IT'S FALL Y'ALL

September 21st marked the official first day of fall and there are so many things to look forward to! This quarter, we're highlighting the unique advisory boards & committees that work diligently to shape the future of our Town:

- Bee City Committee
- Environmental Advisory Board (EAB)
- Housing Advisory Board
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
- Planning Board
- Public Art Committee
- Transit Advisory Committee
- Tree Citizen Advisory Panel (CAP)

PEAKFEST RECAP

The Sustainability Team's first PeakFest was a smashing success!!

We had a total of 57 community members sign up to join the Apex Community Coalition & receive this Newsletter. One of them won a solar power bank!

Tree CAP gave away 50 trees & the EAB gave away 8 bird houses!

The Sustainability Team & EAB hosted a photo booth, at which over 130 community members, staff & Council members participated.

WE WANT YOU: JOIN THE APEX COMMUNITY COALITION

The Apex Community Coalition (ACC) is centered around sustainability, resiliency, and environmental efforts in our Town community. All community members, residents, business owners, leaders, followers, and neighbors are welcome to have a seat at the table. The ACC is 100% community run and led, with the support of your Apex Sustainability Team. For more information on the ACC and for details on how to join our monthly meetings, visit: https://apexnc.org/ACC
CELEBRATE SUSTAINABLY

With all the holidays right around the corner, here are some small tips for how to be more sustainable this Halloween (and Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and more!)

Costume Swap!
Attend or host a costume swap with friends and neighbors and make their trash your treasure! While it may be difficult to do a swap with the pandemic still around, you can also create a Facebook group, have people post their costumes and do a no-contact meet up for a successful swap!

Reduce Food Waste!
When we throw away unwanted food, we’re also wasting all of the water, fuels and resources that were used to grow and transport the food. And when food waste goes into a landfill, it releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas. To cut down on food waste:

- **Plan** out your meal before you go shopping. Make a list and buy only what you need. Brownie points if you shop with reusable grocery & produce bags!
- **Repurpose** your leftovers. Getting tired of the same old turkey and mashed potatoes? Try a new creative recipe to spice up your leftovers.
- **Freeze** what you can’t eat within a few days.
- **Compost** the inedible stuff, like potato peels, egg shells, and food that’s gone bad. Sign up for a compost pick-up service, start your own backyard compost, or bring your food scraps to the South Wake Multi-Material Recycling Facility food recycling station in Apex.

Rethink Black Friday and Cyber Monday!
Shop for your loved ones and our Earth! **Making your own gifts** shows your gift receiver that you really care, plus it can reduce excess waste from shipping and transportation.

- Shop for gifts at a **local thrift store** instead. Giving older items a second life is a great way to maximize the energy and resources that went into creating the item. Thrifting is like a treasure hunt; it’s a fun way for finding unique gifts at great prices!
- Consider giving gifts of **time or experience**, or donating to charity instead of buying the latest gadgets.

Happy Holidays!
FROM YOUR
TOWN OF APEX SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

CARY TREE ARCHIVE + TOWN OF APEX

- Thank you Cary Tree Archive for hosting us at the Final Tree Planting Event on Sept. 25th!
- **Apex planted TWO trees**: A Chestnut Oak and a Beech Tree.
- In total, over **50 native trees** were planted, including for the Archive’s Fruit & Nut Orchard and Pollinator Garden.
- Included in our honorary planting was Apex Mayor Jacques Gilbert, Councilmember Audra Killingsworth, Councilmember Terry Mahaffey and his two daughters, Sustainability Coordinator Megan Pendell, and a few dedicated Apex residents!

HIBERNATE RESPONSIBLY

We all love the coziness that candles provide during the cooler months, but did you know that most candles on the market are made from paraffin wax, a product of petroleum refining? A more environmentally friendly choice is candles made from **beeswax** - even better if you can find them at a local market or craft fair to avoid the carbon costs of shipping. **Be sure to do your own research before you stock up on products that make you feel cozy during the fall and winter!** Also try re-fillable lighters or matches.