

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. As this challenging school year begins to wind down, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduates and their families. As we continue to increase our vaccination numbers, I hope that more and more people will be able to successfully re-

engage in activities that are meaningful and enjoyable.

Town Council Meeting News

May 11th meeting – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube videos](#).

We began the meeting with Mayor Pro Tem Dozier presenting the 6th Annual “Think Apex” awards. Established in 2014 by Mayor Pro Tem Dozier, the “Think Apex” awards recognize individuals or groups, businesses, and nonprofits who are dedicated to supporting and serving members of our

community. Congratulations to this year's winners: the food pantry at St. Mary AME Church, Carolina Orthodontics and Children's Dentistry, and the Eye Shine Foundation.



This was followed by two proclamations. We read one for [Building Safety](#) and one for [National Police Week](#).

With our Consent Agenda, Council approved motions to set Public Hearings for our May 25th meeting. We also approved an ordinance amendment to modify the hours at Clairmont Park. Council is trying to listen to the needs of residents so we can optimize the use and enjoyment of our parks. To further understand this need, we now have a survey on the Town website asking for feedback on all park hours and uses in general. We would appreciate your input on the [survey](#)!

In new business items, Council approved some special events permits. We were excited to approve "Peak PROMenade" for our students at Apex High and Apex Friendship High for May 21 and May 22. With lingering COVID

concerns, our downtown was reserved for our high school students to have their prom events outdoors. We also approved three other upcoming events sponsored by the American Legion Post 124: a June car show, a 9/11 memorial event, and an Oktoberfest event.

Additionally, Council unanimously approved a Tree Planting Grant Program. In an effort to respond to citizen requests for more tree canopy in Apex, this program is designed to provide incentive funds to property owners and tenants to plant trees on residential private properties within Apex's corporate limits. Read more about the grant program [here](#).



May 25th meeting – [Agenda](#) and [YouTube videos](#).

We began the meeting with two proclamations. First, we read the [Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation](#) followed by the [National Gun Violence Awareness Wear Orange Day Proclamation](#).

Our Consent Agenda included a number of items such as Board of

Adjustment appointments, modifications in the location of the Apex Farmers' Market and Apex Night to a portion of the Saunders Street Parking Lot, encroachment agreements, and a budget amendment for the construction of a portion of Burma Drive as we continue to move forward with the business development at the [Cash Corporate Center](#).

With Public Hearings, the first one (Friendship Storage) was postponed due to the application being incomplete. The second one was approved after much discussion regarding lighting and fencing with a new specialty [Veterinary Hospital](#) on Jenks Road adjacent to some residential properties.

Next, Council approved some amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). We approved some modifications associated with neighborhood meetings (continued use of virtual meeting options to accommodate residents, invitation window to meetings increased to 14-days in advance of meeting versus 10-days, and meeting notifications sent to tenants as well as property owners). In efforts to address light pollution as much as possible, Council also approved an updated exterior lighting plan for developments to have warmer color temperatures (not to exceed 3500 Kelvins – with athletic fields being excluded). And finally, Council lifted a one-year waiting period for applicants who have presented plans that were denied. Even though there will no longer be a waiting period, it will likely take applicants 3-4 months to make adjustments to their projects and resubmit them through the proper channels before they are presented to Council for another review.

Council also had a lengthy discussion about the [Town's Drug & Alcohol Testing Policy](#). We voted to approve the policy, with all agreeing that we want to strive for a drug-free work place while supporting our employees with resources for intervention and treatment as warranted. We had some disagreement about "safety sensitive" personnel (those who drive Town vehicles, including police officers and firefighters) losing their jobs if they tested positive for drug use with a random test. In the end, we agreed to keep the policy that way (with a 3-2 vote) because of the awareness training

that will be used with employees on a regular basis, and because the Town Policy allows those who come forward on their own to reveal they have a problem with alcohol or other drugs can be worked with and supported by our Human Resources Department.

And finally, before going into Closed Session, Council had a work session to discuss a possible Non-Discriminatory Ordinance. Council agreed to have our legal team write up such an ordinance and have it ready to present at a June Council meeting.

Other Meetings, Community Events, and Outreach

On May 6th, I was invited by the Triangle Math and Science Academy to have a Zoom meeting to learn more about their charter school. This school currently serves about 900 students from kindergarten through 12th grade with a special focus on science, technology, engineering and math.

On May 15th, I enjoyed participating with other residents and our Sustainability Team with a Think Earth Litter Sweep clean-up along Hughes Street.



**THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME OUT
FOR APEX'S FIRST ANNUAL LITTER SWEEP**



Photo Credit - Town of Apex

On May 18th, I attended the monthly virtual Service Groups and Faith Alliance meeting. We heard from Kim Adcock from Wake County Foster Care about the continued need for foster families in our county. If you want to learn more about being a foster parent or want to support existing foster families in some way, please call Wake County Human Services (919.212.7474) or email at foster4wake.com.

And today, May 31st, I attended 2 Memorial Day services. Thanks to American Legion Post 124 and the Apex Sunrise Rotary Club for sponsoring events today as we remember service members and families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving our country.



And finally, you may have heard we have hired a new [Town Manager](#). We will welcome Ms. Catherine "Katy" Crosby on July 12th! We are currently accepting applications for our Police Chief position, and Ms. Crosby will assist us in this upcoming process.

In closing, best wishes to you all in the coming month. I hope the upcoming summer will bring some much needed enjoyment for all. 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

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