

# RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

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



BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

In January, I discussed the major projects that River Bend has accomplished during the past 16 years which have provided the foundation on which services are delivered now and will be in the future. This month, I will discuss some of the major projects that the Council will address in 2012 and future years.

Storm water management will be a continuing issue in all coastal plain communities, including River

Bend. Several years ago the Council voted to allocate \$30,000 each year to address projects to solve specific localized drainage problems. At the time this funding commitment was made, the Public Works Advisory Board surveyed

the entire Town following a major summer rainstorm for the purpose of identifying locations where improvement was needed. From that survey, we developed a priority listing of problem drainage areas, and that list is used to guide engineering development for projects. Using this effective approach, we have significantly reduced the number of problem areas; and the commitment to funding will continue.

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**“Storm water management will be a continuing issue in all coastal plain communities, including River Bend.”**

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**“A very important aspect of this storm water management effort is aimed at compliance with the EPA Phase II Storm Water Rules which require municipalities to follow specific practices in handling storm water runoff.”**

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A very important aspect of this storm water management effort is aimed at compliance with the EPA Phase II Storm Water Rules which require municipalities to follow specific practices in handling storm water runoff. These rules have been in effect for about fifteen years and were first applied to industrial sites and very large cities. They

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now apply to mid-population cities and will continue to work downward until they reach municipalities the size of River Bend. The Town's approach to correcting problems will accommodate compliance with the Phase II rules without the shock of needing a large and immediate capital expenditure to achieve an EPA mandated compliance date.

River Bend has a water enterprise fund utility that serves every area of the Town; however, presently the wastewater collection and treatment system enterprise utility only serves approximately half the developed area of Town.

It is fair to say that urban type development necessitates the general availability of properly operated water and wastewater utilities.

The Public Works Advisory Board (PWAB) devoted a major effort in developing a plan to expand the Town's wastewater collection and treatment system to serve all the developed and undeveloped areas of Town. This effort took the PWAB almost a year to complete. In August of 2011, the PWAB met jointly with the Planning and the Environment and Waterways Advisory Boards to review the plan and

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to solicit comments. No comments were received, and the PWAB voted unanimously to forward the document to the Town Council for action. The Council is now reviewing the plan and will develop a course of action. This subject will be discussed in future River Bender articles.

Replacement of the barn which currently houses the Red Caboose Library is a third long-range capital project. The Town acquired this structure when it purchased the Wildwood complex in 1990. The building doesn't fulfill any near- or long-term Town needs nor does it lend itself to renovation expense for conversion to a useful structure.

In 2011 the Council voted to retain a consultant to review staff and public usage needs for Town Hall and other facilities. This professionally developed document was presented during an open public meeting. The Council will use the study as the basis for deliberation on a solution that will include demolishing the barn and

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constructing a new building suited to the long-term needs of the Town. The Council will proceed with the project in a deliberate manner, while considering both needs and financing opportunities.

While these are the major capital challenges with which the Council will cope in the future, smaller repair and construction projects will occur as the Town's real property assets depreciate. Regulatory agencies will also impact budgets by way of more stringent regulations, particularly in the area of utility services.

All of these projects are debated by the Council in open meetings, and their decision-making process will take place in the public forum. Future issues of the River Bender will provide details of pending actions and those taken by your Town Council. ●



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

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**“Capital planning is an important management tool that strengthens the linkage between community infrastructure needs and the financial capacity of the Town.”**

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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, replace-

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ment, 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 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.

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**“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.”**

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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 website, 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.

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

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas holiday! Water Resources and Public Works staff sure enjoyed the time off with our families. However, same as the Thanksgiving holiday, in order to comply with the requirements of the Town's Drinking Water Permit, Operator, Lamar Trowell worked the holiday schedule. River Bend's Water Permit requires sampling for chlorine 7 days per week in the distribution system as well as the treatment facilities.

Water Resources has several projects underway. W.O. White is connecting Springdale and Piner Estates to the Town's water system. They will soon be installing backflow preventers at the RHA Howell Center and Riverstone Assisted Living facility. Utility Services installed a man way on the water filter for Well #1 so they can enter the filter to repair the underdrain system. We hope to have Well #1 back online in early January. R. Brown Electric has installed the new electric panel at Wakefield lift station and will be working in January to install the new generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). They will also be connecting Well #2 and Quarterdeck lift station to the generator off Shoreline Drive.

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**"W.O. White is connecting Springdale and Piner Estates to the Town's water system."**

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We repaired one water leak repair on Outrigger Road and one sewer clog on Mulberry lane. The water leak was repaired during normal working hours, but the sewer clog was an after-hours call back. Field Supervisor, Brandon Mills, with assistance from Royal Flush, cleared the clog with no reportable sewer spill.

Public Works have been busy with their regular duties this month. Mike got the spot light installed to illuminate River Ben. Allen added rock and graded the parking lot at Well #3 and the Fire Department. He will be doing the same thing to the parking lot at the Police Station and the WWTP road in January. Allen and Mike both assisted Water Resources in removing the media from the Well #1 water filter for Utility Services to repair the underdrain.

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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 then dial “9” and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator. You will be asked to enter your phone number at the sound of the tone. After entering your phone number, the automated system will inform you that your page has been sent. Please, be patient and our utility operator will return your call. If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108. ●

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**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

Clean up from Hurricane Irene has, for most of us, been completed. However, many people in eastern North Carolina are still dealing with the damages and restoration in her aftermath. If this storm taught us nothing else, it most definitely drove home the seriousness and risks of flooding. Many people experienced extensive damages and are still displaced from their homes even though they never flooded in the past and thought they were well protected from flooding. They, better than anyone, can tell you how easily everything can be lost in a moment. 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 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. If you do not have flood insurance on your home and personal belongings, please feel free to contact me to discuss flood insurance. 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 should all know by now, flooding can happen anywhere.

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**“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.”**

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As always, I'd like to remind everyone that residents or contractors must secure a permit before beginning any construction project. For the month of January, 3 permits were issued and permit fees totaled \$178.00. 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 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.

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**"I'd like to remind everyone that residents or contractors must secure a permit before beginning any construction project."**

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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**

I seem to be talking a lot about leaf and limb issues lately. Aside from reminding everyone to not put their vegetative debris out curb side before the date specified by the Town (five days before pick-up begins in your zone) and that your debris must conform with the prescribed requirements, there is one new issue of which you should be aware.

The Council received a proposed change to the leaf and limb regulations. This change was brought about because of the practices of a few residents who preferred to place their leaf and limb debris on property other

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than their own, i.e., that of the Golf Course, their neighbor's, the Town's, ostensibly to avoid any potential damage to their lawns. It is already a violation of Town ordinances to place one's debris on Town property (see the Public Nuisance portion of The Town Code). And placing this same debris on someone else's property without their permission will soon be a violation as well.

To a large extent, we will be relying on the help from our residents when addressing this issue and ask that you call the Town Hall if you see this occurring. The desire to not damage one's lawn by placing leaf and limb debris is understandable and not without merit. Most of us seek to have attractive lawns. If this is a major issue for you, I might suggest a couple of options—either (or

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both) haul off the bags and limbs to the Tuscarora Landfill yourselves, or have a contractor/landscaper do this for you. The cost would be relatively low and your lawn would be unaffected. The alternative, obviously, is to have the Town's contractor remove it for you. Absent a major weather event, e.g., Hurricane Irene, we (as a Town) are not likely to have much debris curbside and your debris would likely remain on your lawn for only a few days. But please be respectful of your neighbor's property (and that belonging to the Golf Course and Town); to do otherwise is anything but “neighborly.”

### **ROADSIDE LITTER**

Whether the result of contractors working within our Town, kids not caring where they discard their “Slurpy” containers, or residents too lazy to bend over and pick up the trash (including the “Shopper”) in their yard and at the foot of their mailbox, roadside trash remains a problem. Please—if you see trash in your yard or along the roadside near your house—PICK IT UP! It only takes a few seconds. We still see the same articles of trash carelessly discarded during our daily walks around River Bend. This is particularly true on Randomwood Lane and Gatewood Drive. It remains there week after week, until and unless we pick it up ourselves. Surely someone else has to see it too!

Residents of Broad Creek Road, across the Neuse, routinely go out and collect trash along that roadway in order to help maintain the appearance of their neighborhood. Yet, we do not. What does that tell you about (some of) the residents where

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this problem is particularly pronounced? Trash build up is one indication of a general decline in a neighborhood; it indicates that the people living in that area just don't care. Don't believe it? Just ask a realtor what effect persistent accumulations of trash have on property values and the ability to sell homes in that area. It "ain't" good!! Please—do us all a favor and do your part!

### **POLICE CHIEF RETIRING**

As most of you know, our Police Chief, "Duke" Pratt, is retiring as of April 1st. We have an active search underway for his replacement and, by the time this publication hits the streets, his replacement will likely have been selected. The Chief will be staying in the area after his retirement, but I know he would really appreciate our residents stopping by the police station to wish him well and possibly to give him pointers on surviving the next phase of his professional journey—retirement!

### **SPEED**

Just a reminder: school children are out waiting for their school busses in the early morning hours, just when many of us are off to work or some other important destination. Additionally, many of our Town's resident animals, including deer, are out, particularly during hours of darkness. Please remember this and give them (and your vehicle's front end) a break and observe the speed limit (35 MPH where posted as such and 25 MPH elsewhere).

### **BUDGET SESSIONS**

You're probably aware that we'll be starting our budget sessions in March. We had to factor in the County's reevaluation of all of our homes during the previous budget cycle and that always presents unique challenges for us. We have to work with estimates until the final figures come out (which is usually AFTER we have set the coming fiscal year's budget). You're probably also aware that this reevaluation process has been on an eight-year cycle. State law requires periodic reevaluations, but no more than every eight years. This sometimes (always?) results in relatively large increases in our ad valorem tax rates.

Well, for better or worse, the county has reduced the reevaluation period from eight years to every four years. That makes our job a bit more difficult (as we will have to "guesstimate" what our ad valorem tax revenues will be once

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**"... for better or worse, the county has reduced the reevaluation period from eight years to every four years."**

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every four years rather than every eight years. BUT, the shorter reevaluation period

should both reduce those increases to something more manageable, and make the rates resulting from those shorter reevaluation periods a bit more reflective of the real value (as affected by the real property market) of our properties. Will we like it? Probably no more than we do now, but at least the increases should be more tolerable. Get out and enjoy this fine weather. ●

# COMING EVENTS

*Council Retreat  
Tuesday  
February 7, 2012  
5:00 p.m.  
Law Offices of  
Sumrell Sugg*

*Council Work Session  
February 9, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall*

*Council Meeting  
February 16, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall*

*Games Night  
Thursday  
February 23, 2012  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
River Bend 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**  
Brenda Garvey  
Barbara Maurer  
Phil Seymour  
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.  
Karl Wolfer

**TOWN MANAGER**  
Drew Havens

**TOWN CLERK**  
Ann Katsuyoshi

**FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR**  
Margaret Marshburn

**POLICE CHIEF**  
Earl "Duke" Pratt

**DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC WORKS**  
Christina Massengill

**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  
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](http://www.riverbendnc.org). ●

**Town Council  
2012 Meeting Dates**

- Work Session ..... January 12
- Regular Meeting ..... January 19
  
- Council Retreat ..... February 7
- Work Session ..... February 9
- Regular Meeting ..... February 16
  
- Budget Meeting..... March 6
- Work Session ..... March 8
- Budget Meeting..... March 13
- Regular Meeting ..... March 15
- Budget Meeting..... March 20
- Budget Meeting..... March 27
  
- Budget Meeting..... April 3
- Budget Meeting..... April 10
- Work Session ..... April 12
- Budget Meeting..... April 17
- Regular Meeting ..... April 19
  
- Council Retreat ..... May 1
- Work Session ..... May 10
- Regular Meeting ..... May 17
  
- Work Session ..... June 14
- Regular Meeting ..... June 21
  
- Work Session ..... July 12
- Regular Meeting ..... July 19
  
- Council Retreat ..... August 7
- Work Session ..... August 9
- Regular Meeting ..... August 16
  
- Work Session ..... September 13
- Regular Meeting ..... September 20
  
- Work Session ..... October 11
- Regular Meeting ..... October 18
  
- Council Retreat ..... November 6
- Work Session ..... November 8
- Regular Meeting ..... November 15
  
- Work Session ..... December 13
- Regular Meeting ..... December 20

*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*

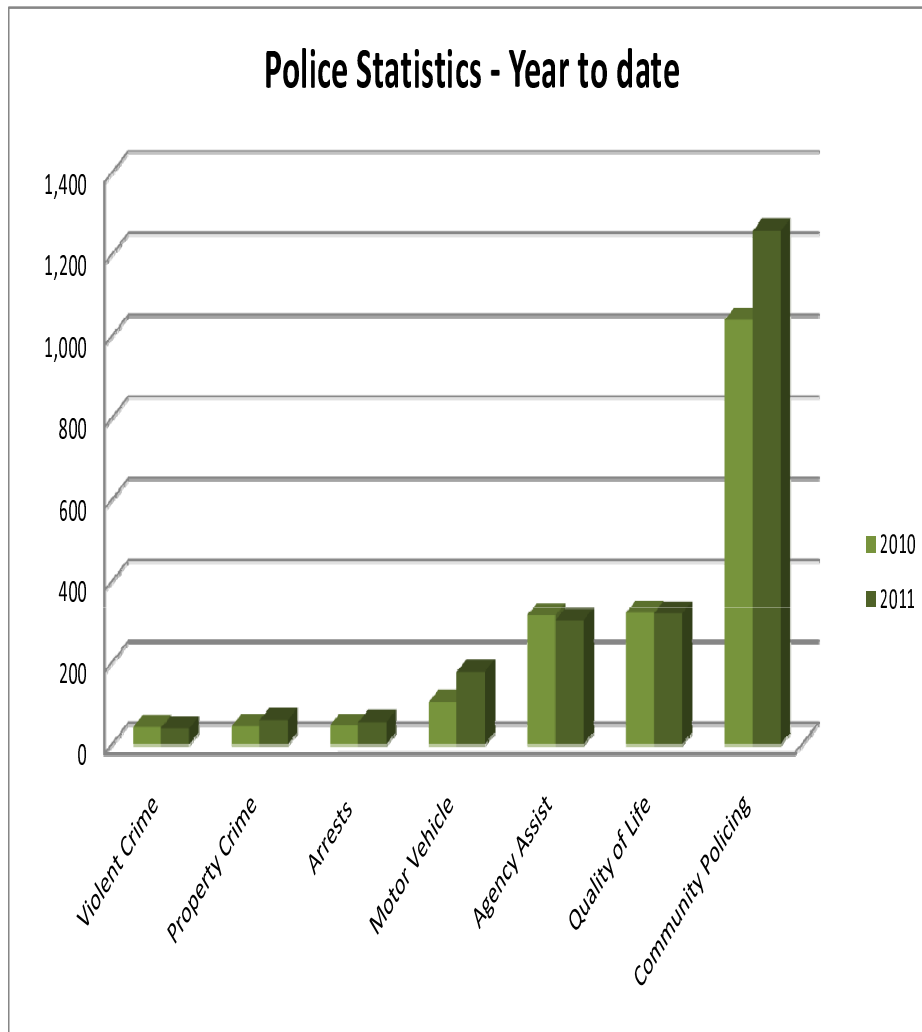


**POLICE REPORT**

EARL "DUKE" PRATT  
CHIEF OF POLICE

**CYTD REPORT as of December 2011**

	2010	2011
Violent Crime	41	38
Property Crime	43	59
Arrests	46	54
Motor Vehicle	103	177
Agency Assist	316	303
Quality of Life	322	320
Community Policing	1,039	1,257
<b>Total Activity</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>2,208</b>



- 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](http://riverbendnc.org)

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



## Games Night

THURSSDAY, FEBRUARY 23  
6:30 P.M. — 10:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

*River Bend Parks & Recreation  
Presents  
Old Fashioned Board Game Night*

Parks & Recreation will supply card tables, some board games and light refreshments.

Bring yourself, bring a friend and bring your favorite board game.

Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.  
Town Hall



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.



## DOG PARK AT RIVER BEND



River Bend dogs have their own exercise area where they can play with other canines. Situated between the Town Park and Ritter Field, the dog park gives dogs a chance to run while their owners socialize.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset for dogs with proof of current vaccinations. Separate exercise areas accommodate large and small dogs.

For complete list of rules applicable to dog park use, please visit Town Hall for a brochure or view details on our web site at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org). Dog park rules are also posted at the entrance to the park.



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.



### **Animal Registration is Underway**

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.



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.