



2024 AND BEYOND
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

The title of this article could be “The Computer in 2024 and Beyond.” There can be little argument made that the computer has changed how all work is conducted and little likelihood that it will disappear. Like many innovative inventions it has both positive and negative aspects of what it can do for us as individuals and organizations.

On the positive side:

- a. It can file many letters and reports and allows the recall and printing of anything that is retained in the computer’s memory.
- b. It can maintain individual employee health and service records and allow fast recall whenever the need arises.
- c. It has allowed many organizations to go paperless.

On the negative side:

- a. It has been a distraction to many young students and moved them from school/college study and homework to game playing and posting letters to friends.
- b. There are many homes that still do not have computer capability and businesses and government tend to assume that everyone will be able to respond if they post some proposal online.
- c. Then there is the social media. A person sitting in front of a computer keyboard will post and transmit words and thoughts that if talking to a person face-to-face, they would probably never say in conversation.
- d. When posts are read, too many readers take the stated post as absolutely truth. In fact, it is more like the old parlor game of stating a whispered statement to the person next to you and continuing that process around a seated circle and then the last person speaks the statement of what he/she was told, and it generally turns

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out to be totally different from the original statement given to the first person in the circle.

e. This fault is found in individuals relaying instructions by official looking documents and thus misleading the reader.

f. (my opinion) The internet “social media” is killing our nation.

g. This internet cancer has impacted every level of government from the Congress to State Legislatures, to local Municipal Government. There seems to be very little polite exchange between governing representatives at all levels and consequently little attempt to make the effort to work out compromise of positions so necessary in making Democracy work.

It is not the computer’s fault it is the fault of the us humans at the keyboard.



WRD/PW REPORT

BY BRANDON MILLS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Hopefully the holiday season brought joy to all, eagerly embracing the new year. The grand opening of our new Public Works building unfolded seamlessly. My gratitude extends to the numerous volunteers whose invaluable assistance made it possible. Currently we are in the process of relocating our equipment and tools to the new building, with office computers and desks slated for permanent move sometime in January. This new building will be a valuable asset to the Public Works Department for years to come.

In the realm of Water Resources, a proactive approach continues to guide our efforts in maintaining our water and sewer systems. Routine pump maintenance throughout our collection system has been diligently executed. During this maintenance we check pump oil and seals to insure we get the full expected life out of our pumps. Additionally, repairs to several collection system lateral cleanouts were repaired by our staff. The repair of broken piping in our system is crucial in preventing inflow and infiltration 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.

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

Canceled
Planning Board Meeting
February 1
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Greeting Card Creation
Class Sponsored by
Parks & Rec
February 3 @ 1:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

RBCOG Meeting
February 5
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

EWAB Meeting
February 5
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Parks & Rec Advisory
Board Meeting
February 7
6:15 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
February 8
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Red Caboose Community
Library Books/Sweets/
Card Sale
February 10
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Regular Council Meeting
February 15
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile @ River
Bend Municipal Building
February 16
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Book/Tech Support Class given
by CPRL with the
Red Caboose Community Library
February 16th, 4-5 p.m @
Municipal Building

Community Watch
Meeting
February 21
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Bedtime Story Hour by The Red
Caboose Community Library
February 23
6:00 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.

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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 10, 2023
(July 5, 2023)
September 11, 2023
(September 6, 2023)
November 13, 2023
(November 8, 2023)
December 11, 2023
(December 6, 2023)
January 15, 2024
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 10, 2024)
March 11, 2024
(March 8, 2024)
May 13, 2024
(May 8, 2024)

Zone 2 Pick Up Begins

July 17, 2023
(July 12, 2023)
September 18, 2023
(September 13, 2023)
November 20, 2023
(November 15, 2023)
December 18, 2023
(December 13, 2023)
January 22, 2024
(includes Christmas trees)
(January 17, 2024)
March 18, 2024
(March 13, 2024)
May 20, 2024
(May 15, 2024)

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.

**Green type indicates a completed leaf & limb collection*

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
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.

Budget Meetings

Budget Meeting April 30
Budget Meeting May 2
Budget Meeting May 7
Budget Meeting May 9
Budget Meeting (If Needed) May 13
Budget Meeting May 16
Public Hearing (Tentative) June 13



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 are 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.

2024 tags are available now at Town Hall.



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.