

When in the Dell

Weekly Newsletter for the Town of Wendell Team



From the Desk of: Finance CAFR - What is it? Why is it Important?

Senior Accountant Garrett Johnson

GAAP. GASB. OPEB. FICA.

It feels like we here in the Finance Department speak in acronymic tongues half of the workday. But there is one more acronym that I would like to throw into the mix. CAFR. Some say it is pronounced cay-fer, but our staff call it a calf-er. Tuh-may-toh, tuh-mah-toh.

I digress.

Yes, it is only four letters, but, as we know, big gifts come in small packages. CAFR stands for comprehensive annual financial report and as the word “comprehensive” implies, it is chock-full of information. A CAFR is comprised of three sections with an optional fourth: Introductory, Financial, Statistical, and Compliance.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Each newsletter, we'll let you know what Town staff has been busy with in our employee news sidebar. The Town has 6 different departments: Administration, Finance, Planning, Police, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works.

- Public Works spent the week on top of Town Hall. The current flat roof has lost parts of its coating, which allowed water to enter the structure. The worst sections have been repaired, with more work to come.
- Police Captain Slaughter participated in a Watch For Me meeting, discussing Wendell PD's plans to utilize Watch For Me material and any educational events that take place during this grant cycle.



CAFRs are not required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or by North Carolina General Statute, but they are very useful to external users of a government's financial statements.

If a unit of government in North Carolina were to not prepare a CAFR, only the financial section of what would be in a CAFR would be found in the annual financial report. The financial section is what is subject to be audited by an independent auditor per General Statute.

To encourage more governments to prepare CAFRs, the Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has established an award program to recognize those units of government who go above and beyond the minimum GAAP requirements in preparing their CAFRs.

The Town of Wendell has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA three times and is awaiting a potential fourth award for its Fiscal Year 2019 CAFR.

Receiving this award means that the Town of Wendell is nationally recognized for providing financial information that is clear, concise, and transparent readily available for public consumption.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Polaski met with representatives from the NC Amateur Sports Organization on their Mountains to the Coast ride in October, with the potentiality of making Wendell a stop along the way.
 - Police Chief Bill Carter chaired a Wake Emergency Communications Organization (WECO) Meeting.
 - Planner 1 Jeannine Ngwira passed the Zoning Official Certification Examination through UNC's School of Government
 - Registration has opened up for 6 new programs at Parks and Recreation:
 - -FUNDamentals of Fishing
 - -Girls Beach Volleyball
 - -Kids Nature Camp
 - -Intro to Disc Golf
 - -Wendell Wiffleball
 - -Pickelball Challenge
- Registration is open until June 12th. Go to the following link for more info and to register:
<https://secure.rec1.com/NC/wendell-nc/catalog/index>
- Assistant Planning Director Bryan Coates worked with the BlueprintWendell 2030 consultants on survey development for the Comprehensive Plan.

But it is important to understand, it is neither the auditors' nor the GFOA reviewers' job to certify that the information prepared by the Town is 100 percent accurate.

The auditor is responsible for determining that the data is accurate enough for outside reviewers to analyze it and make educated decisions;

GFOA reviewers piggyback off of the auditor's opinion and make sure there is an ample amount of data, narratives, and statistics made available, financial and non-financial, to make an assessment regarding the Town's financial health.

So, why is all of this important for you, Joe Citizen?

The Town's CAFR is important to you because it first and foremost illustrates that the Town is making efforts to go above and beyond to provide as much transparency to citizens for financial reporting. But the CAFR is also important because it is being graded and evaluated by multiple external parties and their both saying we are doing a great job.

The Town is releasing a product to the public that financiers and citizens alike can use to determine financial health and stability; we think the Town is financially healthy and hope others do too.

At the end of the day, we at the Town want to go above and beyond for the citizens because good enough for government work isn't good enough for us.

Yours in Service,
Garrett Johnson, Senior Accountant

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Police Chief Carter attended numerous meetings with town departments to discuss the State's Phase 2 reopening plan as it relates to the Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Parks and Recreation distributed mulch around all the trees and in the beds as a part of improving Wendell Park's appearance.
- The Downtown parking and event space Campen Row began construction this week.
- Town Clerk Megan Howard passed her second Clerk Certification Exam with UNC's School of Government.
- Planning staff met with Wake County Planning on the PlanWake Comprehensive Plan.
- Town Clerk Megan Howard met with NCAMC to discuss communications committee plans for the Clerk's Annual Conference in August.
- Town Clerk Megan Howard attended a virtual meeting with Wake County to review Hospitality Tax Revenue projections post-COVID-19.
- The Town is soliciting responses to an RFQ for design and engineering services for the Town Hall project.

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Wellness Tip from Wendell's HR Department

6 Ways to Stay Active If You Sit at Your Desk All Day

Sitting at a desk all day sounds like the norm. Because of technology, you literally never have to leave your chair for anything (unless, you know, you have to go to the bathroom). Want lunch? Order online. Need to hold a meeting? Do it virtually. The possibilities are endless. And while the idea of hanging at your desk until 5 p.m. may sound like a dream, it's actually pretty detrimental to your health. Aside from neck and back pain, it can increase your risk for heart disease, obesity, and even death from cardiovascular disease and cancer. In an effort to be more health-conscious, here are eight small changes you can make at work to increase your activity and improve your overall health.

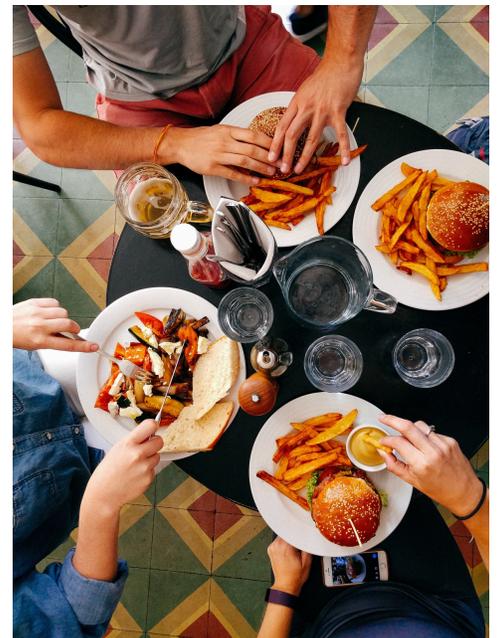
1. Take hourly breaks.

Sitting at your desk for hours and hours can really damage your health: Too much sitting is linked to heart disease, diabetes, and even dementia. And because sitting is the new smoking, it's definitely a good idea to break the habit. Try getting up from your desk once an hour and moving around for about five minutes. This will activate muscles and promote blood flow. And if you're someone who is fully consumed by your workload, set a timer for once an hour so you're reminded to take breaks, even when you're super busy.



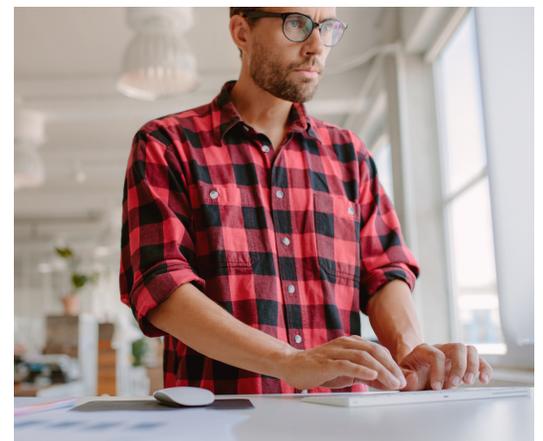
2. Go out for lunch.

While ordering directly to your office may sound amazing, eating and working at the same time doesn't do wonders for your physical health. Take advantage of your hour break and walk to grab lunch instead of ordering in. You'll move your muscles, get fresh air, and even have some time to chat with co-workers (rather than staring at your computer screen for hours on end). Sometimes it's hard to take a break when you have a lot on your plate. But getting out of the office will refresh your body and your brain—even if it's a 15-minute date with a park bench and your brown-bag lunch.



3. Stand instead of sit.

Just because you have a desk doesn't mean you need to sit. As an alternative, elevate your computer with a riser so you can stand, or if that's not an option, move to another spot in the office where there's a taller platform for your computer. You can also invest in an ergonomic workstation or, if you're really fancy, purchase a treadmill desk so you're able to walk and work at the same time.



4. Exercise for 10 minutes.

Some companies offer flexible work hours, and if you're one of their lucky employees, use that extra time to exercise before, during, or after work. Physical activity can relieve stress by giving you a mental break, and as a consequence, you'll feel happier and healthier. If you don't have time for a class or a multi-mile run, a quick 10 minutes of movement can make a big impact—even if it's jogging in place, some jumping jacks, or a few simple yoga poses.



5. Sit on an exercise ball.

If, for whatever reason, you're required to sit at your desk all day, switch out your chair for an exercise ball. Sitting in a chair requires no muscle activity (which does more harm than good), but using an exercise ball forces you to sit up straight, strengthen your core, and tone your muscles. While it's not recommended you sit on the ball all day, when inflated properly, it offers many more benefits than a regular old chair.



6. Switch up your commute.

If you can't pull yourself away from your desk during the day, consider changing up your commute. Depending on how far you live from the office, biking or running to work can be great alternatives—and as a result, you won't feel guilty for sitting at your desk all day. (But please be sure to move every few hours like we outlined in Tip No.1!) If biking or running isn't an option, try getting off the train a stop early, walking in lieu of the bus, or simply parking farther away from the entrance. Every step counts! So, switch things up!

