

# When in the Dell

Weekly Newsletter for the Town of Wendell Team



## *From the Desk of: Public Works*

Public Works Director Brian Bray

We all know that Spring is here, from the first greening of the grass to the yellow haze of pine pollen, Spring makes its arrival well-known in NC.

You might think our Public Works folks were very proactive in early March with the wearing of face masks while cutting grass, but it was simply due to this yellow haze that welcomes everyone to its arrival with the expected fits of sneezing and coughing.

There are few challenges as we transition from 'winter work to warm weather work. This year, we are all faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and the limitations we must deal with. For our Public Works Team, our goal is to continue uninterrupted, quality service while also protecting our employees.

### 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.

- Police Command Staff participated in several conference calls related to COVID-19 and current stay at home orders.
- Police Sgt. Jody Wall completed the agencies DCI audit, which occurs annually.
- Public Works excavated two failing stormwater pipe sections this week that were causing active sinkholes. Both have been repaired and the area put back to grade.

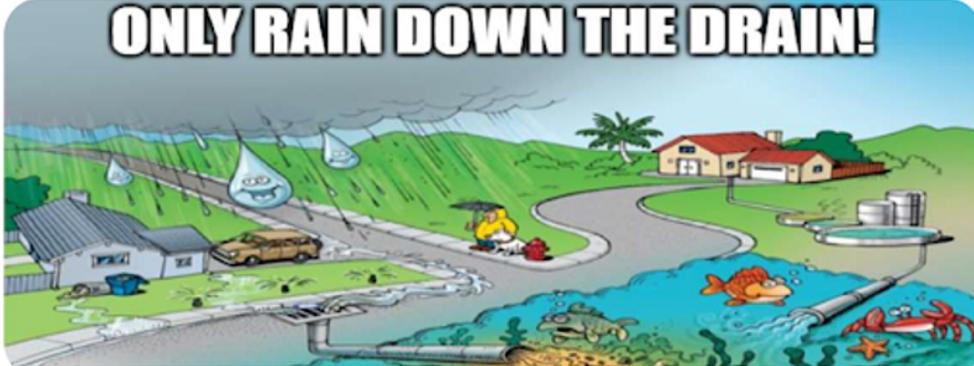
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists pet waste as a significant source of non-point pollution. Pet waste left on lawns, curbs, sidewalks, and streets can wash into local waterways during a rainstorm. Remember, stormwater currently receives no treatment. Water that flows into your stormwater drainage system goes directly into our bayous, rivers, and bays. Please pick up after your pet!



It's estimated that an average dog produces three-quarters of a pound of waste each day. That's over 270 pounds of waste every year. Unlike wild animals that might establish a territory of 12 square miles to 1,000 square miles, our canine friends generally walk where humans lead them. It's easy to see that walking a dog on the same route, day after day, without waste pickup leads to a lot of accumulated waste.



## ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!



This season with many folks being at home, there is more yard waste (leaves, limbs, grass) with estimates showing we are collecting over 40% more. This extra waste can have many effects and the Public Works Team would like your help in keeping negative ones to a minimum.

**Stormwater issue:** Storm drains remove the rainwater that would otherwise flood our streets. Simply put, debris in the drains can cause flooding. Did you know that debris in the storm water system can also cause nitrogen release? As plant material breaks down, it releases nitrogen. Did you know that fecal coliform can come from debris piles used as a rest stop by our 4-legged friends as they are walked by their owners? Take a peek at [the link](#) to an EPA explanation about pet waste in our water.

**Stormwater solution:** Our storm drains empty into our waterways and both items impact the quality of our water. Keep leaves and limbs as far away from drains as possible and if a heavy rain is forecasted, think about waiting to place the material out until after the rain.

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Police Sgt. Wall and Reserve Officer Paul Opanasenko updated our current traffic accident reporting system, which was required by the State.
- Spring sports have been canceled, but Parks & Rec is planning on offering T-Ball in the Fall for the first time and bringing back Fall Baseball and Softball.
- The following Parks & Rec programs are still on as planned for the Summer & Fall: Summer Basketball registration deadline has been moved to May 14, Fall Youth Baseball & Softball, Fall Girls Volleyball, Tiny Basketball, Fall Soccer, Adult Church Softball, Adult Kickball, Fall Adult Co-Ed Volleyball & Adult Basketball.
- Public Works staff worked with NCDOT to video survey several stormwater pipes that are related to an upcoming LAPP project affecting Wendell Blvd. Sections in front of Wendell Elementary, Cook St, Wendell Falls Pkwy and Wall St were evaluated for serviceability.
- The Planning Department met with Kimley Horn on the Wendell Blvd LAPP projects.
- The Planning Department submitted Wendell Parcel & Growth Data for the 2050 Triangle Region Scenario Planning Initiative-Community Viz Model-TJCOG

So many of us pride ourselves on a clean, vibrant Wendell. Please use that sentiment to help the Public Works Team keep not only the streets clean but also our waterways. Remember, our local water comes to us from folks who have hopefully been good stewards of the resource and as it leaves Wendell, we want to be looked at as good stewards while it was within our Town.

Thank you to all for your patience while we work to maintain Wendell. Please continue to work with us as we adapt and make an impact on our water quality. It is worth it!

Yours in Service,  
Brian Bray, Public Works Director

# Well in the Dell

Wellness Tip from Wendell's HR Department

## STAYING WELL DURING TOUGH TIMES

1. KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.
2. GET THE FACTS.
3. COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILDREN.
4. STAY IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY.
5. REMEMBER BASIC WELL-BEING PRACTICES.
6. MAINTAIN WORK/LIFE BALANCE.
7. A GOOD ANTIDOTE TO ADVERSITY IS KINDNESS & COMPASSION

## 6 WAYS TO REDUCE STRESS

Well in the Dell

MAINTAIN A  
BALANCED DIET

EXERCISE  
REGULARLY

SET ASIDE  
ENOUGH TIME  
FOR SLEEP/REST

GET ENOUGH  
SOCIAL SUPPORT

Use technology to meet  
with friends & family.

SET ASIDE TIME  
FOR RELAXATION  
& SPIRITUAL  
PRACTICES

ENGAGE WITH  
ARTS, CULTURE, &  
ENTERTAINMENT

Many museums and  
cultural centers offer  
virtual experiences.