



**The Value of the Town's Advisory Boards and Their Volunteer Members**  
 BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The Town has six official Advisory Boards which operate according to the ordinances which govern them. There are several other structured groups in River Bend that routinely interact with the Council and Town staff yet do not have the formal direction mandated by ordinances.

The following is a listing of the Advisory Boards and other groups that also regularly interface with the Town Council in support of our Town's operations:

Advisory Boards

- ◆ Planning Board
- ◆ Public Works Advisory Board
- ◆ Board of Adjustment
- ◆ Community Appearance Commission
- ◆ Parks & Recreation Board
- ◆ Environment & Waterways Advisory Board

The structured groups are:

- ◆ CERT
- ◆ Community Watch
- ◆ Red Caboose Library

Dedicated volunteers carry out the work of the various committees and organizations as outlined in their specific ordinances or charters. Volunteers often are drawn to committees/groups for which their singular skills are a good match, frequently related to a former career. These interested and active participants then provide comment that flows to the Council. A diversity of input from several groups assists the Council in making decisions that will impact all residents of the Town.

Two other organizations are of immense importance to the Town, but operate independently of Town direction:

- ◆ Rhems Volunteer Fire Department
- ◆ First Responders

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The volunteer members of these two essential groups are heroes, and many River Benders literally owe their lives to these people who are ready to respond to any emergency.

In a number of past River Bender articles I have discussed the dedication of the Town Council members. While Council Members are provided compensation, their payment is so minimal that they could be classed as volunteers. In addition to attending approximately 35 yearly meetings, Council Members spend a great deal of time and effort researching issues in order to be prepared to make important decisions which will guide the Town far into the future.

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The service of the Board members and that of the Council Members is a commitment that all citizens should respect. None of these individuals work for personal gain. River Bend, and indeed every municipality, will be no better than the dedication of the civic minded individuals who serve in representative and volunteer positions.

I thank our Council Members, Advisory Board members and the several volunteer group members who make River Bend the attractive and forward-looking Town that we call home.

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I thank our Council Members, Advisory Board members and the several volunteer group members who make River Bend the attractive and forward-looking Town that we call home.

As I express my thanks to volunteers it is also appropriate to express appreciation to the Town’s Police Officers. The Community Policing event held on January 26 was an excellent opportunity for citizens to speak with Police Chief Matthews about the Town’s policing policy. The forum was well attended

and participants asked a variety of questions concerning situations that the police may encounter on any day.

Police throughout the nation are facing a wide range of criminal activity that did not exist even a decade ago. River Bend is not immune from this activity, and our police force must train for the time when they may encounter criminal activity. The River Bend Police Department recently has received several recognitions for

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excellence from organizations that evaluate the performance of police departments statewide.

Our Police Officers are not volunteers, but I hope that when citizens have the opportunity to talk with an officer, they will take time to say, “thank you.” On the volunteer side of policing, the River Bend Community Watch sponsored the January 26 Community Policing Event, and their patrols alert our Police Department to unusual activity and conditions in Town. These dedicated Community Watch volunteers also deserve a well earned expression of thanks.

The high quality work product produced by the various advisory boards and community organizations mentioned in this article as well as by our Police Department are testimony to the strong fabric that is the Town of River Bend. ●



**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

We are nearing the end of our annual pet registration period and with that in mind, I have decided to share some information about pets. The Town of River Bend has a pet registration policy. It requires all dogs and cats to be registered annually and to have proof of a current rabies vaccination. Last year, we registered 328 pets. The deadline to register your pet for 2016 is March 31, 2016. The registration fee is \$10 per animal.

Chapter 9 of the River Bend Town Ordinances is where our animal regulations are contained. If you are an animal owner, you need to familiarize yourself with Chapter 9 and comply with it at all times. It is available on our Town's website. I will not address every aspect of Chapter 9, but I will address two areas where violations are likely to occur.

Did you know that it is a violation of the Town's ordinance to allow your animal to run at large? The ordinance regulating this is commonly referred to as the “leash law.” By definition, “run at large” means: the animal is off the premises of the owner and is not under

the immediate and effective constraint of the owner or other competent person in charge of the animal. Also by definition, “immediate and effective control” means: the animal is sufficiently restrained by use of a leash that constrains the animal to close proximity of the owner or other competent person and to override the animal's ability to depart therefrom.

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**“If you are an animal owner, you need to familiarize yourself with Chapter 9 and comply with it at all times. It is available on our Town's website.”**

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What this simply means is: When your animal is off your property, it must be leashed and under the control of a competent person. There are two obvious exceptions:

1. If your animal is a guest in our dog park, then it does not have to be leashed.
2. If your animal is a guest on the private property of another person, then it does not have to be leashed.

If your animal is in a public place (street, park, at a public building or any other public place) it must be leashed and under the control of a competent person. It is impossible to predict with absolute certainty how an animal will react in all situations. It is too late to leash and control your animal after an accident has occurred. The accident could result in the injury of a person and/or the animal. Be proactive and safe by keeping your animal properly leashed in accordance with the law.

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The next area is a messy area in which many of us have, unfortunately, found ourselves standing. It is unlawful for a person to neglect to immediately remove any animal feces deposited by an animal in their control on any public or private property. The only exception is if you have permission from the private property owner to leave the feces on their property. This includes our dog park. If your animal

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**“Being a victim of uncollected feces can ruin a day, a shoe and carpet. If you are walking your animal you should have two things with you: a leash and a collection bag.”**

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produces feces in the park, it is your legal obligation to collect and deposit it in the trash. Being a victim of uncollected feces can ruin a day, a shoe and carpet. If you are walking your animal you should have two things with you: a leash and a collection bag. Violation of any of the regulations in Chapter 9 could subject the person in charge of the animal to a \$500 fine. Avoid a fine by following the rules. ●



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

In January Public Works staff repaired one concrete stormwater drainage pipe. The pipe had two separated joints which were allowing soil to run into the pipes every time it rained. This pipe was repaired by our public works staff, and the sinkholes that had formed were filled back in with soil. Rock was added to the entrance gates to the dog park. We had a couple of complaints that when it rained it was too wet to get into the dog park. Adding this rock has alleviated this problem.

Water Resources staff repaired one sewer cleanout and installed another. The repair on the first cleanout was the result of being run over with a lawn mower. As a reminder, please be careful when mowing around the Town's utilities. It not only affects our side of the system, but also the customer's. The second cleanout was installed because there was not one on a sewer service line where we were investigating a blockage. It only made sense when the sewer line was dug up to install a cleanout.

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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.

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**"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."**

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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**  
March 10  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

**Council Meeting**  
March 17  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

**Council  
Budget Workshops**  
March 8  
March 22  
March 29  
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

**Primary Election**  
6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
March 15  
Town Hall

**U-FIX-IT  
Workshop**  
March 16  
Presented by  
Parks & Recreation  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
March 26  
10:15 – Noon  
Town Commons & Park  
presented by  
Parks & Recreation



**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:  
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252.638-3870  
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**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*

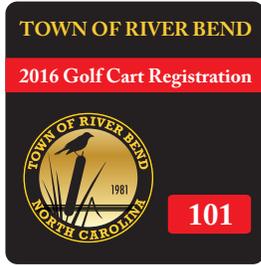
Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must be bagged. For additional important information about River Bend's Leaf & Limb collection program, please see our Ordinance online at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org). ●

**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
- 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 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](http://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](http://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.

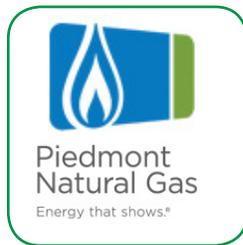
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



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 solicitors please call the Town Clerk at 638-3870, ext. 202 or e-mail her at [townclerk@riverbendnc.org](mailto:townclerk@riverbendnc.org). Residents who do not wish to receive solicitors need do nothing.