



December 2025

News & Events in Holly Springs Government THE SOURCE

Mayor's Message

Neighbors,

Over the course of this year, I promised to always be focused on you. I want to hear what you think about Holly Springs so we can focus on the topics that you care about.

Engaging with residents is the only way to create an accessible and inclusive government. My email is mike.kondratick@hollyspringsnc.gov, and I would love for you to reach out and share your thoughts about our wonderful Town.

During this holiday season, I encourage you to visit Downtown Holly Springs with family and friends and take part in some of our joyful Town events.

I look forward to seeing you – and to working together in 2026 to make our community the best it can be.

**With Respect,
Mike Kondratick**



Merry & Bright: Holly Jolly Fun

Need a boost of holiday cheer? There's no place like home when you live in a Town named Holly Springs!

Enjoy a stroll downtown. You'll notice garland-wrapped light poles topped with wreaths featuring ornamental balls in the Town's colors. Take a seat in the new 9-foot-tall ornament bench in front of Town Hall – the perfect photo opportunity – and a place to relax for a moment after completing some holiday shopping!

Plus, many of the Town's annual festive events celebrating the season are held downtown. That includes Shop the Springs (details inside), as well as the events listed below.

Santa's Mailbox

Through Dec. 14
Main Street in front of Town Hall

Santa's Mailbox returns for the season outside the front entrance to Town Hall at 128 S. Main St. It's a gift to the children by ASI, North Carolina.

Once letters are dropped off, Holly Springs Run Club volunteers and Endurance Fence Solutions staff run them to the North Pole so that Santa can answer those that include a name and home address.

Santa Cares

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4-7 p.m.
Cultural Center

This sensory-friendly holiday event allows families with all types of special needs to experience the time-honored tradition of a visit with Santa in a comforting environment. Register in advance for this free activity.

hollyspringsnc.gov/santacares



Light the Springs

Saturday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m.
Holly Springs Cultural Center

Enjoy live entertainment, food trucks, visits with Santa, craft stations, menorah and Christmas tree lightings, and a "snow" celebration!

hollyspringsnc.gov/light

Holly Day Express with the Fire Department

Dec. 7-12
Holly Springs neighborhoods

The jolly fellow is hopping on a float and being escorted through Town, thanks to the help of the Holly Springs Fire Department. Fire engines will join Santa's tour, so if you hear a siren or see some lights, you'll know Santa is getting close!

hollyspringsnc.gov/hollydayexpress

Happy Holly Days Parade

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.
Downtown Holly Springs

Floats, bands, dancers, decorated vehicles, marching groups, and all sorts of entertaining entries travel Main Street through downtown.

hollyspringsnc.gov/parade



Safety Spotlight

Fire Prevention During the Holidays

The holiday season is in full swing in Holly Springs – the ideal time for Holly Springs Fire Chief LeRoy Smith to provide some essential tips to keep your festive season merry and bright.

"The main culprits in holiday fires are dry trees, faulty lights, and unattended cooking," he said. "As the weather gets colder, heating safety also is important."

- **Water your tree daily:** A well-watered live Christmas tree is much harder to ignite.
- **Check light strands:** Inspect all decorative lights for frayed wires or cracked sockets before use.
- **Stay in the kitchen** when frying, grilling, or broiling. Use timers for baking and simmering.
- Opt for **battery-operated candles.** If using traditional candles, keep them on non-flammable surfaces and **blow them out** when leaving the room.

- **If you use a space heater,** maintain a 3-foot distance from anything that can burn.
- **Install a CO alarm** outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home, and test them monthly. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and deadly gas produced by fuel-buring appliances.

Join Firefighters to Share Holiday Joy

U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Collection

Through Dec. 11
Fire Stations 1, 2, and 3

Donate unwrapped new toys at any Fire Station. Firefighters are partnering with Toys for Tots, a program created by the U.S. Marine Corps, to distribute toys to disadvantaged children.



Shop with a Cop

Through Dec. 17
Law Enforcement Center

Through this annual, beloved program, Holly Springs Police officers partner with schools in Town to identify children in need for a special experience. The children are paired with Holly Springs Police officers to shop for holiday presents for themselves and their families.

Drop by the Law Enforcement Center to donate Walmart gift cards, or donate by credit card at hollyspringsnc.gov/shopwithacop or with the QR code above.

Hop Aboard: Holly Springs Hopper is Your New Go-To Ride!

Need a quick, affordable lift across Town? Holly Springs is making local travel easier than ever with the Holly Springs Hopper, an on-demand transit service that will launch Monday, Jan. 5.

Operating from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, this service will offer door-to-door transportation to virtually any destination within the service area—from your neighborhood to local businesses, parks, and retail centers. It even covers the Town's future planning area!

Getting Started is Simple

Rides are requested using the vendor's user-friendly Ride Freebee app or by phone. Think of it as a shared shuttle service, available when you need it. The service is quick, efficient, and lets you travel up to seven miles per trip.

Affordable Access

The best part? The cost is incredibly low. The fare is

only \$2 for up to two people traveling within Town limits—less than your morning coffee! Each additional rider is just \$1 more. (Fares double for travel in the extraterritorial jurisdiction).

Even better news: Seniors (age 62+) and disabled riders enjoy the service for free.

Plus, download the app and you'll automatically receive two free trips to get you started!

Ready to ride when the service launches Jan. 5? Find the app link and all the details:

hollyspringsnc.gov/hopper



Celebrate Small Businesses & Enter to Win

Shop the Springs is back for its second year! Through Dec. 13, celebrate local downtown businesses by participating, and you could win a prize pack!

Pick up or print a "HOLLY" card. Shop at downtown businesses during the event, and collect stamps on your card. Then turn in your completed card at the end of the event for a chance to win.

For details and to a Shop the Springs card, visit: hollyspringsnc.gov/shopthesprings

Town Council Election Results

Election results for Holly Springs Mayor and Town Council members are in: Congratulations to Mayor-Elect Mike Kondratick, reelected Council Member Annie Drees, and Council Members-Elect Dr. Kara Foster and Sarah Larson.

Kondratick, a Holly Springs resident for 12 years, was elected to a four-year term as mayor. He is a graduate of the Holly Springs Citizens Police Academy, and his volunteer work includes the Holly Springs Food Cupboard and coaching with Holly Springs Parks & Recreation.

Council Member Drees was reelected to a four-year term. First elected in 2023 to fill a two-year vacancy left by a former council member who moved away, Drees has served as the Town Council representative on the Legislative Action Committee and Nonprofit Grants Committee.



Kondratick



Drees



Foster



Larson

Thank You Mayor Mayefskie & Council Members Berry and Forrest

Many thanks to Mayor Sean Mayefskie and Council Members Dan Berry and Timothy Forrest as their terms in office end this month.

Mayefskie and Forrest were elected in 2021. Berry was elected to two consecutive terms beginning in 2017. During their service, all were involved in Holly Springs' growing success as a global life science and biomanufacturing hub.

Infrastructure improvements during their tenure included the Holly Springs Road Widening project from



Mayefskie



Berry



Forrest

Both Dr. Foster and Larson were elected to four-year terms as council members.

Dr. Foster moved to the area in 2009 and built her business from scratch. She is an optometrist, small-business owner, and founder of EyeCare for You. As president of VOSH North Carolina, she has organized community clinics that deliver practical care to underserved populations.

Larson, a resident of Holly Springs since 2014, is a graduate of the Town's inaugural Citizens Academy. She volunteers at the Holly Springs Food Cupboard and is an active member of Rotary Club. Larson currently serves as president of her HOA board. She has previously served on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, the Tree Advisory Committee, and the Downtown Area Planning Committee.

Flint Point Lane to Sunset Lake Road. The Town also began expansion of its water and wastewater systems.

They oversaw the passage of a \$100 million Parks Bond in 2023 that will expand and improve parks, recreation, and greenways, including building the new Eagles Landing Park west of N.C. 55.

Town accomplishments also included opening Fire Station 3, launching the Sip & Stroll Downtown Social District, and initiating an annual Citizens Academy that provides residents with

an opportunity to connect with the Town government on a deeper level, gaining a better understanding of how it works.

Thank you, for your service to Holly Springs!

Community Garden Bed Applications Open Dec. 1

Get ready to grow green! The brand-new Community Garden at Sugg Farm is opening for the 2026 growing season. Applications to reserve a garden bed are open Monday, Dec. 1-Jan. 15. Both the garden and the nearby nature play area and sensory trail are slated to open in early 2026.

The garden offers 40 4x12-foot raised garden beds, 15 of which are ADA accessible. Each raised bed will be set up with soil and compost, ready for planting. Multiple yard hydrants are available for watering at the garden, and a garden shed is stocked with small tools and garden hoses for use.

"We are thrilled to open the Community Garden, which will provide residents with a dedicated space to grow their own produce, enjoy outdoor activity, and participate in sustainable living," said LeeAnn Plumer, Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Director.

hollyspringsnc.gov/communitygarden



Near the garden, work is wrapping up on the construction of a nature play area and sensory trail.

The nature play area offers unique outdoor experiences that allow children of all abilities to play together. Designed for children aged 2-10, the area features sand for tactile learning and grounding; active play space for socialization, gross motor skill development, and imaginative play; and a labyrinth for mindfulness and focus practice.

Both projects are funded in part by the Accessible Parks Grant Program, a division of the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.



Thank You, Ting! Popular Park Name to Be Updated

The name of a popular Holly Springs park is changing. Ting Park is becoming North Main Athletic Complex as the standing naming agreement for the park and stadium expires this year.

The park originally opened in 2015 as North Main Athletic Complex. Ting Internet purchased the naming rights in 2017. Over the following eight years, Ting invested just over \$1 million into the Town of Holly Springs for those naming rights, supporting Town services and initiatives. The company also provided internet service at the park.

"Ting Internet has been an exceptional partner for the Town of

Holly Springs," said Assistant Town Manager Daniel Weeks. "We are pleased that, with over 775,000 visitors coming to the complex each year, the naming rights proved to be such a successful and valuable opportunity."

Though the park name is returning to its original North Main Athletic Complex designation as the Town evaluates options for the future, Ting Internet service remains active in Holly Springs, Weeks noted.

"We are tremendously grateful for Ting's support of the Town for so many years, and we look forward to working with the company in the future," he said.

Avent Ferry Road Widening Pre-Design Public Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Town of Holly Springs is working with NCDOT to widen Avent Ferry Road between Ralph Stephens Road and Cass Holt Road to a consistent median-divided, four-lane road with sidewalks. Estimated right-of-way acquisition is anticipated to begin in 2027.

Drop by to view maps of the work area and share your thoughts as design gets underway. Town staff and the project consultant will be available to discuss the project.

View the meeting location and project information online:

hollyspringsnc.gov/aventferry

Leaf Pickup Continues

This time of year, leaves that do not fit in yard waste carts can be placed at the edge of your front yard for pickup during your zone's collection week.

hollyspringsnc.gov/leaf

Christmas Tree Pickup Begins in January

When you're ready to dispose of your live Christmas tree, remove all decorations and other objects, including tinsel and nails, which could damage the chipping machine.

Leave your tree at the curb for collection at no additional charge. Each week, Jan. 5-29, Christmas trees will be collected using a zone schedule. Details and other tree-disposal options:

hollyspringsnc.gov/tree



2026 Calendars Available!

Featuring scenic photos from around Town, Holly Springs calendars are available while supplies last! Pick up your free copy at Town Hall, the Hunt Center, or the Cultural Center.

A Season to Recycle

Is your stack of cardboard box deliveries piling up this holiday season? If you're not planning on reusing the boxes, cardboard can be recycled, along with many holiday items.

Please recycle:

- Flattened cardboard boxes.
- Bubble wrap and packaging paper.
- Gift wrap, so long as it isn't metallic and doesn't have glitter or a velvety texture.
- Glass beverage bottles and food jars. Aluminum, tin, and steel cans.
- Food boxes, paper boxes, paper towel rolls, paper egg cartons, paper bags. Plastic bottles, jugs, and containers.

Items not accepted include wires or cords, broken glass, dishes or cookware, aluminum foil, light bulbs, and Styrofoam.

hollyspringsnc.gov/recycle