

CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Spring 2020

In this issue:

Water Street Improvements
Spring Yard Waste Tips
Pedestrian Upgrades
Hurricane Florence Upgrades

Special insert:

2019 Stormwater Report

A note about COVID-19

The city would like to thank all residents and businesses for the extraordinary measures they have taken over the last several weeks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The city also extends its gratitude toward the many essential workers who have continued to provide valuable services during this unprecedented crisis.

The city, from top to bottom, has complied with the distancing regulations while still performing essential duties such as public safety, solid waste and recycling pick-up, and traffic management. Those city employees that could work from home have been and we've even conducted city council meetings via Zoom. We are prepared to do this for as long as it takes to keep our community healthy and protect our residents. The COVID-19 crisis continues to be a rapidly changing situation. Please find the latest updates on the COVID-19 crisis at wilmingtonnc.gov/coronavirus or by following us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.



 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/coronavirus

Donny Williams named interim Police Chief



*Interim Police Chief
Donny Williams*

Williams was named interim police chief of the Wilmington Police Department in February when Chief Ralph Evangelous retired. A native of Wilmington, Williams has worked for the WPD for more than 29 years, gaining experience as a summer youth worker and police cadet before being sworn in as a police officer in December of 1992.

As an officer, he worked in various patrol and specialized assignments, including Crime Prevention, DARE and Housing. As a Police Captain, he managed the Support Services Division where he oversaw the agency's \$24 million dollar budget for several years and the agency's largest Patrol Division. As a deputy chief he oversaw the Special Investigations and Criminal Investigations Divisions. Over last decade, Williams oversaw the design, development and completion of the Haynes - Lacewell Police and Fire Training Facility.



2020-2021 City Budget

City Council and staff are developing the budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The budget will be presented to City Council for a Public Hearing on May 19 and is scheduled for a first reading by Council on June 2 and a final vote on June 16. By state law the city must have an approved, balanced budget by June 30. Once it is available, the recommended budget will be online at www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget

 www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget

Summer camps:

Due to COVID-19, we do not yet have a schedule of summer Parks and Recreation programs. Please visit the Wilmington Parks and Recreation Facebook page or the city website at www.wilmingtonnc.gov/recreation for updates on schedules and programs.

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.





Hurricane Florence Repairs

After addressing immediate repairs following the storm, staff worked for several months to identify all the city streets, sidewalks, buildings and drainage infrastructure across the city that needed to be repaired. The city also had to get federal officials to inspect and approve each of the repair sites to make sure the city could receive federal/state reimbursement before the projects could go forward. Because the city has to pay for all of these repairs out-of-pocket with taxpayer dollars, the federal inspections and approval were critical to make sure the city gets reimbursed for as much as possible. So far, the city has spent or appropriated more than \$34 million in response to the storm and hopes to get much of that reimbursed.

Garden Avenue

Repairs on Garden Avenue, which started at the end of December, included replacing portions of a 4.5-foot underground drainage pipe as part of a \$457,000 project. Contractor Applied Polymerics of Mt. Airy, NC used existing manholes to access the pipes, and inject foam-like material that fills the pipes' cracks from within and then hardens. The road is now open to traffic.

Various Smaller "Point" Repairs

Failures to underground pipes during Florence's torrential rains caused cave-ins on city streets at more than 70 locations. Most of these repairs involve joint repairs to a pipe beneath the road, followed by patching the road. Over 50 of the repairs are now complete, thanks to a \$2.4 million FEMA-reimbursable contract. We expect them all to be complete by this July.



Water flowing through the new culvert under River Road

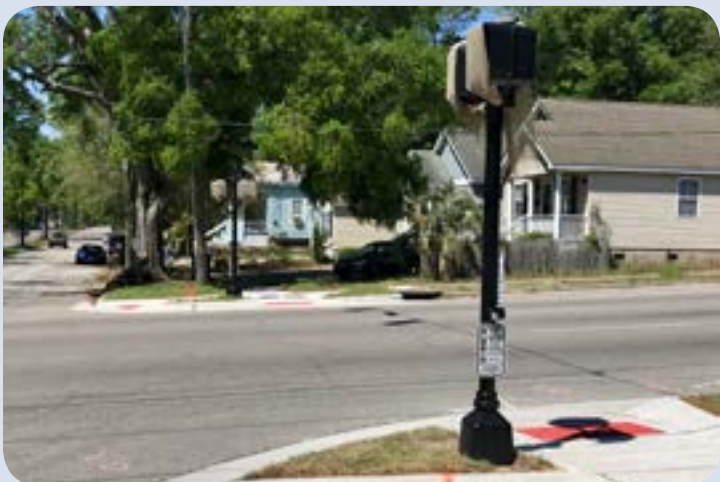
River Road

The replacement of a large drainage culvert beneath River Road is complete. The culvert, located just south of Raleigh Street, was originally damaged in 2017 and failed again during Hurricane Florence. Temporary repairs and paving have allowed the road to remain open prior to this project, which began in September. The Cape Fear Public Utility Authority is contributing \$885,000 of the total project cost of \$1.37 million because it involves the relocation of a force main sewer line. This section of River Road was closed during this project.

Sidewalk Repairs

Many trees that blew over during Florence upended adjacent sidewalks when the tree took its root system, and the sidewalk, with it. The city has completed 55 sidewalk repairs, all FEMA reimbursable.

i To see a map of where the repairs are located and their status, go to: www.wilmingtonnc.gov/repairmap



Pedestrian improvements around Williston School

Crews have been building sidewalks on South 13th Street with more to come on South 10th Street. This \$1.2 million project partially funded by the "Safe Routes to Schools" program is also installing new crosswalks with signal heads at a number of intersections near Williston and Gregory Schools. Also nearby, the city has installed new pedestrian signals and crosswalks at Dawson/5th Avenue and Wooster/5th Avenue.

RIGHT: New Pedestrian facilities will open soon at 5th/Dawson and other nearby intersections

Water Street Improvements

The River Place multi-story mixed-use development is slated for completion this summer. The project consists of two residential towers with parking inside and retail and restaurants on the ground level. The city is working with CFPUA and the developer on upgrades throughout the two-block area. Some of the improvements in the area include:

Bijou Park

Complete renovation to Bijou Park, which will provide pedestrian access from Front Street into the parking, restaurants and retail at River Place. It will also connect to the grand staircase and water feature that will lead down to Water Street.

Water Street

While construction was underway on River Place, the city and CFPUA installed new water, sewer and stormwater utilities beneath that block of Water Street. Now that the project is nearing completion, crews are improving the surface of Water Street between Chestnut and Grace streets. This involves new sidewalks, landscaping, pavers, and paving. Streetscape improvements are underway where the below-ground utility work is already complete.

Once this phase wraps up in May, crews will begin installation of underground utilities, followed by streetscape work on Water Street from Grace Street to a spot just south of Red Cross Street. The final phase, slated for next winter, will install new utilities and streetscape in front of the Water Street Center. The Water Street improvement project is a multi-phased joint project with the CFPUA that, in its entirety, involves new water, sewer, stormwater and streetscaping along Water Street from Market to Red Cross Street, with much of the work on the southern side of this project already complete.



TOP: The River Place mixed-use project
BOTTOM: Water Street looking north from Chestnut Street

Spring yard waste clean-up tips

Spring is here and many residents are out cleaning up their yards. City officials remind residents that **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 – vegetative or construction related.

Follow these tips for quicker pickup:

- ✓ Limbs cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length and must be placed neatly at the curb for pickup.
- ✓ City trash customers can set out up to 7 cubic yards of yard waste in the right-of-way 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 or recycling carts. Loose material (grass, leaves, pine straw) must be put in containers or bags.
- ✓ All loose yard waste (grass clippings, pine straw, vines, pine cones, leaves) must be put in a bag, box, or other container (not to exceed 50 lbs.). Do not use wheelbarrows, tarps, or the city-provided trash or recycling cart for yard waste.
- ✓ Do not mix non-organic items (roofing tiles, scrap lumber, rocks, etc.) with yard waste. Crews cannot pick up palm tree trunks, dirt, bricks, rocks or concrete.
- ✓ Yard waste should be placed at the curb without blocking water meters, storm drains or obstructing the view of motorists.



i www.wilmingtonnc.gov/yardwaste



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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
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 Spectrum 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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