



**LEADING THE WAY TO
INDEPENDENCE**
MAYOR'S REPORT
BY MAYOR MARK BLEDSOE

On April 12, 1776, in the small town of Halifax, North Carolina made history. Through the Halifax Resolves, it became the first American colony to officially call for independence from Great Britain.

At a time when many still hoped for reconciliation, North Carolina chose courage. Meeting as the Fourth Provincial Congress of North Carolina, these leaders authorized their delegates to the Second Continental Congress to vote for independence, form foreign alliances, and create a new government of their own.

What makes the Resolves especially important is their direct link to the Declaration of Independence. By making this bold decision of authorizing North Carolina's delegates to vote for independence, they helped shift the Continental Congress from hesitation to action. Other colonies—especially Virginia—soon followed with similar instructions, creating the unified push that made independence possible in July. leading to the birth of a nation and the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Today, we remember that moment every time we see the date April 12, 1776, on the Flag of North Carolina—a lasting symbol of leadership, resolve, and the first call for freedom.

INSIDE THIS EDITION
MAYOR'S REPORT
PAGE 1
WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 2
COMING EVENTS
PAGE 3-4
COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 5
LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 5
ETCETERA
PAGE 6-7



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works staff have been actively maintaining town facilities and infrastructure over the past month. Our staff conduct spraying operations in our parks to remove unwanted vegetation and maintain the appearance and useability of these areas. In addition, we have been actively mowing all areas which include parks, buildings, roadway areas to maintain the appearance of our town. We will be doing this routinely throughout the summer months. We also built and installed four duck nesting boxes. Two were installed at the kayak launch and at the town hall pond. These boxes are intended to provide suitable nesting habitats for wood ducks and support local wildlife.

On the Water Resources side, staff replaced multiple broken curb stops and a couple backflow preventers inside water meter boxes. This maintains system reliability and protects our water quality. We also had our backwash sedimentation tanks pumped out to remove sediment. This ensures we will stay in compliance with our backwash permit. In addition, our team successfully located a blow-off on a water main that we weren't ever able to find. This will help us flush this particular line out with much more ease and will help with water quality in this area of the distribution system. Looking forward, we are planning to do a system wide water distribution system flush in April. This includes flushing all fire hydrants and blow-off valves to improve water quality.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 252-638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by paging the towns on-call duty operator at 252-464-4328. 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 252-638-1108 ext. 1, and they will get in contact with the on-call utility systems operator.

REPORTING AFTER HOURS WATER-SEWER EMERGENCIES

- ◆ Page the on-call duty operator by dialing 252-474-4328.
- ◆ 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 (option 1). They will get in touch with the on-call utility system operator.

COMING EVENTS

Preschool Story Hour
Every Friday
10:00 a.m.
115 Wildwood Dr.
Red Caboose Community
Library

Regular Council Meeting
April 16
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Public Hearing
April 16
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
April 17
(third Friday of each
month)
2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Tech Class 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
115 Wildwood Dr.

Jewelry Workshop
Sponsored by Parks &
Rec Advisory Board
April 18
10:00 a.m.
Municipal Building

Board of Adjustment
Special Meeting/Public
Hearing
April 21
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall

RBCOG Annual Plant &
Bake Sale
April 25
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
205 Wakefield Dr.
River Bend, 28562

Budget Workshop
April 28
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Intro To Disc Golf
Sponsored by Parks & Rec
April 29
12:00 p.m.
Town Commons
51 Shoreline Dr.

Budget Workshop
April 30
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

RBCOG Meeting
May 4
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

CANCELED
EWAB Meeting
May 4
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

COMING EVENTS

CONTINUED...

Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
May 6
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
May 7
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

Budget Workshop
May 14
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
May 14
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community Appearance
Commission Meeting
May 20
4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Budget Workshop
May 21
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Regular Council Meeting
May 21
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall



Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for FY2025-2026

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 14, 2025
(July 9, 2025)
- September 8, 2025
(September 3, 2025)
- November 10, 2025
(November 5, 2025)
- December 8, 2025
(December 3 2025)
- January 12, 2026
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 7, 2026)
- March 9, 2026
(March 4, 2026)
- May 11, 2026
(May 6, 2026)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 21, 2025
(July 16, 2025)
- September 15, 2025
(September 10, 2025)
- November 17, 2025
(November 12, 2025)
- December 15, 2025
(December 10, 2025)
- January 19, 2026
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 14, 2026)
- March 16, 2026
(March 11, 2026)
- May 18, 2026
(May 13, 2026)

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](http://www.riverbendnc.org) online at www.riverbendnc.org.

Town Council 2026 Meeting Dates

- Work Session January 8
- Regular Meeting January 15
- Work Session February 12
- Regular Meeting February 19
- Work Session March 12
- Regular Meeting March 19
- Work Session April 9
- Regular Meeting April 16
- Work Session May 14
- Regular Meeting May 21
- Work Session June 11
- Regular Meeting June 18
- Work Session July 9
- Regular Meeting July 16
- Work Session August 13
- Regular Meeting August 20
- Work Session September 10
- Regular Meeting September 17
- Work Session October 8
- Regular Meeting October 15
- Work Session November 12
- Regular Meeting November 19
- Work Session December 3***
- Regular Meeting December 10***

***Changed due to holiday

Budget Meetings

- Budget Session April 28
- Budget Session April 30
- Budget Session May 11
- Budget Session May 14
- Budget Session (If Needed) May 19
- Budget Session..... May 21

Click [HERE](#) for FY26-27 Budget Preparation

All Budget Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m.

All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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
Mark Bledsoe

TOWN COUNCIL
Lisa Benton
Brian Leonard
Kathy Noonan
Buddy Sheffield
Jeff Weaver

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Mandy Gilbert

POLICE CHIEF
Sean Joll

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN & TYPOGRAPHY
Jennifer Barrow

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870



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 2025 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 2025 are due by March 31, 2025. 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.

Registration is \$10.00 per pet.



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.