

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Spring 2017

In this issue:

Spring Yard Waste Pick-up Tips
5-Year Infrastructure Plan Update
Parking Deck Improvements
Transportation Bond Update
Inland Greens Update
.....

Special insert:

2016 Stormwater Report

Summer camps:

Wilmington Parks & Recreation offers a variety of summer camps for different age groups. Pre-registration is required. Camp locations include:

MLK Community Center

Maides Park Community Center

Halyburton Park

Greenfield Grind Skate Park

Empie Park

More information:

wilmingtonnc.gov/summercamps
910-341-7855

Check the back

Want to find out how to receive this newsletter by email or learn more about the city online? Check out the back page to find out more.



2017-18 city budget starting to take shape

Development of the recommended 2017-18 budget will be completed this month. The budget proposes a slight property tax decrease of less than 1/6 of one penny, which would bring the current rate of 48.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value to 48.34 cents. The decrease is the result of the New Hanover County property revaluation that went into effect in January, which resulted in an 8.6-percent bump in property values.

While the city's tax base has increased because property values in Wilmington went up, the property tax rate will stay about the same instead of decreasing to the "revenue neutral," or breakeven rate, to pay for three things:

- Mostly for the 2016 voter-approved Parks bond
- A new 5-year infrastructure improvement plan for street paving and other public facility improvements
- City's portion of the redevelopment of the Water Street parking deck for public parking

The recommended budget also includes a strong savings (fund balance) for emergencies of more than \$27 million, increased funding for affordable housing, continued funding for 2014 voter approved Transportation Bond projects and expanded funding for programs for at-risk youth.

The City Council will vote on the budget in June and by state law must have an approved, balanced budget by June 30.



 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget

Phase 1 of Riverfront Park improvements complete



Phase I of the \$6.3 million overhaul of Riverfront Park and Water Street is now complete. This phase included new water and sewer lines beneath the street, drainage improvements, underground repairs to the underground supporting wall, and a renovated section of Riverfront Park at the foot of Market Street.

Additional work by the U.S. Coast Guard is slated in the coming years on their adjacent property, at which time the city will put the final touches on Riverfront Park and Water Street in front of the Federal Courthouse.

 For more information, visit: www.wilmingtonnc.gov/riverfrontpark

Yard waste pick up tips

It's spring and for many of us, that means time for spring-cleaning our yards. In order to ensure a more efficient and dependable pick up for city customers, the city has placed 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:

- ✔ 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 weigh more than 50 pounds.
- ✔ Yard waste placed on tarps, in wheelbarrows or on trailers will not be collected.
- ✔ Contracted work performed by tree service companies or independent contractors will not be collected by city crews; it is the responsibility of the contractor to remove and properly dispose of debris.
- ✔ Yard waste should NEVER be placed in the street. It must be placed only at the curb for collection and cannot block water meters, storm drains or obstruct the view of motorists.



www.wilmingtonnc.gov/trash

Investing in our future

5 YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Drainage improvements and paving underway in Pine Valley

Crews are working on a \$2.2 million project to install drainage improvements and repave 2.8 lane miles on portions of Semmes Drive, RL Honeycutt Drive and all of Donald E Gore Drive in the Pine Valley neighborhood. The work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

This project is among the last to be completed as part of the city's \$41 million, 5-year infrastructure improvement plan that began in 2012 to make repairs to streets and other public facilities. Five cents on the city's tax rate have been set aside to fund the plan and cannot be used for anything else.

A new 5-year, \$59 million infrastructure improvement plan is proposed in 2017-18 budget that would provide additional funds for more street repaving and other public improvements.

www.wilmingtonnc.gov/5yearplan



Drainage work in Pine Valley neighborhood

Parking deck improvements

The city is adding safety surveillance cameras to two public parking decks downtown. The project, which began in January and will wrap up this month, involves the installation of 49 security cameras in the 2nd Street deck and 88 cameras in the Market Street deck, which will bring the total to 104 cameras in that deck.

The deck cameras are all monitored in real-time by the Wilmington Police Department's real time crime center and city parking officials. These cameras will provide an extra level of safety to the decks downtown, which have already been enhanced with more lighting in recent years and both are slated to get energy-efficient LED lights in June.

Visitors coming downtown for more than an hour are encouraged to use a deck, which allows parkers to experience downtown without fear of getting a ticket. The decks accept cash and credit cards.

www.wilmingtonnc.gov/parking



Work is well underway to install nearly a mile of sidewalks that will make sidewalk connections from North Kerr Avenue, through several neighborhoods to Princess Place Drive. Work is expected to be completed early this summer.

Work also continues on the bridge over Smith Creek that will provide another access into the Love Grove neighborhood.



Love Grove bridge project.



Fairlawn sidewalk project.

Work on nine-hole golf course at Inland Greens continues

Work is well underway to refurbish the back-nine holes of the old 18-hole Inland Greens golf course. A passive park will be built on the front-nine holes. Park amenities include bocce courts, picnic shelter, bike racks, pet stations, water fountain, park benches, handicap accommodations, parking lot improvements and new plantings.

Construction on the \$720,000 project is expected to be complete in late June, and the course and park will officially open early this fall, after the grass has a chance to grow. In 2015, the city completed \$1.2 million in drainage improvements and installed a walking trail.



One of the new fairways being installed at the future 9-hole par 3 Inland Greens golf Course.



New walking trail already installed at Inland Greens.



Spotlight: Olsen Park

The 32-acre Olsen Park, located at 5510 Olsen Park Lane, opened in 2010. The park's amenities include five softball/baseball fields with lights, a restroom/concession building, the Miracle Field and Kiwanis Miracle playground, volleyball courts, a picnic shelter and parking.

Miracle Field has a specialized rubber turf that enables individuals with mobility issues to participate in a variety of sports. Unlike other miracle fields across the country, Wilmington's field accommodates children as well as adults.

Next to Miracle Field is the Kiwanis Miracle Playground, which is the largest accessible playground in the southeast.

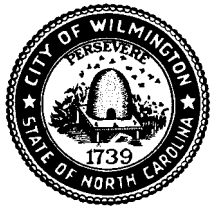
This park is a joint project of New Hanover County and the city that was funded by the 2006 City-County Parks and Greenspace bond. The complex is managed by the city.

Soon there will be additional improvements at Olsen as a result of the voter approved 2016 Parks Bond. This includes an additional multipurpose field and tennis/pickle ball courts.



City of Wilmington
P.O. Box 1810
102 N. Third Street
Wilmington, NC 28402

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FAYETTEVILLE, NC
PERMIT NO. 360



Public Information Report

TDD 341-7873
TTY 711



The Public Information Report is printed using recycled paper.

Wilmington City Council

Mayor and City Council341-7815
Bill Saffo, Mayor
Margaret E. Haynes, Mayor Pro-Tem
Neil Anderson
Paul Lawler
Kevin O'Grady
Charles H. Rivenbark, Jr.
Earl Sheridan, Ph.D.

City Info Line 341-7800

City Manager 341-7810
Sterling Cheatham

Editor 341-5860
Malissa Talbert

Contributing Staff: Becky Blue, Chris Compton, Jennifer Isbell, Dylan Lee, Nicole Milliken

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

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
Stormwater 341-4646
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority 332-6550
Code Enforcement 341-3266

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

- www.wilmingtonnc.gov
- [facebook.com/cityofwilmington](https://www.facebook.com/cityofwilmington)
[facebook.com/cityofwilmingtonPD](https://www.facebook.com/cityofwilmingtonPD)
[facebook.com/WilmingtonFD](https://www.facebook.com/WilmingtonFD)
[facebook.com/wilmingtonhousing](https://www.facebook.com/wilmingtonhousing)
[facebook.com/wilmingtonrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/wilmingtonrecreation)
- @CityofWilm (general news)
@WilmingtonPD (police department)
@WilmingtonFD (fire department)
- [cityofwilmington](https://www.youtube.com/cityofwilmington)
- [cityofwilm](https://www.instagram.com/cityofwilm)