

RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES ASSOCIATION

RIVERMIST

APRIL-MAY 2023

HOMEOWNERS RIVER'S EDGE

25 Blackberry Mtn. Dr, #8101
Ellijay, Georgia 30536

No short term rentals allowed

OFFICE MANAGER

Linda Black

Phone 706-273-3100

Fax 706-273-3201

After Hours Water and
Gate Systems Emergencies
(leave name, phone #
and message)
706-889-5640

Should you require assistance with
obtaining medications or groceries,
let Linda know.

EMAIL

riversedge@ellijay.com

WEBSITE

riversedgeofellijay.com
Webmaster:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Ratner, President
Tom Ostby, Vice President
And Water Manager
Jim Carr, Member at Large
Dave Schmitt, Member
At Large

DESIGN COMMITTEE

Dave Schmitt, Chairman
Esther Lax
Jim Carr

Firewise Coordinator
Byron Trotter

Newsletter Editor
Judy 'Carr

This newsletter is provided for
Informational purposes only.
Inclusion is neither an endorsement
nor recommendation. Participation
is a personal choice based on your
own evaluation.

RIVER'S EDGE COMMUNITY NOTICES

BOARD MEETINGS

April 19, 2023*

May 17, 2023*

June 21, 2023*

July 19, 2023*

August 16, 2023*

September 20, 2023*

October 18, 2023*

November 15, 2023*

November 4, 2023-Annual Meeting

*Board Meetings are held at the HOA Office at 4:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise notified. Please call the HOA office if you plan to attend a meeting to allow Linda time to add additional seating if necessary.



KEEPING UP WITH THE BOARD

After 8 years on our HOA Board as Secretary, Mary Ellen Cates has decided to retire. In 2015, Mary Ellen joined our Board of Directors. Using her 38 years of legal experience as a trial lawyer and mediator, she helped the Board with legal research and legal guidance.

In addition to her Board Member duties, in 2016, Mary Ellen was told about the Natiowide Firewise Program and decided to check it out. The same year, our subdivision was designated a Firewise Community, mostly because of Mary Ellen's dedication. Since then, she has attended many meetings, conferences, disseminated information to our community about the Firewise program and brought Firewise speakers to our meetings to help make our community safer from fire. Along the way, she cultivated many friends in the Firewise program which has helped her as she spent hours requesting and obtaining grant money for our community to help offset the cost of our chipping and other fire safety projects.

In 2018, Mary Ellen also started our first Newsletter and continued publishing until she persuaded me to take over in June 2022. Thank you Mary Ellen for all of your contributions to our community and we wish you a wonderful retirement.

Continued from page 1 –Keeping Up With the Board

Byron Trotter has accepted the duties of Firewise. THANK YOU, Byron! Please help him as he starts a new adventure.

We also have to say goodbye to another board member, Sherri White. Sherri has decided to take retirement seriously and along with her retirement from the corporate world late last summer, she has decided to also step away from the board. Sherri became a board member in early 2021 and even though she has been on the board a little shy of two years, her contributions will be remembered. Thank you Sherri for all of your hard work and we wish you well in your retirement.

THE BOARD IS ALSO WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER, DAVE SCHMITT. Dave and his wife Linda moved to River's Edge in August of 2020 from Dallas, Georgia. Dave worked for 43 years for a Fortune 100 company involved in the timber industry. Dave spent his years in forest lands and composite wood panels. His positions included product specialist, sales manager, national sales manager, plant manager, and operations manager. Needless to say, Dave loves the woods, water, fishing, hunting, and wood-working. Dave and Linda were members of 2 yacht clubs over a 25- year period and Dave served 6 years as Chairman of the Architectural Committee and 4 years on the Board of Governors. Dave will be taking over the duties of the Chairman of the Architectural Committee and our spring and fall chipping program. We want to welcome Dave and please help him in his new position in our community.

A QUICK REMINDER FROM THE BOARD: per our rules in the Architectural Construction Guidelines, recorded in Gilmer County Records, Deed Book 2152, Page 176, "All propane tanks are to be buried underground or screened from view from the road."

JUST LIKE THE POLLEN, the BEARS are out early this year! They were spotted on Lazy River Lane attacking bird feeders. So, unless you want them to visit you and enjoy cleaning up their messes, please make sure your garbage is secure and your birdfeeders are out of their reach!



JUST ANOTHER REMINDER that the paperwork for your spring projects is located at the HOA office. Please stop by and talk to Linda to pick up a copy. These projects are including, but not limited to, structure painting, structure additions including decks/porches, tree removal, and landscaping projects.

FIREWISE CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE**Byron Trotter, Firewise Coordinator****NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

If you have ideas or information that you want in the newsletter, please call or text me, Judy Carr, at 706-889-2393

HOME SAFETY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

****Home Fire Sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers allow people more time to escape our homes.

****Smoke alarms should not only be in every sleeping room, but also outside of every sleeping room on every level of the house. Smoke alarms with sealed (long-life) batteries work for up to 10 years and are helpful for people that find it hard to change your batteries. Test your smoke alarms every month by pushing the test button. Ask for help if you need it. Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years. There are also smoke alarms for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Some even have strobe lights that flash when the smoke alarm sounds. Some have a loud, mixed, low-pitch sound that seems to work. Also, for sound sleepers, a vibrating pad or pillow shaker may be helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm. Interconnect alarms so that if one sounds, they all sound and gives you more time to escape.

****Prepare an escape plan and included everyone in the planning.

****Keep a phone by the bed in case you need to call for help.

****If you have a service animal, make a plan that includes the animal. .

If you think you need more help with your escape plan, talk to someone from the fire department and they can assist you with your plan!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers for the Gilmer County Animal Shelter will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit the shelter dogs on Saturday, April 1st from 12 noon until 5pm at Buckley Vineyards, 708 Henry Evans Road. There will be a lasagna cook off, entertainment and a silent auction. Please help support these beautiful forgotten animals and the dozens of volunteers that make their lives more palatable until they find their forever home!

Friends and fans of Jim Richter's music and the Kool Breeze Band Alert! April 1st in concert at the Blue Ridge Community Theatre in Blue Ridge, GA. Tickets are available at the following link:

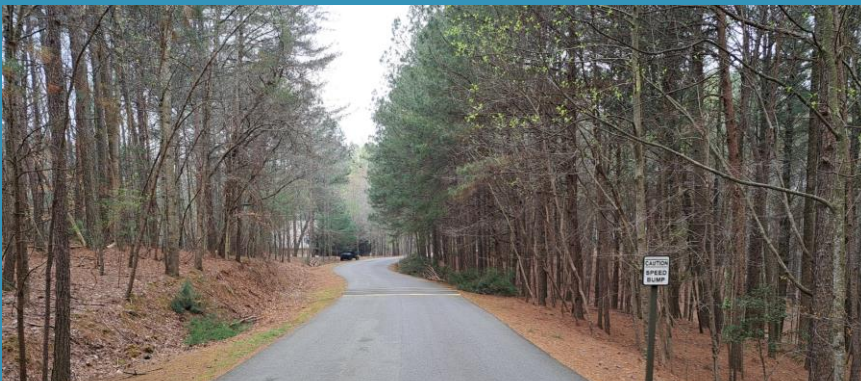
<https://www.etix.com/ticket/online/upcomingEventSearch.do...>

Two River's Edge residents, John Rathbone and Markham White are part of this group along with Nolan Walker, Michael Cornett, Bill Craig and of course, Jim Richter. Jazz rock, jazz funk, R&B, swing and smooth with a little southern rock. Come and join us!



The flowers are starting to bloom and the pollen has invaded once again which means it's time to tidy up our yards and the neighborhood. The spring chipping event will begin April 10th. In the meantime, we can get ready for it. If you have a common area near your home, it might be fun for a group of your neighbors to take a morning/afternoon and have fun cleaning up your area and then have a pot-luck lunch for your group and marvel at your accomplishment! Just be careful. If it is warm enough for us, then it's warm enough for the snakes. When preparing your chipping pile, please put the branches in one direction to make it easier for the crew to chip. And a reminder, if the branches are over 5" in diameter, they cannot go through the chipper and will be left on your property for your disposal.

The right-of-way along our streets has suffered from poor preventative maintenance for the last 15-20 years. Trees have started to encroach into this area and their root systems are causing damage to our streets and potentially to the water lines that provide water to our homes. As you drive around our community in the next couple of weeks, you will see a little extra work is being done by some of our community members to help with what will become a problem for the roads. As the trees along our roads grow, so do the roots. Some of these roots could grow under our roads causing buckles in the pavement. Our volunteers are trying to be ahead of a future situation by cutting all of the small trees between the edge of the pavement and our property lines. This effort will not only help prevent future root growth but also improve our vision line along some of our roads. The project for this spring will only last a couple of weeks so as the debris may be chipped the week of April 10th. The plan is to resume in the fall corresponding with the fall chipping. This effort is being done by volunteers and is not costing the community, but if we wait until the trees are larger, the project will be too overwhelming for volunteers and will at that point cost the community to have them removed.





CARPENTER BEES A SPRINGTIME NUISANCE

(taken from the "Mountain Home Magazine")

Carpenter bees. The name may suggest a useful-type insect, but as you are aware, their carpentry skills are anything but helpful. These irritating insects visit every spring to violate the structural integrity of our decks, fences, door frames and any other wooden construction. They get their name from the perfectly round ½ inch diameter holes they drill into the wood.

Both males and females are unsociable and therefore do not live in hives, The destruction of our homes is not their intent but rather the mothers are preparing a nest to lay their young and the males are trying to protect them. A female will create six to eight chambers for her eggs. And there the young stay until they emerge in late summer. Carpenter bees are great pollinators, and it is best not to kill them if at all possible. And one good thing is that unlike the females, males are unable to sting.

Insect eating birds, such as woodpeckers are attracted to the larvae and will expand the damage as they search for a snack. Carpenter bees prefer soft wood such as pine that has not been varnished or painted. However, staining the wood will not deter the bees, but any paint or finish that contains oil or polyurethane will help. There is a lot of debate about the best way to control carpenter bees, from insecticides, repellents, and home remedies, but the best method is to take preventative measures before you have all of the young flying around.

The best time to repair the unsightly damage made by the carpenter bees would be in the spring while the nest is empty so you do not sabotage the hibernator's escape but before new excavation has begun. If you choose not to wait until the nest is empty, you can fill the holes with wood putty or caulk, but this alone will not prevent the bees from escaping.

Living in our wood based community, we all have to deal with these creatures. Whether you want to discourage the bees from returning to their nests, burrowing new passage, or emerging from the nest, here are a few methods you can try:

Steel wool: Bees cannot chew through steel wool so you can use it to plug all existing holes before covering it with putty.

Aluminum foil: Same as steel wool.

Natural sprays: Mix 1 tablespoon rubbing alcohol, 2 teaspoons of lavender oil, a few drops of tea tree oil, and 2 teaspoons of apple cider vinegar. Pour the mixture into a spray bottle and spray the area as a repellent. Or boil slices lemons in water for a few minutes and spray around the holes to keep bees from returning.

Suffocation: Soak cotton balls in isopropyl alcohol, then insert them as far as you can into the hole. This will suffocate the bees.

Diatomaceous earth: is a natural insecticide that can be used to fill the carpenter bee holes which will kill the bees by drying them out. Follow up with wood putty.

Insecticides: you can apply residential liquid or dust treatments to the holes by following the manufacturer's instructions.

Repellents: The University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences recommends applying insect repellents such as permethrin and cyfluthrin sprays to wooden surfaces. It should be applied in early spring before carpenter bees begin their excavation.

Traps: Traps are designed to trick the bees into thinking the faux nest is a good place to lay eggs. Once trapped, they look for a light source to escape. Once trapped inside, they will die and give off a pheromone which will attract more bees.

Remember to treat new structures as soon as possible to deter these enthusiastic engineers from moving in!!

FUN THINGS TO DO NEAR US

****Mountain Valley Farm Store.** A little farm store at 2021 Homer Wright Rd, Ellijay that is renowned for its quality locally sourced meats, cheeses, sauces, butter, eggs and ice cream. They have baby goats, chickens, bunnies, sheep and cows on-site for a mini petting zoo.

****Blue Ridge Community Theater, April 6-23.** Nana's Naughty Nickers, (sweet grandma is running an illegal boutique from her house selling naughty knickers to seniors) Thursday – Saturday night, 7:30 and Sunday at 2pm

****Rhododendron Festival, April 14-May 7, Friday, Saturday (10 – 5) and Sundays (12 -4) only at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, Ga** Concessions are cash only.

****Clint Black,** Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Saturday April 15, at 7 pm. Gates open at 6.

****Mile-Long Yard Sale, April 21 and 22, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA** Friday 10-4, Saturday 8-3

****Memory Lane Classic Car Show, April 28 & 29, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA** Friday 8am and closes Saturday at 4pm. Car show, music, food truck, craft show, and really cool cars.

****Georgia's Famous Trout Festival, Saturday April 29th** from 10am to 6pm in downtown Blue Ridge. The Atlanta Fly Fishing School returns with free fly fishing instruction, Tickets are \$8 at the gate.

****Pickin' in the Park,** every Thursday evening May 4 – September 28 1156 River Rd, McCaysville, GA

****Georgia Apple Blossom Festival, May 7 at 9am – 5pm, Gilmer County Chamber, East Ellijay, Arts & Crafts** .Admission is free.

****Discovery Day at Project Chimps, May 13 & May 14.** 2031 Lowery Rd, Morganton GA

****Georgia Mountain Classic Annual Car Show, May 13, 9am – 4pm Downtown Blue Ridge, GA**

****The Beach Boys!** May 19, 7pm at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA

****Garden Club of Ellijay Plant Sale, May 20 8:30 - 12:30, Ellijay Lions Club**

****Hiawassee Pro Rodeo, May 26-28,, starts at 6pm Friday night and closes Sunday night at 11pm.** Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA.

****Memorial Day Car Show, May 27, 8am to 2pm at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame, Dawsonville, GA**

****Arts in the Park, May 27 & 28 10am to 5pm, Downtown Blue Ridge**

****Dining with Fireflies- A Farm to Table Experience in Harrison Park.** This special evening includes a catered 4 course dinner served in the park, raffle, and silent auction. Proceeds benefit Friends of Harrison Park and their efforts to further develop the park. It takes place in Harrison Park on June 6th, however, you can purchase tickets starting April 15 on line at: hpmemberships.afrogs.org