

# RIVER BEND NEWS

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



**RIVER BEND AS IT APPEARS  
IN 2022**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

My wife and I moved to River Bend in 1996 and we found the Town to be inviting and attractive. It has moved forward over the intervening period of time in a number of positive projects. Now we cannot clearly imagine all the positive changes that have been accomplished in the 26 years between 1996 and 2022.

A list of some items of change follows: This list is not complete and is not in a chronological order.

1. The Town acquired the 4+ acres of land that conveyed the caboose, the Public Works building and the old barn to Town ownership.

2. This site was used as the area where dredged material from the canal dredging in 2011 was deposited. This work created the area for the soccer field.

3. The Town has demolished the structurally decaying barn as an essential part of making a site for the new building housing the Community meeting rooms and the Police Station.

4. The Town Hall building has been modified to provide handicapped accessible facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act mandates.

5. The entrance to River Bend from Highway 17 has been modified to identify the Town of River Bend. This assists persons traveling Highway 17 to understand that a populated town exists if they exit the highway. The landscaping of the area that surrounds the sign has been enhanced.

6. The walking trail around the soccer field and the dog park has been paved and is now used by a significant number of walkers on a daily basis.

7. A pending replacement of water meters with upgraded “radio read” capability, which is a primarily grant funded project. This upgrade will free staff time to engage in other utility maintenance work.

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8. The expanded and improved dog park is well used by pet owners and is popular by both the dogs and the owners who have time to socialize with other dog owners while their dogs enjoy running within the fenced park.

9. The Town sponsored a major Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which replaced several deteriorated homes and made repairs to others along the Old Pollocksville Road.

10. A new Public Works Building will soon be built again utilizing grant funding.

River Bend is positioned to effectively manage the change that future development will demand. The Town Council working with the Manager and staff have; and will continue, to guide the Town on a visionary path to future successes.

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#### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

Major changes are coming to the town's Leaf and Limb (L&L) collection service. It is very important that you read this entire document. Beginning on July 1, 2022 the town's new L&L contract becomes effective. The Town Council recently approved changes to the L&L ordinance which will impact how L&L service is provided to you.

The major change is related to bagging of leaves.

Until now, leaves were required to be bagged and tagged. Effective July 1, bagging of leaves is prohibited. Bagging of leaves will not be optional. Any leaves that are bagged will NOT be collected by the town. The reason for the change is because our contractor will be using a leaf vacuum to collect

the leaves. A leaf vacuum works just like any other type of vacuum except that it is much larger and more powerful. The reasons for moving to a leaf vacuum are manifold. It will speed up the process. A vacuum is much faster than the current process. It will be more effective because fewer leaves will be left behind. It will reduce the town's cost for this service, which allows the service to be provided to residents without the assessment of a user fee. It eliminates the labor and costs associated with bagging and tagging for residents. You may place a tarp over your

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**"Effective July 1, bagging of leaves is prohibited. Bagging of leaves will not be optional. Any leaves that are bagged will NOT be collected by the town."**

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leaves if you like. It must be a lightweight tarp that can easily be removed to gain access to the leaves.

In the past, the leaves were bagged and tagged by residents. Then they were collected by the contractor and moved to a holding area. Once all bags were collected, they were manually opened and emptied then reloaded for transport to the landfill. The leaves are grinded into mulch at the landfill. Plastic bags are not allowed to be grinded into the mulch, which is why the leaves had to be removed from the bags by the contractor. Obviously, that process was very labor intensive. Utilizing a leaf vacuum will eliminate the second handling of the leaves. Another change is that grass clippings are now allowed to be collected. You may combine your grass clippings and leaves in the same pile.

Nothing has changed about limbs. Limbs will be collected in the same manner as before. However, it is important to remember that leaves and grass clippings **CANNOT** be combined with limbs. The leaf vacuum cannot vacuum limbs. Do not combine leaves and limbs. Any piles of leaves that contain limbs will not be collected. Remember not to place debris next to mailboxes, water meters, street lights, etc.

Following is the L&L collection schedule for the new fiscal year, which begins on July 1. Nothing has changed about it. Please determine your zone and follow the dates for it. Do not place any L&L beside the road for collection prior to the published debris placement dates. The debris placement date is the earliest that you are allowed to place debris. The pick-up day is the day on which the collection of debris is scheduled to begin. You must have your debris placed by the road **BEFORE** the scheduled pick-up date. For example, the first L&L collection cycle will take place in July. All L&L in Zone 1 for that collection cycle must be placed by the road between June 29 and July 4. Pick-up for that zone is scheduled to begin on July 5, therefore the last day to place debris by the road **BEFORE** collection begins is July 4. If you wait until July 5 to place your debris by the road, the contractor may have already worked past your home. The contractor is not required to pick up any L&L that is placed after he passes your home. The contractor makes one round per street. Follow the schedule and you will not be missed.

The town does not provide collection of solid waste commonly known as brown goods (furniture, lumber, etc.) or white goods (appliance, metal, etc.). The only waste that we collect are those described in the attached L&L schedule. For more details visit our web page at [www.riverbendnc.org/solid-waste-ordinance](http://www.riverbendnc.org/solid-waste-ordinance) to see Chapter 9.02.030 of the Town Ordinances, which contains our L&L rules and more.



### **WRD / PW REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

In the month of April, Public Works continued doing maintenance along our roadways. Some gravel was added to road shoulders where vehicle traffic had eroded road edges. Gravel compacts better than just adding soil, and will hold up longer. Public works also shot levels with our transit on a couple storm water drainage swales, and pipes around town. These areas tend to hold water during heavy rain.

The purpose of shooting these levels is to help us determine what we can do to alleviate ponding of water in these areas.

Water Resources completed our yearly flushing of the Towns water distribution system. As a reminder, we do this to remove any minerals that may have adhered to the pipes walls, or settled out in the distribution piping. During the flushing, we also flow test the fire hydrants, and do any maintenance that is needed. Maintenance consists of greasing nozzle threads, greasing/oil internal operating nut reservoir, checking for proper drainage of hydrant barrel. During flushing this year, I noticed there were several hydrants that had brush growing way to close to the hydrant, and it made it very difficult to operate the hydrant. I have made note of these hydrants and we will be cutting down the bushes/brush around them ASAP. I would like to ask all citizens please do not plant anything close to the fire hydrants. In the event of a fire, the fire department may not be able to access or see the fire hydrants. We need to keep the areas around our hydrants clear to help during emergencies that will require large amounts of water.

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 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 638-1108 (option 1), 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

Parks & Rec Wire Light  
GLobes Workshop  
June 1  
10:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Advisory  
Board Meeting  
June 1  
7:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting  
June 2  
6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Wire Light  
GLobes Workshop  
June 4  
10:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

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

EWAB Meeeting  
June 6  
7 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Council Work Session &  
Public Hearing  
June 9  
5 p.m.  
Town Hall

Community Watch  
Meeting  
June 15  
7 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Library Board Special  
Meeting  
June 23  
2 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Public Hearing- Special Use Permit to construct a Public Works Facility  
June 28  
6PM @ Town Hall





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

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Delane Jackson

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FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR  
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## 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, 2022  
(May 3, 2022 )

### 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](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

All Budget Meetings have been completed. A public hearing to gather public comments on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 will be held on June 9, 2022 at the River Bend Town Hall at 5:00 PM.

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 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.