

Vibrant and Inclusive Community

Adopted a Town-wide Language Access Plan to offer interpretation and translation services for Town services and programs. The plan responds to the highest priority issue of immigrant and refugee residents. Chapel Hill becomes a leader among NC local governments in language access.

Graduated 37 residents from the Peoples Academy where graduates learned about Town services, connected with each other, and gained knowledge and understanding to lead in the Chapel Hill community.

Supported the Good Neighbor Initiative, in collaboration with UNC. We organized a successful Block Party and Door-to-Door effort, and continued to distribute the Tar Heel Citizen Times, the electronic newsletter for UNC students living off campus. The readership of the newsletter is now over 3,000.

Engaged residents in Charting Our Future, the journey to chart the next course and to think about the future of Chapel Hill. Residents reviewed and commented on draft maps and descriptions indicating how the Town may grow and develop to the year 2049.

Opened new turf fields at Homestead Park, thanks to a \$1.4 million joint project among the Town, Triangle United Soccer and Rainbow Soccer. The park now has two new artificial turf fields, accessible walkways and fencing. The artificial turf fields can be played on year round and are lighted for evening play.

Improved longstanding festivals, created new events, and improved event permitting. We successfully moved fireworks to Southern Village, reimagined Festifall and created the Santa Rooftop Rescue. We launched a new website with improved external permit applications and internal processes.

Named C.J. Suitt as the new Poet Laureate for Chapel Hill to help create a poetry initiative and to serve as an ambassador for the arts.

Learned a lot about our shared history. From the Chapel Hill 1819/2019 celebration to the Women of the Movement program to the Re/Collecting Chapel Hill podcast to the development of the Chapel Hill Nine Marker, we are learning our community's history, from the bottom up and the inside out.

Dedicated a historical marker at 405 W. Franklin St. that honors the Chapel Hill Nine, who sat at a booth in the Colonial Drug Store and sought the same service that was given to white customers. Their courageous step sparked a decade of direct-action civil rights demonstrations in Chapel Hill.



Members of the Chapel Hill Nine: Rev. Albert Williams, James Merritt, David Mason Jr., and Douglas "Clyde" Perry.



Safe Community

Established LGBTQ+ Liaison to address and elevate the concerns of the LGBTQ+ community related to public safety and policing. The Liaison partners with divisions within the police department to fairly and equitably address issues.

Recruited 17 new police officers. An increase to starting pay and a renewed recruiting effort led to the hiring of 17 new police officers. Our newest Guardians of the Hill bring a variety of experiences and backgrounds.

Graduated the first five students to complete the full course of the High School Fire Academy. With the successful completion of program requirements, students are eligible for employment as professional firefighters upon high school graduation.

Launched the GEMS (Girls. Empowered. Motivated. Spectacular.) through the Chapel Hill Police Department, a program that helps young women explore future opportunities in public safety and local government careers. Women police officers and firefighters lead the eight-week program.

Opened new fire training facility on Millhouse Road, the only site in Orange County with a burn building. Ready access to a fire training facility is an essential component of maintaining departmental readiness and employee safety.



Firefighters take a break from training (upper photo) – and (lower photo), demonstrate the use of the fire hose during the Peoples Academy.

Translated emergency messages into Chapel Hill's most common languages, including Spanish, Burmese, Karen and Mandarin Chinese. We are working with community partners and local language service organizations on this video project.

Collaborative and Innovative Organization

Received the second highest score in NC on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI) survey, thanks in large part to efforts of our LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group. The MEI examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are of LGBTQ people who live and work there.

Engaged the public on a redesign of the Town Website through surveys and user testing. Communications staff worked with the UNC-Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media. Launch anticipated in February 2020.

Joined the Government Alliance for Race & Equity (GARE) network. A team of 15 employees are designing next steps to advance racial equity for the Town.

Advanced transparency by videoing both Work Sessions and Council Committee on Economic Sustainability meetings, in addition to the regular Council meetings.

Trained 16 employees in meeting facilitation for times when a meeting needs a conflict resolution professional, complex process mapping or organization development.



Celebrating 2019 Successes



Find more Council Updates on strategic initiatives, core business and capital projects at www.townofchapelhill.org/councilgoals

Environmental Stewardship

Organized for development of a Climate Action and Response Plan. The Town is committed to ensuring that all community members are engaged in efforts to reduce the potential effects of climate change and to adapt to anticipated changes. Staff will present a draft plan to Council by June 2020.

Created the Community Tree Program. This kicked off the Mayor's Tree of the Year contest to highlight the importance and meaning of trees in our community. More than 100 trees were planted in fall, and the Town received a \$20,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to plant more trees in 2020.

Planned for the Town's largest investment in stormwater management. The Elliott Flood Storage Project will manage runoff near Eastgate Crossing and East Franklin Street. The \$2.6 million project is funded from stormwater bonds approved by voters in 2015.

Addressed coal ash remediation at a site north of Bolin Creek. The Council approved \$246,000 for remediation in June 2019 and directed several measures be undertaken. The Town is working closely with the NC Department of Environmental Quality and environmental engineers.

Initiated plans to convert about 2,000 public street lights to LED fixtures. Each light that is replaced will cut energy usage in half and lower greenhouse emissions.

Saved water and had some fun in the Mayors Save Water Challenge with Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger and Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle. This coincided with OWASA's roll-out of Agua Vista – a new online tool that helps customers monitor water usage.



Diverted over 800 pounds of food waste from the landfill through a compost program at Town Hall and Fire Station No. 1. This effort has reduced our carbon emissions by more than 2,000 pounds. We've also created over 200 pounds of soil that is being returned to gardens in Chapel Hill. Pictured here, Town staff conducted a trash audit to find out how much waste could be diverted from the landfill.

Economic & Financial Sustainability



Successfully recruited Well Dot Inc. for its health-technology center at 419 W. Franklin St. in downtown, a move that will bring 400 jobs and economic investment. Gov. Roy Cooper delivered an announcement from Chapel Hill that the state will provide nearly \$4.4 million in incentives, with the Town adding \$900,000.

Adopted a \$116 million budget for fiscal year 2019–20, representing no changes

in core services. The budget invests in strategic goal areas from affordable housing to climate action.

Attracted Carolina Donor Services, the state's largest organ and tissue donation organization. "The Town Council created this new zone on Millhouse Road to attract growing companies here, and we are thrilled to see our strategic vision becoming a reality," Mayor Pam Hemminger said.

Saved \$836,531 from the refunding of taxable general obligation public improvement bonds. A recent drop in tax-exempt bond rates provided the opportunity.

Completed improvements in downtown Chapel Hill at Post Office Alley and Varsity Alley between E. Franklin St. and E. Rosemary St. parking areas. The improvements address safety, functionality, and wayfinding.

Affordable Housing

Celebrated the addition of a newly renovated quadruplex in the Northside neighborhood to the Town's permanently affordable housing stock. The new four-unit affordable housing property is now part of the Town's Transitional Housing Program, which serves families transitioning out of public housing. The new quadruplex was created through a partnership between the Town of Chapel Hill and the Northside Neighborhood Initiative.



Certified the Affordable Housing Bond Referendum, which approved \$10 million in general obligation bonds to help the Town develop 400 new affordable housing units and preserve 300 existing affordable units over the next five years.

Deployed \$1.2 Million to community partners for affordable housing development and preservation projects in the community through the affordable housing funding programs. We supported the development of 82 new affordable housing units. The Town also supported the preservation of 147 units of affordable housing in the community, surpassing our annual target by 18%.

Created innovative programs to respond to community needs, including the **Housing Displacement Assistance Program** and **Employee Housing Program**.

Moved forward plans for developing **affordable housing on Town-owned properties** at 2200 Homestead Road and the Town's prioritized sites.



Connected Community

Took an all-staff bike ride to experience streets with an eye toward new design ideas as well as areas that might be unsafe and need repair. Public Works Director Lance Norris pictured above.

Developed Pedestrian Safety Action Plan advancing efforts to make Chapel Hill a place with zero pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries.

Held community meetings on the North-South Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), which will allow more buses to run more often along several of the busiest roads in the town.

Increased safety for pedestrians by prohibiting right turn on a red signal at 16 intersections.

Installed buffered bike lanes at Weaver Dairy Extension and completed bike lanes on Rosemary Street between Church Street and Pritchard Avenue.

Awarded a contract for three new electric buses for Chapel Hill Transit, as part of a pilot project funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee at UNC Chapel Hill and the Chapel Hill Transit funding partners.

Planned for improvements at Franklin Street at Merritt Mill Road. The NC Department of Transportation project added a new sidewalk and curb ramps, a median, stamped crosswalks, a signal upgrade and high visibility crosswalk.

Awarded the Excellence in TDM Planning Award by the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) to Go Chapel Hill, which recognizes and honors outstanding achievements in TDM.

Installed art installations at three bus shelters commemorating the local civil rights movement. The community's new arts experiences include six community-driven pop up galleries and four artists-in-residence at 109 East Franklin Street, a collaboration with Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership and UNC Arts Everywhere.

