

Cheryl Stallings

Apex Town Council
Improving Quality of Life for Our Community



Hello Neighbors and Friends –

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. On this last day of February and Black History Month, I want to acknowledge and give thanks again for the many African Americans who have contributed and continue to contribute to the well-being of Apex, our state, nation, and world. Here's a look at the [Black History Month](#) information that has been on the Town website throughout the month of February.

As we transition into March, we will celebrate Women's History Month. Here's the [proclamation](#) that Mayor Gilbert and the Council read jointly at our February 23rd meeting. In honor of Women's History Month, there will be an art exhibit and movies at the Halle, as well as Town website information dedicated to women in history. There will be opportunities for citizens and school students to submit information related to women's history and women's issues. And finally, I will be facilitating a storytelling event later in the month as we gather either in person or virtually to hear from women in our community across generations to discuss their celebrations and challenges throughout the years. Stay tuned for more information on the Town website, and I hope you can participate in some of the planned upcoming events! A special thanks goes to

Deputy Town Clerk Tesa Silver for organizing these activities!



November 2019 Pre-Covid Picture!

In COVID vaccination news, we continue to move forward as quickly as we can with the vaccine roll-out. One of Apex's NC House Representatives, Julie von Haefen, reports the following: "We are now vaccinating educators, school staff and childcare workers, and we will be moving to vaccinate the rest of Group 3 on March 10. Find your group at findmygroup.nc.gov. Sign up at <https://covid19.wakegov.com/vaccine/>."

Town Council Meeting News

At our February 9th meeting, Nicole Bernard, Director of Shield NC, gave a presentation to Council on the Service Groups and Faith Alliance. She and Apex Police Officer, Kenneth Ragland, have organized this group who meets monthly and discusses topics affecting at-risk populations in our community and ways local service groups can offer support to those in need.

This was followed by a presentation by Nicole Powell on the Carbon Dividend Act. Council continues to be interested in ways we can learn about and support climate change initiatives.

With Consent Agenda items, we approved some routine encroachment agreements and a construction contract for [Lake Pine Drive improvements](#). Additionally, we approved the reappointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair positions on the Environmental Advisory Board and some personnel changes due to increased demands for services with our growing town (Fire Department's Senior Program Support Specialist increased to a full-time position), and [reclassifications](#) of some positions to accurately reflect the skills needed for the job and to provide opportunity for career progression.

In our public hearing for the evening, we discussed the [Jessie Drive Phase 1](#) design plans and the impact of this roadway project on the Sweetgum Drive residents. We are trying to move forward with this roadway project, which will eventually provide connectivity to Highway 55, in a way that has the least amount of negative impact to the existing residents.

At our February 23rd meeting, Mayor Gilbert recognized John M. Brown for his 35 years of service to the Town and residents of Apex as our Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Director. Council also approved renaming the Apex Community Center to the John M. Brown Community Center in honor of Mr. Brown's years of service to our town.



Photo credit - Town of Apex

Next, Human Resources Director, Mary Beth Manville, announced the new “[Retiree Recognition Board](#)” that will be displayed in Town Hall. This Board will honor all of the employees who have retired from their jobs with the Town of Apex.

With Consent Agenda items, Council adopted a Resolution supporting the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#) and approved closing 13 on-street parallel parking spaces in our downtown for extended outdoor dining at our local restaurants through September, 2021. We also approved the purchase of the approximate 5 acres of land located at 736 Hunter Street, which is [Fire Station 3](#) property the County was willing to sell to us.

With public hearings, we heard and subsequently approved on February 25th the [Wolfe Properties PUD Amendment](#), [Rezoning Application #20CZ16 \(rezoning of 1.90 acres to Medium Density-Conditional Zoning\)](#), and some [Land Use Map amendments](#)

to the 2045 Land Use Map related to transit-oriented development. All of the land use amendments were approved except for one (Area F – which involves Beaver Creek, Chapel Ridge, and Vision Drive). This amendment was tabled for further review and study.

And finally, Council directed Staff to develop a [utility customer assistance program](#). With the struggles related to the COVID pandemic, we still have residents who are having difficulty paying their utility bills.

Other Meetings, Community Events, and Outreach

On February 4th, I attended Mayor Gilbert's virtual State of the Town address. He provided a good overview of the work we have been doing this past year, as well as our plans for the future. Here's a video that Mayor Gilbert shared as part of his [presentation](#).

On February 12th, Council had a workshop to discuss our upcoming budget planning for the next fiscal year as well as our capital improvement projects. More to come about ways to manage and best pay for our storm water management program and infrastructure needs. We are discussing possible bonds for our transportation and infrastructure needs.

On February 16th, I attended the Service Groups and Faith Alliance monthly virtual meeting. Our topic for the month was mental health needs in our community, with a mother sharing her family's challenging experiences in the health care system. We had other policy makers on the call who pledged support in working to better address the mental health needs in our community.

And finally, many of you may have heard about the diversity, inclusion, and belonging

work the Town is currently undertaking. After months of study, we have developed two Action Plans – one that is Town-wide, and one that is specific to the Police Department. I am committed to working with our Mayor and Council (and in support of our Town employees) in seeing this work through so that Apex is a welcoming place for all. You can read more about this work [here](#).

That's the February update for now. Best wishes in the coming month, and please let me know if I can be of assistance to you. I hope you all stay safe and well. – Cheryl

[Our Vision](#)

- A community unified in the stewardship of our small town charm, natural environment, and a future where all succeed.

[Our Mission](#)

- Provide exceptional public service that cultivates opportunity for the individual and community to live, thrive, and reach their peak.

Strategic Goals

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