

# When in the Dell

Weekly Newsletter for the Town of Wendell Team



## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

We'll let you know Town info in the Department Highlights sidebar. The Town has 6 different departments: Administration, Finance, Planning, Police, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works.

### • PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Census Takers Are Following Up with Nonresponding Households Starting July 16, census takers will begin interviewing households that have yet to respond to the 2020 Census. In subsequent weeks, the Census Bureau will begin enumeration activities nationwide. The majority of census offices across the country will begin follow-up work on August 11. All offices will conclude work no later than October 31. Census takers will follow local public health guidelines when they visit. Learn more at [Census Takers In Your Neighborhood](#).

**CENSUS**  
**2020**

**Wendell**  
**Counts**



COUNT ALL CHILDREN THIS APRIL  
SHAPE THEIR FUTURE. START HERE.

## Regional Partnership to Bolster Police Recruitment

The Wendell Police Department participates in a regional collaborative called the Regional Recruitment Partnership (RRP) of the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG). The primary objectives of the partnership are to promote careers in law enforcement, encourage diverse applicants that are representative of the region, and educate the region's workforce on the opportunities that exist in the field. As attrition and vacancy rates continue to increase for local departments, it is imperative to address the larger perception and recruitment challenges for the profession. Wendell has experienced these very challenges and The Town Board, as part of Goal 2 (Public Safety and Neighborhood Improvement - Provide for a safe and secure community that nurtures livable and well-maintained neighborhoods that are family friendly.) recognized the need to participate in initiatives such as this to ensure that the Police Department has the opportunity to hire and retain police officer committed to the community as a whole.



The Wendell Police Department is constantly recruiting due to growth in the department required to maintain service to our growing community. To assist with this recruitment effort, the RRP is developing a variety of techniques and marketing campaigns including recruitment videos and targeted advertising with a particular focus on people attending community and four-year colleges.

The program also highlights the various agencies participating to represent to variety of professional experiences available in the region and to assist police department reflect the communities they serve and protect.

The Wendell Police Department's goal is to identify and recruit the best applicants to work with in our community. It is important that new recruits have a clean background, a strong work ethic, a willingness to work in a team environment alongside the residents of Wendell. The Wendell Police Department views this partnership with the TJCOG as another resource to recruit the best applicants to serve as a member of your Police Department.

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Captain John Slaughter attended a meeting of the TJCOG Regional Recruitment Partnership to assist in the development of the regional program to encourage a diversity of high qualified talent to law enforcement.
- **HUMAN RESOURCES:** Human Resources is working to implement a digital employment application process through the use of NeoGov to provide for an online application process for the Town consistent with other Wake County communities.
- The Planning Department and Finance Department collaborated on completing the Powell Bill road certification this week. The annual effort identifies the lane miles of local streets maintained by the Town to receive State funding. As of June 30, 2020, the lane miles maintained increased 5.24 miles to a total of 33.79 miles. Wendell also has 0.92 mile of unpaved road in its jurisdiction.
- New air filters were installed in Town facilities this week to improve air quality within the work spaces for employees.



## Wendell Announces New Planning Director Niki Jones

Mr. Niki Jones will start as Planning Director on August 14 during a period of unprecedented growth and community development projects. For the last four years, he has worked as the Assistant Director of Housing and Neighborhoods for the City of Raleigh and has extensive experience with strategic planning, economic development, and project and asset management.

During his time there, he helped manage the unprecedented growth in Raleigh's housing market and provided key leadership in the affordable housing initiatives. Mr. Jones has extensive experience with strategic planning, economic development and project and asset management.

Mr. Jones will be responsible for the continuation of work on the 2019 Strategic Plan while developing implementation strategies for the Town's Economic Development Plan.

- **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:** GFL (Waste Industries reported that all yard waste cans were collected on Monday and most unwanted carts were collected by Wednesday. Public Works would like to thank our residents for being patient while this new process was put into play and we hope everyone begins to see the many benefits of the program - the streets look cleaner, already!

Public Works employees have been directing traffic and working on storm drains around Wendell Elementary this week. This area has suffered from standing water during heavy rains and PW is working with NCDOT to identify clogged drains that may be able to be put back into service. Many improvements are slated for this area in the future as we continue work next week with minor traffic interruptions.

- **PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT:** Track Out Camp is in session from July 6-31. Staff has gotten creative with activities including talent shows, scavenger hunts, and modified sports as ways for entertaining the kids this session.

Planning is underway for a future butterfly garden. Frank Doherty, the bird walks lead, has some great ideas for this garden, as it could be placed near the Community Garden to help with pollination. This could be another wonderful addition to the park!

These skills will be useful to assist the Town Manager in implementing the 2019 Strategic Plan and the Economic Development Plan adopted by the Town. Projects underway and getting ready to start in this area include the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Blueprint Wendell 2030, East Campen Row Downtown Event and Parking, and the Neighborhood Improvement Program projects to provide sidewalk, road, accessibility, and housing improvements in targeted areas around Downtown. The Planning Director serves as a key advisor to the Board and Manager on such growth and capital improvement policy implementation.

As Planning Director, Mr. Jones is also responsible for the leadership of the Planning Department and its oversight of current planning initiatives such as the Wendell Falls planned unit development (PUD), evaluate text amendments, and work with appointed boards in the areas of Planning, Community Appearance, and Economic Development.

Raised abroad in a military family, Mr. Jones moved to eastern North Carolina in his youth and attended East Carolina University where he completed a B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning and a Master of Public Administration (MPA). With over 15 years of progressively challenging experience for the Cities of Greenville, Durham, and Raleigh, Mr. Jones and his family live in Wendell and look forward to being part of the team and great things happening in our community.

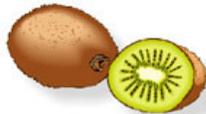
# Well in the Dell

## Wellness Tips from Wendell's HR Department

# Health Tips

## Super Fruits

What are they? Why do we call them so? Look at the list below, and you will find out.



- ◆ **Kiwi:** Tiny but Mighty! It is a good source of potassium, magnesium, Vitamin E & fiber. Its Vitamin C content is twice that of an orange.



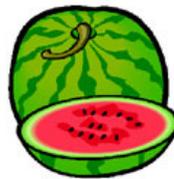
- ◆ **Apple:** An apple a day keeps the doctor away? Although an apple has a low Vitamin C content, it has antioxidants & flavonoids which enhance the activity of Vitamin C thereby helping to lower the risks of colon cancer, heart attack and stroke.



- ◆ **Orange:** The Sweetest Medicine. Taking 2 - 4 oranges a day may help keep colds away, lower cholesterol, prevent and dissolve kidney stones, as well as lessen the risk of colon cancer.



- ◆ **Strawberry:** A Protective Fruit, strawberry has the highest total antioxidant power among major fruits and they protect the body from cancer.



- ◆ **Watermelon:** The Coolest Thirst Quencher. 92% of it is water, but it boosts our immune system, and fights cancer. It also contains Vitamin C and Potassium.



- ◆ **Guava & Papaya:** Top Awards for Vitamin C - They are the clear winners for their high Vitamin C content. Guava is also rich in fiber which helps prevent constipation. Papaya is rich in carotene, which is good for your eyes.



## Tips on How to Stay Young!!

- ✓ Laugh and have fun. Don't be gloomy.
- ✓ Let bygones be bygones.
- ✓ Early to bed, early to rise, is healthy and wise.
- ✓ Stay lean. Being just 30% overweight is bad.
- ✓ Keep working, doing something you like.
- ✓ Be the boss of your own life.
- ✓ Too much medicine ruins your body.
- ✓ Exercise and eat less fatty foods.
- ✓ Do not worry about health and death, just get on with your life and enjoy it!!!

# COOKING MATTERS AT HOME



## Kids in the Kitchen Thursday, July 16th @5pm



We will talk about safe, age-appropriate tasks for getting kids involved in the kitchen. We will also share ideas for preparing picky-eater-friendly meals and snacks that have child-friendly steps. Kids are welcome to participate!

[Click here to register](#) or find the link on Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Facebook Page

## Flexible Recipes Thursday, July 30th @5pm



We will talk about making budget-friendly ingredient substitutions based on what is available in your kitchen and at the grocery store. We will also share ideas and demonstrations of simple healthy recipes that make picky eaters happy.

[Click here to register](#) or find the link on Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's Facebook Page

**Participants will receive a \$10 Food Lion gift card by mail! Online registration required.**

Email [catherine@foodshuttle.org](mailto:catherine@foodshuttle.org) or call 919-390-1978 with questions or for assistance registering. Incentives given to first 100 participants, one per household.

