

# RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)



HAPPY  
NEW YEAR



## A CHALLENGING NEW YEAR

BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The year 2019 will be a challenging one for River Bend as the repair of homes damaged by Hurricane Florence continues. Fortunately, the Town's infrastructure survived the ravages of the hurricane remarkably well. The most substantial damage occurred to the Public Works and Police Department building, and it will take some time to resolve the manner in which repairs will be accomplished.

Reflecting on the long days since September 14th, our Town has many things for which be thankful, certainly including but not limited to:

- ◆ The fact that during this extraordinary storm there was no loss of life.
- ◆ The performance of the Town staff was exemplary.
- ◆ The removal of debris was accomplished by contractors who were responsive to direction given by Town Manager Delane Jackson.
- ◆ While storm recovery is taking place, a couple of unrelated projects are moving forward:
  1. Piedmont Natural Gas is installing gas lines throughout Town and will be able to serve all homes when the work is complete.
  2. Suddenlink Cable is installing fiber optic service throughout Town and this installation will be placed in buried conduit. This type installation will make any future repairs much easier.

With gas service installed on every street and fiber optic cable also serving the entire Town, River Bend will be one of the few municipalities in the state to boast these upgraded services. While the installation of these utilities requires digging and boring operations, the resulting service improvement in the end is worth this temporary operation in our street rights-of-way.

All of us who call River Bend home will come to realize that 2019 will be a year of change. We must make the adjustments to accommodate the change and accept

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that the results will be worth the adjustment and the wait. As said during Hurricane Florence, River Bend may Bend but not Break. ■



**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

For the most part, the Town of River Bend government has returned to normal after Hurricane Florence. The biggest remaining difference is that our Police Department and Public Works offices have not been repaired. We are in the process of accepting bids for repairs to that building and hope to have it restored very soon. At its December meeting, the Town Council approved renting office space as our temporary Police Station. It will be located in unit 114 in the business park on Highway 17 across from the Shell Station. The Police Station will open at that location in January. Until then it is still operating at Town Hall.

While the Town's functions have returned to near normalcy, there are still hundreds of residents who are in the rebuilding process. Our records reflect that

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**"Our records reflect that 503 homes in River Bend were damaged in varying degrees due to Florence."**

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503 homes in River Bend were damaged in varying degrees due to Florence. As of December 20, we have issued 323 permits for repairs of those homes. The estimated value of the damages for those

homes is nearly \$12,000,000. We have also issued 7 demolition permits and have issued 13 substantial damage declarations. That leaves 160 homes that have not been permitted for repairs. As of now, we do not know what the owners intentions are for those homes. We have reached out to those owners in an attempt to determine the plans for those homes. Before you make any repairs to a building in town, you should contact our Zoning Department and secure any necessary permits.

If your property was damaged by Hurricane Florence you should be aware that those damages may have an impact on the tax value of your home for 2019. Craven County is making an effort to notify every taxable property owner who may have been affected. Visit the Town's web page for more information about that process.

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In closing, we welcome Harry “Bud” McClard to the River Bend Town Council. He was appointed to the Town Council on December 20 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Gene Bauer. This is a temporary appointment. In November 2019 a person will be elected to fill the remaining two years of the term. The Town thanks Gene Bauer for his service to River Bend. ■



**WRD/PW  
NOVEMBER REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

I hope that everyone took the time to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their family, and friends. This time of year is always special. After the Thanksgiving holiday, Public Works helped the CAC with Christmas lights and decorations. The Community Appearance Committee always does a great job at decorating the Town for the holiday season. Public Works filled in several rutted areas along the edge of our roadways that were damaged during the storm. We also replaced several damaged road signposts. Our team is striving to return River Bend back to pre-storm condition.

Water Resources continued to do a great job at operating the Town’s water/wastewater utility system. We had to repair several wastewater lateral cleanouts. These were likely damaged from equipment hitting them during the debris removal from the storm. Our staff repaired all cleanouts. We have scheduled smoking the sewer system in December to look for any other possible

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**“We have scheduled smoking the sewer system in December to look for any other possible pipe breaks. This is necessary because without finding the pipe breaks we could start to have Inflow/Infiltration problems during weather events.”**

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pipe breaks. This is necessary because without finding the pipe breaks we could start to have Inflow/Infiltration problems during weather events. Water Resources also had one water main valve that had to be replaced due to being ran over. We also have been extremely busy locating our water/wastewater utilities for Piedmont Natural Gas, and Sudden link communications. We do our best to locate our lines as accurately as possible to prevent any disruption of service.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. After hours water and sewer, emergencies can be reported by dialing

**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.

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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 your call is not returned within ten minutes, please notify the Police Department at 638-1108, and they will get in contact with the on-call utility systems operator. ■



### **It's Time to Register Your Pets for 2019**

All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually. The annual registration period will begin January 2 and will continue through March 31.

Town Hall 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.

# COMING EVENTS

Meetings and Activities at Town Hall have resumed on a limited basis. Please check the online calendar to see if your meeting remains on the schedule. If it does not appear on the calendar, please call Town Hall to reschedule a new meeting date and time.

Work Session  
January 10  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Meeting  
January 17  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

FOOD DRIVE  
UPDATE  
Our residents donated  
more than  
1,200 pounds of food  
THANK YOU

TOYS FOR TOTS  
UPDATE  
Our residents donated  
eight overflowing, large  
boxes of toys  
THANK YOU!



**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  
Harry "Bud" McClard  
Buddy Sheffield  
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.  
Bill Wanamaker

**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

**Leaf & Limb  
Collection  
Schedule for  
2018-2019**

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

**Zone 1 Pick Up Begins**

- July 9, 2018  
*July 4, 2018*
- September 10, 2018  
*September 5, 2018*
- November 12, 2018  
*November 7, 2018*
- January 7, 2019  
(includes Christmas trees)  
*January 2, 2019*
- March 11, 2019  
*March 6, 2019*
- May 13, 2019  
*May 8, 2019*

**Zone 2 Pick Up Begins**

- July 16, 2018  
*July 11, 2018*
- September 17, 2018  
*September 12, 2018*
- November 5, 2018  
*October 31, 2018*
- January 14, 2019  
(includes Christmas trees)  
*January 9, 2019*
- March 18, 2019  
*March 13, 2019*
- May 20, 2019  
*May 15, 2019*

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

*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 2018 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. The annual registration period begins January 2 and continues through March 31.

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 [riverbendnc.org](http://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.