

Council Update – September and October 2019

Strategic Initiatives

Environmental Stewardship: Create a Community Climate Action Plan



soon as possible.

Staff will provide the next Community Climate Action Plan quarterly project update at the November 20, 2019 Council Business Meeting. As part of the presentation, staff will check in with the Council about a draft Community Engagement Strategy to help seek broad input about concerns, solutions and partnerships moving forward. Staff will also share an updated project timeline that aims to respond to earlier Council feedback about the importance of completing and implementing the Plan as

Environmental Stewardship: LED Lights



and will share findings with the Council in January 2020.

On September 25, Council authorized the Town to replace about 2,000 standard (non-decorative) streetlights with LED fixtures. Staff is currently reviewing a draft lighting agreement (contract) from Duke Energy that would make this project possible. Staff are also developing information about the possible benefits of replacing Town-owned park lighting with LEDs and converting decorative street lighting fixtures to LED

Environmental Stewardship: Coal Ash Remediation



As Bolin Creek Trail construction resumes, extending the trail segment from underneath the Martin Luther King Jr Blvd bridge up to the existing trail, the contractor will also begin remediating the lower portion of the Police Station property. Remediation will include the removal of soils that contain coal combustion products, as well as the addition of “super” silt fencing and hydroseeding to control erosion along the embankment.

Environmental Stewardship: New Community Tree Program



In October, the Town was awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the Duke Energy Foundation to plant trees as part of the new Community Tree Program. The grant focuses on planting trees to support healthy neighborhoods and alternative transportation. Staff from the Mayor’s Office and Parks and Recreation hosted a community meeting to build partnerships and support for tree planting as part of the Town’s Arbor Week Celebration the week of November 18th.

Environmental Stewardship: New Composting Pilot



The Town is now four months into the composting pilot at Town Hall and Fire Station #1. Employees have collectively diverted over 400 pounds of waste from the landfill, which results in over 1,000 pounds of carbon emissions avoided. The Town has also partnered with CompostNow, the vendor, to send compost to the South Estes Community Garden. So far, 100 pounds of rich soil amendments have been sent back to the community garden through the Town's composting pilot.

Environmental Stewardship: Arbor Week and Tree Planting Plans



out for involvement.

The Town will celebrate Arbor Week from November 15-22. An Arbor Day planting will occur on Friday, November 15 at 11am at Ephesus Park. Committee meetings were held on October 7 and October 24. The group is developing a plan to plant 200 trees within the town limits in the next year and also to create and promote a list of tree- and environment-related activities scheduled during the month of November. Additionally, planting and neighborhood "champions" are being sought

Environmental Stewardship: Booker Creek Trail Tree Planting



The New Hope Audubon Society in collaboration with the Chapel Hill Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission has coordinated the planting of 200 native perennials along the Booker Creek Trail. These perennials, including several dozen elderberry, ninebark, and silky dogwoods, provide food for pollinators and birds, help increase biodiversity along the creek and make the watershed healthier. The Audubon Society is also working with the Town to design and install signage along the Booker Creek Trail that relays information about the removal of invasive plants and their replacement with native plants. These efforts are part of the Adopt-a-Park/Adopt-a-Trail program, which is a collaborative effort with the Town's volunteer community geared towards enhancing the experiences of Town parks and greenways.

Environmental Stewardship: Explore More at Pritchard Park programs focused on native pollinators and water science.



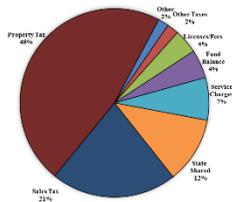
September saw a "Monarch Mania" weekend event with a monarch butterfly release. October brought a popular water series to the community, in partnership with OWASA. Explore More Team is working with the Mayor's Office on Arbor Week Programming.

Economic and Financial Sustainability: Google Fiber



Google Fiber restarted its fiber to the home (FTTH) construction in Chapel Hill. Google Fiber is using traditional directional boring along the Weaver Dairy Rd. and Erwin Rd. heading toward Martin Luther King Blvd. This work is a major “trunk” into the Town connecting to the internet. It will be months before Google Fiber will connect homes to the trunk, but the work has begun. The Town works with Google Fiber and all the fiber installers to locate Town assets, manage the permits and monitor the work being done in the Town.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Growth in Commercial Tax Base



Staff discussion and draft concepts for future development on the North Chapel Hill parcels across from Timberlyne.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Telling our Story



WRAL stories <https://www.wraltechwire.com/partner-content/town-of-chapel-hill/> and Partner with WCHL for monthly hosted lunch to meet with businesses.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Launch



Staff supporting Launch as a new director is hired. New Director projected to begin on December 1.

Connected Community: Orange County Transit Plan:



Town staff have been attending staff working group meetings to develop a Planning Framework and scope of work for updating the Orange County Transit Plan. The Plan was last updated in 2017 and was centered around the Durham-Orange Light Rail. Now that DOLRT is discontinued, Orange County is leading the effort to rewrite the plan, which will be done by a consultant with oversight from a Policy Committee (elected officials) and Technical Committee (staff) comprised of the county and municipalities. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners will hear this item at their November 7th meeting and consider approving the framework and authorizing staff to issue a RFQ for consulting services.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: USA Archery Grant



The Town of Chapel Hill has been selected to receive an Explore Archery grant from USA Archery which will allow two employees to receive training and certification to teach archery and will provide the department with the materials and equipment necessary to implement an archery program. In addition, the Chapel Hill Community Center will host an Archery Instructor Academy for grant recipients on November 25 and 26. Receipt of the grant and training will enable the Town to add archery to its adventure program offerings.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Hargraves STEM Initiative with NC A&T State University



The afterschool program at Hargraves Center participated in a STEM initiative with NC A&T State University. A STEM truck featuring a variety of hands-on activities visited the center so that participants could actively engage in science, technology, engineering, and math-themed activities. There were 50 participants in attendance.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Community Development Block Grant



HUD representatives conducted a Monitoring Visit of the Town's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The purpose of HUD Monitoring Visits is to determine the Town's compliance with federal requirements and provide technical assistance to program staff. The Town received exemplary marks from HUD who identified no findings or concerns with the Town's management of the CDBG program, a rare achievement. HUD staff were very complimentary of the Town's program and provided positive feedback on the Town's overall affordable housing efforts.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Continue Peoples Academy



The second class of the Peoples Academy begins on October 3rd, with over 50 residents joining this cohort. The sessions will run through November 9.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Improve festivals and events



The first Magical Hill and Fairy House Festival was held at the Community Center Park on September 21. Over 20 fairy houses were entered in the competition and were displayed in the Gene Strowd Rose Garden during the event.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Launched Re/Collecting Chapel Hill, a podcast about community history, told “from the bottom up and the inside out.”



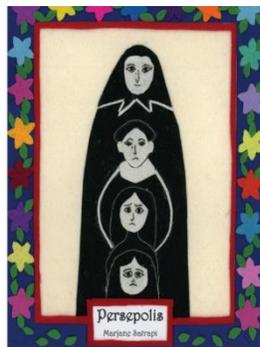
First season is about Monuments and Markers and episodes thus far include Peace & Justice Plaza, Town cemeteries, the Joe Herzenberg and Lightning Brown memorial benches, and Silent Sam.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Coordinated Chapel Hill 1819/2019 programs, celebrating 200 years of Town government and “Getting Better Together.”



Programs thus far have included Fire Department Open House, Transit Birthday Celebration, Public Works Touch-a-Truck, as well as a wide variety of lectures, walking tours, panel discussion, and arts events. Provided content for Chapel Hill Magazine’s special 1819/2019 issue.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Hosted the annual Banned Books Trading Cards Project to celebrate intellectual freedom.



Received 60+ entries from local artists, selected 7 to be printed as trading cards, exhibited all entries and hosted Meet the Artists event with 100+ people attending.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Advance Charting our Future



Following Council authorization to conduct community outreach on the draft Focus Area Maps and Principles, staff held numerous engagement opportunities in September and spent the month of October meeting with internal stakeholders including the Planning Commission; the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission; the Community Design Commission; the Transportation and Connectivity Advisory Board and the FLUM sub-committee of the Planning Commission. In November, Staff will attend the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board and the Housing Advisory Board in order to solicit their input on the draft Focus Area Maps and Principles as well as continue ongoing meetings with the FLUM sub-committee of the Planning Commission. The [online mapping tool](#) continues to collect community comments on the draft Focus Area Maps through November 15, 2019. One last Drop-In Studio will take place on November 6 in the NC 54 Focus Area. Staff will provide to Council an analysis of the feedback received during this engagement effort at a regular Council Meeting in November.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Short Term Rental



The Short-Term Rental Task Force met in October and another meeting is scheduled for early November. The Town is working with the assistance from the School of Government. The Task Force will make recommendations to Council on goals and ordinance standards. Staff anticipates a Council check-in on November 18, 2019 to share progress of the Task Force and other public engagement efforts.

Vibrant and Inclusive Community: Eastowne Development Agreement



Town staff are currently working with Negotiation Framework and matrix for Council consideration. The next Council Committee negotiation session will be held on November 14th, and will share a report to the Town Council on November 20th.

Safe Community: Fire and Life Safety Educator



In early October the Town hired its first dedicated Fire and Life Safety Educator (FLSE). This position was created by redefining the job tasks of an open Fire Inspector position and was created to engage all members of our community in innovative prevention programs that promote a safe community. This employee is also tasked with developing a comprehensive prevention program that utilizes best practice research from the field. Emily Powell (a former Chapel Hill Firefighter) returned to the Town to serve in this role. She spent the last 4 years working at UNC-CH in the Fire Safety and Emergency Response Division of Environment Health and Safety.

Collaborative and Innovative Organization: Increase the level of cyber security inside the Town's information systems



Council proclaimed October Cybersecurity month in the Town of Chapel Hill. Staff promoted cybersecurity with social media postings, public engagement and a staff lunch and learn with a speaker from the FBI.

Core Business

Housing and Community: Good Neighbor Initiative



The Good Neighbor Initiative (GNI) is a year-long collaborative effort between the Town, UNC Chapel Hill, and community organizations that includes regular outreach to college students living off campus in the community. Fall GNI activities included: *Canvassing Event* – Volunteers visited over 12,000 homes to speak with residents about community services, local ordinances, and good neighbor practices; *Community Cookout* - Hundreds of students, long-time residents, Town

representatives, and community organizations came together at the Hargraves Center to meet each other and socialize in an evening of friendship, good food, music, games and more; *Neighborhood Education and Advocacy (NEAT) event* - Town staff, UNC, the Jackson Center, and the Downtown Partnership held an informal outreach event immediately prior to the first home football game, providing water and snacks to students.

Public Housing: HUD Assessment System Score



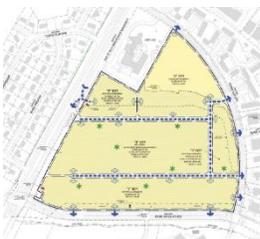
The Town is taking steps to improve the Public Housing Assessment score that it receives from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Department is currently focused on the physical maintenance of the Town's units in order to better comply with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) standards. Major inspection areas include the building exterior; building interior; common areas; and the site around each units. The last inspection was conducted October 22, 2019 and **the Town's physical inspection score increased by 6 points from the previous inspection.**

Public Housing: Resident Engagement



To encourage residents to become more actively engaged in their communities, 5 new committees are being established: Resident Advisory Board, Security Advisory Committee, Maintenance and Modernization Committee, Hospitality and Welcome Committee, and the Social Planning Committee. The members of these committee will assist staff and make reports to council on efforts to improve Chapel Hill Public Housing.

Development Review: University Place and Carolina Donor Services



Submittal of a Conditional Zoning application for the University Place redevelopment has been submitted to the Town. Staff anticipates this application will be before the Council for action in late spring. An application for Carolina Donor Services, 7000 Millhouse Road, has also been made – this is a submittal of a Final Plan application (construction plans) anticipating construction of the first building in the Light Industrial Conditional Zoning District (LICZD).

Technology Solutions: Office 365



Technology Solutions is working across Town departments with the implementation of Microsoft Office 365. In addition to the base functions used in previous versions of the Office products, Office 365 will increase the quantity and quality of collaboration tools available to staff.

Public Works: Sidewalk Repairs



Over the past few months, the Construction Division of Public Works completed repairs on 585 linear feet of sidewalk at 35 different locations in Southern Village. Construction staff fixed tripping hazards, such as those caused by tree roots creating an uneven walking surface.

Public Works: Facilities Management & Maintenance



The Facilities Division performs major maintenance and repairs at various recreational facilities annually. This quarter the division performed the following annual maintenance at the Chapel Hill Community Center: sanded and refinished gym floor; inspected and serviced bleachers and basketball goals; stripped and refinished restroom, locker room, and hallway floors; rebuilt pool recirculation pumps and replaced drain covers; upgraded to LED lighting throughout facility through the Duke Energy Small Business Energy Saver Program; dusted rafters and overhead lighting using compressed air; re-painted all interior trim and doors with new color; and conducted routine maintenance of equipment throughout facility.

Chapel Hill Public Library: Continued focus on increasing access to Library



Kicked off Diversity Audit of library collections. Began work on off-site Library kiosk at University Place. Parking improvements started in upper lot. Library Advisory Board petitioned Council to adopt fine-free model with 2020/21 budget.

Capital Projects

Connected Community: Prioritize and implement projects in the Bike Plan



Fordham Sidepath: A public meeting was held on Wed., Sept. 18. About 50 community members attended and had the opportunity to learn about four design options and to share their input. Additional comments will be received through October 11, after which time recommendation(s) will be presented to the Manager’s Office.

Connected Community: Meadowmont Lane



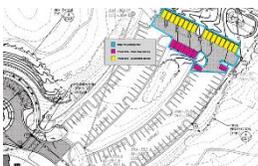
The Traffic Engineering Division hired a contractor to revise pavement markings on Meadowmont Lane from Sprunt Street to the end of the street. They added buffer bike lanes on both sides of Meadowmont Lane from Sprunt Street to Simerville Road; removed bike lanes and added curbside parking on the northside of Meadowmont Lane from Simerville Road to end of the street; and created a left-turn lane into Rashkis Elementary School.

Economic & Financial Sustainability: Implement Capital Improvement Plan



Bolin Creek Greenway: In October, work resumed on the 550 ft. section of trail which will go beneath Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. to complete the greenway. A sub-contractor is completing in-stream work first, followed by a general contractor beginning work outside of the stream. The project also includes replacing a section of the old asphalt trail with concrete and replacing the wood decking on the two Bolin Creek Trail bridges. The project is expected to take about 3 to 4 months. The portion of the trail between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Bolinwood Dr. will be closed for the duration of the project and trail users are being redirected to use the sidewalks and streets as a detour.

Library Parking Lot



The first phase of parking expansion project in the upper parking lot at the Library began in October and is anticipated to be **completed in December**. This work involves adding eight more parking spaces and converting to one-way traffic flow in the upper lot. This project