

## RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES ASSOCIATION

# RIVERMIST

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 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

Webmaster:

Penni McDaniel

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Ratner, President

Tom Ostby, Vice President

And Water Manager

Jim Carr, Treasurer

Dave Schmitt, Member At Large

Byron Trotter, 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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



It has come to the Board's attention that people in our community think we have a River's Edge Facebook page. We do not, nor have we been approached by anyone to ask if we should have one. So, whatever is out there, is totally the opinions of whomever posted on the site and is not sanctioned by the Association!

### KEEPING UP WITH THE BOARD

The Board has a new member. Byron Trotter has accepted the position of Member at Large. Byron and Regina purchased their home in River's Edge in 2016 and moved here permanently late in 2019. Byron brings 11 years' experience as President of their HOA in Pasadena, CA. During Byron's HOA experience, they were able to improve the property, grow their reserves from a negative amount to \$80,000.00 with cost cutting measures by taking over jobs and duties that were previously paid to outside contractors.

Byron's work background started in Chicago. While attending the University of Illinois, Chicago at night majoring in computer science, Byron worked during the day in the commodity's future markets for the Pillsbury Company at the Chicago Board of Trade.

During his years at the Chicago Board of Trade, Byron became a floor Broker, a much sought after accomplishment by all at the Trade Center. Following his accomplishments in Chicago, Byron moved to Davenport, Iowa and Milwaukee Wisconsin as a grain merchandiser for Pillsbury. Then in 1988, Byron moved back to Chicago and worked for Agri-Analysis developing computer (continued on page 2)

## Continued from page 1–Keeping Up With the Board

computer programs to track shifts in rail, barge and truck freight to assist grain elevators provide the most competitive ways to help farmers get their grain from farm to market. In 1997, Byron and Regina moved to Pasadena and Byron worked at UCLA designing encrypted data networks. In 2014, he became the Director of Information Technology for UCLA Health Policy Research until his retirement in 2019 and they moved to River's Edge!

Byron will continue to be our Firewise Coordinator and is also a part of the RELO (River's Edge Lake Owners Association) group. We are excited that Byron is a part of our Board!

**SUMMER REMINDERS FROM THE BOARD****YARDS AND DEBRIS!****This is a 3-prong problem:**

We have had several complaints about some of the yards in our community. Some yards have been neglected and need to be mowed and cleaned up. While some of these yards may belong to people who do not live here permanently, others may just need help to get this cleanup accomplished. If you are in either of these categories and need help, please let Linda know. We may be able to find older teens who need extra money and can help us out.

We need to remind everyone to keep all of the ditches and roadsides clear of dead branches, tree trunks and debris so that our lawn crew can groom the sides of the road without damaging their equipment.

\*\*\* While the Board is excited to see the enthusiasm for yard and common area cleanup, it also would like to remind you that there are usually two times a year that we pay to have the tree debris cleaned up, spring and fall. Our next proposed chipping event won't happen until the late fall at the earliest. Currently, we have several piles of tree debris sitting around the neighborhood which can become homes for snakes, foxes, rats, rodents, and other unwanted animals, not to mention they can be unsightly. Please do not pile debris on ANY roadsides or common areas until we confirm the chipping date and let you know when it will be scheduled.

Related Information! The Board of Directors has contracted to have the tree branches that hang over our roads cut. This is scheduled to be done in September.

We want to thank everyone who has submitted their plans for their summer projects. We have noticed an increase in following the procedure and it is appreciated. Just a reminder again of the procedure:

\*\*\*If you are planning to work on a **PROJECT**, you need to pick up the required paperwork from the HOA office, fill it out and return it to the office **BEFORE** starting your project. Projects include, but not limited to, structure painting, structure additions including decks/porches, tree removal, and landscaping projects. Please allow up to 2 weeks for your approval. Most project approvals will not take that long, however, some projects may need research, go in front of the whole board, or our board members may be out of town. We would hate to slow up the start of your project because you did not take into consideration the approval time. If you have questions concerning projects and their requirements, please contact Dave Schmitt.

\*\*\***SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION.** Since our weather has become hot and sticky, our gardens are on the verge of drooping and our cars are dusty and want a bath! Just a reminder that we are on shared wells and that our wells cannot sustain a continued water depletion. Please limit the water usage and keep in mind that heavy water usage could disrupt the quantity or quality of your neighbor's water and the risk of running out of water on your well completely. Also, please remember that if you are pressure washing your home, driveway or filling a hot tub, you are required to have a water truck bring in the water to do so.

The New and Improved Website is up and running, however, it is still under construction. Penni has done all the hard work as to finding a reasonably priced website, setting it up and making it easy to access. (To access the website, simply type in "Rivers Edge Homeowners Association.") Now we have to help her get everything on there that we want including our bylaws, covenants, current information, and any information that we want accessible to only our community members. We are working on all these things. Any suggestions are welcomed!



Painted by Rivers Edge Artist, Lucinda Teagarden. Lucinda waited on the bridge at midnight for the exact moment to capture the full moon over the Cartecay.

Please beware that the fawns are out and about. We have had reports that the does are more aggressive and have attacked some dogs in the neighborhood.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE PONDS ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND YOU NEED PERMISSION TO GO TO THE PONDS AND SURROUNDING PRIVATE PROPERTY.

## FOURTH OF JULY FUN!!



This motley crew from River's Edge decorated their side by sides in the July 4<sup>th</sup> spirit and drove them to Buckley's Vineyard for a great evening of fireworks that rivaled downtown Ellijay! They hope more of us go next year!!



Mickey Meagher  
From River's Edge  
riding with fellow  
sailors in the 4<sup>th</sup> of  
July Parade, Ellijay

**While it may seem like a long way off, before we know it, it will be time for the cozy fall fires in our fireplaces. This is a good time to stop, plan ahead and make an appointment with a chimney sweep before they are too busy or you just forget to do it!**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The River's Edge Annual Association Meeting Will be held November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Victory Christian Center, 208 Victory Circle, Ellijay. Starting at 9:30 am with a BBQ lunch afterwards.

**ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER AT ANNUAL MEETING**  
This year there is one Board Member up for re-election, David Ratner. There will be additional details on David's qualifications closer to the election. However, if you desire to run for a position on the Board, please contact Linda Black at 706-273-3100 or email [riversedge@ellijay.com](mailto:riversedge@ellijay.com)

\*\*\*\*\*SHORT-TERM RENTALS PROHIBITED! No short-term rentals are allowed in the River's Edge Community. Minimum rentals are six (6) months or more. Anyone engaged in short term rentals will be fined up to \$500 per day



## LIGHTNING STRIKES

Lightning is a random act of nature that can strike at any time of the year, most often during summer months. For some reason it seems like our community gets struck by lightning more than our fair share. Most of us probably know that several homes were hit one Sunday night in June with one resulting in having to find a temporary home so their home can be repaired. Last year, almost to the day from this strike, our homes on Misty Oaks Court were hit. Most of the five homes on our street lost their generators, garage mechanics, etc, however, for some reason, our home's electrical box on the outside of the house was

blown off, we lost our generator, all of our security systems, everything mechanical in the garage, everything in the house that was plugged in, regardless of the surge protectors, outside grill (because it was plugged in) our HVAC units, our hot water heaters, etc. It went through the whole house, taking out stuff in every room. And the strangest thing to me was the upstairs bedroom where the hit took out one of three light switches and across the room from the light switch, it took the plaster off the wall! It took months to fix everything and left us wondering why our house? And before either of these episodes, a house on Lazy River Lane had been hit multiple times.

Identifying the reason lightning is striking in specific places and how it's picking its targets has been an occurrence most scientists have found hard to explain. As for that myth that lightning never strikes twice, researchers say it's actually just a metaphor to illustrate how rare it is for something spectacular to happen to a person more than once. Not only can multiple strikes happen in the same lightning flash, researchers found lightning from different storms can strike the same location separated by days, months or years. Many researchers say height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Natural objects that are tall and isolated, but are made of little to no metal, like trees and mountains get struck by lightning many times a year. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay away from metal fences, railing, bleachers, and metal roofs.

During a thunderstorm, a house or similar structure provides the best protection providing the structure contains a mechanism for conducting the electrical current from the contact to the ground. These mechanisms can be on the outside of the structure, contained within the walls of the structure or a combination of the two. On the outside homes may be inadvertently grounded by plumbing, gutters, or other materials as lightning can travel on the outer shell of the building or follow the metal gutters and downspouts to the ground. Inside the structure, lightning can follow conductors such as electrical wiring, plumbing, and telephone lines to the ground.

Lightning enters a home in 3 different ways; a direct strike, through wire or pipes that extend outside the structure and into the ground, and through metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring. A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. Phone use is the number one cause of indoor lightning injuries. Along with phones, you should avoid electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Washers and dryers not only have contact with the plumbing, but also the electrical systems. Do not do laundry, wash your hands, do dishes or take a shower. Windows are hazardous for two reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, in rare instances, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

### Types of Lightning Strikes

There are several different types of lightning strikes:

- \*\*Cloud to ground – Negatively charged particles are drawn toward the positive particles on the ground.
- \*\*Ground to cloud – The same as cloud-to-ground lightning, except the strike is initiated by a usually a tall, earth-bound object rather than the cloud.
- \*\*Cloud to cloud – Similar mechanics to ground-to-cloud lightning, except the strike travels from one cloud to another.

### Types of Lightning

There are several different types of lightning:

- \*\*Sheet lightning – This is normal lightning that is reflected in the clouds.
- \*\*Heat lightning – This is normal lightning near the horizon that is reflected by high clouds.
- \*\*Ball lightning – A phenomenon where lightning forms a slow, moving ball that can burn objects in its path before exploding or burning out.
- \*\*Red sprite – A red burst of electricity that occurs about 50 miles (80 kilometers) above storm clouds. Shaped like carrot tops, crowns or even jellyfish, they're bright enough to see in daylight.
- \*\*Blue jet – Occuring early in a thunderstorm, blue jets are bright, blue sprays of electricity that originate in the center of a storm cloud about 25 miles (40 kilometers) above the ground. Sometimes blue jets are observed closer to the ground, and the sprays are shorter. These are called blue starters.
- \*\*Elves – Discovered in the early 1990s, elves are huge – 185-mile-wide (300-kilometer-wide) – halos of ring-shaped lightning, created in the upper, positively charged portion of the cloud.

## FEEDING OUR DEER

I'm going to talk about a subject that may be touchy to some of our community members. There are a lot of people who like to feed the deer in their back yard because they enjoy watching them-kind of like a bird feeder-and we think that we're helping our deer community. When we moved to River's Edge in 2020, I was one of these people. Since then, I have learned nothing could be further from the truth. There are significant disadvantages to feeding the deer on or near your property.



### 1) You may interfere with a deer's diet by feeding the deer the wrong things:

\*\*\* Deer are not able to process human scrap food like livestock. They have very sensitive stomachs and won't be able to digest human food efficiently, resulting in the same symptoms we have when eating food that doesn't agree with us, vomiting or diarrhea.

\*\*\* Never give corn to a deer. It is extremely harmful to the animal. Feeding deer cracked corn or another commercial feed is basically feeding them junk food. Sometimes eating this unnatural food will even kill the animal since their digestive systems do not process it effectively. So you think you're helping them, when you might actually be causing them pain or killing them.

\*\*\* Never give deer meat of any kind. Their teeth are not strong enough to chew it and they could end up choking.

\*\*\*Do not give grass or hay to deer. While you may see fawns munch on grass during their first few months of life, adult deer aren't able to digest hay or grass, thus causing their stomachs to get stuffed up and they will die from starvation.

\*\*\*Do not feed deer animal mixes that are designed for other animals. Horse feeds are too starchy for deer. Dairy feeds are formulated to maximize milk production which contains very different nutrient requirements. And sheep mix is lower in protein than what deer need.

2) Feeding deer invites unwanted guests. While you think you are only feeding the deer, you very well could be providing easy pickings for the local predators. It's a bob cat's dream to find a location where a number of deer show up at the same time, in the same location, day after day. And since they prefer to make their home with a solid food source, don't think if they don't grab a deer they will move to a new location. Especially in a community like ours, there are plenty of cats and dogs to snag for dinner. By feeding the deer, you are potentially setting up a very dangerous situation for everyone in the neighborhood.

3) Diseases are a big problem with deer in proximity to each other when they typically would be dispersed. From mange to viral cutaneous fibromas (which are big, ugly growths on the deer), or even the dreaded chronic wasting disease, when deer are close to one another, they are more likely to spread diseases.

4) Deer are tamer as a result of eating at feed sites, reducing the deer's dependence on their natural environment and more dependence on humans. Deer may lose their fear of humans and ultimately cars causing more car related deaths.

For the long-term health of deer, the best strategy is to keep deer dependent on their natural food. After all of this information, if you find it necessary to feed the deer, please research what is good for deer and beware that it varies for each season. A high quality feed or pellets designed specifically for deer that includes important nutrients, is encouraged. Anything less will give you malnourished and sick deer.

What do deer love to eat on the land? Young trees, shrubs (both a great source of nutrients for the deer), acorns, chestnuts (both great sources of protein), grains, mainly oats (carbohydrates and fiber), vegetables (easy to digest and lots of nutrients) and your plants!

### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

*Why are the Blue Ridge Mountains Blue? The distinctive color that gives the Blue Ridge Mountains their name largely comes from the forests the line its ridges (which reach elevations up to 6,684 feet). Many shrubs and trees, including oaks, poplars, and eucalyptus, emit an organic compound called isoprene. When this hydrocarbon is released into the atmosphere, it creates a distinctive lingering haze that looks blue from a distance!*

FUN THINGS  
TO DO  
NEAR US!



\*\*\*\*MOVIES AT THE SWAN DRIVE-IN. Remember when you were in high school and went to the drive-in movie under the summer starts! One of four drive-in theaters in Georgia still in operation is right under our noses. The Swan Drive-in in Blue Ridge is open year around with first run movies.

\*\*\*\*Color My Nest, birdhouse painting playshops. Playshops are 2 hours in length. You select your birdhouse, colors, materials and then create your own birdhouse. Online registration is required. Sessions start at 11am and 2pm. Colormynest.com 678-333-5582, 14244 GA 515 #900, Ellijay.

\*\*\*\*Union County Farmer's Market, Saturdays from 8am - 1pm. 290 Market Ways, Blairsville. On the first Saturday of every month, there is a large car show at the same venue.

\*\*\*\*Food Truck Tuesdays in Ellijay. The first Tuesday of every month, from 5-8 pm, River Park, 1561 S. Main Street, Ellijay, GA 30540

\*\*\*\*Fridays at the Farm, J&C Rescue, every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, live music, food and food trucks, Nate the Magician, face painting, farm animal tours and the farm store. Highway 2 in Blue Ridge.

\*\*\*\*Classic Class Corvette Reufest Car Show at Atlanta Motorsports Park, 20 Duck Thurmond Rd, Dawsonville, GA August 5 at 9am to 2pm.

\*\*\*\* Carey Durham Jazz Funk Band, August 12 at 7pm - 9pm, Back by popular demand, Carey is an accomplished violinist with over 25 years if performance experience spanning all ranges of musical genres, an experienced audio engineer with thousands of hours of studio experience on multiply fully produced projects. Phone 706-635-5605, George Link, Jr, Gilmer Arts Playhouse, \$29.00.

\*\*\*\*Acoustic Blends, August 18 & September 15 at 6:30pm - 9pm Open Mic Night for area and regional musicians in Gilmer County, held most of the time at the George Link Jr, Gilmer Arts Playhouse. Once in a while, they also have Acoustic Blends Outdoors at the ETC Pavilion or Harrison Park. Admission is free. Artists play 3 songs each and at the end of the program, the artists have a jam session. Concessions are available.

\*\*\*\*Cars and Coffee in Ellijay, August 26 at 9am-11am (last Saturday of each month). Cars & Coffee meet at the Smokehouse Country Grill parking lot. Free coffee provided by Smokehouse Country Grill and great breakfasts are also available. Bring your cars, trucks, bikes or whatever with wheels and enjoy the great coffee and conversation.

\*\*\*\*Brotherly Love Tour with John Michael Montgomery and Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry, happening on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-10pm, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Touring Together for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever!

\*\*\*\*Ellijay Stampede Pro Rodeo Labor Day Weekend, September 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday and Sunday nights. \$25-\$75, Gilmer Saddle Club at 1727 South Main St, Ellijay. Gates open at 5:30 pm and Rodeo action begins at 7:30pm each night. Arrive early for good food and mingle with the vendors.

\*\*\*\*Kool Breeze Band featuring Jim Richter (and our own River's Edge John Rathbone and Markham White), September 2 at 7pm -9pm at the George Link, Jr. playhouse, celebrating the playhouses'6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with smooth jazz. Labor Day Weekend, \$19.00.

\*\*\*\*12<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Blues and BBQ Festival, September 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am to 9pm, downtown Blue Ridge. The sounds of Blues music and the sweet smell of BBQ from local and regional cooks will fill the air.

\*\*\*\*Mainstreet-A Bob Seger Tribute. Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7pm, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds.