

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



What is Fact and What is Opinion?

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Let Us Try to Deal in Facts. Reading the postings on the River Bend Mail is always interesting. Some of the posts request information on a wide variety subjects, and the responses generally appear to be helpful to the person who made the request. That is a positive way to utilize this rapid means of communication.

Then there are the postings of strongly held opinions which are presented as though they are absolute fact. People who hold differing opinions often respond with rebuttals to the original posting. It is interesting to watch how many repetitive posts flow as if sheer volume alone will change the opinion of those communicating on the other side of the issue.

Anyone wishing to obtain information on what actions the Town Governing Body and staff are taking on any particular issue can simply telephone Town Hall. The staff member answering the call will respond factually.

Please keep in mind that during emergencies, it will take time for responders to resolve on-scene conditions before reporting facts to the Town hall staff.

The conduct of official Town business is as transparent and open as can effectively be accomplished. The proceedings of Council meetings are reported in the River Bender each month. Its Editor is independent of any Town government influence and presents a balanced view in covering official Town actions.

The Council has for many years contracted with Cable Channel 10 to videotape and broadcast regular Council Meetings. CCTV 10 broadcasts the meetings several different times on days following the meeting date.

In accordance with State open meeting laws, all Town Council and Advisory

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Board meetings are open to public attendance. There are very rare exceptions when the Council will enter into a closed session as authorized by North Carolina General Statutes, but the minutes of the closed sessions are released as soon as the elements of the issue that authorized closed session have been resolved.

Citizens wishing to address the Town Council may sign up to do so in the office of the Town Clerk. This opportunity to speak takes place early in the Council Meeting, and there is also a time reserved for open discussion just prior to the conclusion of each meeting.

"... modern electronic communication is impersonal, prone to be misunderstood and while of great value in conducting business, it will not replace the real time exchange of face-to-face discussion or a telephone conversation."

It is certainly the intent of the Council and staff to listen and respond to any request for information in a civil way.

Finally, modern electronic communication is impersonal, prone to be misunderstood and while of great value in conducting business, it will not replace the real time exchange of face-to-face discussion or a telephone conversation. ●



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DREW HAVENS

It does not seem possible that one-half of our fiscal year is behind us, and we are well into the planning for the next one. Professional staff, advisory boards, and elected officials have been busy gathering information for the budget preparation sessions that begin in March. We gather information on trends in some of our fixed costs, and listen to and read from experts about trends in economic factors that are likely to influence state collected revenues, and how external factors may otherwise impact our costs and revenue.

Each year we take an in-depth look at what services we provide, their related costs, and how we can contain costs without eliminating services. We also look to the future and plan for larger expenses using a Capital Improvement Plan for each of our three major fund areas. The purpose of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is to forecast and match projected revenues and major capital needs over a five-year period. Capital plan-

"Each year we take an in-depth look at what services we provide, their related costs, and how we can contain costs without eliminating services."

ning is an important management tool that strengthens the linkage between community infrastructure needs and the financial capacity of the Town.

The River Bend CIP achieves five major objectives as a component of the Town's budget and financial planning process:

1. Helps the Town rationally and intelligently plan for the repair, replacement, and acquisition of capital items that are necessary in providing high quality services to the citizens of River Bend.
2. Assists in fiscal planning by forecasting capital demands together with future revenues and expenditures.
3. Ensures better coordination, evaluation, and planning of projects to serve the community and its needs.
4. Serves together with the annual budget and other financial plans as a guide to decision-making for the Town Council, Town Manager, and staff.
5. Serves as a systematic and comprehensive analysis of capital needs, increasing the probability of making rational budgetary judgments since improvements are identified, prioritized, and matched to the projected fiscal resources of the Town.

Projects and purchases are reviewed and evaluated based on the Mayor's and Council's priorities, other Town infrastructure needs, the financial capacity of the Town and the impact the projects will create on the Town's operating budget.

Once the projects and purchases are evaluated, a recommended CIP is developed that identifies the selection and timing of capital projects and purchases into future

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fiscal years. First-year projects are incorporated into the recommended annual operating budget. The Mayor and Council are also presented the future planning years for their consideration, review, and endorsement so staff can proceed with planning and evaluation of

potential capital projects. The Capital Improvement Plan is simply that – a plan. As such, projects and purchases are subject to change based on new or shifting service needs, special financing opportunities, emergency needs, or other directives or priorities established by the Mayor and Council.

This process is but one of the pieces that make up our annual budget process. We welcome and encourage participation in our series of budget workshops that

begin in March. For more information, visit our web site, or, if you did not receive one with your latest water bill, stop by Town Hall and ask for a copy of the budget workshop brochure.

As always, many thanks to those who volunteer to help in this community. From appointed boards/commissions, to an active Community Watch, to others who quietly lend their assistance, River Bend is a great community because of the combined efforts of all. If you are not currently involved and want to be, contact any member of the Town Council or me and we can offer suggestions. ●

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ZONING REPORT

**BY CHRIS SANTOS
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 January, 1 permit was issued in the zoning and floodplain development department. This permit was for a sign.

Even though it may not seem like it, spring is right around the corner which means hurricane season is nearly upon us. As we all know, with hurricanes comes heavy rains and winds pushing the waters inland which can cause flooding. 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 immediately 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

"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 immediately to schedule an appointment."

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.

For all of our residents, please know that residents or contractors must secure a permit before beginning any construction project. Our most typical projects include new construction, garages, driveways, utility buildings, porches, decks, pools, fences, and drainage structures, but these are not the only items that require a permit. Please call

"Enforcement of the Town Code and Land Use Ordinances are essential to the well being of the Town and its residents."

Town Hall before starting work on any 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, or someone you know, 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. Please, also, share this information with your neighbors and, most especially, new residents if you should learn that they are about to begin any type of construction project.

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 at 638-3870 ext. 216. If I am unavailable to help you, the Police Department is an essential tool in helping to enforce Town Ordinances; feel free to contact them at 638-1108. ●



WRD/PW JULY REPORT
BY CHRISTINA M. MASSENGILL
SUPERINTENDENT
WATER RESOURCES/PUBLIC WORKS

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and can look forward to a Happy New Year. Public Works and Water Resources staff enjoyed the holiday time off with our families.

Public Works has been busy with some winter brush clearing. Town Manager, Drew Havens declared three Fridays this month Team Work Days. He had Public Works and Water Resources team up. Two days were spent at the Town Hall, Ritter Field, and Town Commons area weeding around the pond and wetlands. Drew climbed trees to rid them of

weeding around the pond and wetlands. Drew climbed trees to rid them of

dead branches and vines and everyone pitched in to load the brush and haul it away. The last Friday was spent at the Entrance Pond where the same thing was done. If you haven't noticed, the next time you ride by stop and look. Both areas look really neat and tidy. Yes, it was a lot of work but well worth the effort. I would like to thank the staff for teaming up and working together so well. We all enjoyed working with Drew and some realized he's not so scary after all! Everyone had a good time even though it was work. We plan to keep the teamwork going into the New Year.

By teaming up we can get bigger jobs done quicker and easier without causing delays in our regular duties as we kept one person to take care of all the regular duties, such as service orders and trash pickup, in Water Resources and Public

"Water Resources has been very busy this month with the North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA) working on a leak detection survey for the Water System."

Works. Water Resources Lead Operator, Brandon Mills continued the teamwork throughout the entire month clearing trees and brush all over Town. I would like to thank Brandon for helping Public Works get back on track with work order completion. With only two and a half people in Public Works, it is very easy to get behind, but with Drew and Brandon's help Public Works is back on track.

Public Works staff – Mike Steffa – and Allen Heath, was called in over the holidays to treat the intersections with Ice Melt. However, the melt froze over again during the night, which resulted in the need to treat the intersections and steps at the Town Hall daily until the snow finally melted away.

Water Resources has been very busy this month with the North Carolina Rural Water Association {NCRWA} working on a leak detection survey for the Water System. So far Mike Hill from NCRWA, Brandon, and Lamar have found two small leaks at hydrants. This survey will continue into January until the entire Town has been done. Mike Hill has been great to work with. We have learned some very

"All services of NCRWA are free and very helpful. We have used them in the past for the implementation of the Wellhead Protection Plan, and they also trained us on the use of a sewer camera."

useful and interesting information on the sounds a leak may make. He has plans to bring his Correlator in January to show us how to operate and use the information gathered to determine how to prioritize any repairs needed. All of

this is free of charge. All services of NCRWA are free and very helpful. We have used them in the past for the implementation of the Wellhead Protection Plan, and they also trained us on the use of a sewer camera that was very helpful with learning

how to use the one Water Resources purchased a couple of years ago. Kevin Weber of Weber Construction has begun the construction of the rest room facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This is one of the last budgeted sewer projects to be completed in this budget year for Water Resources. On the water side, we still have the filter media washing at Well #3. Utility Services plans to be on sight on January 12, 2011 to bring this project to completion.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday through Friday, 8AM - 4PM. After-hours water and sewer emergencies should be reported by calling our pager number 672-6309. You will be asked to enter in your telephone number after the message. A Utility Operator will return your call. Please be aware that dial pulse telephones and some cordless phones do not always register your number. If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108. ●



**What's Happen'n
(around River Bend)**

BY COUNCILMAN PHIL SEYMOUR

primary focus was on Plantation Canal, however, and, over the next few hours, volunteers pulled piles and piles of invasive Alligator Weed from the waterways near Boston at the Bend. Ultimately, 73 full trash bags lined the parking lot, awaiting removal by our leaf and limb contractor. Well done to the Waterways Board and all those who volunteered their time and energies to this endeavor. Residents are invited to join us once again for the next clean-up, probably sometime in the spring.

LEAF AND LIMB: At the behest of a resident who enquired about the Leaf and Limb scheduling, I offer the following: Our Town's leaf and limb pick-up is sched-

Note: Because our computer was in for rehab longer than expected in early December, the following (thankfully brief) "What's Happen'n" did not make it in for publication. As such, some of the information may be a bit dated, but I believe it's still worth disseminating.

EWAB CANAL CLEAN-UP: The Waterways Board, along with several other Town residents, met on a beautiful Saturday morning in mid-November to help clean up Plantation and Island Lake Canals. The

"volunteers pulled piles and piles of invasive Alligator Weed from the waterways near Boston at the Bend. Ultimately, 73 full trash bags lined the parking lot."

uled for every other month, e.g., November, January, March, etc. We have broken this undertaking into two segments, one beginning a week before the other - Zone 1 (roughly north of Shoreline Drive) and Zone 2 (roughly east and south of Shoreline Drive) - because of complaints by residents that bags sitting on their lawns awaiting pick-up were killing their grass. This system hopefully alleviated that problem.

Additionally, please do not place your Leaf and Limb material curbside more than five (5) days before your area is due to be picked up. Our police officers would rather not have to stop and request that you move your branches, bags, etc. back from the street simply because you “jumped the gun.” (Thanks!)

“Please do not place your Leaf and Limb material curbside more than five (5) days before your area is due to be picked up.”

CORRECTION: In the December issue, I indicated the rebroadcast of the Town’s regular council meeting was at about 12:30 PM each Thursday and Friday on Suddenlink’s Channel 10 (CCTV) throughout the month. Having just watched the November meeting myself—something I rarely do—I noticed that there are two

“the correct time for these rebroadcasts (of Council meetings) is 1:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday.”

religious programs preceding the Council meeting segment. As such, it appears that the correct time for these rebroadcasts is 1:00 PM each Thursday and Friday, vice 12:30 PM. If you cannot attend the meetings, this is a convenient method

of staying current with the issues that affect us all. Additionally, the minutes of the regular council sessions are reprinted in the River Bender each month—yet another attempt by the Town to ensure that our residents know what is going on! ●



River Bend Dog Park

Our canine companions have their own exercise area. Situated between the Town Park and Ritter Field, the dog park gives dogs a chance to run and their owners to socialize.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset and is available for dogs with up-to-date vaccinations.

Town ordinances require owners to clean up dog waste. Failure to do so many result in a fine. The Town provides waste bags and receptacles for this purpose.

For a complete list of rules applicable to dog park usage, please visit our web site at www.riverbendnc.org. Dog park rules are also posted at the entrance to the dog park. ●

COMING EVENTS

Council Retreat

February 2, 2011

5:00 p.m.

*Law Offices of Sumrell Sugg
Carmichael Hicks & Hart*

Work Session

February 10, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

Council Meeting

February 17, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

*Animal Registration
continues*

*Please stop by Town Hall to
register your dogs and cats*

*Please bring your proof of rabies
vaccination*

Zone 1

Leaf & Limb Pick Up

Begins

March 21, 2011

*begin placing debris at street on
March 16*

Zone 2

Leaf & Limb Pick Up

Begins

March 28, 2011

*begin placing debris at street on
March 23*



**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
Bert Linkonis
Phil Seymour
Charlie Sharpe
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.
Karl Wolfer

TOWN MANAGER
Drew Havens

TOWN CLERK
Ann Katsuyoshi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Margaret Marshburn

POLICE CHIEF
Earl "Duke" Pratt

**WATER RESOURCES/
PUBLIC WORKS
SUPERINTENDENT**
Christina Massengill

**ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**
Chris Santos

**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
2010-2011**

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

January 10, 2011
(January 5)
also *Christmas Trees*
March 21, 2011
(March 16)
May 16, 2011
(May 11)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

January 17, 2011
(January 12)
also *Christmas Trees*
March 28, 2011
(March 22)
May 23, 2011
(May 18)

Pinecones, pine straw and
leaves must be bagged. For
additional important infor-
mation 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 3
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

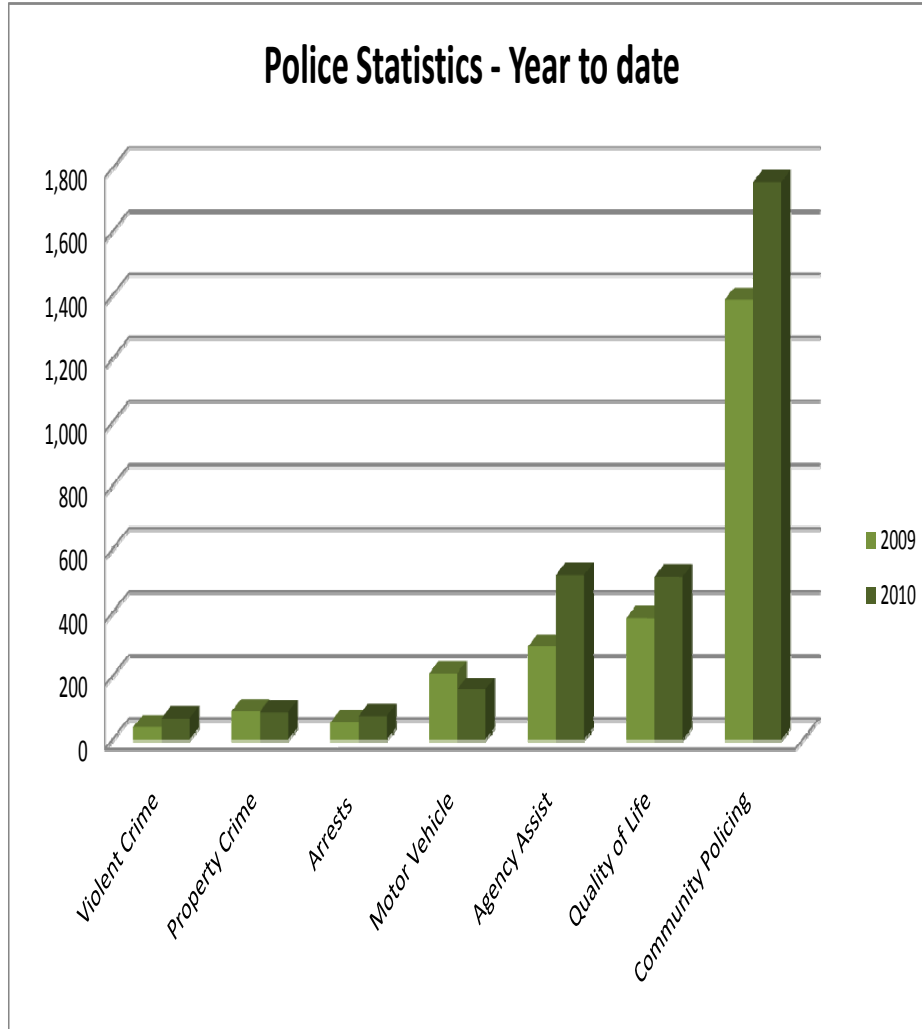
Council Retreat November 1
Work Session November 10
Regular Meeting November 17

Work Session December 8
Regular Meeting December 15



POLICE REPORT
 EARL "DUKE" PRATT
 CHIEF OF POLICE

| | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Violent Crime | 40 | 68 |
| Property Crime | 91 | 87 |
| Arrests | 56 | 75 |
| Motor Vehicle | 210 | 158 |
| Agency Assist | 293 | 520 |
| Quality of Life | 384 | 515 |
| Community Policing | 1,387 | 1,757 |
| Total Activity | 2,461 | 3,180 |



- 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



Animal Registration Underway

River Bend 2011 Animal Registrations are due by March 31, 2011. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

You may register your pets at Town Hall beginning Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$6.00 per pet. Owners are required to present a current rabies vaccination certificate at the time of 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.

Inspection and registration are required annually. Registration for 2011 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.



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.



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. Those residents who do not wish to receive solicitations need do nothing.



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.

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 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. 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.

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
Connect-CTY