

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL www.riverbendnc.org



THE TOWN'S ANNUAL BUDGET PREPARATION
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The members of Council and Staff are now working to develop the 2024-2025 budget. The Town Manager is charged with the preparation of a draft budget for presentation to the Council. The Council can either accept the draft or modify it before voting on its adoption.

River Bend is fortunate to have Manager Jackson who has many years working through the budget preparation process. The “bottom line” of the process is that next fiscal year’s projects and department expenditures are set and the tax rate to support the budget expenditures is also set. The tax rate to support the budget expenditures is also set by Council vote.

Most residents are interested in the tax rate. I recognize that this is a concern for all citizens wherever they live. In my own case, moving from Connecticut to River Bend, taxes for the property in Connecticut are now more than \$10,000 while the home here is the same size, but tax is \$ 3,500+/- , and the level of service provided by local government is very similar in both states.

The Manager, Staff and Council work hard to balance the town’s needs and the cost of operations. The result will be a balanced budget that will meet the next fiscal year’s operational demands. Thanks to all for understanding that the process has worked well in past years and will perform well in the coming fiscal year.

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**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**
BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

Preparation is defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as- the state of being ready to act when the need arises. Lots of times our most important preparations are for unwanted events that are subject to occur without warning. For example, many of us have flashlights to use during a power outage, a fire extinguisher to use during a fire, or a weather radio to use during inclement weather. There are many more examples that I could cite. While all of these are examples of situations where it is wise to be prepared, we are not required to be prepared for any of them. Not being prepared for these situations is risky and could possibly make the situations even worse.

The examples stated above are hopefully areas where all of us have made some advance preparations. Another scenario that you may not have thought about is: Are you prepared for a water leak, especially one that is inside of your home? Water leaks typically do not give us any warning. They usually happen in hard-to-see areas, such as: behind the toilet, under the house, under a sink, in a wall, behind the refrigerator, etc. What would you do if you woke up at 2 a.m. to find your kitchen floor covered in water coming from under the sink? How would you stop the flow of water? If you can't answer those questions, you are not prepared. If your answer is- Turn the water off at the town's meter, then your answer is wrong. The town's meter is not for use by residents. Only authorized personnel are allowed access to inside the meter box.

Unfortunately, many residents first thought is to call town hall. While we may be able to assist by cutting off the water at the meter, we are not always available to assist you. For example, in the 2 a.m. scenario, there will be nobody at town hall to help you. At 2 a.m. on a typical day, the only River Bend employee on duty, will be a police officer. All of our police officers know how to cut off water at the meter and have the special tool to do so. However, if that police officer is on a call, they cannot stop to come assist you. It could be hours before they are available. Also, it is sometimes difficult to find a meter box. Police officers are not familiar with their location at every residence. Even if you call us at 2 p.m. on a weekday, we may not be immediately available to assist.

Section 606.1(2) of The North Carolina Plumbing Code reads:

A full-open valve shall be located either outside the building within 5 feet (1524 mm) of the foundation wall in a readily accessible valve box, in the crawl space within 3 feet (914 mm) of the crawl space door or within the building in a location where it may be accessed without the use of a ladder or a tool for each individual tenant space occupancy of address.

If your home does not have such a valve, located in a required location, then your home is not in compliance with the current North Carolina Plumbing Code. If it does, then your answer to my “What would you do at 2 a.m.?” question would be- “I would go to my valve and turn the water off myself”. The customer is responsible for the full-open valve. It belongs to you, not the town. You should have one, know its location and know how to operate it. While having a fire extinguisher is wise, but not required, having a full-open valve is both wise and required by the current code. Many older homes do not have a full-open valve.

The Town of River Bend is only responsible for the water meter and the lines on our side of it. The customer is responsible for everything from the meter to the home and inside of the home. Don’t wait until you have a leak at 2 a.m. to think about how to stop it. Now, back to my opening sentence..... Are you ready to act when the need arises???? If not, I suggest that you make preparations. Doing so may save you lots of money, time, and inconvenience.



**WRD / PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works team, led by Doug Becker and Trey Jones, showcased exceptional skill and dedication in repairing our Ford tractor clutch and some hydraulic leaks, saving costs and ensuring efficient operations. Their hard work deserves recognition. Additionally, Public Works addressed potholes along roadways and replaced several faded street signs, crucial for maintaining road integrity and citizen safety.

In Water resources, vital repairs were made to air diffusers at the wastewater treatment plant, essential for optimal microorganism activity. Prompt action was also taken to clear a sewer blockage, showcasing the team's efficiency. Looking ahead, water system flushing is scheduled for late April to early May, demonstrating proactive maintenance to ensure water quality standards.

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
May 6
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

Budget Meeting
May 7
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Budget Meeting
May 9
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
May 9
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community Appearance
Commission Meeting
May 15
4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Budget Meeting
May 16
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Regular Council Meeting
May 16
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
May 17
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Town Hall will be CLOSED on
Monday, May 27, 2024
for Memorial Day



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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TOWN CLERK
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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 10, 2023
(July 5, 2023)
- September 11, 2023
(September 6, 2023)
- November 13, 2023
(November 8, 2023)
- December 11, 2023
(December 6, 2023)
- January 15, 2024
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 10, 2024)
- March 11, 2024
(March 8, 2024)
- May 13, 2024
(May 8, 2024)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 17, 2023
(July 12, 2023)
- September 18, 2023
(September 13, 2023)
- November 20, 2023
(November 15, 2023)
- December 18, 2023
(December 13, 2023)
- January 22, 2024
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 17, 2024)
- March 18, 2024
(March 13, 2024)
- May 20, 2024
(May 15, 2024)

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

- Budget Meeting..... April 30
- Budget Meeting May 2
- Budget Meeting..... May 7
- Budget Meeting May 9
- Budget Meeting (If Needed) May 13
- Budget Meeting May 16
- 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.