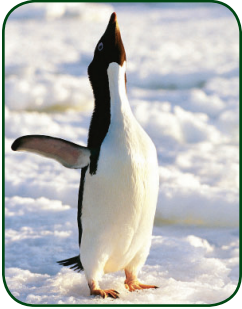


RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL www.riverbendnc.org



HAPPY
NEW YEAR



THE STATE OF RIVER BEND
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

As we enter the year 2022 it seems quite appropriate to address the state of River Bend. I shall endeavor to describe what I am privileged to see day by day in our Town.

The first and most important element of any organization, and very important to municipal government, is the quality of the municipal staff. It is a statement of fact that we can all be proud of each staff member and each element of the town's organization. The direction that Town Manager Jackson provides to the staff makes for efficient execution of both the daily routine and the more complicated special projects. The staff is well trained and special training is encouraged by the Manager. A very important aspect of staffing any organization is longevity of employment. We have recently experienced the retirement of Margaret Theis (twenty-three years), Kathleen DeYoung (20+ years) and Ann Katsuyoshi (almost twenty years). They represented staff that was very familiar with Town operations. The Manager has promoted Mandy Gilbert as Margaret's replacement. Mandy had twelve years' experience as the fiscal assistant. Rebekah Pierce has replaced Mandy in the assistant's position. Kristie Nobles has replaced Ann as the Town Clerk and Jennifer Barrow as Kathleen's replacement as Deputy Town Clerk.

"It is a statement of fact that we can all be proud of each staff member and each element of the town's organization. The direction that Town Manager Jackson provides to the staff makes for efficient execution of both the daily routine and the more complicated special projects."

The Police Department, led by Chief Joll, is well trained and operates efficiently

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in providing police protection for the Town. Brandon Mills leads the Public Works and Water Resources Departments. This staff is also well trained and their operation of the Town's utilities with no recent violations of the numerous state and federal regulations is testimony to their training and dedication.

River Bend has operated under the Council-Manager form of governance for the last nineteen years. This change from Mayor-Council form was accomplished when the Town voted in a referendum to request a Town Charter change from the NC General Assembly in 2000.

The present day appearance of the Town is testimony to the well balanced maintenance that the manager achieves using staff and contract personnel to accomplish work necessary to maintaining that appearance. The utilities and the Town's streets and other infrastructure are well maintained.

When hurricane Florence pounded Eastern North Carolina, Manager Jackson and the staff worked long hours and committed days to the work associated with all aspects of the recovery. Three years later it is hard to find evidence of the devastation that Florence left in River Bend.

We all need to pray that the year 2022 will not bring a major category hurricane to our shore. We all remember Hurricane Florence and the severe flooding damage that storm inflicted on floodplain properties.

The Craven County/New Bern area is a great location for all who have selected to live here. River Bend's Town Council has, over the forty years since incorporation, made significant acquisitions and improved construction projects that make the Town an attractive location for new residents to purchase homes. The Council has demonstrated a willingness to enact new ordinances and modify existing ordinances to protect the Town features that are important to the River Bend of the future. Much of the current strength of the Town can be attributed to the Council decision to change the system of governance from Mayor-Council to Council-Manager. In the twenty years of this form of governance the Town has had four managers. Each of these gentlemen have made significant contributions to the Town that we enjoy today. Manager Jackson, our current manager has 7+ years with us. During his term we experienced the monster hurricane Florence. Those who were residents then can appreciate how very effective he was in working with staff and contract personnel in accomplishing recovery. It can be said that his contacts in state and federal agencies resulted in large dollar grants that helped in recovery but also allowed construction that will serve long term.

The "State of River Bend" is well positioned to move forward and prosper.



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

This Month Public Works continued with routine maintenance of our equipment. Oil and filters were changed in a couple of our generators and the small gas powered pumps. Routine maintenance is key to get longevity out of our equipment. We also replaced several street signs that had become faded due to their age. This is routine or done on an as needed basis. The Public Works Department also put up the Christmas decorations at the front entrance,

Town Hall, and the Municipal Building. I hope everyone enjoys the beauty of these decorations and give us all some Christmas cheer.

Water Resources had to pull two lift station pumps this month. Both pumps had debris caught up in their impeller, which would not allow them to pump properly. Our staff pulled and cleaned out these pumps quickly before we had a sanitary

sewer overflow. There were also two water service line leaks repaired. Both leaks were a few feet from the meter and were easily repaired. I would like to thank the staff 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, 8 AM-4 PM. 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 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.

"Water resources had to pull two lift station pumps this month. Both pumps had debris caught up in their impeller."

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



The town donated 613 pounds of food to RCS during the annual food drive, and five full boxes of toys & two bikes were donated to Toys for Tots! Thank you to all who donated!

RBCOG Meeting
January 3
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
January 3
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

BOA Public Hearing
January 4
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Meeting
January 5
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board &
Planning Board
Meetings
January 5
Canceled

Library Board
Special Meeting
January 10
2 p.m.
Municipal Building

Work Session
January 13
5 p.m.
Town Hall
Canceled

Town Hall Closed
January 17
In Observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

CAC Meeting
January 19
4 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Meeting
January 20
7 p.m.
Town Hall

Poker & Pinochle
Sponsored by Parks & Rec
January 21
6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Click [HERE](#) for more
information

Cert Meeting
January 26
7 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 Fagle
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE DIRECTOR
Mandy Gilbert

POLICE CHIEF
Sean Joll

DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN &
TYPOGRAPHY
Jennifer Barrow
Deputy Town Clerk

FINANCE ASSISTANT
Rebekah Pearce

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 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 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
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.

This meeting
was canceled

**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 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 are 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. 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**

Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the sign up page.

The system was purged on December 15th. Please sign-up again if you haven't done so since the purge was completed.



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.



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.