

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



HOME SWEET HOME
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

This month's article was inspired on July Fourth while listening to Mr. Helmut Weisser's remarks as he described his and Carmen's decision to make River Bend their permanent home. His speech caused me to think about what moved Grace and me to select River Bend as our home. Mr. Weisser's moving speech was published in the August edition of the River Bender.

I asked myself, "Why did we individually select River Bend as the place we are happy to call home?" Most probably it was no single thing that tipped the balance but a combination of observations that decided the purchase. The following list is a compilation of Town conditions that impressed Grace and me, and I believe these same qualities led many others to make the "buy here" decision for each of us who call River Bend home:

1. The Town presents an attractive appearance on any street that one travels
2. The home styles are not "cookie cutter" architecture, but rather are quite varied in setting and curb appeal
3. Most of the utilities are underground rather than being "pole mounted"
4. A well-maintained golf course is located in the heart of the Town
5. River Bend has waterfront home sites on the Trent River and along its extensive canal system
6. The street system is well maintained
7. As a "dormitory community," River Bend benefits greatly from its proximity to the lovely 300-year-old historic City of New Bern
8. Tryon Palace and the related History Center draw many visitors to the area
9. Further research on the part of a prospective buyer shows that:

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- ◆ River Bend taxes are low
 - ◆ Duke Power provides electricity with a nominal rate structure
 - ◆ The Town operates under a Council–Manager form of government
 - ◆ The Town has a strong financial position with adequate reserves, which is recognized by the bond rating agencies.
 - ◆ The Town’s full-time Police Department is professionally staffed and performs “community policing” in an outstanding fashion
 - ◆ The Town operates its own water and wastewater utilities
 - ◆ Town staff is professional and well qualified in their respective positions
 - ◆ Town owned infrastructure is well maintained
 - ◆ A strong corps of volunteers is actively engaged in all aspects of municipal affairs. This spirit of volunteerism is critical to maintaining the several Advisory Boards which are essential to the effective governing of the Town
 - ◆ The street system is maintained based on the Town’s Paving Plan developed and reviewed annually by the Town’s contracted engineer
 - ◆ The Town actively enforces zoning ordinances, essential to preserving real estate values

Almost certainly, any River Bend resident could look at this list and select a number of items that were major influences in choosing River Bend as home. These positive characteristics will continue as long as the members of the elected governing body continue to dedicate themselves to preserving these qualities while having a visionary view of future trends that will impact the Town.

We should thank Helmut Weisser for challenging all of us to look objectively at our Town. We are very pleased that he and Carmen made River Bend their home. They have made an immensely positive impact on this, their adopted Town and Nation. ●



**TOWN MANAGER’S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The school year has begun and we all need to be reminded of the precious cargo that school buses carry. With our changing demographics, school busses are a more common sight in River Bend now than they have been in past years. As I write this, a bus is literally passing by Town Hall. Even if you do not see a school bus in River Bend, you are likely to encounter one as you travel, as there are two schools between River Bend and New Bern. The following is a partial

reprint of a news release from North Carolina Political News.

In North Carolina, over 14,000 school buses travel our highways daily transporting children to and from school. Most motorists that meet school buses on the state's highways actually stop as required by North Carolina law. However, some do not. The results can be tragic. Since 1999, thirteen children in North Carolina have been struck and killed while loading and/or unloading from a stopped school bus. School buses are easy to spot. They typically are painted yellow with the words "School Bus" printed in large type on their front and rear as well as being equipped with alternately flashing red lights on the front and rear. Yet despite these distinguishable traits, motorists still fail to properly stop.

"Since 1999, thirteen children in North Carolina have been struck and killed while loading and/or unloading from a stopped school bus. School buses are easy to spot."

According to the Department of Public Instruction, a total of 3,153 vehicles across the state passed stopped school buses on a single day in 2014. Despite that number, school buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back

"Under North Carolina law, G.S. 20-217, drivers going either direction must stop when a school bus is stopped to let children off unless it is on a highway divided by a median or a four or more lane road with a center turning lane. Drivers are to remain stopped until the bus has completed dropping the children off and begun to move again."

and forth to school. Statistics show that students are about 50 times more likely to arrive at school alive if they take the bus than if they drive themselves or ride with friends. More surprisingly, a child is much safer riding the bus than being driven by a parent.

Through the years, the penalties for those who violate the law, have become more stringent. Under North Carolina law, G.S. 20-217, drivers going either direction must stop when a school bus is stopped to let children off unless it is on a highway divided by a median or a four or more lane road with a center turning lane. Drivers are to remain stopped until the bus has completed dropping the children off and begun to move again. Drivers who are convicted of passing a stopped school bus face a \$500 fine and 5 points on their driver's license. A driver who passes a stopped school bus and strikes someone will

face a Class I felony and be fined a minimum of \$1,000. The penalty increases to a Class H felony and fine of \$2,500 if someone dies.

In an effort to promote traffic safety around North Carolina schools, school buses and school bus stops, the Highway Patrol is reminding motorists to be aware of the increase of school buses across the state. “As we begin the school year, our Troopers will be closely monitoring school buses. Our number one goal is to ensure the safety of the public but particularly our children,” said Colonel Bill Grey, Commander of the State Highway Patrol. “To accomplish this goal, we must work together to keep our school children safe and to educate all drivers on the importance of school bus safety.” ●

“In an effort to promote traffic safety around North Carolina schools, school buses and school bus stops, the Highway Patrol is reminding motorists to be aware of the increase of school buses across the state.”



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

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the July 4th parade. Every year it amazes me how many citizens turn out and the joy these festivities brings to all. I would like to thank the Town and its many volunteers who plan and organize this event. In July, Public Works cleaned out several stormwater swales to improve the drainage around Town. Over time these swales fill with soil or vegetation and have to be cleaned out. During the last heavy rainfall several other areas around Town were found to hold water, and were draining slower than they should. Public Works staff shot grades in those areas to determine what we need to do to address these issues.

I would like to remind everyone who has a culvert pipe under their driveway to keep both ends open. It does no one any good if both ends of the culvert pipe are plugged with soil. When culvert pipes are not maintained and become plugged up, they will act like a dam for all stormwater up stream of the pipe.

Water Resources has continued to do a good job with routine maintenance

“I would like to remind everyone who has a culvert pipe under their driveway to keep both ends open. When culvert pipes are not maintained and become plugged up, they will act like a dam for all stormwater up stream of the pipe.”

of both the water and wastewater systems. This maintenance consists of weekly checks of all emergency generators and lift station operation. By checking the emergency generators weekly we can almost be sure that they will be operational in the event of a power outage. We check amperage draws on all lift station pumps, float control operation, and for grease buildup weekly in all of the Town's lift stations. I also make daily checks of runtimes on all pumps to look for abnormalities. By doing all this maintenance we minimize downtime of all equipment by identifying problems quickly.

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. ●



CANDIDATES NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21st
7:00 PM
TOWN HALL

Prior to elections, the Town traditionally conducts a "Candidates Night" Forum. This year it will take place at Town Hall on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

There are three vacancies on the Town Council. Six candidates are running for office and are listed alphabetically as follows:

★ William Camp ★ Lonnie Dow ★ John Kirkland ★ Egon Lippert ★ Barbara Maurer ★ Pat Yocum ★
Council Mayor Mayor Council Council Council

As in past years, a moderator who does not reside in River Bend will lead the proceedings. There will be a drawing among the candidates for the order in which they are asked questions. Each candidate will make opening remarks followed by questions that representatives from the [Sun Journal](#) and the [River Bender](#) have prepared in advance. After a break, the moderator will ask candidates questions submitted by citizens in attendance. All remarks by the candidates will be timed so that each will have an equal opportunity to state a position on questions asked. The work of the Town Council is critical to every citizen in the community.

**Please show your interest in electing the Town's governing body
by participating in this event.**



COMING EVENTS

Council Work Session
September 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
September 17, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Pickling Workshop
Wednesday
September 16, 2015
6:30 p.m.
Town Hall
Refreshments

BUNCO!
Thursday
September 24, 2015
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Town Hall
Refreshments

River Bend Night Out
Friday
October 2, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Town Commons

Candidates Night
Forum
Wednesday
October 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall



**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. ●

**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. 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

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.

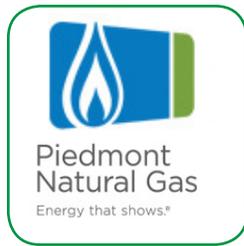


River Bend has a skateboard park to meet the needs of some of our more athletic residents.

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 solicitors 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.