



# City News

## Laurinburg's New, Fresh Look...

Dear City of Laurinburg Residents,

The past year has brought many new faces to the City of Laurinburg's leadership team, including myself. Along with the new faces on staff, citizens will also notice many new changes to the local scenery.

The Highway 74 Lighting Project was recently completed. This project involved collaborative efforts of the City, the Scotland County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) and the NC Department of Transportation (DOT). Sixteen new lights were installed to entice travelers to exit into the main thoroughfares of Laurinburg to increase traffic, sales, and potentially to recruit new business.

In an effort to make our City an inviting community, the Beautification Department recently planted 275 trees including 140 right-of-way trees and 135 in the Annual Tree Giveaway Program. The Beautification Committee played an

integral role in completing the design phase of this project which will present a positive image to visitors and citizens of Laurinburg alike.

Our Police Department will also be sporting a new look this spring. Our Police Chief Darwin Williams is changing the appearance of our patrol vehicles. We are in the process of painting 8 vehicles to display a more unified look and will continue the same color scheme in the future.

Our downtown area has been spruced up with painting and repairing numerous buildings, and replacing awnings. The Downtown Improvement Project Phase I was a partnership between LDRC and the City to improve the downtown area.

I hope that you have noticed and are enjoying the positive changes that are occurring in Laurinburg.

Sincerely,  
Charles D Nichols III  
City Manager

# Quarterly Newsletter

CITY OF LAURINBURG

## New Disconnection Date

On March 18, 2014, the Laurinburg City Council amended its utility billing ordinance by extending the utility disconnection date until the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Previously, the disconnection date was the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month which allowed customers two (2) extensions within a twelve month period, leaving the balance to be remitted no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the next month to avoid disconnection.

By extending the disconnect date until the 5<sup>th</sup>, it is essentially eliminating the need for extensions. Disconnections will begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. The policy will not hold or delay a disconnection for any reason other than the guidelines set forth in City Code concerning Inclement Weather or death at the residence at which the disconnect is scheduled, which has always been an extended courtesy of the City of Laurinburg. City Manager Charles Nichols stated that "the changes will allow many of our customers the needed time to receive monthly checks to pay their bills and will also improve efficiency in our Consumer Billing Department." He added that "the City is always striving to improve customer service."

## Calendar of Events

### City Council Agenda Work Sessions

**City Council Chambers**  
April 15, May 13, June 10  
7:00 pm

### City Council Regular Monthly Meetings

**City Council Chambers**  
April 22, May 20, June 17  
7:00 pm

### City Offices Closed

**Good Friday**  
Friday, April 18

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 26

## Holiday Schedule

The City of Laurinburg offices will be closed on Friday, April 18th, 2014 in observance of Good Friday. All commercial dumpster routes scheduled for Friday will be picked up on Thursday the 17th.

Also, the City of Laurinburg offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th, 2014 in observance of Memorial Day. All solid waste routes for that Monday will be picked up on Tuesday along with the Tuesday route.

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Spring has sprung and with the warm weather approaching us we, at the City of Laurinburg, would like to remind everyone that we have been very fortunate in years past with our water supply. However, the drought does affect the aquifer where our water comes from. So, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that conserving water today will hopefully ensure water tomorrow. You can contact the Water Plant at 910-277-0214 for additional information on conserving water.

### ***Here are a few tips to help save water:***

- When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

***Please remember water is a precious commodity that we cannot live without. So when you think of water think about conserving it.***

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## **Used Cooking Oil**

The City of Laurinburg Sanitation Department will begin collecting used cooking oil from all residential customers beginning April 1, 2014. This collection will be done on a call-in basis. If you have any used cooking oil that needs to be collected, place it in a plastic container with a secured lid and call Public Works at 910-276-2364. We will schedule a driver to come out and pick it up at no cost.

Pouring your used cooking oil down the drain can clog your lines causing you to have sewer backups in your home. By letting us pick up your used cooking oil, you can help protect your sewer lines as well as our sewer infrastructure. If you have any questions please call Public Works at 910-276-2364.

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### **ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS**

- Plastic bottles
- Glass of any color Whole or Broken
- Aluminum, Tin, and Metal cans
- Non-waxed chipboard like cereal or cracker boxes
- Newspaper, catalogs, pamphlets, brochures
- Telephone Books
- Office paper, stationary
- Shredded paper
- Junk mail and advertisements
- Used cooking oil and used motor oil

## **Recyclable Items**

### **NON-ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS**

- Tissues, paper towels, toilet paper
- Any food material
- Pizza Boxes, meat trays
- Styrofoam of ANY kind
- Saran wrap
- Paint cans, unless paint is completely dried up
- Batteries
- Clothing, rags, cloth of any type
- Appliances of any kind, large or small
- Large plastic items such as laundry baskets
- Miscellaneous household garbage



**Only recyclable items can be placed inside the blue recycle cart. Used oil should be placed in secured container (up to 1 gallon) and beside the blue cart. All other household items should be placed in the green garbage cart for pick up.**