



Town of Holly Ridge

Mayor's Message



DECEMBER 9TH, 2024

1. The Council, Town staff, and I hope everyone looks forward to the upcoming Christmas and Hanukkah. We wish you a blessed holiday season with your families. We are fortunate to be in a great country, state, county, and, most importantly, a wonderful town.
2. We had a great event on Saturday at the Holly Ridge Hometown Christmas: the event included a craft market, visits with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Olaf, bike raffles, story time with Santa, hot cocoa, and the tree lighting. Thanks to all of those who attended, the organizers, our Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Olaf, and those who helped with the multiple events.



3. Some controversial issues were posted on social media. I have seen some of the discussions and comments referring to the town council and management personally, I saw accusations of corruption and some personal attacks, which are inappropriate and unfair. All of our work focuses on smart growth and the best intentions for the future of Holly Ridge. Conflict and disagreement are healthy, and free speech is healthy in a democratic society; however, it is healthy and hopefully done respectfully and legally. The Council will go through the process to discuss and vote on issues in an open forum. We appreciate all the feedback. The members of this Council, the manager, and I are always happy to meet with the citizens and discuss issues. We may disagree, but we will listen and have a healthy discussion. I have open office time every week for transparency and healthy communication.
4. On behalf of the Town, I attended the swearing-in of the Onslow County commissioners. There are now two new commissioners. The commissioners are Tim Foster (Chair), Rob Knapp (vice-chair), Tony Padgett (new), John Davis (new), Royce Bennett, Paul Bucannon, and Lisa Carpenter. They are all aware of municipalities' challenges regarding Fire, EMS, schools, transportation, and collaboration with the county on other matters. We are the fastest-growing Town in Onslow County and will continue pushing for our cause. As you will read later, the Onslow County Manager will give us a briefing tomorrow.
5. As mayor of our Town, I attended the NC Mayor's Meeting attended by more than 100 Mayors across our state, and all small to medium sized Towns have similar problems dealing with water and sewer improvements, better communication with citizens, building better parks and recreational facilities, building and improving the downtown area, better fire and EMS support areas, preparing for growth with better infrastructure, and getting political support. I want to assure you that the Town Council, the Town Management, and I are working on all the above for our citizens.
6. We continue to work toward a long-term strategic plan and associated time-based action plan. We will schedule a Town Hall Meeting with citizens early next year to inform you of our plans and get your input.
7. It was a pleasure to attend the grand opening of the new Fishmongers Restaurant. It will be a great addition to the wonderful places we eat, especially with fresh seafood and local supplies.
8. Please don't forget that the second session of getting input from the citizens on the park plan is scheduled for January 13th, 2025 between 4-7 PM.
9. We continue to have the cadence of events below
 - a. Monday 10-12 Toddler Time Program in the Community Center.
10. I will continue office hours on Tuesday from 1 to 4 this week to meet with the citizens. I welcome your visit and chat. You are always welcome to email or call me.

11. Our next Town Council meeting is tomorrow, December 10th, and we will also have an open meeting to review the recommended ordinance changes on December 11th. **The Onslow County Manager and team will present Onslow County initiatives impacting Holly Ridge during tomorrow's Town Council meeting.**

We look forward to seeing you there. Look for the agenda on the Town's website and Facebook.

Please feel free to contact pparnian.hollyridge@gmail.com

Mayor Pete Parnian