



EVERYTHING IS NOT EQUAL
 BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

As we reflect on the COVID-19 Pandemic and its worldwide destructive effects, as a nation, we find it difficult deciding how to best cope with the management and recovery of this Pandemic. As we strive to piece together a solution, we may wonder why other nations fail to do the same. Rarely do we consider that many other nations in this globally connected world lack the same resources that bless the United States.

Previously, we have enjoyed the advantage of seamless worldwide travel. The 1954 film “Around the World in 80 Days” depicts travel around the world during the early Victorian period. Today, we can make the same trip in less than 80 hours. In fact, one airline executive broke the world record by circling the globe in less than 53 hours. I mention this only to make the point that COVID-19 can travel at the same speed. Although we are wise to recognize the many ways we benefit from

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the global economy, it also produces a new set of problems to be dealt with. Global solutions should involve all nations working in partnership to achieve solutions that will enhance the human condition worldwide. As we move in this direction, national borders will not be the same as they were for the Victorian traveler. All of this should bring us to understand that COVID-19 has demonstrated to our own nation that we have a great inequity that remains in 2020. Recent data suggests that minority populations, poorer communities, and rural areas suffer more from lack of adequate medical treatment. This condition is a

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longstanding issue, but with the current focus the nation must begin to address how greater equity can be achieved. A last thought: The world, for our nation and for all nations, will never be the same.



**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

Many aspects of our normal lives have slowed down due to COVID-19. That includes some activities at Town Hall. Since April 6, Town Hall has been closed to visits by the public except for those services that absolutely require an in-person visit and those are by appointment only. I appreciate the level of cooperation that citizens have demonstrated during this difficult period in our history. The entire staff is involved in the delivery of essential services

to our residents, such as water, sewer, public works and police services. All of our employees are essential in the delivery of those essential services. While Town Hall has been closed to the public, the town's staff and services have continued without any interruption.

While some things have slowed, other things have continued as normal. Construction on the new Municipal Building has continued. It has proceeded ahead of schedule. The building is scheduled to be completed in mid-June, well ahead

of the original August completion date. As of today, the Municipal Building is expected to be open and in use in July. The dedication ceremony for it is tentatively scheduled to be held on July 16. Look for more details about that event in the future. During planning for the building and even during discussions while it has been under construction, the new building has been called several things. Officially, the name of the new building is the River Bend Municipal Building. Renovations to the Town Hall are scheduled to begin very soon. During construction, Town Hall will operate under the same process as we have during COVID-19, even if COVID-19 related restrictions are eased. That means that functions in Town Hall will be cancelled during construction and visits will be limited. Obviously, we cannot operate normally while a construction project is ongoing. Hopefully, we will be able to restart some town functions in the

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Municipal Building in July, depending on what happens with COVID-19.

COVID-19 also had an impact on the way that the Town Council conducted its recently-completed budget workshops. The Council delayed conducting the workshops until May. They were originally scheduled for March and April. This year, pursuant to The Governor's Executive Order, attendance at the workshops was limited to 10 people. In order to provide more opportunity for public participation, all of the budget workshops were also available to the public by ZOOM. All Council members were present in-person for all of the workshops. Also, all of the budget preparation material was available on the town's webpage in advance of

the workshops. The budget message, which includes the proposed budget, is currently on the town's web page along with all of the workshop material. A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on June 11 and the budget is scheduled to be adopted

"A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held on June 11 and the budget is scheduled to be adopted on June 18. The budget will become effective on July 1."

on June 18. The budget will become effective on July 1. As of this writing, May 22, phase II of reopening for North Carolina begins today. There is still much uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. Nobody knows for sure what will happen. We may have to adjust our future plans again due to circumstances beyond our control. I can say that our goals in River Bend are to maintain a safe working environment for our staff so that they can continue to provide essential services to our residents and to maintain a high degree of safety for our residents as we move forward with public activities. Again, thank you for your cooperation during these uncertain times.



**WRD / PW
REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works cut up and removed a couple trees off the roadway after the thunderstorm blew thru during the middle of April. We suffered no damages to the roadway due the tree directly landing on the roadway. The tree was quickly cut up, and pushed off the road with our tractor to keep traffic moving. Aquatic herbicide was applied to the front entrance pond and a couple other areas the Town maintains.

We spray herbicide several times a year to control unwanted aquatic growth. Some aquatic growth is good to help remove nutrients from stormwater runoff, but too much depletes oxygen levels in the waterways. Public Works also painted a good number of fire hydrants on Plantation Dr. and most side streets. We routinely paint fire hydrants as time allows. Painting them not only makes them look better, but also makes them more visible for firefighters in the event we have a fire. On the subject of fire hydrants, I would like to ask all citizens that have a fire hydrant near their property to please do not plant anything around them. Fire hydrants need to be easy to find and easy to access during fires, as well as during routine maintenance.

“We routinely paint fire hydrants as time allows. Painting them not only makes them look better, but also makes them more visible for firefighters in the event we have a fire.”

Water Resources repaired one water leak this month. The leak was on a one-inch service line. The line was deep and in an area of Town where the soil is not very stable. We had to rent a backhoe to keep the area around the pipe dug out in order to give us ample time to make the repair. I would like to thank my guys for a job well done. We received some of the replacement water meter radios/transmitters to replace the defective ones within the system. As a reminder, the radios are what sends the water meter readings electronically to Town Hall. When they are not working, the water meters still register gallons of water used, but the readings cannot be transmitted electronically. We have to read all meters manually that have defective radios. I hope to have all radios we have received installed by the end of May. We also have been painting at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The railings around the surge tank needed a good coating of paint to protect the steel from the corrosive environment.

**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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**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.