

# RIVER BEND NEWS

FROM TOWN HALL [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



**2021 IN RIVER BEND**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

As 2020 began it was easy to predict that the happenings during the New Year would closely track what had occurred in 2019. Then came COVID-19 and the term normal was largely abandoned. By March it was obvious to most that the normal for operations at all levels and in all organizations was no longer an option. The Town Staff under Manager Jackson's leadership has adapted to the changing conditions and mandates and most services provided by the Town have continued without interruption. We have accepted the inconvenience that the new norm has eliminated large assemblies, required "social distancing" and recommended the wearing of face masks. Complying with these requirements resulted in the cancelling of the long running River Bend July Fourth celebration, the normal celebration of Halloween Night for Children and now the annual Christmas Tree Lighting.

These inconvenient departures from the comfortable River Bend normal have been a change that the entire Nation and most of the world has in the same fashion been forced to follow. We have all witnessed that some nations have been more successful in reducing deaths from the virus while others have failed to make the needed adjustments. Statistics demonstrate the folly of denying scientific practice.

We shall continue to follow the appropriate guidance that is promulgated by health officials of the County and State. The residents will be kept informed of the current required safety practices. Our collective prayer should be that an effective vaccine is developed that will keep the

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population immune to the COVID-19 virus and lessen the suffering of thousands.

We must not grow tired of the precautions that must be followed for our individual and community safety during these unusual times.

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**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT -**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

For many years, home owners in River Bend have been responsible for the maintenance of the drainage system (swale, ditch, etc.) along the road frontage of their property. Recently the River Bend Town Council approved some amendments to the town's Stormwater Drainage Ordinance. The amendments shift responsibility for maintenance of the system to the Town of River Bend. There is one notable exception. Over the years, many driveway tiles and other pipes have been installed by private property owners to serve as access to their property. Many of those tiles were not properly installed. The town is not responsible for repairs of those pipes in the event of defects, damage or failures. See section (6) for specific language.

Another very important component of the town's stormwater drainage ordinance is that the town is only responsible for drainage within the right-of-ways of the town's streets or on other property that is owned by the Town of River Bend. The town is not responsible for drainage features on private property. It is important to be aware that no property owner in town owns land all the way to the edge of the pavement. Typically, but not in every case, the right-of-way of a town street is 60 feet wide. Within the center of that 60 feet wide strip, is located a 20 feet wide asphalt road. That leaves 20 feet of land on either side of the pavement. Some people refer to this area as the "shoulder" of the road. That 20 feet of land on either side of the pavement is owned by the Town of River Bend. That area is where swales, ditches and other drainage features are located. It is also where the town's water and sewer lines are buried and where other utilities lines such as electricity, gas, phone, cable television and internet lines are located, as well as street lights.

Please be aware that a private property owner does not have a right to install anything in that area that would create an obstruction or block access to it. That includes fences, landscaping, trees, flower beds, flag poles, sprinkler systems, wiring, lights, decorations, signs, permanent mailboxes, etc. If you have items such as these in front of your home but within the town's property, you should remove them now. A mailbox on a small post that can easily be removed and replaced by

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hand is permitted. No activity should take place within the town's right-of-way without a permit from the Town of River Bend.

Also, many privately owned lots in town have drainage and utility easements around their perimeters. They vary in size but typically they are 10 feet wide. That property is not owned by the town. It is part of the privately owned lot but since there is a utility and/or drainage easement on the property, that area should be kept clear from development/obstructions. Fences and other items are not allowed to obstruct drainage features on private property. You can refer to your recorded property deed to see if an easement exists on your property. The drainage easements are there to benefit you and the entire neighborhood.

The town plans to begin a drainage improvement project in the Channel Run area very soon. No drainage project will prevent future flooding events. However, we can make improvements to the existing system to help it perform to its maximum capacity. You can help us do that by keeping the right of way adjacent to your property clear and free of obstructions. You will be helping yourself and your neighborhood. The existing drainage problems did not occur overnight and they will not be corrected overnight. The town will address this issue in phases after evaluations have been conducted.

Stormwater drainage is important to all residents of River Bend. We know how important it can be during hurricanes or other heavy rainfall events. The Town Council realizes the importance of properly and uniformly maintaining the system. That was a major factor while considering the recent amendments. During a rainfall event is not the time to be removing obstructions from the drainage area. Now is the time to do so. The Town has taken on the responsibility of the system. We ask that you do your part and remove any obstructions that you have in the street right-of-ways, even if they were placed there by a previous owner. If you have an item that needs removing but you cannot do so, contact us to discuss that. If you are aware of a drainage blockage, please notify us.

More information about this topic, including a map, can be found by visiting the town's webpage at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org) and clicking on the green "Stormwater Ordinance Amendment" banner on the home page.

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**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
OF THE TOWN OF RIVER BEND**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of River Bend that the Town Code of Ordinances, Title IX, General Regulations, Section 9.03.010 be amended by creating the following:

**9.03.010 STORMWATER DRAINAGE**

The receiving stream for the town's stormwater runoff is the Trent River. Most of the town's stormwater drainage flows through grassy swales in route to either the town's canal system or directly into the Trent River. Grassy swales allow nitrogen, phosphates and other constituents an opportunity to be naturally removed from the stormwater before it enters the Trent River or the canal. A traditional piped system does not allow for this natural treatment to occur before the stormwater enters the river. The Town of River Bend, through enforcement of our Stormwater Drainage Ordinance, seeks to maintain and improve this natural treatment process in order to help protect our natural resources.

(A) Tiling and other changes in right of way ditches.

(1) Where grassy swales currently exist as a drainage feature, the town, through enforcement of its ordinance, will seek to protect those swales from any development or alteration. Normally, continuously piped storm drains will not be permitted. The tiling or other alteration of right-of-way drainage ditches shall be permitted only with the express approval of the Zoning Administrator and only after adequate verification that the tiling or other alteration will not impede or accelerate unreasonably the flow of stormwater runoff to adjoining property. If approval for the tiling is granted, the person requesting the approval shall install, in conjunction with the tiling, the catch basins as may be required by the Zoning Administrator after taking into consideration the length of the right-of-way drainage ditch to be tiled.

(2) During and after any drainage projects, drainage ditch integrity shall be maintained against erosion and/or drainage changes at all stages of construction with marl rip-rap, mulching, sodding, silt fence or other materials as may be

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required by the Town.

(3) Prior to issuing approval for a project, the Zoning Administrator may require the applicant to submit the proposed specifications and drawing defining the stormwater drainage plans, including the percentage of impervious surfaces, for the project and for any changes to existing drainage features outside the new area necessary to accommodate the plan.

(4) Changes to established drainage features such as size or elevation of driveway culverts, of swales and of ditches on town property or easements shall not be made without the written approval of the Zoning Administrator indicating that the change will not significantly impact stormwater drainage in the area.

(5) Grade changes on private property shall be considered drainage feature changes, and shall require written approval of the Zoning Administrator. Grading on private property shall not accelerate, or increase nor divert the flow of stormwater onto adjacent private property.

(6) For drainage pipes and/or driveway culverts installed in the town's right-of-way by a private property owner, either current or prior, or by the developer, it is the current private property owner's responsibility to maintain those against any material defects, damage or pipe failure that may restrict, block, impede or otherwise obstruct the flow of water through said pipes. For the purpose of this section, the private property owner who is responsible for material defects, damages or failures of pipes, as described above, is the person/entity whose private property is accessed or serviced by pipes or culverts that have been placed in the town's right-of-way.

(7) No surface water shall be channeled or directed into a sanitary sewer.

(8) Any project, due to complexity or scale, may be subject to the provisions of

§ 15.01.082 (7) of the Town's Code, when deemed necessary by the Zoning Administrator.

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(9) Once a private property owner has been notified by the Zoning Administrator that a violation of 15.02.069 (6) exists in any piping serving their property, they shall have 15 days from the date of notification to remedy the violation. If they fail to do so, the Town shall cause the violation to be remedied and shall assess any costs for remediation to the property owner. In the event of an emergency, the Town may remove any obstruction within its right-of-way without notification of the owner and without responsibility for repair or replacement of the removal.

Penalty, see § 1.01.999

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption

**Adopted this the 19th day of November, 2020**

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**WRD/PW  
OCTOBER REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works added more mulch to the swing set area near the dog park in Ritter field. As a reminder, we put down this mulch to provide a cushion in the event someone falls. Routinely we check all of the Town's park for potential safety hazards, and repair/ address the issues as they arise. We also relocated "Big Ben" near the Gazebo at the front of Town Hall. I am happy to say that we were able to save his brick base, and relocate it to the new location also. This took some

tedious tractor work, and I would like to thank the Public Works guys for a job well done. Public Works also did more limb trimming along the roadways around Town. We routinely trim limbs to keep them from interfering with traffic.

Water Resources continued to do a great job at operating the Town's water/ sewer system. We had one chlorinator that failed in the Water Treatment Plant. The problem was quickly identified, and repaired by our staff. Our water resource team is very well trained, and there is hardly anything that we cannot repair. We also repaired a couple of diffusers down at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The purpose of diffusers are to supply air to the microorganisms that break down the organic material in our wastewater treatment process. Clogged up diffusers do not mix the wastewater efficiently and routinely have to be cleaned and repaired.

#### 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.

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 hour's water and sewer, emergencies can be reported by dialing Town Hall at 638-3870. You will be instructed to the 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.



# COMING EVENTS

EWAB Meeting  
December 7  
7:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building  
51 Shoreline Dr.

Work Session  
December 10  
5:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building  
51 Shoreline Dr.

Council Meeting  
December 17  
7:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building  
51 Shoreline Dr.

Toys For Tots Collection  
94 Shoreline Dr.  
River Bend Golf & Country Club  
8 a.m.-4 p.m Mon-Fri  
& Saturday anytime the  
pro shop is open







## 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  
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR  
Margaret Theis

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 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 17, 2021  
*(May 12, 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](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

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*Due to Town Hall Construction, All Council Work  
Sessions and Regular Council Meetings will be  
held in the River Bend Municipal Building through  
December 17th, 2020.*

*Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend  
Municipal Building beginning at 5:00 p.m.*

*Regular Council Meetings will be held in the River  
Bend Municipal Building beginning at 7:00 p.m.*

\*Green type indicates a completed leaf & limb collection

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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 2019 registration decal. Decals for 2020 were 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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **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.