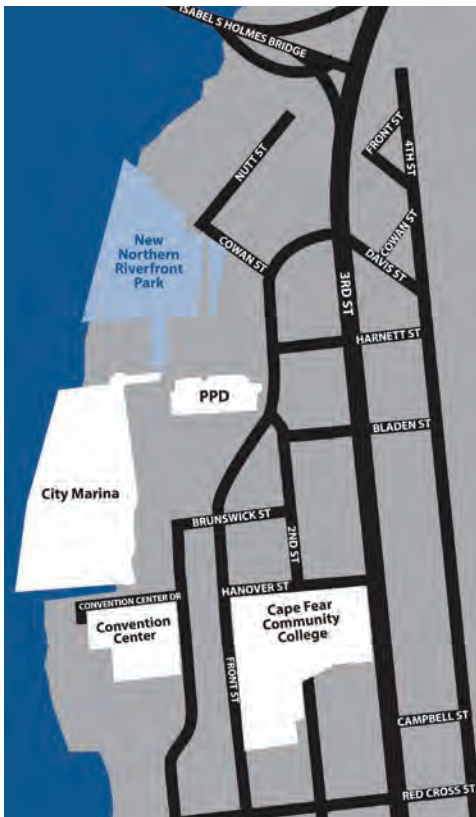
It's almost winter and for many of us, that means time to clean up yards and falling leaves. In order to ensure a more efficient and dependable pick up for city customers, the city has a limit on the amount of yard debris that customers can place at the curb each week. Violators placing an excessive amount of debris out for collection could face a civil fine of \$50 per day.

Reminders for quicker pickup:

- ✓ City trash customers can set out up to 7 cubic yards of yard waste to the curb for collection. This is equal to a pile approximately 5 feet wide, 11 feet long and 3½ feet high – about the same size as 8 large size garbage/recycling carts. This includes all yard waste, whether it is loose or in a container.
- ✓ Limbs cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length and must be placed neatly for pickup.
- ✓ Loose items, such as leaves, pine straw or small cuttings, must be put in bags or containers not to exceed 35 gallons in size (same size as small trash cart) or more than 50 pounds.
- ✓ **Yard waste should NOT** be placed on tarps, in wheelbarrows or on trailers.
- ✓ **Tree service companies are responsible for disposing tree trunks, branches and other debris from properties on which they are working.**
- ✓ **Yard waste should** be placed only at the curb for collection-please do not block water meters, storm drains or obstruct the view of motorists.



 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/5yearplan



NORTH WATERFRONT PARK

Development of the city's North Waterfront Park is underway with several key steps taken over the last few months. A master plan for the park was approved this spring after an extensive public input process that incorporates the top 10 elements citizens want to see in the park, including: greenspace/lawns, a performance venue and festival space, shade, playground, water feature, trails, gardens, public art, public docking and natural areas. Passage of the 2016 Parks Bond provides \$20 million in funding for development of the park.

The city also has hired a construction management firm to oversee design/engineering of the park, as well as oversight/management during construction. In addition, the city has contracted with a nationally known landscape architecture firm to design the 6.6 acre park. Also included in the design process will be the company that will operate the performance venue at the park, including bookings, food and beverages and scheduling services.

By coordinating all of these services in the design process, the city expects to streamline development and construction of the park. Design is underway now and the park is expected to open in fall 2019.



www.wilmingtonnc.gov/waterfrontpark

Transportation Bond Updates

Delaney sidewalks

Work to install new sidewalks along Delaney Avenue from Wellington Avenue to Glen Meade Road are now complete, other than a few finishing touches. In addition, a portion of the road will be widened and new curbing will be added. The \$65,000 project is one of 38 projects approved by voters in the 2014 Transportation Bond. Two other major bond projects are making progress:

Love Grove bridge

The new Love Grove bridge, a 2014 transportation bond project, is slated for completion in the spring of 2018. When completed, the bridge over Smith Creek will provide another access into the Love Grove neighborhood. This neighborhood is currently only served with one entrance, which can be blocked by train traffic. Another entrance will guarantee access to the neighborhood, regardless of train schedules.

South College Road trail

Design of the South College Road multi-use trail is now complete and construction is expected to begin early next year.

This will be a 1.3-mile multi-use path along the west side of South College Road from Holly Tree Road to 17th Street/Waltmoor Drive, where it will connect to a recently completed section of the Gary Shell Cross-City Trail, and will eventually connect to the planned Greenville Loop Trail.

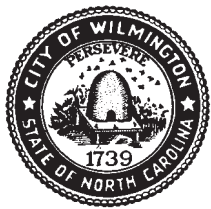
The trail will allow for safe walking/biking along this busy section of South College Road. It will also connect Pine Valley and other neighborhoods with churches and numerous businesses in the area, including the large retail center at the intersection of 17th Street and College Road, which includes a grocery store and other businesses and restaurants.





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Public Information Report

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The Public Information Report is printed using recycled paper.

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General Information Phone Numbers

Citizen Services Information 341-7800
Emergency 911
Police/Non-Emergency 343-3600
 To find the police district assigned to your neighborhood, see wilmingtonnc.gov/police
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
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Look for the for information

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: 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.

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.

City information at your fingertips

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