

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



WATER/WASTEWATER INFORMATION

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Adequate and safe drinking water is becoming a critical issue both nationally and internationally. Collection and proper treatment of wastewater quickly becomes directly related to potable water supply because ultimately wastewater makes its way back to the potable water supply source.

Many Americans find it difficult to grasp why the cost of water utility services has risen to its present level and why costs will necessarily rise even higher.

For years, western states have been trying to cope with the growing need for water and are faced with limited total supply. It is only in recent years, following several years of drought, that eastern states have become concerned about limited water supplies. Also compounding the problem is a growing population and modern industry's need for more process water.

The nation needs to enter into a serious discussion regarding wastewater reclamation to develop an appropriate and safe method to link wastewater treatment plant effluent discharge to the supply source for potable water. These ideas sounds revolting; but consider the south-flowing Mississippi River where every city takes its potable water supply from the river and discharges effluent from wastewater back into the river. The same process also takes place on North Carolina Rivers.

Every citizen needs to give serious consideration to the present and evolving water utility issues. Individuals can assist in several ways, for instance:

- ◆ Conserve water wherever possible. Using low-flow shower heads is a good place to start. Replacing toilets with low-flow models will save a significant amount of water.

"It is only in recent years, following several years of drought, that eastern states have become concerned about limited water supplies."

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- ◆ A failing toilet flush mechanism will consume a very large volume of water and send all of it through the wastewater treatment facility. Ask someone who has opened a surprisingly high water bill and that person will verify this statement. A failing flush mechanism can be detected by placing food coloring in the toilet tank and then observing if it flows into the toilet bowl without flushing.
 - ◆ Repair even slow leaks in faucets that serve sinks and lavatories.

There are numerous Federal EPA and State Division of Water Quality (DWQ) regulations that provide mandatory standards for the maintenance and operation of water utilities. There is no option but to operate the systems in compliance with these regulations and each regulation has an associated cost. These same agencies also dictate the level of training required for utility operators. Town staff, under Christina Massengill's leadership, meets or exceeds these qualifications. Staff members are available to discuss any problems and answer questions related to the utility.

"A failing toilet flush mechanism will consume a very large volume of water and send all of it through the wastewater treatment facility."

Recently a consultant serving a water utility stated that a utility "can be operated at a low cost or as a quality system but there is no low-cost quality utility." The largely buried part of water utilities must be properly maintained and replaced as necessary. Failure to accomplish this maintenance will lead to ultimate failure of the system and result in an expense very difficult to fund.

"a utility can be operated at a low cost or as a quality system, but there is no low-cost quality utility."

Citizens should not "riot" pressing for low utility rates. Rather, they should be very suspicious of any political candidate who claims he or she can and will lower utility rates. The River Bend Town Council works with the Town staff during the annual budget cycle to evaluate utility needs and then set rates that will provide adequate funding to operate and maintain the utility. This is never a popular activity for elected officials but those individuals perform few duties that are more critical to the proper functioning of a municipality. ●



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DREW HAVENS

The heavy rains at the end of September tested our stormwater system and, in some cases, overwhelmed it. This was an unusual weather event that caused flooding in areas of town not accustomed to this type of occurrence. During this event, our staff was on duty and working diligently to keep the water flowing. Control gates on the front entrance pond, Gentry Cove, and Lakemere were opened well in advance of the heavy rain to give the water a place to go, and staff members

monitored other areas where immediate attention to drainage pipes was needed. Even with these efforts, we still had to close Shoreline Drive and some other streets to keep people safe.

One of the items that kept our folks busy was clearing debris from driveway culvert pipes. Residents are encouraged to keep these clear of any obstruction so water flows properly. There were instances where a blocked pipe on one driveway caused unnecessary flooding on neighboring properties and the street. We will begin a more rigorous program of code enforcement to compel property owners to keep these structures properly maintained.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding group of dedicated people who are members of the Rhems Fire Department and First Responders. Once again,

"We are very fortunate to have an outstanding group of dedicated people who are members of the Rhems Fire Department and First Responders."

they rose to the challenges of assisting in this storm event by directing traffic on Highway 17 when water was flowing across it, directing traffic when we had a tree down on Shoreline Drive, and responding to the other emergency calls they received. These volunteers do this

community proud and certainly deserve our respect and admiration for all they do at all hours of the day and night.

We are just over one-quarter of the way through our fiscal year and our budget appears to be on track. As we mentioned during the budget presentation, our process is one that runs year-round. In fact, your professional staff is already beginning

"This was an unusual weather event that caused flooding in areas of Town not accustomed to this type of occurrence."

the process of evaluating proposals for the coming year as we continue to monitor current year projects and services.

We are very pleased with the results of our investment in the maintenance of Shoreline Drive. The contractor, supervised by our contracted engineer, did a great job. We continue to remain proactive in addressing maintenance needs for our streets and other infrastructure. While this type of work is not inexpensive, it is a wise investment in the future of this Town.

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As always, many thanks to all who help to make River Bend a great community, whether it is serving on a Town Advisory Board, volunteering with the Fire Department and/or First Responders, helping the Community Appearance Commission with their projects, or in many other less formal capacities. It is truly amazing to see what people can accomplish when they work together for the betterment of their community. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you to position this Town to be a great place to live for years to come. ●



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 October, 1 permit was issued for a screened porch. Permit fees totaled \$84.00.

After the heavy rain event and subsequent flooding as a result of the heavy rains, I want to take a moment to again point out that flooding can happen anywhere,

not just in delineated flood zones. If you, or one of your neighbors, or someone you know, experienced flooding from the recent storm, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has set up a Disaster Recovery Center at the Craven County Courthouse, 411 Craven Street, New Bern. It is located on the second floor and is open from 8:30 A.M. to 6:30 p.m., Sunday through Saturday until further notice. More information is available at Town Hall.

"FEMA has set up a Disaster Recovery Center at the Craven County Courthouse, 411 Craven Street, New Bern."

I would also like to take a moment to reassert the importance of obtaining flood insurance regardless of where you live. Homeowner's insurance does not cover damages from a flood event. We all buy homeowner's insurance for our peace of mind in case of a fire, which, statistically, has less likelihood of happening in your lifetime than a flood event does. Shouldn't we all get flood insurance for our peace of mind, too?

"Please call Town Hall before starting work on any project. Craven County will not issue a building permit until a contractor or resident provides a River Bend permit."

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

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

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

As I write September's report, we are receiving some much needed rain. Public Works and Water Resources staff has been out during the rain inspecting the Town's stormwater drainage areas. If you notice an area not draining properly, please report it to the Public Works Department.

Public Works continues work on several projects. Reid Avery and his crew completed the stormwater drainage project on Raft Road and will begin work on the final project budgeted for this year on Channel Run Drive in early October. As I said at the beginning of my report, Public Works has been working very hard to control stormwater flow. With the amount of rain we have received over the past few days the stormwater system is having a very difficult time handling the amount of rainwater flow. Some things our residents can do to assist Public Works is to keep the culvert pipe under driveways clear of any debris and don't pile leaf and limb debris in ditches and other drainage ways. Also keep any open ditches free of pine needles and other debris that may cause back up problems downstream. I have to commend everyone in Public Works and Water Resources for their efforts in trying to control runoff, especially Allen, Lamar, and the Town Manager who stayed late into the night attempting to control runoff and assist any residents when needed.

Earl Temple, owner of A-1 Tree, has been in Town trimming around street lights and removing some limbs and a tree that was struck by lightning. The paving was set to begin on the 27th, but has been delayed until early October due to weather conditions.

Water Resources continues installing water sampling taps throughout Town. This project should be complete by the end of October. A cable contractor hit a water main on Boatswain Drive at Captains Cove in early September. Brandon, Tommy, and Lamar had the repair made in less than an hour. I would like to thank the residents for their patience and cooperation during the water outage. Brandon and his crew have also been cleaning sewer lines with what little spare time they have. Water Resources, with some assistance from Public Works, will also be cleaning some stormwater drainage pipes in October.

I would like to congratulate Operator Lamar Trowell. He received word this month that he passed his C-Well Distribution exam. Congratulations to Lamar for

"Lamar Trowell received word this month that he passed his C-Well Distribution exam. Congratulations to Lamar for a job well done."

a job well done. Lamar spent many off duty hours studying for this exam, which is very difficult to pass.

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

Environment & Waterways Advisory Board (EWAB) Canal Clean-Up: This month's submission is blessedly short. EWAB has scheduled another "Canal Clean-up" for November 13th. Anyone interested in helping to preserve the environment, particularly that within our Town, is encouraged to join members of EWAB and others at Boston at the Bend's launch site at 10:00 a.m. From there, we'll set off to pick-up trash that has made its way into the Plantation Canal and along its banks.

We could also use the assistance of interested residents of Island Lake Canal area to help clean that waterway (the put-in location is a bit far to address this area in addition to Plantation Canal).

We've done this several times in the past and it has proven to be both a particularly beneficial endeavor for this canal

as well as an enjoyable morning on the water. You need not have a canoe or kayak to participate, as several EWAB members have extra that you may use. Or, if you have a small motor or row-boat that you would prefer using, that is fine too. Should you have any questions or wish to confirm your attendance (so that we may ensure that we have enough kayaks or canoes), please contact Chairwoman Pat Liddy at 638-6784 or Phil Seymour at 634-2882. C'mon out; we can use all of the help we can get!

"C'mon out; we can use all of the help we can get (for canal clean-up)."

SURVEY - Soon, the Town will be sending out a survey that will help determine which, if any, projects we undertake on your behalf. These projects will enhance the

variety of activities, athletic and otherwise, in which our residents may participate. Grant money will be available for most, if not all, of these possible alternatives, but will likely require matching funding from the Town to some degree. Because we wish to commit these funds wisely, i.e., for projects that our residents will actually use and enjoy, it is essential that we hear back from as many residents as possible and that you give careful consideration to your responses. How you respond will help guide the Town staff and elected officials in deciding which projects are worthy of serious consideration. So, again, please take this questionnaire seriously and return it promptly. It is your input that will help guide us in our decision-making process regarding those projects that will benefit our Town for years to come. Thanks! ●

"please take this questionnaire seriously and return it promptly. It is your input that will help guide us in our decision-making process..."



Toys for Tots
SPONSORED BY USMC RESERVES

The United States Marine Corps Reserve has placed a Toys for Tots collection box in Town Hall. Each year the US Marine Corps Reserve collects new toys for distribution to children who might otherwise not receive any gifts at all for Christmas. If you'd like to help with this good cause, please place a new, unwrapped toy in the collection box. For additional information, please visit the official web site at www.toysfortots.org. ●



**2011 Golf Cart
Registration Due in
November**

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 November. 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.

COMING EVENTS

Work Session
November 10, 2010
7:00 PM
Town Hall

Council Meeting
November 18, 2010
7:00 PM
Town Hall

Council Retreat
November 2, 2010
7:00 PM
Law Offices of Sumrell Sugg

Election Day
November 2, 2010
General Election
Town Hall
6:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Shred Event
Saturday, November 6, 2010
Shred your
Confidential Documents
Free of Charge
10:00 AM—1:00 PM
Details on Page 23

Quilt Raffle
fund raiser for
the Town Commons
drinking fountain
Drawing:
November 18
During Council Meeting

Zone 1
Leaf & Limb Pick Up
Begins
November 8, 2010
begin placing debris at street on
November 3

Zone 2
Leaf & Limb Pick Up
Begins
November 15, 2010
begin placing debris at street on
November 10



**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

- July 19, 2010
(July 14)
- September 20, 2010
(September 15)
- November 8, 2010
(November 3)
- January 10, 2011
(January 5)
also Christmas Trees
- March 21, 2011
(March 16)
- May 16, 2011
(May 11)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 26, 2010
(July 21)
- September 27, 2010
(September 22)
- November 15, 2010
(November 10)
- 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 information
about River Bend's
Leaf & Limb collec-
tion program, please see
our Ordinance online at
www.riverbendnc.org. ●

**Town Council
2010 Meeting Dates**

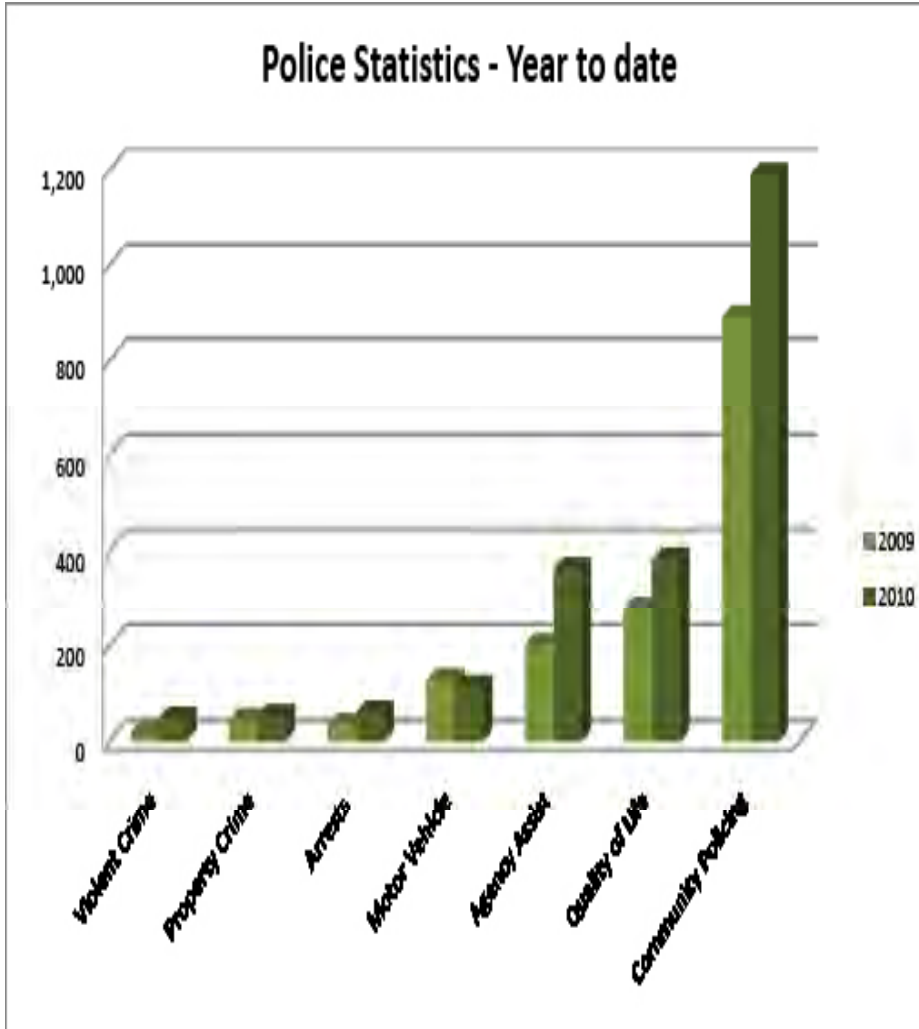
- Council Retreat January 5
- Work Session January 7
- Regular Meeting January 14
- Work Session February 11
- Regular Meeting February 18
- Budget Meeting..... March 9
- Work Session March 11
- Budget Meeting..... March 16
- Regular Meeting March 18
- Budget Meeting..... March 23
- Budget Meeting..... March 30
- Budget Meeting..... April 6
- Council Retreat April 7
- Work Session April 8
- Budget Meeting..... April 13
- Regular Meeting April 15
- Budget Meeting..... April 20
- Work Session May 13
- Regular Meeting May 20
- Work Session June 10
- Regular Meeting June 17
- Council Retreat July 6
- Work Session July 8
- Regular Meeting July 15
- Work Session August 12
- Regular Meeting August 19
- Work Session September 9
- Regular Meeting September 16
- Work Session October 7
- Regular Meeting October 14
- Council Retreat November 2
- Work Session November 10
- Regular Meeting November 18
- Work Session December 9
- Regular Meeting December 16



POLICE REPORT

EARL "DUKE" PRATT
CHIEF OF POLICE

	2009	2010
Violent Crime	16	46
Property Crime	43	50
Arrests	32	57
Motor Vehicle	125	113
Agency Assist	201	359
Quality of Life	277	380
Community Policing	889	1,190
Total Activity	1,583	2,195



- 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



Questions / Answers
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Question: Can you explain the operation of the Flood Gates at Lakemere and Gentry Cove?

Answer: The normal water levels in the Lakemere and Gentry Cove ponds are achieved by the control gates that regulate the water level in each of these ponds.

The water level during periods of high flow will exceed the bank full level unless the control gates are opened. The drainage structures (pipes) located on the water course leading from Highway 17 to the Plantation Canal at Town Hall were designed to accommodate the “one hundred year” record storm event. When fully opened, the gates will allow the full flow through the pipe structures down stream from the control gates.

A reference marker has been established at each pond and those reference markers are observed during heavy rain events as a signal that the control gates need to be opened. The Town Public Works staff monitors the water level during working hours and the duty police officer performs the monitoring duty after hours. If water levels are rising, the gates will be opened until the marker indicates a fall of water level. The gates will be returned to the closed position once water level begins to fall below the normal level.

Clearly the rain event of September 29th and 30th represented the area’s record storm event. During that storm the control gates were fully opened for twenty four hours before the ponds reached maximum level. Both ponds experienced levels not observed since the 2001 project that enlarged the pipe structures draining storm-water to the Plantation Canal.

These ponds present a very aesthetic water feature enjoyed by all River Benders. Town staff is mindful of the need to monitor and adjust the control gates when heavy rain events are predicted; however, they cannot do more than open the gates to the full open position. Our September flood event will not likely repeat and will be seen as a rare event. ●

Please submit your questions for this column to deputyclerk@riverbendnc.org

**Fall Wreath
Making Workshop**

**Residents enjoyed
making attractive
seasonal wreaths.**

**They started with
small scraps of cloth
and finished up with
beautiful wreaths.**



**Community Day
Yard Sales and
Red Caboose Library
Book Sale**

**Once again, the
Community Day
yard sales and the
Red Caboose Library
book sales were a
great success.**

**Shoppers streamed
into River Bend to
take advantage
of the many great
bargains offered for
sale.**





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.



Town ordinances allow for residents to drive their golf carts on our streets provided they are inspected by and registered with our Police Department. Some vehicle modifications may be required and some restrictions may apply. For details, 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.

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



Quilt Raffle
 THURSDAY
 NOVEMBER 17, 2010
 DURING COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parks & Recreation Department will raffle off a lovely quilt made and donated to the Town by resident Beverly Nicholson from the local Quilting Group. The proceeds from the raffle will be used to install a drinking fountain in the Town Commons Park. The quilt is on display at Town Hall. Tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing will take place during the November 18, 2010 Town Council Meeting. ●



Shredding Event

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2010
10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
TOWN COMMONS PARKING LOT

On Saturday, November 6th, the Town of River Bend will hold a Shredding Event from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Town Commons parking lot. A large shredder will be brought in on a truck. This event is open to all River Bend residents at no charge; however, there will be some rules:

- ◆ Household paper only
- ◆ Staples and paperclips allowed—remove binder clips and notebooks
- ◆ Individual CDs and DVDs can be shredded (remove jewel cases)
- ◆ Each household may shred one box of paper
- ◆ Box must be able to be carried by hand by the individual
- ◆ Vehicles are to enter the lot from Plantation Drive and will exit to Wildwood Drive
- ◆ Town staff/volunteers will direct and assist with traffic flow and other logistics

Please notify your neighbors about this event. If you have any questions, please call Town Clerk Ann Katsuyoshi at 638-3870, ext. 202.

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.