



Town of Holly Ridge Mayor's Message



NOVEMBER 18TH, 2024

It was an honor to represent and deliver a message on behalf of the Town Council and the staff at the Veterans Day celebration sponsored by VFW and American Legion. During this meeting, our own Councilman Zabicki led the POW-MIA remembrance ceremony. The significance of the POW/MIA table was brought to our attention during the meeting. It is an important part of many military events to remind us that the strength of those who fight for our country often rests in the traditions upheld today. It was an amazing event.



THE POW/MIA TABLE
A Place Setting For One, A Table For All

The tradition of setting a separate table in honor of our prisoners of war and missing comrades has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

The POW/MIA table is separate from the others and can be set for one to four place settings to represent each service participating in the event.

- The table is smaller than the others**
symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her oppressors.
- The white tablecloth**
draped over the table represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.
- The empty chair**
depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine, but all who are not here with us.
- The round table**
shows that our concern for them is never ending.
- The Bible**
represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.
- The black napkin**
stands for the emptiness those warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends. A Purple Heart medal can be pinned to the napkin.
- The single red rose**
reminds us of their families and loved ones. The red ribbon represents the love of our country, which inspired them to answer the nation's call.
- The yellow candle and its ribbon**
symbolize the everlasting hope for a joyous reunion with those yet accounted for.
- The slices of lemon**
on the bread plate remind us of their bitter fate.
- The salt upon the bread plate**
represent the tears of their families.
- The inverted wine glass**
reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities of the evening.

Source: DPHNAV01 1710.7A
Department of the Navy, Public Usage and Protocol Handbook.

We could not have done this without these organizations, which have been instrumental in organizing the ceremony and their work within our community—whether it's helping veterans' transition back to civilian life, providing support to our military families, or preserving the history and legacy of our armed forces—it is invaluable. It is because of their commitment that this ceremony is possible, and we are deeply thankful for their efforts to ensure that this day of remembrance remains meaningful and impactful for all of us. Thank you, VFW and American Legion, for all you do to honor our veterans and for the service you continue to provide to our community.

Other activities

1- Council Meeting, November 12 – We had a long Town Council Meeting that started with a presentation by Mr. Mark Sutherland of the Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development (JOED) to update us on Phase III of the Camp Davis Development. We also had a presentation by Mr. Frank Howard, the CEO of ONWASA, to update us on their effort to upgrade the Sewer system, followed by a presentation by the Chairman of the Board of ONWASA, Mr. Royce Bennett, who is also one the county commissioners. We have gotten very positive commitment and support from all commissioners in supporting Holly Ridges's needs in the following areas:

- a. EMS support
- b. School system plans
- c. Transportation, parks & recreation
- d. Infrastructure support
- e. County Strategic Plan Components Impacting Us

Please feel free to look at the video recording of the meeting and the slides that are posted on the town website.

Additionally, we presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Detective Thompson for her partnership with Federal and State law enforcement to capture a child pornographer criminal. We also had a presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Captain Procopio and Officer Zewatski for their volunteer work to support the Western North Carolina relief efforts. We should be proud of our police force.



2. Don't forget Toddler Time on Mondays from 10–12 a.m. and Senior Social on Wednesdays 9–11 a.m.
3. On behalf of the Town, I attended the strategic planning meeting with JOED in Jacksonville and during this meeting, participated in Duke Energy Foundation Small business grants ceremony. Two of our town businesses were recipients of these awards. We are very proud of them:
 - a. Tidal Therapy Solutions
 - b. Fusion Blue Bistro
4. The Town Council continues to work toward strategic planning for the future of Holly Ridge. We will present our plans to the citizens in a town hall meeting to be scheduled.
5. We had our kickoff meeting with the Marketing, Branding, and Political Connection Committees. We appreciate the volunteers and look forward to their contribution and support to help our growth and consistent communication with outside entities.
6. The Annual Holly Ridge Hometown Christmas is coming on December 7 and there are NEW Additions to the program this year! **REMINDER: This is a FREE event!**
 - a. **Craft Market 2:00 p.m.** Opens to the Public
 - b. **The Children's Christmas Party also begins at 2:00 p.m.** – join us for meetings and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, each child receives a wrapped toy and other swag items. There will also be a cookie decorating station, games, coloring, Christmas crafts, and more!
 - c. **Bike Raffle Extravaganza at 4:00 p.m.** – City Café is partnering with the Town of Holly Ridge to fill a shipping container in their parking lot with bikes for all kids in the Community. All bikes received over the next several weeks will be raffled off at 4:00 p.m. Please ensure when you come into the Community Center you receive a raffle ticket for each child, write your name and telephone number on one half of the ticket, you retain the other half. Have your child place the raffle ticket with your contact into the basket attached to the bike they would like to win. You do not need to be present to win and Town Staff will notify winners at 4:00 p.m.
 - d. **Story Time with Santa and Mrs. Claus kicks off at 4:30 p.m.** – All kids who participate will receive a copy of the book that is read to take home. Hot cocoa with marshmallows and whipped cream will be served while Santa reads a Christmas Story to the kids in front of a Fireplace.
 - e. **Tree Lighting at 5:00 p.m.** will include a few words from me! The Fire Department will bring over the original Antique Fire Truck, which makes for the

perfect backdrop for your Christmas pictures with the family, friends, and Santa and Mrs. Claus!

7. Teen night last Friday was a great event with a wonderful turnout! There will be additional Teen Nights in the New Year so stay tuned!
8. Several events are going on during the next couple of months. All are posted to the Town's web page, but here is a summary:
 - a. Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – Family Game Night hosted by the Town of Holly Ridge Parks and Recreation Department beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Center. It is a Free Event.
 - b. Every Monday Through December 16, 2024 – The New Toddler Time Program begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Center. It is a Free Event.
 - c. Thursday, November 28, 2024 & Friday, November 29, 2024 – Administrative Offices Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving.
9. I will continue office hours on Tuesday and Thursday 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.
10. Our next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers.

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

Mayor Pete Parnian