



**OUR WORLD "WHAT WE
TAKE FOR GRANTED"**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The Town Council for the Fourth of July 2015 parade selected the Weissers, Helmut and Carmen to serve as the Grand Marshalls of the Town Parade. This honor was extended to them because they had just become "naturalized citizens" of the United States.

Our practice is to have the Grand Marshall make a speech following the parade. Helmut agreed to this task. I have often thought of the words contained in his moving speech. That recall has been more frequent

during the last year as we have struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a privilege to have Helmut's 2015 words of tribute to the United States and to River Bend made available to the Town residents both those that heard them on July 4, 2015 and to residents that have moved to River Bend since that date.

Mr. Helmut Weisser's July 4, 2015 Speech:

A PRAISE TO THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, TO NORTH CAROLINA
AND RIVER BEND

Honored Guests, Dear River Benders,

It's my pleasure and privilege to address you on this important day of our nation. First of all I would like to thank all the volunteers who did spend so many hours to make this celebration a success. My wife Carmen -everybody knows Carmen-and myself, we did live in so many countries and places around the world and made River Bend our home. That means something! But let me start from beginning. More than 30 years ago, we just finished an assignment in

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Taiwan and got the offer to work in USA for 3 years - in a small city called New Bern. We were excited to get the opportunity to live in this great nation. As the assignment was limited to 3 years only and the following assignment in China was already outlined we did go out to rent a place for that short time. We found a nice place here in River Bend and Carmen and I liked it here from the first day on. River Bend was at that time a small Town of 600 citizen only. Everybody was friendly. When cars were passing by the driver waved and greeted. And we did so too. Three years passed by and our new assignment in China got pushed out due to political turmoil's and unrest. The 3 years expanded to 10. But there was another problem what we faced –a good problem. We still liked it here so much and we had so many friends in the area. Should we give up that all again? During one of our Sunday walks with the dogs I did feel that Carmen was for the first time not excited to move again. So we came to the common agreement to hold our living space in River Bend and commute between China and River Bend.

It was a long trip that lasted from house to house more than 40 hours. But we could handle that burden. After another 7 years in China, the next assignments were in Utah, Tennessee and Minnesota. That was already a big relief and so much closer to home. A few years ago I got retired and we had to ask ourselves again, where should we live after retirement. Going back to Germany, to another place in Europe or staying here in the great state of North Carolina? River Bend did win this election with 100%.

Coming back to River Bend I had to reset my life. And just to give you an example how the difference was between Carmen and myself. At my first 4th of July celebration after a long time away we walked down Shoreline Drive. And so many people called, “Hi Carmen, Hi Carmen!”. After listening to it for a while I just made the comment, “and I am the husband and pay all the bills!”. But I caught up fast. Volunteering and supporting USO, being a board member of Carolina East Foundation and Craven Community College Foundation and a few more organizations brought me back in contact with many old and new friends. Five years ago we decided in living here we should also be citizens of this great nation. Going thru all the application and approval steps there was one of the final questions: “Are you willing to defend the United States against all enemies”? Now I have to add on that Carmen is still an active fencer, and she told clear and loud, “Yes, my foil is always located at the backdoor and I will use it to defend my Country whenever needed”. That was so convincing that the immigration officer said with a big smile: “Welcome, we need people like you”!

Now in meantime, we -or at least Carmen-are living here in River Bend for more than 30 years already...and still counting! River Bend is a very good place-it is a great place and we have to do everything to preserve it.

With my final remarks I want to thank:

-All the volunteers here and around this great nation for all the service they are giving to our country.

-A special thanks to our Rhems Fire Department and first responders who are on duty whenever needed.

-To our elected Town Leaders: Mayor, Councilwomen and Councilmen; to our County Commissioner's and State Delegates who spend so many hours in their capacity to represent us.

-To our Police Department who holds River Bend safe and sound.

-And as a sparkling end to honor our armed forces who are represented here by the Marine Corps, Color Guard and the many Veterans.

Have fun and enjoy the rest of the day.

"God bless you all and the United States of America".

Thank You!



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

During one of the many thunderstorms in February, the Public Works department collected a list of drainage issues. Most of the issues on the list were simply culvert pipes partially blocked near the inlet and outlet of the pipe. Several were cleaned out during the rainstorms and immediately the drainage improved. We are going to address the other issues that were located to determine how much soil needs to be removed from ditches to improve drainage.

Public Works also completed maintenance on our vehicles. Maintenance included changing the oil and oil filter and air filter, as well as a general inspection of the vehicle. Public Works also cleaned out the gutters on the rental buildings around our office. This has to be completed a couple of times of year to keep the gutter system working properly.

Water Resources had an inspection on our Wastewater Treatment Facility, as well as our two backwash sites. The North Carolina Division of Water Resources inspectors conducted these inspections. They did a thorough review of all paperwork required per our permit, as well as facility inspections. I am very happy to report we had a good inspection. The camera crew inspecting our collection system that Piedmont Natural Gas contracted found two cross bores in our collection system lines. Both were electrical conduits bored thru our sewer lines. One was on a service line on Knotline Road, and the other was through our sewer main on Outrigger Road. Both are scheduled to be repaired ASAP.

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

Parks & Recreation Advisory
Board Meeting
April 7th
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Work Session
April 8th
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
April 15th
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Budget Workshop
April 27th
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Habitat For Humanity
Stuff the Truck Event
9-11:00 a.m.
Basketball Court
Wildwood Drive

Budget Workshop
May 4th
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
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Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF
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Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2020-2021

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 6, 2020
(July 1, 2020)
September 7, 2020
(September 2, 2020)
November 2, 2020
(October 28, 2020)
January 11, 2021
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 6, 2021)
March 8, 2021
(March 3, 2021)
May 10, 2021
(May 5, 2021)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 13, 2020
(July 8, 2020)
September 14, 2020
(September 9, 2020)
November 9, 2020
(November 4, 2020)
January 18, 2021
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 13, 2021)
March 15, 2021
(March 10, 2021)
May 17, 2021
(May 12, 2021)

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 2021 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 14
Regular Meeting January 21
Work Session February 11
Regular Meeting February 18
Work Session March 11
Regular Meeting March 18
Work Session April 8
Regular Meeting April 15

Work Session May 13
Regular Meeting May 20
Work Session June 10
Regular Meeting June 17

Work Session July 8
Regular Meeting July 15
Work Session August 12
Regular Meeting August 19

Work Session September 10
Regular Meeting September 16
Work Session October 14
Regular Meeting October 21

Work Session November 10
Regular Meeting November 18
Work Session December 9
Regular Meeting December 16

Budget Meetings

Budget Session April 27
Budget Session May 4
Budget Session May 11
Budget Session May 18
Budget Session May 20

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*



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 2021 registration decal. Decals for 2021 were available beginning December 2, 2020.

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. Click [HERE](#) for more information



Registration is Required for all Dogs and Cats

River Bend Animal Registrations for 2021 were due by March 31, 2021. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually. Registraton is \$10 per pet, and may be placed in our payment drop box along with proof of rabies vaccination while Town Hall is closed to the public.

Please include documentation with your payment.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



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 to townclerk@riverbendnc.org, 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 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 CERT Liaison, Corporal Brandon Rhors and/or visit our web site at www.riverbendnc.org.



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.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.