

# City Works

Connecting you to what is happening



September/October 2006

[www.BurlingtonNC.gov](http://www.BurlingtonNC.gov)

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

CityWorks is published bi-monthly

## Annual Hydrant Testing Underway

The Burlington Fire Department is currently conducting annual testing and maintenance of the City's 1800 fire hydrants. Hydrant testing takes place from March until November each year and is performed by on-duty fire personnel. Annual testing and maintenance of each fire hydrant is necessary to ensure that the Fire Department has a dependable water supply with which to extinguish fires and to maintain an excellent fire insurance rating for the City.

Testing and maintenance procedures include flowing water through the hydrants to flush out debris; gauging the water flow available at each hydrant; lubricating hydrant caps to ensure easy access during emergencies; painting hydrants; and marking hydrants with identification numbers.

During testing months, residents are strongly encouraged to check the water in their homes for discoloration that may occur. If discoloration has occurred, residents should refrain from washing white clothing articles and should open their cold water faucets until clearing occurs.

### Carolina Yards and Neighborhoods Program

You can save time and money, make your yard the best it can be and protect North Carolina's water resources by signing up for a new program called Carolina Yards & Neighborhoods. The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the Piedmont Triad Water Quality Partnership and the City of Burlington have partnered to bring this program to local homeowners. Participants will not only learn how to design a landscape, select plant material, reduce pesticide and fertilizer usage, manage irrigation systems, and maintain their lawns, but also how to reduce contaminants in storm water runoff from their property.

Classes will be taught by local Extension Horticulturist Rett Davis and will be held at the Agricultural Building, 209 North Graham-Hopedale Road. Each session is two parts beginning at 7:00 p.m. The first one is September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and will be repeated October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Participants need only attend one session. Cost is \$15.00 per person or family. Please call the Cooperative Extension Service at 570-6740 for information and to register.

### Burlington Carousel Festival

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

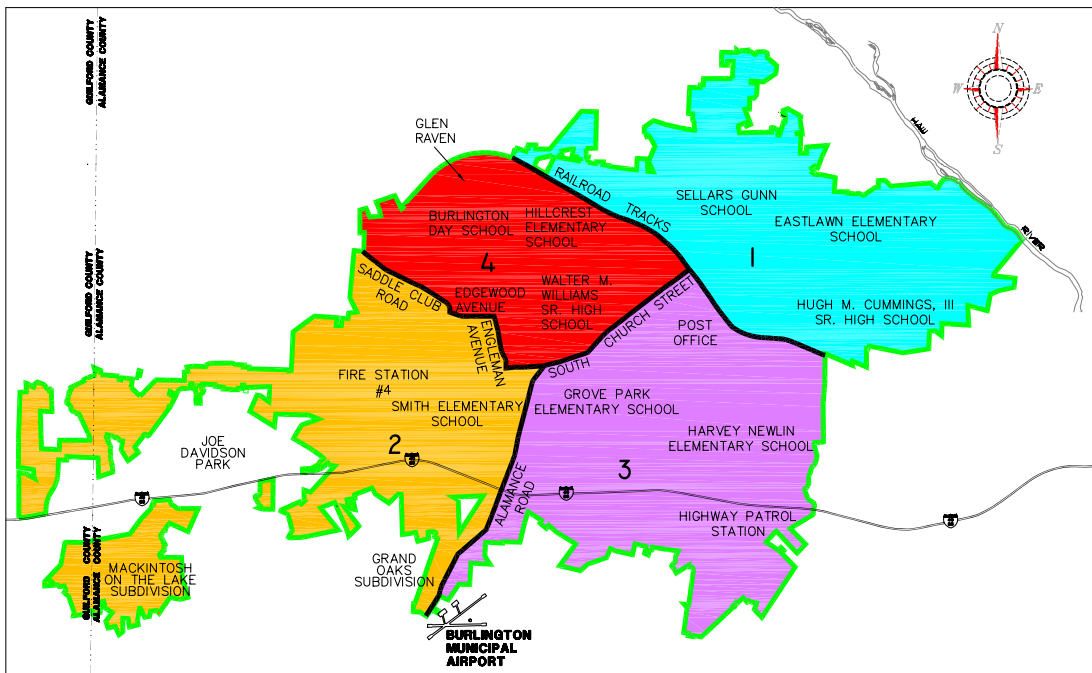
10:00am-6:00pm

Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm-6:00pm

Visit The Pet Adoption Center To Find Your Next Best Friend!  
221 Stone Quarry Road-Burlington  
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm Saturday-10am-4pm Closed Sunday's & Holidays  
**336-578-0343**

## City of Burlington 2006-2007 Leaf Collection Sections and Schedule



<u>Section 1</u>	<u>Section 2</u>	<u>Section 3</u>	<u>Section 4</u>
Oct. 16-20	Oct. 16 - 20	Oct. 23 - 27	Oct. 23 - 27
Oct. 30 - Nov. 3	Nov. 6 - 10	Nov. 13 - 17	Nov. 27 - Dec. 1
Dec. 4 - 8	Dec. 11 - 15	Dec. 18 - 22	Jan. 2 - 5, 2007
Jan. 8 - 12, 2007	Jan. 16- 19, 2007	Jan. 22 - 26	Jan. 29 - Feb. 2, 2007

# The Real Truth About Water

There are approximately 340 million cubic miles of water on the earth and about 1.1 trillion gallons of water in a cubic mile. Ninety seven percent of this water is salt water. That leaves about 8.6 million cubic miles of fresh water, and 80% of that is in the polar ice caps. That means there are about 2 million cubic miles of water in the ground and on the surface.

Fortunately, water isn't destroyed or lost when it has been used. We reuse it again and again. In fact, the water on the planet today has been here since the earth was formed.

So, why do we have to pay for it?

The raw product may be free, but customers don't get the raw product. The water that flows through your pipes has to be treated for human consumption and disinfected to insure it is safe to use. Therefore, there is a capital and maintenance cost to treat the water and pump it from the water plant to your house. Also, there is a capital and maintenance cost for the pipe infrastructure that the water flows through to get to your tap.

Let's compare the cost of a gallon of gasoline and a gallon of milk to the cost of a gallon of water:

Gasoline - \$2.79 (average today)

Milk - \$3.59

Water from the City of Burlington – less than \$0.01

Some people prefer to buy bottled water, which they will pay an average of \$0.60 to \$1.29 for a 12 oz. bottle. This bottled water is convenient, but it is not any safer or fresher than the water that comes out of your tap.

So, when you compare the cost of a gallon of water to a gallon of milk or gasoline and realize how important safe water is, you have to realize what a bargain it really is.