



**A TIME OF GREAT  
TRANSITION**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Many cities and towns in the United States and most likely around the world are in a period of transition that has not been experienced until recent times. Our River Bend is not immune from that substantial change.

The transition is driven by several forces that have occurred almost at the same time. Those forces would certainly include:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic
2. The rise of the volume of misinformation on social media (SM) postings
3. The seeming willingness of great numbers of citizens to accept as truth the material posted on SM without researching it.
4. The speed we now experience in communication and speed of transportation connecting even the most remote parts of the world.

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Looking first at the COVID impact, we have been trying to respond to the many facets imposed by the pandemic while having no recent model of previous threats to provide the path to solutions. Our Manager and staff have been very effective in providing timely information coming from Federal, State and County health departments. Shaping our response to that direction has served the Town well.

A look back at the rise of social media whether it be for the good or the opposite of good: The Pew Research Center published data shows that American adults using the internet in 2000 was just over 50% and by 2015 that number was 80%.

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We also need to recognize that during this same period several commercial corporations entered the internet field and greatly expanded the public access and use of this communication media. It is likely that few of the persons engaged on social media will spend time in research to validate the truth of what they read on the monitor screen.

The advent of rapid communication and travel and that impact on decisions: Those of us old enough to remember the film “Around the World in Eighty Days” will recall that the film was set in the Victorian era and portrayed the many modes of travel needed to complete their trip. Today, with help of a travel agent one could make the same trip in eighty hours.

Things in 2030 will most certainly be different than today and that difference will likely impact every municipality in the nation. At the same time every level of government will interface with many members of the electorate believing that the norm can go back to “the good old days” if you guy and gals in government would just try.

In closing, we must work together to chart our way into the future without the aid of a guide, and try our honest best to find the right solutions.



## **WRD / PW REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

This month, Public Works continued cutting limbs that were overgrowing, and low hanging along our roadways. There are several more streets around town that we are going to trim as time allows. Several street signs around town were also replaced. They had become faded, and hard to read. We also cleaned out several storm water catch basins that had become clogged with debris (leaves, limbs, etc.). During mild to heavy rain events, we feel is

the best time to find any clogged catch basins or storm water issues that need to be addressed. It is also a good time to watch out for any missing cleanout caps on our sewer system. Missing cleanout caps are imperative to find in order to prevent storm water from entering our sanitary sewer system.

Water Resources replaced two diffusers in the main digester at the wastewater treatment facility. The purpose of the diffusers are to mix and supply oxygen to the microorganisms so they will digest biodegradable materials. This is the last process for the wasted microorgan-

isms. Once adequate treatment has occurred we turn off the oxygen supply to the digester, and then allow the sludge to settle where we can remove as much water as possible. After this process our contractor pumps the sludge. In addition, one valve that controls the rinse cycle for well #2 filter was replaced. This valve had become worn and would not completely shutoff. Our staff replaced this valve.

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 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.

**"During mild to heavy rain events, we feel is the best time to find any clogged catch basins or storm water issues that need to be addressed."**

### **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  
February 10  
5 p.m.  
Town Hall

Public Hearing  
February 10  
5 p.m.  
Town Hall

Community Watch  
February 16  
7 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Council Meeting  
February 17  
7 p.m.  
Town Hall

Repurposed Books Craft  
Workshop Sponsored  
By Parks & Rec  
February 23  
1-4 p.m.  
Municipal Building

CERT Meeting  
February 23  
7:00 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  
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## 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](http://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

Budget Session.....April 26  
Budget Session .....May 3  
Budget Session.....May 10  
Budget Session.....May 12  
Budget Session.....May 19

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 2022 registration decal. Decals for 2022 were available beginning December 2, 2021.

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

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

Registration is \$10 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](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 CERT Liaison, Officer Eric Gonzalez and/or visit our web site at [www.riverbendnc.org](http://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.