

CITIZENS NEWSLETTER

July-September 2025

MAYOR CHARLES GAYLOR



GOLDSBORO CITY COUNCIL



Hiawatha Jones
District 1



Chris Boyette
District 2



Jamie Taylor
District 3



Brandi Matthews
District 4



Beverly Weeks
District 5



Roderick White
District 6

Dear Neighbors,

I'm proud to share that on June 16, 2025, the Goldsboro City Council adopted the FY2025–26 Operating Budget, totaling \$93.68 million, which compares favorably with the FY24-25 year-end amended budget. This budget holds the line on operational costs while investing in major capital projects for police, fire, and public works. Most notably, for the first time in over a decade, the city passed a balanced budget without using its fund balance. This reflects our continued commitment to sound financial stewardship and long-term stability.

Goldsboro's budget has two main parts: the general fund, which covers core city services, and the water and sewer utility fund. This budget reflects a shared vision for a safer, stronger, and more vibrant city — but that vision requires investment. As taxpayers, we should expect a return on that investment: strong public safety, maintained roads and sidewalks, code enforcement, and valued amenities like parks, the Paramount Theatre, and the W.A. Foster Center.

Living in a city must feel worth it — and the balance of costs and services is key. That's why we must continue investing in infrastructure, recreation, and public services. We must also protect our water and sewer systems. These are the things that make city living valuable.

At the same time, we recognize the importance of supporting neighbors — especially seniors, veterans, and those living with disabilities. While the city doesn't manage property tax relief programs, Wayne County does, under guidance from the State. I encourage you to learn about these programs, help spread the word, and apply if you qualify. Key programs include:

- Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exclusion

- Property Tax Relief for Elderly or Permanently Disabled Persons
- Homestead Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment Program
- Find full details and eligibility info at waynegov.com/469

In another important move, the City Council directed staff to invest in a new billing system that supports tiered water rates. We expect this to launch next year. It will reduce bills for low-usage customers and promote conservation — helping both our infrastructure and the environment.

This budget was developed with care, incorporating public input and collaboration between the Council, staff, and our residents. I'm grateful to all who contributed to this process.

Together, we're building a better Goldsboro.

Warm regards,
Mayor Charles Gaylor, IV
City of Goldsboro

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS*

July 14 | August 4 | August 18

September 8 | September 22

Council meets at 5:30 p.m.

*Subject to change with public notice.

UPCOMING SANITATION CHANGES

Independence Day | Friday, July 4

Friday routes will be serviced Wednesday, July 2.

Labor Day | Monday, September 1

Monday routes will be serviced Wednesday, Sept. 3.

City Council Approves FY25-26 Budget

On Monday, June 16, the Goldsboro City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. The \$93.68 million budget funds the major priorities of the City Council — economic revitalization, elimination of slums and blight, and reduction of crime — as well as prioritizing employee recruitment and retention, capital improvements, and equipment needs.

With assistance of the City Council Finance Committee, City staff developed a recommended budget that ultimately was reduced by over \$31 million to meet the constraints of the current revenue sources. Even with major budget reductions, Livingston said this budget reflects the goals of the Council and addresses the City's current challenges while investing in future planning.

“The adopted budget reflects the priorities of the Mayor and City Council by increasing funding for slum and blight removal, creating a new street improvement fund and adding \$1.2 million to that fund for street resurfacing,” Livingston said. “The budget sets aside funding for a new Parks and Recreation main complex replacing Herman Park Center, which will be demolished later this year. The new Edgewood School Parks and Recreation Facility will allow parks to expand programming, thereby adding more recreation opportunities for all.”

Key highlights of the budget include:

■ **Property Tax Rate: 69 cents per \$100**

The budget reduces the tax rate by 13.5 cents from 82.5 to 69 cents. The rate is 12.68 cents above the “revenue-neutral” rate of 56.32 cents. The additional revenue will support a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for employees as part of the implementation of the pay study, in addition to other market salary adjustments as recommended

by the study, two new positions, a 1% increase in 401(k) contributions for regular employees, capital improvements and street repaving.

■ **Water and Sewer Rate Increase: 7.5%**

Water and sewer rates will increase by 7.5% across the board. The increase will support capital improvements, such as the water reclamation facility and specific water improvement looping projects, as well as salary and 401(k) increases for utility employees.

■ **Other Revenue Increases:**

- A sales tax increase of approximately 6%
- A vehicle fee increase from \$10 to \$30 to help fund street repaving

■ **Other Key Investments:**

- \$1.2 million for street repaving
- \$3.45 million for vehicles and equipment
- \$3.26 million for utility fund capital expenses
- Three new positions (second Assistant City Manager, Deputy Police Chief, Stormwater Administrator)
- Economic development plan
- Community survey to inform future planning and increase community engagement
- \$400 bonus for full-time and \$200 for permanent part-time employees

It's important to note that this budget does not rely on any use of fund balance in any of the operating funds, thereby allowing the city to continue building its reserves to fund capital and infrastructure needs.

The complete budget is available online at <https://www.goldsboronc.gov/finance/>.



SPRINKLER FUN DAYS

Sponsored by:  WORRELL

Every Friday 3pm-4pm

June 13
through
August 15

The HUB
200 S Center Street

Free outdoor
water play! Swimsuits
& water shoes
encouraged!

Historic Freedom Tree in Downtown Goldsboro Removed Due to Safety Concerns

The historic Freedom Tree has been removed due to advanced disease and public safety concerns.

Planted in 1972 by Mayor Tommy Gibson to honor Captain Peter Cleary, who was declared Missing in Action after his plane was shot down over Vietnam, the Freedom Tree has long stood as a living tribute to Captain Cleary and all U.S. military personnel listed as POW/MIA. The willow oak has symbolized remembrance, hope, and sacrifice for more than five decades.

Over the past five years, the City has invested in pruning and fertilization to prolong the tree's life. However, recent assessments by certified arborists from NC State University and Lanier Tree Services determined the tree is in rapid decline due to age, mistletoe, deadwood and lichen. Large, dead limbs posed a serious hazard to pedestrians and vehicles in the surrounding area.

In recognition of the tree's significance, portions of the trunk were collected and preserved for potential memorial pieces honoring Captain Cleary. The Cleary and Gibson families have been consulted and remain involved in these plans.

While saplings from the original Freedom Tree are currently growing, their viability is not yet guaranteed. The City is exploring alternate options, including planting a new tree, installing educational signage, and a memorial garden space.

In partnership with the Evergreen Garden Club, the City will also relocate the Blue Star Memorial marker to the Freedom Tree site, and a new Gold Star Memorial marker will be added. The Blue and Gold Star Memorial



program is organized by the National Council of State Garden Clubs to honor military men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Gold Star markers specifically honor families who have lost loved ones serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The City of Goldsboro acknowledges the emotional significance of the Freedom Tree and is committed to preserving the memory of Captain Cleary and all those it represents.

Parks and Recreation to Move Into Former Edgewood School Building

The City of Goldsboro has entered a one-year lease agreement with Wayne County Public Schools to relocate Parks and Recreation programming to the former Edgewood



School building. The building will provide much-needed space for the Parks and Recreation Department to replace Herman Park Center, which will be demolished later this year.

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COMPLEX**

**FREE FOR
ALL AGES**

**Splash
Pad**

**Open Daily
8 am - 8 pm**

501 S. OAK FOREST ROAD



City of Goldsboro receives \$250,000 grant to fund new accessible park

Trillium Health Resources presented the City of Goldsboro with a \$250,000 grant to fund the construction of an inclusive playground in North End Park. These grant funds will allow the City to provide a safe, adaptive play environment in Goldsboro. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

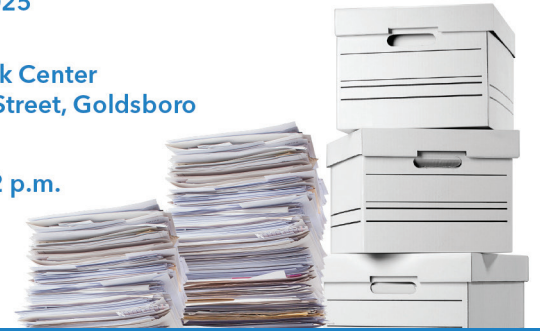
Join us to **SECURELY DESTROY** your
UNWANTED PERSONAL DOCUMENTS
in a Shred-it® mobile shredding truck!

Event Name:
City of Goldsboro Shred Event

Date:
Sept. 26, 2025

Location:
**Herman Park Center
901 E. Ash Street, Goldsboro**

Time:
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

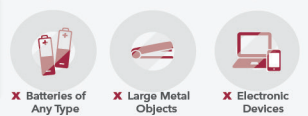


Call 919-580-4330 for more information.

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- ✗ Food, Glass, Cans, etc.
- ✗ Cardboard Tubes
- ✗ Ink Cartridges and Toner
- ✗ Hanging Folders
- ✗ Electrical Items
- ✗ Hard Drives
- ✗ Office Supplies, Hole Puncher, Staple Remover, etc.
- ✗ Nuts and Bolts

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CENTER STREET JAM



6PM-9PM

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES '25

@THE HUB

5/15..TOO MUCH SYLVIA

5/29.....THE EMBERS

6/12..THE MIGHTY SAINTS OF SOUL

6/26....AMAZING LOUNGE LIZARDS

7/10.....MAIN EVENT BAND

7/24....SOUL PSYCHEDELIQUE

8/7...SPARE CHANGE

GOLDSBORO PARKS & RECREATION SWIMMING POOLS 2025 POOL SEASON

MINA WEIL POOL

235 HOUSE STREET
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530
919.736.0709

CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

FRIDAYS

12:00 PM - 3:30 PM
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

SATURDAYS

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
3:30 PM - 7:00 PM

SUNDAYS

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM



PEACOCK POOL

1503 HERRING STREET
GOLDSBORO, NC 27534
919.330.4017

CLOSED ON MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

FRIDAYS

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAYS

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
3:30 PM - 8:00 PM

SUNDAYS

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

PRICE PER SESSION

18 & UNDER : \$1 | AGES 19 & UP : \$3

MUST PAY EACH TIME YOU COME, INCLUDING MULTIPLE VISITS ON SAME DAY

SWIM LESSONS
GROUP & INDIVIDUAL LESSONS WILL
BE OFFERED LATER THIS SUMMER

POOL PARTIES
MUST BE RESERVED 2 WEEKS AHEAD
COST: \$175 FOR 2 HRS

SEASON RUNS ANNUALLY FROM MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND UNTIL LABOR DAY WEEKEND

WWW.GOLDSBOROPARKSANDREC.COM/POOLS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DLEE@GOLDSBORONC.GOV OR CALL 919-739-7486.