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# Cheryl Stallings

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



Hello Neighbors and Friends –

I hope your month has gone well as we transition into a new year. Life is filled with joys and milestones celebrated in different ways, as well as challenges as we continue to push through this pandemic together.

Our Town Hall, Community Center, Halle Cultural Arts Center, and Public Works

buildings are all currently closed to the public through February due to the increased numbers of COVID-19 cases in our geographical area. Our Town employees are still working diligently to provide services, and Town Council meetings and other business/committee meetings are being held virtually. Our parks, playgrounds, and trails remain open for residents to enjoy. Read more about your local government services and COVID-19 updates on the Town [website](#).

One of Apex's NC House of Representatives. Julie von Haefen. recently

posted a reminder that the groups of people now eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations are health care workers, long-term care staff and residents, and adults age 65 and over. Find out more [here](#) or call 919.250.1515. As we wait for additional vaccine distribution, please stay vigilant in keeping each other's health and well-being in mind by wearing your face covering, washing your hands frequently, and maintaining good physical distance from others when you are out in public.

## **Town Council Meeting News**

**At our January 12th meeting**, Mayor Gilbert began by reading a [proclamation](#) honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This was followed by several routine business items on our Consent Agenda such as meeting minutes approval from our December 15th meeting, Planning Board and Environmental Advisory Board appointments, motions to set several Public Hearings for our January 26th meeting, and some ordinance amendments. You can view the meeting agenda [here](#).

Our two new business items involved a monthly update to Council and residents by our Town Manager on various projects and operations (a new activity we have asked our Town Manager to perform), and discussion and consensus among Council members in regard to legislative goals for the North Carolina League of Municipalities' (NCLM) advocacy work with state legislators and policy makers.

With some of our ongoing capital projects in Apex, our Electric Department Facility on Mt. Zion Church Road is scheduled to be completed in mid-April 2021. All personnel, equipment, vehicles, and supplies will be relocated to this facility from the Public Works building on Upchurch Street.

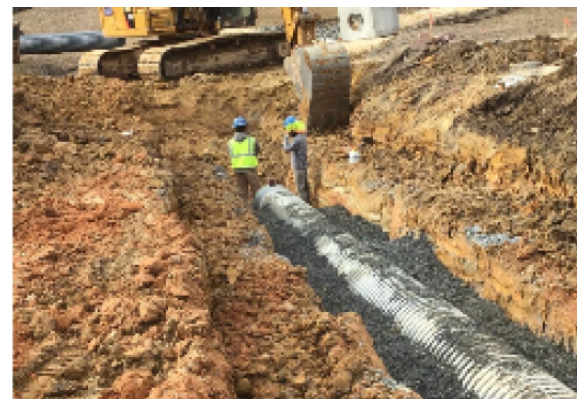




Our Senior Center at Hunter street is slated for completion in mid-May 2021. This facility will be an expansion of our Community Center with dedicated space for senior programming and special populations.



Pleasant Park, a 92-acre project on Pleasant Plains Road will have multi-purpose turf fields, pickle ball courts, basketball courts, softball/baseball fields, a sand volleyball court, and more is slated for completion in 2022. This park will have something for all ages and abilities!







**At our January 26th meeting**, Tim Gardiner (Planner with Wake County), gave a presentation on the status of PLANWake, a process that involves looking at Wake County’s major challenges and opportunities and developing a new comprehensive plan that helps address critical daily life issues. This was followed by a mayoral proclamation for [Black History Month in Apex](#).

Council also heard a number of public hearings that will be officially voted upon tomorrow evening, February 1st. With virtual meetings and public hearings, we have to have at least a 24-hour opportunity for public comment before we vote. Three items were presented that involved business support and economic development: “[Project Delta](#)”, a distribution/office business opportunity for our Cash Corporate site; additional initiatives to support our small business community during the winter months; and the possible approval of a [collision center/body shop](#) on Old Smithfield Road.

Two other hearings involved planned unit developments. One proposed development is on [Roberts Road](#) and the other is on [Humie Olive Road](#).

And finally, Council was provided another update on the Town’s [Affordable Housing Plan](#). We appreciate the comprehensive work of our steering committee along with HR&A Advisors, Inc. Their work on the plan began in May 2020.





### **Other Meetings, Community Events, and Outreach**

On January 13th, we celebrated with the Apex Fire Department with a recognition from Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey (who is also the State Fire Marshal). Our fire department earned a Class 1 fire rating. This makes Apex one of 16 fire departments in North Carolina to receive this top rating. The rural Apex district served by the fire department received a Class 2/9E rating. Only 38 departments in the state have this classification. This designation also has the potential to reduce commercial insurance premiums.





On January 15th, Council had a virtual strategic planning retreat led by Zelos consultants from Alexandria, Virginia. They worked with us last year in crafting our Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals for the Town (see near the end of the newsletter). We had a “year in review” discussion followed by further conversation on goals, objectives, and initiatives that Staff will work on for the coming year in collaboration with the Council. More details to come on this work in 2021.

On January 15th and 16th, I attended our first Dr. Martin Luther King celebration (virtually) in Apex. A special thanks goes to organizers Tayon and Jacoby Dancy for an inspirational event of history and civil rights advocacy.



On January 19th, I attended the monthly virtual meeting of the Service Groups and Faith Alliance organized by the Apex Police Department and Shield North Carolina. Kim Crawford, Executive Director of the Raleigh Wake Partnership to End & Prevent Homelessness, was the guest speaker.

In other news, you may have heard that Apex is now conducting a search for a new Chief of Police. Our Interim Chief is former Cary Police Chief, Tony Godwin. We are working with Triangle-based firm Developmental Associates, LLC in this search, and I recently had a consultation on January 27th with them to offer my input as they build a “candidate profile”. We are currently in the community engagement phase of this work and you can participate as well by sharing your thoughts via this [survey](#).

That’s the January 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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