



**PATRIOTISM**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

This August 2019 article quotes a Letter to the Editor of the Raleigh News and Observer from Ms. Lyric Kinard printed in the July 8, 2019 edition of the newspaper.

Ms. Kinard's letter, entitled "Patriotism," lists a number of professions in which dedicated individuals, by taking risks, can bring positive change in national policy that will restore the founding fathers' noble aspirations for all citizens. Her remarks strike a solid

chord of recognition to those of us who have had the good fortune of living abroad for an extended period of time. That "chord" is the realization that our nation has been very blessed by God in many aspects that make life pleasant for most of us. It also has allowed these expatriates to observe that some aspects of life and governance of the nation of temporary residence may very well be superior to our own.

Ms. Kinard authorized my request to reprint her editorial and also added the following statement in an e-mail, "Patriotism is not only the willing soldier but also the spouse left at home, who explains one more time to his or her child why they are moving one more time and when the next time they can see their parent on a video call." I can testify that Ms. Kindard's words are true.

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### **Patriotism**

*True patriotism is the willingness to sacrifice your own comfort to uphold the ideals that your country stands for. It is the activist putting their body on the line so all might enjoy the right to liberty and happiness. It is the teacher staying one more year, despite unlivable wages, to give children a chance for a better life. It is the police officer who blows the whistle on a colleague's racist behavior, even though he might be the only one to feel repercussions. It is the mothers doing everything they can to stop the*

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*separation of a stranger's family, even if it means her own children get dinner late.*

*Patriotism has nothing to do with sneering "our country is better than yours." It has everything to do with fiercely loving and working toward the ideals of our founding fathers, the ones they knew they had not achieved. It has everything to do with a fierce love for all of her citizens who work to better themselves and their communities, not at each other's expense, but in order to lift the people around them.*

*By Lyric Kinard, Cary, NC*

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Clearly, we live in an era of a "global economy" and a time of rapid transport and travel. These modern characteristics of the 21st century demand a national assessment of how we address both our national lifestyle and our relations with other nations. These necessary changes can be achieved by the Patriotism Ms. Kinard has outlined. ■



**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

In the midst of the sweltering heat we have recently been experiencing, it's hard to think about raking leaves. However, over the past few meetings, the Town Council has been discussing our Leaf and Limb (L&L) Ordinance. The contractor had requested to change our policy and discontinue the requirement to bag and tag leaves. After much discussion and input from the public, the Council unanimously rejected that request. Bagging will continue. The L&L Ordinance

was amended at the July Council meeting, but only minor changes were made to ensure that the Ordinance reflected our current practice. A copy of the policy can be found on our web page.

The contents of the bags are taken to the landfill where they eventually become compost. Obviously, plastic bags cannot be an ingredient in compost. When the contractor collects bags from your property, he moves them to a staging area. He then empties every bag and loads them onto a truck for transport to the landfill. During the height of leaf season, literally thousands of bags may be collected. As you can imagine, this is a very labor intensive process. This is also where the trouble with bags begins. The problem is that some residents place items in bags that are not permitted to be in bags. The L&L rules state that the ONLY items that are allowed to be placed in bags are: leaves, grass clippings and pine cones.

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For purposes of this Ordinance, pine straw is recognized as a leaf from a pine tree and is, therefore, permitted. Bags without tags will not be collected. If you place anything other than the listed items in your bag, you will be in violation of the rules. That is why we require all bags to be labeled. If a bag is found to contain anything other than the permitted items, it will be returned to the owner for disposal. If violations continue, you will be fined in accordance with our Town Ordinance. A violation of this Ordinance is a \$500 penalty. Nobody wants to be fined \$500 for a violation of a simple leaf bagging policy.

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Our contractor is paid by the ton for the L&L that he collects. The more he collects, the more he gets paid. He has no incentive to skip piles. Our policy is very clear about when L&L can be moved to the roadside for collection and when collection will begin in each zone. These dates and the designated zones can be found on our web page. All L&L should be placed by the roadside BEFORE the published "pick up" begins date but not before the "roadside placement" date. For example, September 9 is the next pick up begins date for Zone 1. L&L may be placed by the roadside no earlier than September 4 in Zone 1. The contractor may begin picking up at 7 a.m. on any road in Zone 1. If you wait until 10 a.m. on September 9 to place your L&L by the road for collection, he may have already been by your house. Our policy states that pick up will be provided once per street. The contractor is not required to go back and pick up late piles of L&L. The easy way to prevent your

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**"Our policy states that pick up will be provided once per street. The contractor is not required to go back and pick up late piles of L&L."**

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L&L from being missed is to have your L&L by the roadside for collection no later than the day before the published pick up begins date.

The best way to ensure the fastest, easiest and most thorough collection of

L&L in Town is for everyone to follow ALL of the L&L rules. Residents want L&L collected and removed as fast as possible and the contractor wants to complete the process as fast as possible. If everyone follows the rules, this can happen and no fines will be levied. ■



**WRD/PW  
JUNE REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In June Public Works repaired the benches at the front of Town Hall. The wooden benches had deteriorated from years of use and weather. Mike of the Public Works Department rebuilt the benches, and repainted them. Public Works also added mulch to the swing set area by the Dog Park near Town Hall. We add this mulch to soften the impact should anyone fall. All of our parks are checked on a routine basis for safety hazards. The bearings in the Town's tractor

flail mower back roller went out. The bearings and other parts have been ordered. We will install these as soon as the parts come in. We have been mowing the areas we are responsible for with our tractor mounted bush hog and our push mower.

Water Resources made a water tap for a new home that is being constructed on Knotline Road. Most of the water taps in

**"All of our parks are checked on a routine basis for safety hazards."**

River Bend already exist, but occasionally we do have to make new taps. I would like to thank my team for a job well done. We had one sewer blockage in a main line feeding into the Starboard lift station. The problem was noticed when checking the depth of a sewer main for the gas company before they made a directional

bore. Understanding how the sewer system works, the problem was quickly identified. We unclogged the section of collection system piping before any spill occurred.

**"Most of the water taps in River Bend already exist, but occasionally we do have to make new taps."**

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 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

## **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

Town Commons Park  
Tuesday, August 6  
“River Bend’s Got Talent”  
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Work Session  
August 8  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Meeting  
August 15  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

CERT  
August 28  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

## **CONGRESSIONAL SPECIAL ELECTION**

Town Hall  
Tuesday, September 10  
6:30 a.m. – 7:30 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  
John Kirkland

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DIRECTOR OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT  
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN &  
TYPOGRAPHY  
Kathleen De Young

Contact Us:  
45 Shoreline Drive  
River Bend, NC 28562  
252.638-3870  
[www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)

## Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2019-2020

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

### Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 8, 2019  
*July 3, 2019*  
September 9, 2019  
*September 4, 2019*  
November 4, 2019  
*October 30, 2019*  
January 6, 2020  
(includes Christmas trees)  
*January 1, 2020*  
March 9, 2020  
*March 4, 2020*  
May 11, 2020  
*May 6, 2020*

### Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 15, 2019  
*July 10, 2019*  
September 16, 2019  
*September 11, 2019*  
November 11, 2019  
*November 6, 2019*  
January 13, 2020  
(includes Christmas trees)  
*January 8, 2020*  
March 16, 2020  
*March 11, 2020*  
May 19, 2020  
*May 13, 2020*

Pinecones, pine straw and  
leaves must be bagged. For  
additional important informa-  
tion about River Bend's Leaf  
& Limb collection program,  
please see our Ordinance online  
at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org). ■

## Town Council 2019 Meeting Dates

Work Session ..... January 10  
Regular Meeting ..... January 17  
Work Session ..... February 14  
Regular Meeting ..... February 21  
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

### Budget Meetings

Budget Session ..... March 19  
Budget Session ..... March 26  
Budget Session ..... April 2  
Budget Session ..... April 9  
Budget Session ..... April 16  
~~Budget Session ..... April 23~~

*April 23, 2019 Budget Session was rescheduled to the May 9, 2019  
Council Work Session.*

*All Council Work Sessions and Regular Council Meetings  
will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at  
7:00 p.m. All Council Budget Sessions will be held in the  
River Bend Town Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m.*

*\*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 2019 registration decal.

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.



### **Registration is Required for all Dogs and Cats**

All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Registration is \$10.00 per pet.

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.



### **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 Town Hall for a brochure or view details on our web site at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://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](http://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 Police Department or visit our web site.



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.