

# RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

[www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)



**IT IS BUDGET PREPARATION  
TIME FOR RIVER BEND**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

It is tax return preparation time for all of us, and it is budget preparation time for your Town staff and Town Council. It is worth repeating that this exercise is the most important task that the elected body does in any municipality in North Carolina. Our River Bend process begins with the March 24 meeting of the Council, the Town Manager and supervisory staff. Additional budget workshops are scheduled on March 31, April 7, April 14, April 21 (only if necessary) and April 28. All of these meetings are open to the public, and the budget elements to be addressed on each date are posted in a pamphlet entitled “Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Preparation Workshops.” This pamphlet is available in Town Hall, it is posted on the Town’s website, and a copy will be mailed with the March utility bills. The public hearing on the budget will be held at the May Council meeting and the Council vote to adopt the 2020-21 budget will be taken at the June Council meeting. All of these meetings are open to the public.

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**“The public hearing on the budget will be held at the May Council meeting and the Council vote to adopt the 2020-21 budget will be taken at the June Council meeting.”**

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The Town Manager is – by State statute – the Town’s Budget Officer. In that role he is responsible for presenting the balanced budget to the Town Council for its review, discussion and adoption. All of this preparation and adoption is mandated to be done by July 1 each year. During the budget work sessions mentioned earlier, the Council reviews each department’s budget items with the Manager and some adjustments may be made during this review process as the final budget is made ready to present at the public hearing.

Repeating how important the budget is: when adopted by the Council it provides

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the Manager the direction on approved Town projects and other business decisions during the next year. This system has worked very well for River Bend, and our entire budgeting process has been recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association\* each year for the last 9 years.

\*THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA) REPRESENTS MORE THAN 20,000 MEMBERS OF STATE/PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL FINANCE OFFICIALS THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. ■

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**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

This edition of my report will address closed sessions. Closed sessions regulations are a small part of the State's Open Meetings Statute. That language can be found in Article 33C of the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) beginning at Chapter 143-318.9. However, due to limited space and the complexity of the topic, I will not be able to cover every aspect of the Open Meetings Law. The reader should consider my report to be a general overview.

All political subdivisions of the State of North Carolina are subject to the Open Meetings Law. Examples of political subdivisions (aka public bodies) are local town councils, county commissions and school boards. There are others, but these three are probably the most commonly recognized public bodies. Chapter 143 begins with these words- "Whereas the public bodies that administer the legislative, policy-making, quasi-judicial, administrative, and advisory functions of North Carolina and its

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political subdivisions exist solely to conduct the people's business, it is the public policy of North Carolina that the hearings, deliberations, and actions of these bodies be conducted openly." This is why our Council meetings are open to the public and anyone can attend our meetings. Our regular Council meetings are held on the second and third Thursday of each month. When we conduct a meeting that is not a part of our regular schedule, we must properly advertise that meeting in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes.

The General Statutes, specifically NCGS 143-318.11, authorizes public bodies to go into closed session. For the purpose of this discussion, a closed session is a meeting of the Council (or any public body) wherein the public is not allowed

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to attend. Typically, Councils schedule closed sessions as an agenda item for their regular meetings. When they get to that agenda item, they move into another private room to conduct the closed session discussions. However, public bodies can only go into closed session

for specific reasons. There are ten categories that permit closed session. Those categories are codified in NCGS 143-318.11 (a)( 1-10). Before entering closed session, a motion must be approved in open session by a majority of the public body. That motion must state the purpose(s) of the closed session from at least one of the ten categories. In general, the ten permitted topics which public bodies may discuss in closed session are:

1. Confidential information
2. Honorary degrees, scholarships, prizes and awards
3. Consultation with an attorney
4. Business location or expansion
5. Real property acquisition
6. Personnel matters
7. Criminal Investigations
8. School violence response plans
9. Anti-terrorism plans
10. Viewing of law enforcement recordings

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**"Minutes of what takes place during closed session meetings are still required to be kept. However, based on the purpose of the closed session, the release of those minutes to the public may be delayed or in some cases, those minutes may remain closed from public view forever."**

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Minutes of what takes place during closed session meetings are still required to be kept. However, based on the purpose of the closed session, the release of those minutes to the public may be delayed or in some cases, those minutes may remain closed from public view forever. The NCGS requires that each public body have an attorney. One important role for the attorney is to ensure that the public body is in compliance with the State's Open Meetings Law. ■



**WRD/PW  
JANUARY REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works has been busy trimming one of our collection system rights-of-way. We have several of these rights-of-way that are through the woods, and we clear them out yearly. The purpose of keeping these areas free of brush and debris is for maintenance of the collection system lines. Mike Steffa, of Public Works, replaced the lighting on the front entrance sign. We originally had one LED light that shone on the sign and, at times, the bushes in front blocked a lot of the light. We added four LED lights on the backside of the bushes. The brick sign is a lot more visible now.

Water Resources had one minor water leak this month. It was a pinhole leak in a service line, and was quickly repaired by our staff. We also replaced a wastewater transfer pump in our large digester at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. This pump is used to transfer excess sludge to another digester. The one that was replaced was installed ten years ago. I'd say we got our money's worth out of that pump. We had to replace one of our metal grates that cover an access point on our grit chambers at the WWTP. This grate was fabricated and welded by our staff. I would like to thank them for a job well done.

**"We added four LED lights on the backside of the bushes. The brick sign (at the front entrance to Town) is a lot more visible now."**

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  
March 12  
5:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Council Meeting  
March 19  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

**BINGO**  
Wednesday  
March 17  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Town Hall  
*Sponsored by Parks & Rec*

Budget Workshop  
March 24  
4:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

**CERT**  
Wednesday  
March 25  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Budget Workshop  
March 31  
4:00 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  
Don Fagle  
Brian Leonard  
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

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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](http://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 p.m.*

*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*

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 2020 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](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.