



MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

In 2016 I authored the attached article written for the River Bender. At that time the Sun Journal printed it monthly. The personal quality of integrity has always been critical to the local community and to the nation. I believe that the references cited in the article give testimony to the worth of integrity on the part of all citizens. Please consider the working of our council and the need to exchange ideas based on individual positions then listen to other expressed positions. Finally, we need to arrive at a compromised position which the majority will support. In this fashion the needs of the community will be well addressed. Thank you for taking the time to read this material and have a good day and a good week.

INTEGRITY AND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN
SEPTEMBER 2016
RIVER BENDER ARTICLE

As the November National Election approaches, a quality that should be expected of any candidate is that of integrity. Following are a number of quotes from individuals that have gone on record providing insight to the power of ethics in leadership.

Robert S. Palmer of Deloitte, Dean of Wharton School from 1983-1990:

“We need to stress that personal integrity is as important as executive skill in business dealings.... Setting an example from the top has a ripple effect through a business school or a corporation. After nearly three decades in business, 10 years as chief executive of a Big Eight accounting firm, I have learned that the standards set at the top filter throughout a company.... [Quoting Professor Thomas Dunfee of the Wharton School:] ‘A company that fails to take steps to produce a climate conducive to positive work-related ethical attitudes may create a vacuum in which

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employees so predisposed may foster a frontier-style, everyone for themselves mentality.”

Mahatma Gandhi states,

“There are seven things that will destroy us: Wealth without work; Pleasure without conscience; Knowledge without character; Religion without sacrifice; Politics without principal; Science without humanity; Business without ethics.”

Dan Bryan wrote in his May 14, 2012 article entitled, After Yorktown: The Integrity of George Washington as Published in American History USA,

“George Washington, as much as he is lionized, is often not given the full credit due to him for his efforts at holding the United States together as a republic in the aftermath of the victory at Yorktown.

The famous defeat of Cornwallis did not immediately end the war. For a time, it was unclear whether the British would relent, or whether they would send another army to North America and continue to press the conflict. During this interval, most of the Continental Army remained mobilized and camped at Newburgh, New York. Many of them had not been paid in years. They were ill-clothed, poorly fed, and gradually slid into various degrees of distemper.

It took remarkable skill and leadership by George Washington to prevent this situation from escalating into a rebellion against the Congressional government. Had he been of a different mindset, he probably could have exploited the situation to his personal gain, installing himself as leader of the new country. His refusal to do so is a centerpiece of his long legacy.

The Nicola Letter

The first incident of note occurred in 1782, in the form of a long, hand-written letter. A colonel named Lewis Nicola gave his own impression of the political situation to General Washington. He pointed out that many officers and soldiers had agreed not to disperse until their grievances were met. He used several pages to point out the shortcomings of republican government when it came to compensation of the military. He pointed out all of the threats to social order that this entailed.

Then, at the end, Nicola revealed his proposal – the United States as a monarchy. Only a government of this type, he argued, could ensure proper compensation to the Continental Army and prevent a future rebellion. The obvious implication, of course, would be George Washington as king.

Washington may or may not have had the support to implement such an idea, but he certainly could have tried. Instead his response was brief and severe:

‘I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs

that can befall my Country... Let me conjure you then, if you have any regard for your Country, concern for yourself or posterity, or respect for me, to banish these thoughts from your Mind, and never communicate, as from yourself, or any one else, a sentiment of the like Nature.”

The ethical leadership of George Washington is widely recognized. Immediately presented above is a written exchange with one of George Washington’s officers which is a perfect example of ethical leadership.

The present time cries for strong ethical leadership. We need to insist that leaders in every organization act with a committed personal code of ethics that is free of destructive traits that will ultimately ruin the organization that they are charged to lead. The need for this trait is the case in government, the military and in every facet of business and commerce. And the change needs to start with each of us as individuals.

Excerpts from After Yorktown: The Integrity of George Washington as Published in American History USA, by Dan Bryan are reprinted with his express permission.



**TOWN MANAGER’S
REPORT**
BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

Did you know that March 4-10 was Vehicle Safety Recalls Week? I bet not. I did not know such a thing existed until recently. Started by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2020, recall week is meant to bring attention to the potentially millions of vehicles that are being driven around with potentially dangerous problems. We like to help keep our residents safe. Sometimes that involves areas outside of the River Bend government umbrella. Such is the case with my contribution this month. Checking your vehicle is very simple. It can be done anytime, not just during the recall awareness week. I checked mine in less than 1 minute. You can too. You will need your license plate number or VIN. Click on the link below for more information about the program.

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls/vehicle-safety-recalls-week>

Then scroll down and click on the <https://www.nhtsa.gov/node/2401> link within the article. You simply enter your state and vehicle’s license plate information

and in a matter of seconds you will be alerted of any recalls on your vehicle. I discovered that my vehicle had no recalls. Let me know if you find any recalls on your vehicle.



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works has continued to do a great job with our many tasks. Recent efforts have seen the replacement of several faded street signs, a vital endeavor ensuring the safety and convenience of our citizens by enhancing visibility. Additionally, proactive measures were taken at the front entrance pond, where herbicide was skillfully applied to curb the encroachment of unwanted vegetation. Routine maintenance not only preserves the aesthetic appeal of the area but also safeguards the ecological balance by preventing the depletion of dissolved oxygen, crucial for the well-being of aquatic life.

Meanwhile, the Water Resources Department demonstrated commendable diligence in addressing issues with two lift station pumps. Through our team's ability to troubleshoot different components of our systems, a clog caused by rags was swiftly resolved, while a burnt-out pump was promptly replaced with a back up unit. Presently, efforts are underway to rebuild the damaged pump. Once rebuilt we will install it back in its original location. Such concerted efforts underscore our ongoing commitment to maintaining the functionality and integrity of vital infrastructure for the benefit of 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, 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

RBCOG Meeting
April 1
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
April 1
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Advisory
Board Meeting
April 3
6:15 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
April 4
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

Regular Council Meeting
April 18
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
April 19
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Free Technology Class
April 19
4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

River Bend Community
Organic Garden
Plant Sale
April 27
205 Wakefield Dr.
8:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Board Game Day
Sponsored by Parks & Rec
April 27
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Budget Meeting
April 30
4:00 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.

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Brian Leonard
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Buddy Sheffield
Jeff Weaver

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Delane Jackson

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Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2023-2024

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, 2024
(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, 2024
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 17, 2024)
- March 18, 2024
(March 13, 2024)
- May 20, 2024
(May 15, 2024)

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 2024 Meeting Dates

- Work Session January 11
- Regular Meeting January 18
- Work Session February 8
- Regular Meeting February 15
- Work Session March 14
- Regular Meeting March 21
- Work Session April 11
- Regular Meeting April 18
- Work Session May 9
- Regular Meeting May 16
- Work Session June 13
- Regular Meeting June 20
- Work Session July 11
- Regular Meeting July 18
- Work Session August 8
- Regular Meeting August 15
- Work Session September 12
- Regular Meeting September 19
- Work Session October 10
- Regular Meeting October 17
- Work Session November 14
- Regular Meeting November 21
- Work Session December 5
- Regular Meeting December 12

All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

Budget Meetings

- Budget Meeting..... April 30
- Budget Meeting May 2
- Budget Meeting..... May 7
- Budget Meeting May 9
- Budget Meeting (If Needed) May 13
- Budget Meeting May 16
- Public Hearing (Tentative)..... June 13



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 2024 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 2024 were due by March 31, 2024. 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.