



A TIME TO CELEBRATE
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

On July 16th, the Town of River Bend celebrated the opening of the new municipal building that will house the River Bend Police Department and community meeting rooms. The construction phase of the project went extremely well. Bruin Builders, the general contractor, won the bid to construct. The firm managed the project very well and produced a high quality building while delivering it on time.

The history of the development of project plans and reaching of agreement to receive bids for the construction was long and demanding of the Town Manager’s time and patience. Manager Jackson and the architect, The Walker Group, deserve awards for their patience in addressing the many floor plan layout changes.

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I believe that the Town’s Police Department (PD) is the big winner in the new office space that will serve them well for many years to come. I will devote this article to tracing the path that brought the PD to their new space over the past 23 years. In 1997, the police along with public works (PW) operated out of a single office in the Town Hall. That space is where Allison McCollum and Mandy Gilbert now work. That office configuration accommodated a number of desks and you can imagine that moving through the office meant walking sidewise. The first improvement for the PD and PW was when the site with the old barn and smaller garage structure was purchased by River Bend. A contracted consultant engineer reported that the barn had no utility for the town and that it was

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not worth investing in improvements. However, the smaller garage building was worth modifying to serve the two functions that were then operating in Town Hall. That building was modified to provide office space for both the PD and PW as well as shop space to accommodate PW needs. As the police staff grew to allow for 24/7 coverage, the new space again became crowded and the subdivision of their office space no longer adequately served modern policing needs. The Town Council recognized this fact and began the long process to build a new building that would meet the needs of the PD and also provide community meeting rooms that would meet much of the schedule of the town's civic organizations that were using the council meeting room. Thus began the lengthy design process.

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Hurricane Florence flooded the office spaces and required the PD to operate from a leased space and PW to operate in a less than acceptable arrangement until the building was restored. A plan that turned the entire building into an office and shop configuration for PW. Now, in 2020, a need that has existed since 1997 has been met. This year the town and the Council join our PD in saying thanks to The Walker Group Architectural Firm, Bruin Builders, Manager Jackson, and the town staff for their work that resulted in the new building that will serve the town well for many years. I am certain that Chief Joll and officers of the PD, as well as PW Director Mills and his staff, are very pleased with their expanded operating spaces.



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The Town Council has passed the budget for the new fiscal year that began on July 1st. The total operating budget for the Town for Fiscal Year 2020-21 is \$3,144,118. As you may know, this year's budget process was greatly impacted by COVID-19. Specifically, the usual budget workshops were delayed. When they were held, they were condensed into a two-week period. Due to COVID-related restrictions, attendance was limited at the workshops. Therefore, all of the workshops were available to the public via ZOOM. As always, all of the budget workshop documents were available on the town's webpage.

A substantial part of the revenue stream for the town is derived from the local sales tax. Due to the economic slowdown associated with COVID, we anticipate a reduction in those revenues for FY20-21. To offset the reduced tax revenue, the Council approved several actions. For the second year in a row, capital expenditures were reduced. The total FY20-21 capital spending is less than half of what it was in FY18-19. Additionally, no new programs or services were approved. All departmental budgets were closely reviewed. In the General Fund, spending in 13 of 19 departments was either reduced or unchanged from the previous year. Overall spending in the General Fund was reduced by \$224,829. The tax rate will remain the same as last year at 26¢. The rates for water and sewer service are unchanged.

The average home in River Bend is valued at \$161,002 and the average utility customer uses 3,000 gallons of water/sewer per month. Therefore, the average resident will pay \$1,339 in town taxes and utility fees in FY20-21, which is \$3.67 per day. For \$3.67 per day the average resident will receive potable water, efficient wastewater treatment, 24/7 police protection, stormwater management, animal control, planning, zoning, code enforcement, parks, recreational events, street lights, street maintenance, leaf & limb removal, and a host of other services. Last year the daily cost was \$3.56 per day. For the average resident, it will cost 11¢ more per day or \$40.15 more per year for these items in River Bend compared to last year.

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Our goal is to continue to deliver high quality services at a reasonable price to all who make River Bend their home. Many people spend more than \$3.67 on coffee per day.

Construction has begun on the renovations at Town Hall. Due to COVID and construction, Town Hall will remain closed to the public until further notice. Please continue to contact us and conduct town business via phone and email or by using the payment drop box in the parking lot at Town Hall. If you have an issue that requires an in-person visit, you must contact us to schedule an appointment.

The new Municipal Building is complete. A ribbon cutting and dedication service was held on July 16.

Due to continued COVID concerns, a traditional “grand opening” was not a part of the service. The Council conducted its regular July Council meeting in the new Municipal Building immediately following the ribbon cutting. Hopefully, we can have a traditional “grand opening” at a later date. As is the case with Town Hall, the Municipal Building is closed to the public due to COVID.



**WRD/PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works began installing new street signs, roadway signs, and some new posts. The ones that we replaced had become faded, so it was time to replace. Our plan is to have all the signs that are on our schedule replaced by the end of July. Public Works has continued trimming limbs around town along the roadway and at intersections. We do this to keep limbs from blocking visibility along the roadway, as well as for keeping low growing limbs from

hitting higher vehicles. There is still plenty of limbs to trim, and we will continue trimming as time allows. We also planted the bushes and trees around the new community/police building and put down mulch around all the new plantings. I think it looks very nice and professional. Our Town Manager, Delane Jackson, did an outstanding job on the landscape design.

Water Resources has stayed busy with marking our utilities for sudden link and century link contractors. We get locate tickets daily from NC811. These tickets let us know

what areas need to be marked for contractors that are going to be digging, boring, or other work around our utilities. Marking our lines keeps damages and service interruptions to a minimum. Water Resources also cleaned several of our collection system lift stations. We remove the grease by vacuum truck, and pressure wash the wet well with a degreaser. The purpose of removing the grease is to prevent clogs and over flows downstream in the sewer system. Pressure washing with degreaser prevents odor complaints from residents that live nearby.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 252-638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. After-hours water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing the Town Hall at 252-638-3870. 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 252-638-1108, and they will get in contact with the on-call utility systems operator.

"Marking our lines keeps damages and service interruptions to a minimum."

**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.



**RIVER BEND
NEWS**

FROM TOWN HALL
is published monthly by the
River Bend Town Council for
the residents of the Town of
River Bend.

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TOWN COUNCIL
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Buddy Sheffield
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TOWN MANAGER
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Margaret Theis

POLICE CHIEF
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ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**
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**GRAPHIC DESIGN &
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Jennifer Barrow

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River Bend, NC 28562
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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 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
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

Budget Meetings

- Budget Session..... March 24
- Budget Session..... March 31
- Budget Session..... April 7
- Budget Session..... April 14
- Budget Session..... April 21
(if needed)
- Budget Session..... April 28

*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 2020 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.



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.



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 Town Hall for a brochure or view details on 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

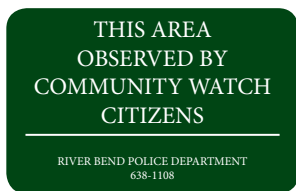
this service provided by the Town of River Bend through
**Blackboard
 connect**



River Bend has a functional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). For more information about this group, or to volunteer, please contact the 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.