



## RIVERMIST WINTER, 2020

**CHRISTMAS TREE.** The Christmas tree during the holidays that was on the front porch of the office was a joint venture with Blackberry Mountain. Mary Ellen Cates and Linda Black selected and decorated the tree. We hope you enjoyed its sparkle, and that it added to the magic of your holidays. Thank you goes to the residents who decorated their common areas.

**MEETING OF VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REGARDING FEASIBILITY OF ADDING GENERATORS TO WELLS.** At the Annual Meeting on November 2, 2019, there was a consent vote of the membership to authorize the formation of a volunteer committee to investigate the feasibility of adding generators to the 12 wells and two booster pumps servicing River's Edge. A meeting was held on November 26, 2019, and the following individuals were present: Board Members David Ratner, Tom Ostby and Mary Ellen Cates. Association members Mark Webster, John Rathbone, Paul Gegenheimer, Rick Stern and Robert Cochran. It was preliminarily decided that Mark Webster and John Rathbone would conduct an initial investigation and obtain costs, data, products, and interview candidates capable of installing and maintaining the generators. Once this information has been completed, a second meeting will be held for further discussions, and you will be advised.

**SECOND COOSAWATEE WILDFIRE.** In early January, a fast moving brush fire inside Coosawatee River Resort spanned a wooden area around the neighborhoods of Pacer Court and Villa Lane. According to Gilmer Deputy Fire Chief Mark Chastain, "It was a ground fire driven by high winds and low humidity. The steep terrain, low humidity, and wind were all working against the firefighters which was a set up for disaster. During winter months, we have these cold days that come in and drive the humidity way down. The air gets so dry that it sucks the moisture out of everything. It takes the moisture out of the leaves right on top of the ground. This is what burned." It was later determined that the individual did not have a burn permit. By calling the Georgia Forestry in advance, you can confirm whether burning is allowed on the day you wish to burn. Obviously, this is for a good reason. If an unpermitted fire gets out and damages your neighbors house, you can be held liable. If it burns your house, your insurance company may not pay. You may also be held responsible for suppression costs if you cause a wildfire and do not have a permit, including bulldozers, hot shot crews, and/or air-tankers....which do not come cheap. A major cause of wildfires is burning with improper weather conditions.

**BAN ON BURNING WITHIN RIVERS EDGE.** Please know that there is a permanent ban on outdoor burning within River's Edge; other than in protected fire pits or outdoor fireplaces. However, keep it legal. It is illegal to burn plastic, tires, and most other waste products not from a tree or shrub. It is illegal to burn any kind of building materials including lumber and the debris burned can only be from natural material.

**Burning household garbage is prohibited, and it is not permitted by the Georgia Forestry Commission and the fire department.** Debris burning is Georgia's #1 cause of wildfires. It accounts for over 50 percent of all wildfires in the State and burning leaf piles in your yard is the most common cause of these wildfires.

**WILDFIRE GRANTS FOR 2020.** We have already applied for three grants so far this year to offset the financing of our Firewise cleanups. The Association incurs expense each year over and above the costs for the neighborhood chipping. None of the grants completely pay the costs of chipping although we apply for as many as we can find. At the present time, we are pleased that we have been awarded funding for two of these grants, while one grant is still outstanding. Other grants have not yet been announced, but we will continue to monitor for additional grants.

**RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES SPRING CHIPPING EVENT: The Spring Chipping event will be held the week of March 30, 2020. You can help make this a successful event by doing the following:**

- (1) Place debris to be chipped in the right-of-way along the roadsides where it is easily accessible.
- (2) **Keep debris set out for chipping to less than six inches in diameter. You do not need to cut longer limbs into piles of shorter limbs, as it is actually more time efficient for workers to process piles of longer limbs than it is to process piles of shorter limbs. Also, stacking debris so that all the limbs face in one direction results in less processing time (intertwined debris is particularly time consuming to separate and process).**
- (3) **Volunteer to help with chipping if you are able.** While we pay a tree service to provide workers and a chipper, community volunteers can help reduce the time and work effort involved in the chipping, which results in a reduced cost to the community, as well. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office or contact Don Findell at [donfindell@aol.com](mailto:donfindell@aol.com).

If you cannot remove your own debris, please contact Linda. She can give you the names of individuals or organizations that you may contact to work out an arrangement with them for assistance.

**AIR MED CARE NETWORK:** America's largest medical membership network with over 320 locations across 38 states. The Board is planning on inviting to the Annual meeting this year, Shane Headrick, local sales manager for emergent air medical care network to discuss the membership programs his company has available for Ellijay, in the event you have a medical emergency and need to be life flighted to a trauma hospital. He offers memberships from 1 year to 10 years at competitive prices.

**NO AIR B/B IN RIVER'S EDGE.** Under legislation that just cleared the Georgia State House Committee, cities and counties would be prohibited from regulating short term rental properties. However, in looking into the legislation, there is an exception for homeowner's associations that ban short term rentals in their covenants. Please note under our covenants on Leasing of Residences, River's Edge does: No owner shall be permitted to rent or lease his residence for an initial term of less than six (6) months. In all cases, all leases shall be on a form provided by or approved by the Board. The lease is required to be in writing.