



TALK OF THE TOWN

Town of Hillsborough Newsletter: November 2024

Riverwalk Is 10 Years Old!



Ten years ago, the Riverwalk greenway officially opened along the Eno River.

“The most stressful part of the whole project was when the crane installed the 110-foot bridge over the Eno River,” Public Space and Sustainability Manager Stephanie Trueblood said. “I remember that people came to watch the installation from the parking deck, so that was extra pressure.”

History

The dream formed in 1991. Over the years, a feasibility study was conducted, plans were developed and land was acquired. The greenway’s first section was built in 2008 with the construction of Gold Park and the trails within it.

In 2013, construction of the second and third phases began, connecting Gold Park to Calvin Street and to a publicly accessible private trail leading to the Historic Occaneechee Speedway Trail. A final section connecting to Occaneechee Mountain State Natural Area was finished in 2019.

Construction of the majority of Riverwalk ended in the summer of 2014, and the grand opening took place Oct. 11 of that year.

See the website for the full news release, including information about a proposed greenway called Ridgewalk.

Ways to Handle Your Leaves

Leave your leaves — This improves soil quality, covers creatures in winter, suppresses weeds and retains moisture.

Leaf collection — The town collects loose leaves November through January. Keep leaf piles and biodegradable bags free of trash, twigs and other debris. These can disable the truck’s vacuum hose, and the collected leaves also are used for compost and mulch.

Leaf delivery — Want leaves for compost or mulch? Call 919-296-9600 for a truckload if in or near town.

More information — See the Yard Waste and Managing Fallen Leaves pages on the town website.

Water Service Lines Inventory

If you received a letter regarding your water service line, the town needs your help in identifying the material used in this private pipe connected to the town’s water system.

Determining the material is important. Homes built before 1987 may have lead service lines because the plumbing code allowed this material.

See how to test the material of the pipe that enters your home on the town’s Lead and Drinking Water webpage. Then complete the water service line materials form on that page: hillsboroughnc.gov/lead-and-drinking-water.

Helping Western North Carolina



Hillsborough employees have been helping with emergency needs in Western North Carolina.

- Fleet maintenance, public works and utilities employees worked up to two weeks in Asheville, clearing roadways of fallen trees and debris and repairing roads and shoulders.
- A communications employee worked a week in Avery County's emergency operations center.
- The town manager is serving as a resource for managers through virtual meetings.

Fat-free Drains for the Holidays

Washing fats, oil and grease down drains can cause blockages, leading to sewer spills and overflows. Don't let that happen to you over the holidays or beyond!

Pour excess cooking fat or oil in a fat trapper or an old jar to cool for disposal. Before washing, scrape plates and wipe pots and pans with a paper towel.

Ask the town for a free fat trapper or for additional trapper bags by contacting Utilities Infrastructure Protection Supervisor Troy Miller at troy.miller@hillsboroughnc.gov or 919-296-9653.

What's Coming Up for the Holidays?

Winter Wonderland and Toy Collection

The Police Department is collecting new and unused toys for its annual winter wonderland and visit from Santa. The free family, drive-through event will be 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center, 501 Rainey Ave.

Toys may be dropped off 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays Nov. 18-Dec. 16 at the police station, except Nov. 28-29. Toys may be purchased online and delivered to the Hillsborough Police Department, Attn: Toy Drive, 127 N. Churton St., Hillsborough, NC 27278. Please no toy weapons or candy donations.

Tree Lighting

The ceremony to light the town's holiday tree will be Nov. 30 and part of A Small Town Family Holiday. The fun starts at 3 p.m. at the Hillsborough Visitors Center, with the lighting at 5:30 p.m. on the Historic Orange County Courthouse lawn.

Holiday Parade

The annual event on Dec. 8 starts at 4:05 p.m. with the Running of the Elves, a 1-mile race. The parade follows at 4:20 p.m., featuring floats and marching bands on Churton Street, traveling from Corbin Street to Margaret Lane.

Briefly

November holidays — Town offices will be closed:

- Nov. 11 for Veterans Day. Trash collection will be Nov. 12.
- Nov. 28-29 for Thanksgiving Thursday collection will be the day before on Nov. 27. Friday collection will be Dec. 2.

Bulk items — Bulk items will be collected Nov. 12-15. See the town's Garbage Collection page.

Arbor Day — The Tree Board will celebrate Arbor Day at 9 a.m. Nov. 20 with a walk along Riverwalk highlighting the invasive species removal in the area.

Giving Tuesday — Consider donating to the town's water assistance program on this day, Dec. 3. The fund is managed by Orange Congregations in Mission and provides emergency, one-time aid to customers with a proven need. It relies on donations.

Survey — A hazard mitigation plan is being updated. See enohawhmp.com to complete a survey on risks and vulnerabilities.

Kudos

Lucas Cates was promoted to construction project coordinator in the Utilities Department to administer contracts and oversee contractors working for the town or for developers.

Joey Smith passed his biological wastewater III certification and was promoted to the wastewater operator 2 position.

Jesse Weeks, public works equipment operator, completed the North Carolina Roads Scholar Program on road maintenance.