



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



## A PRAYER FOR A NATIONAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

I think of the many years that my peers and I have had to observe the passage of time as measured by Christmas holiday celebrations. We tend to recall the time and events associated with the observance of the holiday. For peers in age, we all can remember the sacrifices made by so many soldiers fighting in World War II. People at home in the United States were also called upon to sacrifice.

When Christmas 1950 came, troops were fighting a brutal Korean War. This conflict barely called for home front sacrifice, and 1953 produced a truce that is still in place in 2019. By 1963 the world was slipping into the Viet Nam conflict. This conflict demanded that the nation develop a method to mobilize only a portion of the male population that would fairly address all elements of the ethnic makeup of the American population. By the end of the conflict the lottery system was used and represented fairness. We need to remember that more than 50,000 members of the military lost their lives in the Viet Nam conflict.

Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, clearly points to the universal commitment of the country as nations engaged in the worldwide conflict of WWII. His book dedicates a chapter to both Senator Daniel Inouye from Hawaii and Senator Robert Dole from Kansas. These two future senators had been badly wounded and met as they went through recovery in a VA Hospital. They became lifelong friends and worked together in the U.S. Senate even though they represented different political parties. They clearly understood that the success for the nation demands the willingness to listen to opposing viewpoints, discuss issues

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and then compromise on solutions that will best serve the future of the nation.

In the 1960s, 70s and 80s the nation was generally respected as a reliable advocate for global policy and resolution of conflicting interests between nations. In this the second decade of the 21st century, it appears that our nation has abandoned the hard won reputation created by our “Greatest Generation.”

Today there are very few members of the Greatest Generation remaining. The wisdom that they learned in battle seems not to be well understood by today’s Congressional incumbents. The Nation would be well served if incumbent national, state and local elected officials could understand the lessons that the members of the Greatest Generation learned and applied during the rest of their lives.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas 2019, it would be appropriate that we all say a prayer for a Nation that is civil, willing to listen and then able to reach decisions that will yield positive results for future citizens of the Nation.

Merry Christmas to All! ■



**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT - REPRINT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

**UPDATED AND REPRINTED FROM SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. Officially, it ended just a few days ago. However, a hurricane can form outside of those dates. Historically, fall is the most active part of hurricane season. August and September are usually the busiest months for hurricanes along North Carolina’s coast. Our proximity to the Atlantic coast, combined with the low elevation above sea level

for large parts of our town, make 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.

Because of these facts, if you live in River Bend, you should 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

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minimums to be a CRS town. 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.

Our records indicate that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded during Hurricane Florence. According to data from the NFIP, just before Hurricane Florence made landfall, 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.

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**"Our records indicate that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded during Hurricane Florence."**

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Of the insured homes, cumulatively, those policies had total annual premiums of \$342,200 and were insured for a total \$107,660,200. On average, each policy

owner paid \$772 in annual premium and was insured for \$243,000. After Hurricane Florence, 370 claims were made on those 443 policies, which is an 85% claims rate. To date, those claims have paid \$37,092,325 to the policy owners. On average, each policy owner with a claim received \$100,250 from their flood insurance policy. These facts show that having flood insurance can be very beneficial. Typically, regular home owners insurance does 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.

It is true that flood insurance is like most other types of insurance, in that there may be many years that you pay the premium and never have a claim. Based on

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**"Also, it is important to note that being located outside of a SFHA on the map does not mean that your home is safe from flooding. It just means that the risk is lower."**

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the figures above, the average claim in River Bend after Hurricane Florence paid for 129 years' worth of the average premium costs. Also, it is important to note that being located outside of a SFHA on the map does not mean that your home is safe from flooding. It just means that the risk is lower. On a

personal note, my home is not located in a SFHA, but I maintain flood insurance. I have \$250,000 of coverage, and my annual premium is less than \$600. I strongly encourage every River Bend resident to consider purchasing flood insurance, especially those who live in a flood zone. Flood insurance typically does not go into effect until 30 days after it is purchased. If you wait until a hurricane is projected to impact River Bend, like Dorian recently was, it may be too late. Even though the hurricane season is officially over for 2019, a flood insurance policy may be worth considering now in preparation for the 2020 season. ■



**WRD/PW  
OCTOBER REPORT**  
BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works continued replacing faded street signs around Town. We are replacing as time allows, and hope to have all that need to be replaced by November. Herbicide was applied to the walking trail in the Park surrounding Town Hall. This should be the last application we will need to apply for the year. We spray the rock walking path to keep it grass/weed free, so it will be well defined for anyone wanting to walk the path.

Public Works also checked all the discharge drainage pipes, and catch basins around town in preparation of Hurricane Dorian.

Water Resources had two-lift station pumps go down at the Quarterdeck lift station. We pulled both of these pumps, and installed back-up pumps. These pumps had to be sent off to a pump rewind shop for repair. Once they are repaired, we will install them back into the lift station. There were also two other lift station pumps that clogged up right before Hurricane Dorian hit. We did a good job pulling, and cleaning them out before we had a sanitary sewer overflow. As a reminder, there are materials that should never go down the drain

**"As a reminder, there are materials that should never go down the drain and into the sewer system. We have brochures available at Town Hall, and on the Town's website, that explain how to properly dispose of material that does not need to go down the drain into our sewer system."**

and into the sewer system. We have brochures available at Town Hall, and on the Town's website, that explain how to properly dispose of material that does not need to go down the drain into our sewer system.

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

**TREE LIGHTING  
CEREMONY**  
Friday Evening  
December 6  
6:00 p.m.  
•Town Commons



FAIRFIELD HARBOUR  
CHORUS  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
December 8  
3:00 p.m.  
River Bend Baptist Church

Work Session  
December 5  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Meeting  
December 12  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

HOLIDAY  
FOOD DRIVE  
TO BENEFIT RCS  
THROUGH  
DECEMBER 16  
TOWN HALL

**QUILLING**  
Workshop  
Friday, January 31  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
Sponsored by Parks & Rec





## 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  
Bill Camp  
Don Fogle  
Harry "Bud" McClard  
Buddy Sheffield  
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER  
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK  
Ann Katsuyoshi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR  
Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF  
Sean Joll

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

*September 12, 2019 Work Session was rescheduled to September 19, 2019 — 5:00 PM*

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*

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etc.



### **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. Decals for 2020 will be available beginning December 2, 2019.

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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **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. CERT meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.



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.