



Happy
Holidays



THE VALUE TO ALL OF THE
THANSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAYS
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

There is an understanding that we each can take away from these two important holiday celebrations in America. I realize that not everyone will agree with me in my view, however, I have tried to live by these standards and have found that these holidays point us all to important elements of our human interface.

Both Thanksgiving and Christmas follow early American Christian tradition, but most other religions of the world have accepted the celebrations into their cultures.

As we celebrated Thanksgiving, many families assembled for the occasion to share a daylong reunion and a very specially prepared meal. Many also then reminisced on family events of past celebrations. These discussions are particularly important to the young of the clan who were not participants in the events of family history. This holiday also is a time when Americans of every nationality are most generous in helping persons in need.

Christmas has become a world-wide time to share presents with family members and with close friends. It seems that the commercial side of the holiday is launched in early October with ads on television commercials and in newsprint. While the day is the heart of the Christian Faith, still all the world is knowledgeable of the origin. May we all reflect on the positive values that we can and should take from this season of celebration.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- MAYOR'S REPORT
PAGE 1
- MANAGER'S REPORT
PAGE 2
- WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 4
- COMING EVENTS
PAGE 5
- COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 6
- LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 6
- ETCETERA
PAGE 7-8



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

We've got the money, now what are we going to do?

Within a span of 15 months, the Town of River Bend received the 2 largest grants in the town's history. Together, they total \$18,501,500. To put that in perspective, the dollar amount of these 2 grants alone is more than 6 years' worth of the entire town budget. In August 2022 we received \$9,108,500 to fund a major renovation to the town's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Then in October 2023, we received \$9,393,000 to build a new water treatment plant (WTP). Both grants came from the State of North Carolina, with the WWTP funds being a passthrough from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The importance and magnitude of these 2 grants are hard to express. The current systems were purchased from Carolina Water Service in February 1996 at a total cost of \$3,036,100. Of that, \$ 1,806,100 was for the sewer system and \$1,230,000 was for the water system. Since that acquisition, we have been making yearly bond payments to satisfy that debt. The money to pay that debt comes from utility customers paying their utility bills. No property tax revenue is used to pay this bond debt. We will make our last bond payment in 2027, which is about the time that we expect to be finishing these 2 projects.

Both the water and sewer system are aged, and we knew that the town would have to start looking for ways to fund major upgrades to both very soon. These 2 grants have eliminated that major issue, which was looming on the horizon. When completed, these 2 projects will greatly improve the operations of our water and sewer systems and result in 2 major infrastructure projects that will last the town for many decades to come. And probably of most interest to you as a town resident, these 2 systems will be paid for by the State of North Carolina and not directly from your water/sewer fees. However, that is dependent upon the bids that we receive being within our project cost estimates. We will not know that until the bids are opened.

Following is a brief description of each project. The language below includes excerpts from the narratives, which were included in our grant applications:

Water Treatment Plant (WTP)

The existing WTPs and associated pumping and treatment equipment have outlived their useful service lives, and the Town desires to replace both existing WTPs with a single new WTP located near the northwest termination of Plantation Drive across the street from the 300,000-gallon elevated water storage tank. The proposed project is anticipated to include land acquisition, design and construction of a new greensand filtration and zeolite softening WTP to enhance removal of iron, manganese and hardness, and will improve overall potable water quality. The new treatment facility will not increase production capacity from that which currently exists at the two existing WTPs. Raw water transmission mains will be extended from the existing wells to the new WTP site, and the well pumps and associated electrical will be replaced to meet the flow and new head requirements. Lined waste settling lagoons and supernatant pumps will be installed on the new WTP site for enhanced settling of waste constituents. A waste effluent force main will be extended from the WTP site to the existing gravity sanitary sewer collection system, such that the effluent will be diluted through the sanitary sewer collection and treatment process, followed by discharge with the existing WWTP effluent. After the new WTP is commissioned and operational, the Town will properly abandon the two existing WTPs and voluntarily forfeit their associated NPDES discharge permits.

In summary..... We currently have 2 old, smaller water treatment plants. We are going to build 1 new water treatment plant, then abandon the 2 old plants. The new WTP will have a more enhanced treatment capability and also provide softening of the water.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

The existing WWTP is a suspended growth, complete-mix, single-stage nitrification, activated sludge plant capable of routinely meeting the secondary effluent limits contained in the current NPDES discharge permit. The proposed plant enhancements will produce a tertiary treatment facility with nutrient removal capability designed to treat primary waste constituents to the lower levels anticipated by future NPDES discharge permit. WWTP enhancements include new influent and effluent flow meters, relocation of the existing composite samplers, new complete package preliminary screen with grit removal, renovation of the existing surge tank, installation of new surge dosing pumps, renovation to the existing treatment units, replacement of the existing blowers, new alum feed

system for phosphorous removal, new filter feed pump station, new methanol feed system and denitrification filters for nitrogen removal, replacement of the chlorine injection system, new chlorine contact tank and reaeration basin, continued use/relocation of the dechlorination system, connection and continued use of the existing outfall and diffuser, new aerobic digester, enhanced cellular monitoring system, and proper abandonment of the existing in-ground steel digester tank.

In summary.....For a moment, let's think of our current WWTP as an old, worn out 1965 Corvette. The analogy which I use to explain what we plan to do at the WWTP is a substantial rebuild and refurbishing of our 1965 Corvette. We are basically, going to replace the motor, transmission, interior, tires and repaint it. We are also going to add a few new modern systems like brakes, suspension, cooling, electronics and radio. At the end of the project, we will still have the body and some other components of our original 1965 Corvette, but it will be practically like-new and ready to drive anywhere for many years.

Both of these projects will take years to complete. Getting the funding was GREAT and obviously a crucial step in the process, but it was only the first step of many. Now, the hard part begins. Both projects require- engineering, design, development of plans and specifications, review and approval by State regulatory agencies, issuance of permits, advertisement and solicitation of bids, bid opening and review, award of contracts, contract administration, construction, grant management, inspections, reporting, close-out and even more.

The WWTP project is further along in progress than the WTP project, therefore it will begin first. It is also the most demanding of the projects. We also received a \$100,000 grant to conduct a study and analysis of our drinking water supply source. We need to complete that project prior to starting the WTP project because the results of it will help us better design the new WTP. We hope to be able to conduct bidding for the WWTP project in the Spring of 2024. That grant requires us to have that project completed by December 31, 2026. The WTP grant does not have the same completion date requirements. It will most likely be at least 16-18 months before we are ready to conduct bidding for that project. It is likely that the WWTP and WTP projects will overlap each other. Together, these 2 projects are the largest, most expensive and most important projects in the history of the town. The undertaking of these 2 projects will be the most challenging infrastructure projects in the history of River Bend. However, the end product will be well worth the effort and serve the residents of River Bend for decades.

Most of the work for both projects will take place either within the fence at the

current WWTP site or on the new site for the WTP and therefore will have very little impact on traffic or your regular routine. For the most part, most residents will not even know that construction is on-going. However, during construction the kayak launch area may be inaccessible at times.

Delane Jackson

November 22, 2023



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In the past month, Public Works has been actively enhancing our community's infrastructure. Our team has successfully cleaned out one storm drainage ditch and currently working on another. This will significantly improve the flow of stormwater to mitigate potential flooding risks. Additionally, limb trimming operations throughout the town aimed at preventing damage to roadways and recreational vehicles has

been ongoing. To enhance safety and visibility several aging street signs and posts were replaced addressing concerns about deterioration and diminished visibility.

Water Resources staff repaired one water main leak. This leak was in a pipe coupling that was close to where the two inch main tied into a four inch main. This was quickly repaired by our dedicated staff. I would like to thank all of them for a job well done. We also performed routine maintenance involving cleaning of multiple collection system lift stations to remove debris and grease, a practice we carry out several times a year to ensure optimal functionality. These continued efforts underscore our commitment to a well-maintained and resilient community infrastructure.

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

Community Tree Lighting
& Santa's Arrival
December 1
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

EWAB Meeting
December 4
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

NEW TIME
Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
December 6
6:15 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
December 7
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
December 14
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile @
River Bend
December 15
Municipal Building

Building Dedication
Ceremony for NEW Public
Works Building
December 15
12-2 p.m.
1504 Plantation Drive
Click [HERE](#) for more

There will be a leaf and
limb pickup in the month
of December.
Click [HERE](#) to find your
zone placement date.



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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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 2023 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 12

Regular Meeting January 19

Work Session February 9

Regular Meeting February 16

Work Session March 9

Regular Meeting March 16

Work Session April 13

Regular Meeting April 20

Work Session May 11

Regular Meeting May 18

Work Session June 8

Regular Meeting June 15

Work Session July 13

Regular Meeting July 20

Work Session August 10

Regular Meeting August 17

Work Session September 14

Regular Meeting September 21

Work Session October 12

Regular Meeting October 19

Work Session November 9

Regular Meeting November 16

Work Session December 7

Regular Meeting December 14

All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

Budget Meetings

All Budget Meetings have been completed.



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 are 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.

2024 tags are available now at Town Hall.



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.