

When in the Dell

Weekly Newsletter for the Town of Wendell Team

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL CARTS - COMPOST/ORGANICS



From the Desk of: Public Works Yard Waste Changes

Public Works Director Brian Bray

Yard Waste is the topic for this edition of *When in the Dell* and there is much to talk about. It is our hope that a new procedure will more equitably serve our community while keeping costs down and freeing up manpower for the growing needs of a thriving community.

From the first moment I began serving in Wendell, it was a point of pride that the Public Works Department provided a premier service with regards to yard waste pickup and I think most would agree that has been the case. Whether leaves or limbs, the waste is always collected and with the growth of the town we have added equipment and staff in order to maintain this service.

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.

- Finance Director Butch Kay prepared the budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2020 to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners as part of the fiscal year end closeout.
- Police Chief Bill Carter attended the Technical Review Committee meeting.
- Police Officers Wilkerson and Hunt completed their DCI training.



As with all things, it gets to a point where the current way is not sustainable and a solution was sought and is soon to go live.

Incredible work was conducted by town staff to make certain that weekly service will be retained while ensuring there would be **no extra cost** to the citizens. If we simply continued as before, you would have many residents paying for a service that some rarely used, some never used, and that benefits only a small portion of residents who generate large amounts of debris weekly.

Let's speak about the new service and what every home will have available to them...

Yard Waste Can Each home will be provided with a brown can labeled with 'yard waste.' This container may be used for leaves, pine straw, grass clippings and small limbs/branches. Everything needs to be loose-no bags or boxes, please.

Frequency of collection Each home will be serviced weekly. Cans must be at the curb by 7 a.m. to ensure collection.

What is not acceptable to be placed in the cans
Trash, dirt, rocks, or stumps.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Police Chief Bill Carter participated in numerous conference calls with Wake County Emergency Communications Center, which provides updates on the county's response to COVID-19.
- Blueprint Wendell 2030 consultants are scheduling stakeholder meetings with community groups and members.
- Blueprint Wendell 2030 Community Survey can be found at the project website: www.blueprintwendell2030.com
- Building Permits were released for the 288-unit apartment project at Wendell Falls.
- Harper's Glen subdivision and rezoning was submitted. It's a 450-lot neighborhood along Lions Club Road and Morphus Bridge Road.
- Town staff presented Damian Johnson of Public Works and Tim Kay of Parks and Recreation with March's WOW Awards.
- Public Works and Admin staff implemented Yard Waste communications this week. Anyone not wanting a can may call (919) 365-4822 to be taken off the list for delivery by GFL Waste Industries.
- Parks and Recreation hosted the Bird Walk on June 13th and had 17 participants! They saw 33 species and added a new one for the park.



EMPLOYEE NEWS

- The new Parks and Recreation programs (Intro to Disc Golf, Nature Camp, Fundamentals of Fishing, Girls Beach Volleyball, Intro to Pickleball, and Wiffleball) began this week and are a huge success!
- Jackson Evans will be doing his Eagle Scout project at the park this summer. He will be starting Geocaching spots throughout the Park's trails!
- Public Works crews continued to work on tree trimming throughout the town. This keeps branches cleared from the path of taller vehicles such as school buses, fire department vehicles and commercial tractor trailers.
- Coordination with City of Raleigh Utilities was in full swing this week with a few details provided. The sewer station on Lake Glad is making good progress and should have the new piping go live as early as next week. Several areas that will need further work after the utility upgrades were identified this week and agreed upon. Repairs have now been scheduled (failing asphalt patches and sunken or missing curbing near hydrants.)
- Senior Specialist David Kidder obtained his Class B CDL. This will allow him to be more versatile in his maintenance role.

Twice a year request for large yard waste collection Each address will have the ability to request a large collection of yard debris twice a year. Contact Public Works as needed for one of these collections at (919) 365-4822.

Seasonal Leaf pickup Public Works will be offering seasonal pickup for leaves throughout the town. During peak time, you will be serviced every other week during designated periods. Peak time runs October through mid-November.

Now that we see what service will be provided let's talk about 'why we need to change our process' just a little bit more....

Current Process We would need to hire more Public Works Specialists and purchase more equipment to keep up with the growth and yard waste generated. Manpower and equipment requests translate to a much higher departmental budget.

Storm water The town must abide by our storm water permit, which is under audit soon. Many changes related to yard waste would need to occur. Waste on the roadways (current practice) makes its way into the storm sewers and then the local waterways. This adds to fecal coliform and nitrogen levels which cause algae blooms and loss of water quality.



Maintenance of streets and the storm water system

With our premier yard waste collection of years past, we were focusing up to 50% of Public Works staff solely on yard waste pickup. Now, with collection being predominantly by receptacle it will allow the following:

- **Grounds Crew Members** can keep Town easements and properties well-kept instead of collecting yard waste by hand 2-3 days per week.
- **Operations Crew** (currently solely picks up yard waste) will have time and resources to sweep streets quarterly and ultimately, monthly.
- **Stormwater/Streets** A brand new, blended crew will be able to start due to our transition to the Yard Waste collection by cans. One-to-two individuals will be transferred from the current yard waste collection will work with a storm water manager to keep our storm sewers clear and our streets in good repair.

Town staff certainly recognizes this as a big change and not one that everyone may welcome. However, the transition was made with the best interests of every citizen in mind, while certainly making every attempt to not levy additional costs on our residents.

With the new process, there will be a dedicated line to GFL (Waste Industries) for concerns related to yard waste and for trash and recycling. That number is (919) 534-3701. Town staff will still be able to field calls from citizens regarding these things and will assist with forwarding callers to the GFL staff that will handle all issues.

The first few weeks of anything new will likely have hiccups and the Public Works Team and all town staff are here to help make the transition as smooth as possible. Once the kinks are worked out, it is our sincere hope that you see the benefit of reallocating manpower to equally-critical areas.

We will still strive to provide a premier yard waste service to the citizens of Wendell, but one that is also sustainable as we continue to grow.

Yours in service,

Brian Bray, Public Works Director

The logo features a stylized blue 'W' with a green swoosh underneath it, followed by the text 'ell in the Dell' in a blue serif font.

Well in the Dell

Health, Wellness and Life Quotes

"Health is like money; we never have a true idea of its value until we lose it." ~**Josh Billings**~

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."
~**Mahatma Gandhi**~

"Cheerfulness is the best promoter of health and is as friendly to the mind as to the body." ~**Joseph Addison**~

"Health is the greatest of human blessings." ~**Hippocrates**~

"Life expectancy would grow by leaps and bounds if green vegetables smelled as good as bacon." ~**Doug Larson**~

"Giving is the secret to a healthy life. Not necessarily money, but whatever a person has to give of encouragement, sympathy, and understanding."
~**John D. Rockefeller**~

"Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me ... Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful... that's what matters to me."
~**Steve Jobs**~

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

To encourage social distancing, the July 4th Parade will be held as a reverse parade! The Town of Wendell, Wendell Historical Society, and Wendell Chamber of Commerce have joined forces to bring the fun to you! Fire trucks, police cars and other town vehicles will be driving around town at 2 p.m. to celebrate the birth of our nation. Join the festivities by decorating your house, car, golf cart, children, pets - anything goes!

Send an email to ssmith@townofwendell.com with your address to let us know you'd like us to drive by your house and we'll plan a route to visit as many areas as possible.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The Wendell Farmer's Market will be decorated for the 4th of July! Come by Campen Street & Main Street from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to check it out and buy local! After you've picked up some local goodies, stop by the businesses downtown to see how they're celebrating, as well!

The Parks and Recreation Department is joining in the fun by hosting a drive-in movie at Wendell Community Park on Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4th at 8:30 p.m. They'll be showing "Trolls World Tour" Tickets will be available for \$20 with 25 vehicles being permitted at each showing