



**FLORENCE VISITED RIVER
BEND IN SEPTEMBER 2018**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

It seems hardly possible that three years have passed since Hurricane Florence made for difficult days throughout Town. Some of the important items of recall follow:

1. Craven County Emergency Management issued a mandatory evacuation order for the entire county. River Bend supported the evacuation order and that it applied to River Bend residents as well.

2. Hurricane Florence was not an upper category storm but it became a very slow moving storm that deposited 23+ inches of rain in the area and also caused a tide surge of several feet. These numbers are from data posted by the Newport Weather Office.

3. As a result, our streets along Plantation Drive and Channel Run were flooded for some hours and the only way to visit the residents that had not evacuated was by boat.

4. Rain and flooding will result from the rainfall that falls on all the land that is in the Neuse River and Trent River watersheds and makes its way down stream. Because of this characteristic of water flow there is a delay in the arrival of high water level that is caused by the high amount of rain.

5. Tide surge is the water level caused by the hurricane's wind velocity. The configuration of the waterways and the Pamlico Sound causes a "surge" in water level when the wind direction is from the northeast. The path that Hurricane Florence took provided that northeast wind and because the storm moved very slowly it created a high storm surge.

6. Numerous volunteer agencies and their volunteers from distant areas of the nation came to assist all of us in the New Bern area. The River Bend personnel from the Police Department, the Public Works/Water Resources Staff and the Town

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Manager spent three nights at the Rhems Fire Department which is at an elevation that did not flood. The Fire Department prepared food for the Town personnel. The morning after the storm had passed several men from a Baltimore volunteer rescue group arrived at the fire station with their trailer and boat. These men accompanied by a police officer started visiting homes where people had not evacuated. Before noon on the same day a larger group of volunteers arrived from New York City and joined in the home visits. These volunteers joined the Town staff berthing at the fire station and in the line for feeding.

7. FEMA staff along with Alison McCollum worked for several weeks to document and verify losses of citizens that had flooding issues.

Following Hurricane Florence Town Manager Jackson authored an article that specifically addressed the development of plans for the emergency work performed by the Town staff and the lessons learned from this hurricane. This article was published in the “River Bender” in 2018 and is reprinted here with the Managers permission.



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT- REPRINT**
BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

REPRINTED FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

I have been a Town Manager in North Carolina since 1998. During that time I was never more than 50 miles from the coast. That geography offered me several opportunities to experience the impacts of hurricanes and other tropical systems. In all, there have been about 10. My first experience, early in my career, was with Bonnie. I did not like her. My next experience was with Floyd. I liked him even less. Before September 14, 2018, Floyd was my worst experience. Now, Florence holds that title. As you all know, Florence delivered a tremendous punch to River Bend. Looking back on it, I am thankful that it was not as powerful and not as direct as it was forecast to be. We did not receive the 30+ inches of rain or the 140+ mph winds that we could have. For that I am thankful. I can only imagine how much worse it would have been had her course not changed.

One thing that was different about Florence that I had never dealt with was a mandatory evacuation being issued. The evacuation order was, in my opinion, the correct decision. However, many did not comply. That created very dangerous situ-

ations for many residents in our floodplain who did not leave. Difficult decisions had to be made about when it would be safe to send in rescue teams without jeopardizing their lives. In all, about 80 people were pulled from their homes by rescue personnel in boats. My suggestion to River Bend residents, especially those in the floodplain, is this: The next time a mandatory evacuation is ordered, please follow it. Typically, when you do not follow the order and then realize that you should have, it is then too late. I had prepared myself to have deaths in River Bend due to flooding. Thank God, no one died.

Although there were no deaths, there was plenty of destruction from Florence. Most of the homes in our floodplain area were flooded in varying degrees. Three of our Town Council members had 2+ feet of water in their homes, and our Mayor had nearly 8 feet in his home. Our Certified Floodplain Manager, whom many of you will be meeting very soon, is displaced from her home due to flooding. Our Public Works Director, completely lost his home to flooding. Our Police Department and Public Works building was flooded and is still unusable. Many town employees and officials are dealing with the aftermath of Florence on a personal and professional level. As of today, we estimate that 200 homes were flooded. We have not visited them all yet.

The clean-up and rebuilding from Florence will be slow, difficult and daunting. As you know, we have a limited staff and limited resources. We are doing as much as we can, as fast as we can. I am very proud of the efforts of my staff thus far. Due to the tremendous effort of many of them, we never lost our water or sewer system during the hurricane, we had electricity returned to 90% of the town by Sunday, all of our streets were passable by Monday, we opened Town Hall for business at 8 a.m. on Monday, we had a debris removal contract in place and in action by Monday, we had a temporary Police Department opened by Sunday and we have provided a tremendous amount of support, planning and logistics since the storm. One way you can help us help you is to visit our webpage for useful information and simply follow the instructions.

Was our response perfect? No. There is room for improvement, and we have learned some lessons. We will be better equipped for the next hurricane. I hope our residents will be too. Due to my limited space, I cannot say all that I want to say, but I will close with this: Thank you to all of those who have helped. There are too many to name. Please be patient and understanding as we recover together. River Bend.....bent but didn't break.



WRD / PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works sprayed the town walking trails to remove unwanted grass and weeds. This is completed to keep the path more defined. The playgrounds were also cleaned up to remove unwanted vegetation. In July, more mulch will be added to the playgrounds. This is completed a couple of times of year. The mulch provides a buffer from the ground in the event someone falls. Several signs were replaced throughout town that were faded and worn out. In addition, there were several potholes along the edge of the roadways that were filled in to protect the integrity of the roadway.

Water Resources continued to do a good job at operating the water/ wastewater systems. We had excess sludge pumped from our wastewater treatment digesters. Sludge is a bi-product of the treatment plant process. Sludge pumping is done throughout the year to keep the Town in compliance with our NPDES permit. We also had our piping and filters at Well #3 treatment plant re-coated. This coating will extend the life of our filters and piping, and prevent the metal from degrading. I would like to think Boles Restoration for a job well done.

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

Parks & Rec Meeting
August 4
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting
August 5
2 p.m.
Municipal Building

-CANCELLED-
Planning Board Meeting
August 5
6 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Meeting
Special Session
August 10
3 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
Special Session
August 12
7 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
August 19
7 p.m.
Town Hall

CERT Meeting
August 25
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Meeting
September 1
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
September 2
6 p.m.
Municipal Building



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

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF
Sean Joll

DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN &
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Jennifer Barrow

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
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252.638-3870
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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. ■

Town Council 2021 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 14
Regular Meeting January 21
Work Session February 11
Regular Meeting February 18

Work Session March 11
Regular Meeting March 18
Work Session April 8
Regular Meeting April 15

Work Session May 13
Regular Meeting May 20
Work Session June 10
Regular Meeting June 17

Work Session July 8
Regular Meeting July 15
Work Session August 12
Regular Meeting August 19

Work Session September 10
Regular Meeting September 16
Work Session October 14
Regular Meeting October 21

Work Session November 10
Regular Meeting November 18
Work Session December 9
Regular Meeting December 16

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.

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

etc.



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 2021 registration decal. Decals for 2021 were available beginning December 2, 2020.

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

All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

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

Registration is \$10.00 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. 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**



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the CERT Liaison, Corporal Brandon Rhors and/or visit our web site at 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.