



Let Us Seriously Celebrate July 4th
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

These words of introduction are not intended to diminish the enjoyment of a fine summer holiday with friends and family and the satisfying meal of hotdogs and hamburgers. However, we should also pause on that day to reflect on our national legacy passed to us by our forefathers.

Our nation was built by the hard work and dedication of generations of ancestors who committed everything toward the Independence Revolution that we

celebrate on this holiday. The signers of the Declaration of Independence knew the risk they faced if the Revolution did not succeed. Their sacrifice

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gave us the nation that would develop into the United States. If we examine the two hundred and forty years of our history, there are many events that have created and shaped the nation that we know in 2016. We are the beneficiaries of all those who contributed to make the country great. Some of the significant events would include:

- ◆ The Westward Expansion. Pioneers traveled on foot and in wagons from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific without benefit of the well-drawn maps that we recognize today. Those people endured hardship and natural disasters that are difficult for us to imagine.
- ◆ The Civil War. This was a tumultuous time when the future of the nation was in doubt and after which properly motivated statesmen worked to heal the festering causes of the great tragedy that touched so many lives of the era.

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- ◆ The Industrial Revolution. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the industrial expansion allowed the shift from rural and agricultural dominance to an industrial character for the nation. Great cities came to prominence on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and also across the heartland.
 - ◆ World War I. The United States reluctantly stepped onto the world stage as a leader. Later, the country adopted an isolationist vision believing that we needed nothing from the rest of the world and could live isolated from the turmoil that was developing off shore.
 - ◆ Immigration. Over the years the new nation welcomed immigrants from across the globe. It is not possible to list the many contributions these new citizens have made to the United States of America.
 - ◆ World War II. Suddenly, war was thrust upon the country, and the “Greatest Generation” stepped forward and responded to the Axis aggression and carried the Allied response to every corner of the world. The nation was fully committed to the war effort that ultimately brought victory. Our capacity at home to produce material for the war effort was unmatched. In the field the armed forces landed on the Normandy beaches with legendary demonstrations of sacrifice and bravery. On the other side of the world the fight was from island to island across the Pacific Ocean leading to final victory.
 - ◆ The “Cold War.” This period demonstrated that the post World War I mindset of isolation was not a viable option and that our nation must be a leader in the effort to avoid an open state of war. This international involvement continues to this day and will likely continue long into the future.
 - ◆ Advances in Medicine and Transportation. Along the line universities and industrial input have greatly improved health care and the comfort of day-to-day life for citizens. Industry has made transportation safer, faster and more comfortable. Nationally, we have demanded more government intervention in mandating safety in industry and that has resulted in both a safer workplace and safer travel for everyone.

All of these developments are the legacy that we have inherited from the several “greatest generations,” and we should be mindful of that legacy as we celebrate this unique National Holiday. We should also think about the legacy that we are building for future generations of Americans. Our prayer should be that our legacy will be as noble as the one we inherited. ●





TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Town Council has passed the budget for the new fiscal year that began on July 1st. The total operating budget for the Town for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is \$2,948,766. As you may know, this year was a property revaluation year for Craven County. By law, the revaluation process is conducted by the Craven County Tax Department. The Town of River Bend has no role in that process. The revaluation resulted in an overall reduction of 14.65% in the value of property in River

Bend. In dollars that equals a \$49,072,191 reduction in our tax base. Obviously, that reduction had a negative impact on our revenues during the budget process.

To offset the reduced tax revenue, the Council did two things. First, they reduced expenditures by \$211,558. Second, they increased the tax rate to 31.05¢. The tax rate had been 26.5¢ for five years. While considering an increased tax rate, the Council took into consideration a revenue-neutral rate. A

revenue-neutral rate is a rate that is estimated to generate the same amount of revenue from the new, lower property value as was generated by the previous, higher property value. The goal was to keep the tax bill the same as last year for the average property owner. In our particular case, a rate of 31.14¢ is the mathematical revenue-neutral rate. The Council agreed to a rate that is slightly less than revenue

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neutral. The Council also decided to keep the water and sewer rates at the same level as last year and to keep all other fees at the same level as last year.

How does this affect taxpayers? On average, a taxpayer will pay the same amount in Town tax this year as they

paid last year. Obviously, there are exceptions for individual properties. The Council cannot set the rate based on how it will affect an individual property. They must apply the rate as a whole and consider how it affects the average property.

Even though the new rate is technically an increase in the tax rate, for the average property owner the tax bill will remain unchanged from last year. The last time the

Town had a tax increase was in 2009. That year it was raised to 28¢. Then, in 2011 it was reduced to 26.5¢, where it has remained unchanged until now. This year, it is estimated that property taxes will generate only 52% of the town's revenue for the General Fund. That means that nearly one-half of the General Fund's operations are funded by non-property tax revenue. ●



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

In May, Public Works employees started trimming limbs that were overhanging along our roadways and at intersections. We will continue trimming as time allows. We also applied our second treatment of an aquatic herbicide in the front entrance pond, as well as the pond in front of Town hall. This second treatment has greatly reduced the amount of unwanted alligator weed, and water primrose. When these two aquatic weeds take over a pond they will make the ponds vi-

sually unpleasant, and can actually drop the dissolved oxygen levels in the ponds, which can led to fish kills and foul odors. Depending on the weather, one or two more applications may be necessary before winter.

Water Resources had one sewer cleanout to repair. The problem was a break in the pipe joint of the sanitary tee. This cleanout was dug and repaired by Water Resource staff. Utility Services are still working on our smaller water tower located on Shoreline Drive. During the bead blasting of the interior of the bowl

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and stand pipe, workers noted a couple of small areas that needed to be repaired.

"I expect the water tower to be completely finished by the middle to end of June. "

Also, while inside the bowl, the ladder that allows for entry of the bowl was noted as needing to be replaced. I expect the water tower to be completely finished by the middle to end of June.

After this is done my team will begin flushing the Towns water system.

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. ●

COMING EVENTS

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

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

**July 4th Parade &
Celebration**
Monday, July 4th
10:30 a.m. – Parade
11:30 a.m. – Picnic
Town Park & Commons
sponsored by
Parks & Recreation

**Community
Organic Garden &
Education Center**
OPEN GARDEN
July 19
5:30 p.m.
Wakefield Drive



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

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Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Ann Katsuyoshi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF
Ryland E. Matthews

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Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Chris Harmon

GRAPHIC DESIGN & TYPOGRAPHY
Kathleen De Young

Contact Us:
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River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870
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Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2016-2017

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 11, 2016
July 6, 2016
- September 12, 2016
September 7, 2016
- November 7, 2016
November 2, 2016
- January 9, 2017
(includes Christmas trees)
January 4, 2017
- March 13, 2017
March 8, 2017
- May 8, 2017
May 3, 2017

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 18, 2016
July 13, 2016
- September 19, 2016
September 14, 2016
- November 14, 2016
November 9, 2016
- January 16, 2017
(includes Christmas trees)
January 11, 2017
- March 20, 2017
March 15, 2017
- May 15, 2017
May 10, 2017

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 12
- Work Session May 12
- Regular Meeting May 19
- Work Session June 9
- Regular Meeting June 16
- Work Session July 14
- Regular Meeting July 24
- Work Session August 11
- Regular Meeting August 18
- Work Session September 8
- Regular Meeting September 15
- Work Session October 13
- Regular Meeting October 20
- 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

FOURTH OF JULY
RIVER BEND TOWN COMMONS

8:45am Food delivery to Town Hall
 10:00am Parade Line-up
 10:30am **PARADE**
 11:00am National Anthem & Intro of Dignitaries
 11:15am Activities begin* see below
 11:30am **FOOD LINE OPENS**
 12:00am Cake Walk

Donation \$3.00 per meal
 Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Baked Beans & Soda

ACTIVITIES:
 Children's Games, Moonwalk Bounce House, Kayaks, Antique Vehicles, Horses, Motorcycles, Volleyball, Live Music (the BEARS), and more...

River Bend Parks & Rec Needs Your Help

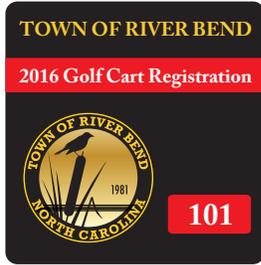
FOR THE
FOURTH of JULY
 CELEBRATION

to donate food: (if your last name starts with)
 A to K - salads without mayo or eggs
 L to S - Cupcakes, Brownies or Cookies
 T to Z - cut up Fruit

to help with the Children's Games :
 Contact Ellen Serra 571-4817

to donate cakes for the Cake Walk:
 Contact Gail Lehman 288-6872

to help serve food (11:30 - 12:30)
 or to clean up after lunch (1:00 - 1:30)
 Contact Barbara Maurer 670-0757



Golf Cart Registration

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.

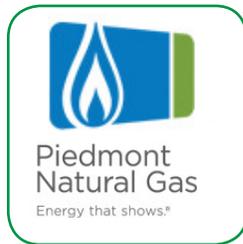
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



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.