



**THE AGE OF BULLIES**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

We who live in the twenty first century and are citizens of the United States should occasionally pause and consider the leadership qualities of the “founding fathers” of this great democracy experiment. To read “John Adams” and “Hamilton” by author David McCullough gives excellent insight to the exceptional leadership qualities of the men who framed the U S Constitution.

These men and their colleagues rode horses to arrive at meeting locations and worked without air conditioning through the Philadelphia summers. They couldn’t fly home on Thursday afternoons and fly back on Monday then work for a full day on Tuesday and Wednesday. Rather they worked probably more than five days a week. Historic documents demonstrate that these men spoke forcefully in support of their individual positions, however they did not resort to being bullies.

**“It is amazing that in our time, leaders who parade as bullies attract armies of followers.”**

It is amazing that in our time, leaders who parade as bullies attract armies of followers. These followers will join the bully leader and support the turmoil that results to the detriment of quality leadership. We can certainly look abroad today and see the semi-war with the engagement between Russia and Ukraine. The Russian President certainly qualifies as a bully while the president of Ukraine leads from a position of rational thought. The under equipped army of the Ukraine fights with a high sense of morale and are quite effective. The army of Russia, with superior numbers and more weapons, finds it difficult to advance against Ukraine resistance.

We should all pray that the motto of the U S Military Academy (Duty, Honor, Country) will always guide our military and we will be a stronger nation if every

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citizen would commit to these values. Then we would be free from bullies. These words were the title Gen. Douglas MacArthur used in his farewell speech to Cadets and staff at West Point on 12 May 1962. All Americans would do well to read his speech and ponder shouldn't we all hear the call to Duty, Honor, Country.

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### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

On January 20 the Town Council conducted a Budget Kick-Off meeting. The Kick-Off was the first step in developing the town's budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2022. 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 27 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 9 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 16, 2022 at 7 p.m. Then it will become effective on July 1, 2022 and be in effect until June 30, 2023.

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Prior to conducting the public hearing and adopting the budget, the Council conducts several budget workshops to discuss the town's budget needs. This year, those workshops will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in April and May at 4 p.m. at Town Hall. During the Kick-Off meeting, the Council approved the schedule for the upcoming workshops. This year, the Council

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plans to conduct 5 meetings over 4 weeks. They are scheduled to begin on April 26 and end on May 19. 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, pine cones, etc. Violation of this ordinance will subject the offender to a \$500 fine. 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

In the month of February, Public Works picked up the backhoe that was budgeted for in this year's budget. We have already used it quite regularly. The first thing on our agenda was to move that massive stump that has been at the front entrance pond since Hurricane Florence. It was too big for any equipment that we had to move it. We were able to move this stump with ease. In addition, we planted four nice oak trees with the aid of the back hoe. Three were

planted by the basketball court, and one near the volleyball court. Also Public Works filled in several roadside potholes around town with crush and run rock. This type of rock seems to compact better and last longer than just adding soil to the road edge.

Water Resources also found the new backhoe valuable. We used it to dig up Well #2 raw water line that had sprung a leak. The leak was in a section of 6" pipe that feeds from Well #2 in Quarterdeck to our treatment facility PO1 near Shoreline Drive. This line was quickly repaired and I would like to thank the Water Resources employees for a job well done. We also had to pull and remove debris out of pump two at Starboard lift station. Mike Steffa, Public Works Technician, noticed amps were higher than normal on that pump, so we pulled it before failure. We always strive to be proactive not reactive.

**"This type of rock seems to compact better and last longer than just adding soil to the road edge."**

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

Red Caboose Kids Read-  
ing Adventure  
April 2  
1 p.m.  
Municipal Building

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

EWAB Meeting  
April 4  
7 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Advisory  
Board Meeting  
April 6  
7 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting  
April 7  
2 p.m.  
Municipal Building

**CANCELED**  
Planning Board Meeting  
April 7  
6 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Town Hall Closed  
April 15  
Good Friday

Easter Egg Hunt  
Sponsored by Parks &  
Rec  
April 16  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Municipal Building

Council Meeting  
April 21  
7 p.m.  
Town Hall

Habitat For Humanity  
Stuff The Truck Event  
9-11 a.m.  
Basketball Court  
Wildwood Drive

CERT Meeting  
April 27  
7 p.m.  
Municipal Building





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  
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Brian Leonard  
Barbara Maurer  
Buddy Sheffield  
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

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Delane Jackson

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Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR  
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## Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2021-2022

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

### Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 5, 2021  
(June 30, 2021)  
September 6, 2021  
(September 1, 2021)  
November 1, 2021  
(October 27, 2021)  
January 10, 2022  
(includes Christmas trees)  
(January 5, 2022)  
March 7, 2022  
(March 2, 2022)  
May 9, 2022  
(May 4, 2022 )

### Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 12, 2021  
(July 7, 2021)  
September 13, 2021  
(September 8, 2021)  
November 8, 2021  
(November 3, 2021)  
January 17, 2022  
(includes Christmas trees)  
(January 12, 2022)  
March 14, 2022  
(March 9, 2022)  
May 16, 2022  
(May 11, 2022)

Pinecones, pine straw and  
leaves must be bagged. For  
additional important informa-  
tion about River Bend's Leaf  
& Limb collection program,  
please see our Ordinance online  
at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org). ■

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

## Town Council 2022 Meeting Dates

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

### Budget Meetings

Budget Session.....April 26  
Budget Session .....May 3  
Budget Session.....May 10  
Budget Session.....May 12  
Budget Session.....May 19

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.

All Council Budget Sessions will be held  
in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at  
4:00 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 2022 registration decal. Decals for 2022 were available beginning December 2, 2021.

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 2022 were due by March 31, 2022. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

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

Registration is \$10 per pet.

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**



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the CERT Liaison, Officer Eric Gonzalez and/or visit our web site at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org).



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.