



TALK OF THE TOWN

Town of Hillsborough Newsletter: November 2021

Biennial Community Survey Mailed

The biennial Community Survey for in-town residents will arrive in mailboxes soon. Please complete the paper survey and return it in the included prepaid envelope, or use the URL provided in the cover letter to complete the survey online.

The cover letter also includes a phone number to call to complete the survey in Spanish.



Completing the survey helps town staff and elected officials know what is working well or needs improvement. The questions take about 15 minutes to answer and cover a wide range of topics, including public safety, parks and recreation, code enforcement, public works, communication and customer service.

Overall results will be discussed at a Hillsborough Board of Commissioners meeting and placed on the town's website.

The survey will be administered by ETC Institute of Olathe, Kansas.

This survey is separate from the Community Visioning Survey that was open during the summer. We need your response!

What to Do with All the Leaves?



As autumn settles in, the Hillsborough Tree Board encourages residents to consider the benefits fallen leaves provide to your plants and soil.

Leave the leaves

The Tree Board created a video encouraging people to leave the leaves on their lawn or gently rake them into landscaped areas to serve as mulch. See the video on the town's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/TownofHillsboroughNC.

In addition to being free, fallen leaves:

- Provide some pollinators and other creatures with safe winter cover.
- Improve soil quality.
- Suppress weeds and retain moisture as effectively as shredded wood mulch.

Loose leaf collection

The town's annual loose leaf collection began Nov. 1 and will continue through January. Loose leaves are picked up in the town limits. Please be sure to keep sticks out of the leaf piles because they may damage the vacuum truck.

If you would like a truckload of leaves delivered to your home in or near the town limits, call 919-296-9600.

Train Station Update

Did you know that a Hillsborough train station will be built by early 2028? The project is funded by the state and will be located on town-owned land near Collins Ridge. There is space for commercial development near the station.

The project is moving into the design phase. The town issued a request for bids in October for an architecture and engineering team. Design team selection will occur in late November or early December. The design is expected to take two years.

The design work will provide plans for:

- 7,000-square-foot building with waiting room, ticketing area, meeting room, town offices, restrooms and storage
- Parking lot with 100 spaces (10-20% for electric vehicles)
- Stormwater control measures with green infrastructure
- Covered platform
- Multi-modal roadway connection to Orange Grove Street
- Pedestrian greenway connection to the downtown

Water Assistance Program Needs Donations

The Water Assistance Program needs donations to help those who are unable to pay their water or sewer bills. The program is funded by donations from utility customers and administered by a nonprofit agency.

To make a donation, visit the town's website or contact town staff at 919-296-9450 or by email at customerservice@hillsboroughnc.gov.



Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, when the clock will "fall back" one hour.

Orange Rural Fire Department Fire Chief Jeff Cabe encourages you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks.

Community Center Is Renamed

A new sign has been installed at the Dorothy N. Johnson Community Center in the Fairview neighborhood. In August, the town board voted to change the building's name. The board also authorized a lease with the Fairview Community Watch, enabling the community group to convert the space into a dedicated community center. Johnson, who is deceased, was an integral part of the Fairview Community Watch and an advocate for her community.



Talk About Connectivity Nov. 16

Connectivity — including future bike/ped trails — will be discussed at the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 16. The Hillsborough community is invited to participate in the conversation, which will help shape the connectivity portion of the Comprehensive Sustainability Plan. This board and others continue to meet remotely due to health concerns. See the news release for information on how to participate.



Easement Mowing Continues

A contractor for the town is mowing water and sewer easements.

Wellsmont Landscaping began mowing in mid-October and is expected to complete the work in November. Two crews are working simultaneously from the outer limits of Hillsborough's service area toward the central area.

Please stay alert for mowing crews for your safety and the safety of workers.



Grease reminder — Refraining from washing fats, oil and grease down the drains helps prevent sewer blockages, which lead to spills and overflows that are hazardous to wildlife habitats. Please pour excess cooking fat or oil in an old can or jar to cool for disposal. See the [fact sheet](#).



Arbor Day celebration — The Tree Board is celebrating Arbor Day at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 17 by planting a swamp white oak at the driveway entrance to Gold Park. Orange County Forest Ranger Justin Bennett will present the town with its annual Tree City USA award at the event. Everyone is invited to attend.

November holidays — Town garbage collection will not occur Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Thursday routes will be collected Friday, Nov. 12. Garbage collection also will not occur Nov. 25-26 for Thanksgiving. Thursday routes will be collected Wednesday, Nov. 24, and Friday routes will be collected Monday, Nov. 29.

Property tax assistance — The Orange County Longtime Homeowner Assistance program provides property tax bill assistance to help people stay in their homes. For more information, call Orange County Housing and Community Development at 919-245-2655 or email HousingHelp@orangecountync.gov.

Board vacancies — Offer your time and insight to the Historic District Commission, Tourism Board or Water and Sewer Advisory Committee. See the news release for details.

Sign up for OC Alerts — The town issues emergency notifications through [OC Alerts](#), Orange County's mass notification system. Sign up via the town's home page.