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RIVERMIST MARCH 2019

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**Debris Removal.** Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions of the River’s Edge HOA, Inc., Article II, Section 2.01 (d): Each lot and any and all improvements from time to time located thereon, shall be maintained by the owner thereof in good condition and repairs, at such owner’s sole cost and expense.

**Community Chipping Day.** The Board is pleased to announce our first chipping day of 2019 is scheduled to occur April 8. As before, we ask that you place your limbs and debris in front of your lot in the easement beside the road Mar. 27-31. Also, please email Becki that you wish to participate, and let us know if you need assistance in removing your debris.

????????????????**Entire House for weekly or monthly Rental in Ellijay/River’s Edge**????????????????

**Short Term Rentals is an Express Violation of our Covenants.** Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions, Article VI, Section 6.02: “No Owner shall be permitted to rent or lease his residence for an initial term of less than six (6) months”.

If you rent your home for less than six months, be assured all your neighbors know, and they inform the Board. Complaints increase around holidays. One resident was approached for directions to the rental unit. Residents have brought rental ads to the attention of the Board.

Short term rentals will not be tolerated. All necessary steps will be taken. The covenants which prohibited short term rentals have been in effect since the first lot in River’s Edge was surveyed. When you purchased your lot/home in River’s Edge, you were legally on notice of these recorded covenants against short term rental.

**Save the Date. Smokey Bear 75th Birthday Party on May 4, 2019.** Since 1944 Smokey Bear has been working hard to help inspire Americans to clean their properties to prevent wildfires. In honor of Smokey's 75 years of wildfire prevention, the Board along with Georgia Firewise is sponsoring a "Birthday Party for Smokey Bear" on Sat. May 4, at 10:30 am. at the Gilmer County Library. Georgia Forestry Agent Anthony English will talk on the importance of the Home Ignition Zone in mitigating damages to your home in the event of a wildfire..

Community Association Institute in the March/April 2019 issue to Community Association Leaders in their article HOMEFRONT/DISASTERS cited: “The wildfire problem is a home ignition problem, not a wildfire control problem.”

Please RSVP to [riversedge@ellijay.com](mailto:riversedge@ellijay.com) or 706-273-3100.

***Birthday Cake and Coffee will be served.***

**State Farm and Forestry Grants.** In addition to the Firewise Grant, we have applied for a State Farm Grant, and a special Forestry Grant. The Firewise grant for which we have applied for 2019, is used primarily to clean common areas of debris. The State Farm Grant will be applied to community chipping projects. The special Forestry Grant can be awarded only for cleaning and clearing immediate areas surrounding our exit/evacuation route at the back gate at River's Edge. Many individuals lost their lives in the Gatlinburg fires because their exits became blocked, due to the fires.

Forestry agents are becoming more involved in the utilization of our grants. As funds become more restricted, it is not enough to just say we are Firewise, we actually have to *be* Firewise. The Board is continuing to explore other possible grants, some of which also have restricted uses.

**Revised Declarations Filed at Courthouse.** All changes have been made to remove the developer from our Declarations and the Revised Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions of the River's Edge Estates have been filed at the courthouse. This was a large project and we thank you for your support in making this happen. The Covenants, By-laws and Architectural Standards are available on the website: [riversedgeofellijay.com](http://riversedgeofellijay.com), or you may call Becki to request a printed copy (please allow 24 hr notice).

**New Members.** Welcome Association members Skip & Sherry Geddes, Roger & Elaine Gray and Chris & Karla Wilkins.

**Architectural Committee.** We welcome new volunteers Dan Libby and Esther Lax, who have graciously agreed to serve on the committee along with Don Findell, following the resignations of Bill and Theresa Parks. Bill and Theresa did a great job serving for several years but recently resigned due to other obligations. We appreciate their service.

**Assessments.** Association quarterly assessments are due the first month of each quarter (Jan., April, July, Oct.). Invoices are sent quarterly, however, you have the option of paying annually or monthly if that is more convenient for you; just please let Becki know.

**Community Notices.** Currently, e-mail is our quickest and most efficient way to send emergency notices and Association updates to members. If you are not already included please contact the office to have your name and e-mail address added to our list. Email addresses are never shared without your permission.

Member Directories with owner's name, lot number, mailing address and phone number are updated and distributed at the annual membership meeting. If you prefer to have your mailing address or phone number unlisted, please let Becki know.

**Security.** Both River's Edge and Blackberry Mountain Associations will again be contracting with EKG Security Services April - Sept. to help monitor the increased traffic at the front gate, bridge and parking area. Please make sure you have a River's Edge Parking Permit and/ or a temporary Guest Permit if you are planning to access the river and/or parking area at the office property. Resident and Guest Permits are available from the office, please call or email Becki 24 hrs in advance to request either one.

**Emergency Numbers.** To report power outages please call AEMC 706-276-0359; you can also track progress of power being restored at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com). To report nuisance or dangerous animals please call Gilmer Animal Control 706-635-2166. Remember we are a Neighborhood Watch Community, if you see suspicious activity, please call Gilmer Sheriff's Dept. 706-635-8911. Call 706-889-8179 to report after hour emergencies only with the gate(s) or water.

Happy Spring!