



February 2025

# News & Events in Holly Springs Government THE SOURCE

## Mayor's Message

Hi Neighbors,

This month our Town Council and Senior Leadership will spend three days discussing topics that are important to the future of our Town at the annual Mayor and Council Retreat. The agenda features topics such as emergency preparedness, opportunities to enhance amenities at Ting Park and Mims Park, implementation of our new Downtown Area Plan, investment for a new fire station #4, roadway improvements, and discussion of how to attract and retain a talented workforce in a competitive marketplace.

I always look forward to these deep discussions and the opportunity to spend uninterrupted time with Town Council members and staff to get their perspectives on these opportunities and challenges. Holly Springs has a long history of thoughtful, strategic planning for the future, and it's a big reason why our community is such a wonderful place to live today.

Yours truly,  
Sean Mayefskie



February is Black History Month. Use your phone or computer to view the Holly Springs Black History Tour to learn about many Black leaders who shaped our Town into the vibrant community it is today. [hollyspringsnc.gov/blackhistorytour](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/blackhistorytour)

## Celebrate Black History Month in Holly Springs with Art, Movies & More

Residents enjoyed an opportunity to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. in January. Mayor Pro Tem Dan Berry provided welcoming remarks at the MLK Unity Weekend Community Celebration at the Cultural Center, organized by the Holly Springs MLK Jr. Committee. Following a successful MLK Day of Service, Mayor Sean Mayefskie declared February as Black History Month in Holly Springs.

### Free Movies in February

Enjoy free movies at the Holly Springs Cultural Center. The Holly Springs MLK Jr. Committee is presenting a viewing of *The Little Mermaid* (2023) on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m. The live adaptation of Disney's animated film stars Halle Bailey as the title character. The committee also is presenting *Wicked* (2024) on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. Free popcorn, juice boxes, and more will be available.

Additionally, the Cultural Center is showing *Hidden Figures* on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. The movie focuses on three Black women who were essential to early spaceflight.

### Art Gallery & Black History Showcase

Holly Springs Artist Valerie Baksh's work will also be on display throughout February at the Cultural Center. Born

and raised in Trinidad, Baksh finds inspiration in her childhood memories and journeys abroad. Her vivid landscape drawings often feature her island homeland.



The MLK Jr. Committee's gallery showcase in the theater hallway will feature Black Holly Springs trailblazers and influential community members.

### History of Cooking Demo

Friday, Feb. 21, 6-8 p.m. at the Cultural Center, savor a History of Cooking Demo by local Black-owned catering company Christine's Plates. Space is limited for this free program. Register: [hollyspringsnc.gov/cook](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/cook)

### Black Expressions: A Poetry Slam for Black History Month

Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., honor Black voices through raw, authentic, and thought-provoking spoken word performances. Details & free registration: [hollyspringsnc.gov/poetry](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/poetry)



# Safety Spotlight



Byars (pictured above and below, far right) led a team of Holly Springs firefighters in Helene recovery efforts in western N.C.



## Battalion Chief Byars Named N.C. Firefighter of the Year

Holly Springs Battalion Chief Hunter Byars was named North Carolina Firefighter of the Year by the N.C. Veterans of Foreign Wars organization last month.

Throughout his 16-year career with Holly Springs, Battalion Chief Byars' unwavering commitment to his department, his community, and the mission of protecting lives and property stands as a testament to his character and professionalism," said Holly Springs Fire Chief LeRoy Smith. "His commitment to excellence, coupled with his ability to manage complex operations with precision and foresight, make him a deserving candidate for recognition."

Smith noted Byars' leadership and service during Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in Western Carolina.

"Without hesitation, he volunteered to lead the first crew of Holly Springs firefighters deployed to assist communities in desperate need," Smith said.

Byars was pivotal in establishing a base camp and a logistics distribution point to facilitate delivery of essential supplies to affected residents. Byars and his team also helped establish critical communications infrastructure,

allowing for restoration of Internet, cellular, and radio communication in the region.

"The feedback from those who worked alongside him during the deployment was nothing short of exemplary," Smith said. "His ability to lead under pressure, inspire confidence, and drive impactful results left an indelible mark on both his team and the communities they served."

Byars manages the radio program that ensures seamless and reliable emergency operations communications for Holly Springs firefighters.

He also spearheaded the effort to place mobile data terminals on emergency vehicles, enhancing situational awareness for first responders and ensuring they can access vital information.

Byars and other dedicated firefighters are a large reason why the Holly Springs Fire Department was able to achieve its No. 1 ISO rating, placing the department in the top 1% of fire departments nationally, Smith said. The rating measures the Town's fire preparedness in emergencies, which can affect home insurance rates.

## Stay Warm, Safely: Winter Heating Tips

Trying to stay toasty warm during chilly weather? Make sure you're heating your home safely. Remember to follow these winter weather tips:

- Never use generators or charcoal-burning grills and stoves inside your home. Keep them outside to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure anything that burns fuel (stoves, fireplaces) is vented to the outside.
- For both fireplaces and space heaters, create a three-foot "safety zone" around the space heater. Keep kids, pets, and items that could catch fire out of the safety zone.

- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. If your smoke alarm does not have a sealed 10-year battery, change the batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home if you have a fuel-burning appliance (fireplaces, gas stoves, gas heaters, etc.). Test them regularly to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.



### Fireplaces

- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected by a professional every year.
- Sweep up fireplace ashes often, after they have cooled off. Dispose of the ashes in a metal container. Store the container outside a safe distance from your home.

### Space Heaters

- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Unplug and turn off space heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.

More: [wakegov.com/heatingsafety](http://wakegov.com/heatingsafety)

# The Gin Game Community Theater

Presented by Southern Wake Players  
Feb. 14-15, 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 16, 2 p.m.  
Holly Springs Cultural Center

Enjoy a night of entertainment and drama at the Holly Springs Cultural Center as the Southern Wake Players community theater group presents The Gin Game.

This 1978 Pulitzer Prize winner for drama, is set in a nursing home where Weller Martin and Fonsia Dorsey discover a dislike for the home and a love for gin rummy. During 17 hands of the card game, memories and emotions are revealed, and true personalities, complexities, and vulnerabilities are exposed.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for seniors and students. Purchase tickets at the Cultural Center or online: [hollyspringsnc.gov/tickets](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/tickets)

## Teenage Heartbreak Video Game Night

Friday, Feb. 14, 7-9 p.m.  
Holly Springs Cultural Center

Teens can take out any Valentine blues in a fierce video game competition. The Cultural Center has the space and pizza; teens bring their own devices to plug into Cultural Center TVs. Teens are invited to share space, swap strategies, mingle, and compete in a fun and friendly social environment. The cost is \$7 per resident.

[hollyspringsnc.gov/hurrahs](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/hurrahs)

## Free Children's Movies at the Cultural Center

Wednesdays at 10 a.m., the Cultural Center shows a free children's movie on the large screen in the theater. Bring the family to enjoy a morning out together. Admission to the movies is free. Concessions are available to purchase in the lobby. Details: [hollyspringsnc.gov/calendar](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/calendar)

- Feb. 5: Despicable Me
- Feb. 19: The Princess & the Frog
- Feb. 26: How to Train Your Dragon
- March 5: Toy Story

# Save the Date! Summer Camp Registration Opens March 3

While wintry weather may still be in the mix, summer planning begins now! Holly Springs Parks & Recreation offers a variety of summer camps. Registration opens March 3, and spaces fill quickly.

For ages 6-12, Hunt Center Summer Camp is packed with fun-filled activities that make every day an adventure. From arts and crafts that spark creativity, to exciting sports, epic games, and thrilling field trips, there's something for everyone! With a mix of indoor and outdoor activities, each day is thoughtfully planned to keep campers engaged, laughing, and building friendships.

Want to let your kids embrace the great outdoors with exciting nature



Explore all the options! [hollyspringsnc.gov/summercamp](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/summercamp)

## Holly Springs Farmers Market Open Every Saturday, 9 a.m.-Noon

Mushrooms and microgreens, broccoli and baby kale... and so much more! The Holly Springs Farmers Market offers farm-fresh produce, pasture-raised meats, free-range eggs, beverages, baked goods, snacks and sweets, and so much more throughout the year.

The market is open 9 a.m.-noon every Saturday outside the Cultural Center through March. Traditional season hours begin in April.

The Farmers Market averages about 30 different vendors every week. The farmers market website, [hsfarmersmarket.com](http://hsfarmersmarket.com), gives viewers a comprehensive view at the multitude of vendors who are planning on being at the market every week.



camps? Nature Explorers Camp (ages 8-10) sparks curiosity with outdoor activities like fishing, archery, and canoeing. For older adventurers, Great Outdoors Adventure Camp (ages 11-13) delivers a half-day of excitement featuring fishing, archery, canoeing, hiking, and wilderness survival skills. Both camps are packed with hands-on learning opportunities, teamwork, and unforgettable experiences in nature.

Is your child into the arts? From the fine arts to cooking, from robotics to 3-D art and more, a variety of camps are offered at the Holly Springs Cultural Center. Storybook Camp explores favorite tales and encourages campers to craft their own. Make-A-Play Camp is designed for campers looking to enhance their acting talents.

But be forewarned: mouthwatering images of the many offerings may be too tempting to resist!

**HOLLY SPRINGS  
farmers market**

every saturday  
year-round  
9:00 - noon  
by the  
cultural center

30+ vendors weekly  
kids' activities

[www.HSFarmersMarket.com](http://www.HSFarmersMarket.com)

# Annual Change in Drinking Water Treatment Method

March 1-April 14

Holly Springs drinking water might smell and taste more like chlorine in March and early April because of an annual change in the treatment. It will still be safe to drink.

The State requires a month-long switchover each year for a balancing of treatment methods. This year, the water treatment plant that supplies Holly Springs is



completing maintenance, which will require a few additional weeks of chlorine treatment, through April 14.

Ordinarily, the water treatment plant disinfects with chloramines, a mixture of chlorine and ammonia. Each year during March, the plant suspends the addition of ammonia.

Kidney dialysis users should know that the water might contain chloramines, chlorine, or a mixture March 1 through April 14. Call Holly Springs Utilities & Infrastructure with any questions about the switch at (919) 577-3150. In mid-April, the plant will return to chloramines for disinfection. Chlorine and chloramine mixtures may be present in late April.

## Leaf Season Wraps Up This Month

Beginning in March, Holly Springs vacuum trucks will go out of service as leaf season comes to a close.

During leaf season, which runs through February, vacuum trucks follow a zone schedule and collect leaves that don't fit in carts and are left behind the curb. This is in addition to biweekly collection of yard waste from carts which operates year-round.

Using both vacuum trucks and yard waste carts this fall and winter has helped accommodate the larger volumes of leaves. With a cart set-out rate of 60% through December and 30% in January, a time when less waste is generated, carts helped take unnecessary loads off the vacuum trucks.



In previous years, before yard waste carts were introduced, service delays happened frequently when costly repairs were needed on the vacuum trucks. The repairs also meant crews needed to work overtime to collect yard waste with limited available equipment. This year, all vacuum trucks remained in service, and no unexpected overtime was accumulated, thanks to the use of both yard waste carts and vacuum trucks.

Beginning the first week of March, yard waste will be collected curbside from carts only on a biweekly schedule.

Residents can always take excess yard waste to the Town's Yard Waste Convenience Center off Rex Road

for disposal. You can also call 311 or (919) 577-3111 to request excessive yard waste collection for an additional fee.

Mark your calendars! The Town will offer a fee-free yard waste clean-up event April 7-11. During the Spring Sweep week, residents can place any volume of acceptable yard waste at the curb for collection.

For details about yard waste collection, visit: [hollyspringsnc.gov/yardwaste](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/yardwaste)



## Applications Open for Tree Advisory, Parks & Rec Committees

Help shape the future of Holly Springs; consider applying to serve on the Holly Springs Tree Advisory Committee or Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee!

Beginning Feb. 1, the Tree Advisory Committee has four openings with one-year terms. The committee helps the Town maintain Tree City USA standards and plans related events.

Three openings for residents are available on the committee, which advises the Town Council and the Parks & Recreation Department. Committee members serve as a liaison between the Town and the residents of Holly Springs and the surrounding area. Open seats have terms that would expire in June 2028.

Learn more and apply:  
[hollyspringsnc.gov/boards](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/boards)

## Grant Program Applications Open

Are you involved in a civic nonprofit group that serves Holly Springs residents? Applications for the 2025 Local Civic Nonprofit Grant Program are open through March 7.

Grants of \$2,500 or less may be awarded for activities that serve a public purpose. The program is also available to individuals or groups requesting funding for capital improvements, enhancements, or landscaping on Town-owned or Town-leased property. Application criteria include evaluating if the group or initiative is available to all residents of Holly Springs, supports the Town's strategic priority areas, and directly impacts life in Town.

[hollyspringsnc.gov/grant](http://hollyspringsnc.gov/grant)