



COMMUNITY VS. SELF
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

During Hurricane Florence River Bend suffered significant loss. In the areas of Town with higher elevation there was a heavy impact on trees and other vegetative species. Homes in the floodplain areas of Town experienced structural damage and catastrophic loss of personal property involving many irreplaceable, treasured family items. Owners of these flooded properties are faced with making difficult decisions that only the involved individuals can make. Town staff has provided factual information on the assistance available from Federal agencies, but staff members cannot make decisions for homeowners.

The process of providing information has revealed the spirit of “Community vs. Self” many times over. “Community” is demonstrated by persons who have experienced great loss involving

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home, personal and heirloom possessions, yet they often have remarked that their neighbors are in a much more devastating condition than their own. After receiving information on what assistance may be available, they seem equipped to make decisions for their future.

The “Self-motivated” individual approaches the staff and demonstrates an expectation that the Town has the ability to correct the problems being experienced and that there is an entitlement to have immediate response to restore normal conditions. Sadly, these people appear to feel little compassion for those who have lost so very much more and still are willing to act as “community.”

Now, some five months past Hurricane Florence, persons wonder how long it will take to “return the Town to normal.” There are many elements that play into what “normal” is, and it is not yet possible to reasonably forecast a time when the

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restoration will be complete. While the Council and staff continue working on the task, consideration must be given to rebuilding to prevent recurring loss, where possible. It may be necessary to modify existing infrastructure, making it more resistant to future water damage. As always, due consideration must be given to the cost of the restoration to properly steward the public funds.

I firmly believe that our nation was a success because it built by a population that viewed their role as community and that individuals had a responsibility to the community. Tragically, our current partisan political environment does not contribute to community and many adopt this stance in their individual lives. We should each pray that our Town, State and Nation will return to a Community Motivation as we work together in the restoration of “normal.” ■



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

I am pleased to announce that The Town of River Bend has been awarded a grant and a loan through a new State program. Our grant was in an amount of \$300,000. Our loan was in an amount of \$800,000.

In response to Hurricane Florence's impact on the budget and cash positions of certain local governments, the North Carolina General Assembly established two funds to provide assistance to jurisdictions under a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Florence (DR-4393). The first fund is a new State Grant Program established in S.L. 2018-136 to provide short-term assistance to eligible local governments with everyday operating expenses and provide additional capacity for disaster recovery. The second fund is a new State Revolving Loan Program established in S.L. 2018-138 to assist eligible local governments with covering response-related payments, while waiting for reimbursement from various federal disaster response, recovery, and resiliency programs. Both are administered through the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR).

NCORR will be administering 0% interest loans of up to \$2,000,000 to eligible local governments for prompt payment of vendors providing goods and services for disaster response and recovery and for supporting other immediate expenses

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that are reimbursable through various federal disaster response, recovery, and resiliency programs. Proceeds from this revolving loan fund are limited to only federally reimbursable expenses and repayment of the loans will occur at the time of reimbursement by the respective federal agency. Thus far, the town has been using our reserves to pay for costs associated with the hurricane. This loan will allow us to replenish most of those funds. All of our reimbursement requests have been submitted to FEMA but it may be as much as two years before we are reimbursed. We expect the total costs for the town to be \$1,000,000-\$1,300,000. This loan will help us through that time. When FEMA reimburses us, we will repay the loan to the State.

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NCORR is also awarding grants up to \$1,000,000 to eligible counties and municipalities for assistance with operating budget expenses and building capacity to support disaster recovery efforts. Eligible local governments may also elect to use their grant funds to establish up to two positions to provide disaster recovery support. Examples include planners, engineers, building inspectors, code enforcement officers, housing recovery specialists, and

"The Town will use our grant to hire two additional employees and purchase one vehicle. This will also be a tremendous help to River Bend's recovery efforts."

long-term recovery personnel. Grant funds may be used to fund salaries, benefits, and operating expenses for two positions for up to three years. Local governments may also use their grant funds to purchase a vehicle to support disaster recovery work. The Town will use our grant to hire two additional

employees and purchase one vehicle. This will also be a tremendous help to River Bend's recovery efforts.

While recovery is well underway, there is still much to be done. It will be many months before things return to normal in River Bend but we are on the way. ■



WRD/PW JANUARY REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In January Public Works repaired the roof on our Wells Nos. 1 & 2 water treatment buildings. We replaced a few areas of shingles, and had to seal the roof cap on the No.1 treatment building. We have a small shingle repair planned for Well House No. 2 that we will complete soon. Public Works also continued sealing cracks along the roadways around Town. In addition, we have been repairing shoulder areas along the roadways throughout Town. Repairing road shoulders is necessary to prevent the road edge from breaking off.

Water Resources has continued to do a good job of operating and maintaining the Town's water/wastewater systems. We had our yearly Water Inspection from the North Carolina Division of Water Resources. The Town of River Bend got a good inspection report from our inspector, which shows that our team is doing a great job at maintaining/operating the Town's water system. We had one sewer main that had to be repaired. Our team tried to repair this sewer main, but due to the depth of the pipe, we were unsuccessful. Cayton Plumbing was called in to repair this main. I would like to thank Cayton Plumbing for a job well done. Water Resources is planning to flush the water system sometime in March.

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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

WORKSHOP

Five Questions for a Better Garden

March 12

6:30 p.m.

Town Hall

sponsored by RB Community
Organic Garden

Work Session

March 14

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

BUNCO!

March 20

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Town Hall

Sponsored by:
Parks & Rec

Budget Workshop

March 19

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

Council Meeting

March 21

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

Budget Workshop

March 26

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

CERT

March 27

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

Pet Registration 2019

Before March 31

Rabies Vaccination

Proof Required

\$ 10.00 per pet





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
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ASSISTANT
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Contact Us:
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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. ■

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. 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.



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.