



DURHAM COUNTY MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009



Dear Citizen,

Durham County Government is pleased to present its 2009 Major Accomplishments. This annual update is designed to keep you informed about the great things happening in your County government.

As residents of this great county, you are affected by services administered by Durham County Government each day. This update will help you to learn more about Durham County's services and the positive accomplishments our workers have achieved this year. Their success in turn improves the quality you enjoy from living in Durham County.

We encourage you to become more involved in the Durham community by volunteering on boards and commissions and attending Board of County Commissioners' meetings to voice your opinions and concerns.

We love to hear from our neighbors; so, please tell us how we are doing by calling 919-560-0000. To learn more about Durham County Government's services, visit www.durhamcountync.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Ruffin
Durham County Manager

A Model for the Community

When H1N1 surfaced in the Triangle in early summer 2009, Durham County Health Department quickly took the lead in providing timely and accurate information on the new pandemic flu to educate the public. The health department quickly mobilized its staff to coordinate a comprehensive response to the H1N1 flu activity. Gayle Harris, health director for Durham County Government, became a readily available resource to the media openly sharing an effective plan to inoculate the public. Immunization clinics were held at the Health Department's main office, school facilities and the National Guard Armory to provide vaccinations for those in high risk groups as quickly as possible.



Departments and Employees Receive Recognition

The unique work of several county departments secured local and national accolades this year. The National Association of Counties awarded Durham County Library with four NACo Achievement Awards for their GenText Book Club, Get Set, Get Ready, Let's Read!, Poetry for Everyone, and Write On! programs. The Department of Social Services received a NACo Achievement Award for their Guardianship Assistance Program. After unveiling the first tax payment kiosk in the state of North Carolina, the Tax Administration Department won the Local Government Federal Credit Union Productivity Award presented by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. GlaxoSmithKline honored Ms. Lee Lichtenwalter, nutritionist for the County's Health Department, with the 2009 Child Health Recognition Award for 20 years of outstanding service. Durham Board of County Commissioners Chairman Michael D. Page proudly accepted Governor Beverly Perdue's appointment to the Governor's Crime Commission. Eddie Culberson, director of the County's Soil and Water Conservation Department received the Technical Employee of the Year award by the North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Comprehensive and Coordinated Care



The County's largest ever building project, the new Health and Human Services building was approved. In early May, the ground breaking ceremony for the \$70 m project, was the kick off to bringing the County's human services under one roof, providing citizens with a continuum of care for human service delivery. The new building will house Health Department, Department of Social Services and the Durham Center (Mental Health). The 277,590 building, designed by the Freelon Group, will be built to pursue LEED Gold certification standards. The construction is projected to end in 2013. The building will remain on Main Street.

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Helping Communities

Durham's Cooperative Extension Department developed a unique gang intervention and prevention program to assist youth from choosing or associating with a gang-related lifestyle. This year, Extension also took great strides to help families through its Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. The new program, a partnership with the Durham Public Schools, launched in early 2009 as a support and education group for grandparents parenting their grandchildren.



Stimulus Package Benefits Human Services

Of the federal stimulus money allotted to Durham County Government, the County's human services functions received the greatest funding to improve programming. The Department of Social Services received funds for food aid (\$15m) to assist the food stamp program, and childcare aid (\$2.6m) to help low income families afford day care, and Medicaid (\$2.2m). Currently, stimulus funds to Durham County Government is approximately \$21m. The amount anticipated will increase as the County continues to apply for additional stimulus funds.

County Welcomes Changes to Leadership

Among many changes in County Government was the appointment of four new department heads. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appointed Lowell Siler as the new County Attorney and Michelle Parker-Evans as the new Clerk to the Board to manage its operations. Siler is the first African-American to be appointed as Durham County Attorney. Gayle Harris was promoted to Health Director and Geraldine "Gerl" Robinson was hired as Director of Social Services.



Siler

Real Estate Records Now Online

For last 2 years, Durham County's Register of Deeds Office has taken on new record-keeping responsibilities. This year, the office carried out a large scanning project that making Durham County Real Estate Records from 1881 to 1962 now available on the Register of Deeds website. The nearly 100 years of information can now be searched by document type and includes deeds, plat, maps and corporate documents from the inception the county.

Sheriff's Office New Warrant Control Center and NCAWARE

A partnership between the City and County Governments allowed the development of a new Warrant Control Center. The new Center provides more efficient service and management of warrants. The Center is easily access to warrant information for court officials, law enforcement and the public. The new system of logging records at the Center helps to avoid past problems with backlogged warrants. Sheriff's officials now participate in NCAWARE a new statewide repository developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

BOCC Builds a Community Circle

In early 2009, Chairman Michael Page created the "Commissioners Community Circle Award." The award is designed as a way for the Durham Board of County Commissioners to recognize Durham county departments, community organizations and programs for the outstanding services they provide to Durham's citizens. The Salvation Army, Legacy Center, Nutrition Division of the Durham County Public Health Department, Hold Your Head Up, Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina, New Beginnings Outreach CDC, and CrimeStoppers are among past recipients of the prestigious award.

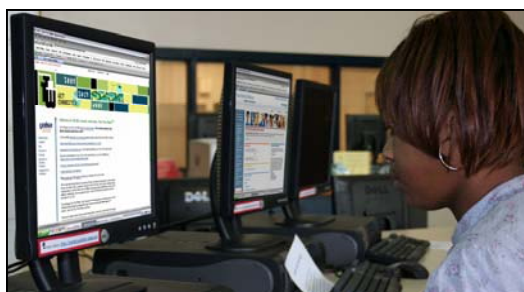
DSS Improves Communication with Spanish Speakers

In November, the Department of Social Services launched a new website that allows Limited English Proficient families, whose primary language is Spanish, to easily navigate the current DSS in Spanish language. To access the Spanish-language website, visit the DSS website and click on "Servicios Sociale de Durham."

Optimism in the Face of a Slowing Economy

Despite tough economic times, Durham County is identified as one of the best places in America to ride out a recession. With hope for increasing economic strength, the County agreed to an economic development incentive contract with EMC Corporation for a maximum amount of \$1.2m. The Board of County Commissioners also approved \$750,000 in economic incentives for the \$363 million IBM Data Services facility in RTP.

Computers 4 Kids



Responding to the need to provide DPS students with computers in their homes, Durham County Government has formed a partnership with Durham Public Schools, the United Way of the Greater Triangle, and the Volunteer Center of Durham that enables County surplus desktop computers to be refurbished and readied for use by DPS students. Computers are given free of charge and are coupled with a 1 GB thumb drive.

Tweets and more

Residents that want to stay in the loop of the latest happenings in Durham County Government, now have the option to become friends and followers of Durham County's Facebook and Twitter pages. The new social media tools improve communication with the County's diverse citizenry. The County debuted a new TV Show, "In Touch with Durham County" in August. The show airs daily and is hosted by Chairman Michael Page and Assistant County Manager Deborah Craig-Ray.