



**POST HURRICANE  
FLORENCE DREDGING**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Months after Hurricane Florence, River Bend continues to experience storm-related negative impacts that require correction. The latest of these is a shoal that impacts the entrance channel into Island Lake.

The prolonged high level and high flow of water in the Trent River allows the stream to transport sand and soil from upstream toward the Neuse River in this area. In the high flow the Trent acts like the Mississippi, and when the river arrives at a point where it flows through a wider area, then it drops material and creates shoals or sand bars. That is the case in the Island Lake entrance channel.

The dredging process requires permits and considerable oversight by the Federal and State agencies that issue them. Once notified of the shoal, Town Manager Delane Jackson contacted the Federal CAMA office and found that they had authority to issue emergency permits following the hurricane. Manager Jackson provided the required documentation, and CAMA issued a dredging permit limited to removal of the shoal. This permit is good only for a short period of time. Manager Jackson has not yet been able to engage a dredging contractor to visit the site and give a price quote for the limited work. Those contractors, like all other contractors, have a long schedule of work following the hurricane.

While the scope of dredging needed to remedy the current channel blockage at Island Lake is of much smaller scope than the 2001 dredging of all River Bend canals, it is worth a brief review of that more comprehensive project. The Island Lake project will use a different dredging method and equipment than that shown and used in the 2001 project.

The last time dredging in Town was accomplished was the summer of 2001. That major project involved dredging the entire length of Plantation Canal. The included photo shows the diked area where most of the dredge spoil was deposited. That dredge spoil area, now a soccer field, received more than 35,000 cubic yards of material. The area where boats and trailers are stored near the wastewater treatment plant was also filled. This project was completed on September 11, 2001.

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DIKED DISCHARGE AREA WHERE SOCCER FIELD IS NOW LOCATED. ANOTHER SIMILAR DISCHARGE AREA WAS CONSTRUCTED NEAR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR DREDGING IN THAT AREA.



HYDRAULIC DREDGE OPERATING IN PLANTATION CANAL. DISCHARGE PIPE ENTERS WATER AT STERN OF DREDGE AND MOVES WATER AND DREDGED MATERIAL TO DIKED AREA SHOWN ON ACCOMPANYING PHOTO.

Like many projects that the Town will contract, dredging is more complex than what we encounter in private home contracts. Our hope is to find a responsible contractor to perform this relatively limited dredging work soon. ■



## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Town Council has passed the budget for the new fiscal year that began on July 1st. The total operating budget for the Town for Fiscal Year 2019-20 is \$2,790,297. As you may know, this year's budget process was greatly impacted by Hurricane Florence. Specifically, many homes were damaged by the hurricane and that resulted in a reduction in their property values. Cumulatively, those reductions totaled \$23,000,000. Additionally, the hurricane reduced

water and sewer revenues because many of our customers' homes were vacated for repairs. Some remain vacant. We factored these variables into our budget projections for the new fiscal year.

To offset the reduced tax revenue, the Council approved several actions. First, they reduced expenditures by eliminating annual funding for many capital improvement plan budgets. It is intended that this will be a one-time "skip" in funding these capital improvement plans. Next, they postponed some purchases until we have a better idea of how the recovery progresses. Finally, they increased the tax rate by 2¢ to a rate of 26¢. The rate tax was reduced by 5¢ last year. Even with the increase, the new rate will be 3¢ less than it was two years ago. The rates for water and sewer service are unchanged. For the average River Bend homeowner, the increase in property tax will be \$32 per year or 9¢ per day.

**"Since the hurricane, much work has been done to restore River Bend. There is still much work to be done."**

Since the hurricane, much work has been done to restore River Bend. There is still much work to be done. I believe that River Bend will fully recover from Florence. I also believe that overall, River Bend will be in better shape after the hurricane than it was before. There are still many homes that remain vacant and a few of them have been abandoned by their owners. Some of those are in the process of foreclosure by the banks that hold the mortgage on the property. Some of those homes have had nothing done to them since the hurricane and are a potential problem. The Town Council has discussed this issue and is working with our attorney to take the necessary legal steps to allow us to remedy these situations. If you are aware of a flood damaged home that has not had any clean-up performed on it since the hurricane, please notify a member of the town staff. ■





**WRD/PW  
MAY REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In May Public Works mowed several of our collection system easements. Keeping the easements free of trees/weeds ensures that we will be able to inspect, as well as repair our collection system lines if we ever have a break. Our employees also trimmed limbs around a few streetlights. We routinely check to make sure streetlights do not become overgrown with vegetation, which lessens their effectiveness. Public Works has also started trimming overhanging tree limbs along the roadways and at intersections. We do our best to keep intersections cut back to maximize visibility.

Water Resources has continued doing a good job locating the Town's utilities for the new gas piping, as well as for the new fiber optic cable being installed in Town. We have had minimum damage to our utilities, and I would like to thank the guys for a job well done. We have performed service work on a couple of our back-up power generators. Routinely we change oil, filters, and coolant on our generators to make sure they are in good working condition when needed. Two lift station pumps had to be pulled this month due to the impellers being clogged with debris. As a reminder, there are items that should never be flushed down our sewer system. There is a brochure available at Town Hall and on the Town's website that explains how to properly dispose of many common household items.

**"As a reminder, there are items that should never be flushed down our sewer system. There is a brochure available at Town Hall and on the Town's website that explains how to properly dispose of many common household items."**

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

July 4th  
Parade & Celebration  
Thursday, July 4  
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

## **RUNOFF ELECTION**

Congressional Seat  
Tuesday, July 9  
6:30 AM- 7:30 PM  
Town Hall

## **MEET AND GREET**

Craven County  
Commissioner E.T. Mitchell  
Wednesday, July 10  
5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Work Session  
July 11  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Meeting  
July 18  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

CERT  
July 24  
7:00 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.

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 &  
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Kathleen De Young

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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*

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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.

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.



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.