

TALK OF THE TOWN

Fall 2016 Citizens Newsletter



In focus: Public Space

In October, Project Planner Stephanie Trueblood will become the town's first public space manager.

Instrumental in the Riverwalk greenway's construction, she will oversee the new

Public Space Division. Get the scoop!

Q: What's the purpose of the division?

A: Public Space is tasked with protecting, maintaining, developing and enhancing the facilities and grounds available to the public, including parks, greenways, sidewalks, streets, facilities, and urban spaces — the spaces where people interact, the places where community is built. The emphasis is on urban design and a healthy and high-quality built environment. We also will strive to connect all of our neighborhoods and to provide safe bicycle and pedestrian routes and convenient amenities so that alternative transportation is a viable option.

Q: Why is the town developing such a division?

A: Community is often made in spontaneous interactions that happen in the public sphere. As Hillsborough grows and develops, we are focused on preserving a sense of place and small-town character. We aim to provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to interact with each other and the environment. The division will help plan, design, and implement projects to enhance and protect these important spaces.

Q: What changes can we expect to see?

A: One of the most immediate changes will be added landscaping and greening of urban spaces. We have a new downtown budget also for adding pedestrian amenities like benches and bicycle racks. The town also is pursuing Bee City USA status, and we will bring more native and adapted pollinator plant species into the urban environment.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share?

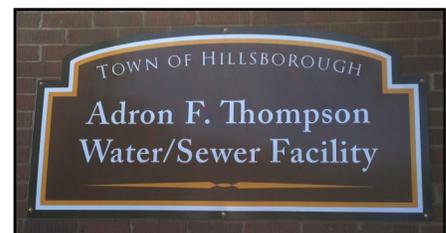
A: The Public Space Division is designed to strengthen the overall health of our community by incorporating sustainable principles and utilizing best practices in design and maintenance programs. Stay tuned for ways to get involved and share ideas!

Former employee honored

A town facility has been renamed for a former utilities system supervisor who left his mark on the building and town over 30 years of service. Adron Thompson retired in November 2014 and died this past March.

Through hands-on work, he helped expand the 1936 former water plant on Dimmocks Mill Road into a headquarters for the Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Division.

Around town, he was known



for building, installing and maintaining bird houses, many of which are still on sign posts.

Tree Board working to restore chestnuts

American chestnut trees could make a comeback in Hillsborough, thanks to the Tree Board’s work!

The volunteer board partnered with Ayr Mount and Burwell School Historic Site to identify locations for planting potentially blight-resistant chestnuts. The species was nearly wiped out in the early 1900s due to a fungal blight.

In February, two saplings were planted at the Hillsborough Town Hall Campus (pictured), four at Ayr Mount and four on the lawn at Burwell School.

Following an inspection of some of the trees this past summer, Assistant Orange County Ranger



Justin Bennett noted, “I am personally interested in seeing how these blight resistant American chestnut trees live and grow, and I’m excited to see an icon of American forests be brought back to Hillsborough.”



Top 100

Town Manager Eric Peterson has been named a top 100 local government influencer by the national group ELGL.

Ranked at No. 84, he was recognized for leading the town’s police driver safety program since 2000 while also excelling as a dad, sports car driver and mentor.

Reminders from Public Works



Loose leaves collection

Seasonal collection of loose leaves starts in November and runs through January.

Pile leaves within 4 feet of the curb, and keep piles free of trash and debris. Sticks can clog the truck’s vacuum.

Ensure leaf piles do not block traffic, sidewalks, fire hydrants, water drainage or water meters.

Leaves in biodegradable bags still will be picked up, with a limit of 10 bags per week.

Streetlights

Report needed maintenance for streetlights to the power company, providing an address or pole number for the light.

In the Duke Energy service area, call 800-777-9898.

In the Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation service area, call 919-732-2123 and mark the pole with a ribbon.

Links to report outages online are in the Public Works section of the town website.

Coming soon: Changes to billing services

The Water and Sewer Billing and Collections Office expects to start a new customer service platform this fall, which will include bilingual customer service representatives; a mobile application; and a new online portal for customers to view their usage and to pay their bills.

Customers will receive new account numbers, and those paying bills by bank draft will need to re-enroll. More details will be offered soon.