

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



HAPPY
NEW YEAR



TRIBUTE TO THE 1981 INCORPORATION COMMITTEE

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The Town of River Bend now enters its thirty-fifth year as an incorporated North Carolina municipality. A group of twenty five hard working residents formed the Incorporation Committee and championed the monumental effort involved in gaining the approval of the North Carolina General Assembly to issue a charter that is the legal authority to operate as a municipality. These same individuals faced the demanding task of creating the administrative structure that guides the day-by-day work associated with operation of the Town. Early Council members drafted the ordinances that set municipalities apart from unincorporated areas within County jurisdiction, and they decided the tax rate necessary to support the Town and the staffing level needed for the orderly conduct of duties.

The following are a few of the decision points that Town Council members have made over the years that have had a lasting impact on the River Bend we enjoy today:

- ◆ In 1995 a referendum authorized the acquisition of the water and waste-water utilities from the Carolina Water Services Company. This purchase was funded through an issuing of bonds. Those bonds are scheduled to mature in 2027. The utilities are managed as “enterprise funds.” Essentially, they are managed independently from the financing of other government operations. The costs associated with each are supported only by the customers of water and sewer services. The Town’s enterprise fund utilities are operated under permits issued by the State. The Town employees who are responsible for day to day operations hold all North Carolina mandated certifications required for permitted utility systems.

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The Council has refinanced the bonds twice to take advantage of the lowering interest rates experienced since the bonds were first issued.

- ◆ 2. In 2003 The Town Council hired a consultant to develop a Rate Model to be used for determining the rate for water and wastewater service. This model is reviewed by Council and Staff each year in connection with the development of the Town's Budget.

- ◆ The very flat topography of River Bend makes the management of stormwater runoff a continuing challenge. In 2004, the Council made a commitment to set aside \$30,000 annually for stormwater management projects. The Council also tasked the Public Works Advisory Board (PWAB) to identify the locations in Town that had serious stormwater problems.

The list compiled by PWAB has been used by the Town Manager to address the areas identified. The Council has been faithful in allocating funds annually and has, in some years, voted to add funding to accomplish major improvement efforts. The stormwater runoff following major rain events will always be slow because of the very flat land on which our Town is built.

- ◆ We held a referendum in 2001 that proposed changing the Town Charter from the Mayor—Council form of government to the Council—Manager form of government. The General Assembly authorized the change in the Charter, and we hired our first Manager in February, 2002. The Town has been served by four Managers in the intervening 13 years. All have served the Town well.

- ◆ The Town envisioned by the Incorporation Committee has accomplished significant achievements and has been awarded recognitions. A few of those include:

- a. Recognition as a Tree City for 6 years. Of the 552 municipalities in North Carolina, River Bend is one of only 80 to receive this award.

- b. Recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a participant in the "Community Rating System." This recognition results in lowered flood insurance premiums. The recognition also allows the Town to be reimbursed for costs associated with recovery from disasters such as hurricanes.

- c. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized the Town's Budget Document (5 years) and Financial Reporting (4 years). These awards are made to only a very small percentage of North American cities each year.

- d. The John Locke Society of North Carolina lists River Bend as one of only

nine municipalities in North Carolina to rate an “A” for transparency. The Society also lists River Bend as being in the “low quartile” in tax burden among our population peer group, which includes municipalities with populations between 2,500 and 5,000.

The Incorporation Committee, the Council members who have governed River Bend during the past 35 years and the dedicated members of the Town staff all deserve our appreciation for their service. Clear to the Incorporation Committee in 1980 was the philosophy that exercising a continuing sense of vision is vital to a successful municipality. Adhering to a sense of vision will continue to guide River Bend on the path to exemplary progress. ●



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

I hope that everyone had a nice Christmas. The level of participation in the 2015 food drive for RCS and the Toys for Tots campaign was very impressive. The support of River Benders for both of those programs was probably the most ever. We delivered over 1000 pounds of food to RCS. Hundreds of toys, including bicycles, were collected by the US Marine Corps Reserves. Many families and kids had food and Christmas gifts due to your generosity.

I am pleased to announce that the River Bend Community Watch organization will sponsor a Community Oriented Policing Session (COPS) on January 26th at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. This will be an opportunity for you to hear about our Community Watch Program, meet members of our Police Department and participate in a Q & A with our Police Chief. Please join us for this inaugural event. If you want to get up-to-date and accurate information about our Police Department and what is going on in River Bend, please visit the River Bend Police Department page on Facebook. New information is posted on that site almost every day.

“I am pleased to announce that the River Bend Community Watch organization will sponsor a Community Oriented Policing Session (COPS) on January 26th.”

I am looking forward to a successful, productive New Year in River Bend. Happy New Year! ●



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

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. It's a wonderful time of year. In November, Public Works removed a dead sweet gum tree down at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. It was necessary to remove this tree due to its location which was right beside our effluent discharge pipe. Had it fallen on our pipe, it would have broken it resulting in a costly to repair. We helped the Community Appearance Committee with some new shrub planting on the second

entrance to Plantation Drive median. These new plantings are already making the median look better. I would like to thank the CAC for a job well done. Public Works also removed a lot of dead and fallen brush from the discharge side of the wetlands near Ritter Field. These storm water drainage ditches were cleaned out to improve the flow of water during rain events.

Water Resources removed brush/shrubs from around several fire hydrants. The reason for this is to improve the visibility of these locations during the possible event of a fire, and to improve our ability to operate/maintain the fire hydrant. I respectfully ask all residents to please not plant anything

around our fire hydrants. Planting around fire hydrants and concealing them from the roadway not only causes us problems with maintaining them, but could interfere with the fire department putting out fires. This is a bad scenario for everyone. There was also one fire hydrant that needed to be repaired in the Quarterdeck area. It was operational but very hard to open and shut. Parts were ordered and Water Resources staff repaired this hydrant in house.

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 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. ●

"Planting around fire hydrants and concealing them from the roadway not only causes us problems with maintaining them, but could interfere with the fire department putting out fires."

COMING EVENTS

Pet Registration
begins
January 4th

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

Unlocking the Secret
of Seeds
Presented by
RBCOG
Tuesday, January 12
6:30 p.m.
Town Hall

BUNCO!
Thursday, January 14
1:00 - 4:00
Town Hall
Light Refreshments

Council Retreat
January 21
3:00 p.m.
Town Hall

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

Valentines for Veterans
Card Making Workshop
Tuesday, January 26
1:00 - 4:00
Town Hall

Community Oriented
Policing Session
Card Making Workshop
Tuesday, January 26
7:00 PM
Town Hall



**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

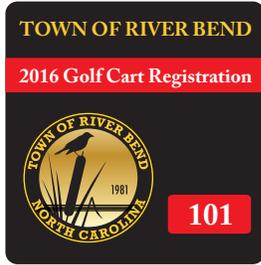
- July 20, 2015
July 15, 2015
- September 21, 2015
September 16, 2015
- November 9, 2015
November 4, 2015
- January 19, 2016
(includes Christmas trees)
January 13, 2016
- March 16, 2016
March 11, 2016
- May 16, 2016
May 11, 2016

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
2016 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session January 14
 - Council Retreat January 21**
 - Regular Meeting January 21
 - Council Retreat February 5
 - Work Session February 11
 - Regular Meeting February 18
 - Budget Meeting..... March 8
 - Work Session March 10
 - Budget Meeting..... March 15
 - 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
 - Regular Meeting April 21
 - 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 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 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.

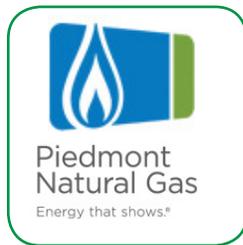
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



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 sixth 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. ●



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.