



# Town of Grifton

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Billy Ray Jackson

## Board of Commissioners

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Greetings! This newsletter contains some important information and reminders for our community.

### **GRIFTON STREETS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Recently, the Town of Grifton sent out the Streets Improvement Project Survey to all billed customers. This survey was due October 15th. It asked citizens to rank the streets improvement options from most to least desirable. The options range from \$638 thousand for minimal repairs to almost \$2.8 million for extensive repairs and two inch resurfacing for all Town owned roads.

Over 1,100 survey packets were sent out to all billing customers; however, only 68 were returned. Of the 65 that were able to be used, Option 3 (*repairing all streets and adding a 2" layer of asphalt*) was the most desirable option with Option 1 (*make minimal repairs to all streets*) coming in a close second. Option 2 was the consistent second choice.

### **GRIFTON SEWER REHAB PROJECT**

After more than three years of planning, engineering, and securing funding, the Town of Grifton will begin the construction phase of the Sewer Rehabilitation Project. A contract in the amount of \$1,431,742 has been awarded to Cayton Utilities, out of New Bern. The contractor will be repairing and/or replacing nearly 2.5 miles of sewer line, over 50 manholes, and more than 150 sewer service laterals.

Also, the project will include the upgrade of the Pitt Street, Queen Street, and Lewis Drive Lift Stations. Construction will begin in January of 2013 and is expected to be completed by July 1st. More details about the project are available at Town Hall.

### **FALL IS HERE: Keep Grifton Beautiful!**

As a reminder, the Town of Grifton wishes to encourage all citizens and business owners to help make and keep Grifton beautiful. While town officials and volunteer organizations work hard every day to make the town visually appealing, all citizens need to work together to keep our community beautiful. **As a reminder, leaf and limb pick up occurs on Mondays. All leaves must be bagged properly in trash bags and placed by the curb to receive service.**

## **STAY SAFE; WATCH FOR DEER**

It's the prime time of the year for car-deer collisions, with hunting season in full swing and animals on the move in search of a mate.

The majority of collisions take place between October and December with November reported as the peak month for such collisions. Crashes are most common between 5 and 7 p.m., when deer movement increases and limited lighting makes it harder for drivers to see the animals. Since the first of October, the Grifton Police have responded to 9 vehicle/deer collisions with most collisions reported on Highland Blvd. Deer collisions have also been reported on Tucker Street, Church Street, and NC Hwy 11.

When driving this time of year, use these safety tips to avoid collisions with deer:

- Slow down in posted deer crossing areas and heavily wooded areas, especially during the late afternoon and evening.
- Drive with high beams on, when possible, and watch out for eyes reflecting in the headlights.
- Remember that deer often travel in groups, so do not assume that the road is clear if one deer has already passed.
- Do not swerve to avoid contact with deer. This could cause the vehicle to flip or veer into oncoming traffic, causing a more serious crash. Swerving also can confuse the deer as to where to run.
- If you see a deer near or on the road, give your car horn one long blast. This sound gives the deer an audible signal to avoid.
- Increase the distance between your vehicle and other cars, especially at night. If the car ahead of you hits a deer, you may also become involved in the accident.

## **OTHER REMINDERS:**

The Town has a junk car ordinance that the Police Department and Town Manager are responsible for enforcing. The Town's definition of a junk car is: (1) A motor vehicle that does not display a current license plate lawfully upon that vehicle; (2) Is partially dismantled or wrecked; (3) Cannot be self-propelled or moved in the manner in which it was originally intended to be moved; (4) Is more than five (5) years old and worth less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Each home is allowed to have one vehicle described above as long as the car is covered with an approved covering and it is located in the rear yard, out of view from the street. If you have any questions or comments about Town of Grifton services, you can contact the Town Hall at (252) 524-5168.

### **Protecting Grifton's Sewer Collection System**

Are you having troubles with your sewer line backing up? Some sewer overflows/blockages can be caused by excessive inflow and infiltration/leaks or by tree roots, pipe failure or construction damage. However, a majority of sewer overflows emerge from blockages that are a result of citizens who fail to dispose of items properly. The Town of Grifton's water and sewer department does everything in their power to prevent sewer blockages such as cleaning and flushing the town's sewer lines on a regular basis, but they can't do it alone! As a citizen on the town's sewer collection system we ask you to be aware of the following guidelines:

#### **DO**

- Collect cooking oil & grease in containers and dispose of it properly
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment, and food preparation areas with scraper/towels/broom prior to washing
- Keep grease out of wash water.
- Contact the Town before calling a plumber if you are experiencing a sewer backup: Contact customer service during normal business hours at 524-5168 or the Grifton Police Department at 524-4161 on nights, holidays, and weekends.

#### **DON'T**

- Pour oil or grease down the drain
- Wash fryers/griddles, pots, pans, and plates with water until oil and grease are removed
- Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces
- Use your drain to dispose of food scraps
- Use your toilet as a wastebasket
- Contact a plumber until the Town has been called to evaluate your system.