

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



**River Bend
Easter Egg Hunt**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

River Bend's annual Easter Egg Hunt took place on Saturday, March 26, beginning at 10:30 am. This year's event was blessed with dry conditions, warm temperatures and a well planned conduct of the entire process. Springtime flowering plants were in festive and welcoming bloom. The Town's Parks and Recreation Board volunteers had stuffed a great many colorful plastic eggs with a variety of Easter candy. Some eggs also contained notes awarding the finder a special prize. The special prizes awarded in the Egg Hunt were gifts certificates donated by a number of area merchants.

The Egg Hunt attendance this year was the largest in the history of this popular annual event. Many residents and a number of people from other states visiting relatives for Easter were present. It is no exaggeration to state that persons of

every age were having a good time. Parks and Recreation had programed the event into three different areas around Town Hall and on the Town Commons. The youngest participants, from babies to age four, were the first "flight" and collected eggs

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placed on the basketball court located in the Town Commons. The second group was for children ages five through eight, and they collected their eggs in the lawn area around Town Hall. The third group consisted of children ages nine through

twelve, who hunted for eggs in the soccer field area of Town Commons. Prior to the start of each search, Board Chair Mary Iorio welcomed those in attendance,

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asked for the recycling of the plastic eggs and thanked the merchants who supplied the special prize items. The final egg hunt held was for 30 children with identified

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special needs. These children looked for eggs in the area near the playground. This egg hunt was organized with Kim Hoffman, a River Bend parent. Each family presented Mary Iorio, Parks & Recreation Chair, with a thank you note. Parents were especially grateful that their children had been included in the festivities; however, the smiles on the

faces of the children were the only thanks that the volunteers needed.

This is one of the many, many events that the Parks and Recreation Board sponsors annually, each of which presents a positive impression of River Bend. The Board volunteers put a great deal of effort into these well-planned and professionally executed events, and they deserve a special expression of thanks. To each member, THANK YOU.

Several out-of-town visitors spoke with me and each remarked how favorably impressed they were by River Bend. The Town Commons complex is a very positive asset, and it serves as an

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anchor to a number of the events that the Parks and Recreation Board sponsors. I recommend that more people attend the Easter Egg Hunt event next year, even if only as a spectator. It will, most certainly, provide a positive boost to your Easter Spirit. ●



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The town's annual budget process is nearly complete. Each year the town conducts a series of budget sessions during the months of March and April. On April 26th, the Council held its last budget session for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget. As required by law, a proposed budget message is available for public inspection at the Town Clerk's office. A copy is also available on the town's website.

As is also required by law, the town will conduct a public hearing on the proposed

budget. The public hearing will be held on May 19th at Town Hall beginning at 7 PM. The Council will then wait until its June 16th meeting to take action on adopting the budget. A balanced budget must be adopted by the Council by July 1st of each year, which is also required by law.

“This year’s budget process had an additional component to consider due to the recent property revaluation process conducted by Craven County. It has been six years since the last revaluation. Based on current projections, the overall value of taxable property in River Bend decreased by \$49,072,191.”

This year’s budget process had an additional component to consider due to the recent property revaluation process conducted by Craven County. It has been six years since the last revaluation. Based on current projections, the overall value of taxable property in River Bend decreased by \$49,072,191. That represents a 14.65% decline. Because of this reduction, the Council has agreed to raise the tax rate from 26.5 cent to 31.05 cent. It will be the first tax rate increase

since 2009. However, it is important to note that this rate increase is slightly less than what is considered a revenue-neutral rate.

On average, even with the increased rate, a property owner will see no increase in their tax bill, as compared to last year. For example, on average, a home that was valued at \$100,000 last year will now be valued at \$85,350. The tax bill last year was \$265.00. The combination of the reduced value and increased tax rate will result in a new tax bill of \$265.01 for that property, thus essentially revenue neutral.

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“As it is currently proposed, there will be no increase in water and sewer rates. All other fees for permits and services will also remain unchanged.”

As it is currently proposed, there will be no increase in water and sewer rates. All other fees for permits and services will also remain unchanged. For the sixth year in a row, River Bend has just recently been presented with the Budget Presentation Award by the national Government Finance Officers Association. ●



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

In March Public Works sprayed herbicide in the front entrance pond, and the pond at Town Hall to remove the excess aquatic growth. The application of a herbicide is necessary to remove the overgrowth of certain weeds. This not only makes the ponds more attractive, but actually helps keep the dissolved oxygen levels up in the ponds at night. During the day green aquatic plants produce oxygen. At night they use up oxygen by a process called reverse photosynthesis. So, by keep-

ing the aquatic weed growth managed, we keep our ponds and their aquatic life healthy. We also did some limb trimming around stop signs and street signs to make them more visible.

Water Resources had one sewer blockage on a main sewer line in March. The problem was quickly identified and corrected by Water Resources staff through use of our sewer jetting equipment. There was also one water leak on a service line that we repaired the same day it was reported. The Water

Resources Department is planning on flushing the Town's water system one week in April, or at the latest, the first week in May. A call will be sent out before we begin our flushing, and signs will be posted. Flushing the distribution system is necessary to remove any mineral build up in our piping system.

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"After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing Town Hall at 638-3870."

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 Retreat
May 12
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
May 12
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
May 19
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

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

Spring Concert
Fairfield Harbour Chorus
May 15
3:00 p.m.
River Bend Baptist Church
sponsored by
Parks & Recreation

Sunday in the Park
Free Concert
The Bears
May 22
4:00 p. m. – 5:30 p.m.
Town Commons
sponsored 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.

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TOWN COUNCIL
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Delane Jackson

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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 21, 2016
March 16, 2016
- May 16, 2016
May 11, 2016

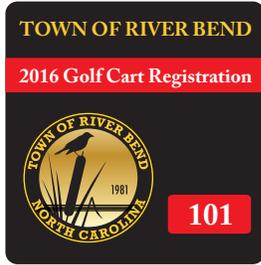
Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must be bagged. For additional important information about River Bend's Leaf & Limb collection program, please see our Ordinance online at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

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.

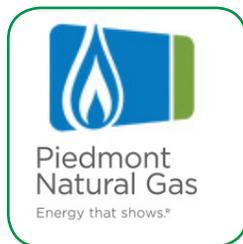
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



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 solicitors need do nothing.