

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



Storm Water Drainage The Continuing Effort to Make Storm Water Drainage Work

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The very flat land in the Town's floodplain area makes the management of storm water runoff a difficult task. The principal problem that the Town has faced over the years is the fact that individual home builders, prior to Town's incorporation and adoption of ordinances, placed driveway drainage pipes with no reference to elevation or direction of water flow. When these pipes are at proper elevation, the water may pond in swales during heavy rain events but will flow slowly to the river when the storm passes. The Town's ordinance

mandates are a critical element of community infrastructure construction and management. Ordinances are a perfect example of the need for mandated procedures that serve the "common good."

During hurricane events, and also during strong northeast wind events, the water elevation in the Town's floodplain area will be the water level of the Trent River. This is a condition that has no solution and depending on the intensity of the storm, high water may cause flooding of a number of structures. The Town's "Floodplain Management Ordinance" complies with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) directives. FEMA has recognized River Bend as a member of the "Community Rating System," which makes River Bend residents eligible to purchase federal flood insurance at a 10% discount.

Through the years, River Bend has accomplished considerable work to improve storm water runoff. This work has been accomplished on a prioritized schedule by attacking the most pressing first. This effort will continue. A listing of some of these major projects include:

- ◆ 2001 – 2002. The FEMA Grant and the work accomplished following flooding that occurred during Hurricane Floyd.
- ◆ The attached engineering drawing shows to scale the size of pipe that devel-

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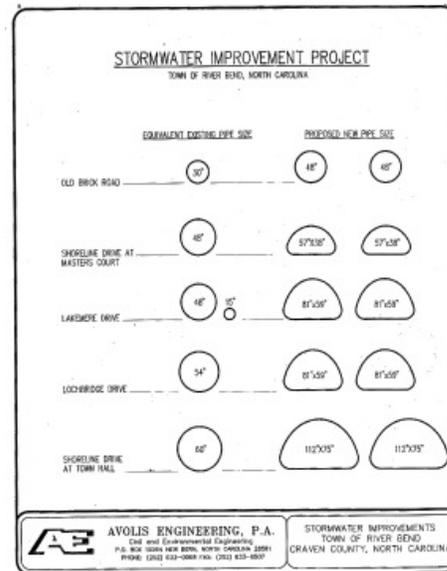
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opers had installed at each street crossing from the Old Pollocksville Road to the Shoreline Drive crossing at Town Hall. Alongside those structures the same print shows the scale size of the replacement structures installed as part of this contract. This project was fully funded by the FEMA grant. Cost: \$ 519,709.



- ◆ 2006 – present. Beginning in 2006, the Council made a commitment to budget \$30,000 each year to drainage projects. This is a Capital Improvement Fund item, and as such, a multi-year appropriation. This commitment has continued from 2006 through the present budget cycle.
- ◆ 2008 – 2009. Lakemere. This project solved the storm water runoff from a portion of the Town’s Northwest Quadrant. This project was necessary to prevent roadway flooding during even minor rainstorm events. Cost: \$ 86, 650.
- ◆ Multi-year use of prisoners in instrument-controlled grading of drainage swales along Plantation drive between Channel Run and Gull Point. This work was supervised by Town staff but inmate labor was free. Unfortunately, the General Assembly removed this labor assistance program from utilization by municipalities.
- ◆ 2010 – 2011. Replaced drainage piping to canal and river at Raft Road, Gangplank and Channel Run. Cost \$ 10,978
- ◆ 2012 – 2013. Replaced drainage pipe at the Shoreline Drive location of the fire department. Cost: \$ 15,792.
- ◆ 2011 – 2012. Regrade swales along Efird Boulevard. Cost: \$ 14,959

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- ◆ 2013 – 2014. Drainage improvements made at locations on Pirates Road, Plantation Drive, Clipper Court and Lakemere in connection with roadway work. Cost: \$ 45,800.
 - ◆ 2014 – 2015. Major swale grading on Plantation Drive in the area of Gull Point Road and at Sandpiper, and Westchester. Cost: \$ 72,770.
 - ◆ 2015 – 2016. Rebuild the bridge over the canal on Plantation Drive and an outfall bulkhead at Captain’s Cove. Cost: \$ 77,781.

The drainage issues that remain are relatively minor compared to those listed above. Each of the Town’s managers has contributed to the continuing effort to improve drainage. This certainly includes Manager Jackson who will continue this effort using contractors for larger projects and Town staff for the small and more routine projects. It is almost a certainty that complaints will continue following each rain storm. The answer to many of the complaints involves the homeowner making the minimal effort to clean floating debris that has lodged in driveway drainage pipes.

“The drainage issues that remain are relatively minor compared to those listed above.”

While the most frequent problems of this nature will be in the floodplain area of Town, the same problems may occur in areas of higher elevations, such as the Colonies following very heavy rain events. ●



TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

One commonly recurring topic that I deal with in River Bend is storm water drainage. Due to our topography, and our lack of elevation, many of our swales and drainage features are subject to being inundated following heavy rainfall events. In times where the groundwater level is high or when the ground is already saturated, this can occur even when the rainfall amount is not a large scale event. To further compound the problem, our proximity to the river can have a tremendous effect on our drainage system’s ability to process storm water. The water level in the river and consequently the canal can be impacted by the tides and weather events such as tropical storms and even by the direction of the wind. If the water level in the canal or river is high due to such factors, the operational ability of our storm drainage system is diminished.

Obviously, neither the Town or you as a property owner, have any control over such weather and geographical impacts. However, there are some things that we can do to improve the efficiency of our storm water system. The Town is responsible for maintenance of some of the system but not all of it. We are responsible for pipes that are under public streets and for any catch basin that we own. The primary part of the system that the Town is not responsible for is the swale (or ditch) and driveway pipes on your property. Our ordinance is clear on this matter. Section 15.02.062(F) (4) and (5) states:

“The Town is responsible for maintenance of some of the system but not all of it.”

“For those drainage ditches and drainage pipes installed in the Town’s right-of-way by the property owner, either current or prior, or the developer, it is the current property owner’s responsibility to maintain those drainage ditches and pipes.”

For those drainage ditches and drainage pipes installed in the Town’s right-of-way by the property owner, either current or prior, or the developer, it is the current property owner’s responsibility to maintain those drainage ditches and pipes. The drainage ditches and pipes must be kept clear of obstructions which might retard the free flow of storm water past their property and under their driveways.

If the swale on your property is not properly graded or the pipe under your driveway is not properly installed or if the pipe under your driveway is obstructed, it is your responsibility to correct the problem. I have visited many areas to investigate drainage issues. Most often, the drainage problem is attributable to a blocked driveway pipe for a private driveway. Many times an accumulation of debris in the swale is the culprit. In either case, both of these conditions are the responsibility of the property owner to remedy. Maintaining the swale and/or pipe is an ongoing process. To maintain peak performance, it will need to be done regularly. Left untouched, over the years, sediment will accumulate in the swale, grass will grow, more sediment will accumulate, and the cycle continues. Before you

“If the swale on your property is not properly graded or the pipe under your driveway is not properly installed or if the pipe under your driveway is obstructed, it is your responsibility to correct the problem.”

know it, the ditch that used to be level with the bottom of the pipe is now half way (or more) up the pipe. It's a natural process that we cannot stop.

After reading this, I request that you take a look at the pipe under your driveway. If you cannot clearly see all of it, then it is not operating properly and your pipe may be the source of drainage

"If the swale along your property is blocked, it should be cleaned."

problems in your neighborhood. If the swale along your property is blocked, it should be cleaned. Even if all of the pipes and swales in our Town were perfectly installed and maintained, we would still have drainage issues. However, those issues can be reduced if we all do our part to keep the water flowing. ●



**WRD/PW
SEPTEMBER REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In September Public Works employees cleared out the drainage ditch near Ritter Field that conveys storm water runoff from portions of Loch Bridge Drive to its discharge point into the Town Hall Pond. This ditch had become overgrown with brush and debris, and needed to be cleaned out. This should improve the storm water drainage in the Loch Bridge Drive area that discharge to this drainage ditch. Also, Public Works installed a new Police/Public Works sign at the intersection of Shoreline/Wildwood Dr. This sign will help better identify where both the Police and Public Works buildings are located.

Water Resources had one water leak on Wildwood Drive this month. The leak was in the middle of the road on a water service line that served one home. Water Resources staff repaired this water line. During the repair, it was noticed that this water line was extremely brittle which made it extremely difficult to repair. We are planning on replacing this service

"During the repair, it was noticed that this water line was extremely brittle which made it extremely difficult to repair. We are planning on replacing this service line from water main to meter box to prevent future leaks."

line from water main to meter box to prevent future leaks. We also started our sewer collection system cleaning this month. We are required by permit to clean 10 % of our collection system per year. We usually clean 15%–20% per year. Cleaning the system not only helps lower customer complaints because of odors, but

also allows us to inspect our manholes and overall condition of the sewer lines being cleaned. We should have our 20% done by the end of October.

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 in-

structed 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. ●

“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 638-387.”



Holiday
**FOOD
DRIVE**

to benefit RCS

Please join the River Bend Town Council and staff in our food drive to help feed the hungry in Craven County this holiday season by bringing your donation of non-perishable food items to Town Hall. Please contribute only items that are well within suggested expiration dates. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank You!

COMING EVENTS

Holiday Food Drive
begins
November 1
Please bring your
non-perishable food
donations to
Town Hall

Shredding Event
November 5
9:00 — 1:00
Town Commons

Thanksgiving Decoration
Workshop
Saturday
November 5
10:00 — 12:00
Town Hall
presented by Parks & Rec

Gourds & Other Unusual
Squash Workshop
November 9
6:30
Town Hall
presented by RBCOG

GAMES DAY
THANKSGIVING BINGO!
Wednesday
November 16
1:00 — 4:00
Town Hall
presented by Parks & Rec

Council Work Session
November 10
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
November 17
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community
Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday
November 24
1:00 p.m.
River Bend
Baptist Church



**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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**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

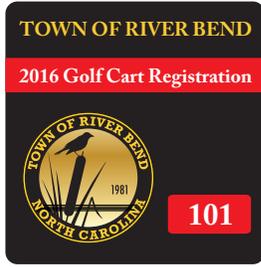
Pinecones, pine straw and
leaves must be bagged. For
additional important informa-
tion about River Bend's Leaf
& Limb collection program,
please see our Ordinance online
at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

**Town Council
2016 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session January 14
- Council Retreat January 21**
- Regular Meeting January 21
- 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. Council Retreats will be held at Town Hall at a time to be announced. 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*



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

It's time to think about renewing the registration for your pets. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually. Registration for 2017 will begin on December 1.

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 Ernest Thomas 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.

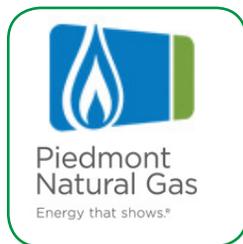
A signed parental approval form is required and helmet use is strictly enforced. For more information about the skateboard park, visit our web site or call the River Bend Police Department at 638-1108.



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.