

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



Responsibilities of Municipal Incorporation

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

As I considered the subject of this article, I reviewed my April 2015 article which addressed the benefits of being an incorporated municipality. Here, I look at the responsibilities that accompany incorporation.

All North Carolina municipalities must follow a wide range of laws and general statutes that are mandated by Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly. Local governments also pass ordinances that are legally enforceable, but these ordinances cannot require actions that will violate either federal or

state laws or general statutes.

In North Carolina, each local government must adhere to the conditions that the General Assembly has mandated in its specific municipal charter. The charter is quite restrictive as to the authority that is vested in the local government. River Bend's Charter is posted on the Town's web page under the Ordinance tab.

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The most restrictive federal mandates are those from the EPA regulating storm-water management and the operation of water and wastewater utilities. The EPA then delegates the permitting and enforcement to the various state environmental counterpart agencies on the condition that state permitting and enforcement are as stringent as the mandates advanced by EPA. The EPA reserves

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the right to revoke the delegated authority if a state is found to not meet the federally mandated criteria. The mandates for operation of our enterprise utilities also detail the qualifications that our operators must have to be qualified operators. These key personnel also have a requirement to attend annual continuing education courses so their skills are kept current with changing regulations. EPA mandates for storm-water management have not yet been imposed on municipalities the size of River Bend, but eventually they will be applied to our population peer group municipalities. When River Bend is added to the regulatory stormwater program, additional and significant water quality testing will become necessary.

In the 1930s, the North Carolina General Assembly created the Local Government Commission (LGC) in response to the large number of financially distressed municipalities in the state. This agency is a division of the Office of the State Treasurer. Since its creation, the LGC has made an annual independent audit of each municipality's budget documents. The agency also sets a minimum fund balance recommendation for both municipal general fund and equity enterprise fund accounts. When the LGC receives an audit that is not in compliance with the established fund balance criteria, the agency demands an explanation and a plan from the municipality detailing how the deficiency will be corrected. If a municipality fails to adhere to the plan submitted, the LGC may assume control of that municipality's finances. While this level of control and supervision of municipal government may seem extreme, North Carolina municipalities have good bond ratings that are envied by other states.

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The above examples of federal and state supervision of municipal governance particularly points to the critical responsibility the Council has in developing the annual budget and setting the tax and utility rates for the annual cycle. Budget development is underway now. By State mandate, the Council must present a balanced budget and formally

adopt that budget by June 30 of each year. Council members, the Manager and staff

spend many hours in this budgeting process that is so critical to the Town for the coming year but also for the years that will follow. A special thanks to our Council members, the Manager and staff for the research and hours of effort that it takes to create our annual budget.

I believe that this brief article explains how the Town Council must prepare its annual budget and govern the Town within the strict confines set forth by Federal and State regulations. ●



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

We are now well into the process of preparing the Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget. Weekly work sessions, open to public attendance and participation, have been part of an excellent process of exchanging information with your elected leaders, staff, and citizens who attend. This process has evolved over the past several years to one that provides a high level of transparency and responsiveness to all the needs of this community.

As with any meeting of the Council, these sessions are open to the public and your attendance and participation is welcome.

Warmer weather brings out more walkers and bicyclist to our streets. Out of respect for your neighbors, we ask that all motorists drive within the posted speed limit and remain aware of, and courteous to, pedestrians and bicyclists who are using the roadways. Your police department will actively educate

drivers who either through lack of attention, or whatever other reason, exceed the posted speed limit. It is not our goal to be a "speed trap." However, working to avoid injury and/or property damage due to excessive speed is part of maintaining a safe community for all to enjoy.

"Speaking of safety, I want to compliment the work of our Community Watch. This group is comprised of volunteer citizens who patrol our town. In 2015, this group recorded 1,967 hours of patrol dedicated to enhancing the safety of this community."

"Out of respect for your neighbors, we ask that all motorists drive within the posted speed limit and remain aware of, and courteous to, pedestrians and bicyclists who are using the roadways."

Speaking of safety, I want to compliment the work of our Community Watch. This group is comprised of volunteer citizens who patrol our town. In 2015, this group recorded 1,967 hours

of patrol dedicated to enhancing the safety of this community. You are likely to see the patrols as they visit your neighborhood with a magnetic sign or flag affixed to their vehicle identifying them as a Community Watch patrol or by other members on foot and bicycle. Residents interested in helping maintain the safety of their community are encouraged to consider joining Community Watch. Contact Jim Kelly for more information.

The success of our e-News service continues to grow. We now have 578 subscribers. We know that we are getting information out to those who wish to receive it. This service allows us to get current information about upcoming events and other news out to those we serve. It's a great way to keep informed, so if you are not signed up, consider doing so. ●

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**WRD/PW
FEBRUARY REPORT**
BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works continued to do a good job on routine maintenance of the Town's facilities, as well as maintenance of our equipment. A few new picnic tables are being built to replace some of the old and unusable ones. During the heavy wind event back in the latter part of February, several large trees fell down on Gatewood Drive, and a couple of smaller ones into the canal that surrounds Town. The Fire Department did a good job that night clearing the larger trees off the road on Gatewood. The next day Public Works staff removed all the fallen trees along the road shoulder. The smaller trees in the canal were towed back to the boat ramp by our Public Works team to be cut up and hauled off.

Water Resources continued doing a great job operating the Town's water/wastewater treatment facilities. Two sewer lines had to be repaired by outside contractors. The first was a sewer lateral located on Lakemere Drive. This lateral had broken at its connection to the sewer

"Two sewer lines had to be repaired by outside contractors. Both repairs were made by Cayton Plumbing, and I thank them for a job well done."

main and was allowing soil to enter our system which was blocking up the main. The break was identified by use of our sewer camera, and outside help was called in due to the nature of its depth. The second repair was at the Quarterdeck lift station force main that runs along Plantation Drive. It was damaged when a contractor hit it while boring a power cable under Plantation Drive. Both repairs were made by Cayton Plumbing, and I thank them for a job well done.

If you have any questions about the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to then dial “9” and follow the directions

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to contact the on-call duty operator. You will be asked to enter your phone number at the sound of the tone. After entering your phone number, the automated system will inform you that your page has been sent. Please, be patient and our utility operator will return your call. If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108. ●



FISHING DERBY

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
10:00 - 12:00

A colorful poster for a Fishing Derby. At the top, it says "Fishing Derby" in large black letters, followed by "Sat, April 16th" and "10:00 - 12:00". Below that, it says "Pond near Pavilion". The poster features illustrations of a girl and a boy fishing. In the water, there are several colorful fish and the words "Prizes", "Catch and Release", and "Snacks". At the bottom, it lists "Age Groups: 5 to 8 and 9 - 12", "Children must be accompanied by Adult", "RSVP: Ellen Serra 571-4817", "easinelephant@yahoo.com", "Bring your own Equipment & Bait", and "Sponsored by Parks & Rec".

Fishing Derby
Sat, April 16th
10:00 - 12:00
Pond near Pavilion

Prizes
Catch and Release
Snacks

Age Groups: 5 to 8 and 9 - 12
Children must be accompanied by Adult
RSVP: Ellen Serra 571-4817
easinelephant@yahoo.com
Bring your own Equipment & Bait
Sponsored by Parks & Rec

COMING EVENTS

Council Work Session
April 14
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
April 21
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

**Council
Budget Workshops**
April 5
April 12
April 19
April 26
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

**Fishing Derby
for Children**
April 16
Presented by
Parks & Recreation
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Town Park and Pond

BUNCO!
April 20
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Town Hall
presented by
Parks & Recreation

Strawberry Workshop
May 10
6:30 p.m.
Town Hall
presented by
Community Organic Garden &
Education Center



RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL
is published monthly by the River Bend Town Council for the residents of the Town of River Bend.

MAYOR
John Kirkland

TOWN COUNCIL
Luci Avery
Bill Camp
Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.
Pat Yocum

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Ann Katsuyoshi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF
Ryland E. Matthews

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Chris Harmon

GRAPHIC DESIGN & TYPOGRAPHY
Kathleen De Young

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870
www.riverbendnc.org

Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2015-2016

Residents may begin placing their yard debris street side on the dates indicated in parentheses

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 13, 2015
July 8, 2014
- September 8, 2015
September 3, 2015
- November 2, 2015
October 28, 2015
- January 11, 2016
(includes Christmas trees)
January 6, 2016
- March 14, 2016
March 9, 2016
- May 9, 2016
May 4, 2016

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 20, 2015
July 15, 2015
- September 21, 2015
September 16, 2015
- November 9, 2015
November 4, 2015
- January 19, 2016
(includes Christmas trees)
January 13, 2016
- March 21, 2016
March 16, 2016
- May 16, 2016
May 11, 2016

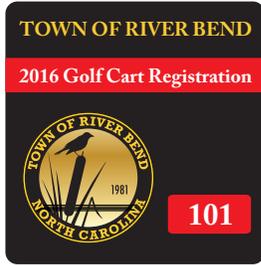
Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must be bagged. For additional important information about River Bend's Leaf & Limb collection program, please see our Ordinance online at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

Town Council 2016 Meeting Dates

- Work Session January 14
- Council Retreat January 21**
- Regular Meeting January 21
- Work Session February 11
- Regular Meeting February 18
- Budget Meeting..... March 8
- Work Session March 10
- ~~Budget Meeting..... March 15~~ Canceled due to Election Primary
- Regular Meeting March 17
- Budget Meeting..... March 22
- Budget Meeting..... March 29
- Budget Meeting..... April 5
- Budget Meeting..... April 12
- Work Session April 14
- ~~Budget Meeting..... April 19~~ Canceled
- Regular Meeting April 21
- Budget Meeting April 26
- Council Retreat May 3
- Work Session May 12
- Regular Meeting May 19
- Work Session June 9
- Regular Meeting June 16
- Work Session July 14
- Regular Meeting July 24
- Council Retreat August 2
- Work Session August 11
- Regular Meeting August 18
- Work Session September 8
- Regular Meeting September 15
- Work Session October 13
- Regular Meeting October 20
- Council Retreat November 1
- Work Session November 10
- Regular Meeting November 17
- Work Session December 8
- Regular Meeting December 15

All Council Work Sessions and Regular Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. All Council Retreats will be held at the Offices of Sumrell, Sugg, Carmichael, Hicks and Hart, PA, 416 Pollock Street, New Bern, NC beginning at 5:00 p.m. All Council Budget Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m. **3:00 PM at Town Hall.

**Green type indicates a completed leaf & limb collection*



Town ordinances allow for residents to drive their properly equipped golf carts on River Bend streets provided that they are inspected by and registered with our Police Department. If you plan to drive your golf cart on the roadways, you must display the 2016 registration decal.

Inspection and registration are required annually. The registration fee for each golf cart is \$10.

For additional information and to make your inspection reservation, please call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



Registration is Required for all Dogs and Cats

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2016 were due by March 31, 2016. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$10.00 per pet.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.



Pet I. D. Photos Now Available

The Town of River Bend is now offering residents the opportunity to link a digital photo of their registered pets to our Animal Registration database. When you register your pet this year, you may submit a photo by e-mail, or staff can scan a photo for you if you prefer. This photo database will help reunite lost pets with their owners more quickly in the event a pet becomes lost.

The service is voluntary and free of charge.

DOG PARK AT RIVER BEND



River Bend dogs have their own exercise area where they can play with other canines. Situated between the Town Park and Ritter Field, the dog park gives dogs a chance to run while their owners socialize.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset for dogs with proof of current vaccinations. Separate exercise areas accommodate large and small dogs.

For complete list of rules applicable to dog park use, please visit Town Hall for a brochure or view details on our web site at www.riverbendnc.org. Dog park rules are also posted at the entrance to the park.



Sign up for our
Emergency Notification System
 and receive timely notifications by phone, e-mail, text messages and more.

SIGN UP NOW
 at riverbendnc.org

this service provided by the Town of River Bend through
Blackboard
 connect



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the CERT liaison, Police Officer Brandon Rohrs and/or visit our web site.



If you have a medical condition for which you require any type of special medical care during a disaster or if your medical condition requires assistance to evacuate during a disaster, you may wish to apply to Craven County for their Special Needs Registry. The River Bend Police Department can provide you with the appropriate form and provide some basic information about the County's program.



River Bend has a very active Community Watch program, supported by our Police Department. If you are interested in volunteering, call the River Bend Police Department at 638-3870.



River Bend has a skateboard park to meet the needs of some of our more athletic residents.

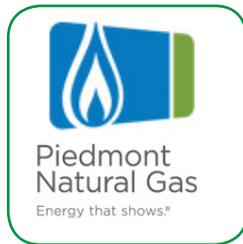
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



Our Wildwood Storage Facility offers a variety of indoor and outdoor storage areas to meet all of your storage needs, including parking spaces for RVs and boats. For more information, call 638-3870, ext 216.



The Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town of River Bend the Tree City USA designation for a seventh consecutive year. River Bend is one of only 86 communities in North Carolina to achieve this designation. To learn more about Tree City USA, visit our web site.



INTERESTED IN NATURAL GAS?

As Piedmont Natural Gas plans expansion of their system, they take into account requests for new customer service. If you are interested in Natural Gas Service, let them know you want their service. Like any other business, they need to invest where there is a higher likelihood of some return on the investment. You can express your interest by calling Piedmont's customer service number and telling them your address and telling them that you would like Piedmont Natural Gas to serve River Bend. The number to call is: 1-800-752-7504. ●



Solicitation List Update

In accordance with the Town of River Bend Code of Ordinances, § 13.01.006, "Regulation of Solicitors," the Town is currently updating its lists of residents who would like to receive solicitations at their door.

Door-to-door solicitation will be permitted only at those addresses on the list. To add your name to the list of those wishing to receive solicitations please call the Town Clerk at 638-3870, ext. 202 or e-mail her at townclerk@riverbendnc.org. Residents who do not wish to receive solicitations need do nothing.