

Our Town

January/February 2020

TOWN of WAKE FOREST



New yellow signs and mailing envelopes are intended to make public hearing notices more visible.

Town introduces changes to increase awareness of PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Town of Wake Forest is introducing important changes aimed at increasing citizen awareness of scheduled public hearings.

The first involves a redesign of the Town's public hearings notice signage which are posted on properties being considered for public hearing. The signs are now bright yellow, so they are easily recognizable.

Moving forward, each public hearing will be assigned a unique ID# which will be clearly visible on the new signage. Anyone with questions about a scheduled public hearing should note the ID# then choose one of the following options to obtain information about the hearing:

■ Visit wakeforestnc.gov/PH and scroll through the listed public hearings to locate the ID# and corresponding information.

■ Call the Planning Department at 919-435-9510. The staff person who answers the call will put the caller in contact with the case manager who can provide additional information.

The second change involves the letters the Town sends to nearby property owners. The first-class letters will be mailed in bright yellow envelopes featuring the Town logo and PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE printed on the outside. Similar to the new signage, the new envelopes are intended to stand out and reduce the likelihood of being discarded by mistake.

📧 wakeforestnc.gov/PH, Senior Planner Patrick Reidy, ☎ 919-435-9515, ✉ preidy@wakeforestnc.gov



MLK Holiday Schedule: Wake Forest Town Hall and all other administrative offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. For a complete list of Town holidays and any changes to Town services, visit wakeforestnc.gov and search "holiday schedule."

Town of Wake Forest
301 S. Brooks Street
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-435-9400

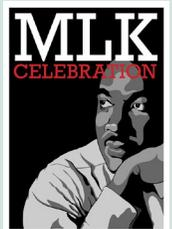
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POSTAL CUSTOMER

News Highlights

Community invited to MLK Celebration » A free, public celebration honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on Thursday, Jan. 23, at Friendship Chapel Baptist Church. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m.



Free performance of George Washington Carver & Friends » In celebration of Black History Month, Bright Star Theater will present *George Washington Carver & Friends* on Saturday, Feb. 8. The morning show will be held at the Alston-Massenburg Center, 416 N. Taylor St., at 11 a.m. The evening show will be held at the Friendship Chapel Baptist Church, 237 Friendship Chapel Road at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

The story highlights George Washington Carver, a Black History hero and scientist who led a remarkable life. See him come to life and meet some of the other groundbreakers from Black History including Madame CJ Walker, Jackie Robinson and more.

Sponsored by the United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County.



CENSUS 2020

Wake Forest Counts

Frequently asked questions about the 2020 Census

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs. They also are used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Why is it important to me?

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty, it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government.

When will I complete the census?

Beginning in mid-March, people will receive a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 Census. Once you receive it, you can respond online. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that haven't responded to the census.

How can I respond? In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer. Responding should take less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee.

What information will be requested? The census will collect basic information about the people living in your household. You should count everyone who is living in your household on April 1, 2020.

What information will not be requested? The Census Bureau will never ask for: Social Security numbers, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party.

Will my information be kept confidential? Strict federal law protects your census responses. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA) can access or use your personal information at any time.

Learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting 2020census.gov.



A hoop jam and other free activities are offered during the Mardi Gras Street Festival.

Let the good times roll at the eighth annual MARDI GRAS

Join us for a fun-filled day in downtown Wake Forest on Saturday, Feb. 22, during the Wake Forest Mardi Gras Street Festival. This family-friendly celebration is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The annual event features music,

entertainment, face painting, and a costume procession for children and adults to showcase their Mardi Gras themed attire. A variety of contests and activities will be offered throughout the day.

📧 wakeforestnc.gov, search "mardi gras",
📞 919-435-9427



Communications Survey Results

The Town of Wake Forest conducted an online survey in November to gather input from residents concerning what they want in the way of information—and how they want it. The survey asked questions about the quality of information received, the effectiveness of various communications tools and input on future communications.

📧 wakeforestnc.gov, search "communications"

94%
satisfied or
very satisfied
with the way the
Town communicates
with its residents

Public invited to State of the Town Address

The 2020 State of the Town Address & Dinner is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. at the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre for the Arts, 405 S. Brooks St.

Hosted by the Wake Forest Rotary Club, the occasion offers Wake Forest citizens the opportunity to reflect on the Town's accomplishments during the previous year and learn about its goals in the coming months.

In addition to Mayor Vivian Jones' State of the Town address, the evening will include a catered meal and dinner music by a local high school ensemble.

Tickets are \$15 per person (including dinner) and can be purchased online at wakeforestnc.gov (search for "state of the



town") or at the Renaissance Centre Box Office.

Anyone not interested in eating dinner is welcome to attend the State of the Town address without purchasing a ticket. Non-ticket buyers should arrive between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. at the conclusion of the dinner portion of the program.

Mayor Jones' address is expected to begin between 6:45 and 7 p.m.

Watch the State of the Town Address

The State of the Town Address will be recorded and replayed on Wake Forest TV 10 throughout March. It will also be available in streaming video on the Town's website, wakeforestnc.gov.

Wake Forest Board of Commissioners

For contact information visit wakeforestnc.gov and search "board members"



Commissioner Jim Dyer



Commissioner Chad Sary



Commissioner Liz Simperts



Commissioner Bridget Wall-Lennon



Commissioner Adam Wright

Sign up to receive Board of Commissioners meeting summaries



The Wake Forest Board of Commissioners typically meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Meeting summaries are issued from the Communications & Public Affairs Department following the Board's monthly meetings. To receive each month's meeting summary via email, sign up for E-Notifier at wakeforestnc.gov (search "enotifier").

The brief meeting summaries should not be viewed as official minutes. To request the official meeting minutes, contact Town Clerk Deeda Harris at dharris@wakeforestnc.gov.

Watch meetings live & on demand

Board of Commissioners meetings can be viewed both live and on demand by visiting the Town's online streaming media archive. Meetings are available in streaming video for one year after their original air date.

Board of Commissioners meetings are also shown live on Wake Forest TV 10—the Town of Wake Forest's government access channel—then re-broadcast daily throughout the remainder of the month at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m. WFTV 10 is available only to Wake Forest residents and businesses that subscribe to Spectrum Cable TV service. However, WFTV 10 is also provided online in real-time streaming video.

📺 wakeforestnc.gov, search "wftv 10",
Communications & Public Affairs Director
Bill Crabtree, ✉ bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov,
☎ 919-435-9421

Ball league registration held in February

Registrations for youth baseball, softball, T-ball, dream league baseball and men's recreational softball will be accepted online from Feb. 1–29. To register, visit wakeforestnc.recdesk.com.

Also, look for the new edition of the program guide, *RecConnect*, scheduled to arrive in your mailbox by the end of January. Online registration for recreational programs begins Saturday, Feb. 1 at wakeforestnc.recdesk.com.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police thank public for its generosity

The Wake Forest Police Department wishes to thank the community for donations to the 2019 Turkey Drive and Shop With A Cop. As a result of the community's generosity, on Nov. 25, the Police Department gave away over 950 turkeys to disadvantaged families in our area—by far the most it has ever distributed.

In addition, Shop With A Cop provided over 30 underprivileged children with a holiday shopping spree at Walmart.

Police distributed 950 turkeys to residents during the annual Turkey Giveaway.



Happy Dan the Magic Man

Jan 15 & Feb 19 ■ 11 a.m. Everyone laughs louder when Happy Dan is in the house! Children are quickly drawn into his tale of magical fantasy as they perform various feats of magic and more. The laughter never stops as Happy Dan struggles with his misbehaving props and the children fly to his rescue.
Tickets: \$5

Neck of the Woods

Jan 31 ■ 7 p.m. Presented by ARTS Wake Forest. Neck of the Woods is a variety performance series featuring emerging local artists. Each show is different and may include actors, dancers, musicians, comedians, writers and spoken word artists. Come out and support your local artists! Bar will be open for wine, beer and other refreshment purchases.
Tickets: \$5



Prelude to a Kiss

Feb 14-23 ■ Presented by Forest Moon Theater. Written by Craig Lucas. On the evening of Peter and Rita's wedding, an elderly stranger

appears at the reception bearing a kiss for the new bride. In this romantic fantasy, it is a kiss that tests the boundaries of the couple's love. Rated R for strong language and adult subject matter. *Tickets: advance: \$15 individual, \$13 student/senior; day of: \$18 individual, \$16 student/senior.*



Jim Quick & Coastline – Rockin' the Forest

Feb 28 ■ 7:30 p.m. Rockin' the Forest is a live concert music series featuring some of the top musical acts in the area. Jim Quick & Coastline truly define the sound of historical Southern music—from hard driving Carolina back beats, to Georgia southern rock, from Cajun inspired grooves, to Texas and Delta blues. The bar will be open for wine, beer and other refreshment purchases. *Tickets: \$15.*

wakeforestrencen.org Renaissance Centre Box Office, 919-435-9458

Tim Bowman, Jr. will perform at the Renaissance Centre on Jan. 25



SHADES OF GOSPEL

Traditional, Southern & Contemporary

The Wake Forest Renaissance Centre, 405 S. Brooks St., will host a lively and educational celebration of gospel music that connects all cultures, ages and backgrounds on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 5 p.m. The Shades of Gospel concert will highlight a range of traditional, southern and contemporary gospel music with featured performances by Grammy, Dove and Stellar Award-nominated artist Tim Bowman, Jr. and the Trinity Quartet.

Tickets are \$15 plus tax and may be purchased online at wakeforestrencen.org or at the Renaissance Centre Box Office.

Tim Bowman, Jr. started his music career

in 2012 with the release of *Beautiful* by Trippin 'N' Rhythm Records. His critically acclaimed album *Listen* debuted at number one on Billboard Gospel Albums, and garnered two number one singles, *I'm Good* and *Fix Me*.

The Trinity Quartet has performed throughout North Carolina and beyond with such groups as The Dixie Melody Boys, The Hoppers and The Steels.

The Shades of Gospel concert is partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

wakeforestrencen.org, 919-435-9458

Step back to the '50s at the Sock Hop

Put on your blue suede shoes or pink poodle skirt and get ready to rock around the clock at the Back to the '50s Sock Hop on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre.

Dance to your favorite '50s tunes spun by DJ Randy "Sting" Strum with 1st Choice Customized DJ Services and special music by emcee Rosann McFadden.

Ice cream floats will be available for purchase. The bar will also be open for wine, beer and soft drink purchases.



The Sock Hop is from 7 to 10 p.m. and tickets are \$12 plus tax.



Comedy Night with Rondell Sheridan

Saturday, March 7 ■ From the Tonight Show to Comedy Central, Rondell has been called one of the fastest comedy minds in the business. Sheridan transforms ordinary occurrences into hilarious and hearty tales. *Tickets: \$18.*



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COMMUNICATIONS

Explore the Town's video library



The Communications Department offers an online library of videos on a variety of useful topics. The videos are typically broadcast on WFTV 10, but they are also available for on-demand viewing.

Covering topics such as "Bulk Waste Pickup" and "Discover Wake Forest," the videos are short segments that provide plenty of useful information. Categories of videos include: Special Events, Online Meetings, Wake Forest 411 and more.

Visit the video library by going to wakeforestnc.gov/wftv-10 and clicking on the WFTV 10 Videos tab.

📧 wakeforestnc.gov, search "wftv 10 videos", Communications & Public Affairs Director Bill Crabtree, ✉ bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov, ☎ 919-435-9421

PUBLIC WORKS

New online form makes it easy to report issues with trash carts



Wake Forest sanitation customers can now use an online form to request a variety of assistance related to their rollout trash and recycling carts.

Available at wakeforestnc.gov (search "trash and recycling carts"), the form offers a simple, yet effective way for Town sanitation customers to request trash and recycling service, upgrade to a larger recycling cart, order extra carts and report damaged or missing carts.

As a bonus, anyone who completes and submits the online form will be automatically enrolled in Waste Wizard—an interactive tool that allows users to receive waste collection reminders and schedules.

Public Works Department ☎ 919-435-9570

PLANNING

Courtney Tanner is new Wake Forest Planning Director



The Town of Wake Forest is pleased to welcome Courtney Tanner as its new Planning Director. She succeeds Chip Russell, who retired in December after 32 years of service to the Town.

As Planning Director, Tanner will direct and review the activities of the Planning Department, including current and long range planning initiatives and code enforcement programs. She will also play a leading role in the formation, installation, modification and improvement of the Town's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations.

Tanner has over 15 years' experience in the field of public sector planning, with a concentration on comprehensive plan development and implementation. Prior to joining Wake Forest, she worked for the Town of Morrisville—the last three as planning director.

Planning Director Courtney Tanner, ✉ ctanner@wakeforestnc.gov, ☎ 919-435-9536



TRANSPORTATION

Wake Forest Loop now offers expanded service

Wake Forest's free local bus service (Wake Forest Loop) has added a second bus to the local circular route. The second bus will run in the opposite direction (counterclockwise) on the existing route. By selecting the bus that travels in their preferred direction, riders can now get to their destination more efficiently.

The Wake Forest Loop is the result of a partnership between the Town of Wake Forest and GoRaleigh. Bus schedules can be viewed at GoRaleigh.org.

🌐 wakeforestnc.gov, search "bus service", *Transportation Engineer Jonathan Jacobs*, ☎ 919-435-9441, ✉ jjacobs@wakeforestnc.gov

FINANCE

Town earns another favorable audit report

During its monthly meeting in November, the Board of Commissioners received the results of an independent audit report from Cherry Bekaert LLP for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. In addition to not revealing any audit findings or problems, the report acknowledged that the Town is in compliance with all of its financial policies and operating with strong internal controls in place.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Aileen Staples said the last two years' of favorable audit reports have been especially encouraging considering all the Town accomplished without raising taxes.

"This year was particularly challenging due to the debt service requirements for the bonds issued in June 2018," she said. "Plus, we were prepared to use fund balance; however, due to our continued conservative fiscal approach, we outperformed and exceeded budgeted expectations."

These efforts align with the fourth goal of the Town's Strategic Plan—"enhance fiscal strength."

🌐 wakeforestnc.gov, search "finance", *Chief Financial Officer Aileen Staples*, ☎ 919-435-9461, ✉ astaples@wakeforestnc.gov

PUBLIC WORKS

Bi-monthly loose leaf collection continues through March

The Town of Wake Forest's annual loose leaf collection program is underway and will continue through March 13.

When preparing leaves for collections, residents are urged to rake leaves into piles behind the curb, so they do not interfere with traffic or drainage. Also, do not mix sticks, rocks or pine cones with loose leaves. Keep brush away from other objects such as, fences, walls, water meters, utility poles, mailboxes, fire hydrants and cars.

Wake Forest residents can track the progress of leaf collection crews by calling the Leaf Collection Hotline at 919-435-9582. The hotline is updated each weekday morning by 8 a.m. with information concerning where crews will be working that day.

🌐 wakeforestnc.gov, search "leaf collection", *Yard Waste Collection Supervisor Chad Hildebrandt*, ☎ 919-435-9575, ✉ childebrandt@wakeforestnc.gov



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February is Dental Health Month

Most experts agree that daily brushing is ideal, but if that's unrealistic, aim for **three to four times per week.**

Come in to Dirty Dogs Spa with this ad to pick up a FREE pet toothbrush.

code: DTOWF20 Offer good through February 28, 2020



919.453.0765 dirtydogsspa.com

Are winter bills giving you the chills?

Warm up to these easy, money-saving tips provided by NC Public Power:

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Every degree above 68 increases your energy use by 3-5 percent.
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to turn down your heat at night.
- Traditional fireplaces lose more heat than they produce, so only use them on mild days.
- Avoid using space heaters for long periods of time. Use of one small heater in your home could add more than \$100 to your monthly electric bill.



Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are now available for 2020. Interested businesses should contact Marketing & Business Relations Specialist Anna Bolton at abolton@wakeforestnc.gov or 919-610-4916.

Save these DATES



March 28
Easter Egg Hunt



April 4
Dirt Day



April 17
Friday Night on White



The new Joyner Park Community Center features an outdoor playground.

Updates on major TOWN PROJECTS

The Town of Wake Forest has recently completed—or is in the process of completing—the following major initiatives. Three of the projects were funded by the 2014 bond.

■ **Joyner Park Community Center (JPCC)** opened in October. Its multiple programming rooms, gym and elevated walking track are enjoying record numbers of users compared to other Town facilities. The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department also relocated its offices to the JPCC.

■ **Holding Park Aquatic Center** was open for its first full season and visited by over 24,000

people—far exceeding attendance numbers at the former Holding Park Pool.

■ Staff at the newly renovated **Northern Wake Senior Center** are moving in and will be offering new and expanded programs to our senior population.

■ **Stadium Drive Complete Street** project is scheduled to be completed in early 2020.

■ **Downtown Streetscape Improvements** including street and landscape enhancements to South White Street and East Owen Avenue were completed in December.

🔍 wakeforestnc.gov, search “projects and initiatives”



Citizens Financial Report now available



The Town of Wake Forest is pleased to present the 2019 *Citizens Financial Report*. The document is an abbreviated summary of the Town's

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Offering financial and operational information in a

summarized format, the 16-page report provides an overview of the Town's financial results in a manner that is easy to understand by those without a background in public finance or accounting.

The report is available on the Town's website and on the Town's Open Data Portal.

🔍 wakeforestnc.gov, search “citizens financial report”

YOUR GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Third Tuesday | 7 p.m.
Town Hall Board Room

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

First Tuesday | 5:30 p.m.
Town Hall Board Room

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday | 7:30 p.m.
Town Hall Board Room

View meetings :

- live on WFTV 10 and re-broadcast at 9 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. daily for up to two weeks after the meeting
- live at wakeforestnc.gov, search “wftv 10”, and on-demand in streaming video



WFTV 10 is the Town's government access channel available to Spectrum TV subscribers. Watch WFTV 10 live online at wakeforestnc.gov, search “wftv 10”.

STAYING INFORMED

E-NOTIFIER

Sign up for the Town's free email subscription service at wakeforestnc.gov (search for “e-notifier”)



TOWN of WAKE FOREST

301 S. Brooks St.
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-435-9400
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