



**THE IMPORTANCE OF  
THE MUNICIPAL ANNUAL  
BUDGET**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

It is worth a repeat to post this monthly Mayor’s Report addressing the importance of the Town’s budget and the work that the Town Council puts into its development.

The following steps are followed in budget development:

1. The Town Manager as the budget officer (a N.C. General Assembly Statute position mandate) is responsible for preparing a balanced budget and presenting it to the Council. The draft is reviewed with the Manger. Each line item is reviewed with the Manager in a number of budget workshops. These meetings are advertised and are open to the public.

2. During the workshops the Manager responds to questions that individual Council members may ask on any line item presented.

3. After the several workshops are completed a public hearing is scheduled and advertised. At this hearing citizens may offer comments to the Council on the details of the budget.

4. Following the hearing the Council will vote to formally adopt the FY 2023-2024 River Bend budget.

With the adopted budget in place the Manager is responsible for the execution of approved expenditures without further Council input. During the course of the budget year if a need arises the Manager will prepare a budget amendment to address the need and the Council will vote on approval at a scheduled Council Meeting.

I have frequently told the Council that the effort that they spend developing the budget is the most demanding and important task that they address each year. It also is a demanding effort on the part of the Town Manager, Finance Director and the staff.

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Our Town is fortunate to have a Council and Staff that understand this responsibility and each year has developed a balanced budget and maintained a reserve that has met unanticipated emergency purchases.

Thanks to the Manager, Finance Director, Council and Town Staff for this demanding service.



## **WRD/PW REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

With the warmer weather, Public Works has started mowing the town's right of ways that we are responsible for mowing. These areas are mowed on an as needed basis throughout the year. Public Works replaced several sign posts around town that had deteriorated because of age. Several more signs and posts are on our list to replace. We trimmed limbs off the roadway in several areas in town. This is done on an as needed basis throughout the year. There

are several more areas in town that is on our list to complete by the end of next month.

Water Resources replaced the skimmer arm belt on the large Wastewater Treatment Plant. The purpose of the skimmer arm is to skim the floatable solids off the top of the clarified water, and return them to the headworks of the treatment plant for further treatment. This belting had deteriorated and was not efficiently removing these solids. Our team quickly replaced it. In addition, three air diffusers on the large plant were replaced. The purpose of the diffusers is to supply oxygen to the microorganisms that treat our wastewater. Oxygen is the heart of the aerobic wastewater treatment process. With the right amount of oxygen, the finished quality of the wastewater is significantly better. I would like to thank our team for a job well done on both of these repairs.

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

Budget Workshop  
May 9  
4:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Budget Workshop  
May 11  
4:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Work Session  
May 11  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Red Caboose Library  
Board Special Meeting  
May 17  
2:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Budget Workshop  
May 18  
4:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Regular Meeting  
& Public Hearing  
May 18  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

-The Sour Grapes of Wrath-  
A Murder Mystery Sponsored by  
The Red Caboose Library  
May 20  
6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Town Hall will be closed  
on Monday, May 29th in  
observance of Memorial  
Day



## 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  
James Castranova  
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 5, 2022  
*(June 29, 2022)*
- September 6, 2022  
*(August 31, 2022)*
- October 31, 2022  
*(October 26, 2022)*
- January 9, 2023  
(includes Christmas trees)  
*(January 4, 2023)*
- March 6, 2023  
*(March 1, 2023)*
- May 8, 2023  
*(May 3, 2023 )*

### Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 11, 2022  
*(July 6, 2022)*
- September 12, 2022  
*(September 7, 2022)*
- November 7, 2022  
*(November 2, 2022)*
- January 16, 2023  
(includes Christmas trees)  
*(January 11, 2023)*
- March 13, 2023  
*(March 8, 2023)*
- May 15, 2023  
*(May 10, 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](http://www.riverbendnc.org).

## Town Council 2023 Meeting Dates

- Work Session ..... January 12
- Regular Meeting ..... January 19
- Work Session .....February 9
- Regular Meeting .....February 16
- Work Session ..... March 9
- Regular Meeting ..... March 16
- Work Session .....April 13
- Regular Meeting .....April 20
- Work Session ..... May 11
- Regular Meeting ..... May 18
- Work Session ..... June 8
- Regular Meeting ..... June 15
- Work Session .....July 13
- Regular Meeting .....July 20
- Work Session .....August 10
- Regular Meeting .....August 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

### Budget Meetings

- Budget Session .....May 2
- Budget Session ..... May 4
- Budget Session ..... May 9
- Budget Session ..... May 11
- Budget Session.....May18
- Public Hearing.....May 18

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.

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



**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](http://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](http://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.