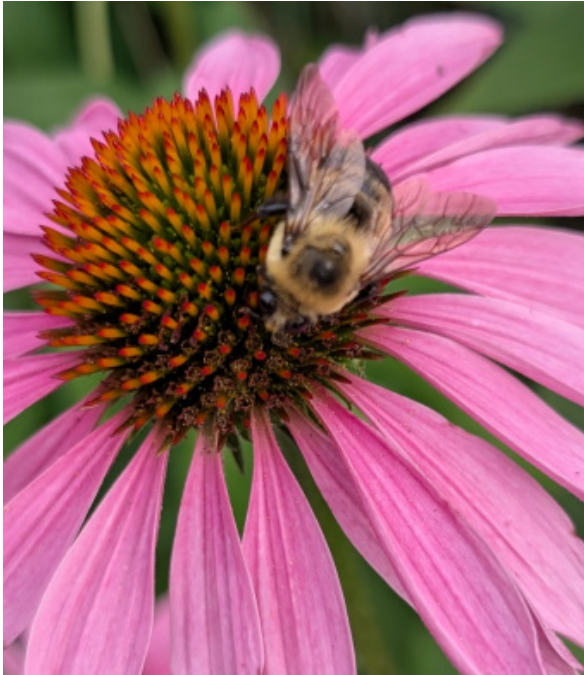




# TALK OF THE TOWN

[hillsboroughnc.gov](http://hillsboroughnc.gov)

March 2026



A bee visits a purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), a native plant recommended by the Tree Board.

## Celebrate No Mow March

The Hillsborough Tree Board asks you to help give native pollinators a good start to the year by delaying or reducing mowing and by replacing some of your turf lawn with native plants.

The start of the growing season is a critical time for native pollinator species. At this time, they emerge hungry and ready to forage for nectar and pollen. Both nectar and pollen can be hard to find in early spring, even in suburban environments.

**Reduce Mowing** — By avoiding mowing in March, you help provide a stable nectar and pollen supply at a critical time for pollinators.

**Replace Grass with Flowers** — The Tree Board recommends replacing some of your grass lawn with native flowering plants and grasses. No Mow March focuses on your turf lawn. Even without mowing in early spring, grass lawns provide limited nutrition to struggling native pollinator populations.

## Tour a Treatment Plant

Curious how water from the Eno River is cleaned for drinking or how wastewater is treated before it's sent back to the river? Sign up for a tour of the treatment plants!

The Hillsborough Utilities Department offers free tours of the water and wastewater treatment plants. A public tour will be offered at 1 p.m. Friday, March 13. Choose one plant to tour in March. Plan to check out the other plant during the next public tour in the fall.

Tour participants must be at least 10 years old. Adults must bring a valid identification card, which can be a current passport, driver's license or state- or county-issued identification card.



Government 101 participants tour the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

# Dog Egg Hunt, Costume Contest

Join the Hillsborough Police Department for the annual Easter egg hunt and costume contest for dogs March 28.

The fun begins at 2 p.m. in Gold Park, 415 Dimmocks Mill Road. Easter eggs with treats will be hidden at the park, with a separate search area available for senior and small dogs. Prizes will be awarded to dogs with the best Easter costumes. Be sure to bring a basket for your dog's collected eggs!

All animals must be non-aggressive, current on vaccines, and leashed at all times. Participants will be required to sign a waiver and release form.



## Water Assistance Program

Consider donating to the town's water assistance program. The fund is managed by Orange Congregations in Mission and provides short-term, emergency aid to customers with a proven need. The program is funded through donations.

In 2025, over \$2,700 was donated to the program. For this fiscal year and the last, the town authorized providing \$10,000 from its general fund for the program. To help meet the need, Orange Congregations in Mission uses general purpose donations.

## Government Communicators Day

Government Communicators Day celebrates the contributions of public communicators.

This year, we are celebrating Senior Specialist Cheryl Sadgrove!

She has been a part of the Communications Division for nine years and earned certification as an advanced public information officer as part of emergency management training last year. Check out the full Q&A with her on the town's website.

### What prompted you to work for the town?

Because I had covered the town as a print journalist, I had some deeper knowledge of town operations and services. I had also enjoyed being a part of the community as a resident and couldn't pass up an opportunity to work for my town.

### What do you do?

I provide information to Hillsborough's community members through social media posts, news releases and community engagement events. I also coordinate the town's Government 101 program, which is a multiweek course that we offer in the fall.



## Briefly

**Bulk Items** — Bulk items collection is March 9-13. See the Garbage Collection page.

**Holiday** — Town offices will be closed April 3 for Good Friday. Friday garbage routes will be collected Monday, April 6.

**Police Transparency Reports** — The Hillsborough Police Department publishes quarterly and annual reports at [hillsboroughnc.gov/police](https://hillsboroughnc.gov/police).

**Chlorine Disinfection** — As required by the state, the town is using chlorine to disinfect public drinking water for a month, beginning March 1.

**Yard Waste** — Have fallen leaves or spring clippings? Place yard waste in paper or biodegradable bags for collection or compost them at home.

**Creek Week** — Celebrate the streams, lakes and rivers that connect our communities during Orange County's Creek Week, March 21-29.

**Garden Workdays** — Join volunteers at 9 a.m. the third Thursday of the month to help maintain the Gold Park pollinator garden. Workdays continue until late fall.

**Report Fig Buttercup** — If you spot this invasive plant, please report it to Administrative Support Specialist Lindsay Rhew at [lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov](mailto:lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov) or 919-296-9600.



**Volunteer** — Interested in serving on an appointed board? The town's historic district commission is looking for applicants to fill vacancies.

**Read More** — Read full stories at [hillsboroughnc.gov/news](https://hillsboroughnc.gov/news).

# REMINDER

## ANNUAL DISINFECTION

As required for one month yearly by the state, the town's water system is being disinfected with chlorine in March.



Chlorine and ammonia are used the other months.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Water from fire hydrants will be released this month to ensure chlorine flows through the entire system. Hydrants also will undergo maintenance.

Some customers may notice a chlorine taste or odor. Your water remains safe.

### TIPS TO REMOVE TASTE OR ODOR:

Add a few lemon slices to a pitcher of water.



Let water sit in an open container for a day or so.

Filter water with activated carbon.

Boil water for 15 minutes.

### TIPS ON HYDRANT FLUSHING:

Water may be briefly cloudy or discolored and could discolor light-colored fabric. It is safe to drink. Run cold water a few minutes until water and air bubbles clear.

Do not fill pools with a hose at this time due to backflow risk.

Keep 3 feet around hydrants clear.

Questions? Call water plant at 919-732-3621.

# RECORDATORIO DESINFECCIÓN ANUAL

Como requerimiento anual por el estado y por el mes de marzo, el sistema de agua de la ciudad se desinfecta con cloro.



En los otros meses se utiliza cloro y amoníaco.

## CUÁLES SON LAS EXPECTATIVAS

El agua de las bocas de incendio se liberará este mes para asegurar que el cloro fluya a través de todo el sistema. Los hidrantes también se someterán a mantenimiento.

Algunos usuarios pueden notar un sabor u olor a cloro. El agua sigue siendo potable.

## CONSEJOS PARA ELIMINAR EL SABOR Y EL OLOR A CLORO:

Añada unas rodajas de limón a una jarra de agua.



Deje reposar el agua en un recipiente abierto durante un día aproximadamente.

Filtre el agua con carbón activado.

Hierva el agua durante 15 minutos.

## CONSEJOS PARA LA LIMPIEZA DE BOCAS DE RIEGO:

La limpieza de las bocas de riego puede enturbiar o decolorar brevemente el agua. El agua es potable, pero podría decolorar los tejidos claros. Deje correr el agua fría durante unos minutos hasta que el agua y las burbujas de aire desaparezcan.

Mantenga siempre 3 pies de distancia alrededor de las bocas de riego.

¿Preguntas? Llame a la planta de agua al 919-732-3621.