



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

On January 16 the Town Council conducted its annual Budget Kick-Off meeting. The Kick-Off was the first step in developing the town's budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2025. North Carolina law mandates that every local government adopt a balanced budget by July 1 of each year. During the meeting, the Council approved the budget workshop schedule and adopted its [priorities](#) for the next fiscal year.

Many steps in the budget process are prescribed by law. State law requires that I submit a balanced budget recommendation, along with a budget message to the Council by June 1. Historically, both of those documents are presented to the Council and made available to the public in May. I plan to have both of them ready no later than May 30 this year. State law also requires the Council to conduct a public hearing on the budget prior to its adoption. To comply with the law, that must be done no fewer than 10 days after the proposed budget is presented to the Council, but by July 1. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 12 at 5 p.m. Legally, the Council could adopt the budget immediately following the public hearing; however, the Council has historically waited until the June regular session to adopt the budget. That is the planned schedule again this year. The budget is scheduled to be adopted during the Council meeting on June 19, 2025 at 5 p.m. Then it will become effective on July 1, 2025 and be in effect until June 30, 2026.

Prior to conducting the public hearing and adopting the budget, the Council conducts several budget workshops to discuss the town's budget needs. Again, this year, those workshops will be held in April and May at Town Hall. During the Kick-Off meeting, the Council approved the schedule for the upcoming workshops. This year, the Council plans to conduct up to 5 meetings over 4 weeks. They are

INSIDE THIS EDITION

MANAGER'S REPORT
PAGE 1

WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 3

COMING EVENTS
PAGE 4

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 5

LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 5

ETCETERA
PAGE 6-7

scheduled to begin on April 28 and end on May 15. All of these meetings are open to the public and offer opportunity for public input. State law does not require special meetings to discuss the budget and it does not require the Council to receive public input during the budget preparation process. However, River Bend takes these extra steps in an effort to make the budget process open, transparent and available for citizen participation.

A copy of the town's [budget workshop schedule](#) and the proposed agenda for each of those workshops is available in hard copy at Town Hall and it is also posted on our town's web page. Throughout the budget development process, budget information will be posted on the town's web page. This will include copies of the PowerPoint presentation for each budget workshop.

On another matter, along with the arrival of "Budget Season" also comes "Grass Mowing Season." Did you know that it is a violation of Town Ordinance for anyone to dump any yard waste or any other materials in any lake, pond, canal, ditch or waterway? This includes grass clippings, limbs, straw, pinecones, etc. Violation of this ordinance could result in a fine of up to \$500. The town provides ordinance specific leaf and limb collection. Please follow the rules and avoid a \$500 fine for illegal dumping. If you are aware of any violations, please report them to Town Hall.



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

With the arrival with warmer weather, Public Works have begun seasonal mowing operations to maintain a clean and welcoming appearance throughout the community. In addition, several road shoulders were repaired using crusher run to stabilize road edges and help prevent roadway cracking. Crews also took advantage of the nice weather to inspect some storm water drains and inspect equipment in preparation for summer maintenance projects. These efforts help ensure our infrastructure remains in good condition and ready for the months ahead.

On the Water resources side, the team successfully completed the replacement of the water filtration media, a critical step toward improving the overall quality of our drinking water. I would like to personally thank our staff for their hard work and attention to detail during this important upgrade. Additionally, one aging water service line was repaired after it was found to be brittle; a full replacement of this line is scheduled for next month and will be handled in-house. The dedication of our staff continues to ensure reliable service and high standards for our community.

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 dialing the Town Hall at 252-638-3870. 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 252-638-1108 (option 1), 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 (option 1). They will get in touch with the on-call utility system

COMING EVENTS

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

Book/Tech Mobile
April 25
2p.m.-4p.m.
Tech Class 4p.m.-5 p.m.
115 Wildwood Dr

River Bend Community
Organic Garden Plant Sale
& Bake Sale
April 26
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
205 Wakefield Dr.

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

Budget Workshop
May 1
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

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

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

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

Budget Workshop
May 6
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Parks & Rec Advisory
Board Meeting
May 7
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Budget Workshop
(if necessary)
May 8
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
May 8
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall



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
www.riverbendnc.org

Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2024-2025

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 15, 2024
(July 10, 2024)
September 9, 2024
(September 4, 2024)
November 11, 2024
(November 6, 2024)
December 11, 2024
(December 4, 2024)
January 13, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 8, 2025)
March 10, 2025
(March 5, 2025)
May 12, 2025
(May 7, 2025)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 22, 2024
(July 17, 2024)
September 16, 2024
(September 11, 2024)
November 18, 2024
(November 13, 2024)
December 16, 2024
(December 11, 2024)
January 20, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 15, 2025)
March 17, 2025
(March 12, 2025)
May 19, 2025
(May 14, 2025)

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

Town Council 2025 Meeting Dates

Work SessionJanuary 9
Regular MeetingJanuary 16
Work SessionFebruary 13
Regular MeetingFebruary 20
Work SessionMarch 13
Regular MeetingMarch 20
Work SessionApril 10
Regular MeetingApril 17
Work SessionMay 8
Regular MeetingMay 15
Work SessionJune 12
Regular MeetingJune 19
Work SessionJuly 10
Regular MeetingJuly 17
Work SessionAugust 14
Regular MeetingAugust 21
Work SessionSeptember 11
Regular MeetingSeptember 18
Work SessionOctober 9
Regular MeetingOctober 16
Work SessionNovember 13
Regular MeetingNovember 20
Work SessionDecember 4***
Regular MeetingDecember 11***

***Changed due to holiday

Budget Meetings

Budget SessionApril 28
Budget SessionMay 1
Budget SessionMay 6
Budget SessionMay 8
Budget Session (if needed).....May 13
Budget Session.....May 15

Click [HERE](#) for FY25-26 Budget Preparation

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 7:00 p.m.



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.