



MUNICIPAL RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE
DAMAGE
BY MAYOR JOHN KIRKLAND

Yesterday I attended the quarterly board meeting of the Highway 17-264 Association as the Town’s representative.

One of the DOT presentations to the board was from Mr. Cox, the Deputy Chief Engineer of DOT.

He reported at length on the division’s response to restore transportation to the Southport municipality following Hurricane Debby. He reported that every road that provides vehicular access to Southport was compromised and there was no vehicular access to the town. DOT has a survey team and response resources to move to impacted sites, but they need to have vehicular access to make the survey visit and, in this case, there was no access for vehicles. Some roads had bridges destroyed by the hurricane. Others had large drainage pipes washed out.

The DOT “ferry division” was engaged to transport the DOT emergency teams to the site and make the evaluation and schedule for the necessary rebuild of the destroyed infrastructure.

The DOT forces and contract workers are restoring the damaged roadway infrastructure as scheduled by the plan developed as quickly as possible following the event. Mr. Cox’s concluding remarks were to express appreciation to the Ferry Division for their assistance and to say the hurricane was a learning experience that will serve DOT well for future emergencies.

It is obvious that the extent of the localized damage from this hurricane has created a very large cost that was not planned but must be met. Mr. Cox did not address that aspect of the project and most likely it is not yet a cost that has been totaled.

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**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT**

BY TOWN MANAGER DELANE JACKSON

There has been some talk about sidewalks recently. Personally, I am a fan of sidewalks. I wish the original developers had included plans (e.g. space) for sidewalks in the original design. In my opinion, sidewalks improve the aesthetics of a community and they also improve safety. So, why not just build sidewalks? First, like most anything nowadays, sidewalks are expensive, especially when you are talking about possibly miles of sidewalks. Second, sidewalks can

be a logistics challenge when they were not planned for originally. For example, sidewalks typically run parallel and close to streets. Know what else typically runs parallel and close to streets? Drainage systems. We definitely would not want to negatively impact an already stressed drainage system by building sidewalks.

A few years ago, the town amended its subdivision ordinance to require sidewalks in some new subdivisions. In these scenarios, the developer would be responsible for installing sidewalks during construction. This allows the streets, drainage and utilities to be designed in concert with the sidewalks, thus avoiding the logistics issues stated above. Most often, it is much easier to include sidewalks during the development phase rather than going back years later and adding them.

Many, but not all, of our town streets are 60' wide. Often when people hear the word "street" they automatically think of the paved portion. Generally speaking, the paved portion is 20' wide. That leaves 20' on either side of the pavement, aka the "shoulder" to place sidewalks. However, you must also consider that 20' is also used for the location of utilities, such as water lines, fire hydrants, utility poles, unground telecommunications, etc. Not to mention being a space for mailboxes, disabled cars, overflow parking, and the drainage system previously mentioned. It's a valuable strip of land. Many residents erroneously believe that they own the land up to the edge of the pavement. That is not the case. You can look at the County GIS maps or a survey of your property to see where your property actually ends. Sidewalks are not built on private property. If the town does not own the land, the town will not build sidewalks on it. Absent very specific exceptions, we cannot use public funds on private property. So, there is no need for you to be concerned about the town building sidewalks in "your" front yard.

In closing, sidewalks can greatly improve pedestrian safety by separating pedestrians from vehicles. In the absence of sidewalks, pedestrians and cyclists alike can greatly improve safety by dressing properly. In my opinion, dark colors

are NOT the best colors to wear when you plan to travel along the streets, especially when it is also dark outside. I often see walkers in the early morning, at dusk or even at night, dressed in dark colors. I bet you have too. Bright colors are safer. Reflective clothing is even better. I believe it would be best if all walkers and bicyclist dressed and operated with the assumption that the oncoming car cannot see you as easily and clearly as you can see it. Just because you see them, that does not mean that they see you. My guess is that in most collisions of a 2000+lb vehicle vs. a human, the human is most likely to lose. We all know that even the best of drivers can easily be distracted by many things inside and outside of the vehicle. Why not increase your survival rate by dressing in a manner to make yourself more visible? Also, the law requires walkers to walk facing traffic. Cyclists are to travel in the same direction as traffic and follow the same traffic laws as a vehicle. Following these rules will help a lot.

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

This month, Public Works jetted out several Storm water drainage pipes to clear debris, helping to maintain proper stormwater flow throughout the system. We routinely clean out catch basins to prevent pipes from becoming clogged with debris. In addition, we sprayed the parks and playgrounds with herbicide, also a routine activity performed several times a year to control unwanted growth. This not only helps control growth of weeds, but also helps with appearances.

Equipment maintenance was also a top priority, with oil and hydraulic filters, and fluid changes on our tractors, and other equipment.

In the Water Resources department, we repaired on lift station pump in-house, with special thanks to Mike Steffa for his excellent work. Routine maintenance was also performed on some of our generators, including oil and filter changes. We also repaired several water meter antennas damaged by lawnmowers and urge citizens to avoid running over meter boxes, as this causes unnecessary damage to the meter reading 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

Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
October 2
6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Planning Board Meeting
October 3
6:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

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

EWAB Meeting
October 7
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Council Work Session
October 10
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Community Watch
October 16
Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Regular Council Meeting
October 17
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Book/Tech Mobile
October 18
2p.m.-4p.m.
Tech Class 4p.m.-5 p.m.
115 Wildwood Dr

National Night Out
Sponsored by RBPB
October 18
5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Municipal Building

Pumpkin Palooza
October 26
4:00 p.m.-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 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
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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.