

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



July Fourth Values: Duty, Honor, Country

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

General Benjamin Davis, a West Point graduate and WWII leader of the Tuskegee Airmen. No person could better exemplify the Duty, Honor, Country ideals than General Davis.

Personal integrity grows from the commitment an individual makes personally and to fellow soldiers in accepting the West Point motto as life guide. Sadly, it seems that few institutions today make even minimal effort to instill this quality in their graduates. Far too many present day college graduates now

are driven by goals that will lead to great popularity, wealth and pursuits that permit luxury and the “good life” with little or no regard for their fellow man and the well being of future generations in this country.

No profession and no organization is immune to the ills that come from looking the other way and abandoning personal integrity. Mr. John O’Leary, writes in his GOVERNING DAILY article entitled The Ugly Side of Transparency, “It seems the media isn’t interested in being fair. They want to sell newspapers, generate discussions on talk radio and drive traffic to web sites. One surefire way to do that is to show recipients of aid blowing tax dollars on self destructive indulgences.” I

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY. These words are the long-time motto of West Point, and I believe the cornerstone of an institution that has been legend for producing selfless leaders for this nation. I am not a graduate of the USMA, but from a young age, have understood what that motto meant to individuals who had successfully completed the Academy curriculum. Years ago, I had the honor of working briefly with

“Personal Integrity grows from the commitment an individual makes to himself and to his fellow soldiers in accepting the West Point motto as his or her life guide..”

INSIDE THIS EDITION

MAYOR’S REPORT
PAGE 1

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT
PAGE 4

ZONING REPORT
PAGE 6

WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 7

ANIMAL REGISTRATION FEE
INCREASE NOTICE
PAGE 8

JULY FOURTH PHOTO ESSAY
PAGE 9

COMING EVENTS
PAGE 12

LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 13

POLICE REPORT
PAGE 14

ETCETERA
PAGE 15

will not quote Mr. O’Leary’s entire article here, but it is available at Town Hall if anyone wishes to read it.

I don’t mean to imply that the media is worse than many other segments of our society. We can all recall the financial sector’s recent abuse of the public trust that will haunt individuals and nations for years to come. The auto industry took investors into bankruptcy and the labor union leadership assisted in that downward spiral.

Government is not immune from the ills of greed as witnessed by the elected and appointed officials in Bell, California. The Council in Bell (a city of 38,000 south of Los Angeles) had paid the City

“All organizations and institutions are either growing or are in decline.”

Manager almost \$800,000 annually. They also each received almost \$100,000 for their duties. Many in government seem to operate on a policy of telling the electorate anything to get elected or reelected all the while knowing that promises made will never be kept. All organizations and institutions are either growing or are in decline. Growth demands good planning and good planning demands input and civil dialogue from diverse points of view. These qualities seem to be very nearly absent in our Congress and in many State Legislative bodies. There is greater emphasis on “one-upmanship” that will give a party a “knock-out blow.” That wasn’t the way our nation was forged. In this era it appears that the electorate often forms

“I am certain that this nation will recover and find its way back to these foundation values.”

opinions based on a misleading social network posts.

That brings me back to Duty, Honor, Country and personal integrity. At the beginning I said I am not a graduate of

West Point. I am, however, a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and have always been thankful that all the service academies made a good effort to instill the foundation of strong personal integrity. I am certain that this nation will recover and find its way back to these foundation values.

Post Script: *After I had written this article, I was delighted to read a Letter to the Editor in the Sunday May 29, 2011 edition of the Sun Journal written by Katee Driscoll, a junior attending New Bern High School.*

Katee’s article, in a most articulate manner, addresses the problems a society faces when it departs from the values that need to be instilled in all citizens. This forming of a sense of values needs to begin in our formative school years. I believe

that we adults have failed to live up to and pass this basic need of a democratic society to Katee's peers.

I hope that you will take time to read Ms. Driscoll's letter which is reprinted here with her permission. As an aside, Katee's brother Peter who graduated from New Bern High graduate in June, is now attending the U. S. Coast Guard Academy.

ACCOUNTABILITY

BY KATEE DRISCOLL, NEW BERN

Blaming others is an inherent aspect of human nature. Nobody wants to stand up and accept the responsibility for his or her wrongdoings. And why should we when there is an "easier way out?" After all, blaming our ineptitudes on others provides a safe refuge for us to wallow in our laziness. But guess what, America? Our nation will not survive if society continues down this fruitless path of pointing fingers.

The most glaring example of this dilemma to me, a junior at New Bern High School, is the failure of the public school system today. Every day I am witness to many shortcomings of students and teachers. A student fails a test and promptly blames the low grade on the teacher. A class does not meet the proficiency standards established by the state or federal government and the teacher blames the lack of funding. However, these accusations are ill-deserved when the problem is—in most cases—the accuser's own fault. For instance, that same student might have failed because he or she decided not to study. And that same class might have failed because the teacher fell behind in covering the material that needed to be covered. Naturally, however, it is easier to blame a misdoing on someone else.

In our school, the majority of the student body skates through each school year by passing their ineptitudes off on others. The elite percentage that are actually accountable for their own actions and strive to do their best will become the leaders in society that make a difference in our world. However, this small population cannot continue to support the slacking part of population that continues to grow exponentially. And one day, when the number of slackers exceeds the maximum able to be supported by the hard -workers, America will slide into oblivion.

Therefore, now is the time for us to stop passing the blame along and actually own up to our actions. We need to stop thinking of easy ways out of sticky situations, and instead begin to consider what we can do to make a difference. Every individual needs to take it upon him or herself to be accountable and become the change we need to see in the world. ■



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DREW HAVENS

As you read the news about two local officials, one town manager and one operator, being arrested for falsifying reports regarding wastewater treatment operations and tampering with samples, you might wonder; could that happen here? Could it? Sure, it could. However, the chance of something like this happening here is remote. To me, it comes down to trust. Do those to whom we entrust the operation of our utilities trust their supervisor? Does the supervisor trust her supervisor? Does he trust those to whom he reports? And, is the trust in all these cases returned? I think we have developed a culture of trust that should mitigate problems such as those we have seen in the papers.

What does trust have to do with it? Well, absent trust, subordinates are hesitant to report problems for fear of being

blamed for them. One who does not trust their subordinates is similarly unlikely to trust their boss, so it becomes tempting to hide bad test results. If bad news is consistently met with harsh reactions and finger pointing, human nature will be to avoid giving bad news. Unfortunately, without giving bad news or more simply

"In my opinion, the culture of any organization must be built upon integrity and trust. I believe we have such a culture here. I know that I can trust those to whom I report to listen to information being presented, and make rational and informed decisions."

put, speaking the truth, things will not change.

In my, ever so humble opinion, the culture of any organization must be built upon integrity and trust. I believe we have such a culture here. I know that I can trust those to whom I report to listen to information being presented, and make rational and informed decisions. I know I can trust our superintendent based upon evidence and her character. A couple of minor issues of non-compliance in the wastewater system were reported to state regulators in advance of a written report, and steps were taken to ensure they would not recur. The support she receives from her supervisor, and the support I receive from mine, helps foster the culture of trust and integrity that we rely upon to do our jobs for you.

"What does trust have to do with it? Well, absent trust, subordinates are hesitant to report problems for fear of being blamed for them."

With the coming of the summer months, so comes the possibility for severe storms and hurricanes. The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an active Atlantic hurricane season. Now is the time to prepare, not when storms approach. Create a storm checklist so in the harried hours before evacuation you do not forget something. Remember to plan for your pets; knowing that most evacuation shelters cannot accommodate them, you should know in advance where they will be sheltered. Your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is actively training to become an integral part of the Town's response during times of disaster. This volunteer group meets regularly to update training and logistical matters. If you are interested in learning how you can become part of this effort to help your community, contact the Police Department or Town Hall.

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The new leaf and limb schedule will be mailed in the next cycle of water bills in early July, printed in July's River Bender and available on the Town's web site. The police will be working with residents to ensure that material is not placed on the roadsides before the specified time and to ensure that bags are labeled in accordance

"Your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is actively training to become an integral part of the Town's response during times of disaster."

with the policy set by the Town Council. In addition, residents are encouraged to be sure that material that they want picked up is at the roadside by the day that pick-up begins in their zone. Once the contractor goes through a neighborhood and performs the pick-up, he will

not come back to get more debris that is placed at the roadside after the first pass. Everyone's cooperation ensures that this process is efficient and timely.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you I have met, and those I have not, for making this Town a great place to work for the past four years. I continue to enjoy working with the elected leaders, advisory boards, and the professional staff we have assembled here to make River Bend a great place to live and work. ●



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 May, 15 permits were issued and in June, 6 permits were issued in the zoning and floodplain development department. Permit fees for May and June totaled \$1,461.60.

With June, hurricane season has officially begun and will not end until November. Even with the current drought, should we get hit with one or more of the predicted hurricanes this year, heavy rains and winds can push 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

“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 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.”

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.

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 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.

“As of July 1, 2011, my office hours will be Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Friday, from 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.”

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. **As of July 1, 2011, my office hours will be Monday through Thurs-**

day, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Friday, from 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. If you need assistance and 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
MAY REPORT**

BY CHRISTINA M. MASSENGILL
SUPERINTENDENT
WATER RESOURCES/PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works and Water Resources have been busy this month with their regular duties. Public Works completed some work orders at the Entrance Pond.

Allen, with assistance from a community service worker, added new mulch around the trees and flower beds, cut vines from the trees, and weeded around the entire pond. It was a lot of work, but well worth it because the Entrance looks so much better.

This type of work will continue at the Town Hall pond and along the walking trail next month. Mike, Allen, and Brandon will be installing the fitness equipment and a drinking water fountain along the walking trail in June, just in time for the Independence Day celebration. The old, big, and bulky Wetlands signs in Ritter Field were removed and replaced with smaller ones. Now you actually can read about the wetlands while looking at the sample wetland area.

Water Resources continues the installation of back flow preventers on water meters. They will complete this work order by the end of June and another work order will be opened July 1st as we will be receiving 100 more for installation in the new fiscal year. Brandon flushed the water system this month. This is done at night when water usage is low to avoid customer complaints. I would like to thank all water customers for their patience and understanding during the flushing process, as we did not receive any complaints through

the entire process.

The entire Water Resources staff has been checking water meters for high usage. We have found that most custom-

ers are using Town water for irrigation. To avoid sewer charges on irrigation the customer can have an irrigation meter installed. If you are interested in having one installed, call Mandy Gilbert at 638-3870 Ext. 205 to schedule the installation.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

“To avoid sewer charges on irrigation, the customer can have an irrigation meter installed.”

“After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing the Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to then dial “9” and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator.”

After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing the 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 then will be asked to enter your phone number at the sound of the tone. After entering your phone number, the auto-

mated 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. ●



Animal Registration Fee Increase Notice

Beginning July 1, 2011, the fee for registering pets will increase to \$10.00 per pet.

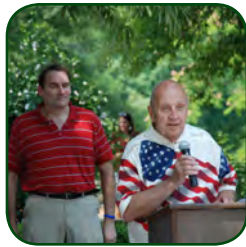
Town ordinances require pet owners to register their dogs and cats annually.

This may be done at Town Hall Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.

On July 4th River Bend families, friends and neighbors gathered at the Town Commons to celebrate the independence of our great nation.







COMING EVENTS

*Work Session
July 14, 2011
7:00 P.M.
Town Hall*

*Council Meeting
July 21, 2011
7:00 P.M.
Town Hall*

*Zone 1
Leaf & Limb Pick Up
Begins
July 18
begin placing debris at street on
July 13*

*Zone 2
Leaf & Limb Pick Up
Begins
July 25
begin placing debris at street on
July 20*

*Notice
Animal Registration Fees
increase to
\$10.00 per pet
beginning
July 1, 2011*

*Council Retreat
August 2, 2011
5:00 P.M.
Law Offices of Sumrell Sugg
Carmichael Hicks & Hart P.A.
New Bern*



**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
Phil Seymour
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.
Karl Wolfer
One Vacancy

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
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 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 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

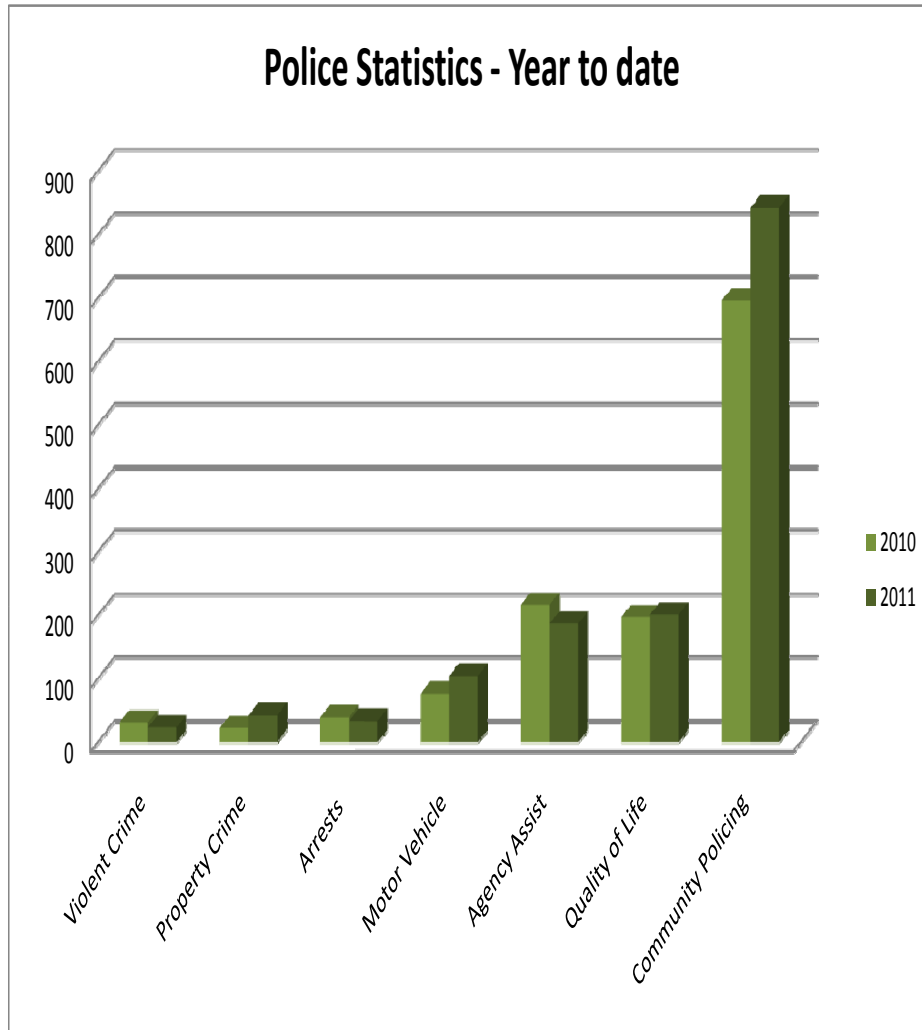


POLICE REPORT

EARL "DUKE" PRATT
CHIEF OF POLICE

CYTD REPORT as of May 2011

| | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Violent Crime | 31 | 23 |
| Property Crime | 22 | 42 |
| Arrests | 39 | 33 |
| Motor Vehicle | 76 | 104 |
| Agency Assist | 217 | 186 |
| Quality of Life | 197 | 201 |
| Community Policing | 696 | 842 |
| Total Activity | 1,278 | 1,431 |



- 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 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.



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.

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



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.

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.



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.



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.



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.