

# Cheryl Stallings

Apex Town Council  
*Improving Quality of Life for Our Community*



Happy February everyone! Many exciting things are happening in Apex! Here is a highlight of events over the past month:

- On Saturday, January 4th, Mark and I had the pleasure of attending the Apex Mayoral Inaugural Ball in honor of Mayor Jacques Gilbert. Thank you, Ms. Kanika Brown, for organizing a fun and memorable event at the Academy for the Performing Arts in Apex!
- At the Town Council work session on the evening of January 7th, we heard Staff suggestions on ways to help mitigate neighbor concerns adjacent to the new Electric Operations Center being built on Milano Avenue. Staff is working out the details for the security light system (that will include a dimming system to minimize the light impact to nearby homes); a landscaping buffer along the eastside entrance; and a sound wall to be built along the east edge of the property (in addition to plantings) to help buffer the Center from nearby homes.
- I am serving on the Economic Development Committee with Mayor Gilbert. We had our first quarterly meeting on January 8th. We are recruiting businesses for our 121 acre Cash Corporate Center - especially in the areas of technology, life sciences, and light manufacturing. Our "Launch Apex" program is in its 3rd year, an initiative between the Town and Wake Tech to support small business development and entrepreneurship. Additionally, we have 2 Coworking stations

open to support small business development – 1 in Downtown and 1 on Olive Chapel Road. Colleen Merays is our new Downtown & Small Business Coordinator and Joanna Helms is our Economic Development Director.



- Thanks to Apex Police Chief Letteney for an informative meeting on January 9th! We had good discussion on community safety and violence prevention efforts in our Town.



- On Thursday evening and all day Friday (January 9th and 10th), we had our strategic planning retreat. Town Council and Staff met at the Halle Cultural Arts Center and worked with consultant Lou O'Boyle from Zelos. We did team building Thursday evening via drumming circle activities with Matt Savage (www.rhythmalive.com) and developed a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Strategic Goals for our local government on Friday. Staff is refining some of the language from these retreat activities, and the final product will be released soon!

- Apex Firefighter Recognition was on January 16th. Chief McGee and his team were honored and recognized for the great work they do in helping to keep our residents safe. We have 15 people who are currently going through our cadet training program to become new firefighters in Apex!



- At the January 21st Town Council meeting, we unanimously approved a 10-home affordable housing project on Kissena Lane. We will continue to look for ways to provide housing options for people with diverse incomes. A housing affordability study for the Town will take place this year. In addition to approving an historical marker/sign program for the Town, we also passed an ordinance concerning gun possession. No one can carry (open or concealed carry) a gun in government buildings or at organized sporting events at any of our parks. (Unfortunately, state law prevents us from regulating firearm possession at playgrounds.)
- I enjoyed attending our coworking station ribbon cutting in Downtown Apex on January 22nd. This renovated space is contemporary and inviting. It provides work space, educational opportunities, and networking support for entrepreneurs, freelancers, and small businesses.



- On January 23rd, Mayor Pro Tem Dozier and Council Members Gantt, Mahaffey and myself attended an Essentials of

Municipal Government workshop in Durham. The program was conducted by the UNC School of Government.

- On January 24th, Mayor Gilbert gave an energetic and inspiring State of the Town address at the Halle Cultural Arts Center. Check out this recently created video featuring Mayor Gilbert and the people of Apex! [Video Link](#)
- As we move into February, the Town is celebrating and honoring Black History Month. I hope you will come by Town Hall and see the informative “Living Black History” exhibit that our Town Clerk, Donna Hosch, has created. I also hope to see you at one of the events at the Halle that illuminates Black History and the civil rights movement.

I look forward to seeing you in and around town. Feel free to share my newsletter with people who might enjoy reading these updates. Please also let me know if I can be of service to you. - Cheryl

**Cheryl4Apex**

2009 Abby Knoll Dr  
Apex, NC 27502

(919)275-0251

Cheryl.Stallings@apexnc.org



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