

# When in the Dell

Weekly Newsletter for the Town of Wendell Team



## From the Desk of Public Works: Leaf Season

Public Works Director Brian Bray

As the first leaves begin to fall and the grass is growing a bit slower, we can see and feel that another summer has passed in many ways other than just the drop in temperature.

The Public Works Department is keenly aware of the changes as we bring forth a shift in our daily priorities. Each section within our group adapts to the change in season, and during this issue of *When in the Dell*, I will detail what to expect this fall as we move into winter.

You have probably seen trees being pruned in preparation for Holiday lights, repairs at the Town Square, fall decorations downtown, and maintenance to our Town buildings and properties. Fall makes the "all hands on deck" saying all the more appropriate for Public Works.

## 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.

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**  
The Wendell Police Department received official notification that we have been awarded grant funds from the Governor's Crime Commission. These funds will be used to purchase digital cameras that will be issued to all personnel to assist in their criminal investigations.

Chief Carter and Sgt. Hare participated in Responding to Resistance: De-escalation and Decision Making for Law Enforcement training through the NC League of Municipalities. This training provided law enforcement tips on ways to de-escalate situations involving persons who are resisting officers. The focus on de-escalation is through an officer's decision making process in these high-stress situations.

## LEAF SEASON CALENDAR 2020-2021

It's about to be leaf season and Wendell Public Works will be running leaf pickups through January. Place leaves at the curb in addition to your Yard Waste Bins on the Mondays listed with a leaf icon at 7 a.m. Please continue to use your Yard Waste Bin for yard items like branches and grass clippings every Monday. Place any leaves that don't fit into the can at the curb.

### OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 30

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				15 OCTOBER	16	17
18	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29	30	31
1 NOVEMBER	2 	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 					

### DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 18

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 DECEMBER	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31	1 JANUARY	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 					

= YARD WASTE BIN PICKUP ONLY PUBLIC WORKS WILL NOT BE PICKING UP LEAVES AT THE CURBS THESE WEEKS. = EXCESS LEAF PICKUP = LEAF PICKUP DAY-HAVE LEAVES AT THE CURB BY 7 A.M. = YARD WASTE BIN PICKUP DAY-HAVE BIN AT THE CURB BY 7 A.M.

As we get further into October, we are making our final checks on our leaf collection equipment while our crews work to keep our streets swept and our storm water system clean.

Beginning in November, we will be collecting leaves for the first two weeks of the month with a second and third collections slated for the first two weeks of both December and January. During this time, residents may place excess leaves on the curbside for collection if they cannot fit them into their yard waste can. Please take care to keep limbs out of your leaf piles as our vacuum trucks cannot pick them up. Limbs should go in your yard waste cans as normal. You can see our collection schedule with details,

[here.](#)

I realize there may be some questions remaining about our yard waste program, especially for those residents who have seen it change as the town has grown. I will attempt to address some of the most-asked questions here and hope that, as you reflect on the new service and the reasons behind it, you will understand how it benefits ALL of our residents within the town.

- FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**  
Finance Director Butch Kay, along with other department heads and management, met with Gensler, the new Town Hall architects, to review updated building design concepts as a follow up to prior meetings.

Senior Accountant Garrett Johnson took a class entitled "Fundamental Supervisory Practices" through the UNC School of Government. It is one of the courses required to obtain his NC Finance Officer Certification.

- PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:**  
Parks and Rec Director Jeff Polaski met with Town Manager Marc Collins about the Strategic Plan. The Parks & Recreation's Strategic Planning is a process of defining its strategy and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy.

The Community Garden is getting ready for their fall crops (cabbage, collards, turnips, radishes, broccoli and cauliflower.)

Treat Trail Planning continued with vendors getting their registrations in. Treat Trail Tours will be limited to groups of 25 to encourage social distancing. Only Wendell residents are allowed to register and may register at: <https://secure.rec1.com/NC/wendell-nc/catalog/index>



WENDELL PARKS & REC PRESENTS

# The Halloween Treat Trail

When: October 30, 2020 5-9PM  
Where: Wendell Park  
601 E. Third Street  
Bottom Parking lot

Treat Trail Tours will be limited to groups of 25 to encourage social distancing. Only Wendell residents are allowed to register at:  
<https://secure.recl.com/NC/wendell-nc/catalog/index>

- The Town made courtesy pickups for limbs (2 per year) part of our new yard waste program from its onset. Simply call Public Works at (919) 365-4822 to schedule the pickup. Directions for when to place the limbs by the street will be provided. We schedule many pickups in a day so we can maximize the effort of our crews and the use of our equipment.
- Leaves, grass and limbs may be mixed when placed in the yard waste cans. However, when the Town conducts "seasonal" leaf pickup, the leaves by the roadside cannot be mixed with limb debris.
- We do not make contact with each resident face-to-face for a variety of reasons. Many have asked us not to do so due to the pandemic and we respect that. The yard waste door knocker is a notice that details everything you need to do to correct the issue with a phone number attached for any questions. Our goal is for it to be an educational tool.
- After severe storms, the Town Manager and myself will assess if a Town-wide debris pickup is necessary for a specific amount of time.

Through Board Meetings, our website and social media, most have heard why we went to the yard waste container pickup. But I want to take this opportunity to recap what brought us here for any who still have questions.

Many will recall the knuckleboom limb trucks going by weekly with staff picking up limbs by hand and by bucket and then shifting a few feet to do it again. Our leaf truck then followed along, while our grounds crew collected yard waste by hand in areas too tight for our trucks to navigate. Behind the scenes were Public Works employees stacking and loading out all of the debris collected each and every week. Nine employees from a staff of exactly nine field personnel were involved weekly to collect yard waste, which is just one small area covered by Public Works. We could not sustain those numbers while still conducting stormwater, building and property maintenance, sidewalk repairs, street maintenance, sign replacement, and the numerous other tasks assigned.

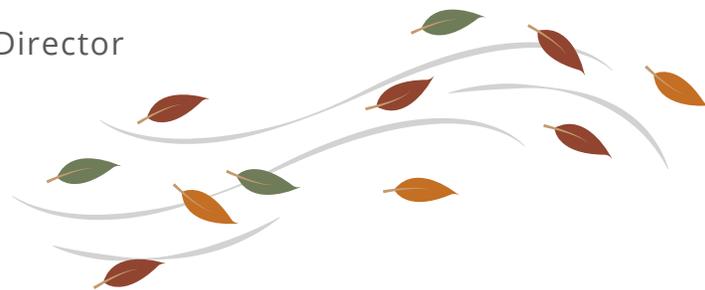
We have certainly heard complaints regarding this change and realize it is more difficult for some than others. Always feel free to contact us and we will be glad to help with suggestions on how this program can work better for you.

It is my hope that this article gives just a taste of what Public Works does for the Town. Our goal is ALWAYS to provide quality, professional service in a timely manner. Yard waste is a hot topic in Wendell, but I ask that you take a look around next time you drive our roads and reflect on how much nicer the streets look without yard waste along every gutter. Perhaps notice that the realigned manpower is now being used to sweep the streets, making them clean and inviting. Remember your home or your neighbor's home experiencing flooding during the recent heavy rains and knowing that clogged drains from yard waste only make matters worse.

Much thought went into this change and my sincere hope is that you understand why we made the decision, how you are still receiving yard waste service, where the manpower/equipment is now being used and how our community is better for the change.

Continue to partner with us and enjoy our vibrant, clean and inviting town as we continue to grow and be responsive to the needs of our residents .

Yours in service,  
Brian Bray, Public Works Director





**Wellness Tips from Wendell's HR Department**

## 15 Ways to Get Rid of Cold Symptoms

1. Drink lots of fluids.
2. Drink warm liquids.
3. Sleep it off.
4. Meditate.
5. Use saline nasal drops and sprays.
6. Use a Neti pot.
7. Gargle with saltwater.
8. Add moisture to the air.
9. Breathe in some steamy air.
10. Soothe your cough.
11. Adjust your sleeping position.
12. Keep things clean.
13. Eat foods that support your immune system.
14. Eat lots of vegetables, herbs, and spices.
15. Use the right over-the-counter (OTC) meds.