

## Old dinnerware wanted for new public art

Do you have old, broken or mismatched china sitting in your home? How about colorful glass, porcelain or ceramic pieces that you are willing to give away? If so, the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) wants your old, unused items to create a wall of art at the future East/West Boulevard Station along the South Corridor Light Rail Line.

Local artist Tom Thoue, known for his ceramic mosaic at Spirit Square, is creating a 360-foot wall on Camden Street parallel to the South Corridor light rail tracks depicting Charlotte's past and present in ceramic "cogs" spaced along the wall. Within the ceramic cog, handmade tiles and bits of ceramic will be pieced together to create a scene about life, past and present from the neighborhood and business community near the East/West Boulevard Station.

During the month of September, the public can drop off their old dinnerware at the McColl Center for Visual Art, located at 721 North Tryon Street in Center City Charlotte, during regular gallery hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information on CATS' Art-in-Transit program, log onto [www.ridetransit.org](http://www.ridetransit.org) or contact Devlin McNeil, Art-in-Transit Program Administrator at 704.432.3017.

## Get Involved!

### Center City Streetcar Public Meeting

Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission will conduct a public meeting for the Center City Streetcar Project.

**6:30 pm**  
**September 27, 2005**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**600 East Fourth Street**  
**Room 267**

The proposed Center City Streetcar will run along Trade Street, Beatties Ford Road, Elizabeth Avenue, and Central Avenue. Topics of discussion will include Curbside operations/Median operations, track alignment, urban design (Stop locations/Platforms) and ADA requirements.



### City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are regularly scheduled, typically every Monday at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. Fourth Street.

#### First Monday - Council Workshop

5 p.m. - Council Workshop, Conference Center, Room 267  
7:30 p.m. Citizens Forum, Room 267

#### Second Monday - Council Business Meeting

5 p.m. - Council/Manager Dinner/Briefing, Room 267  
7 p.m. - Council Meeting, Meeting Chamber

#### Third Monday - Zoning Meeting

6 p.m. - Zoning Meeting, Meeting Chamber

#### Fourth Monday - Council Business Meeting

5 p.m. - Council/Manager Dinner/Briefing, Room 267  
6:30 p.m. - Citizens Forum, Meeting Chamber  
7 p.m. - Council Meeting, Meeting Chamber

Free parking is available at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Parking Deck (3rd and Davidson) during City Council meetings.

# City of Charlotte responds to Katrina devastation

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina had resounding effects beyond the Gulf States and like the rest of the country, Charlotte was impacted.

### Immediate response - Fuel shortage

Immediately after the storm on August 29, the City began implementing its own measures to offset possible reductions in fuel supplies to the Southeast, which originate from the Gulf States. The City of Charlotte's services are largely vehicle dependent-Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD), Charlotte Fire Department (CFD), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities, Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT), Solid Waste Services and others deliver services through the use of more than 2,850 vehicles.

To conserve fuel, the City:

- combined work crews
- suspended non-essential trips and training
- reduced idling times
- encouraged employees and citizens to carpool, vanpool and ride transit when possible to support citywide conservation.

Fortunately, within a few days, the fuel pipeline supplying the Charlotte area was working to nearly full capacity so supplies were returning although prices remained at record highs.

The City also provided immediate support on the ground in the Gulf States. Several Charlotte firefighters deployed to assist with rescue operations, and several CMPD officers traveled to the area to assist in security operations, which included escorting MED-1, Carolinas Medical Center's mobile hospital, which provided medical treatment to hurricane victims.

### Humanitarian effort

The American Red Cross opened shelter operations at Olympic High School to provide assistance to people who self-evacuated from the Gulf States. After receiving word the City would be receiving airlift evacuees as well, shelter operations moved to the Charlotte Coliseum Friday, Sept. 2. Beginning at 3:40 a.m. Monday, Sept. 5, four flights of Katrina evacuees arrived in Charlotte. Charlotte firefighters and CMPD officers along with MEDIC and Red Cross staff greeted and assisted people as they disembarked. A total of 441 survivors flew into Charlotte. CATS buses provided transportation to the Red Cross Coliseum Shelter and have continued to provide transportation from the Coliseum to points around the city. There, the City's newest visitors received food, a place to sleep, clothing and assistance from various local, state and federal agencies. The shelter has provided more than 2,000\* people with disaster assistance.

From helping people in the Gulf States retain a sense of normalcy in their lives to helping evacuees, who now call this area home, settle in, Charlotte-Mecklenburg will do its part in assisting those affected by Katrina overcome its devastation.

\*Figures available at the time of City Page production.

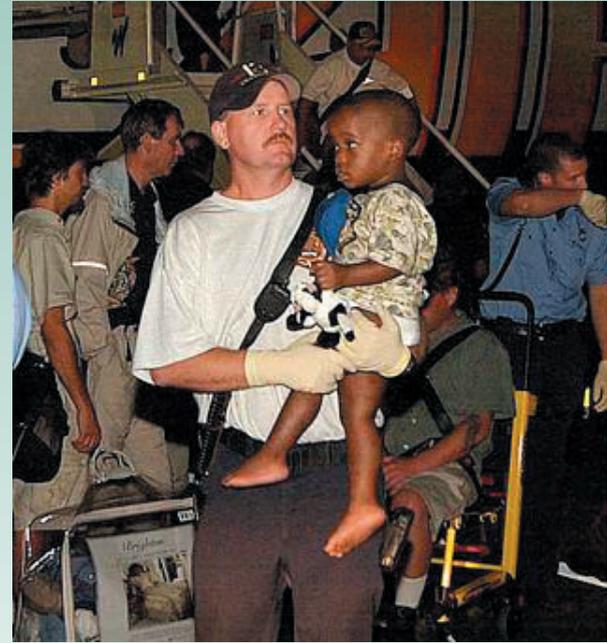
## New service offers web updates, subscriptions

With the constant barrage of spam filling our email inboxes, it would be nice to receive only information you want. This is the approach the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County are taking to provide better service for the thousands of people who visit the City/County Web site at <http://www.charmeck.org>.

The website now offers an online notification service, which allows citizens to be emailed when their favorite web site pages are updated. The subscribers will receive an email containing a link to the new posting. In addition to receiving information such as transit rider alerts or updates on city policies, citizens also can subscribe to electronic newsletters published by City and County agencies. Currently, the service is available only on the site's most frequently updated pages, but is being expanded to other web pages.

"We are really excited about the new opportunities that the service presents us and our customers," said Shawn Proffitt, City of Charlotte Web Manager. "First, it will allow us to communicate with our citizens more frequently, provide information that is relevant and important based on the user's choice, and offers us additional exposure to our website."

To subscribe visit [www.charmeck.org](http://www.charmeck.org) and click "Notify Me."



Charlotte Firefighter Scott Hardin assists a young evacuee.

