

City Page

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

City To Assume Zoning Responsibilities

Effective July 1, 2005, the responsibility of zoning administration, enforcement and plan review will transfer from Mecklenburg County to the City of Charlotte:

- The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission will administer appeals, variances and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- Engineering and Property Management will administer zoning functions related to commercial permitting and inspections.
- Neighborhood Development will provide residential and sign permitting services and neighborhood zoning enforcement.

Access to current zoning services, including plan review, will remain in the Hal Marshall Center at 700. N. Tryon Street. The Zoning Board of Adjustment hearings will move to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission's office at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. The zoning enforcement function will be co-located with community improvement and housing inspections at existing sites.

During the first year of transition, the City has established goals that include maintaining current service levels provided by Mecklenburg County, identifying service delivery enhancements and providing training and cross training for City zoning staff.



The City will assume responsibility for zoning administration, enforcement and plan review from Mecklenburg County on July 1.

Get Involved!

City Council meetings are regularly scheduled, every Monday at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. Fourth Street. Free parking is available at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Parking Deck (3rd and Davidson).

Citizen's Forum, 6:30 p.m., May 23

Memorial Day Holiday, May 30 (No meeting)

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission will host two public workshops to discuss station locations for the Northeast Corridor.

6 p.m., June 7

Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church
101 Sugar Creek Rd.
Fellowship Hall

* Stations to be discussed: 9th Street - Tom Hunter Rd.

6 p.m., June 9

University Place Hilton Hotel
8629 JM Keynes Dr.
Fountain View Room

*Stations to be discussed: City Blvd. - Salome Church Rd.

For more information, call 704-336-RIDE.

Spreading good news on water quality

More than 38 billion gallons of drinking water were treated and delivered countywide in 2004, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg customers can read for themselves about its safety and purity in the annual Water Quality Report which began arriving in mailboxes last week.

The federally required report tells the story of the tap water; where it comes from, what Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities tests for, and what they found. Tap water in Charlotte-Mecklenburg continues to receive top grades by meeting and exceeding state and federal drinking water standards, with zero violations of water quality. The report covers all tests for the 2004 calendar year.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began requiring public water suppliers to provide this annual report beginning in 1998. The purpose is to better inform customers on the safety and content of their drinking water.



The water distributed to customers is analyzed by laboratory professionals to ensure compliance with quality standards.

"This report reflects the hard work and dedication of Utilities employees who ensure the water meets all known standards for safety, reliability and quality," said Maeneen Klein, Water Conservation Coordinator for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities. The report was mailed to more than 392,000 customers across Mecklenburg County. Customers also can view the report online by clicking on the 'publications' link at www.cmutilities.com.

A Spanish version of the report will be posted on-line in June.

CMPD officers All Star nominees

Four of Charlotte's finest were nominees for the *America's Most Wanted's All Star Award*. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department nominated Officers David Crandall, Andrew Wrenn, Stephen Fishbach and Sean Hopkins for their heroism and devotion to duty. The television show sponsors the award to recognize police, fire, EMT and other first responders who have touched the lives of others. While other nominees were chosen as finalists for the honor, which will be awarded May 28, it doesn't diminish these officers' contributions to the community.



David Crandall and Andrew Wrenn: On October 4, 2004, Officers Crandall and Wrenn came upon an overturned truck on Old Nations Ford Road. The officers placed themselves in clear risk trying to pull the driver pinned inside the cab of the truck, as flames began to emerge. When firefighters arrived, the officers, without the benefit of protective gear, manned a fire hose, to protect the firefighters as they freed the driver.

Stephen Fishbach: On May 7, 2004, Officer Fishbach saved a woman from a burning vehicle involved in an accident on I-40 near Asheville. The officer, who was traveling home to watch his brother's baseball game, said his police instincts took over, helping him pull the victim from the burning vehicle.



Sean Hopkins: Officer Hopkins has arrested more suspects on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Top Ten List than any other officer serving with the department. To date, Hopkins has arrested 10 murder suspects, 4 rape suspects, and 37 armed robbery suspects. The CMPD has awarded Hopkins the Medal of Valor, the Medal of Merit and a department level commendation for pulling a trapped victim from a burning vehicle.