

Washington Park Town Crier

February 2017

1) Town Board hires Toby Woolard as the new Public Works Supervisor. Toby replaces Brian Wood who retired February 1st. The Board feels fortunate to have found a very qualified and interested applicant in such a short time.

Toby is currently part of the Belhaven police force; he starts work with us on Monday, February 27. Toby also worked for Beaufort County Sheriff's Department. He has extensive experience as a truck driver and already has a NC Commercial Driver's License. He gained mechanical experience while working at Gregory Poole and also has landscaping skills. During the interview process, the Town Board was impressed with Toby's credentials and experience. Just as important, Toby communicated well with the Town Board during the interview. He was composed, thoughtful, and complete in responding to questions from the search committee. Toby understands the close community that is Washington Park; and therefore, the importance of the one-on-one relationships he will develop with our Town's 217 households. The Town Board believes that he will interact particularly well with our residents; he will likewise represent Washington Park well at any outside venue. Toby will start work this coming Monday. **Be sure to say hi to welcome him aboard.**

2) Privatizing garbage pick-up is off the table. The Town Board heard individually, and collectively as a Board, comments from residents that amounted to... *"we understand that privatization might save a little money, but we think our present arrangement of having our own staff spend time at each of our own houses provides a good service... and also, each week, sends two sets of eyes to see and understand what's going on throughout the Park."* The Board feels that our own crew's frequent service passes through each mile of our street system provide a measure of security for the Park. It also is a chance for the staff to assess other work that needs doing. For example, the crew will see drainage ditch problems, dead trees, dead branches, and the men have a chance to look and see what kind of non-garbage pick-up service situations require attention. It was these non-financial benefits to our residents that swayed the Town Board to hire a new Public Works Supervisor as opposed to contracting with an outside garbage service provider. The Town will contract part-time day labor help on garbage days and whenever a third person is needed.

3) Finally, another reminder about contracted construction/yard debris. Town employees are able to pick up "normal" amounts of homeowner-generated yard waste or construction-related debris. If a homeowner generates large amounts (more than a pick-up truck load), the homeowner is responsible for the removal. Of course, if contractors are used, contractors are responsible for the removal.

4) Important notice on back side of page. The notice on the backside of this Town Crier is a requirement of the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. It is important and bears reading.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON PARK, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Resident:

This letter is to inform you that your property is located in an area that has been flooded several times. This property has been identified as a repetitive loss area by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Town of Washington Park contracts with the City of Washington for inspections. Washington Park and the City of Washington are concerned about repeat flooding and have an active program to help you protect yourself and your property from future flooding. The Town/City may be able to assist you with flood protection activities.

It is important that you consider the following:

1. Contact the City of Washington Inspections office at 975-9334 or 975-9304 for the extent of flooding in your immediate area. The City of Washington Staff can supply you flood information for your area including the area and depth of possible flooding on maps, what the city is doing about the potential flooding areas other flood related information
2. Also, you can visit the following two web sites for flood related information
 - a. www.washington-nc.com for flood related information.
 - b. www.fema.gov for flood related information.
3. You can prepare for flooding by doing the following
 - a. Know the flood safety guidance included in this letter
 - b. Know how to shut of the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes
 - c. Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go to.
 - d. Make a household inventory, especially of basement contents. Take pictures before the possibility of flooding and maintain them in a dry safe place.
 - e. Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicines, etc. in a high and dry safe place.
 - f. Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc. in a high and dry safe place
 - g. Develop a disaster response plan - See the Red Cross website: www.redcross.org/services/diasters for a copy of the brochure "Your Family Disaster Plan" and *Repairing Your Flooded Home*.
 - h. *Repairing Your Flooded Home* is also available at the Inspections office.
4. Consider some flood protection measures
 - a. Mark your fuse or breaker boxes to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off power to the basement before flooding occurs can reduce property damage and save lives
 - b. Consider elevating your house above flood levels. This was done in several areas around the city after some of the past hurricane flooding. These homes have not flooded since being raised.
 - c. Check your building for water entry points. Entry points may consist of basement window and doors, stairwells and dryer vents etc. You can protect these opening with low walls or temporary shielding.
 - d. Install a floor drain plug, standpipe, overhead sewer or sewer backup valve to prevent backup flooding.
 - e. More information can be found in *Homeowners Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding*. Copies are in the Brown Library or at www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/lib312.shtm.
Note: Some flood protection measures may require a building permit and others may not be safe for your building type. Therefore, consult your building inspector for assistance.
5. Talk to your Building Department for assistance.
 - a. What is the elevation of my house?
 - b. What can I do to protect my property?
 - c. What is substantial improvement?
6. Flood Insurance Policies
 - a. Obtain a policy and fully understand its limitations.
 - b. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Washington and the Town of Washington Park participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded. Because the City of Washington and the Town of Washington Park participate in the rating system you will receive a reduction in the insurance premium.
 - c. Because your area is not mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area you may qualify for a lower cost Preferred Risk Policy.
 - d. Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building structure and **not the contents**. During the kind of flooding that happens in your area there is usually more damage to the contents than to the structure. **Be sure you have contents coverage.**
 - e. **Don't wait for the next flood to buy flood protection.** In most cases, there is a thirty-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.
 - f. Contact your insurance agent for more information on the rates and coverage.

In the event that your property is flooded again, you may be asked to provide the following information:

- a. How many times have you filed claims for flood damage?
- b. Would you like to have your home elevated?
- c. Would you like to have your home purchased?

If a state of emergency is declared, assistance may be provided for flood protection activities.