

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



THE SEARCH FOR CHRISTMAS

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

I borrowed this title from a recent issue of Yankee Magazine. It poses the question that we probably subconsciously ask ourselves each year.

For many of us, during the Christmas season we will recall the early years of our lives and the festive season of our youth and those events with friends and family. Such events would include school plays, Christmas caroling, special Church Christmas services and opening presents and a feast on Christmas Day.

Young adult life saw a transition to work or college or entry into the military. Marriage and raising a family followed; and our vision of Christmas shifted to seeing the season through the eyes of our children and providing them the traditions that we had grown up with in our homes.

The Christmas season can provide all of us with an important opportunity to look backward and also look forward with a trust that what was not right in the past may be set right going forward. It gives us all the opportunity to pause to consider the persons who are less fortunate and to provide those persons relief. We are all somewhat like the Charles Dickens “Christmas Carol” character Scrooge. Like Scrooge, Christmas Day can awaken us to change so that we might embrace the dawn of a better future.

May we all join Tiny Tim in saying, “A Merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, everyone.”

MERRY CHRISTMAS, RIVER BEND

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

I hope that as you read this month's report, the Town's street paving project for FY15-16 has just been completed. This year, inclement weather has delayed our ability to complete the project. The low bidder for our project was working on a job for the State that had been delayed due to weather. They were obligated to complete that project. They later hired ST Wooten to perform the services for River Bend as a sub-contractor.

ST Wooten is a reputable, qualified firm that has performed work for the Town in the past. In fact, they were the paving contractors for the Town during the FY14-15 budget. They moved their equipment into Town on November 18 to begin this year's street work.

Each year, during the budget workshops, the Council considers which streets to patch or pave. Usually, there is a combination of patching and paving. This year is no exception. Two main factors influence the level of street paving that we perform.

The available funding is obviously a primary factor. Each year, the Town receives funds from the State of North Carolina, which may be used to fund street-related projects. Those funds are called Powell Bill funds. They are named after former State Representative JK Powell of Columbus County. He is the State Legislator who originally introduced the Bill to establish the fund.

The first Powell Bill funds were distributed in 1951 to 386 towns and totaled \$4,543,096. Although multiple street-related items are eligible expenses for Powell Bill funds, the Town chooses to use 100% of our allocation for patching/paving. The other factor is street condition. That assessment is made by the Town's engineer and is based on the Town's street paving priority plan.

Historically, Powell Bill funds have been derived from the tax consumers pay on each gallon of gasoline purchased at the pump. During the last legislative session, the State Legislature changed that system. Future Powell Bill funds will be subject to a direct allocation from the State, which will be determined as the State

"Two main factors influence the level of street paving that we perform. The available funding is obviously a primary factor. The other factor is street condition. That assessment is made by the Town's engineer and is based on the Town's street paving priority plan."

works through their budget process. As an experienced manager who has witnessed nearly twenty years of the State budget process, the new funding process causes me concern.

Powell Bill funds are distributed to every eligible town in the State that meets certain eligibility requirements. This year, 507 towns received Powell Bill funding. The amount of funding for towns is based on two criteria: 1. Population and 2. Total mileage of town maintained streets. 75% of the funding is based on population and 25% is based on street mileage. This year, River Bend received \$90,501 total. We have 16.87 miles of Town maintained streets. This year, the mileage rate was \$1,637.43 per mile,

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which generated \$27,623 for us. Our population is 3,084. This year, the population rate was \$20.38 per capita, which generated \$62,878 for us. Those amounts are subject to change each year as our population or street mileage changes. Since the funds are deposited into a statewide pool, our allocation is also subject to change based on population and mileage changes in other towns across the state. This year, the total statewide allocation was \$147,759,959. Since 1951, over \$4 Billion has been distributed to towns from Powell Bill.

The Council has approved \$165,600 for street paving this year. The difference between the Powell Bill funding and our contract amount will be paid for with money from the Town’s general fund. ●



WRD/PW
OCTOBER REPORT
BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In October Public Works employees continued our efforts on stormwater drainage. We cleaned out several Town drainage ditches. Removal of debris such as falling trees, leaves, branches, etc. is imperative to keep stormwater flowing through these ditches properly. Any blockage will act like a dam and restrict the flow of water. Public Works has also begun to clear a couple of sewer easements that we generally do once per year. The purpose of clearing such easements is to keep easy access to these

areas in case of a problem. There were also some new speed limit signs installed this month, as well as the relocation of a few. Speed limit signs were installed, and relocated down Rockledge Road and Pirates Road. These signs were installed in areas along the roadway that would provide a better visual of the speed limit sign for motorists.

Water Resources has been working on identifying where the inflow/infiltration got into our sewer system during the recent flooding. Upon investigation of the system, we found that there were

18 manholes located in low lying areas that did not have manhole liners under the lid. The purpose of a manhole liner is to prevent water that flows into the pick holes of the manhole lid from entering the sewer system piping. We have installed man-

“The purpose of a manhole liner is to prevent water that flows into the pick holes of the manhole lid from entering the sewer system piping. We have installed manhole liners in all of the manholes that were identified during our initial investigation.”

hole liners in all of the manholes that were identified during our initial investigation. However, we are going to continue smoking/investigating our sewer system to identify any other problems that may persist.

If you have any questions concerning 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 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. ●

“Speed limit signs were installed, and relocated down Rockledge Road and Pirates Road. These signs were installed in areas along the roadway that would provide a better visual of the speed limit sign for motorists.”

COMING EVENTS

Council Work Session
December 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
December 17, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Friday, December 4
6:30 p.m.
Town Commons

Free
Christmas Concert
Fairfield Harbour Chorus
Sunday, December 13
3:00 p.m.
River Bend Baptist Church

Food Drive
to benefit RCS
You may drop off your
donations at Town Hall now
through December 15
Thank You!

TOYS FOR TOTS
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
has a set up a dropbox at
Town Hall
You may drop off your dona-
tions through December 18
Thank You!



**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
Brenda Garvey
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

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, 2015
- September 14, 2015
September 3, 2015
- November 2, 2015
October 29, 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 16, 2015
- September 16, 2015
September 10, 2015
- November 9, 2015
November 4, 2015
- January 18, 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 informa-
tion about River Bend's Leaf
& Limb collection program,
please see our Ordinance online
at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

**Town Council
2015 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session January 8
- Regular Meeting January 15

- Council Retreat February 3
- Work Session February 12
- Regular Meeting February 19

- Budget Meeting..... March 10
- Work Session March 12
- Budget Meeting..... March 17
- Regular Meeting March 19
- Budget Meeting..... March 24
- Budget Meeting..... March 31

- Budget Meeting..... April 7
- Work Session April 9
- Budget Meeting..... April 14
- Budget Meeting..... April 21
- Regular Meeting April 16

- Council Retreat May 5
- Work Session May 14
- Regular Meeting May 21

- Work Session June 11
- Regular Meeting June 18

- Work Session July 9
- Regular Meeting July 16

- Work Session August 13
- Regular Meeting August 20

- Work Session September 10
- Regular Meeting September 17

- Work Session October 8
- Regular Meeting October 15

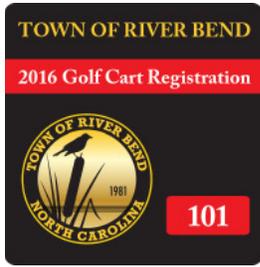
- Work Session November 12
- Regular Meeting November 19

- Work Session December 10
- Regular Meeting December 17

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.

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

etc.



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 are 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 www.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.

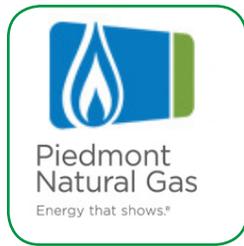


River Bend has a skateboard park to meet the needs of some of our more athletic residents.

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.



The Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town of River Bend the Tree City USA designation for a third consecutive year. River Bend is one of only 76 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.



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.



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 solicitors 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 solicitors need do nothing.