

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL www.riverbendnc.org



IT'S JUNE IN RIVER BEND
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

June comes every year and every year in North Carolina municipalities must prepare and adopt a budget for the following fiscal year. This process begins with a Budget Workshop meeting of the Council in January. At that Workshop the Council members and Town Manager develop an outline of issues that need to be addressed in the annual budget for the next fiscal year.

Thus begins the development of supporting material for the new budget by the Manager and the Town Department Heads and Staff. The Manager begins to assemble material that he will need to present a draft budget document to members of the Town Council when Budget Work Session Meetings begin in May. At dedicated meetings the Manager and appropriate Department Heads work with the Council in the development of a specific and detailed budget that will be presented for public information. The Council will vote to adopt the budget at its scheduled June meeting.

The Manager and Staff spend many hours in the budget preparation and the members of Town Council also spend considerable time in meetings dedicated to completing this document which will guide the fiscal direction of the Town July 2023 thru June 2024.

For many years the Government Finance Officers organization recognized River Bend for superior development and execution of the Town's budget. We can all be proud of the work that the Council, Manager and Town Staff put developing this mandated annual fiscal budget and then review its performance month-by-month.

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. Historically, Fall is the most active part of hurricane season for our region. August and September are usually the busiest months for hurricanes along North Carolina's coast. However, a hurricane could develop outside of the official hurricane season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is [predicting](#) a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season for 2023. Our proximity to the Atlantic coast, combined with the low elevation above sea level for large parts of our town, makes River Bend vulnerable to impacts from hurricanes. A tropical system does not need to develop into a hurricane to cause damage in River Bend, particularly in the flood zone. Our flood zone maps have recently been updated by FEMA. Click [here](#) to view the latest maps. Enter your address, then click on GO for the map.

Based on our history and geography, if you live in River Bend, you want to consider purchasing flood insurance. You can obtain a policy from a local agent, through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Town of River Bend is a participant in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the NFIP. In short, that means that the town maintains records and files on flood zone properties, has and enforces a local flood damage prevention ordinance and meets other annual minimums to be a CRS town. Our CRS status means that River Bend residents who live in a special flood hazard area (SFHA) are eligible for a 10% discount on annual flood insurance policy premiums. Those living in other areas, could be eligible for a 5% discount. Typically, regular home owner's insurance policies do not cover damages from rising waters (flooding). If you are uncertain about your insurance coverage, you should contact your agent now. Do not wait until after the storm to learn that you are not covered. Most insurance companies require flood insurance to be purchased at least 30 days prior to a named storm that impacts a customer. That means that you cannot buy coverage at the last minute when a storm is already headed in our direction.

Although it has been almost 5 years ago, Hurricane Florence is still in the memory of many River Bend residents. Our records indicate that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded during Hurricane Florence. According to data from the NFIP, just before Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14, 2018, there were 443 flood insurance policies in effect in River Bend. That means there were at least 60

flooded homes that did not have flood insurance. At last count, there were 554 flood insurance policies in effect in River Bend. Today, nearly five years after Hurricane Florence's arrival, most but not all of the homes in River Bend that were damaged by Hurricane Florence are repaired.

Now, and throughout the summer, is a good time for you to assess your property and see if you are ready for a hurricane or even a smaller magnitude tropical storm. There are many things that you can do now to prepare so that you will be better prepared if a storm does impact us. A few suggestions are:

1. Check your trees and other vegetation. Remove any dead, damaged or leaning limbs that may fall on your home or other buildings. Don't forget to look above where you park your car, too. A tree or limb can ruin a vehicle too and you may need that vehicle to leave the area. You do not want to be pruning or trying to hire a professional tree trimmer shortly before the storm. They will be in high demand then. Also, trimming shortly before a storm creates debris that could cause trouble during the storm.

2. Check your gutters, roof and siding (and flood vents if your home is equipped with them). Be sure they are in proper working condition and/or are properly secured. Do you have a tarp and enough rope to secure it if your roof is compromised during a storm? Tarps are hard to find near a storm's arrival. Also check your windows and doors to make sure they are prepared to keep out the elements.

3. Check the drainage features on your property. Be sure they are clear and working properly.

4. If you own a generator (or chainsaw), give it a tune up now. Exercise your generator. A generator has two main components. They are the motor and the generator. Cranking the motor and letting it run will exercise the motor part. Be sure to plug something into it and make sure the generator part is also working. It is called testing under load. Simply plugging up a couple of lamps or fans will do the trick. It would be unfortunate to own a perfectly running generator engine that does not produce electricity. Often times following hurricanes or other natural disasters more people die from improper use of generators than die due to the actual storm event. If you own a generator, make sure that you and your family knows how, when and where to operate it. Make sure that you have adequate and proper fuel storage containers. When a storm is approaching, they are difficult to find in stores. A milk jug is not a proper/safe fuel storage container. Batteries and flashlights may be hard to find, too. Test your supply and stock up now. Consider buying a spare chain for your chainsaw just in case yours breaks.

5. Landscape items such as swings, trash cans, lawn furniture and anything else that is in your yard can become wind-driven projectiles during a storm. Imagine a trash can lid striking the window of your home or vehicle at 75 mph. Also, loose items like basketballs or flower pots can float away and completely block storm drains, which can contribute to flooding. Now is the time to formulate a plan for how you will address these issues when a storm is approaching. I recommend having a place to store the items inside or being able to tie them down during a storm. You may need to buy a supply of rope or cords now. Speaking of being tied down, all portable storage buildings should be properly anchored.

6. Subscribe to the town's e-news and blackboard connect service. They are two separate services. Being a subscriber to one does not automatically enroll you in the other. Today, we have 321 Blackboard subscribers. That number should be much higher. For comparison, we currently have 1,044 e-news subscribers. Subscribing to either can be done by clicking on the "[Register for Alerts](#)" button near the top of our home page. Immediately before and after a storm event, we will be using these services, along with our web page as our primary means to share official updates and guidance. We cannot subscribe for you. If you do not subscribe, you simply will not get the information. Please do not rely on information that you may find on social media as your source for information. It will be inaccurate.

7. Familiarize yourself with your electrical supplier. Duke Energy is the electrical supplier in River Bend. They have lots of useful information on their Storm Center [website](#) about what to do before, during and after a storm, including many FAQ's. The Town of River Bend does not direct the operations of restoration crews following a storm. There is no need to call Town Hall to report a power outage. You should know how to communicate directly with Duke Energy prior to an emergency event.

8. Familiarize yourself with your natural gas supplier. Piedmont Natural Gas is the natural gas supplier in River Bend. They have lots of useful public awareness and safety information on their [website](#). You should call 911 in the event of a gas leak. What would you do if a tree fell on your gas HVAC unit and ruptured your gas line? You should know how to communicate directly with Piedmont Gas prior to an emergency event.

9. If an evacuation is ordered, heed it. Evacuation orders are serious and should be followed. Rescue crews do not provide service when the weather conditions are too dangerous for them to operate. Do not expect them to risk their life to save yours when you should have been gone from the area.

10. Following large-scale events the Town of River Bend hires a contractor to provide debris removal. Often times this activity is in collaboration with and subject to strict FEMA guidelines. Do not place debris by the roadside for collection until AFTER the town has published debris collection guidelines for that event. You can find those guidelines on our web page as the storm approaches. If your debris is not properly placed, it cannot be collected. Repeat, improperly placed debris will NOT be collected by the town. Please just wait for instructions and when they are posted, follow them exactly.

Obviously, we hope that you will never find yourself in a hurricane in River Bend. However, hurricanes and other tropical storm events are natural, fairly common events in eastern North Carolina. If you live here, the best thing to do is to prepare for them long before they arrive. Just like every other town in the state, the Town of River Bend can offer no guarantees of total protection from a hurricane. You play a major role in protecting your own life and property and reducing your exposure to damage.



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works has continued to do a good job around town. Herbicide was applied at the front entrance pond, and the town hall pond. We apply the appropriate herbicide several times a year to control unwanted vegetative growth in these ponds. If too much growth is allowed it could deplete dissolved oxygen levels in these ponds, and that would be harmful to fish. We also applied herbicide in all of our playground areas to control unwanted weed

growth and have it on our schedule to apply more mulch to these playgrounds. The mulch not only makes these areas look better, but provide a cushioning effect in the event anyone falls.

Water Resources completed our annual flushing of the water distribution system. We flush to remove any minerals that may have built up in our piping. We also flow test and service our fire hydrants. The flow testing of the fire hydrants is necessary to have a good fire rating which lowers home insurance costs. There were also several hydrants that were noted that did not have enough clearance away from overgrown bushes for proper operation of the hydrant. These are on our schedule to trim around. I would like to ask that no one plant bushes or plants around our fire hydrants. When the area around the hydrants become overgrown, it will not allow the fire department to have easy access, or they may become invisible from the roadway. This could make the difference between putting the fire out quickly.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. After-Hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing the Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to dial "9" and follow the directions to contact the on call duty operator. You will then be asked to enter your phone number at the sound of the tone. After entering your phone number, the automated system will inform you that your page has been sent. Please be patient and our utility systems operator will return your call. If you do not receive a call back within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108, and they will get in contact with the on-call utility systems operator.

**REPORTING
AFTER HOURS
WATER-SEWER
EMERGENCIES**

- ◆ Dial Town Hall at 638-3870.
- ◆ Dial "9" and follow the directions to contact the on-call duty operator.
- ◆ Enter your phone number at the sound of the tone.
- ◆ The automated system will inform you that your page has been sent.
- ◆ 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. They will get in touch with the on-call utility system operator.

COMING EVENTS

Planning Board Meeting
June 1
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
June 5
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
June 5
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Meeting
June 7
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Red Caboose Library
Meeting
June 8
1:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Public Hearing
June 8
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
June 8
7 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
June 15
7 p.m.
Town Hall

Parks & Rec Father's Day
BBQ Competition
June 17
6:00 p.m.
Soccer Field/Municipal
Building

Community Watch
Meeting
June 21
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Town Hall will be
CLOSED on Friday,
June 30, 2023

July 4, 2023
Parade & Picnic
Town Commons
Parade begins at
10:30 a.m.

CANCELLED



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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Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Jeff Weaver

TOWN MANAGER

Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK

Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

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Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2022-2023

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 10, 2023

(July 5, 2023)

September 11, 2023

(September 6, 2023)

November 13, 2023

(November 8, 2023)

December 11, 2023

(December 6, 2023)

January 15, 2023

(includes Christmas trees)

(January 10, 2024)

March 11, 2024

(March 8, 2024)

May 13, 2024

(May 8, 2024)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 17, 2023

(July 12, 2023)

September 18, 2023

(September 13, 2023)

November 20, 2023

(November 15, 2023)

December 18, 2023

(December 13, 2023)

January 22, 2023

(includes Christmas trees)

(January 17, 2024)

March 18, 2024

(March 13, 2024)

May 20, 2023

(May 15, 2023)

Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must NOT be bagged. For additional important information about River Bend's Leaf & Limb collection program, please see our updated Ordinance online at www.riverbendnc.org. ●

**Green type indicates a completed leaf & limb collection*

Town Council 2023 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 12

Regular Meeting January 19

Work SessionFebruary 9

Regular MeetingFebruary 16

Work Session March 9

Regular Meeting March 16

Work SessionApril 13

Regular MeetingApril 20

Work Session May 11

Regular Meeting May 18

Work Session June 8

Regular Meeting June 15

Work SessionJuly 13

Regular MeetingJuly 20

Work SessionAugust 10

Regular MeetingAugust 17

Work Session September 14

Regular Meeting September 21

Work Session October 12

Regular Meeting October 19

Work Session November 9

Regular Meeting November 16

Work Session December 7

Regular Meeting December 14

All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Meetings

All Budget Meetings have been completed.



Golf Cart Registration

Town ordinances allow for residents to drive their properly equipped golf carts on River Bend streets provided that they are inspected by and registered with our Police Department. If you plan to drive your golf cart on the roadways, you must display the current year registration decal. Decals for 2023 are available now.

Inspection and registration are required annually. 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. Click [HERE](#) for more information



Registration is Required for all Dogs and Cats

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2023 are due by March 31, 2023. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Pet I. D. Photos Now Available

The Town of River Bend is now offering residents the opportunity to link a digital photo of their registered pets to our Animal Registration database. When you register your pet this year, you may submit a photo by e-mail, or staff can scan a photo for you if you prefer. This photo database will help reunite lost pets with their owners more quickly in the event a pet becomes lost.

The service is voluntary and free of charge.

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 our web site at www.riverbendnc.org. Dog park rules are also posted at the entrance to the park.



Sign up for our
Emergency Notification System
and receive timely notifications by phone, e-mail, text messages and more.

SIGN UP NOW
at www.riverbendnc.org

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



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.



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 638-1108.



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.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.