



SOCIAL MEDIA CAUTION
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

It is my belief that social media is very detrimental to our nation at all levels of government. There is much positive that social media can deliver to users seeking specific information for service industries and tradesmen and other similar inquiries. However, posts related to political positions may advance one’s personal political view and may purposely misrepresent the truth. The casual reader of the post may adopt and repeat the position read in the social media and accidentally mislead other people.

For the reasons expressed here, I do not participate in the use of social media. I do use Google to find information that I need and trust that information source.

I conclude by repeating that social media can have great utility, but it should not be used to exchange information that in past generations was discussed over the clothesline.

In closing, I caution all users of social media to be careful about reading everything on social media as fact. We all know that it is not all factual.

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**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

We are on the cusp of the prime leaf raking season. While we provide year-round leaf and limb (L&L) collection, the next few months will be the primary season for leaf collection. The Town provides L&L collection through a contractor. Chapter 9.02.030 of the Town Code of Ordinances governs L&L collection. Until recently, this service was provided six times per year. Now, it is provided seven times per year. The Council has added an additional pickup in December. Please familiarize yourself with and follow the Town's L&L schedule and rules. Click [here](#) for the schedule, map and rules.

Each year, there are violations of our L&L ordinance. Now is a good time to remind residents of the rules and their responsibility. The following is not an all-inclusive list, but it addresses the most common violations. The town is divided into Zone 1 and Zone 2 for collection. The schedule clearly indicates the dates when debris must be placed by the road for collection in each zone and when collection will begin in each zone. Debris cannot be placed by the roadside for collection BEFORE the specified date on the schedule. Limbs cannot be more than 3 inches in diameter or 6 feet in length and the butt end must be street side. If they are larger than the limit, they will not be collected by our contractor or by town staff.

L&L is defined as: leaves, pinecones and small tree and shrub limbs. The definition does NOT include construction material of any kind, household trash, tree trunks, lot-clearing debris or debris left from commercial contractors. We do not collect L&L debris that is generated by the work of a hired contractor at your home. Also, we do not collect brown goods (furniture, lumber) or white goods (appliances, metal, electronics, etc.).

Why the need for these rules? Every pound of L&L debris that we collect is delivered to the local landfill. Last fiscal year we collected 486 tons of L&L debris. Our L&L is carried to a specific area of the landfill and goes through a grinding process where it is turned into either mulch or compost. Obviously, household trash is not allowed in that process.

If a violation is found in your debris pile, it will not be collected from the roadside. A yellow flag will be placed by your pile indicating why it was not collected. It then becomes your responsibility to remove the pile. We pay the contractor for every ton collected. It is not financially beneficial for him to skip L&L

debris. He would prefer to collect the L&L rather than flagging it. If your debris is not collected due to it being out of compliance with the rules, neither the contractor, nor the town, will go back and collect it, even if you remedy the violation. The contractor is only required to make a single pass of all streets to collect L&L. He is not required to make another pass to collect all “fixed” piles or late piles that were added after collection started for that street.

The maximum fine for violations of this ordinance is \$500. The town certainly does not want to fine anyone \$500 for violation of these simple rules. That can only be avoided if you follow the rules. Currently, the town does not charge a user fee for this service. It is included in the services that you receive for taxes. Our contractor charges us a fee based on every ton that he collects. His contract price is based on the expectation that residents will follow the rules. He is not paid to remedy violations. As the saying goes, “time is money.” It is not the responsibility of the contractor to separate your trash.

Finally, you cannot place your debris on the property of another person without their permission. That includes town owned property and vacant lots. If you do not own it or do not have specific permission to use it, do not place your debris there. If you want to help speed up the entire collection process, it would be ideal if multiple neighbors worked together and placed their debris in a single location. Obviously, the fewer stops that are required, the quicker the process can be completed for everyone.

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.



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

The July 4th parade and festivities were a great success, with an excellent turnout and a wonderful time had by all. Public Works has been busy, with a couple exercise stations along the town walking trail being repaired recently. We continuously monitor these stations for any defects and perform repairs as needed. Additionally, more limb trimming was carried out along our roadways to improve visibility and safety.

In the Water Resource Department, a small water leak was repaired on a service line leading to a customer's meter. This leak was repaired quickly and efficiently by our staff. Our team has also been working diligently to clean out some of our collection system lift stations, focusing on removing grease buildup. As a reminder, we encourage residents to review the FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) brochure available on the towns website, which provides important guidelines on what not to flush into our collection system.

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.

COMING EVENTS

Town Hall CLOSED
September 2
Labor Day

CANCELED
~~RBCOG Meeting~~
September 2
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

CANCELED
~~EWAB Meeting~~
September 2
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
September 4
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

Water Fun Day Sponsored
by the River Bend Police
Department
September 7
Soccer Field

Town Council
Special Meeting
September 9
3:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Council Work Session
September 12
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Music In the Park with
THE BEARS
September 15
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Lot

Regular Council Meeting
September 19
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
August 16
2p.m.-4p.m.
Tech Class 4p.m.-5 p.m.
Municipal Building

Community Yard Sale
Sponsored by Parks & Rec
7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



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 2023-2024

Residents may begin placing their yard debris street side on the dates indicated in parentheses

Zone 1 Pick Up Begins

- July 15, 2024
(July 10, 2024)
- September 9, 2024
(September 4, 2024)
- November 11, 2024
(November 6, 2024)
- December 11, 2024
(December 4, 2024)
- January 13, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 8, 2025)
- March 10, 2025
(March 5, 2025)
- May 12, 2025
(May 7, 2025)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

- July 22, 2024
(July 17, 2024)
- September 16, 2024
(September 11, 2024)
- November 18, 2024
(November 13, 2024)
- December 16, 2024
(December 11, 2024)
- January 20, 2025
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 15, 2025)
- March 17, 2025
(March 12, 2025)
- May 19, 2025
(May 14, 2025)

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.

Town Council 2024 Meeting Dates

- Work Session January 11
- Regular Meeting January 18
- Work Session February 8
- Regular Meeting February 15
- Work Session March 14
- Regular Meeting March 21
- Work Session April 11
- Regular Meeting April 18
- Work Session May 9
- Regular Meeting May 16
- Work Session June 13
- Regular Meeting June 20
- ~~Work Session July 11~~ **Canceled**
- Regular Meeting July 18
- Work Session August 8
- Regular Meeting August 15
- Work Session September 12
- Regular Meeting September 19
- Work Session October 10
- Regular Meeting October 17
- Work Session November 14
- Regular Meeting November 21
- Work Session December 5
- Regular Meeting December 12

All Council Work Sessions will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Council Meetings will be held in the River Bend Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.



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 current year registration decal. Decals for 2024 are available now.

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 2024 were due by March 31, 2024. All River Bend dogs and cats must be registered annually.

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

Owners must present proof of rabies vaccination at the time of registration. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Registration is \$10.00 per pet.



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**



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.