



Happy
Holidays



**NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
BLESSINGS**
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The November month calls us to be thankful as a nation and a people for the blessings that we enjoy day by day. We accept these gifts pretty much without consideration that we have so much that we considered the norm while much of the world would look on our norm as a luxury. In River Bend some of those gifts for most homes are:

1. Warm and comfortable homes.
2. Monetary incomes that allow providing for basic needs.
3. A Town well maintained street system and utilities.
4. A professional Town staff that maintains these systems in good repair
5. That Staff also files reports to N C State Agencies that are required.

Submittal of these reports avoids penalties that would be levied if these reports are not filed in a timely fashion.

Giving

December quickly follows and this month places emphasis on sharing and providing support for less fortunate persons and families in the broad Craven County community. I have witnessed the Town Hall support of the Marine Corps Reserve “Toys for Tots” collection and the collection of food in support of the RCS mission for a number of years. It is always impressive how generous our citizens are in support of these non-profit agencies whose mission is to assist families with basic needs.

We are truly blessed and need to think of others who are not so fortunate. Then consider how we may act to relieve in a small way some other persons who will not be able to enjoy holiday celebrations that we can take for granted. Thanks to all of you in River Bend who will have once again provided generously for these needs.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

MAYOR'S REPORT
PAGE 1

WRD/PW REPORT
PAGE 4

COMING EVENTS
PAGE 5

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
PAGE 6

LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE
PAGE 6

ETCETERA
PAGE 7-8

The passing of Carmen Weisser prompted me to recall some of the many pleasant contacts that I had enjoyed with the Weissers over the years. It has been an honor to have driven the July Fourth Grand Marshals over several years and when driving down Shoreline Drive you could count on seeing Carmen and Helmut waving small US flags, this even before they became US citizens. It was a special pleasure when in 2015 the Town Council selected the Weissers as Grand Marshals and I was pleased to be their driver.

The following document is the speech that Helmut delivered to the crowd assembled at Town Hall on that date:

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 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 save and sound.

-And as a sparking 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

Public Works has continued trimming/clearing brush around town from around roadway signs. Several signs were also replaced because they had become faded and hard to read. There are several more areas I want to trim and we will do this as time allows. Our crew also cleaned out around several storm water pipe inlets. Over time, inlets become clogged due to leaves, debris, silt, etc. Cleaning these inlets out is imperative to keep the storm drains draining properly. Routinely when its raining we look for areas that are not draining properly, and do what we can to help improve drainage.

Water Resources repaired two collection system service laterals. These laterals had backed up several times. We used our sewer camera to inspect these lines and found that roots were causing the blockage. A locate was called in and we repaired both with our staff. We also had two pumps go out at Starboard lift station. These were quickly pulled, and backup pumps installed to keep the lift station up and running. Mike of the Water Resources Department repaired the pumps, and we installed them back in Starboard lift station as soon as he repaired those. I would like to thank Mike for a job well done.

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 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.

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

Council Work Session
December 8
5:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Meeting
December 15
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

CERT Meeting
December 28
7:00 p.m.

Sunrise Yoga: 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.
Monday 12/12, & Wednesday 12/14

Chair Yoga: 9:00 a.m.-9:50 a.m.
Monday 12/12, & Wednesday 12/14

Gentle Yoga: 9:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Fridays
12/16, 12/23, 12/30

Zumba: 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Thursdays
12/8, 12/15, 12/29

See Town Calendar at www.riverbendnc.org for location



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
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 2022-2023

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

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

July 5, 2022
(June 29, 2022)
September 6, 2022
(August 31, 2022)
October 31, 2022
(October 26, 2022)
January 9, 2023
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 4, 2023)
March 6, 2023
(March 1, 2023)
May 8, 2023
(May 3, 2023)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 11, 2022
(July 6, 2022)
September 12, 2022
(September 7, 2022)
November 7, 2022
(November 2, 2022)
January 16, 2023
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 11, 2023)
March 13, 2023
(March 8, 2023)
May 15, 2023
(May 10, 2023)

Pinecones, pine straw and leaves must
NOT be bagged. For additional important
information about River Bend's Leaf &
Limb collection program, please see our
updated Ordinance online at
www.riverbendnc.org. ●

Town Council 2022 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 13
Regular Meeting January 20
Work Session February 10
Regular Meeting February 17
Work Session March 10
Regular Meeting March 17
Work Session April 14
Regular Meeting April 21
Work Session May 12
Regular Meeting May 19
Work Session June 9
Regular Meeting June 16
Work Session July 14
Regular Meeting July 21
Work Session August 11
Regular Meeting August 18
Work Session September 8
Regular Meeting September 15
Work Session October 13
Regular Meeting October 20
Work Session November 10
Regular Meeting November 17
Work Session December 8
Regular Meeting December 15

Budget Meetings

All Budget Meetings have been com-
pleted. To review budget material, please
visit our website: [www.riverbendnc.org/
finance/fy2022-2023-town-budget](http://www.riverbendnc.org/finance/fy2022-2023-town-budget)

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*



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 current year registration decal. Decals for 2023 are available now.

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 2022 were due by March 31, 2022. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

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

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 Andrew Borner 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.