



**SHOULD WE TRUST OUR
STATE MANAGEMENT OF
VOTING PRECINCTS?**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

In September this year I read an article in “Governing News” relating to the recently enacted Texas law that gives poll watchers enforcement authority. That authority has traditionally been vested in law enforcement. The nation has recently watched a long and frequently audited review of election results in several states and cities and those audits found no case of frequent or other than very low number of questionable ballot irregularities.

During my thirty year military career I voted in precincts in five states. I felt that they were all well managed and I was confident that the individuals operating the polling places were competent and dedicated to proper performance of their responsibilities. I have voted in every election in River Bend for the last 26 years and I am of the opinion that the Craven County Elections Board officials have consistently operated a fair and legal administration in the conduct of County and municipal elections.

The article that I referenced earlier states; “Nowadays, there’s greater willingness to threaten public officials and according to polls, increasing approval among the public for using violence to achieve political ends. Prior to 9/11, the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil since the Civil War was the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.”

I recognize that there are opinions contrary to my opinion. In North Carolina and

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

MAYOR’S REPORT
PAGE 1

WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 3

COMING EVENTS
PAGE 4

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 5

LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 5

ETCETERA
PAGE 6-7

in Craven County we have witnessed consistent good management of elections. In our state appropriate discipline resulted when improper conduct of elections was found on the part of another county's elections board. It is apparent that the State Board of Elections will not tolerate improper actions on the part of a local board of elections.

The authors of the Constitution gave the nation a system of "checks and balances" among the three branches of government. That "balance" has met the test of time for more than two hundred years and it would seem ill advised to substitute another system. If we look objectively at the performance of government under the United States Constitution we must conclude that the men who worked to draft that document did a great work. They also provided for a system to amend the document that has only been applied 27 times in the 232 years that the nation has been guided by the 1788 Constitution.

This proven system should be used if any change in the elections process is deemed necessary.



WRD / PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works was busy with general maintenance on our trucks and equipment. The brake pads and oil/filter were changed on one of our trucks and the John Deere tractor. The small gas powered pumps, Ford tractor, and lawn mower are on schedule next. We service all of our vehicles and equipment on a routine schedule. Routine maintenance is imperative to keep our vehicles and equipment in good working order. In addition, one pet waste can holder had to

be replaced. We build these holders in house out of treated lumber and get good longevity out of them.

Water Resources has continued to keep the towns water/sewer utilities up and running. Our operators do a good job on maintaining these systems, and keeping our parameters well within our regulated limit. I would like to think James and Mike for a job well done. There were a couple of minor air leaks on both of the wastewater treatment plants that were repaired by our staff. Air is the heart of the Wastewater treatment system and without air, the treatment plant could not function, and we would be in violation of our NPDES permit. Therefore, the quick attention to these two leaks was imperative.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM. 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.

"Water Resources has continued to keep the towns water/sewer utilities up and running. Our operators do a good job on maintaining these systems, and keeping our parameters well within our regulated limit."

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 & Rec Meeting
December 1
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting
December 2
2 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
December 2
6 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
December 6
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
December 6
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
December 9
5 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting & Public
Hearing
December 16
7 p.m.
Town Hall

CERT Meeting
December 22
7 p.m.
Municipal Building





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 Fogle
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Mandy Gilbert

POLICE CHIEF
Sean Joll

DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS
Brandon Mills

ASSISTANT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
Allison McCollum

GRAPHIC DESIGN &
TYPOGRAPHY
Jennifer Barrow

Contact Us:
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252.638-3870
www.riverbendnc.org

Leaf & Limb Collection Schedule for 2021-2022

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 5, 2021

(June 30, 2021)

September 6, 2021

(September 1, 2021)

November 1, 2021

(October 27, 2021)

January 10, 2022

(includes Christmas trees)

(January 5, 2022)

March 7, 2022

(March 2, 2022)

May 9, 2022

(May 4, 2022)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 12, 2021

(July 7, 2021)

September 13, 2021

(September 8, 2021)

November 8, 2021

(November 3, 2021)

January 17, 2022

(includes Christmas trees)

(January 12, 2022)

March 14, 2022

(March 9, 2022)

May 16, 2022

(May 11, 2022)

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

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.

**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 2021 registration decal. Decals for 2022 are now available.

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

All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 AM-4 PM.

Registration is \$10.00 per pet. Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration.

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](#), 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, Officer Eric Gonzalez 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.