



**REFLECTIONS ON NIGHT
OUT**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The opening line must be “What a Wonderful Event.” The annual opportunity to express appreciation to the members of our police force for their 24/7 service to the Town was a picture-perfect event. The weather could not have been better, and the food vendors invited served their special menu to appreciating customers.

The Town residents, including children, had an opportunity to meet the individual police officers and relate to them as people that help make River Bend the community that we are pleased to call “home.”

For this evening the police did not face the issue of making a hostile arrest or responding to a report of violence that could escalate to a dangerous situation. They, the (police officers), had the opportunity to see all of we residents as fellow humans enjoying time together.

I believe the annual “National NIGHT OUT” can be a very positive event for River Bend and for every other municipality in the nation. We need to remember to greet our police officers in the same manner as we did during the 3 October event.

Thank you, Chief Joll and all of your Officers. We salute you and support the duty that you perform for our safety every day.

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

I am pleased to make an historic announcement. The Town of River Bend was recently awarded the largest grant in the town's history. In my opinion, it is also the most important project in the town's history. The \$9,393,000 grant will fund the construction of a new water treatment plant.

October will bring my 9th anniversary as Town Manager in River Bend. One issue that has persisted during my tenure, and for many years prior to my arrival, is the intermittent appearance of red-brown colored water and consistent hard water. Both of those aesthetic issues are attributable to naturally occurring calcium, iron and manganese, which are found in water from the Castle Hayne Aquifer. The aquifer covers a 12,500 square mile area in eastern North Carolina. Basically, the boundary of the aquifer within North Carolina covers the area along Highway 17 and east from Wilmington to Virginia.

Our town has 3 wells that pump water from the aquifer, then it is treated, pumped to our elevated storage tanks and distributed to our customers. Our treatment system for all 3 wells is old and does not offer the treatment capability to soften water or remove the source of the discoloration. In 2020, we had an engineer study our water supply and treatment system. That report is on our web page and can be found [here](#).

We are aware of the issues and concerns and the need to make improvements to our water treatment system. We are also aware that the needed improvements are very costly. Our water system is operated as an Enterprise Fund. That means that all costs associated with operating the water system are paid for with revenues generated by the water system only. Revenue from taxes or sewer fees do not support the water system. Likewise, water revenue is not used to support the sewer system or general fund activities. All 3 funds are operated separately and support themselves. Funding this project with water revenue alone would have resulted in a sizeable rate increase for water customers.

When the U.S. Federal government passed the American Rescue Plan Act, it provided funds to all states that could be used for many activities. North Carolina earmarked a tremendous amount of its funding to offer grants for improvements to municipally-owned water and sewer systems. We decided to submit a grant application for our water system needs. The grant was a competitive-based process with points being awarded to applications that met certain criteria. Our application scored very well. In fact, we scored in the Top 10 of all applicants statewide,

during both rounds of funding review. However, since we were recently awarded a \$9,108,500 grant from the same grant funds for a sewer project, a maximum funding limit prevented our water application from being approved.

Following that decision, we decided to seek funding through the State's budget process. Again, we requested \$9,393,000 in funding. We enlisted the help of our local legislators in the NC Senate and House of Representatives to help secure the funding. Senator Jim Perry and Representative Steve Tyson recognized the importance of our project and were made aware of its high-scoring performance during the official grant review process. With the recent approval of the State's budget, the Town of River Bend was approved to receive a \$9,393,000 grant for the construction of a new water treatment plant. All of our existing treatment facilities will be abandoned and the new facility will treat all of the water. The treatment level will be enhanced to address the red-brown water issue and the new facility will also provide water softening to address the hardness issue. Now that funding is in place, there is much more design and engineering work that must be done. We also have not secured the land for the new facility. That process is underway. It may be up to 1 year before we are ready to accept bids on this project. After that, it may be up to 2 years before construction is completed. We will try to complete this project as soon as possible. We look forward to putting the new plant on-line.



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works repaired one critical issue with a storm drain. A sink hole had formed over the top of the damaged pipe. There was a hole in one of the joints that required immediate attention. We have successfully repaired the storm drain to prevent any further issues, and to ensure efficient drainage during inclement weather. We have continued to trim limbs along the roadways to prevent hazards and obstructions. There are still many areas on our list.

With the recent tropical system that flooded the roadways in the Channel Run area, we took on some inflow and infiltration into the sewer system. We have located a couple of sources for this. One had a missing cleanout cap, and the other had a manhole liner missing. Both have been repaired by our staff. In the upcoming weeks, we are planning to conduct a smoke test in our sewer system with focusing on this area first. By identifying potential leaks and sources of water, we aim to improve the efficiency of our system.

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

Canceled

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

Council Work Session
October 12
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Habitat For Humanity
Stuff The Truck
October 14
9-11 a.m.
Municipal Building

Community Watch
Meeting
October 18
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Meeting
October 19
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Book/Tech Mobile@
Municipal Building
October 20
2-5 p.m.

River Bend Pumpkin
Palooza Sponsored by
Parks & Rec
October 21
2-6 p.m.
Town Hall

Craven County House-
hold Hazardous Waste
Event October 28
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Craven Community
College



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

Lisa Benton
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Jeff Weaver

TOWN MANAGER

Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK

Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Mandy Gilbert

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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 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

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.

Budget Meetings

All Budget Meetings have been completed.



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 were 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. 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.