



Town of Holly Ridge

# Mayor's Message

OCTOBER 7TH, 2024



The Town Staff, our Town Council, and I want to express the deepest gratitude for your generous donations to our Western North Carolina disaster relief efforts. Your support means the world to those affected, and it's heartwarming to see the community come together with such short notice. Because of contributions like yours, we can provide essential resources, food, supplies, and hope to those impacted. Your kindness will make a significant difference in their recovery process. Thank you again for your compassion and generosity. Together, we are making a real difference.

1. Thanks for your continuous support of the Town Council and the Town Manager, we are making progress in all areas.
2. Town staff and our partner Absolute Moving & Storage here in Holly Ridge are loading the trailer this week with contributions donated and delivering it to the donation center on the western side of the state. As you can imagine, it is chaotic there, and officials can only coordinate with regional law enforcement. I would like to shoutout to Absolute Moving & Storage for their donation of a moving truck and driver, their crew to help put all items on pallets and shrink wrap, and additional supplies that were donated to help box similar items and organize! This would not be possible with Absolute Moving & Storage, and we are extremely grateful!
3. Last Saturday, we had a very successful Family Connection Kickoff event at the community center. Thanks to the staff for leading this. Great participation by citizens.
4. This is a reminder of the weekly Toddler time today, October 7, 10-12. Family Game Night, Teen Night, and Kids Night Out are scheduled. Please see the Town's Facebook page for these and other events. The Parks and Recreation Staff - Audrey Madia, Rachael Greene, and Jynette Brogden are doing a fantastic job.
5. The J&J Snack food demolition work has been completed and crews are beginning to start the rebuild of the facility. They should be operational soon.
6. I received several messages requesting more details on some of our legal matters. Unfortunately, due to the on-going litigation, I am unable to provide additional details or statements at this time. The Town Council and I highly value transparency when appropriate and feasible and the public will receive an update when there is no longer a legal liability in doing so.
7. The staff and our consultant are working on the Town's website. The staff is also working on a monthly newsletter to keep the citizens abreast of activities and news. We will have better "push" information and the ability to chat with citizens. Staff is looking for new and exciting ways to communicate with all constituents!
8. The mandatory financial audit of the Town's finances is complete and has been successful. As with most audits, the auditors will make recommendations to improve the Town's financial and

accounting practices. Before the end of this calendar year the auditors will make a formal presentation to the Town Council and citizens during an upcoming meeting.

9. We are still seeking to fill the open position on the Town Council. The application period is closed, and the Town Council will select the council person during the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
10. Thanks to those who stopped by during office hours to discuss their questions and concerns. I will continue office hours on Tuesday from 1 to 5 to meet with the citizens. I will not be available on Thursday. I welcome your visits and conversations. You are always welcome to email or call me as well.
11. I look forward to your participation in Town Council meetings; our October Regular Meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, October 16, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. We will also have a Town Council Public Work Session on October 22 at 6:00 p.m. Please attend to understand the Town Council, Mayor, and Town Manager roles and responsibilities better. During this Work Session you will also have the ability to hear the discussion of our vision, strategic plan, and time-based action planning. You are more than welcome to participate and make public comments at any of our meetings during the designated Public Comment portion of the Agendas.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions via email [pparnian.hollyridge@gmail.com](mailto:pparnian.hollyridge@gmail.com)

*Mayor Pete Parnian*