

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



GENEROSITY IN RIVER BEND IN 2019 AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Christmas is a month past, but hopefully, some of the Christmas spirit remains with us. It was nothing short of amazing to witness the generosity of River Benders who donated food for the RCS food drive and toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

River Benders donated over 1,153 pounds of food for the RCS Holiday Food Drive. Our residents filled five Toys for Tots collection boxes with brand new toys. The photograph accompanying this article cannot possibly do justice to the success of the toy drive. When the Marines came to collect the boxes, all five were overflowing with toys. Not shown in the photo are the three bicycles (including helmets) donated by a Secret Santa. These gifts will have made a real impact on families in the Craven County community on Christmas Day. The donations made the difference between excitement and disappointment for area children on Christmas morning. Thanks to the Town staff for assisting with this collection effort.

"River Benders donated over 1,153 pounds of food for the RCS Holiday Food Drive. Our residents filled five Toys for Tots collection boxes with brand new toys."

On a year-around basis the Friends Helping Friends organization volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments for persons unable to drive themselves. Their services include limited shopping and reading to housebound individuals. The group also maintains a lending closet for medical equipment such as crutches, wheel chairs and walkers. Mr. Egon Lippert and Ms. Luci Avery are the leaders of this group of thoughtful volunteers who provide a very important service to their neighbors.

It is when you consider events and services like those mentioned above, one can truthfully say that River Bend is a very special place. This quality is true not

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only at Christmas time but all through the year. My wife and I found this a welcoming Town and area when we arrived as strangers twenty four years ago. We all need to pray that this quality will endure through 2020 as River Bend celebrates its thirty-ninth year as an incorporated municipality. ■



RIVER BENDERS DONATED FIVE OVERFLOWING BOXES OF TOYS FOR THE 2019 TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

On January 9 the Town Council conducted a Budget Kick-Off meeting. The Kick-Off was the first step in developing the town's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2020. North Carolina law dictates that every local government adopt a balanced budget by July 1 of each year. During the meeting, the Council approved the budget workshop schedule and adopted its priorities for the next fiscal year.

Many steps in the budget process are prescribed by law. State law requires that I submit a balanced budget recommendation, along with a budget message to the Council by June 1. Historically, both of those documents are presented to the Council and made available to the public in early May. I plan to have both of them ready by May 7 this year. State law also requires the Council to conduct a public hearing on the budget prior to its adoption. To comply with the law, that must be done no fewer than 10 days after the proposed budget is presented to the Council, but by July 1. Historically, the Council has conducted the public hearing during the May regular session. That is also the plan for this year. The public hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 21 at 7 p.m. Legally, the Council could adopt the budget immediately following the public hearing; however, the Council has historically waited until the June regular

"State law also requires the Council to conduct a public hearing on the budget prior to its adoption."

session to adopt the budget. That is the planned schedule again this year. The budget is scheduled to be adopted during the Council meeting on June 18, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Prior to conducting the public hearing and adopting the budget, the Council conducts several budget workshops to discuss the town's budget needs. Each year, those workshops are held on Tuesday afternoons in March and April at 4 p.m. During the Kick-Off meeting, the Council approved the schedule for the upcoming workshops. This year, the Council will conduct 5 meetings over 6 weeks. They will begin on March 24 and end on April 28. All of these meetings are open to the public and offer opportunity for public input. State law does not require special meetings to discuss the budget and it does not require the Council to receive public input during the budget preparation process. River Bend takes these extra steps in an effort to make the budget process open, transparent and available for citizen participation.

"Each year, those workshops are held on Tuesday afternoons in March and April at 4 p.m."

"Throughout the budget development process, budget information will be posted on the town's web page. This will include copies of the PowerPoint presentation for each budget workshop."

A copy of the town's budget workshop schedule and the proposed agenda for each of those workshops is available in hard copy at Town Hall and it is also posted on our town's web page. Throughout the budget development process, budget information will be posted on the town's web page. This

will include copies of the PowerPoint presentation for each budget workshop.

Other matters of interest: The start time for the monthly Council work sessions, which are held on the second Thursday of each month, has been changed to 5:00 p.m. Work on the new basketball court continues. That project should be completed and the courts ready for use by the end of January. The new basketball court is located on Wildwood Drive near the Public Works Office. Construction of the new multi-purpose building is moving along very well. When complete, it will house the Police Department and provide space for group meetings and activities. ■

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**WRD/PW
DECEMBER REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

December is always one of our favorite times of year. I hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas holidays. The CAC did a great job putting up Christmas lights around Town. Public Works put up the lighted Christmas tree and the Christmas balls at the front entrance. We also put up the Christmas banners around Town for the holiday season. As always, I think all the lights showed the Town's Christmas spirit. Public Works also trimmed limbs overhanging the roadway

down Plantation Drive. There are more roads around Town on our list to do as time allows. Our staff repaired one stormwater drainage pipe in the Mulberry area. A sinkhole had formed near a pipe joint, so we dug it up and repaired it.

"Our staff repaired one stormwater drainage pipe in the Mulberry area. A sinkhole had formed near a pipe joint, so we dug it up and repaired it."

Water Resources replaced a faulty coolant heater on the generator located at the Well #1 treatment facility. The purpose of the heater is to keep the engine warm to help with cold weather startups. During cold weather, without a heater, a diesel engine is very hard to start. The area light on top of the large wastewater treatment plant went bad. We replaced the fixture with a new one. We use this light to make the plant more visible, and to help us see when we have to work on the plant at night. We had one water service line leak in the Quarterdeck area of Town. Water Resource staff quickly repaired this leak.

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

Work Session
February 13
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
February 20
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

QUILLING
Workshop
Friday, February 7
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Town Hall
Sponsored by Parks & Rec

**COMMUNITY
WATCH**
Wednesday
February 19
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

CERT
Wednesday
February 26
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Town Hall



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 COUNCIL
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Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Ann Katsuyoshi

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
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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. ■

Town Council 2020 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 9
Regular Meeting January 16
Work Session February 13
Regular Meeting February 20
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 10
Regular Meeting December 17

Budget Meetings

Budget Session..... March 24
Budget Session..... March 31
Budget Session..... April 7
Budget Session..... April 14
Budget Session..... April 21
if needed
Budget Session..... April 28

*All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend
Town Hall beginning at 5:00 pm.*

*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. 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.



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. 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**



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.