



RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL www.riverbendnc.org



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Each of us likely will pause at some time during this season to reflect on personal memories of “Christmas past.” Charles Dickens, in writing A CHRISTMAS CAROL, probably penned the most vivid and definitive tale about reflecting on memories of the Christmas season. The central character, Scrooge, is forced to look at Christmas past, present and future. The real message of this classic story is that each of us has made poor decisions in our relations to our fellow man and each

has the ability to change in a positive way.

O. Henry, in THE GIFT OF THE MAGI, tells the story of a young couple who, on Christmas Eve, had no money to buy presents for each other. The wife, Della, had beautiful long hair and the husband, Jim, had a gold watch inherited from his father and grandfather. Each was determined to give the other a gift to show their love; so Jim sold his watch to purchase a beautiful comb set for Della; and Della had her hair cut and sold to buy Jim a watch chain to match the value of his fine watch. On Christmas Eve they offered their gifts to each other and decided to keep them for the time when the gifts could be used for the intended purpose.

“The real message of this classic story is that each of us has made poor decisions in our relations to our fellow man and each has the ability to change in a positive way.”

The real gift of the season for them was the love that they shared and demonstrated toward each other.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUSE, is the story of Virginia O’Hanlon who, as a young girl, asked her father if there was a Santa Clause. He suggested that she write to THE SUN, a New York newspaper, because “if you see it in the SUN, you know it is true.” Francis Church, a SUN reporter, wrote the

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- MAYOR’S REPORT PAGE 1
- TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT PAGE 2
- WRD/PW REPORT PAGE 4
- ZONING REPORT PAGE 5
- WHAT’S HAPPEN’N (AROUND) RIVER BEND PAGE 6
- COMING EVENTS PAGE 10
- COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE PAGE 11
- LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE PAGE 11
- POLICE REPORT PAGE 12
- 2012 GOLF CART REGISTRATION PAGE 13
- ETCETERA PAGE 13
- TOYS FOR TOTS PAGE 14
- ANIMAL REGISTRATION 2012 PAGE 15

famous response to Virginia assuring her that Santa exists and will as long as people have belief in the goodness of their fellow man. This editorial response has been the most often reprinted editorial in any English language newspaper.

As we celebrate this special holiday season in 2011, many of us will recall the first time that we heard the stories referenced above. Each of us will remember it differently but these stories most probably remain with us and have had a life-long impact. In summary, I believe that each of these classics moves us to understand that the spirit of Christmas is that giving is much more important than receiving and that the faith of young children is often stronger than what we adults feel and understand. This season allows us to pause and evaluate the truths conveyed by the authors of these classic Christmas stories.

Christmas truly is a time for giving and enjoying family and friends. Merry Christmas to all and in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone." ●



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DREW HAVENS

We are finally through with the clean-up from Hurricane Irene. We expect to be fully reimbursed for our expenses related to this storm, which total well in excess of \$150,000. Seventy-five percent of the reimbursement comes from FEMA, and the remaining twenty-five percent comes from the State. One of the reasons we try to maintain an adequate level of monetary reserves is to allow us to proceed quickly with contracting for clean-up and repair. Our recovery efforts from this latest storm shows the wisdom of this type of financial planning.

We are ready to begin the construction phase of two water system projects. One project will connect our system to the lines serving the Springdale and Piner Estates subdivisions. These River Bend residents are currently receiving water from the City of New Bern. While we have seen some delays in getting to this point, it looks like we will be able to switch these residents over to our system by the beginning of February. The other project is to install backflow preventer valves at River Stone and the Howell center. We have the materials on-hand, and the contractor awarded this job is the same one doing the other water project, so we expect this job to be done soon.

"Seventy-five percent of the reimbursement comes from FEMA, and the remaining twenty-five percent comes from the State."

We also have assurances from the contractor doing work on our back-up power systems that he will be in to do this project near the end of this month. This project includes the installation of a new generator at the wastewater treatment plant, and the relocation of another to replace the failed generator at the police/public works building. While in Town, this same contractor will do a planned job to replace a control panel on one of our wastewater lift stations. This is the last lift station using an older, and now obsolete, control panel.

Our work has already begun to plan for the process that will develop the fiscal year 2012-13 budget. Working with the Town Council, we are examining our Capital Improvement Plan, street maintenance plan, and examining other Town needs as we begin to assemble and evaluate information for the next year. The Council will hold, as they have for several years, a series of seven budget workshops, where they will discuss the details of their budget. The schedule of these workshops, which are open to the public, will be posted on our website, and mailed out with the water bill that will go out in January.

“...we are examining our Capital Improvement Plan, street maintenance plan, and examining other Town needs as we begin to assemble and evaluate information for the next year.”

Using funding from a grant, we are working with specialists from the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments to map our stormwater system. This mapping will help us inventory all of our drainage pipes, open swales, stormwater ponds, and other similar structures. Using this information, we will be able to develop more

“Using funding from a grant, we are working with specialists from the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments to map our stormwater system. This mapping will help us inventory all of our drainage pipes, open swales, stormwater ponds, and other similar structures.”

intensive inspection and maintenance protocols to ensure this system is working as it should. It will also help us identify places where we need to commit public resources to make improvements. As part of this process, there will be a public presentation, at a Town Council meeting, regarding our stormwater management system. Once this presentation is scheduled, we will get word out in the River Bender, and on our website.

As we enter the holiday season, it is fitting to pause to reflect on the things for which we are thankful. Our freedoms, our community, our family, and our friends

are all blessings that should never be taken for granted. As John F. Kennedy said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” So let us not forget to offer thanks for the many blessings we have and continue to work to be worthy of them. ●



**WRD/PW
OCTOBER REPORT**
BY CHRISTINA M. MASSENGILL
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works and Water Resources were busy this month attending State Certification Schools and studying for the State Certification exams, while keeping up with all regular duties.

The Town’s Leaf and Limb contractor, Keven Jones finally has completed the storm debris pick up just in time to begin his normally scheduled November pick up. I would like to send out a THANK YOU to Keven and his crews who worked very hard to clear the enor-

mous amount of storm debris from the Town streets. RMB Construction and Floors Unlimited have completed their work in the Red Caboose Library. Public Works and some volunteers will be assisting Ms. Luci Avery in preparing for the grand re-opening of the library in early November.

“Public Works and some volunteers will be assisting Ms. Avery in preparing for the grand re-opening of the library in early November.”

Now that the storm debris clean-up has been completed, Public Works will be focusing on several stormwater drainage issues. Some of these areas just simply need

“Thanks to volunteers Jim Dancy and Jared Powell the Red Caboose is bright red again.”

the drainage area cleaned out and others will require more work, such as digging out or replacing rock bedding that was washed away during Irene.

Thanks to volunteers Jim Dancy and Jared Powell the Red Caboose is bright red again. Thank you, Jim and Jared, for all your hard work, it is very much appreciated. Public Works will be painting the roof of the caboose soon, making it look brand new again. Mike will be installing a light for River Ben soon, so he can be seen at night. Next month Mike and Allen will be re-mulching the playground areas that were washed out during the storm, and they will also be repairing some fencing that was damaged in Springdale Park.

Field Supervisor Brandon Mills and Operator Tommy Harper attended Cross-Connection School at Carteret Community College this month. Those of you who receive the Sun Journal may have seen their picture and a short write up about the school. After attending the school and passing their practical, hands-on exam, they will have the credits to sit for the State Cross-Connection Control Exam in February 2012. Other duties this month included repairing one water leak on Plantation Drive and unclogging

“Field Supervisor Brandon Mills and Operator Tommy Harper attended Cross-Connection School at Carteret Community College this month.”

a sewerline in Quarterdeck. The sewerline in Quarterdeck will need to be repaired by a contractor. The Water Resources sewer camera did not indicate any breaks or root intrusion in the pipeline. The line will need to be dug up to determine the problem and make what ever repairs are needed. We will have contractors visit the site in early November to give estimates on the repairs that may be needed.

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 dial “9” and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator. You then 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. ●

ZONING OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY — THURSDAY
8:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
8:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

**ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
AND
FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**
Chris Harmon



ZONING REPORT

**BY CHRIS HARMON
ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
AND FLOOD PLAIN MANAGER**

My position as Assistant Zoning Administrator and Flood Plain Administrator for River Bend involves several duties. One of my primary responsibilities includes issuing zoning permits for our residents. For the month of November, 4 permits were issued and permit fees totaled \$344.60.

As we're all completely aware now, flooding can be a major issue for homeowners. Everything can be lost in a moment, so we should all do what we can to protect ourselves and our homes. Should you have concerns about flooding, or if you would like information on techniques to make your home more resistant to flooding, please contact me im-

mediately to schedule an appointment. Flooding causes enormous amounts of damage each year and, while we can't always prevent floods from happening, there are many things we can do to help alleviate and mitigate damages should such an event occur. Should you not have flood insurance on your home and personal belongings, please feel free to contact me to discuss flood insurance and your options. Please know that the sooner you do, the better as there is a 30-day waiting period after the purchase of flood insurance for it to become effective. I strongly urge everyone in our community to get flood insurance; even if you don't live in the 100-year flood zone. As we all know, flooding can happen anywhere.

Residents or contractors must secure a permit before beginning any construction project. The Town of River Bend works closely with the Craven County Planning and Inspections Department on all construction projects; Craven County will not issue a building permit until a contractor or resident provides a River Bend Permit. They also will not issue a Certificate of Occupancy until you present a Certificate of Zoning Compliance from River Bend for your completed project. All areas of River Bend, including our extraterritorial jurisdictions, must comply with our Land Use Ordinance. If you are thinking about doing any work to your property, please contact me at 638-3870 ext. 216 so that all necessary paperwork can be completed. Enforcement of the Town Code and Land Use Ordinances are essential to the well-being of the Town and its residents. If you are aware of a violation, please contact me immediately. Also, the Police Department is an essential tool in helping to enforce Town Ordinances; feel free to contact them at 638-1108. ●



**What's Happen'n
(around River Bend)**
BY COUNCILMAN PHIL SEYMOUR

LEAF AND LIMB

At the time of this writing (October 31st), Keven Jones is removing the last of the Hurricane Irene debris from upper Gatewood Drive. Although Irene was only a Category 1, it was unprecedented in the amount of debris it left in its wake. Its slow movement north resulted in hurricane force winds for about eight hours and storm force wind for another thirty. The result? Flooding unlike any we've seen here in River Bend, and leaf and limb debris lining not only our streets, but also those of the entire eastern seaboard from our area northward.

To put this into perspective, consider that our normal Leaf and Limb pick-up produces 40 tons of debris. This storm produced in excess of 1,200 tons!! That's

more than thirty times the normal amount. A couple of residents suggested that we should have hired more people with more equipment, such that the clean-up would not have taken as long as it did. This was priced out and, to get in the necessary people and equipment to remove the debris in two or three weeks, it would have required adding approximately five cents to our Town's property tax rate. I can only imagine the outcry had we opted for that alternative!

As it was, the clean-up cost the Town more than \$150,000. Because a state of emergency had been declared for our area, we believe we will be reimbursed

for the full amount of our expenses: 75% by the federal government and 25% by the State. I say that we "hope" for this reimbursement because it's no secret that neither the state nor the U.S. itself is in great fiscal shape. But, as for this writing, it appears that our reimbursement will, in fact, occur!

On the subject of paying for this clean-up, the question of where the money came from that we used to pay Keven Jones and his crew. It didn't come from FEMA (the "feds"), as they will only pay (if at all) long after the clean-up has been completed

"On the subject of paying for this clean-up, the question of where the money came from that we used to pay Keven Jones and his crew. It comes from our "Fund Balance."

"To put this into perspective, consider that our normal Leaf and Limb pick-up produces 40 tons of debris. This storm produced in excess of 1,200 tons!"

and the bill for the cost of the clean-up has been submitted to them. Nor will the State reimburse us for its portion (again, if it does) until it receives its "bill." So where does the money come from? It comes from our "Fund Balance" (or our "reserve," if you prefer).

Our fiscal year begins on July 1st and runs throughout the year until June 30th. Our budget applicable to the new fiscal year typically contains (if we have done our job right) about a 50% fund balance (figured against anticipated expenses for that new fiscal year). In theory, a typical month's operating expenses amount to about eight percent of anticipated expenses. And because the Town derives the bulk of its revenue from taxes—sales, real property, personal property (ad valorem), etc.—we have to wait until we receive these taxes as revenue before they are of any real benefit to us. That typically occurs toward the end of the calendar year when most of us write those rather large checks to the county. Where does our "working capital" come from in those months until

we actually begin to receive the revenue from those tax receipts? From our fund balance!

As noted above, about eight percent of our fund balance is needed to meet the Town's operating expenses for a single month, i.e., to keep the Town "running." Multiply six months times that eight percent and you have 48% - hence our desire to maintain a fund balance in the 50% range! Fortunately, we do receive minor amounts of tax revenues, franchise fees, etc., throughout the year and

"Where does our "working capital" come from in those months until we actually begin to receive the revenue from those tax receipts? From our fund balance!"

that also helps the Town meet its obligations. But that fund balance is also essential to meet the financial obligations of unexpected exigencies: Hurricane Irene to name one! Without that fund balance, we would not have been able to pay for the cost of removing all of that debris, at least without having to secure the needed funding from a lending institution. Not only would having to obtain such a loan delayed the start of our clean-up, it would also have increased the cost to our residents for that clean-up!

And speaking of delaying the start of clean-up following an event such as this, our contractor, Keven Jones, is working off of a two-year contract for not only his normal Leaf and Limb clean-up every other month, but also for extraordinary

"This practice of having Keven on "retainer" when events such as Irene threaten our Town stands in stark contrast with the practice of many other municipalities that begin looking for such a contractor only after the event has occurred."

events such as Hurricane Irene. We have included a provision in his contract that has him "stage" his equipment in our Town before the event - hurricane or otherwise - occurs. That way he is prepared to begin the removal process immediately following the event.

This practice of having Keven on "retainer" when events such as Irene threaten our Town stands in stark contrast with the practice of many other municipalities that begin looking for such a contractor only after the event has occurred when such contractors are likely to be otherwise occupied and most certainly would be available only at a considerably higher cost to that municipality!

Please keep in mind too that none of our residents are required to wait for Keven to remove the debris from their lawn. I share your concern that your lawns may

be adversely affected by the large amount of debris sitting on the grass awaiting removal. If I were truly concerned about this, I might either remove the debris myself to the landfill, or would have a contractor remove it for me should the amount prevent me from doing so. I would have to pay for this removal myself, but it would likely protect my lawn. But rejoice, the hurricane season is over!!!

POWELL BILL MONEY

Anyone who has been following our budget hearing these past several years knows that the money the Town receives from the State for the purpose of maintaining its streets and roadways—the so-called “Powell Bill” money—has been diminishing over the years. In a nutshell, the size of our Town, both in road mileage and in population, has not increased appreciably.

This has not been true for many of the other municipalities in our state. They have grown in size both geographically and in population. As such, they receive an increasingly larger “slice of the Powell Bill pie” while, as a result, we receive a proportionally smaller slice.

“...the money the Town receives from the State for the purpose of maintaining its streets and roadways—the so-called “Powell Bill” money—has been diminishing over the years.”

Early indications, however, are that this year we may actually see an upswing in the dollar amount we receive. Not because we have gained added road mileage (which accounts for 25% of the Powell Bill calculation); nor is it due to any substantial increase in population (which counts for 75% of the calculation). Instead, it appears that the dramatic upswing in this year’s sales of new automobiles has produced a considerably larger source of revenue: the sales tax we pay when we purchase a new vehicle.

This increase in revenue destined for the Powell Bill is especially fortunate in that the other source of revenue—the fuel tax—is somewhat down. As gas prices inch up, our driving habits tend to shift away from longer trips and unnecessary travel, hence, reduced gasoline usage and less fuel tax collected by the state. Add to that the prevalence of fuel-efficient vehicles on the road today (which also produce less fuel tax revenue to the state) and we do find ourselves having to be grateful for the increase in new car sales. The alternative prospect of having to fund our Town’s road repair from additional local tax dollars is not appealing!

Stay healthy!! ●

COMING EVENTS

*Council Work Session
December 8, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall*

*Council Meeting
December 15, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall*

*Fairfield Chorus
Sunday
December 11, 2011
3:00 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.

MAYOR
John Kirkland

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Egon Lippert
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Karl Wolfer

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Drew Havens

TOWN CLERK
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POLICE CHIEF
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**Leaf & Limb
Collection
Schedule for
2011-2012**

Residents may begin
placing their yard debris
street side on the dates
indicated in parentheses

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 18, 2011*
(July 13, 2011)
- September 19, 2011*
(September 14, 2011)
- November 7, 2011
(November 2, 2011)
- January 9, 2012
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 4, 2012)
- March 19, 2012
(March 14, 2012)
- May 14, 2012
May 9, 2012

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 25, 2011*
(July 20, 2011)
- September 26, 2011*
(September 21, 2011)
- November 14, 2011
November 9, 2011
- January 16, 2012
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 11, 2012)
- March 26, 2012
(March 21, 2012)
- May 21, 2012
(May 16, 2012)

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
2011 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session January 13
- Regular Meeting January 20
- Council Retreat February 1
- Work Session February 10
- Regular Meeting February 17
- Budget Meeting..... March 8
- Work Session March 10
- Budget Meeting..... March 15
- 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
- Council Retreat May 10
- Work Session May 12
- Regular Meeting May 19
- Work Session June 9
- Regular Meeting June 16
- Work Session July 14
- Regular Meeting July 21
- 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

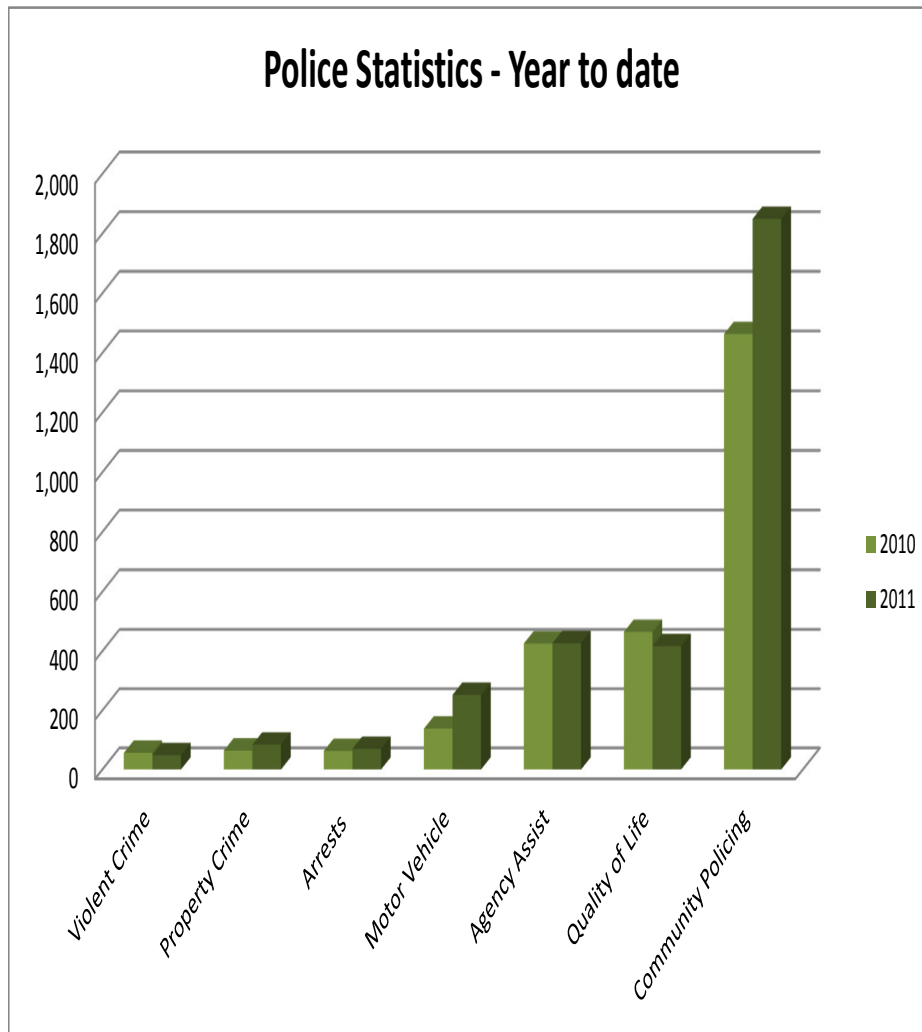


CYTD REPORT as of October 2011

	2010	2011
Violent Crime	56	48
Property Crime	64	84
Arrests	63	70
Motor Vehicle	138	252
Agency Assist	426	427
Quality of Life	465	417
Community Policing	1,463	1,849
Total Activity	2,675	3,147

POLICE REPORT

EARL "DUKE" PRATT
CHIEF OF POLICE



- Violent Crime:** Includes Assault, Robbery, and Domestic
- Property Crime:** Includes B&E, Identity Theft, Larcenies, Property Damage
- Arrests:** Includes Summonses, Subpoena, and Involuntary Commitments
- Motor Vehicle:** Includes Crashes, Warnings, Citations, and Complaints
- Agency Assist:** Includes other Law Enforcement, EMS/First Responders, and Fire
- Quality of Life:** Animal Complaints, Littering, Loud Music/Noise, Soliciting, Town Ordinance Citations and Warnings
- Community Policing:** Includes Alarms, Assist Citizens, Assist Motorists, Juvenile Complaints, Missing Persons, Residential Checks, Roadway Debris, Suspicious Persons, Trespassing, Weapons & Hunting Violations, Welfare Checks



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.

Inspection and registration are required annually. Registration for 2012 will begin in December. 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.



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.

Morning Call in River Bend

an important new service for our residents



Morning Call is an automated telephone calling service provided by the River Bend Police Department in its mission to ensure the safety and well being of all town residents. Please call 638-3870 for details.



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.



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.



Sign up for our
Emergency Notification System
 and receive timely emergency notifications by telephone, cell phone and e-mail.

SIGN UP NOW
 at riverbendnc.org

*this service provided by the
 Town of River Bend through*




Toys for Tots
 SPONSORED BY USMC RESERVE

The United States Marine Corps Reserve will continue to collect new Toys for Tots through December 16th. The box has been removed from Town Hall, but you may give your donations to Town staff until the USMC Reserve picks them up on December 16th.

If you'd like to help with this worthy cause, please place a new, unwrapped toy in the collection box.

For additional information, please visit the official Toys for Tots web site at www.toysfortots.org.



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the CERT liaison, Sgt. Riegelsperger and/or visit our web site.



This spring, the Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Town of River Bend the Tree City USA designation for a second consecutive year. We are one of only 76 communities in North Carolina to achieve this designation. To learn more about Tree City USA, visit our web site.



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.



Animal Registration Begins in January

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2012 are due by March 31, 2012. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

You may register your pet(s) at Town Hall beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

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.



Applebee's to Hold Flapjack Breakfast to Benefit Craven County Teen Court

Applebee's is holding a Flapjack Fund-raiser breakfast to benefit Craven County Teen Court. The event will take place on Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar in New Bern. Tickets are available only in advance and cost \$7.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased from any Teen Court officer or at the Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina, located in the O'Mark Building, 233 Middle Street, Suite 208.

Please come out and support
Craven County Teen Court!

For more information, contact (252) 633-2538.