

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



NOISE ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

River Bend owes a Special Thanks to Mr. Ed Valentine and the citizens who served on the special Sound Measurement Committee.

Every reader of this issue of News from Town Hall is most likely aware of the often contentious Town-wide discussions regarding the development of an ordinance regulating acceptable sound levels for various times of day throughout River Bend. As with many issues involving life in any city or town, individual opinions quickly polarized, and reasoned discussion and resolution became extremely difficult.

The “noise” problem is the most recent hotly-contested issue in River Bend. The Town Council quickly recognized that the existing noise ordinance forced police officers responding to noise complaints to make subjective calls as to whether the noise was too loud or whether it was acceptable. The Council listened to lengthy comment on the issue from citizens on both sides expressing strong feelings as to acceptable or unacceptable noise levels.

During a special “called” meeting to discuss the singular issue of developing a new noise ordinance, the Council concluded it would be extremely helpful to recruit a group of citizens to study the issue in depth and put forth recommendations for appropriate decibel levels for noise generated during daytime and nighttime hours.

During that meeting, Mr. Ed Valentine—a Town resident and an acoustics professional—agreed to serve as facilitator for the Sound Measurement Committee. Members were to evaluate noise levels and arrive at recommended levels for possible inclusion in a new noise ordinance. At the request of the Town Council, former

“The Town Council quickly recognized that the existing noise ordinance forced police officers responding to noise complaints to make subjective calls as to whether the noise was too loud or whether it was acceptable.”

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- MAYOR'S REPORT
PAGE 1
- TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
PAGE 3
- ZONING REPORT
PAGE 4
- WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 9
- COMING EVENTS
PAGE 11
- LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 12
- POLICE REPORT
PAGE 13
- WHAT'S HAPPEN'N
(AROUND) RIVER BEND
PAGE 14
- COMMUNITY DAY
PAGE 17
- QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
PAGE 18
- KEEPING OUR WATERWAYS
CLEAN
PAGE 18
- PHOTO ESSAY: WILDLIFE
PAGE 21
- ETCETERA
PAGE 22
- SHRED EVENT
PAGE 23
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE COLLECTION
PAGE 23

Councilmen Debbie Alkoff and Brenda Garvey agreed to serve on the Committee. Residents Stan Bazydola, Bill Beck, Frank Bruno, former Councilman Paul Kammer and Warren Lloyd won their seats on the panel through a drawing.

Mr. Valentine and the Committee members held a series of meetings: first, to understand the specifics of the Town's decibel meter and then to review field tests of the meter with a sound source. The Committee's report was presented to the Council on August 12. On August 17, the Council reviewed the levels with Mr. Valentine and then developed the language for the Draft Ordinance that would go to a public hearing during the September 16, 2010 Council meeting. Subsequent to the draft ordinance being developed, Mr. Valentine conducted a training session for all members of the Police Department on the specifics of using the decibel meter.

"The process described was emotional and potentially destructive of good government process; however, in this case, the end result was a reasonable and enforceable ordinance that will serve the town in resolving future noise complaints."

The process described was emotional and potentially destructive of good government process; however, in this case, the end result was a reasonable and enforceable ordinance that will serve the Town in resolving future noise complaints.

Residents – regardless the side of the issue they support – have expressed frustration at the length of time it has taken to draft and approve the noise ordinance. North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) require a Public Hearing before such an ordinance can be adopted. NCGS also requires public notification in the form of a legal advertisement published in the newspaper of record approximately 25 days and 10 days prior to the Public Hearing. These legal requirements result in a lengthy

process before the governing body ultimately votes on any ordinance.

This outcome would not have been achieved without the professional expertise of Mr. Valentine and the dedication of the Sound Measurement Committee members. The Council will formally

"Fair and responsible citizens willing to work for the good of River Bend make this the attractive and livable Town that we all enjoy."

thank these individuals, but the entire Town owes them an expression of thanks as well. Fair and responsible citizens willing to work for the good of River Bend make this the attractive and livable Town that we all enjoy. ●



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DREW HAVENS

As summer ends and we transition to fall, we continue our work of maintaining our infrastructure and implementing projects outlined in the current budget. Our major paving project is scheduled to be completed in September, our new phone system should be installed by mid-October, and we continue to work on some minor stormwater projects. I encourage you to read Superintendent Massengill's report on page 9 to learn more about

the work she and her team do to maintain and improve our water and wastewater systems, stormwater drainage, and buildings and grounds. In addition to what you read in her report, they also remain proactive in identifying needs for substantial planned maintenance and improvement that can be considered in future budget processes.

Last month our hurricane preparedness was tested by a close call with Hurricane Earl. You are all well served by a group of dedicated professionals at the Craven County Department of Emergency Services who monitor events such as this and meet with officials from cities and towns in the County to keep them informed on the storm's progress and the County's response. Similarly, in River Bend, working with the County, we monitor the storm and make our own preparations. Our

"You are all well served by a group of dedicated professionals at the Craven County Department of Emergency Services."

"We encourage all residents to have an emergency plan that can respond in a similar way. Our web site has links to many sources of information to help you develop your own plan."

staff performed more rigorous testing of emergency generators and other equipment to ensure it was ready to function, and they were all prepared to return to work, when called, to aid in any response or recovery effort.

Our emergency notification system was used to let residents know of the potential for a storm event and we opened parking areas so residents could move vehicles from low-lying areas. Many took advantage of the opportunity to protect their vehicles from flooding. There were other instances of residents being proactive in their preparation for this event. Even though Earl turned out to be less of a storm than predicted, our preparations were proportional to the threat, and were all scalable to respond to a more extreme event

if that had come to fruition. We encourage all residents to have an emergency plan that can respond in a similar way. Our web site has links to many sources of information to help you develop your own plan.

In the latter part of the month of October, we will be mailing to each household in River Bend a survey prepared with the help of an architect with whom we are working on facilities planning. This survey will solicit your input on a variety of facility and service related topics. Your input is very important to us as we plan for the future of this community. We encourage your participation in our planning efforts by completing and returning your survey.

"Your input is very important to us as we plan for the future of this community. We encourage your participation in our planning efforts by completing and returning your survey."

One of the sources of information we provide our residents is our web site: www.riverbendnc.org. We update this site frequently with new and timely information. We also, in September, introduced a new electronic newsletter designed by Kathleen De Young that contains the articles and other information from Town officials and departments that you read in the River Bender. The newsletter also contains other timely information from the Town and will be published electronically each month after the River Bender is delivered. It will then remain on our web site to give visitors an opportunity to see what is happening in our community.

As always, many thanks to the members of all our advisory boards and the countless other volunteers who do so much for this community. This community is better because you serve. It is truly my pleasure to serve you and serve with you. ●



ZONING REPORT
BY CHRIS SANTOS
ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
AND FLOOD PLAIN MANAGER

As we are all abundantly aware, hurricane season is well and truly upon us. Even though hurricane season is not the only time that flooding can occur, I'm sure it's quickly coming to be one of the many things on people's

"It is possible to live safely and comfortably within flood hazard areas by complying with the Town's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance."

minds as we deal with this year's very busy season. Included in this article is information on several important things to keep in mind in case of a flood. However, this

is just a quick overview, so please feel free to call me at any time or come by my office in Town Hall, look at our local map published by FEMA and speak with me in person to address any concerns you might have.

River Bend is home to some land areas designated as “floodplain” by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). These areas often are referred to as flood hazard areas.

“Though a relatively uncommon occurrence, properties in the River Bend floodplain can flood when there is no rain. Most commonly, flooding occurs in River Bend during a hurricane event which is accompanied by heavy rains.”

It is possible to live safely and comfortably within flood hazard areas by complying with the Town’s Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. This Ordinance was drafted by the Town Council in the interest of ensuring the health and safety of the citizens of the Town.

The Ordinance clearly specifies building requirements for all new construction or substantial improvements to existing structures located in the flood hazard areas.

Though a relatively uncommon occurrence, properties in the River Bend floodplain can flood when there is no rain. This happens when the Pamlico Sound is affected by the combination of a northeast

wind and a lunar tide. Most commonly, flooding occurs in River Bend during a hurricane event which is accompanied by heavy rains. This flooding is the result of wind action which causes the Pamlico Sound to rise.

“Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the office of the Floodplain Manager in the River Bend Town Hall.”

Town Flood Services: The first thing you should do is check your local flood hazard, Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the office of the Floodplain Manager in the River Bend Town Hall. If you are in the floodplain, the Floodplain Manager can give you more information and help with any questions and concerns you might have.

If requested, the Floodplain Manager will visit a property to review its flood problem and explain ways to prevent flood damage. Call the office of the Floodplain Manager at 252-638-3870 ext. 216. This is a free service.

What you can do: Several of the Town’s efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. Here is how you can help:

- ◆ Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches or streams. Dumping in our ditches and streams is a violation of our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and clog drainage channels. A clogged drainage channel cannot carry water and when it rains the water has to go somewhere. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.

- ◆ If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris.
- ◆ If you see dumping of debris in ditches or streams, contact either the Floodplain Manager at 252-638-3870 ext. 216 or, if the Floodplain Manager is unavailable, the Public Works Superintendent at 252-638-3870 ext. 206.
- ◆ Always check before you build, add on, alter, re-grade, or fill your property. A permit will most likely be needed.
- ◆ Should you be reconstructing, rehabilitating, building an addition, or performing other improvements to a home built before 1986, and the cost equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Homes substantially damaged by a flood must be brought up the same standards of a new building also.
- ◆ If you see building or filling without a Town permit posted, contact Town Hall at 638-3870 ext. 216.

Flood proofing: There are several different ways to protect a building from flood damage. One way is to keep the water away by re-grading your lot or building a small earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, if flooding is not too deep, and if your property is not in the floodway.

Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method is not recommended for houses with basements or if water will get over two feet deep.

"Flood proofing...the third and most effective approach is to raise the house above flood levels."

A third approach, and the most effective, is to raise the house above flood levels. Contact the Floodplain Manager's office in Town Hall for information on methods, local contractors, and grants available should this be the method you wish to pursue.

These methods are called flood proofing or retrofitting. More information is available in the office of the Floodplain Manager at the Town Hall. Important note: Any alteration to your building or land requires a permit from the Town of River Bend and Craven County. Even re-grading or filling in the floodplain requires a permit.

If you know a flood is coming, you should shut off the gas and electricity and

move valuable contents upstairs. It is unlikely that you will get much warning, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance would help ensure that you don't forget anything.

Flood insurance: At last count, there were 464 flood insurance policies in River Bend. If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. **Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods.** However, because River Bend participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded. **Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection! There is a 30-day waiting period before the flood insurance coverage takes effect except in the case of purchasing a home! Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.**

"Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection."

Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During a flood, however, there is usually damage to the furniture and contents also. If you are covered, double-check that the building coverage is adequate and make sure you have contents coverage. Remember: Even if the last flood missed you or you have done some flood-proofing, the next flood could be worse. Flood insurance covers all surface floods.

"Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else."

Flood safety:

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock

you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company.

Have your electricity cut off by the Power Company. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

Look out for animals, especially snakes. Small animals that have flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

"Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames..."

Flood warnings: During all severe thunderstorms and hurricanes, keep your TV and/or radio tuned to local news channels for reports of flood warnings. Warnings will be flashed across the bottom of your TV screen nonstop until the threat has passed. River Bend uses a telephone messaging system to alert residents to storm warnings, flood warnings, and evacuation notices.

Again, this is just a quick overview of common flood questions. If you have any questions not answered in this article, or if you would like more information, don't hesitate to contact me.

"During severe storms and hurricanes, keep your TV tuned to local news channels for reports of flood warnings."

Please remember that a permit must be secured **before** beginning any construction project. All areas of River Bend, including our extraterritorial jurisdictions, must comply with our Ordinances. If you, or someone you know, are thinking about doing any work to your property, please contact me at 638-3870 ext. 216 or 229-7329 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 always, enforcement of the Town Code and Ordinances are essential to the well being of the Town and its residents. If you are aware of a zoning or Floodplain Ordinance violation, please contact me immediately at 638-3870 ext. 216 or 229-

7329. 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. ●

August has been a very productive month for Public Works and Water Resources. Everyone has been busy with several budgeted projects that were contracted out and also with in-house projects.



WRD/PW JULY REPORT

BY CHRISTINA M. MASSENGILL
SUPERINTENDENT
WATER RESOURCES/PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works has been busy with several projects. Reid Avery completed the stormwater project on Gangplank Road and will begin another stormwater project on Raft Road in September. Both of these projects have been long overdue to get done. Elton Quidley & Sons also made a stormwater repair on Masters Court. Public Works staff has been keeping an eye on a sink hole forming in the road for several months. When the contractor dug it up, they found the pipe had never been connected. The connections were made and we anticipate no other problems in this area. Public Works, with assistance from Water Resources, repaired another stormwater pipe on Plantation Drive. This pipe had been improperly repaired before, which is why we were dealing with sink holes forming around it. Because of all the cables in the way, the pipe was dug up by hand using our own staff. After working here for going on 14 years now, it never ceases to amaze me as to what we find in the ground other than the fact that installation of piping in this Town when it was being developed was not installed/repared properly. Due to this, the Town will continue to repair and/or replace such faulty installations and repairs.

"Because of all the cables in the way, our own staff dug up the pipe by hand."

Other duties this month were the installation of the new Payment Drop Box at the Town Hall; and Allen also patched some small potholes in the roadways of Town. In what little spare time Allen and Mike get, they both have also been busy cleaning and preparing for the installation of work benches in the new workshop at the Wildwood Offices so they can continue to build trash can holders and make picnic table repairs.

Water Resources has been working on several new projects. Elton Quidley &

Sons made two sewer repairs this month. The first repair was at 129 Quarterdeck. This had been repaired before but the contractor that repaired the line did not clean the sand out before making the connections. We replaced the sewer cleanout to give Operators better access to clean the line out and Craig Quidley and his crew, with help from Water Resources Operators, replaced two other fittings and cleaned the line. Then Public Works came behind them and installed sod to complete the job. The second repair was in Lakemere. Craig Quidley and his crew found two installation problems. The sewer laterals serving two homes had been installed into the manhole upside down causing sewage to back up into the line which caused part of the line to sag and sometimes would completely block the lines. After the repairs were made Public Works also planted grass seed and straw to complete the job. Utility Services was in Town on the 17th and 24th to wash out the water towers and install bio-film on the interior surface of the water towers to increase water quality. Bio-film is a new application for us. It decreases the iron and manganese build-up on the inside of the towers. The bio-film will also help with disinfection contact time. Lead Operator, Brandon Mills and the rest of his crew have begun the installation of the sampling taps. They have installed four so far and are planning to install five more in different areas of Town as the budget year continues.

“Brandon Mills and the rest of his crew have begun the installation of the water sampling taps. They have installed four so far and are planning to install five more in different areas of Town as the budget year continues.”

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

COMING EVENTS

*Work Session
October 14, 2010
7:00 PM
Town Hall*

*Council Meeting
October 21, 2010
7:00 PM
Town Hall*

*Community Watch
October 20, 2010
7:00 PM
Town Hall*

*Hazardous Waste
Collection Day
Saturday, October 16, 2010
8:00 AM — 1:00 PM
Craven Community College*

*Make A Wreath
Workshop
October 21, 2010
10:00 AM — 12:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room*

*Community Day
October 23, 2010
Yard Sales
throughout Town and
Book Sale at
Red Caboose Library
7:00 AM — 1:00 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*

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

*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.

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**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**

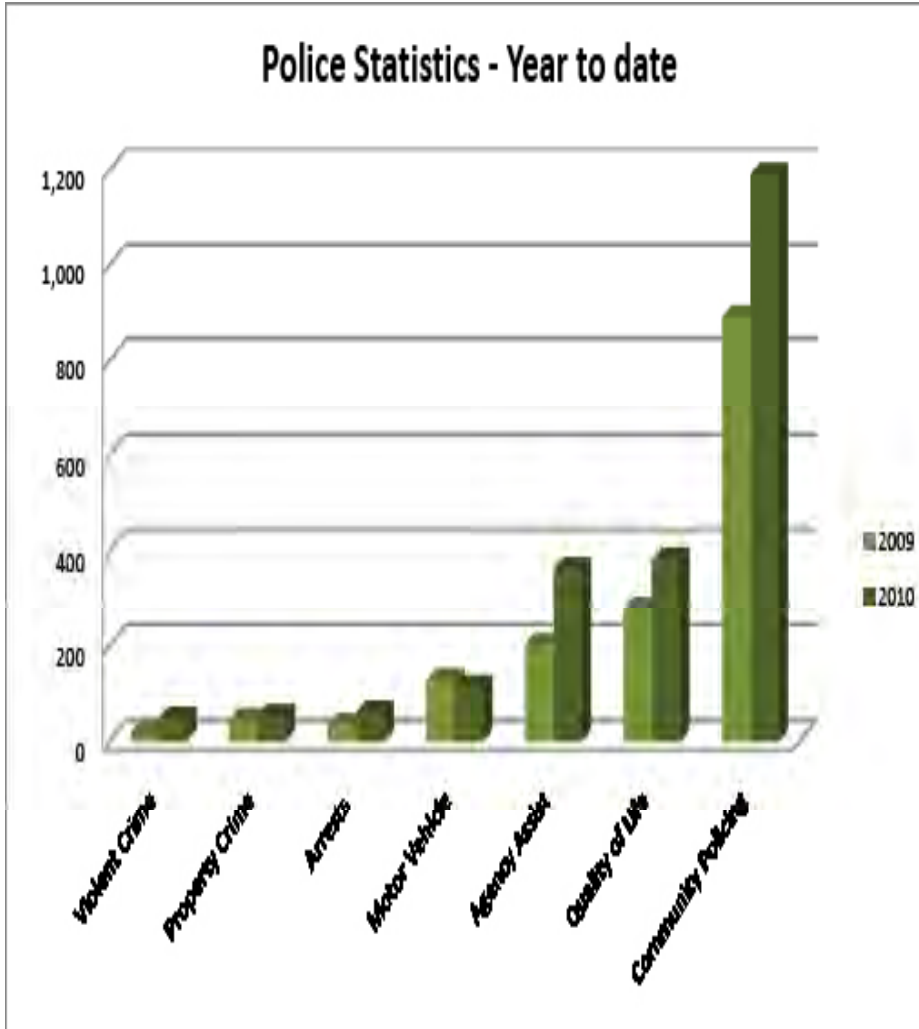
- Council Retreat January 5
- Work Session January 7
- Regular Meeting January 14
- Work Session February 11
- Regular Meeting February 18
- Budget Meeting..... March 9
- Work Session March 11
- Budget Meeting..... March 16
- Regular Meeting March 18
- Budget Meeting..... March 23
- Budget Meeting..... 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



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

NOISE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: As noted in last month's "What's Happen'n" article about this subject, the Town Council was to receive the recommendations of a group of five independent residents (with the able technical assistance of resident Mr. Ed Valentine) who would submit their findings in the form of recommended decibel levels on both the A and C scales. The A scale measures the higher frequencies, while the C scale measures the lower (or bass) frequencies.

The committee did provide their findings at our August Council Session for both day and night times and, at present, we're trying to find the "right" noise level for the Town as a whole. The council then discussed the times that would constitute "day" and "night." As noted last month, our proposed ordinance was structured after the noise ordinance of the town of Mount Olive (which, in turn, used the noise ordinance from Chapel Hill). Those two municipalities used 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM as their "Day" period and 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM for their "Night" period.

"... at present, we're trying to find the 'right' noise level for the Town as a whole."

After considerable discussion, our council settled on 7:00 AM to 10:30 PM for our "Day" period, and 10:30 PM until 7:00 AM for our night period — but only for the weekend (Friday and Saturday evenings). During the other days of the week (Sunday through Thursday), the "Day" ends and the "Night" starts at 9:30 PM. This was to accommodate the majority of our working residents who typically work days

"our proposed ordinance was structured after the noise ordinance of the Town of Mount Olive."

Monday through Friday, then enjoy the weekends relaxing. We recognize that this might not cover all of our working residents, but it should meet the needs of the vast majority.

We also recognized the need of some of our commercial enterprises, most notably our Golf Club, to begin their lawn mowing earlier than the morning "Day" time of 7:00 AM. As such, the council agreed that the Town's commercial enterprises could be "permitted" for an earlier start time so that, for example, the golf greens could be mowed before the start of golf tournaments, etc. And, yes, the Sunday "start" time was adjusted to 9:00 AM, as was the original impetus for the alteration of this ordinance.

Councilman Sharpe called for a “public hearing” for our next council session in September. Before that time, however, we will have a Council “Work Session” at which this ordinance revision will undoubtedly be discussed once again. Depending on the outcome of that Work Session, this ordinance amendment will likely come up for a vote following its discussion yet again during the Public Hearing at the Council Session.

It’s important to remember that, regardless of what we ultimately vote in on this Noise Ordinance (or any other ordinance), it’s not “carved in stone.” It

can always be modified at a later date if the council determines that to be in the best interest of the Town and its residents. And, again, while we would dearly like this ordinance (and all of our other ordinances) to satisfy all of our residents, we all realize that achieving that “utopian” goal is highly unlikely. We do hope that, in crafting whatever ordinance that comes before us, the vast majority of our resi-

“while we would dearly like this (noise) ordinance (and all of our other ordinances) to satisfy all of our residents, we all realize that achieving that “utopian” goal is highly unlikely.”

“this Noise Ordinance (or any other ordinance) is not ‘carved in stone.’ It can always be modified at a later date if the Council determines that to be in the best interest of the Town and its residents. ”

dents are benefited and the Town itself is enhanced.

GRASS CUTTINGS: A call from a resident brought to light a continuing problem with some of our contract lawn mowers, and also with some of our residents too I’m afraid. The problem lies in

the practice of either mowing in a direction that blows the grass clippings into the river or, even more problematic, a contract worker or resident intentionally dumping grass clippings (and other material) into our waterways.

Why is this a problem? First, the grass clippings provide nitrogen — a form of fertilizer — into the water which, in turn, promotes algae blooms near the surface of the water. This robs the water of sunlight (below the bloom) causing plant life to die. It also robs the water of oxygen, further contributing to the demise of both plant and fish life.. I’ve been called by residents of both Harbor Walk and Quarterdeck about the algae blooms — floating islands of vegetative matter, often measuring more than ten feet

“A call from a resident brought to light a continuing problem with some of our contract lawn mowers, and also some of our residents: blowing grass clippings into waterways.”

in diameter. These “islands” clog the waterways in which they are found and, in addition to killing off other “life” in that waterway, are both unattractive and a problem for boaters.

Grass clippings may not be the sole culprit in promoting these blooms; over-use of lawn fertilizers also greatly contribute to such growth, typically as a by-product of storm water runoff (but that’s a whole ‘nother issue).

Secondly, allowing the transmission of grass clippings into the Town’s waterways — either intentionally or unintentionally — is a violation of the Town’s Public Nuisance Ordinance (Town Code, Article III, Section 3— 5). It reads in part: “Depositing or allowing the depositing of any...yard waste or any other materials on any public street, sidewalk in or on any other Town Property, which includes lakes, drainage ditches, ponds, waterways and canals..., [constitutes a public nuisance].”

As such, not only homeowners who allow their clipping to be blown into the waterways are in violation of this ordinance, but also the contract workers who mow the lawns on the homeowner’s behalf. And, as noted in the ordinance, blowing or allowing the clippings to be blown into the Town’s roadways by a contract worker is also a violation of this ordinance.

“Simply ensure that your power mower (or that of your landscaper) blows the clippings back onto the lawn (vice the canals, rivers, streets, etc.”

“...allowing the transmission of grass clippings into the Town’s waterways—either intentionally or unintentionally—is a violation of the Town’s Public Nuisance Ordinance.”

The upshot? Simply ensure that your power mower (or that of your landscaper) blows the clippings back onto the lawn (vice the canals, rivers, streets, etc.). This is as simple as reversing direction of the mower! And, it has the

added benefit of mulching those lawn clippings, thereby adding naturally fertilizing nitrogen back into the root system of your grass, helping to ensure that your lawn will be green and healthy throughout the summer!

And lawn clippings that wind up on the street? The simple remedy is to blow these clippings back onto the grass—it takes all of two minutes! Your neighbors will appreciate you for it! ●

**River Bend
Community Day and
Red Caboose Library
Book Sale**

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2010
7:00 AM — 1:00 PM

One of the Town's most popular events, the River Bend Community Day, will take place on October 23. All residents are invited to hold individual or group yard/garage sales at their homes beginning at 7:00 A.M. and continuing until approximately 1:00 PM.

The Community Day Planning Committee suggests that participants hang balloons from their mailboxes or in their yards to help attract buyers. The Committee will produce a list of sales addresses and a map to distribute to shoppers. These will be available at Karl's Riverbend Market the day before the sale. On Saturday



morning, Karl will have breakfast biscuits for sale to help you get an early start on sale day! If you want to be included on the list of "sellers," e-mail Elizabeth Brinson at ekbrinson@suddenlink.net by October 16th.



In addition to the town-wide yard sales, the Red Caboose Library will hold a big Book Sale on that day.

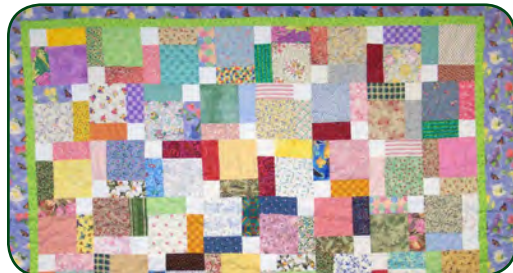
This event will be advertised in the [Sun Journal](#), [The Shopper](#), [The River Bender](#) and other community papers, thanks to Luci Avery and her helpers.

This has been a very successful event in past years, and we typically have hundreds of folks in Town for the event, and they come to SHOP. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Brinson. ●

Quilt Raffle

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2010
DURING COUNCIL MEETING

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. ●



Questions/Answers

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Question: Why doesn't the Town of River Bend have a system of curbs and piped gutters along streets to collect stormwater?

Answer: In passing the Town's stormwater management ordinance, the Town Council opted to mandate the use of "grassy swales" as the method of handling stormwater.

The use of swales allows the grasses and vegetation in the swales to use the nutrients carried by the stormwater to be consumed rather than transporting it to the receiving waters, which in our case would be the Plantation Canal to the Trent River and finally into the Neuse River system.

Some years back, the Environmental Protection Agency, developed regulations entitled "Phase II Stormwater Management." Those regulations have been applied to municipal stormwater systems on a tier system based on population. The regulations will eventually apply to River Bend. One aspect of the regulations is the mandate that all stormwater piped systems (curbs and gutters) must be inspected on an annual basis. The regulations can also require special treatment to remove or reduce nutrients. The use of swales greatly reduces the expense and burden for inspection. Swales also significantly improve the water quality going to the receiving waters without additional treatment and are an appropriate environmental solution.

The Town's Stormwater Management ordinance can be viewed by going to the Town's web page at www.riverbendnc.org.

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

KEEPING OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN

BY ENVIRONMENT &
WATERWAYS
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Among the many "jewels" within our Town, certainly the canals have to rank right up there with the best of them. Not only are they attractive in appearance, but they also provide a constant source of recreation for both our residents and for visitors to our fine community. Addi-

tionally, whether or not one lives within view of our waterways or participates in the aquatic activities, our waterways (including our adjacent Trent River and the nearby Neuse River as well) serve to enhance the property values of all of our residents. And many prospective residents are drawn to our Town precisely

"our waterways (including our adjacent Trent River and the nearby Neuse River as well) serve to enhance the property values of all our residents."

because of its water access. In short, our waterways benefit us all.

But our waterways are not without some minimal degree of upkeep and maintenance. The Environmental and Waterways Advisory Board (EWAB) organizes a periodic clean-up of not only our Town's waterways, but also of the banks of the Trent River adjacent to River Bend as well. And while our homeowners and renters are always welcome to join in on these clean-ups (and enjoy a nice day out in kayaks and row boats in the process), there are other things that one may do to help keep our waters clean and attractive for all to enjoy.



Probably one of the simplest “adjustments” a property owner or renter can make that will have a dramatic effect on improving our water's condition is in ensuring that their grass clippings do not make it into the waterways—either intentionally or inadvertently. In the past, some persons have been observed by neighbors actually dumping their bagged grass clippings (and other material) into our canals and rivers. But it may also be as simple as a person mowing the grass near the water's edge with their mower discharging the grass clippings into the water. Either way, intentional or unintentional, it is a violation of the Town's “Nuisance Ordinance” and may result in warnings and fines.

“The simple truth is that grass clippings are not “innocuous” when allowed to make their way into the water, its fertilizing effect encourages the growth of ‘algae mats’ along the water’s surface.”

But, even more important, one should refrain from allowing lawn detritus to make its way into the canals because it simply is the “right thing to do.”

Why do we care about something as innocuous as grass clippings? The simple truth is that grass clippings are not “innocuous” when allowed to make their way into the water. These clippings contain the fertilizing agent nitrogen. When allowed to blow into the water, its fertilizing effect encourages the growth of “algae mats” along the water's surface. This has two effects, both detrimental. First, it shades the water and aquatic life below the mat, thereby reducing the amount of photosynthesis that would otherwise take place. When this happens, oxygen producing plant life tends to die off, thereby contributing both to the loss of spawning grounds for many of the smaller forms of marine life (upon which many larger fish depend for food). These algae mats also rob the water of vital oxygen, thereby exacerbating the oxygen depletion in that area. Without oxygen, fish die or move to other areas, and other beneficial plant life withers and dies.

Algae mats also play havoc with recreational boaters, who must try to navigate around such aquatic “structures.” These mats are particularly abundant in the canals near Harbor Town and the Quarterdecks, in part because these waterways do not enjoy an active “flow” in and out. With the water relatively stationary, these mats can reach sizes of ten feet in diameter or more.



What can be done to help prevent these algae mats from forming? Two things really! First, limit the application of fertilizer to your lawn, as a good portion of this will simply wash into the waterways during the first heavy rain. Secondly (and the topic of this article), is to simply run your mower in the direction that

will blow the lawn clippings back onto your lawn, rather than into the canals or rivers. The mulching of grass clippings that will take place has the added benefit of returning those nitrogen nutrients into your lawn’s root system—natural (and free) fertilization!

“Please, when you mow, or when you employ someone else to mow on your behalf, run the mowers in the direction AWAY from the water.”

We, the members of the Environmental and Waterways Advisory Board, ask each of you to help protect one of our Town’s most valuable resources—our waterways. Please, when you mow,



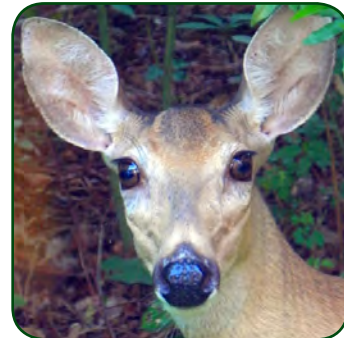
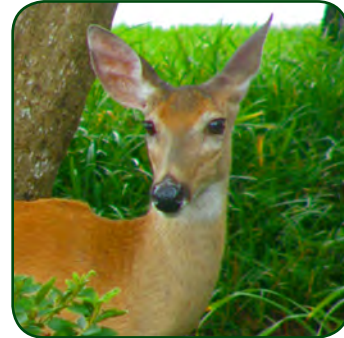
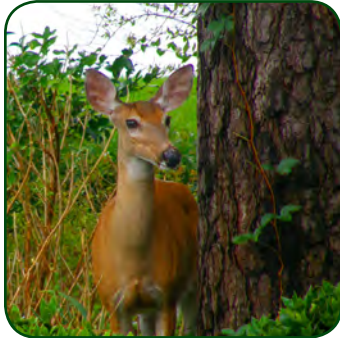
or when you employ someone else to mow on your behalf, run the mowers in the direction AWAY from the water. If you see your neighbor mowing his or her lawn and the clippings are blowing into the water, please advise him or her that, not only is it harmful

to the health of our Town’s waterways, but it’s also illegal. If you belong to a homeowners association, please inform the folks you have contracted to mow your common areas to be ever-mindful of our waterways and direct the clippings AWAY from the water. With your help and that of your neighbors, we will all benefit from the clean and unobstructed waterways within our Town. Thank you! ●

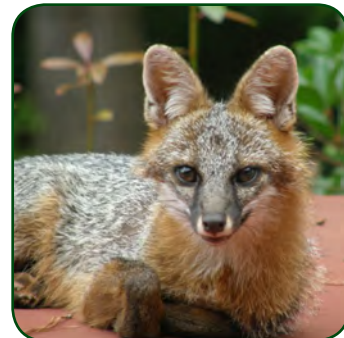
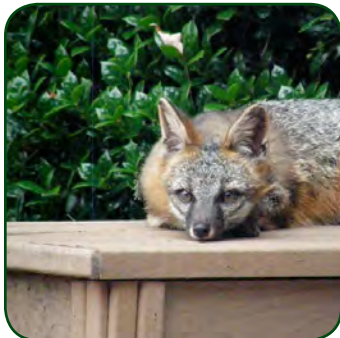
River Bend Wildlife



**Here are just a few
of the interesting
wild creatures living
in River Bend.**

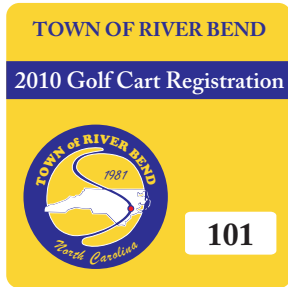


**Photos by:
Phil Seymour
Kathleen De Young**





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*

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.



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.



Hazardous Household Waste and Electronics Collection

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010
8:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
800 COLLEGE COURT
NEW BERN, NC

Once annually, the Coastal Environmental Partnership sponsors a series of Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Days in Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties.

Materials accepted: latex and oil paints, used motor oil, lawn and garden fertilizer and pesticides, farm pesticides, gasoline, drain openers, paint thinners, cooking oil, anti-freeze and batteries.

The Coastal Environmental Partnership also will accept computers, CRTs, printers, televisions, used cell phones and other electronic waste for recycling from HOUSEHOLDS ONLY.

Not Accepted: Gas Cylinders; Explosives; Ammunition; infectious, biological or radioactive wastes; commercial waste (except farm pesticides) commercial or institutional electronics; no mystery cans (everything must be labeled or easily identified)

STATE LAW FORBIDS THEM FROM ACCEPTING MATERIALS FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES!