

# CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

CITY OF WILMINGTON PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT

Summer 2017

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2017 Citizen Survey results

**Special insert:**

City's plan for growth

## BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL BUDGET:

**\$217** MILLION

(Includes tax-supported General Fund and all fee-based funds)

**48** CENTS

Property tax rate decreased slightly from 48.5 cents to 48.34 cents per \$100 of assessed value

**1033**

Regular, full-time employees (more than half are in Police, Fire)

**\$27** MILLION

Strong savings for emergencies, helps city maintain AAA bond rating

## New city budget addresses citizen priorities

The new city budget approved by the Wilmington City Council last month includes funding for top citizen priorities identified in the 2017 Citizen Survey. For example, the budget has set aside \$59 million to help maintain streets, sidewalks and other public infrastructure. The budget also includes funding for the 2014 Transportation Bond, and additional funding for affordable housing and public safety. Citizens rated all of these items as high priority in the most recent Citizen Survey. A few other highlights:

- 2017 property revaluation: While the city's tax base has increased largely because property values in Wilmington went up, the city's 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, \$59 million 5-year infrastructure improvement plan
  - City's portion of the redevelopment of the Water Street parking deck
- Expanded funding for programs for at-risk youth

### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



### WHERE THE MONEY GOES



- Continued funding for Code Enforcement and associated clean-up efforts in targeted areas
- Monthly stormwater fee increase of 45¢ - from \$7.66 to \$8.11 for the average home

For more information, visit [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/budget)

## Gen X

The city shares citizen concerns about recent news that the "GenX" compound has been found in water from the Cape Fear River that is treated by the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority. While we are encouraged by The Chemours Company announcement that they have begun to capture, remove and dispose of wastewater containing GenX, there are many still questions that need to be answered. Along with other local governments, the city has asked representatives from Chemours, the NC Dept. of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency to participate in a public meeting in Wilmington. In the meantime, the city will continue to encourage the state and federal agencies that regulate drinking water standards to address the situation as needed, as quickly as possible.

To get daily updates, visit [www.cfpua.org](http://www.cfpua.org)

# 2017 Citizen Survey

Every two to three years, the city conducts a survey to gauge satisfaction levels and perceptions of city services. The survey allows the city to gather information from its residents about their priorities; identifies what the city is doing well and what services the city needs to improve upon; and helps set focus areas and develop funding priorities.

The survey completed in April shows that citizens generally think the city is spending the right amount on most city services, but would like to see more funding on streets and sidewalks maintenance. The survey also showed significant increases in the areas of feeling of safety, crime prevention, and the use of social media as a source of information.

## Highlights

- Level of residents' satisfaction with city services has been positive overall and higher than the national average.
- Citizens are generally confident in city government and think the city is a good place to live.
- Top citizen concerns and priorities: streets and sidewalks maintenance, the management of traffic flow on city streets and the quality of outdoor athletic facilities.
- These concerns/priorities are being addressed by:
  - ✓ The city's new 5-year, \$59 million infrastructure improvement plan that focuses on street repairs and paving and upgrades to public facilities;
  - ✓ The successful 2014 Transportation Bond that includes walking/biking trails and sidewalks to help get cars off our roads, as well as road projects designed to address safety and traffic congestion;
  - ✓ The successful 2016 Parks Bond that includes the development of the Northern Waterfront Park, new athletic fields and improvements to existing parks and facilities.

## Services areas with the HIGHEST levels of satisfaction

- Fire
- Trash, Recycling and Yard Waste
- Parks & Recreation programs & facilities
- Police

## Areas for improvement

- City golf course
- Quality of athletic fields
- Enforcement of fire codes

For more details and the full report, see: [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/survey](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/survey)



North Waterfront Park Conceptual Design

## Parks Bond Update

With the city's new budget now in place, funding for the 15 park projects approved by voters last November is available. We hope to complete all 15 projects in 5-7 years. One project that is getting immediate attention is the \$20 million Northern Waterfront Park. While the master plan has been approved, after much public input, we still need to do the design and will have a design consultant, project management firm, and an event promoter under contract by the end of summer. All three of these partners will work with the city to design and construct the park over the next two years.

Other projects that are moving forward in the design phase are the Municipal Golf Course improvements, the soccer fields, kayak launch at Bradley creek, community center expansion at Maides Park, and the Olsen Park enhancements. **You can learn more at [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/parksbond](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/parksbond).**

## Update on 5-year infrastructure improvement plan

Crews are currently installing drainage improvements and will 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 \$2.2 million project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

In mid-July, crews are expected to begin repaving portions of Medical Center Drive and Glen Meade Road west of 17th Street. Medical Center Drive will be repaved between 17th Street and Wisteria Drive, and Glen Meade Road will be repaved between 17th Street and Yaupon Drive. The project is expected to take about six weeks to complete.

Finally, the city expects to begin work to repave almost 4 lane miles of Floral Parkway, Audubon Boulevard, 39th Street and Peachtree Avenue in September. The project should be complete in October.

Five cents on the city's tax rate have been set aside to fund the plan and cannot be used for anything else.



## Wilmington recycles!

It pays to recycle! Did you know that it costs \$50 per ton to put materials in the landfill, but less than \$10 per ton to recycle? The City of Wilmington offers curbside recycling at no additional charge to city trash customers. Call (910) 341-7875 to sign up.

Plastic film and plastic bags are among the few items that should never be placed in the city's blue recycling carts. Please do not bag your recycling and put the bags in the cart. Instead, take your plastic film and bags to your local grocery store for recycling. **Learn more about what can and can't be recycled at [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/recycling](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/recycling).**

### City recycles almost 7 million pounds of materials from old buildings

In April, the city demolished buildings located on city-owned property at 901 N. 3rd Street and 908 and 922 N. Front Street. These buildings had been vacant for years. Future plans for these properties include a mixed-use high density development. While the buildings were being demolished, almost 7 million pounds of material were recycled, or about 93.5 percent of the total amount of material cleared.

**Steel recycled: 143,194 lbs (71.6 tons)**

**Aluminum recycled: 4,860 lbs (2.43 tons)**

**Vegetation recycled: 12,430 lbs (6.22 tons)**

**Concrete recycled: 6,828,000 lbs (3,414 tons)**



*Metal being set aside for recycling during demolition of downtown warehouse*

## Cool Jobs: Getting big construction projects built



Denise Freund is a construction project manager in the city's engineering division. She joined the city almost two years ago and has been involved in several major projects including the Water Street and Riverfront Park improvement project and transportation bond projects.

She says her favorite thing about her job is, "I learn something new literally everyday. I like being able to feel like my work is contributing to the improvement of the community that my family and I live, work and play in. To me, that's very rewarding."

## Get city information when you want, how you want it



The City of Wilmington's mobile app is now offering pop-up notifications for special events and emergencies. It's easy, just download our app, City of Wilmington, NC and follow these two simple steps to sign-up:

1. Under menu, look for the cell phone icon and click on "Notifications."
2. Select "Emergency Notifications" and/or "Special Events Notifications" to activate your notifications.

Once you've selected these you will receive notifications about major special events such as 4th of July and emergencies.

**Email notifications:** You can also receive e-mail notifications for special events, emergency notifications and weekly news updates. Visit our website, [www.wilmingtonnc.gov](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov) and follow these four simple steps to sign-up:

1. Click on the envelope icon near the top of the web page
2. Fill out the form with your e-mail address and name
3. Click "Emergency Notifications" and/or "Special Events" and/or "Weekly City News Updates"
4. Click Submit

*E-mail addresses will be kept confidential and will not be sold, disclosed to others, or used for unsolicited mass mailings (spam).*

## WFD breaks ground on new station 5

The Wilmington Fire Department broke ground on their new \$3.4 million Station 5, located at 680 Shipyard Blvd. on June 7.

The 11,500 square-foot station will replace the current Station 5 located at 1502 Wellington Ave and Station 6 located at 3939 Carolina Beach Rd. The property is strategically located to allow the new station, along with remaining existing stations, to provide the same level of service currently provided while also updating aging facilities in stations that can accommodate today's larger fire trucks.

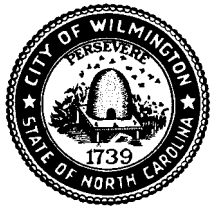
Construction is expected to be complete by July, 2018.





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**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov)



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