JULY/AUGUST 2020

ELON + NEWS

Statement from Mayor Tolley regarding the death of George Floyd

Mayor Tolley issued the following statement on June 5, 2020.

Though I cannot know exactly what you are feeling, my heart is broken over the tragedy of George Floyd's death. The continued injustice and violence that occurs every day to our friends and neighbors of color needs to end. We support the peaceful protests occurring in the nation and across the world demanding an end to police brutality, racial injustice, and inequality. The police brutality seen in Minneapolis and the fear it creates is not something we, as citizens of Elon, will accept in our Town. We, your elected officials, and I, your Mayor, will not accept people being targeted because of their color or their beliefs.

Recently, we experienced an act of hate in our community with the destruction of a menorah at the Elon Chabad. This does not represent the Elon I know, and it can't be what Elon is known for. We cannot, and will not, tolerate these types of actions against people simply because of their race, ethnicity or religion. We strive to be a community that embraces our differences and rejects intolerance. We want people of all backgrounds and walks of life to feel safe and secure in this community, and to know that they are welcomed and respected. We want to have conversations where people can freely express their concerns, so that we can all work to understand the problems that we all face, and become part of the solution, not part of the problem.

As Mayor, I commit myself and our town to having these conversations, and to working to end racial, ethnic, religious and gender-based injustice and inequality. However, we need the help of everyone to achieve this goal. Please talk to us. I guarantee that your concerns will be heard, and that together we will work on creating a community, and a country, where we can all be safe, welcomed, valued and proud to be a part of.

To view the statement or download a copy of it, please visit the Town's website.

Message from Rich Roedner, Town Manager

I hope you all are enjoying your summer so far, as best you can in these very unusual circumstances. Having worked in Municipal Government for over 30 years, I can say with certainty that I have never experienced a time like we have all been going through.

I want to thank you all for your support during the ongoing COVID pandemic. Your diligence at staying healthy has been obvious, and very much appreciated. We have likewise been working to make sure that your town employees stay healthy, and are able to continue serving the public. This has resulted in some changes in how we do business, including keeping public offices closed to walk-in traffic. I know this causes inconveniences for many of you, and I want to say that we all appreciate your tolerance. Further, we all appreciate your support of our local businesses, who have been so greatly affected by the closures and decrease in customer numbers.

On top of the pandemic, we have obviously all been greatly affected by the images and anger that has come to the surface across the country following the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others. These events have led to a review of police policies in many cities and towns, including Elon. We have evaluated the 8 Can't Wait standards, as well as the issues raised by the Alamance Agents for Change. We believe that our existing policies compare very well to the standards identified by both of these groups. We also recognize that some of the identified issues can only be addressed at the State or Federal levels. We strive to be fair when enforcing the law, and every person who has a dealing with the Elon Police Department, or any other department here in Town, deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, no matter the situation.

I believe that we will come out of this summer of turmoil a stronger community, with a better understanding of our fellow residents. I am committed, as is our Board of Aldermen, to listening to every resident, and doing what it takes to make Elon a safe and welcoming community for everyone.

FY 2020-2021 Budget Passed

During their regular meeting on June 9, 2020, The Mayor and Board of Aldermen passed a budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The total budget for the Town of Elon is $11,923,358. The tax rate remains at .45 per $100. The Town will also levy a $5.00 per vehicle municipal vehicle tax to be used for general fund purposes. To view the budget ordinance, please visit the Finance Department on the Town's website.

Extension of Water Services Shut Off Suspension

On May 30, 2020 Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 142 which extends the suspension of water and sewer late penalties and disconnections through July 29, 2020. Customers should continue to make payments on their accounts to avoid accumulating large balances, even if they cannot pay in full. Since water and sewer account balances will not be forgiven, only deferred, customers having trouble paying utility bills in full or on time are strongly urged to make incremental payments during this time. Please keep in mind that customers are still responsible for paying for all usage. Due to the Stay at Home order, the bills reflect higher usage due to COVID-19 for the April/May billing period. The Town has payment plans available for residents that are unable to pay their bills in full through July 29, 2020. If your bills are not paid in full or payment arrangements in place by July 29th you will be at risk of disconnection in August. Payment arrangements can be made by calling Deborah Morrison at 336-584-0282.

TOWN MEETINGS

Board of Aldermen

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the meeting schedule may change. The meetings will be held through online technology and access provided through a link on the website.

Regular Session July 14 6pm
Agenda Session August 3 6pm
Regular Session August 11 6pm

Planning Board

Tuesday, July 21 6pm
Tuesday, August 18 6pm

Downtown Advisory Board

Monday, July 20 6pm
Monday, August 17 6pm

Find out more at
www.townofelon.com/events.

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

The Town of Elon Administrative offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

Face Coverings are now required in public places

On Wednesday, June 24, 2020, Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 147, which keeps North Carolina in Phase 2 of reopening and requires the use of face coverings in public settings.

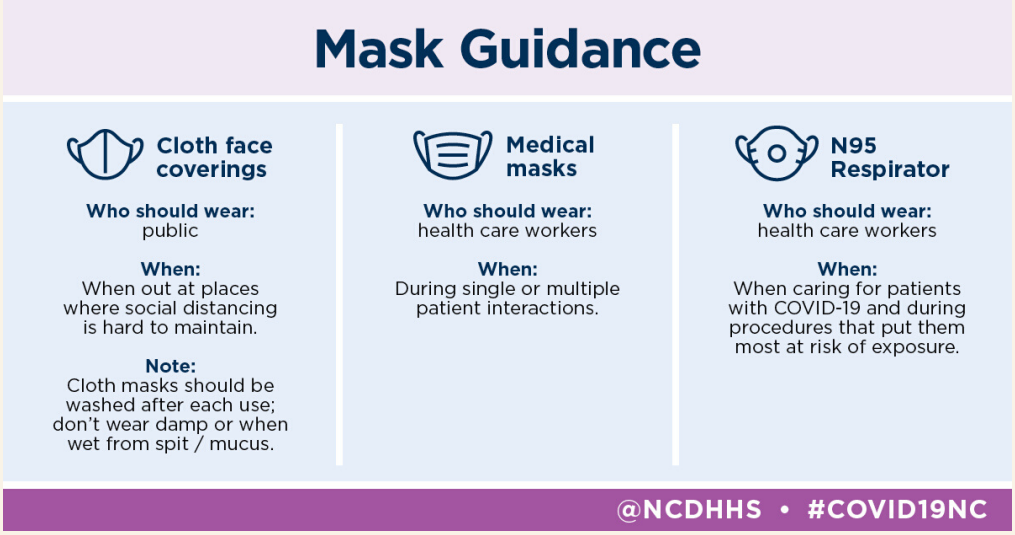
People must wear face coverings when in public places, indoor or outdoor, where physical distancing of six (6) feet from other people who are not members of the same household or residence is not possible. These settings include, but are not limited to:

- Inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor public space, including public schools;
- Waiting for or riding on public and private multi person transportation, including but not limited to buses, taxis, ride sharing, private care service, vans;
- Engaged in work, whether at the workplace or performing work off-site, when they are or may be within six (6) feet of other people, including working in or walking through common areas, such as lobbies, hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
- Obtaining services in a healthcare setting;
- While outdoors in public spaces when maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence is not feasible.

This restriction does not apply to persons while inside their residence or the personal residence of another. Face coverings may be removed to participate in a religious ritual.

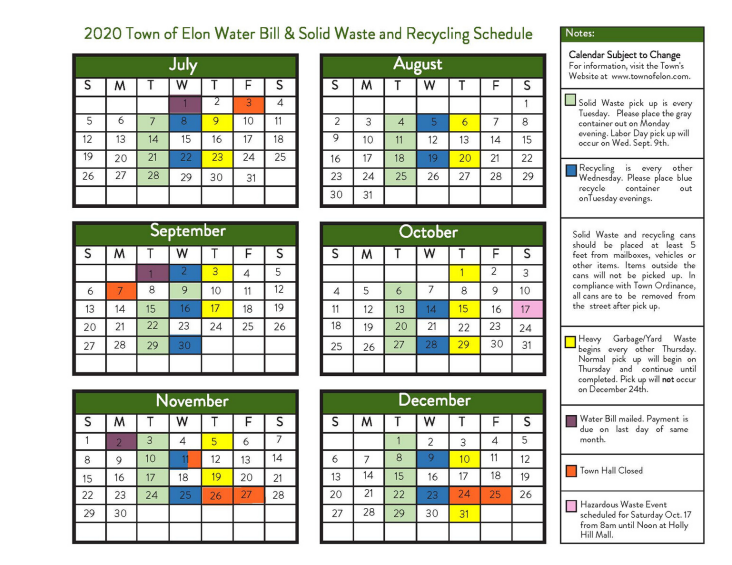
Be advised that businesses are required to have employees wear face coverings and to have customers wear face coverings also. If you are asked to wear a face covering while in a local business, please comply with their request. If you chose not to comply, you will be asked to leave.

We are all in this together and ask that you please comply with this requirement to slow the spread of the virus. Doing this one small act in conjunction with washing your hands and waiting 6 feet apart will help us move forward when the order ends on Friday, July 17th.



Waste and Recycling Schedule

A new waste and recycling schedule is available and can be found as a separate sheet with your water bill. The schedule covers from July 1st through December 31st. The schedule is also available for download online.



Grass Clippings and Yard Waste - Ditch the Bags!

In order to avoid increased fees for all residents for pick up of bulk items and yard waste, the Town of Elon Public Works Department has taken on this task as an in-house service. Please do **NOT** place your grass clippings or other yard waste in bags or other containers, as our equipment is not designed to handle bagged waste and the landfill we now use for these items will not accept it if it is bagged. Place all yard waste and bulk items at the curb for removal, and as a reminder, piles larger than a ½ pickup truck load will incur additional fees. For examples of what 1/2 pickup truck looks like, please visit the Public Works department page on the Town's website. Also, by not using bags you are helping reduce waste taken to the landfill.

Helpful Tip: Consider creating a compost pile with your grass clippings and leaves. As the clippings and leaves decompose, they create nourishment for your flowers and vegetable garden. Saves you money on fertilizer.

2020 Census - Complete Yours Today!

The 2020 Census is ongoing and we really need your help. If you have not responded to the Census forms you received in the mail, please take a couple minutes and respond. You have multiple ways to respond, either by phone, mail, or even online. Your responses are kept confidential and not shared with anyone.

Why do we need your help? The Census provides the information used by the Federal government to allocate monies used by the Town to provide needed services such as water and sewer line maintenance, street repaving and repairs, and installation of new infrastructure. The Census also tells them how many people are in the County and State, which affects their allocations as well. However, it is not just about the money. The Census is used to determine the number of representative in the US House of Representatives the state of North Carolina will have. In light of the fact that they are the individuals that craft federal legislation that impact us all, five minutes to respond to the Census survey isn't really too much to ask. Complete your Census today!

Be a part of the recovery! Support your local small businesses.

Since March, we have seen incredible support for local businesses in Elon. We hope that you will continue to support local by eating in the restaurants, shopping the stores, and taking care of your COVID hair in the salons. Local businesses are the lifeblood of small towns like Elon and we are thankful for the owners that chose to make Elon their business's home. Please continue to be a part of the recovery and shop and eat local. Need help with contact information on our Downtown Elon Eateries? The informational graphic below is available as a pdf on the Downtown Elon's webpage on the Town's website.

July is National Recreation and Parks Month

July is National Recreation and Parks month. Our Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution recognizing the importance of our parks to the quality of life of our residents and visitors. In Elon, we have two public parks: Beth Schmidt Park, located at 2150 Elon Park Road, and Lawrence Slade Park, located at 404 Ball Park Ave. The Recreation and Park staff offer a variety of programs and events throughout the year and more information can be found on the Recreation & Parks webpage on the Town's website and on Facebook. Also, the parks offer shelters and space for rent to enjoy a family get together or other events you might be planning. To view the resolution in full, please visit the Town's website.

Upcoming Events

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, events may be canceled or changed to online programs depending on the Governor, Mayor, and Town Manager's directives. Please check the calendar of events online to confirm the event or program is occurring or for any changes.

TOWN OF ELON — EST. 1893 — DEEP ROOTS • NEW HORIZONS

For more information, visit www.townofelon.com or find us on Facebook at @townofelon, @downtownelon, @elonrecandparksscene, @elonpd, and @elonfiredepartment