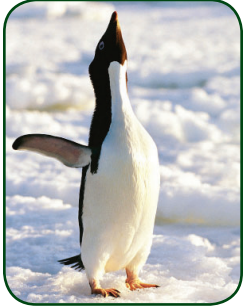


# RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)



Happy New Year!



**2022 YEAR END THANKS  
TO TOWN STAFF**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

As the year 2022 draws to a close it is appropriate to recognize the superior performance of the River Bend Town Staff.

Looking first at the Town Manager’s position. The Town in 2023 begins the 21st year operating under the Town’s General Assembly authorized “Council-Manager” form of governance. In that period we have had the service of four different Managers. Our current Manager Delane Jackson is in his ninth year serving the Town. He is also the longest serving of the several managers. The Manager is responsible for supervising all staff members.

Recently he saw three key members of the Town Hall staff reach retirement age and opted to enter that phase of their life. The longest serving of the three was Margaret Theis who as Finance Administrator had served for 25 years. Next in length of service was Kathleen De Young who had served for 20 years as Deputy Clerk. Ann Katsuyoshi had served as Town Clerk for 18 years. These three positions are all very critical to the Town’s day to day operations. Manager Jackson advertised for candidates to fill the vacant positions, conducted interviews and hired qualified persons to fill each of the three positions. Mrs. Kristie Nobles as Town Clerk, Mrs. Jennifer Barrow as Deputy Town Clerk and Mrs. Mandy Gilbert as Finance Director. Mrs. Gilbert was formally the Finance Assistant. Mrs. Rebekah Pearce was hired as Finance Assistant. These newly hired employees have quickly gained the detailed understanding of the positions that they serve.

The preceding addresses the changes that have occurred in the Town Hall staff. Now to the dedicated personnel who serve in the Police Department and the Public Works/Water Resources Department. These persons provide critical service every day to all citizens. These individuals respond to the routine of day to day operations and also the emergency events that come with little or no notice. All of these

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persons deserve our thanks for the service that you perform and keep our Town operating.

The leaders of these two departments are Police Chief Sean Joll, and Public Works Director Brandon Mills. The members of the Police Department are: Sergeant Stephen Fell, and Officers Michael DeStefano, Andrew Borner, Chase Adams and Derius Johnson. Members of Public Works/Water Resources Department are: Public Works Director Brandon Mills. Staff members are James Jones, Mike Steffa, Doug Becker, Juquan Jarvis, and Andrew Brooks.

To all Town staff members: Thank you for the quality contribution that you bring to work each day and often is performed without notice. Please accept a sincere “Thank You” for your service every day. It is that service that makes River Bend the fine community that more than 3,000 persons call home.

THANK YOU



**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

**2022 Year In-Review**

It's hard to believe, but 2022 is over. Let's take a look back at it in review. If you are using projects as a barometer, I am not exaggerating when I say that 2022 is probably the busiest year in the history of River Bend. If you are using grant funding as a barometer, I am certain that 2022 was the most successful year in the history of River Bend. Below is a list of some major projects we worked on in 2022.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. Old Pollocksville Rd CDBG	\$750,000	completed
2. Water Meter Replacement	\$732,310 *	50% complete
3. Software Migration	\$129,300 *	75% complete
4. Public Works Building	\$1,996,136 *	just started
5. Channel Run Drainage	\$278,295 *	50% complete
6. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$964,378	completed
7. AIA Water	\$150,000	just started
8. AIA sewer	\$150,000	just started
9. WWTP Rehab	<u>\$9,108,500</u>	just started
*local funding provided	TOTAL \$14,258,919	

Amount funded by grants= \$12,939,256 or 91%. Amount funded by local dollars= \$1,319,663 or 9%.

In addition to these projects, we have a \$9,393,000 water system rehab grant application that has been submitted and is in the review process. We should know if it is approved by mid-February. With it, that's nearly \$24,000,000 of projects in the works. We also have a couple of other grants under review.

As you can see, no matter how you slice it, 2022 was a very successful and very busy year for River Bend. As noted above, some of these projects are still on-going. Some of these projects are major and are just getting started. With the exception of WWTP Rehab (#9) it will probably take us 2 years to clear all of the remaining projects out of the queue. The WWTP project will probably take 4 years. For comparison, our typical operating budget is in the \$3,000,000 range. These projects approach 5 times our annual operating budget and they are in addition to our normal day-to-day operations/budget.

If the 9 projects on the list were funded solely by River Bend residents on a one-time, per capita basis, it would have cost every resident an additional \$4,752.

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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

Public Works installed the electrical receptacles and lights on the new town dock. We will be able to use these receptacles any time power is needed. Several picnic tables were replaced under the picnic shelter. We also added a picnic table to the new dock. I have seen countless citizens already utilizing the new dock. This dock will last the town for many years to come. Public Works also installed the two outdoor Christmas trees and the Christmas balls that are at the front entrance. The Christmas balls were made by the Community Appearance Committee and citizens during a CAC workshop. I would like to tell them what a good job they did making these balls. They really make the entrance into town beautiful at night when driving in and out of town.

Water Resources repaired a couple water service line leaks. Both leaks were on our side of the water meter and were quickly repaired. One sewer lateral was repaired due to root intrusion at a pipe joint that was cracked. When roots find their way inside of a sewer line that creates blockages and backups. We were able to repair this with our staff. Two air relief valves at the water treatment plants were replaced and four other relief valves cleaned. This is just one part of routine maintenance we do on a regular basis throughout the year to keep our system up and running.

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



The town donated 6 full boxes of toys and 8 bikes to Toys for Tots. Additionally, 450 lbs. of food were donated to RCS Food Pantry. Thank you to all who donated!

RBCOG Meeting  
January 2  
1:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building

*\*CANCELED\**  
EWAB Meeting  
January 2  
1:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building

*\*CANCELED\**  
Parks & Rec Advisory  
Board  
January 4  
7:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

*\*CANCELED\**  
Library Board Meeting  
January 5  
2:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting  
January 5  
6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

*\*Special Meeting\**  
Parks & Rec Advisory  
Board  
January 11  
6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

*\*Special Meeting\**  
Red Caboose Library Board  
January 12  
2:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Council Work Session  
January 12  
6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

*\*Special Meeting\**  
Red Caboose Library Board  
January 18  
4:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

CAC Meeting  
January 18  
4:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

CERT Meeting  
January 25  
7:00 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**  
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](http://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](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 Andrew Borner 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.