



TALK OF THE TOWN

Town of Hillsborough Newsletter: March 2024

Kick Off Creek Week with a Scavenger Hunt

Kick off Creek Week with a scavenger hunt and more Saturday, March 16 in Gold Park.

Starting at 2 p.m., kids and adults are invited to a stormwater-themed scavenger hunt. Until 4 p.m., participants also can:

- Drive the stormwater crawler camera.
- Check out the Public Works Division's mini excavator.
- Talk with Tree Board volunteers about removing invasive plants.
- Take home information about managing stormwater.
- Get questions answered by Stormwater and Environmental Services staff.
- Learn more about the town's stormwater management program.

Creek Week 2024 will be celebrated regionally March 16-23. Other town-sponsored events include:

- 2-4 p.m. March 20 — Help remove invasive plants along Riverwalk.
- 4-6 p.m. March 21 — Prepare a rain garden planting bed at the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center.
- 1-4 p.m. March 23 — Prepare and plant a bioswale near Riverwalk.

See details about these events and other Creek Week happenings in Orange County in the town news release at www.hillsboroughnc.gov.



Meet Tyler Freeman, Hillsborough's Civil Engineering Technician



Civil Engineering Technician
Tyler Freeman

Tyler Freeman joined the Hillsborough Utilities Department in May 2022.

Originally from Ohio, he received his civil engineering degree from The Ohio State University and moved to North Carolina in 2019 to do geotechnical and site civil design work for a telecommunications company. He made the switch to utilities to be more involved with the community in which he resides.

"This position allows me to physically witness the work on projects I'm involved with and see the benefits to the community at large," he said.

Freeman primarily works with the town's

utilities director and environmental engineering supervisor to make sure developers are installing water and sewer lines according to state and town specifications, codes and standards. He also provides staff support to the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee.

"The team aspect of working in the Utilities Department and the town at large is my favorite aspect of working for the town," Freeman said. "Everyone is willing to help out, provide insight or expertise and work toward maintaining and improving the system. We all work together when the unexpected happens — such as a waterline break — and work to restore services as quickly as possible."

Don't Live in Town? Consider Volunteering

The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee and the Planning Board need out-of-town residents to bring their voices to the table. Read why others volunteer for the town's appointed boards and please consider applying online at www.hillsboroughnc.gov.



Daniel Rawlins

Meet Daniel Rawlins — Daniel Rawlins joined the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee in 2017 and continues to serve as an out-of-town representative.

"Out-of-town customers don't get to vote for the town board, so we really don't have a voice in the government," Rawlins said. "This is our only place to sound off about water costs. So, I think it's important to have out-of-town people on the committee so we can be heard."

The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee has seats for in-town and out-of-town water customers. It discusses public information, operations and finances and makes recommendations related to the management of the Water and Sewer Fund, which pays for water and sewer system maintenance and improvements. The committee especially needs out-of-town customers to fill two vacancies.

Meet Hooper Schultz — Hillsborough resident Hooper Schultz briefly moved to town in 2018 and returned in 2020 when he purchased a house in the Fairview neighborhood.

Schultz jumped at the opportunity to serve on the Mayor's Task Force for Reimagining Public Safety, an advisory board on policing that the Town of Hillsborough formed in 2020. He has since served on the planning and the parks and recreation boards.

"I thought I would like knowing what's going on the most," Schultz said. "However, the thing I like best about volunteering for the town is getting to know people outside my age and social circle who also care about Hillsborough and learning from them. It makes the town feel like a very close-knit community."

The Planning Board reviews planning issues within the town's zoning jurisdiction, which includes some land outside town limits. The board reviews and makes recommendations on rezonings, subdivisions and ordinance amendments and currently has two vacancies for residents who live outside the town limits in the town's extraterritorial jurisdiction.



Hooper Schultz



Understand Rights of Way

Utility companies — including fiber and gas — have permission to work within the rights of way of the town and the state. Utility companies must restore the area once work is complete.

A right of way typically includes the area past the edge of a street toward a home for about 8 feet but can vary and be greater. Rights of way should be kept clear of any structures or plantings. Property owners are responsible for mowing.

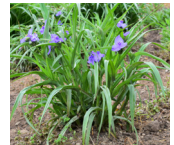
Briefly

Bulk items — Bulk items are collected March 11-15. See the town's Garbage Collection page for details.

Holiday — Town offices will be closed March 29 in observance of Good Friday. Friday garbage routes will be collected Monday, April 1.

Volunteer for garden workdays

— Join volunteers at 8 a.m. the first Thursday of the month to help maintain the pollinator garden in Gold Park.



Save the date — Mayor Mark Bell will give the State of the Town address at 7 p.m. April 22 at the Town Hall Annex, 105 E. Corbin St.

Join No Mow March — Help native pollinator bees get a good



start this spring by refraining from mowing and avoiding

herbicide treatments on your lawn. See the news release.

Help improve public spaces

— To help remove litter or invasive plants, contact Administrative Support Specialist Lindsay Rhew at 919-296-9600 or lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov.

Report fig buttercup — Please report this plant with yellow blooms to Administrative Support Specialist Lindsay Rhew at lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov or 919-296-9600. The

fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*) rapidly covers ground, crowding out native plants.

