



THE TOWN'S ANNUAL BUDGET PREPARATION
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The annual volunteer picnic was held on Saturday 1 June. It was a success. The Town's July Fourth Celebration and Parade are only a month away. These events require a lot of planning and coordination by the Town Staff with several of the Advisory Boards, making arrangements with the several vendors who will provide miscellaneous supplies, and finally preparing the site for the events of the celebration.

The Staff will accomplish all of this and still accomplish the routine work associated with the usual conduct of routine Town operations. We are fortunate to have a talented and dedicated Staff and Manager.

And we are now at the beginning of the 2024 Hurricane Season. And the new Town Budget will become effective on 1 July.

I ask all residents to consider the added work that the Staff will contribute to make the events a success and when you talk with a member of staff, thank them.

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**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, a hurricane could develop outside of the official hurricane season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is [predicting](#) an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season for 2024. In fact, this year's forecast, with 25 named storms, is the most ever in a NOAA preseason forecast. NOAA director Rick Spinrad said the Atlantic Hurricane season is shaping up to be extraordinary. 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. Click [here](#) to view our flood zone maps, which were developed by FEMA. Enter your address (street, city, state, zip) then click on GO for the map. For this site, enter New Bern as your city. Based on our history and geography, if you live in River Bend, you may want to 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 minimum requirements to be a CRS participant. 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. Those living in other areas could be eligible for a 5% discount. Typically, regular homeowner'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.

Although it has been almost 6 years ago, Hurricane Florence is still in the memory of many River Bend residents. Our records show that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded by 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. As of this week, there are 415 flood insurance policies in effect in River Bend. At this time last year, there were 554 in effect.

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 so that you will be better prepared if a storm does impact us. Click [here](#) for lots of hurricane prep information.



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works has undertaken several key initiatives to enhance the community's infrastructure and safety. Activities included the excavation of a ditch line to bolster stormwater flow, alongside the clearing of discharge ends of storm water pipes for improved drainage efficiency. Additionally, trimming low hanging limbs along town roads

not only enhanced visibility but also mitigated potential damage to larger vehicles. In a bid to ensure recreational safety, mulch was added to the swing set area at Ritter Field with plans to add more.

Water Resources repaired several sewer lateral cleanouts. Residents are urged to report any uncapped cleanouts in their yards, as these pose a risk for inflow and infiltration. Noteworthy is the recent inspection conducted by the NC Department of Environmental Quality on our wastewater plant and backwash sites, which yielded no violations, affirming our commitment to regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/ Public Works Department, please call us at 252-638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. 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 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 252-638-1108, 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

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

EWAB Meeting
June 3
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
June 5
6:15 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
June 13
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Budget Public Hearing
June 13
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community Watch
Meeting
June 19
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

CAC Wreath Workshop
June 20
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Regular Council Meeting
June 20
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
June 21
2p.m.-4p.m.
Tech Class 4p.m.-5 p.m.
Municipal Building

CAC Wreath Workshop
June 22
10:00 a.m.-12:00 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.

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Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
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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 15, 2024
(July 10, 2024)
September 9, 2024
(September 4, 2024)
November 11, 2024
(November 6, 2024)
December 11, 2024
(December 4, 2024)
January 13, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 8, 2025)
March 10, 2025
(March 5, 2025)
May 12, 2025
(May 7, 2025)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 22, 2024
(July 17, 2024)
September 16, 2024
(September 11, 2024)
November 18, 2024
(November 13, 2024)
December 16, 2024
(December 11, 2024)
January 20, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 15, 2025)
March 17, 2025
(March 12, 2025)
May 19, 2025
(May 14, 2025)

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 2024 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 11
Regular Meeting January 18
Work Session February 8
Regular Meeting February 15
Work Session March 14
Regular Meeting March 21
Work Session April 11
Regular Meeting April 18
Work Session May 9
Regular Meeting May 16
Work Session June 13
Regular Meeting June 20
~~Work Session July 11~~
Regular Meeting July 18
Work Session August 8
Regular Meeting August 15
Work Session September 12
Regular Meeting September 19
Work Session October 10
Regular Meeting October 17
Work Session November 14
Regular Meeting November 21
Work Session December 5
Regular Meeting December 12

All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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

Budget Meetings

Public Hearing (Tentative)..... June 13



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 were 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.

Registration is \$10.00 per pet.



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.