

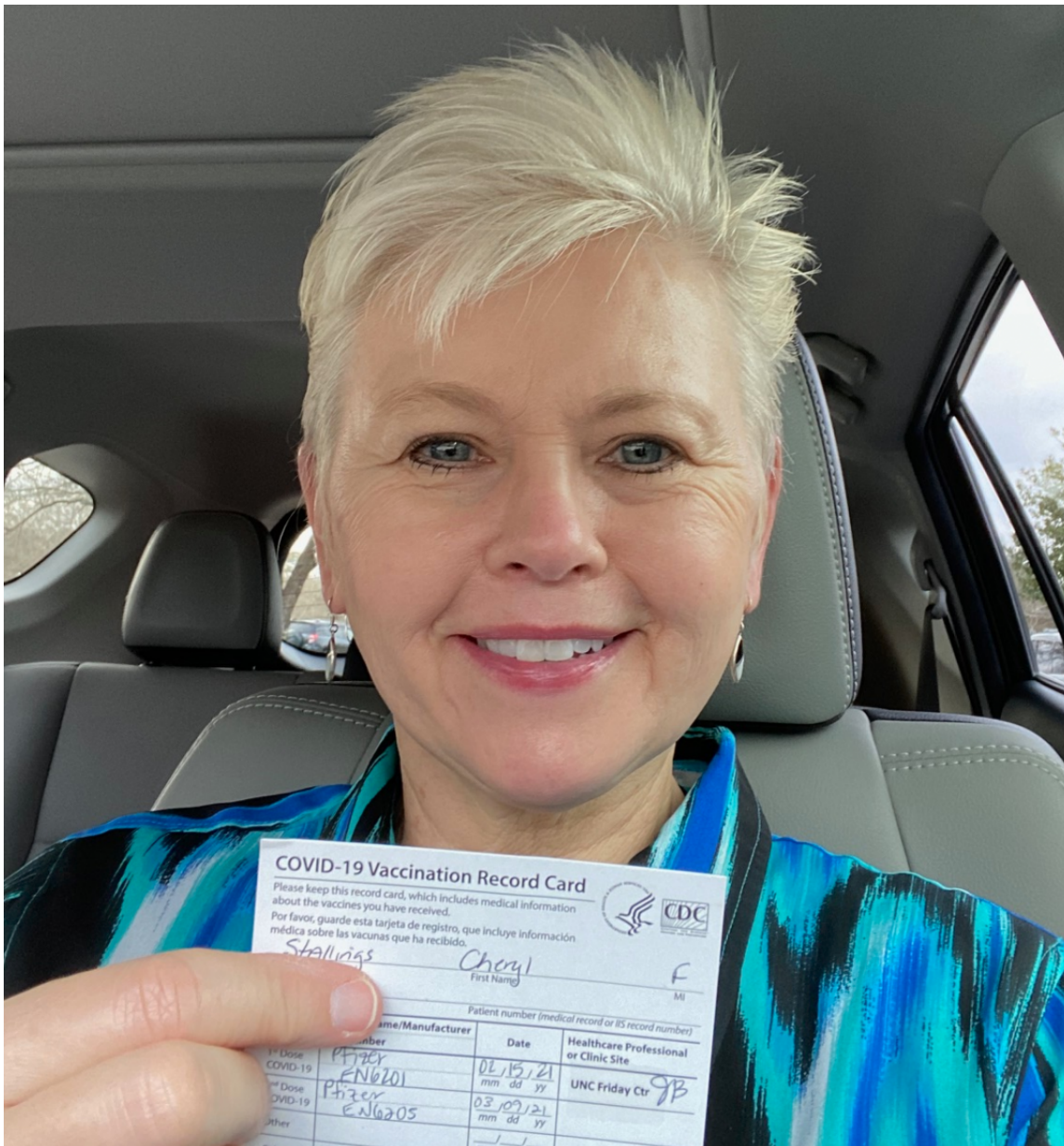
Cheryl Stallings

Apex Town Council
Improving Quality of Life for Our Community



Hello Neighbors and Friends –

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well, and enjoying our spring weather. We are making progress on the vaccine rollouts in Wake County! One of our Apex NC House Representatives, Julie von Haefen, reports that beginning today, the rest of Group 4 will be eligible. Roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Wake County population has received at least one shot. Our Wake seniors have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country (74% have received at least their first shot)! Beginning on April 7, all North Carolinians ages 16 and older will be vaccine eligible. I was grateful to have received both of my vaccines recently with few side effects (sore arm for about 24 hours after both shots, and mild body aches after the second shot). Visit <https://covid19.wakegov.com/vaccine/> or call 919-250-1515 if you need to get vaccinated.



Town Council Meeting News

At our March 9th meeting, Mr. Jason Morado with the ETC Institute reported findings from our recently administered citizen satisfaction survey. This was the second time such a survey has been administered to a random sample of our residents. (The first survey was conducted in 2017 by the same group.) The purpose of the survey was to get opinions from our residents on the quality of services provided by the Town, the overall performance of Town staff and local government, and priorities that residents want to see addressed. We were very pleased with the [results](#),

and look forward to continued work on managing growth and development, traffic conditions, storm water runoff, streets/sidewalks, and walking/biking trails (top priorities identified).

Next, Mr. Roy Jones, CEO of ElectriCities, presented our electric utilities department with the 2020 Public Power Award of Excellence in the areas of Grid Modernization and Workforce Development. Learn more about the work and achievements of our electric utilities department [here](#).

Our consent agenda for this meeting had a number of items considered to be routine such as approval of previous Council meeting minutes, approval of statements from Council on previous rezoning cases, approval of encroachment agreements, a Code of Ordinance amendment, and approval of a routine financial audit. Additionally, we approved a full-time Recreation Customer Services staff person for our Senior Center (soon to be opening) and continued the suspension of utility disconnections for nonpayment through May 31, 2021 (which we enacted soon after the beginning of the COVID pandemic). We currently have about 1900 customers who would be subject to disconnection, and 640 customers have asked for a payment plan.

With public hearings, we approved amendments to the Thoroughfare and Collector StreetPlan map in two areas. One was related to the [Cash Corporate Center](#) and the other in the vicinity of [New Hill Olive Chapel Road near Old US 1 Highway](#).



In areas of unfinished and new business, updates were provided on the [Town of Apex Wayfinding Signage Program](#). The purpose of this program is to provide informative, consistent, and attractive signage to help pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, or drivers navigate to key destinations in our Town.

In other news, the Planning and Community Development Department updated the [recommended plantings lists](#) in the Design and Development Manual (based on feedback they have received from residents, engineers, developers and staff over the years). These lists mostly include native species by category, with notations for bird- and pollinator-friendly species as well (e.g., parking lot shade trees, parking lot screening shrubs, Type A Buffer trees and shrubs, trees and shrubs under power lines, and high quality shade trees).

And finally, Council approved a [resolution](#) that authorized the filing of

an application with the Local Government Commission to issue \$42 million of general obligation bonds for street and sidewalk improvements. We want to address our infrastructure needs more, and this is a way to accomplish that goal for our residents and community. A referendum is expected in November 2021 for citizens to vote on the bonds.

At our March 23rd meeting, we approved a new member to our Environmental Advisory Board and a reimbursement agreement between the Town and the NC Department of Transportation for construction of bus stops to serve our upcoming [GoApex Route 1](#).

We also approved a [New Housing Program Manager](#) position. This person will be responsible for implementing and managing the Town of Apex Affordable Housing Plan.



Additionally, we approved Transportation Plan [amendments](#) and the

[rezoning application](#) for Felton Grove High School.

We also approved the rezoning application for the [Abbey Spring Planned Unit Development](#), which will be approximately 84 apartments (1 and 2 bedroom) for senior citizens on West Williams Street (between Walgreens and the Post Office). This entire project will be dedicated to affordable housing needs for our senior citizens, and we approved a [funding request](#) to support the project as well.

In one other public hearing, Council did not approve the rezoning application for the [Hackney Planned Unit Development](#). This project involves about 80 acres on Olive Chapel Road (single family homes and townhomes). This project was denied because of school capacity concerns (insufficient capacity projections particularly at the elementary level). Council is now getting impact letters from the Wake County Public System to help us understand school capacity issues related to proposed residential development projects. I have heard the concerns about school capacity from a number of residents with children for some years now. I have advocated for broader discussions with Council, staff, developers, land owners, and other elected officials (at the county and state level) to address school capacity and funding needs for our public schools. It is my understanding that Council will be having a work session in April on this issue.

Other Meetings, Community Events, and Outreach

On March 3rd, I attended a virtual meet and greet event sponsored by the NC League of Municipalities. This was an opportunity for local government officials to network with one another and also with our state legislators to discuss legislative goals and needs of our communities. We

were divided into small groups by region and I had the opportunity to speak with our State Senator, Sydney Batch.

On March 16th, I attended the Service Groups and Faith Alliance monthly virtual meeting. Our topic for the month was on the youth of the LGBTQ community and the challenges and vulnerabilities they face. Kori Hennessey from the LGBTQ Center in Raleigh was the guest speaker.

On March 25th, I facilitated a round table discussion with 6 women from Apex in honor of Women's History Month. We discussed the roles of women, past and present, as well as accomplishments and needs for the future as we try to build a more equitable world. A special thanks goes to Deputy Town Clerk Tesa Silver for organizing this event.

And finally, Council has been working with Developmental Associates from Chapel Hill in the selection process of our new Town Manager (with meetings on March 18th and 31st). We are working through a number of applicants and hope to have finalist interviews near the end of April.

In closing, that's the March update for now. I continue to enjoy serving on the Apex Town Council and serving the residents of our wonderful town. Best wishes to you all 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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