

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, and finding time to enjoy meaningful moments with family, friends, or co-workers. Much is happening in the Town of Apex, and I will provide some summary highlights from July.

For those wanting information about COVID vaccinations, the NC Department of Health and Human Services can provide you with comprehensive details at www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov.

Wake Med is also coordinating a vaccination “blitz” for students (ages 12 and older) returning to school. More information about Wake Med vaccine opportunities for children and adults is available at: [Vaccine Info](#)

Town Council Meeting News

July 27th meeting – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube video](#).

I will note that Council usually has two meetings a month (on the second and fourth Tuesdays beginning at 6 pm). In keeping with tradition, we decided to not meet on July 13th in an effort to give Staff some flexibility for summer vacation opportunities.

We began the July 27th meeting with a presentation by Mr. Dennis Jernigan, Deputy Chief Engineer for Highway Operations of the NC Turnpike Authority. He discussed the completion of the [540 project](#), which is slated for the end of 2023. This roadway project, also known as the “Southeast Extension”, would extend the Triangle Expressway from the N.C. 55 Bypass in Apex to U.S. 64/U.S. 264 (I-87) in Knightdale, completing the 540 Outer Loop around the greater Raleigh area. This project would link Apex, Cary, Clayton, Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs and Raleigh. Additionally, the project is expected to ease congestion on area roadways, including I-440, I-40, N.C. 42, N.C. 55 and Ten Ten Road.

Our Consent Agenda items often have a number of more routine Town business matters that are typically approved by one motion. Examples from this meeting included approving minutes from previous Council meetings, appointing citizens to serve on various advisory committees, setting public hearing dates for potential annexations, approving a contract between Wake County Public Schools and the Town of Apex for our School Resource Officers (at the high school level), and approving an Executive Assistant position to assist our Town Manager and Assistant Town managers with their growing administrative demands.

With public hearings, Council approved some amendments to the [Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan](#) map south of Humie Olive Road. These changes will work to minimize environmental impact and provide better bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to future Olive Farm Park and Humie Olive Road.

Additionally, Council approved some amendments to the [Heelen Planned Unit Development](#). This 142-acre project (combination of townhomes and single family homes in Southwest Apex) has evolved quite a bit over time with the developer working with Staff on a number of conditions. For example, the developer will dedicate about 8 acres of land to the State of North Carolina for a conservation easement. Additionally, all single family homes will be pre-configured for solar, a minimal of 2 model homes will have solar panels, the primary amenity building will have solar panels, there will be a minimum of 2 electric vehicle charging stations at the primary amenity area, 15 townhomes will be available for purchase by a non-profit affordable housing provider such as Habitat for Humanity, and the developer has committed to preserving as many trees as possible and then planting trees to re-establish lost canopy from the housing lots.

The [Williams Farm Planned Unit Development](#) (almost 62 acres located on Green Level West Road, 176 housing units) was also approved by Council after being continued from last meeting because of ambiguity about school capacity needs. Staff reported that the Wake County Public School System is working on two more sites for additional elementary schools in Apex, and they will continue to work on middle school capacity issues as well. The developers with Williams Farm also worked hard to protect a number of champion trees and a historical stone wall on the property, in addition to donating \$50,000.00 to the Town of Apex Affordable Housing Fund. They will also provide solar conditions, and tree canopy and wildlife habitat protections plus tree replacements.

And finally, Council continued the last public hearing, which was related to a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) amendment request by a business (a dance school for young children) that wants to be housed on the first floor storefront of the downtown Highline building (under construction). The dance school is considered a “Personal service” business according to our UDO, and currently only “Retail sales and services” are allowed to occupy downtown first floor storefront properties. After much discussion, Staff agreed to try and work out a compromise with the language around this request, and this item will return on the next meeting agenda likely.

Other Information, Community Events, and Outreach

Our new Town Manager, Ms. Katy Crosby, started on July 12th. She attended her first official Town Council meeting on July 27th! Our new Police Chief, Mr. Jason Armstrong, joins our organizational team this Monday, August 2nd!



Photo Credit: Town of Apex

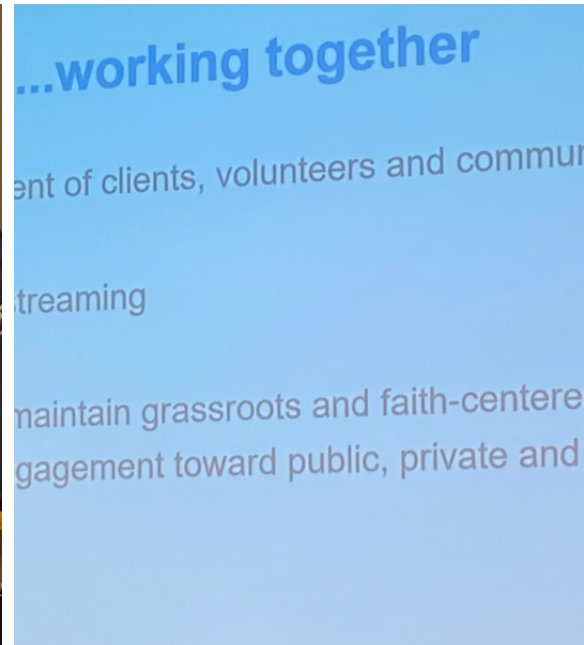
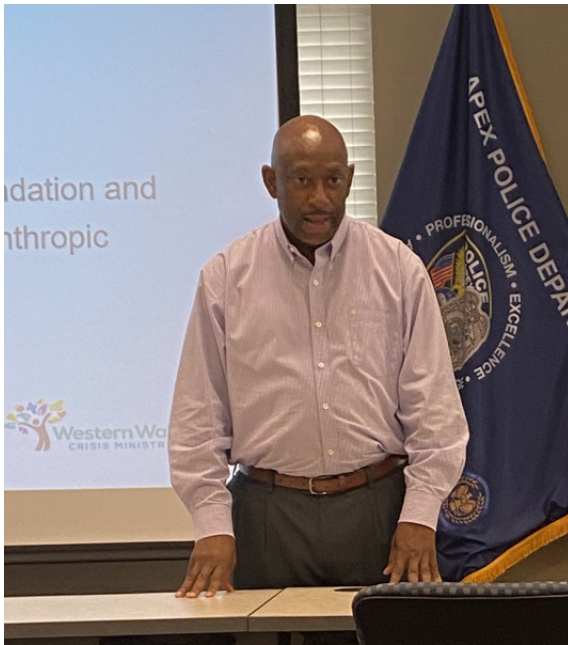


Photo Credit: Town of Apex

We had a very fun Independence Day celebration in downtown Apex on Saturday, July 3rd. Wheels of all kinds showed up as well as children of all ages!



On July 20th, the Apex Police Department hosted the monthly meeting of the local Service Groups and Faith Alliance. I enjoyed meeting and listening to Mr. Theo McClammy, the new Executive Director of Western Wake Crisis Ministries, speak about his team's vision for a healthy, hunger-free, and housing-stable western Wake community.



On July 24th, I enjoyed our annual downtown Pig Fest event. Thanks to the Apex Sunrise Rotary Club for organizing this charity event!



On July 28th, I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the mixed-use Highline building in downtown Apex. This 3-story building will have retail, outdoor seating, and office space, and should be complete in about 1 year.



In closing, best wishes to you all in the coming month. I hope the summer brings you very special and enjoyable moments. Feel free to stay in touch if I can offer assistance to you. 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

- High Performing Government
- Healthy & Engaged Community
- Environment Leadership & Responsible Development
- Economic Vitality
- Safe Community with Reliable Infrastructure

Cheryl4Apex

2009 Abby Knoll Dr
Apex, NC 27502

(919)275-0251

Cheryl.Stallings@apexnc.org



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