

TALK OF THE TOWN

January 2021 Newsletter

Comprehensive Sustainability Planning Starts Soon

The Town of Hillsborough starts creating a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan this month. The process will involve several opportunities for public input and is expected to take 18 months.

“The importance of this plan cannot be overstated,” Public Space Manager Stephanie Trueblood said. “It will guide growth and development for years to come and will lay out measurable and attainable strategies to create a more sustainable and resilient community.”

The planning process will involve updating components of the town’s existing comprehensive plan and incorporating sustainability, climate action and resiliency.

To lead the town’s efforts, the Board of Commissioners has contracted with VHB, a Raleigh consulting firm. Hillsborough residents and business owners may receive communication from both VHB and the Town of Hillsborough.

“We are lucky to have an experienced team of consultants and project partners to help lead this effort,” Trueblood said.

Everyone is encouraged to provide input in the planning.

“For this planning process to be successful, it is essential we have input from the many different people who live and work in Hillsborough,” Mayor Jenn Weaver said. “Each of us brings a different life experience that will help



Please take every opportunity to provide public input during the planning process, both virtually and in person when it’s safe.

inform this long-range planning for an equitable and sustainable Hillsborough.”

Plant Superintendent Retires After 32 Years

Hillsborough Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Howard Hobson will retire Feb. 1 after more than 32 years with the town.

Hobson started work with the town as a mechanics helper in the motor pool in 1988. In 1991, he was promoted to an operator position at the Water Treatment Plant, learning every responsibility there and becoming chief operator in 2005 and superintendent in 2016.

The plant has a state certified bacteriological

laboratory and capacity to convert more than 3 million gallons of raw water to drinking water daily.

“I think it’s one of the best plants in the state — the design of it and the ease of operation,” Hobson said.

Hobson has won several employee awards from the town for innovation, endurance and customer service; and he played a key role in the water plant receiving a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the Centers for



Disease Control and Prevention as well as recognition from the state for surpassing federal and state drinking water standards.

In retirement, Hobson plans to spend time with his family, particularly his grandchildren, and work on his farm.

Help Needed

Consider helping a local household pay for water.

The Town of Hillsborough has directed more than \$53,000 in federal CARES Act funds to the Water Assistance Program, but the need for donations remains high. To help, visit the town’s website or email customerservice@hillsboroughnc.gov.



Police Corporal Retires

Police Cpl. Keith Bradshaw will retire Feb. 1 after nearly 10 years with the town and nearly 30 years in law enforcement.

Bradshaw started work briefly for the town in 2010 and returned in August 2011 — first as a reserve officer and then in a permanent position in the Hillsborough Police Department Patrol Division. He advanced from police officer to corporal, with three promotions in 2014, 2017 and 2020. His last day at work will be Jan. 28.

Bradshaw said he won't miss 12-hour nights and working in snow and rain, but he will miss his coworkers and the people in town.


Always one to help people, he credits the Hillsborough Police Department with introducing him to community-oriented policing.




In retirement, Bradshaw plans to continue his new hobby of working with a forge, noting he's found he has a knack for making hunting knives as well as items out of horseshoes. He also plans to do a lot of camper traveling with his wife of 34 years when she retires.

"Law enforcement has been wonderful to me and my family," he said, adding, "I think it's time to spend time with my family while I can."

Reminders

Upcoming holiday — Town offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Monday trash routes will be served Tuesday. 

COVID testing — Orange County offers free testing in several locations, including weekdays at the Whitted Human Services Center, 300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough. Testing is outside and sometimes canceled due to inclement weather. Check the county's page for updates: www.orangecountync.gov/testing.

Flu shots — It's not too late to get a flu shot. The Orange County Health Department urges everyone to get vaccinated against influenza. To find locations, visit vaccinefinder.org/find-vaccine. 

COVID-19 vaccinations — The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has information about the available COVID-19 vaccinations and eligibility to receive free vaccination. For more information, see www.covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines.

Continue practicing the 3 W's — Even if you have recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated, it is important to practice the three W's until public health experts tell us that these precautions are no longer necessary.

Wear a face covering or mask.


Wait at least 6 feet apart.

Wash your hands often for 20 seconds.

Long-term recovery planning — See www.orangencforward.org for opportunities to give input on a draft plan to mitigate the local impacts of COVID-19.


Christmas Tree Safety and Disposal


For fire prevention, trees should be taken outdoors, away from buildings, when they become dry.

In town — Trees can be placed curbside for brush collection. The stand, lights and all decorations must be removed. 

Out of town — Trees can be disposed of with brush and yard waste at most Orange County waste and recycling centers, including the Walnut Grove Church Road and Eubanks Road locations. They must be free from lights, stand and decorations.

Loose Leaves

Vacuuming — January is the last month the town operates the vacuum truck to pick up loose leaves. February through October, leaves can be placed in brown bags for brush collection. 

No sticks — Please keep branches and sticks out of leaf piles because they can damage the vacuum system. Please share this information with anyone you may hire to tidy your yard. 

Delivery — Bulk leaves for composting or mulching are available through January. If interested, call 919-296-9600.