



Town of Holly Ridge

Mayor's Message



SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2024

We are fortunate we had no major weather incidents in our area. Our heartfelt prayers go to people in Western North Carolina and other states who were impacted. The damage caused is unbelievable. Looking at the people affected, and the magnitude of loss puts everything in perspective. In response, our Police Department will be holding a disaster relief drive this week. Supplies may be dropped off this week, at the Town Hall or Police Department between the hours of 8am – 4pm.

I would like to thank our Council, Town Manager, town staff, and the citizens of Holly Ridge for their support this past week during my onboarding. I have met with some of our town's landowners, commercial and residential developers, and business owners. Everyone has high hopes for the future of Holly Ridge. We will continue to meet with county executives, ONWASA, and commercial developers and provide you with more updates.

1. I want to provide some information for those unaware of this data. According to the most recent data, the Holly Ridge population has grown from nearly 4500 in 2020 to 5400 in 2024. That constitutes about a 6.5% growth rate. We expect our town population to increase by about 7% faster than in history. So, we hope to have nearly 8000 people by the end of 2028 and the beginning of 2029. So, this means that we need to have infrastructure (i.e., water/sewer/roads), more commercial support (stores, restaurants), and citizen support (EMS, schools, medical facilities).
2. About 50% of our population lives in homeowner associations. We have about 7 HOAs in Holly Ridge. I am contacting their boards and members to introduce myself, hear their concerns, and continue open dialogue and transparency of our activities.
3. As you may have seen, there is a lot of residential and commercial growth around us. Remember that some news, specifically around commercial development, is confidential and cannot be publicly shared due to the competitive nature of business. We know, for example, that citizens must have a grocery store and an urgent care facility nearby. **I can publicly announce that we will have a shopping center in front of the Evolve apartments.** For your awareness, Camp Davis Industrial Park is on the right side of Highway 17, going toward Hampstead. Phase I has been in place, Phase II sales are almost complete, very early development plans are starting, and Phase III of nearly 500 acres is in the very early planning stage. More housing planned to be off Highway 50. More on this later. These developments will heavily depend on external entities like ONWASA, County, and State DOT, with which we continue to collaborate.
4. The town manager and I attended the Jacksonville Economic Development meeting to discuss additional economic growth opportunities and collaboration with the county executives.

5. Along with Major Waddell and Detective Thompson of the Police Department, I attended a meeting sponsored by the Onslow County Sheriff's Office to discuss using drones for early response to incidents. This is an impressive initiative in progress.
6. I get questions about the vacant housing authority. We are going through the legal process, and we are unable to make any comments at this time. We will provide an update as soon as legally possible.
7. I get questions about the J&J factory after the unfortunate fire. The company is actively working on repairs to make the factory operational. You can see a lot of activities in that area. We will provide additional updates soon.
8. I have received questions regarding the mayor's and council's compensation. The Holly Ridge mayor's salary is \$500 per Month, and council members receive \$300 per Month (mayor pro-tem gets \$400 per Month)
9. For those of you who have not heard, our police department, in conjunction with county, state, and federal agencies, was involved in arresting a local individual engaged in child pornography. You can read it in the [News](#): Great credit to our Police Force.
10. Staff and I met with the consultants who created the Municipal Park Plan this week. Preparations are underway to begin the public input sessions in early November. Be on the lookout for more information through the town's Facebook and Website for surveys and additional information.
11. We are still looking to fill the council open position on October 16. You can still apply until October 2. Please get involved.
12. I will continue office hours Tuesday and Thursday 1-5 to meet with the citizens.
13. I look forward to your participation in council meetings; our October Regular Meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday—October 16, beginning at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

You can reach me during office hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-5 at the Town Hall, or via email pparnian.hollyridge@gmail.com

Mayor Pete Parnian