

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN MANAGER REGARDING THE TOWN'S FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS

Several years ago, well before the arrival of Hurricane Florence, the town's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), commonly called "flood maps," were being updated. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), has worked for years to update the FIRMs. The maps are an integral part of any community's flood mitigation program, because they define the areas of the community that are most vulnerable to flooding. As you can imagine, the FIRM update process was very technical and based on a large amount of historical data. It is also important to realize that the Town of River Bend had/has no authority or control over the information or boundaries in the FIRMs.

In November, 2016 Craven County and all of the towns within Craven County conducted an Open House on the preliminary (or proposed) maps for our area. The event was held at the Convention Center in New Bern. Each unit of government was given an opportunity to set up an informational booth. There was an overall program presented, but the booths provided a place for residents to ask specific questions about the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) in their town or even in their neighborhoods. Staff from the Town of River Bend manned a booth. I was there, along with our current and previous Floodplain Managers. We had many visitors to our booth.

Now, let's leap forward to 2019. We have recently been informed that the preliminary maps will soon become effective. By mid-June 2020, the Town Council will be required to adopt the new maps. When the preliminary maps are officially adopted, they will become the effective maps. Until that time, the currently effective maps are still the official maps. If the Town does not adopt the preliminary maps, we will no longer be allowed to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). That would mean that our residents would not be allowed to purchase flood insurance. Another requirement of being in the NFIP is that each jurisdiction must adopt a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (FDPO). The Town of River Bend originally adopted its FDPO on August 21, 1985. River Bend did not officially become a Town until 1981. Therefore, a FDPO has long been recognized as an important part of the Town's operations. Along with adopting the new maps, the Town Council will also be updating our FDPO in 2020. Prior to doing so, the Town Council will be required to conduct a public hearing. When the date of the public hearing is determined, it will be published in the Sun Journal and on our web page.

In the meantime, I highly encourage every resident of River Bend to inspect the preliminary FIRMs for River Bend. Some structures that are not currently identified as being in the town's SFHA on the effective maps, which are still in place, will be in the SFHA when the preliminary maps become effective. You can view the maps by visiting the Town's webpage at www.riverbendnc.org. Then click on "Preliminary FIRM" tab on the home page. Once there, click on the map of NC, then click OK in the information box and it will disappear. Then enter your address, ex: Town Hall would be entered as 45 Shoreline Drive, River Bend. Once you do this a map of your neighborhood will be displayed. Your home will be identified with a yellow pin. In the top right of the screen, click on the word Effective, then select Preliminary from the drop down box. This will change the map you see to the preliminary map (which is the proposed map that will become effective in 2020). Next, in the box in the top left corner, click on the 3-layer button to the right of the question mark. A drop down box will appear. Click in the box next to "Changes Since last FIRM SFHA". This will cause a check to appear in the box. Then close that box. Now,

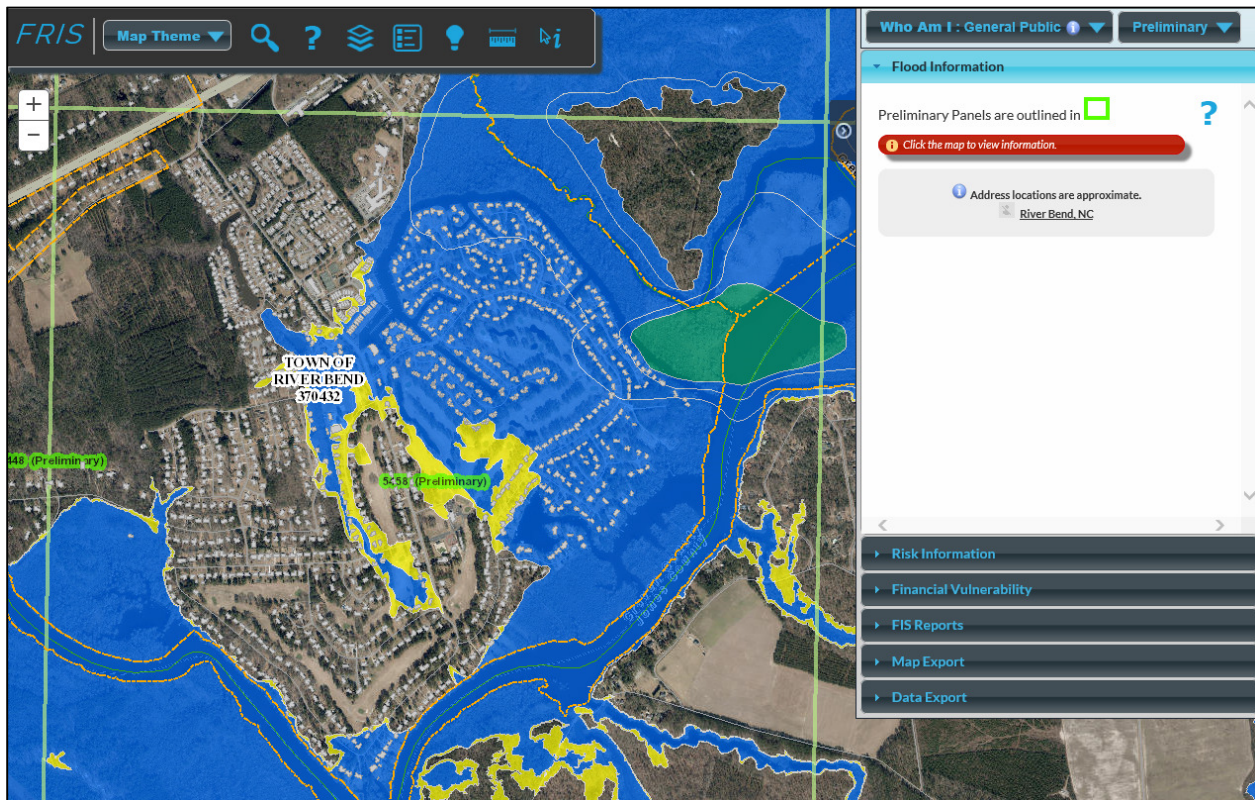
you will be able to see a map of your neighborhood with any changes that will become effective. The blue area represents the 1% flood zone (commonly called the 100-year flood zone). The yellow area represents the .2% flood zone (commonly called the 500-year flood zone). The pink area represents the new areas that will be added to the 100-year flood zone when the maps become effective. The green area represents any area that will be removed from a flood zone. There are very few of these areas and I have not found any that have structures located on them.

In addition to changes in the flood zones on the map, the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) will also be changed when the new maps become effective. Currently, the BFE in all of River Bend is 8-feet. Most of the area that currently has an 8-foot BFE, will become a 9-foot BFE. However, some areas along the canal in the Channel Run area and the area between Knotline, Outrigger and Plantation Drive will become a 10-foot BFE. A very small area between Outrigger and the canal will become an 11-foot BFE. When you click on your property on the map the yellow pin will appear. Then click on the “Flood Information” tab. The BFE that will become effective for your home upon adoption of the FIRM will appear in that box.

If you have questions, you can contact me or River Bend’s Floodplain Administrator Allison McCollum at 638-3870, extension 216.

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO VISIT PRELIMINARY MAP SITE

<https://fris.nc.gov/fris/>



This map is an example of the maps you will find on the government’s website.

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