

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL www.riverbendnc.org



MAYOR'S REPORT
BY MAYOR MARK BLEDSOE

The Town of River Bend, in partnership with the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, and St. John's Lodge No. 3, will dedicate a Liberty Tree in River Bend Park on Thursday, March 26th at noon.

This tree will be part of the America 250 Liberty Tree Project, a nationwide initiative leading up to the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. The project seeks to plant trees as living symbols of freedom, historical remembrance, and community resilience. Inspired by the original Liberty Trees-gathering places for colonists during the American Revolution these plantings honor the spirit of unity and resistance that helped shape the nation.

The River Bend Liberty Tree will be one of only three in North Carolina. Its dedication coincides with the 250th anniversary of the authorization of the 5th North Carolina Regiment on March 26, 1776. Organized in Wilmington, the regiment was composed of eight volunteer companies from the New Bern, Edenton, and Hillsborough districts and served in the Continental Army.

Now, 250 years later, the community will gather on March 26, 2026, alongside members of the SAR, DAR, and St. John's Lodge No. 3 to commemorate this historic milestone and celebrate the enduring spirit of liberty that continues to define our nation.

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER
DELANE JACKSON

We are happy to announce that the town has recently received additional funding for two very important projects. On February 18, we were notified that a \$1,610,000 grant was approved by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The plan is to use that grant to construct a new water well. As you may know, we are working on a separate water project that includes the construction of a new water treatment plant along with two new wells. That overall project is estimated to cost \$21,000,000 and the town has been awarded approximately \$10.5M in grants and \$10.5M in zero-interest loans to fund it. This latest grant will fund the construction of one of those two wells. We hope to reduce the loan amount for the overall project by utilizing the grant in lieu of a portion of the loan.

The other funding notice, also received on February 18, is for \$13,244,000 and came from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). It is earmarked for Phase II of our wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) project. Phase I is underway. Its cost is roughly \$13,000,000 and is fully grant-funded. This new DEQ funding includes a \$3,000,000 grant and a \$10,244,000 zero-interest loan. At some time, the Council will have to decide whether to accept the loans. Obviously, loans must be repaid and grants do not.

The Town has three major funds from which we operate the town. They are: General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund. The Water and Sewer Funds have three separate departments within them. The water and sewer funds operate as Enterprise Funds. Basically, that means that their operations (aka expenditures) are funded from their revenues (user fees) only. For example, the operations of the water departments are funded from water revenues only. The operations of the sewer departments are funded from sewer revenues only. Most of our utility customers have both water and sewer services at their homes. The water fees they pay are not used to support any sewer departments. Likewise, sewer fees they pay are not used to support any water departments. Some residents have water service only at their home. They only pay water fees, and those fees are only used to support water departments. A water-only customer will not be financially impacted by or responsible for funding any portion of the WWTP project described above.

What about the General Fund? The General Fund is supported by numerous sources of revenue, the largest being property tax. However, no water revenue or sewer revenue is used to support General Fund activities. Likewise, no General Fund revenue

(including property tax) is used to support water or sewer activities. The General Fund has eighteen departments within it, none of which are related to water/sewer operations. You can think of the General Fund as being everything except water and sewer operations. The General Fund is used to support Police, Street Maintenance, Stormwater Management, Administration, Planning & Zoning, Parks, Recreation & Special Events, Elections, Public Buildings, and more.

When you pay your utility bill, you can be assured that none of it is being used to support any General Fund activity. When you pay your property tax bill, you can be assured that none of it is being used to support any Water or Sewer Fund activity. When/if the town proceeds with any water/sewer project, you can be assured that it will have no impact on your property tax bill. In simple terms, the funds are segregated and always have been. They are also accounted for separately in our budget. They operate independently of each other.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR THE NEXT SECTION



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

During this month, the PW department performed several maintenance activities to improve the safety and appearance of town infrastructure. Staff cleaned multiple street signs throughout town to improve visibility for motorists. Some signs still require our attention, and we intend to clean them as soon as possible. Public Works also conducted a camera inspection of a storm drain line to determine if there was any structural damage to the pipe. After inspection, no damage was found. In a separate storm water maintenance activity, a storm drain with a cracked joint was identified and successfully repaired by department staff. Additionally, PW crews repaired several fence railings located around the town's parks to ensure they remain in good condition.

Water Resources remained busy with routine operation and maintenance of the town's water and sewer systems. During the month, staff repaired a water main and reconnected a fire hydrant that had been temporarily abandoned. We also installed an additional valve on this section of water main. This improvement will allow staff to isolate smaller areas of the system during emergencies or future repairs. Reducing the number of customers affected by service interruptions in this area of town. On the Wastewater side our crew removed and service to lift stations pumps that had become clogged with rags, debris, and other materials. The pumps were quickly cleaned and returned to service. Due to the prompt response by our staff, no sanitary sewer overflows occurred.

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 paging the towns on-call duty operator at 252-464-4328. 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 ext. 1, and they will get in contact with the on-call utility systems operator.

REPORTING AFTER HOURS WATER-SEWER EMERGENCIES

- ◆ Page the on-call duty operator by dialing 252-474-4328.
- ◆ 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 (option 1). They will get in touch with the on-call utility system operator.

COMING EVENTS

Preschool Story Hour
Every Friday
10:00 a.m.
115 Wildwood Dr.
Red Caboose Community
Library

Easter Egg Hunt and Spring
Fling Sponsored by Parks &
Recreation
March 29 @ 1:00 p.m. River
Bend Golf & Country Club

Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
April 1
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

RBCOG Meeting
April 6
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
April 6
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
April 9
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Regular Council Meeting
April 16
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
April 17
(third Friday of each
month)
2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Tech Class 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
115 Wildwood Dr.

RBCOG Meeting
May 4
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
May 4
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
May 6
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building



Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for FY2025-2026

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 14, 2025
(July 9, 2025)
- September 8, 2025
(September 3, 2025)
- November 10, 2025
(November 5, 2025)
- December 8, 2025
(December 3 2025)
- January 12, 2026
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 7, 2026)
- March 9, 2026
(March 4, 2026)
- May 11, 2026
(May 6, 2026)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 21, 2025
(July 16, 2025)
- September 15, 2025
(September 10, 2025)
- November 17, 2025
(November 12, 2025)
- December 15, 2025
(December 10, 2025)
- January 19, 2026
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 14, 2026)
- March 16, 2026
(March 11, 2026)
- May 18, 2026
(May 13, 2026)

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](http://www.riverbendnc.org) online at www.riverbendnc.org.

Town Council 2026 Meeting Dates

- Work Session January 8
- Regular Meeting January 15
- Work Session February 12
- Regular Meeting February 19
- Work Session March 12
- Regular Meeting March 19
- Work Session April 9
- Regular Meeting April 16
- Work Session May 14
- Regular Meeting May 21
- Work Session June 11
- Regular Meeting June 18
- Work Session July 9
- Regular Meeting July 16
- Work Session August 13
- Regular Meeting August 20
- Work Session September 10
- Regular Meeting September 17
- Work Session October 8
- Regular Meeting October 15
- Work Session November 12
- Regular Meeting November 19
- Work Session December 3***
- Regular Meeting December 10***

***Changed due to holiday

Budget Meetings

- Budget Session April 28
- Budget Session April 30
- Budget Session May 11
- Budget Session May 14
- Budget Session (If Needed) May 19
- Budget Session..... May 21

Click [HERE](#) for FY26-27 Budget Preparation

All Budget Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m.

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 5:00 p.m.

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
Mark Bledsoe

TOWN COUNCIL
Lisa Benton
Brian Leonard
Kathy Noonan
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

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Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN & TYPOGRAPHY
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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 2025 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 2025 are due by March 31, 2025. 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.