

# RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

[www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)



**GIVING THANKS**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

November certainly is the sign that winter is approaching, and that in rural North America harvest time is at or near an end. Residents in rural communities are more likely to pause on Thanksgiving Day and openly and reverently acknowledge that thanks is owed to God for the blessings of the harvest and the many other blessings that we too often take for granted. The Random House Dictionary defines “thanksgiving,” as:

1. The act of giving thanks; grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God.
2. An Expression of thanks, especially to God.
3. A public celebration in acknowledgment of divine favor or kindness.
4. A day set apart for giving thanks to God.

It is fair to state that the United States has truly been blessed. Our nation’s history has not always been a straight line of progress, yet when good men and women have worked unselfishly to address the common good, the nation has made remarkable progress. This was true during the Great Depression and during the painful and demanding struggles of World War II. In our present time, a prayer would be appropriate asking for the leaders in the Congress and the General Assembly who work together to meet the complex needs of the Nation while setting aside personal aggrandizement.

There are many stories of when and where the first Thanksgiving was celebrated. The common thread in all the claims is an acceptance that the celebration was intended to honor the truth contained in the dictionary definitions posted above.

Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful family holiday, and people will travel long distances to share a meal and to unite in discussions of experiences that have happened in individual lives since they last assembled. It is appropriate to pause as we

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celebrate on November 26 to give thanks for the blessings that we Americans enjoy and too often take as our right. We should remember parents and generations long past who labored to build the Nation we have inherited. We have an obligation to leave a legacy worthy of the one that we inherited. Our thanks should also recognize God's role in this wonderful country.

It is a joy to close by wishing all a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyous end of year holiday season. ●



**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT**  
BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

From time to time you may hear a member of our staff or Council mention our ranking by the John Locke Foundation. I have decided to share some of their latest statistics in this month's report. One of the factors that is a credit to this community is the comparatively low municipal tax burden placed upon our residents. Each year the John Locke Foundation – Center for Local Innovation publishes a report entitled “By The Numbers: What Government Costs in North Carolina Cities and Counties.” This report considers “total local government collection of all taxes and fees for counties and municipalities” (the report provides no definition for the fees component of their data) and reports this as the amount of tax revenue received, per capita, from all sources. It also reports the amount, per capita, each locality's residents pay for property tax and sales tax. Their rankings reflect an aggregate of the County and Town tax, so our ranking takes into consideration the entire tax burden borne by a resident of River Bend compared to that of residents of other incorporated municipalities throughout the State.

They divide their findings into quartiles and report these as follows:

“High Burden” – Upper Quartile

“Average Burden” – Second and Third Quartile

“Low Burden” – Lower Quartile

In 2013, (the most recent data) 176 communities ranked in our population band (1,000 - 4,999). We rank as follows.

Local Revenue Per Capita:	Low Burden	148th
Property Tax Burden Per Capita:	Low Burden	141st
Sales Tax Burden Per Capita:	Low Burden	127th

The reader will note that a higher ranking equals a lower burden. For example, our 141st ranking in the tax burden category means that 140 communities in our

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population group levy a higher per capita tax burden than River Bend does. It also means that only 35 communities levy a lower per capita tax burden than River Bend does.

According to the North Carolina Local Government Commission, in 2014 the average municipal property tax rate in North Carolina was \$0.4379, which is \$0.1729 higher than our tax rate of \$0.2650. Through sound fiscal practices and good planning, we hope to be able to maintain this type of rating while continuing to provide quality services, facilities, and infrastructure to benefit all our residents. ●

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

In September, Public Works continued to try and improve storm water drainage. Sediment and other debris were removed from several catch basins. Over time storm water catch basins fill in with sediment, and have to be cleaned out. Public Works has also continued mowing the Town rights-of-way not covered under our mowing contract. We generally mow on an as-needed basis. We have also trimmed some shrubs around our facilities that had become overgrown, and were starting to look unsightly. Next month we will continue addressing storm water drainage around Town.

Water Resources had a couple of budgeted projects that were completed this month. First, the soft starters on the Wastewater Treatment facility blowers were installed. We have already noticed a difference with the smooth starting of the blowers, and they no longer put a heavy load on the emergency generators. Second, the manhole and lift station rehab work was completed. As a reminder, these structures were showing significant corrosion inside the wet wells, and were allowing a lot of

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**“I am happy to say the job went well, and both structures are now in great shape.”**

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inflow and infiltration to enter our system. The interior of the wet wells/manholes were lined with a fiber reinforced grout, and then sealed with an epoxy type material. I am happy to say the job went well, and both structures are now in great shape. I would like to thank both contractors for a job well done. Water Resources also installed two new samplers down at the Wastewater plant. These samplers were also budgeted for in this year’s budget.

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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. ●

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**ELECTION DAY IS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3  
6:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.  
YOUR POLLING PLACE IS  
TOWN HALL**

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**Shredding  
Event**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015  
9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.  
TOWN COMMONS PARKING LOT

On Saturday, November 7, the Town of River Bend will hold a Shredding Event from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Town Commons parking lot. A large shredder will be brought in on a truck. This event is open to all River Bend residents at no charge; however, there will be some rules:

- ◆ Household paper only
- ◆ Staples and paperclips allowed—remove binder clips and notebooks
- ◆ Individual CDs and DVDs can be shredded (remove jewel cases)
- ◆ Boxes must be able to be carried by hand by the individual
- ◆ Vehicles are to enter the lot from Plantation Drive and will exit to Wildwood Drive
- ◆ Town staff/volunteers will direct and assist with traffic flow and other logistics

Please notify your neighbors about this event. If you have any questions, please call Town Clerk Ann Katsuyoshi at 638-3870, ext. 202.

# COMING EVENTS

Council Retreat  
November 9, 2015  
5:00 p.m.  
Law Offices of Summrel,  
Sugg, Hicks & Hart

Council Work Session  
November 12, 2015  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Meeting  
November 19, 2015  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Shredding Event  
Saturday  
November 7  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Town Commons

Christms Balls Workshop  
Thursday  
November 5  
10:00 a.m.  
Town Hall  
Fee: \$5.00  
(includes all materials)

Holiday Card Making Workshop  
Free  
Thursday  
November 17  
1:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Friday  
December 4  
6:30 p.m.  
Community Garden  
Wakefield Drive

Holiday Food Drive  
to Benefit RCS  
Please consider dropping off a  
donation of  
non-perishable food  
Town Hall  
until Christmas



**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](http://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
  
- Council Retreat ..... November 9
- 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*



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 2015 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 2015 were due by March 31, 2015. 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 [www.riverbendnc.org](http://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.

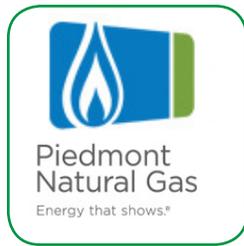


River Bend has a skateboard park to meet the needs of some of our more athletic residents.

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 solicitations 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 solicitations need do nothing.