

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



LOOKING AT THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

After a year plus period of severe restrictions the nation is slowly emerging from the COVID time in our history. River Bend is likewise. I will take this opportunity to say a very sincere thank you to the Town Staff.

During this long period, the very capable members of the Staff under the able leadership of Manager Jackson have performed in a superior fashion every day. The Town's utilities have functioned without interruption. The Staff has processed the required documents supporting the COVID related grants that the Manager negotiated with the several State and Federal agencies.

The staff has truly worked together as a team in accomplishing this unexpected and sudden impact to the normal work. It is important to also note that the day by day "normal" demands of work never ceased.

In a similar fashion the Town Council adjusted to the demands that this workload placed on them for revised meeting times and special meetings to meet the deadlines for Council action and approval of certain projects. It has been a very busy time for all. And Just as COVID-19 seems to be fading from high activity, we now enter the annual hurricane season. It comes as the Town is in the last stages of recovery from Hurricane Florence which was almost three years ago.

Manager Jackson has prepared an article that will inform residents to check their

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

MAYOR'S REPORT
PAGE 1

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
PAGE 2

WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 5

COMING EVENTS
PAGE 6

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 7

LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 7

ETCETERA
PAGE 8-9

flood Insurance policies now so that they are in force if the hurricane hits. Clearly you cannot negotiate a policy when the hurricane is headed for the Carolina Coast. I conclude as I began by saying to Staff and Town Council, “WELL DONE.”



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. Historically, fall is the most active part of hurricane season for our region. August and September are usually the busiest months for hurricanes along North Carolina's coast. However, Tropical Storm Ana developed on May 23 this year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is [predicting](#) another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Our proximity to the Atlantic coast, combined with the low elevation above sea level for large parts of our town, makes River Bend vulnerable to impacts from hurricanes. A tropical system does not need to develop into a hurricane to cause damage in River Bend, particularly in the flood zone.

Because of these facts, if you live in River Bend, you should consider purchasing flood insurance. You can obtain a policy from a local agent, through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Town of River Bend is a participant in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the NFIP. In short, that means that the town maintains records and files on flood zone properties, has and enforces a local flood damage prevention ordinance and meets other annual minimums to be a CRS town. Our CRS status means that River Bend residents who live in a special flood hazard area (SFHA) are eligible for a 10% discount on annual flood insurance policy premiums. Typically, regular home owner's insurance policies do not cover damages from rising waters (flooding). If you are uncertain about your insurance coverage, you should contact your agent now. Do not wait until after the storm to learn that you are not covered. Most insurance companies require flood insurance to be purchased at least 30 days prior to a named storm that impacts a customer. That means that you cannot buy coverage at the last minute when a storm is already headed in our direction.

Hurricane Florence is still in the memory of River Bend residents. Our records indicate that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded during Hurricane Florence. According to data from the NFIP, just before Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14, 2018, there were 443 flood insurance policies in effect in River

Bend. That means there were at least 60 flooded homes that did not have flood insurance. Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14, 2018. Today, almost three years after Hurricane Florence's arrival, all of the homes in River Bend that were damaged by Hurricane Florence are not yet repaired.

Now, and throughout the summer, is a good time for you to assess your property and see if you are ready for a hurricane or even a smaller magnitude tropical storm. There are many things that you can do now to prepare so that you will be better prepared if a storm does impact us. A few suggestions are:

1. Check your trees and other vegetation. Remove any dead, damaged or leaning limbs that may fall on your home or other buildings. Don't forget to look above where you park your car, too. A tree or limb can ruin a vehicle too and you may need that vehicle to leave the area. You do not want to be pruning or trying to hire a professional tree trimmer shortly before the storm. They will be in high demand then. Also, trimming shortly before a storm creates debris that must be removed prior to the storm.

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2. Check your gutters, roof and siding (and flood vents if your home is equipped with them). Be sure they are in proper working condition and/or are properly secured. Do you have a tarp and enough rope to secure it if your roof is compromised during a storm? Tarps are hard to find near a storm's arrival. Also check your windows and doors to make sure they are prepared to keep out the elements.

3. Check the drainage features on your property. Be sure they are clear and working properly.

4. If you own a generator (or chainsaw), give it a tune up now. Exercise your generator. A generator has two main components. They are the motor and the generator. Cranking the motor and letting it run will exercise the motor part. Be sure to plug something into it and make sure the generator part is also working. It is called testing under load. Simply plugging up a couple of lamps or fans will do. It would be unfortunate to own a perfectly running generator engine that does not produce electricity. Often times following hurricanes or other natural disasters more people die from improper use of generators than die due to the actual storm event. If you

own a generator, make sure that you and your family know how, when and where to operate it. Make sure that you have adequate fuel storage tanks. When a storm is approaching, they are difficult to find in stores. Batteries and flashlights may be hard to find, too. Test your supply and stock up now. Consider buying a spare chain for your chainsaw.

5. Landscape items such as swings, trash cans, lawn furniture and anything else that is in your yard can become wind-driven projectiles during a storm. Imagine a trash can lid striking the window of your home or vehicle at 75 mph. Also, loose items like basketballs or flower pots can float away and completely block storm drains, which can contribute to flooding. Now is the time to formulate a plan for how you will address these issues when a storm is approaching. I recommend having a place to store the items inside or being able to tie them down during a storm. You may need to buy a supply of rope or cords now.

6. Subscribe to the town's e-news and blackboard connect service. This can easily be done by clicking on the "Register for Alerts" button near the top of our home page. Immediately before and after a storm event, we will be using these services to share official updates and guidance. Please do not rely on information that you may find on social media as your source for official information.

Obviously, we hope that you will never find yourself in a hurricane in River Bend. However, hurricanes and other tropical storm events are a natural event in eastern North Carolina. If you live here, the wise thing to do is to be prepared for them.



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

This Month Public Works began mowing the Town’s right of ways and other areas not covered by our grass-cutting contract. One storm water drainage pipe was repaired in April. The pipe joints had cracked and was allowing soil to infiltrate inside the pipe, which left a sinkhole. The Public Works staff repaired this pipe. In addition, gravel was added around some of the roadways where washouts were forming. Adding gravel not only fills in the washed out areas, but also helps protect the integrity of the roadway.

Earlier this month Water Resources completed our annual water system flushing. The guys did a great job at flushing the system. As a reminder, the reason for the flushing is to remove any mineral sediment that has accumulated over the past year. This improves the overall quality of water that is delivered to our customers. We had to pull two pumps from our collection system lift stations due to high amp draws on the motors. Once pulled we found the pumps were clogged up with a non-biodegradable material.

This material was removed from the pump, and the pumps were reinstalled. I would like to remind customers that there are certain items that should never be flushed down the toilet. A list of the items that should never be flushed is in on our Annual Wastewater Treatment report. This report can be viewed by clicking [HERE](#).

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.

“Water resources continued to do a good job at keeping up with locating our utilities for Suddenlink and Centurylink contractors. Again, we have to locate our utilities to lower the chance of other contractors damaging them .”

**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

Public Works Advisory
Board Meeting
June 1
3:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Recreation Advisory
Board Meeting
June 2
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
June 3
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
June 7
1:30-4 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
June 7
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting
June 10
10 a.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
June 10
5 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
June 17
7 p.m.
Town Hall

CERT Meeting
June 23
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.

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Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2020-2021

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 6, 2020
(July 1, 2020)
September 7, 2020
(September 2, 2020)
November 2, 2020
(October 28, 2020)
January 11, 2021
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 6, 2021)
March 8, 2021
(March 3, 2021)
May 10, 2021
(May 5, 2021)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 13, 2020
(July 8, 2020)
September 14, 2020
(September 9, 2020)
November 9, 2020
(November 4, 2020)
January 18, 2021
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 13, 2021)
March 15, 2021
(March 10, 2021)
May 17, 2021
(May 12, 2021)

Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must be bagged. For additional important information 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

Budget Meetings

Budget Session April 27
Budget Session May 4
Budget Session May 11
Budget Session May 18
Budget Session May 20

All Budget Meetings have been completed

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.

An updated Leaf & Limb Schedule will be mailed with the next utility billing.

**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 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

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2021 were due by March 31, 2021. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually. Registraton is \$10 per pet. You may register your pet online or at Town Hall Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM. Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration. Please include documentation with your payment.

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.