

RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL

www.riverbendnc.org



**ANNIVERSARY OF
HURRICANE FLORENCE**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

As the first anniversary of Hurricane Florence approaches, it's clear that all River Benders wish that every trace of that devastating storm were gone from Town, but more work is required for complete restoration. I can say that there is no group more hopeful for total restoration than the Town Manager and Town staff. Many elements of recovery must come together to allow every home and location to complete a restored condition.

Homes and structures in the floodplain suffered the most significant damage while many homes in other areas of Town experienced little or no damage. Fortunately for most residents, Town water utility was never interrupted and the wastewater utility was functioning normally five days after the hurricane. Duke Power had restored electric service to most River Bend customers by Sunday evening, three days after the hurricane. Most importantly, we all should be thankful that this severe hurricane caused no loss of life in the Town.

**"...we all should be thankful
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Town."**

Unfortunately, the Town will most probably need to demolish a number of structures that are extremely contaminated and not candidates for restoration. This action requires considerable legal review and documentation to protect the Town from lawsuits. This action is a last resort and will only be taken after careful investigation by staff. The demolition will take place only after deliberate action including a site visit and testing for extent of contamination in the entire structure by a certified technician and a vote for authorization by the Town Council.

In response to the extreme level of damage to many homes in the floodplain, the Town Council issued a zoning exception to allow temporary placement of RVs and

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FEMA trailers as living units in driveways and on lawns until October 11, 2019 while renovations were underway. That deadline is approaching and residents still utilizing these structures have been issued written notice of the expiration date.

The photographs accompanying this article demonstrate conditions in some neighborhoods following Hurricane Florence, just before the Town's contractor began removal of storm debris and construction material. The photos presented here are of the Harbor Walk area and Bowline Drive immediately after Hurricane Florence and nearly a year later on August 12, 2019. Removal of debris was completed by November 2, 2018. Other area municipalities were still removing debris into early January.

Decisions that impact project recovery time:

- ◆ Individual homeowners must decide what remedial action they will engage.
- ◆ Property owners must find contractors to perform the work.
- ◆ The general contractor must find sub-contractors to perform specific trade work. (Note: all contractors and sub-contractors are in extreme short supply.)

I repeat the opening statement that we all wish that every element of Hurricane Florence had already disappeared, but recovery is not a simple process and completion will not occur in the snap of a finger. ■



BOWLINE DRIVE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HURRICANE FLORENCE



BOWLINE DRIVE - ONE YEAR LATER



HARBOUR WALK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HURRICANE FLORENCE



HARBOUR WALK - ONE YEAR LATER



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. However, a hurricane can form outside of those dates. Historically, fall is the most active part of hurricane season. August and September are usually the busiest months for hurricanes along North Carolina's coast. Our proximity to the Atlantic coast, combined with the low elevation above sea level for large parts of our town, make River Bend vulnerable to impacts from Hurricanes. A tropical system

does not need to develop into a hurricane to cause damage in River Bend, particularly in the flood zone.

Because of these facts, if you live in River Bend, you should consider purchasing flood insurance. You can obtain a policy from a local agent, through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Town of River Bend is a participant in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the NFIP. In short, that means that the town maintains records and files on flood zone properties, has and enforces a local flood damage prevention ordinance and meets other annual minimums to be a CRS town. Our CRS status earns any River Bend resident a 10% discount on annual flood insurance policy premiums.

Our records indicate that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded during Hurricane Florence. According to data from the NFIP, just before Hurricane Florence made landfall, there were 443 flood insurance policies in effect in River Bend. That means there were at least 60 flooded homes that did not have flood insurance. Of the insured homes, cumulatively, those policies had

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total annual premiums of \$342,200 and were insured for a total \$107,660,200. On average, each policy owner paid \$772 in annual premium and was insured for \$243,000. After Hurricane Florence, 370 claims were made on those 443 policies, which is an 85% claims rate. To date, those claims have paid \$37,092,325 to the policy owners. On average, each policy owner with a claim received \$100,250 from their flood insurance policy. These facts show that having flood insurance can be very beneficial. Typically, regular home owners insurance does not cover damages

from rising waters (flooding). If you are uncertain about your insurance coverage, you should contact your agent now. Do not wait until after the storm to learn that you are not covered.

It is true that flood insurance is like most other types of insurance, in that there may be many years that you pay the premium and never have a claim. Based on the figures above, the average claim in River Bend after Hurricane Florence paid for 129 years' worth of the average premium costs. Also, it is important to note that being located outside of a flood hazard area on the map does not mean that your home is safe from flooding. It just means that the risk is lower. On a personal note, my home is not located in a flood zone, but I maintain flood insurance. I have \$250,000 of coverage, and my annual premium is less than \$600. I strongly encourage every River Bend resident to consider purchasing flood insurance, especially those who live in a flood zone. Flood insurance typically does not go into effect until 30 days after it is purchased. If you wait until a hurricane is projected to impact River Bend, it may be too late. ■

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.



WRD/PW JULY REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July. The parade and festivities were a hit again this year. We always enjoy being a part of River Bend's July 4th celebration. If you missed it this year, please plan to come out next year. Public Works has been working at trimming limbs that are overhanging the roadways, as well as at intersections. We routinely trim limbs to help improve visibility along the roadways. We have also replaced several faded speed limit signs and stop signs. There are still several more signs that we are going to replace, and they are on order. We will replace as soon as the new signs come in.

Water Resources continued to do a good job at maintaining the Town's water/wastewater systems. It is a real pleasure working with the people I have on my team. They know the system very well, and do a great job at keeping it up and running. We had to replace one of our chlorine pumps at one of our water treatment plants. The purpose of this pump is to feed chlorine into the drinking water for disinfection. Water Resources has continued locating our utility lines for Piedmont Natural Gas, and Suddenlink contractors. This locating has taken up a lot of our time, but, hopefully, it will not be much longer before all their work is done in town.

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. ■

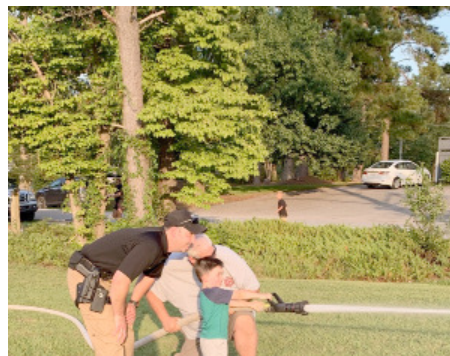
RIVER BEND CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is an annual nationwide community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work. This year, River Bend Community Watch hosted National Night Out in River Bend with the theme “River Bend’s Got Talent!”



BOY SCOUTS LED CHILDREN'S GAMES WHILE EARNING BADGES

The evening kicked off with the Neuse Basin District Boy Scouts of America Color Guard. Allison McCollum sang the National Anthem. Neighbors came together and were entertained by the music of the Neuse River Ramblers and the Joe Baes Project (www.joebaes.rocks) while they experienced live painting demonstrations and displays by River Bend Artists.



CHIEF SEAN JOLL & SON MANNING THE RHEMS VFD FIRE HOSE

Miss Kylie Seawell, a student of Wanda Kay’s School of Dance and performing artist, danced to the ABBA song Dancing Queen.

Boy Scout Master Jennifer Potter, along with Laura Taylor, assisted by Troop 219, Crew 1884, and Troop 299 led the children’s games and water fun! Rhems Volunteer Fire & Rescue was on hand with their rig to show the kids and adults what it feels like to hold on to a fire hose and aim its spray at a target. Rhems Medical

First Responders also provided information, games, and popcorn for everyone. The River Bend Community Organic Garden, the Red Caboose Library, and C.E.R.T. and participated in the festivities. Chief Sean Joll and River Bend Police Officers greeted residents and answered questions or concerns posted by residents.

Some Community Watch members directed traffic; others grilled 200 hotdogs for the attendees. The River Bend Garden Club served food and desserts baked by members. The River Bend Community Organic Garden provided a delicious watermelon. Snow cones were available at the Snowie Ice kiosk!

River Benders enjoyed an evening of great fellowship, food, fun and good weather! See you next year at National Night Out!

Contributed by Margaret Theis, River Bend Community Watch

Want more information about joining River Bend Community Watch?

Contact Co-Presidents Egon Lippert egonlippert@yahoo.com or Jim Kelly jwkelly1@suddenlink.net

**PLEASE JOIN US
NEXT YEAR FOR
NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT**



NEUSE RIVER RAMBLERS AND JOE BAE'S PERFORMED



COMMUNITY WATCH - GRILLING TO FEED THE MASSES



COUNCILMEN DON FOGLE & BILL CAMP ENJOYED NNO



RHEMS VFD FIRE DEPARTMENT & FIRST RESPONDERS
ALWAYS READY TO HELP

COMING EVENTS

CONGRESSIONAL SPECIAL ELECTION

Town Hall
Tuesday, September 10
6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Work Session
September 12
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

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

CERT
September 23
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Craven County
Commissioner
E.T. Mitchell
Meet & Greet
October 15
5:00 - 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 &
TYPOGRAPHY
Kathleen De Young

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870
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. ■

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*



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.



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.



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.