





# TALK OF THE TOWN

Town of Hillsborough Newsletter: May 2024

## The Historian: Town Clerk Sarah Kimrey

Growing up in Orange County, Sarah Kimrey never dreamed of being a town clerk, but she did know that she loved history.

As Hillsborough's clerk, Kimrey is the gatekeeper of the town's records and minutes, which date to February 1843. The oldest minutes are handwritten on large pieces of paper and bound together in binders that are kept in a fireproof cabinet just a few steps away from her desk.

By state law, each city, town and county is required to have a clerk. Appointed by the town manager, the town clerk functions as the town's historian. This is ideal for Kimrey, who is introverted and enjoys working independently to uncover requested information.

"I like the research that goes into some of my work — having to read through statutes and trying to interpret that information," Kimrey said. "I like reading through



Town Clerk Sarah Kimrey consults the minutes from previous meetings, including some of the town's oldest minutes.

past minutes to see how things were handled."

Kimrey has worked almost two decades for the town. She feels this role is the best fit for her.

In her clerk role, Kimrey facilitates public board meetings, prepares agenda packets and ensures board procedures follow state law.

Kimrey also serves as a human resources technician. She enjoys collaborating with different departments and people in

both her roles, helping answer questions not only from the public but also from town employees.

"Everybody has an opinion; everybody has things they are passionate about," Kimrey said. "I think it's great when they are passionate about local government, so get involved."

Read the full story on the town's website.

## Mayor: Find Your Village



Mayor Mark Bell focused on the impact of community groups in his April 22 address.

"The village of Hillsborough has grown," the mayor said. "I feel that we are a village of villages, connected to each other with different things to contribute."

Bell urged residents to get involved: "My challenge to you is to find your village — or two or three."

View the address or read the summary online.

## Town Budget

The town manager will deliver his recommended budget to the Board of Commissioners on May 13.

Residents can share thoughts about the Fiscal Year 2025 proposal at a public hearing on May 28. A vote on adoption is expected June 10.

Board meetings are at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, 105 E. Corbin St. The new fiscal year starts July 1.

## A Q&A with the Town Manager



Town Manager Eric Peterson

The town manager is the linchpin of the council–manager form of government, connecting elected officials to the town’s staff.

### What does a day in the life of a town manager look like?

The one constant is that my day rarely works out as scheduled. We’re in a growing community with a lot of old infrastructure, so there is never a shortage of unexpected issues that come up.

### What do you find most enjoyable about being a town manager?

I enjoy seeing other people succeed. I’m

regularly in awe of the amazing things our town employees accomplish.

### What do you find to be most challenging?

There are so many tough issues in local government. As hard as we try to find win-win solutions, it can’t always be done. We must pivot to find the least bad option. Being the bearer of bad news is not fun but an important part of the job.

Read the full Q&A on the town’s website.

## National Police Week

May 12-18 is National Police Week. This week of remembrance honors those who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety of others.

Join the town in recognizing the services that our law enforcement officers provide as first responders, investigators and custodians of general public safety.



## National Public Works Week

May 19-25 is National Public Works Week. Join the town in recognizing the services that our public works and utilities employees provide both as first responders in disaster situations and as workers who maintain our community’s infrastructure.

Hillsborough public works crews provide sanitation services and maintain town-owned streets; utilities crews provide the town’s water and sewer services.



## Briefly

**Bulk items** — Bulk items will be collected May 13-17. See the town’s Garbage Collection page.

**Holiday** — Town offices will be closed May 27 to observe Memorial Day. Monday garbage routes will be collected May 28.

The U.S. and state flag banners will be displayed downtown for Memorial Day weekend.

**Garden workdays** — Join volunteers at 8 a.m. the first Saturday monthly in Gold Park.

**Pantry donations** — Community groups are collecting donations for Orange Congregations in Mission.

*May 6-17:* The Police Department will collect items for infants 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays at the Police Station, 127 N. Churton St.

*May 11:* Postal service employees will collect nonperishable items placed in a box or bag where your mail is delivered.

**Shred-a-Thon** — Get your confidential documents shredded and recycled for free May 11 at the Orange County Shred-a-Thon. Bring documents from 10 am.-2 p.m. behind the Home Depot in town for safe destruction.

**Pet reminders** — Please remember to keep your pet leashed and remove pet waste.

**Job opportunities** — Interested in a career in local government? See the town’s job openings at [governmentjobs.com/careers/hillsboroughnc](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/hillsboroughnc).

Also visit with us at the Local Government Career Expo from 1-4 p.m. June 8 at the N.C. State McKimmon Center.

This newsletter deadline was April 25. For the latest information and especially if you are switching to electronic billing, subscribe to news releases at [hillsboroughnc.gov](http://hillsboroughnc.gov).