



**RIVER BENDS RECOVERY  
FROM HURRICANE  
FLORENCE**  
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

After 25 years residency in River Bend it is safe to say that the Town's appearance has never looked so good. This statement is remarkable when one considers that two years ago we had just suffered the devastating visit of hurricane Florence. Those that lived through that event will clearly recall the massive piles of appliances, furniture and demolition debris that lined the streets in the floodplain areas of Town. It had all the resemblance of a war zone.

Fast forward. There are still homes that are being restored, but exterior appearances of these few homes reveal very little of that ongoing effort. A visitor driving through Town today would see little evidence of the Florence visit of only two years past.

Many persons have worked hard to make this transformation possible. I shall list some of those person:

1. Individual Homeowners: who quickly removed the compromised furniture, appliances and interior building materials. These homeowners worked with the Town's floodplain administrator Allison Mccollum and the FEMA representative agents who spent several weeks in town addressing loss and covered restoration compensation. This was followed by an army of contract personnel and traffic in support of rebuilding.
2. The Storm actions of the Town Council: required attendance at several called meetings to authorize documents needed for Federal and State funding grants. The continuing conduct of operations is made possible by the Town's annual budget. The Council spends hours in a number of sessions working with the Manager and Staff to authorize the annual budget, set the tax rate, and authorize the major projects that the Manager will execute during the course of the budget year.

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION

MAYOR'S REPORT  
PAGE 1

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT  
PAGE 2

WRD/PW REPORT  
PAGE 4

COMING EVENTS  
PAGE 5

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE  
PAGE 6

LEAF & LIMB SCHEDULE  
PAGE 6

ETCETERA  
PAGE 7-8

---

This authorization gave the Manager necessary authority to begin initial recovery efforts as we waited for return of requested grant funding. Thanks to Council for the quick response each time a request for action was made.

3. Town Staff: under the leadership of Manager Delane Jackson the Town's infrastructure suffered some compromise but the dedicated staff kept the utility systems operating and there was virtually no interruption in this service. Manager Jackson carefully monitored what assistance would be available from Federal Agency and State sources to assist in rebuilding and recovery. Many staff members assisted in developing requests for emergency assistance. In total more than \$1,000,000 from these sources assisted in the recovery effort. The staff effort went largely unnoticed at the time. We all need to offer thanks and appreciation to these persons who were at the same time dealing with their own recovery at home.

The Town has emerged from the wrath of Hurricane Florence in a strong position. The Homeowners, Town Council, Manager and entire Staff are due thanks and appreciation for clearly superior service during this very trying period. Now we engage the COVID-19 pandemic. May we all see the conquering of this cruel virus in the near future.



**TOWN MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

In addition to our regular activities, there are lots of special projects currently underway in River Bend. First, the renovations to Town Hall continue. We hope to have the project completed by January 1. On October 21 we began a dredging project in the Island Lake inlet. The inlet became partially obstructed with sediment during Hurricane Florence. The project will consist of the removal of 1,000 cubic yards of material.

The material is being dug and loaded onto a floating barge. The barge is floated to the shoreline where the material is offloaded onto a truck. It is then transported to a disposal site.

We have also begun the Old Pollocksville Road Community Development Block Grant- Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) project. This project was funded with a \$750,000 grant. It includes the rehabilitation of three homes and the demolition and reconstruction of three other homes. The project was approved for funding in October, 2019. Since then the town has secured a consultant and completed an environmental study, which were funded by the grant. No site work could begin until we received a release of funds notice. We have recently received that notice

---

and site work will begin soon.

In August, 2020 the town was awarded a \$602,500 grant to replace all of our water meters and our automated meter reading equipment. The current system is aged. Its replacement was on the town's long-range plan. The award of this grant allows us to replace it sooner than planned and without increasing user fees to fund the project. Once it is completed, our system should be in good shape for at least 15 years.

Over the past few months, the town has been designing a project to improve storm drainage in the Channel Run area of town. This project received \$122,707 in funding from FEMA. The contract was recently awarded to Hardy Construction in the amount of \$156,000. Local funds will be used to supplement the costs of the project. Weather permitting, construction is planned to begin before Thanksgiving and be completed early in 2021.

The town is also finalizing plans and specifications for flood mitigation measures at our current Public Works Facility on Wildwood Drive. Once those plans have been completed, we will solicit bids for the project. The project will include the installation of a retaining wall around the building and the expansion of the overhead storage area in the shop. The strategy is for the wall to prevent flood waters from entering the building. The increased overhead storage will allow us to move equipment to a higher area just in case the wall fails. This project received \$64,800 in funding from FEMA.

The town has also recently applied for a grant in the amount of \$638,660 for the construction of a new Public Works Facility. If approved, the new building will be constructed outside of the floodplain. The current building is located completely within the floodplain.

As you can see, it has been a very busy time at Town Hall. With the start of these projects, it is about to become even busier. It will probably be two years before all of these projects are completed. In September Ann Katsuyoshi retired as our Town Clerk. Ann had served as River Bend's Town Clerk for 17 years. We thank her for her years of service and wish her a happy retirement. Kristie Nobles was hired as Town Clerk.



## **WRD/PW REPORT**

BY BRANDON MILLS  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works installed a 1 ½ inch service line to supply water to the new bathroom addition to Town Hall. The pipe was ran from the new addition to Plantation Drive where we will have to make a water tap, and install a meter. We have it on schedule to make the tap on the water main, set the meter, and box the second week in October. The fountain at the front entrance pond was pulled because it kept tripping the breaker in the electrical box. We have it

in our shop trying to diagnose the problem, and hopefully will repair and have it reinstalled shortly. The fountain is for not only looks, but adds dissolved oxygen to the pond to support aquatic life. Water Resources had one sewer service that became clogged. The cap on top of the cleanout was broken and allowed soil, and other debris to clog it up. The situation was quickly remedied by our staff, and did not result in a reportable sanitary sewer overflow. Utility services is schedule to do a washout of our 300,000-gallon water storage tank located on Plantation Drive on the 29th. This is per schedule, and consists of inspection of the tank, and pressure washing and cleaning of the interior of the tank. Once this is complete, we will have to fill it back up with water, and shut it off from the system. Bacteriological sample will be taken from the tank and sent out to our laboratory. Results will be received in a day and if the results of the test pass, the tank will be put back online.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources/Public Works Department, please call us at 638-3540, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. After-hour's water and sewer emergencies can be reported by dialing 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

EWAB Meeting  
November 2nd  
7:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Election Day  
November 3rd  
6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting  
November 5th  
6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Shredding Event  
November 7th  
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Site of the Wildwood Storage  
Facility, near Public Works on  
Wildwood Drive.

Work Session  
November 12th  
5:00 p.m.  
Municipal Building

Council Meeting  
November 19th  
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  
Harry "Bud" McClard  
Buddy Sheffield  
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.

TOWN MANAGER  
Delane Jackson

TOWN CLERK  
Kristie Nobles

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR  
Margaret Theis

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 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](http://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

*Due to Town Hall Construction, All Council Work  
Sessions and Regular Council Meetings will be held  
in the River Bend Municipal Building through Decem-  
ber 17th, 2020.*

*Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend  
Municipal Building beginning at 5:00 p.m.*

*Regular Council Meetings will be held in the River  
Bend Municipal Building 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 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](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 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.