

Students Guide To City Government Services



Dear Student:

It has been a pleasure to prepare a booklet that will help you gain a better understanding of Durham City Government and the various services it provides to Durham residents.

The City of Durham is committed to its vision and mission Statements.

The City's Vision Statement: Durham will be North Carolina's leading city in providing an excellent and sustainable quality of life.

The City's Mission Statement: The City of Durham is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community by delivering cost - effective, highly responsive services with integrity and friendliness.

Read and Enjoy!

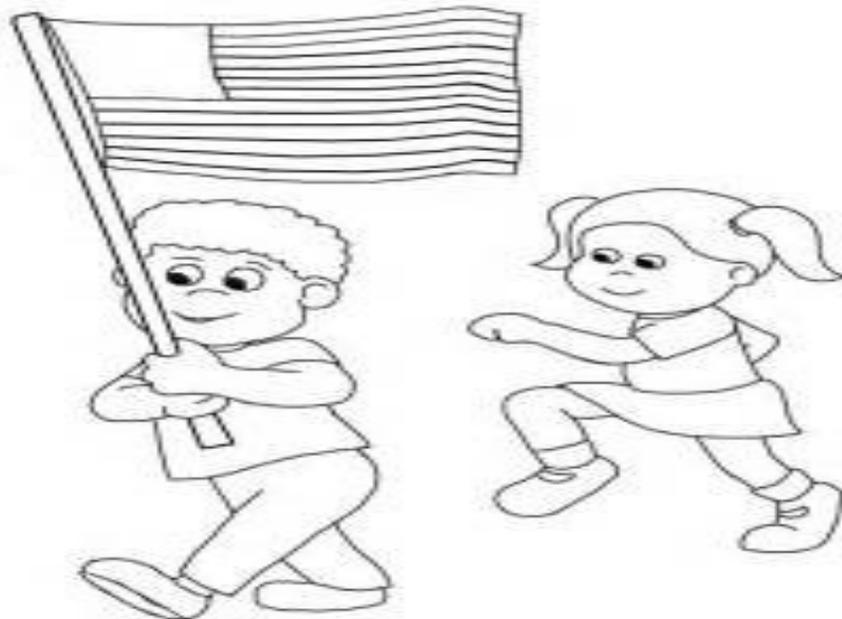
Sincerely,

Constance Stancil

Constance Stancil, Director

Neighborhood Improvement Services

- I. Rules / Laws
- II. Government
- III. City Council
- IV. City Manager
- V. City Hall Building
- VI. City Hall On the Go
- VII. Flag
- VIII. Logo
- IX. City Departments



I. Rules / Laws

Each one of us has rules that we must follow: In your home there may be a rule that you take the garbage out each day, keep your room clean, or care for a pet. In your home, your parents or guardian may have made the rules.

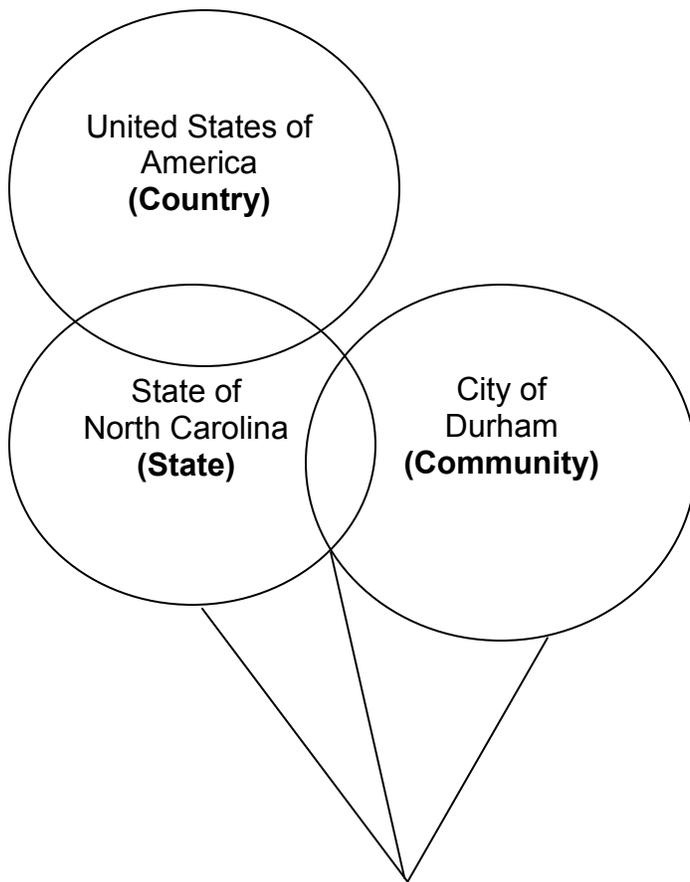
Your school also has rules. There are rules about what time school begins and ends, and how students should act in the classroom and halls.

Rules at your school may have been made by your teacher, the principal, or the superintendent of the school system.

Rules are very important at home and school. They are important in communities. A community is a group of people working together, and the places where they live, work, have fun, and share special times. Rules for a community are called laws and ordinances. Everyone who lives in the City of Durham or visits Durham must obey the laws. Those who break the laws can be punished. Do you know who makes the laws for the City of Durham?



II. Government



Laws are made by government. A government is a group of people who lead a Community, a State, or Country. This group of people make decisions about public issues, provide services for residents, and are responsible for making sure laws are obeyed.

Durham has a council-manager form of government. This means that the City of Durham has a City Council and City Manager.

In the City of Durham, the Durham City Council creates laws for our community. The Council is elected by registered voters who live in the City of Durham. An election is the act of choosing a person for a position by voting.



III. Durham City Council

There are 7 members on the Durham City Council, one of whom is the mayor. The mayor is the person who is the leader of the city council.

The Durham City Council meets twice a month on the first and third Monday nights. These meetings are open to Durham residents. The council decides how to spend City funds to provide services to residents.

Durham City Council also talks about many kinds of problems in Durham and how to best solve them. Durham City Council also listens to any ideas or concerns people have about the City.

IV. City Manager



The City Manager is a person hired by the Durham City Council. The manager supervises the day to day activities of Durham government. The City Manager makes sure the City of Durham provides different services such as making sure our garbage is collected; our streets are repaired, snow and ice are removed when needed; our water is safe to drink; and traffic lights work properly. The manager also supervises the fire and police chief to help make sure the community is safe.

You can learn more about other City services as you continue to read.

V. City Hall Building



101 City Hall Plaza Durham NC 27701

Durham City Hall is a building that houses the administrative offices for Durham City government. The administrative offices are as follows:

- Audit Services
- Budget & Management Services
- City Attorney's Office
- City Clerk's Office
- City Manager's Office
- Durham City Council
- Finance Department
- Human Resources Department
- Inspections
- Mayor
- Planning Department
- Public Affairs Department
- Technology Solutions
- Transportation Department
- Water Customer Services

VI. City Hall On The Go

Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services



City Hall On The Go serves residents where they live, work, and play. This is a mobile vehicle that will serve, share, and connect residents with the resources throughout the City of Durham. City Hall On The Go is designed to reach out to communities within the city to increase awareness of city services. City Hall On The Go is managed by the Department of Neighborhood Improvement Services.

If you want City Hall On The Go to come to your neighborhood, school or event, please have your parent or guardian fill-out an online form on the Neighborhood Improvement Services webpage: <http://durhamnc.gov/570/Neighborhood-Improvement-Services>. For more information about City Hall On The Go call (919) 560-1647.

VII. Flag

Did you know the City of Durham has its own Flag?

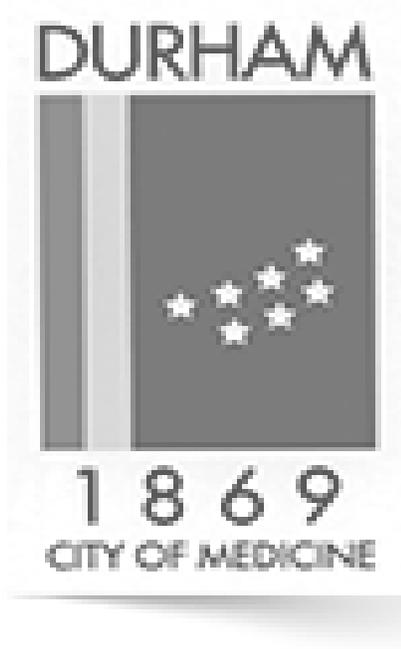


Facts about Durham's Flag.

1. Following a public flag contest, Mr. Al Nichols' design was adopted in 1989 as the city's official flag.
2. The design communicated the "New Spirit" of Durham in seven areas represented by the seven stars: the arts; commerce and industry; education; medicine; human relations; sports and recreation; and the perseveration of our rich heritage.
3. The colors:
 - ⇒ first stripe on left is red and represents action and progress;
 - ⇒ second strip (middle) is gold and represents high quality in all growth;
 - ⇒ third strip is royal blue and represents courage;
 - ⇒ stars are white and represents high ideals.

VIII. Logo

Did you know the City of Durham has its own Logo?



What is a logo? A logo is a symbol representing a company or publication. Above is the logo for the City of Durham. It is much like the City of Durham's flag. The City's logo was approved by Durham City Council on April 2, 1991.

Durham is called the City of Medicine because of its many outstanding hospitals, major national and international healthcare companies, research companies, clinical services, and its nationally recognized medical teaching facilities-Duke University Medical School is one such facility.

IX. City Departments



Police Department

The Police Department enforces the law and ensures the safety of Durham residents. Their duties include: patrolling the city; responding to calls for police service; conducting investigations in response to reported crimes; providing emergency response to crime, accidents; and providing community crime prevention materials and programs for residents and businesses (example: child identification program).

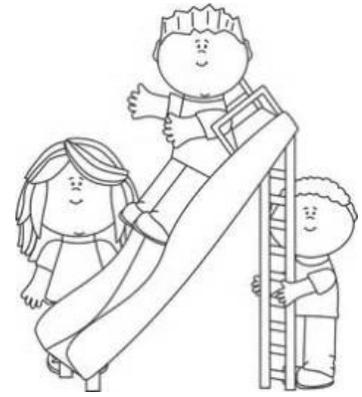


Fire Department

The Fire Department protects and prevents the loss of life and property from the effects of fires, medical emergencies, or exposure to dangerous conditions created by either man or nature.

Many times firefighters visit elementary schools to teach students all about fire safety. Has a firefighter visited your school?

If your teacher would like to take your class for a visit to one of the Durham fire stations or have firefighters visit your school, they can call at 919.560.4242 or fill-out an online form at Durham.gov/formcenter/firedepartment to make arrangements.



Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the public parks, recreation centers, and pools located within the City of Durham. It offers activities year-round, including programs for youth, teens, adults, senior citizens, and residents with special needs.

The department manages approximately 61 parks and many facilities. Have you visited a city park? What is the name of the City park closest to your school? To find out about activities in your community, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 919.560.4355.



Water Management Department

The City of Durham gets its water from two water supply lakes (Lake Michie and Little River Lake). The Water Management Department is responsible for getting this water to one of its water treatment plants. At these plants, water is treated and poisons are removed. The water is also tested and made safe for residents in Durham to drink.

Solid Waste Department

Residential Garbage
Green Roll-Out Cart



Yard Waste
Brown Roll-Out Cart



The Department of Solid Waste Collections collects the garbage generated by the residents and businesses of Durham. Residential garbage (garbage from your home) is collected on a weekly basis and should be placed in a City issued green roll-out cart. The department also offers a number of services to residents (1) removal of bulky items (example: old stove, furniture, refrigerator, etc.) and (2) assist with neighborhood clean-ups.

Yard waste (example: grass, twigs, and small tree limbs) is collected on a weekly basis. It should be placed in a small brown roll out cart purchased from the City of Durham. Solid Waste is also responsible for helping residents of Durham dispose of hazardous waste materials such as oil/paint, sprays and automotive products, paint, antifreeze, and household cleaners.

What Have You Learned?



Match the words on the left with the description on the right.

City Manager

A group of people who leads a community, state, or a country

Government

Person who is the leader of city council

Mayor

Group who make laws for the City of Durham

City Council

Person hired by city council

Fill in the blanks

1. There are _____ members on Durham City Council.
2. An _____ is the act of choosing a person by voting
3. Each of us has rules that we must follow. Rules for a community are called _____ or _____.
4. Durham has a _____ form of government.

Circle the hazardous materials?



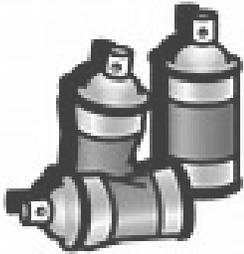
Plastic



Antifreeze



Cardboard



Sprays



Motor Oil



Paint /Gas

Unscramble the following words.

1. deresitn

2. micoymnut

3. evongetrmn

4. crseisve

5. urdmah

Answers

Hazardous Materials



Antifreeze



Sprays



Motor Oil



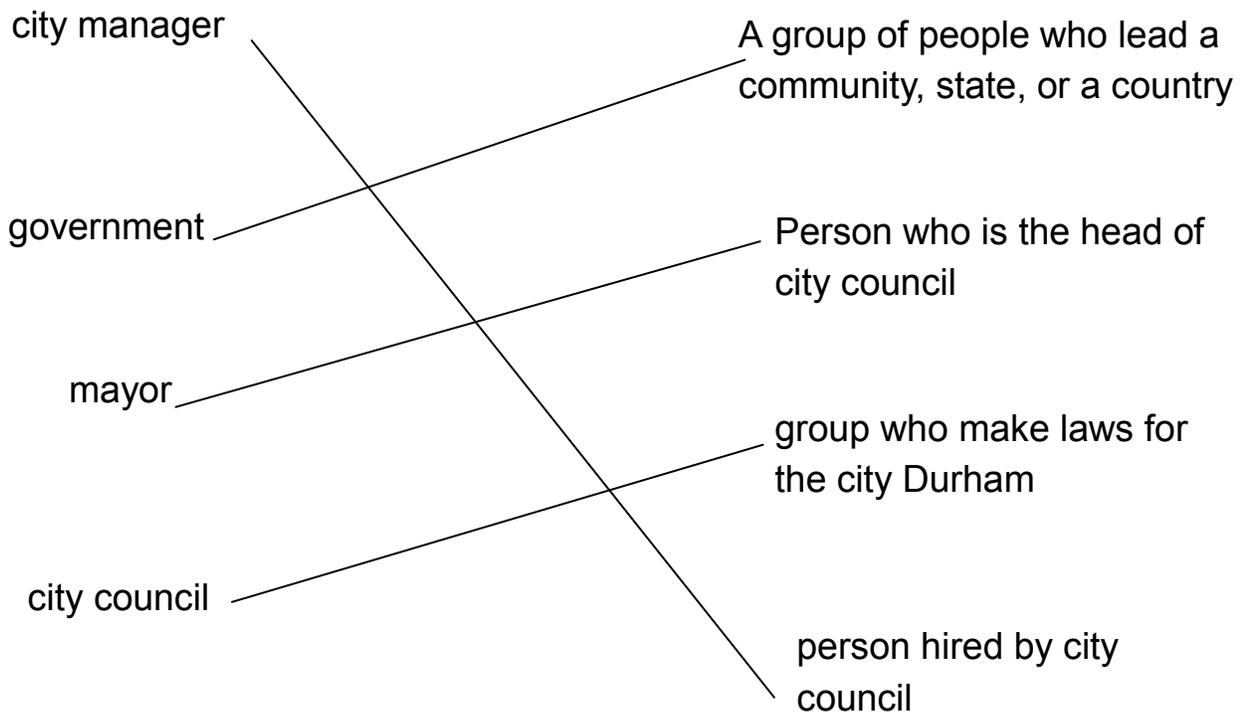
Paint /Gas

Answers

Unscramble the following words.

1. deresitn (resident)
2. micoymnut (community)
3. evongetrmn (government)
4. crseisve (services)
5. urdmah (durham)

Match the words on the left with the description on the left.



Fill in the blank

Answers

1. There are 7 members on Durham City Council.
2. An **election** is the act of choosing a person by voting.
3. Each of us has rules that we must keep. Rules for a community are called **laws or ordinances**.
4. Durham has a **council-manager form** of government.