



January 2026

News & Events in Holly Springs Government

THE SOURCE

Mayor's Message

Happy New Year, Neighbors!

The start of a new year presents exciting opportunities to invest your time, energy, and service in Holly Springs. Please explore ways to be involved.

Consider applying to the Holly Springs Citizens Academy. Over seven weeks, participants gain a deeper, hands-on understanding of Town services. Topics cover everything from community safety and traffic to understanding the Town budget and yard waste collection!

Interested in the inner workings of public safety? You're invited to apply for the Citizen Police Academy, an in-depth exploration of the department's organization and policies.

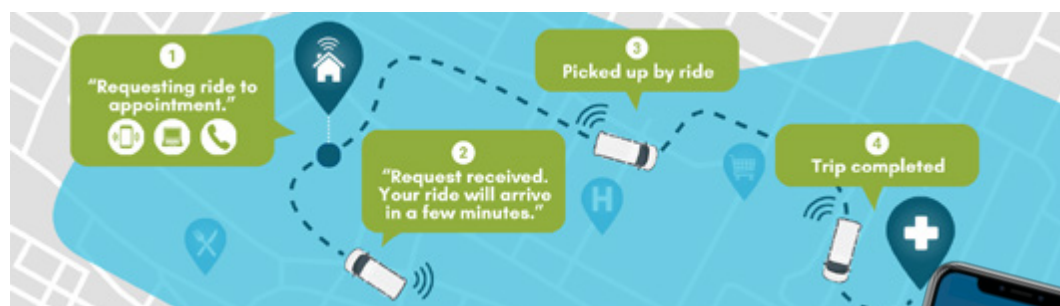
Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and take part in a community project at the W.E. Hunt Community Center. Make sure to also join me at the January 20 Council Meeting when I make a proclamation for both MLK Day and February's Black History Month.

Find more details on these opportunities inside our newsletter. Let's make it a wonderful year together, Holly Springs!

With Respect,
Mike Kondratick



Hop Aboard the Hopper! Holly Springs Launches Ride-Sharing Service



Looking for a fast, hassle-free way to get across town? Happy news: The Town is launching the Holly Springs Hopper, an affordable, on-demand transit service Monday, January 5.

Think of the Hopper as your personal, shared shuttle to anywhere you want to go around Holly Springs! This innovative, door-to-door service is designed to connect you to virtually any destination within Town—from homes and neighborhoods to your favorite parks, local businesses, and retail centers. It even includes the Town's future planning area, covering trips up to seven miles!

"The Holly Springs Hopper is a crucial step in modernizing how residents connect with their community," said Holly Springs Development Services Director Chris Hills.

"Town leaders recognized the need for an affordable, efficient, and flexible transit option that fills the gaps left by traditional public transportation," he said. "The Holly Springs Hopper ride-sharing service provides a direct, on-demand link to jobs, essential services, and local businesses, improving accessibility and overall quality of life for everyone in Holly Springs."

The service operates from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Download the app and receive two free trips to get hopping!



Want a ride? Getting started is easy! Request a ride using the vendor's user-friendly Ride Freebee app or by simply calling the vendor at (855) 918-3733.

This efficient service won't break the bank. The standard fare is \$2 for up to two people traveling within Town limits. Each additional rider is just \$1 more. Even better: Seniors (age 62+) and riders with disabilities travel absolutely free!

Ready to experience the future of local travel starting January 5? Find the app link and all the details here: hollyspringsnc.gov/hopper





Safety Spotlight

Citizen Police Academy: Insight Behind the Badge

The Holly Springs Police Department is inviting residents to apply for its next session of the Citizen Police Academy.

This is your opportunity to gain a comprehensive, behind-the-scenes look at how the Holly Springs Police Department operates, from organization and policy to the constitutional and State laws that guide police operations. The eight-week, interactive program includes classroom instruction and demonstrations, and invites participants to "walk in the shoes" of an officer.

"The Citizen Police Academy is a valuable way to strengthen the bond between our officers and the community they serve," said Police Chief Paul Liquorie. "We invite you to step inside the daily operations of your police department, see the complex decisions officers face, and learn the laws that guide our work."

Sessions are planned for Thursdays, Feb. 19-April 9.

"Residents who attend the Citizen Police Academy become more informed and are vital partners in public safety," Liquorie said. "This experience is invaluable for strengthening the trust and collaboration that make Holly Springs a truly safe community."

- **Who Can Apply:** Town residents age 21 and older who can commit to the full program are invited to apply. A basic background check is required.
- **Deadline:** Applications are being accepted through February 6.
- **Learn More & Apply:** Visit hollyspringsnc.gov/policecitizenacademy for the application form.



New Signals Activating at Two Holly Springs Road Crosswalks

Two crosswalks along Holly Springs Road are getting upgraded signals as work wraps up on the road widening between Flint Point Lane and Sunset Lake Road.

The crosswalks nearest the Holly Ridge Elementary and Middle schools currently feature flashing beacons on pedestrian crossing signs. These older beacons are being replaced with new signals that hang over the road and cycle through yellow and red phases to provide a clearer, mandatory indication for vehicles to stop for pedestrians.

"These new signals will help boost pedestrian safety at two heavily used crosswalks along this busy road," said Tim Athy, project manager. "A solid red signal sends a clear message to drivers that they must stop for pedestrians."

The new signals will be activated in the upcoming weeks. The signals will remain unlit when not in use, allowing traffic to flow freely.

Once a pedestrian pushes the button, the signal begins a specific sequence that drivers must follow:

- **Flashing Yellow:** Drivers should **slow down and prepare to stop** as the beacon has been activated.
- **Solid Yellow:** Drivers must **prepare to stop immediately**.
- **Solid Red:** Drivers **must stop** completely, just like at any other traffic light. Pedestrians receive the walk signal and should cross safely, ensuring all vehicles have yielded.
- **Flashing Red:** Drivers **must stop first**, then proceed if the crosswalk is completely clear of people.

Athy added that, as road widening work continues next year on the section of Holly Springs Road between Main Street and Flint Point Lane, the Town is pursuing grant funding for a similar signal near Holly Springs Elementary.



Signals similar to the ones shown above will soon be activated at Holly Springs Road crosswalks nearest the Holly Ridge Elementary and Middle schools.

Need to Report a Traffic Signal Issue?

For the most efficient response, residents can report malfunctioning traffic signals directly to NCDOT. The agency manages almost all signals inside Holly Springs. Visit the agency website at ncdot.gov/contact to report the issue online. Select the location by dropping a pin on a map or by entering an address near the signal.

Or, call 1-877-DOT-4YOU (1-877-368-4968) weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



HOLLY SPRINGS farmers market

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



30+ vendors weekly
kids' activities

Get an Inside Look at Your Town with the 3rd Annual Holly Springs Citizens Academy

Applications for the most interactive, in-depth look at Town operations are officially available! The 3rd Annual Holly Springs Citizens Academy offers an opportunity to enjoy a hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience of how Town of Holly Springs services work for them, and how the Town manages growth and works to stay safe.

With only a limited number of spots available for this highly sought-after, seven-week experience, now is the time to apply.



Applications are open Friday, January 2, through Friday, January 30. In years past, 25 participants have been selected out of more than 60 applicants.

The Citizens Academy is designed to help residents better understand how vital Town services work for them. Participants meet on Thursday evenings, Feb. 26-April 16, 5:30-8 p.m., at various Town facilities for sessions covering everything from budgeting to yard waste collection.

Prepare to dive deep into local government with incredible experiences like holding a mock council meeting where you get to play the roles of elected officials, learning the complexities of traffic management with a unique board game, and exploring the strategies for shaping the community.



Plus, you'll get an insider's view of community safety. Imagine operating a fire hose with the Insurance Services Office #1-rated Fire Department or seeing a traffic stop from a Police officer's perspective! Don't miss this opportunity to connect directly with Town leaders and other participants, and to gain a firsthand understanding of what it takes to serve the community.

Details & application:
hollyspringsnc.gov/citizensacademy

Cultivating Community and Play at Sugg Farm

Celebrate the opening of the brand new community garden and nature play area at Sugg Farm. On Saturday, Jan. 10, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. drop by the Community Garden and Nature Play Area at Sugg Farm. Following a ribbon cutting and brief remarks, explore the new areas at the park and interact with staff. Learn more about the community garden program and get more information about reserving a plot.

Both the community garden and nature play areas, funded in part by the Accessibility for Parks State grant program, offer new opportunities for hands-on activity, sustainable living, and inclusive outdoor fun!

The garden provides residents with a dedicated, reservable space to grow their own produce, herbs, and flowers. The 40 raised garden beds, sized at 4x12 feet, include 15 that are ADA accessible for gardeners with limited mobility. Applications to reserve a bed are available through Jan. 15. Planting for selected renters begins on March 1.

hollyspringsnc.gov/communitygarden

The Nature Play Area and Sensory Trail is a unique, accessible space designed for children of all abilities, especially those aged 2-10, to play together. The Nature Play Area includes three special zones: a sand area for tactile learning, an active play area for imaginative and gross motor development, and a labyrinth for mindfulness practice.

A quarter-mile accessible path forms the Sensory Trail, featuring interpretative signage to guide visitors in connecting with nature using all their senses—touching pine cones, listening to birds, and smelling flowers.

More information about the park:
hollyspringsnc.gov/sugg





Holly Springs Events Honor the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. & Celebrate Black Expressions

In January, the community is invited to participate in a meaningful weekend of events dedicated to celebrating the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., fostering unity, and promoting service. The Town also begins a celebration of Black art and culture that will last into early March.

Holly Springs MLK Jr. Committee Activities on Sunday, Jan. 18

2:30 p.m. March from Oak Hall Commons

3:30 p.m. Presentation at Cultural Center

The Holly Springs MLK Jr. Committee organizes a Unity Weekend that includes an annual march, which begins at the Oak Hall Commons shopping center and proceeds down Main Street to the Holly Springs Cultural Center. There, a ceremony includes reflection on Dr. King's vision. For details on all Unity Weekend activities, please visit hsmllk.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, Jan. 19, Hunt Center

The Town of Holly Springs is hosting a creative and interactive service project at the W. E. Hunt Recreation Center. Join neighbors in the multipurpose room to complete a section of a giant paint-by-number

mural, transforming collaboration into a piece of community art. This location holds special significance, as the Hunt Center is named in honor of W.E. Hunt, a former community leader and principal of the school for Black children that once stood on this site. Preregistration is required for this free program to ensure adequate supplies; secure your spot: hollyspringsnc.gov/mlkservice

Black Expressions

January 9-March 2, Cultural Center

Also in January, the Black Expressions event celebrating Black art, culture, identity, and expression begins. Drop by the Cultural Center to enjoy the exhibition running from January 9 through March 2.

Don't Miss the Signature Event on February 27!

Mark your calendar for a very special evening that highlights the depth and diversity of Black artistry through both visual art and live performance.

Interact directly with local Black artists while exploring the visual art exhibits and enjoying refreshments provided by Christine's Plates. The evening culminates with performances in the Cultural Center theater featuring top Triangle talent emceed by comedian and historian Byron Johnson.

hollyspringsnc.gov/blackexpressions

Eagles Landing Park Construction Goes Vertical

Exciting progress is underway at Eagles Landing Park, and if you've driven along Cass Holt Road lately, you've likely noticed a significant change: construction is officially going vertical!

The structure of the multi-generational indoor recreation center is now clearly rising from the ground, marking a major milestone in bringing this highly anticipated community space to life.

Details about the 56-acre park anticipated to open next year and include multipurpose turf fields, a splash pad, pickleball and basketball courts & more: hollyspringsnc.gov/eagleslanding



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S DAY • JAN. 1

- Town offices (including Holly Springs 311) closed.
- Garbage & recycling delayed one day for Thursday and Friday customers.
- Convenience Center closed. Yard waste for Thursday customers collected on Friday.
- Bass Lake office, Cultural Center, Hunt Center, Sugg Farm closed. Some facilities close early Wednesday.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY • JAN. 19

- Town offices (including Holly Springs 311) closed.
- Garbage & recycling on schedule.
- Convenience Center closed Monday. Yard waste delayed one day throughout week with Friday customers served Saturday.
- Bass Lake office, Cultural Center, Hunt Center closed.

2026 Garbage, Recycling & Yard Waste Schedule

View the year's collection schedule: hollyspringsnc.gov/collection

Christmas Tree Pickup

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 options:

hollyspringsnc.gov/tree



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