



IT IS HURRICANE SEASON
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The month of September is typically the height of the North Carolina Hurricane Season. As of 1 September we have been blessed and have not had a hurricane make landfall on the Atlantic Ocean coast however, that could change.

We have recently watched a category four hurricane make landfall in the area of New Orleans. It is ironic that hurricane Ida hit New Orleans exactly 16 years to the day after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 devastated the city. Many will recall how devastating that hurricane was to the city in loss of life and destruction of property. The Louisiana Governor and the Mayor of New Orleans at the time made no advanced plans for the management of the impact of the hurricane. The school bus fleet and the street car assets were left in an area that was one of the most flood prone. There was no evacuation order issued and hundreds of persons lost their lives. In post storm assistance the FEMA personnel arrived and received no assistance from the state or local management authorities. The scene was a text book illustration of what can go wrong in an emergency.

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How different it was when Hurricane Ida visited 16 years later. The Governor and Mayor were on national television briefing citizens and directing early evacuation so highways would not be choked with traffic. In the interim years the U S Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) had spent billions of dollars building protec-

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tive sea walls and installing huge pumping stations with backup power units. These assets had been maintained and exercised and worked to protect the city from a repeat of the 2005 disaster.

Citizens of River Bend need to be prepared for the possible impact of a hurricane during any year and understand that much of the Town is in the flood plain. Neither New Bern nor River Bend is protected from flooding by a USACOE floodwall.

1. The Town will follow the evacuation direction promulgated by Craven County Emergency Management. The County office is very professional and Director Mr. Stanley Kite has long experience in managing emergencies. It is wise to follow directions given by his office.

2. The Town of River Bend has a dedicated “floodplain administrator” in the person of Allison McCollum. After Hurricane Florence Allison worked with FEMA representatives that came to assist the processing of claims for the flooded homes in Town. This assistance lasted for about two weeks.

3. Allison has worked to maintain the town compliant with FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS). This compliance allows all eligible residents who have “flood insurance” to receive a 10 % reduction in insurance premiums.

4. Town Manager Delane Jackson worked with the State and FEMA to obtain significant grant assistance to restore damaged infrastructure. The Town was blessed to have a small army of volunteers from religious and non-profit groups assist in the cleanup of flood damaged material and the removal of water damage in many homes.

5. We need to pray that no future hurricane will reach the proportions of Hurricane Florence. However, when a hurricane comes our way everyone should pay attention to Town and County advice and directives and help avoid loss of life and reduce property loss.

Our hope is that those who live in the floodplain hold FEMA flood insurance. Be advised that these insurance policies need to be in force a month before being available for claims.



TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

The article below was published in June, 2021 at the start of this year's Hurricane Season. The recent events in Louisiana due to Hurricane Ida should serve as a reminder to all about the need for hurricane preparations BEFORE a storm. As September arrives, be aware that we are now in what is typically a very active month for us in River Bend.

The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. Historically, fall is the most active part of hurricane season for our region. August and September are usually the busiest months for hurricanes along North Carolina's coast. However, Tropical Storm Ana developed on May 23 this year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Our proximity to the Atlantic coast, combined with the low elevation above sea level for large parts of our town, makes River Bend vulnerable to impacts from hurricanes. A tropical system does not need to develop into a hurricane to cause damage in River Bend, particularly in the flood zone.

Because of these facts, if you live in River Bend, you should consider purchasing flood insurance. You can obtain a policy from a local agent, through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Town of River Bend is a participant in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the NFIP. In short, that means that the town maintains records and files on flood zone properties, has and enforces a local flood damage prevention ordinance and meets other annual minimums to be a CRS town. Our CRS status means that River Bend residents who live in a special flood hazard area (SFHA) are eligible for a 10% discount on annual flood insurance policy premiums. Typically, regular home owner's insurance policies do not cover damages from rising waters (flooding). If you are uncertain about your insurance coverage, you should contact your agent now. Do not wait until after the storm to learn that you are not covered. Most insurance companies require flood insurance to be purchased at least 30 days prior to a named storm that impacts a customer. That means that you cannot buy coverage at the last minute when a storm is already headed in our direction.

"If you are uncertain about your insurance coverage, you should contact your agent now. Do not wait until after the storm to learn that you are not covered."

Hurricane Florence is still in the memory of River Bend residents. Our records indicate that 503 homes in River Bend were flooded during Hurricane Florence. According to data from the NFIP, just before Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14, 2018, there were 443 flood insurance policies in effect in River Bend. That means there were at least 60 flooded homes that did not have flood insurance. Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14, 2018. Today, almost three years after Hurricane Florence's arrival, all of the homes in River Bend that were damaged by Hurricane Florence are not yet repaired.

Now, and throughout the summer, is a good time for you to assess your property and see if you are ready for a hurricane or even a smaller magnitude tropical storm. There are many things that you can do now to prepare so that you will be better prepared if a storm does impact us. A few suggestions are:

1. Check your trees and other vegetation. Remove any dead, damaged or leaning limbs that may fall on your home or other buildings. Don't forget to look above where you park your car, too. A tree or limb can ruin a vehicle too and you may need that vehicle to leave the area. You do not want to be pruning or trying to hire a professional tree trimmer shortly before the storm. They will be in high demand then. Also, trimming shortly before a storm creates debris that must be removed prior to the storm.

2. Check your gutters, roof and siding (and flood vents if your home is equipped with them). Be sure they are in proper working condition and/or are properly secured. Do you have a tarp and enough rope to secure it if your roof is compromised during a storm? Tarps are hard to find near a storm's arrival. Also check your windows and doors to make sure they are prepared to keep out the elements.

3. Check the drainage features on your property. Be sure they are clear and working properly.

4. If you own a generator (or chainsaw), give it a tune up now. Exercise your generator. A generator has two main components. They are the motor and the generator. Cranking the motor and letting it run will exercise the motor part. Be sure to plug something into it and make sure the generator part is also working. It is called testing under load. Simply plugging up a couple of lamps or fans will do. It would be unfortunate to own a perfectly running generator engine that does not produce electricity. Often times following hurricanes or other natural disasters more people die from improper use of generators than die due to the actual storm event. If you own a generator, make sure that you and your family know how,

when and where to operate it. Make sure that you have adequate fuel storage tanks. When a storm is approaching, they are difficult to find in stores. Batteries and flashlights may be hard to find, too. Test your supply and stock up now. Consider buying a spare chain for your chainsaw.

5. Landscape items such as swings, trash cans, lawn furniture and anything else that is in your yard can become wind-driven projectiles during a storm. Imagine a trash can lid striking the window of your home or vehicle at 75 mph. Also, loose items like basketballs or flower pots can float away and completely block storm drains, which can contribute to flooding. Now is the time to formulate a plan for how you will address these issues when a storm is approaching. I recommend having a place to store the items inside or being able to tie them down during a storm. You may need to buy a supply of rope or cords now.

6. Subscribe to the town's e-news and blackboard connect service. This can easily be done by clicking on the "Register for Alerts" button near the top of our home page. Immediately before and after a storm event, we will be using these services to share official updates and guidance. Please do not rely on information that you may find on social media as your source for official information.

Obviously, we hope that you will never find yourself in a hurricane in River Bend. However, hurricanes and other tropical storm events are a natural event in eastern North Carolina. If you live here, the wise thing to do is to be prepared for them.



WRD / PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works this month sprayed the front entrance pond, and the Town Hall pond with an approved aquatic herbicide. We routinely do this several times a year to control unwanted aquatic weeds. This not only helps with the appearance of the ponds, but also helps with the dissolved oxygen levels in the ponds, which is essential for aquatic life to flourish. The soccer goal nets were replaced in the park. The old ones had become tattered, ripped, and faded with age. We tend to get a couple of years out of these nets before they need replacing.

Water Resources replaced one of the air headers to our main sludge digester at our Wastewater Treatment Facility. The old air header had rusted through, and caused an air leak. The old steel piping was cut out, and our team installed a new galvanized steel pipe along with fittings and valves. The purpose of this air header is to supply oxygen to the microorganisms in the sludge where they can break down any organic matter left in the sludge. Once this process is complete our sludge is hauled off by our contractor and land applied. A couple of water sampling valves were replaced at the Treatment Building Well #1 & 2. These valves had started leaking and were replaced. I would like to thank the staff for a job well done, on both of these projects.

"Water Resources replaced one of the air headers to our main sludge digester at our Wastewater Treatment Facility. The old air header had rusted through, and caused an air leak."

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 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

Parks & Rec Meeting
September 1
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

Library Board Meeting
September 2
2 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
September 2
6 p.m.
Municipal Building

Town Hall
-Closed-
September 6
Labor Day

-Cancelled-
EWAB Meeting
September 6
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
September 7
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
September 9
5 p.m.
Municipal Building

CAC Meeting
September 15
4 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Meeting
September 16
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

CERT Meeting
September 22
7 p.m.
Municipal Building

BUNCO Sponsored by
Parks & Rec
September 23
Time will be posted online
Municipal Building

Habitat for Humanity
Stuff the Truck
September 25
9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Basketball Court
Wildwood Drive



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 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. ●

Town Council 2021 Meeting Dates

Work Session January 14

Regular Meeting January 21

Work Session February 11

Regular Meeting February 18

Work Session March 11

Regular Meeting March 18

Work Session April 8

Regular Meeting April 15

Work Session May 13

Regular Meeting May 20

Work Session June 10

Regular Meeting June 17

Work Session July 8

Regular Meeting July 15

Work Session August 12

Regular Meeting August 19

Work Session September 10

Regular Meeting September 16

Work Session October 14

Regular Meeting October 21

Work Session November 10

Regular Meeting November 18

Work Session December 9

Regular Meeting December 16

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*

etc.



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 2021 registration decal. Decals for 2021 were available beginning December 2, 2020.

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

All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

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

Registration is \$10.00 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. 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 CERT Liaison, Corporal Brandon Rhors and/or visit our web site at 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.