



2021-2023 IN RIVER BEND
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The article below was shared with the River Bend Community in December, 2020 when we began to come to grips with the COVID-19 pandemic. As we begin Town Operations in the year 2023 it is appropriate to look at how we have managed to adjust and move forward:

As 2020 began it was easy to predict that the happenings during the New Year would closely track what had occurred in 2019. Then came COVID-19 and the term “normal” was largely abandoned. By March it was obvious to most that the normal for operations at all levels and in all organizations was no longer an option. The Town Staff, under Manager Jackson’s leadership, has adapted to the changing conditions and mandates and most services provided by the Town have continued without interruption. We have accepted the inconvenience that the new norm has eliminated large assemblies, required “social distancing” and recommended the wearing of face masks. Complying with these requirements resulted in the cancelling of the long running River Bend July Fourth celebration, the normal celebration of Halloween night for children and now the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

These inconvenient departures from the comfortable River Bend normal have been a change that the entire nation and most of the world has in, the same fashion, been forced to follow. We have all witnessed that some nations have been more successful in reducing deaths from the virus while others have failed to make the needed adjustments. Statistics demonstrate the folly of denying scientific practice.

We shall continue to follow the appropriate guidance that is promulgated by health officials of the County and State. The residents will be kept informed of the current required safety practices. Our collective prayer should be that an effective vaccine is developed that will keep the population immune to the COVID-19 virus

INSIDE THIS EDITION

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

and lessen the suffering of thousands.

We must not grow tired of the precautions that must be followed for our individual and community safety during these unusual times.

2023 IN RIVER BEND

We all have reason to express thanks to Town Manager Jackson, and the Town Staff that he leads, for the remarkable accomplishments that they have made during these “uncharted” times.

The Congress has, in a refreshing nonpartisan way, passed legislation that appropriated significant funding for infrastructure construction. These funds were to be granted to municipalities by state agencies. Manager Jackson worked with the appropriate state agencies and secured grants to fund a number of projects. Those projects involve (1) \$732,310 to replace all the water meters with new meters that will allow remote radio read. (2) \$9,108,500 to upgrade the Town’s wastewater treatment plant. This project will upgrade the existing plant that is nearing the end of its useful life span. (3) \$964,378 To replace the Town’s Public Works building. The present building is in the floodplain and received damage during Hurricane Florence. This grant supports the construction of a new Public Works Building on Plantation Drive in the area adjacent to the 300,000 gallon water tank at a cost of \$1,996,136.

As the Manager worked through the details of obtaining these grants he also made state regulatory staff members comfortable that River Bend personnel were knowledgeable of the regulatory demands associated with our permitted water and wastewater systems. This positive contact will serve the Town well in the future.

The development of the effective COVID-19 vaccine has blessed River Bend and all of mankind. That vaccine has allowed the United States to relax most of the precautionary restrictions discussed in the 2021 report, which is reprinted above. Clearly the Manager and Staff have survived the emergency well and have continued to serve our population without compromising health and safety. It is safe to say that River Bend is in a stronger position than existed at the beginning of COVID-19. That strength came from the day-by-day efforts of the Manager and Staff to address the details as external demands dictated.

Thanks to all who have read this assessment of events that have been accomplished in River Bend over the last two years of unprecedented change.

A family of 4 would have had to pay \$19,008. If all of the projects had been funded by taxes alone, on a one-time basis, we would have to raise the tax rate from 26¢ to \$4.81. A River Bend resident in a home worth \$180,000 would have seen their town tax bill go from \$468 to \$8,658. By looking at the projects in this way, you can easily see just how valuable they are to the Town of River Bend. In addition to these projects, we built a new fishing dock at town hall, purchased a new police vehicle and purchased a backhoe. We also negotiated 3 new contracts relative to landscaping maintenance and L&L collections. We jumped through a bunch hoops related to the ARPA federal funding. We developed and executed several Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering and architectural design for the projects. We had to deal with the highest inflation in nearly 40 years. We were involved in the extension of a disaster recovery contract through Craven County. As part of a grant agreement, we negotiated an agreement with New Bern to allow for the future purchase of water. We adopted many resolutions and policies to allow us to submit grant applications, including adopting a long- range Capital Projects Plan in the Water Department. We amended the Advisory Board Ordinance. We purchased the land for the new Public Works building. We finalized the floor plan for the new Public Works building and we developed a bid packet, solicited bids and awarded a bid for its construction. We also finalized funding for it.

Amazingly, that's not all. I could go on, but I'm sure you see that 2022 was very busy and very successful.



**WRD / PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's. The holidays are always a wonderful time of year to spend with family, friends, to reflect on the past year, and to look forward to what this year may bring. In December, Public Works cleaned and replaced several street signs. There are still a few on our list to clean/replace. We will get this done as time allows. We have had several trees blow down during a couple of the wind storms we had this

month. Our backhoe has proven invaluable with the many tasks. I would like to thank the Council again for getting us this backhoe. Our backhoe have saved us much time and allowed us to accomplish many tasks quicker and more efficiently. Scheduling work has become easier because I do not have to plan around renting a machine. Public Works also replaced a couple of doors at our Water Treatment facilities. We still have to paint them but the doors look good and I would like to thank my team for a job well done.

Water Resources this month repaired a couple of water leaks. With assistance from Public Works, the repairs were all done with staff, and did not require any outside help. It is extremely nice to have qualified staff in both departments. All chlorine tubing was replaced in our chlorination rooms at our Water Treatment Plants as well as the Wastewater Plant. This is something we do at least twice a year to prevent any leaks from occurring. Chlorine is very corrosive. Therefore, when leaks occur they can cause quick damage to electrical systems, as well as any other components that can become corroded. I personally would like to thank both departments for a job well done over this past year.

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 the 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 Advisory
Board Meeting
February 1
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
February 2
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
February 6
1:30-4 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
February 6
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting
February 9
1:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
February 9
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community Watch Mtg
February 15
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Meeting
February 16
7 p.m.
Town Hall

CERT Meeting
February 22
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Sunrise Yoga: Monday & Wednesday 7:30-8:30 a.m. -River Bend Municipal Building

Chair Yoga: Monday & Wednesday 9:00-9:50 a.m.-River Bend Municipal Building

Gentle Yoga: Fridays 9-10:15 a.m. Contact Linda Cummings @ 252-288-4347

Zumba: Thursdays 6-7 p.m. click [HERE](#) for location



**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
James Castranova
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
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
2022-2023**

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 5, 2022
(June 29, 2022)
- September 6, 2022
(August 31, 2022)
- October 31, 2022
(October 26, 2022)
- January 9, 2023
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 4, 2023)
- March 6, 2023
(March 1, 2023)
- May 8, 2023
(May 3, 2023)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 11, 2022
(July 6, 2022)
- September 12, 2022
(September 7, 2022)
- November 7, 2022
(November 2, 2022)
- January 16, 2023
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 11, 2023)
- March 13, 2023
(March 8, 2023)
- May 15, 2023
(May 10, 2023)

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.

**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

Budget Meetings

Budget Session	TBD
Budget Session	TBD
Budget Session	TBD
Budget Session	TBD
Budget Session	TBD
Budget Session.....	TBD

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.

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



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 2023 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 2023 are due by March 31, 2023. 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.



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, Officer Andrew Borner 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.