

RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES ASSOCIATION

RIVERMIST

JUNE-JULY 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

DESIGN COMMITTEE

Dave Schmitt, Chairman

Esther Lax

Jim Carr

Firewise Coordinator

Byron Trotter

Newsletter Editor

Judy 'Carr

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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

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

The Board has voted to appoint Jim Carr as Treasurer. Jim brings 4 1/2 years' experience as Tax Agent/Auditor with the Georgia Department of Revenue, 15+ years as a business owner, operator, manager and contractor, 25+ years as a U.S. Army Warrant Officer serving as facilities manager, contracting officer, purchasing agent and property book officer. Jim has also served as PTO President for 2 years helping to raise funds for school projects including supplies for less fortunate families. In addition, Jim was the Charter President for the Kiwanis Club of Gilmer County and then appointed Lieutenant Governor for 13 counties in Northern Georgia. He continues to serve as the club secretary/treasurer for the Gilmer County chapter.

As a lot of you know, Jim enjoys helping his family, friends and neighbors and is always ready to assist no matter what the project.

Continued from page 1 –Keeping Up With the Board

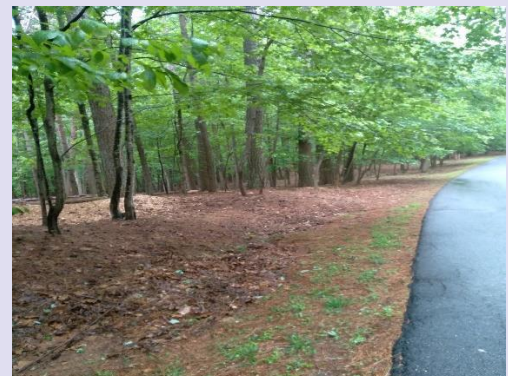
Keeping Up With Dave Schmitt! Those of you who read the April-May edition of the newsletter, learned that DAVE SCHMITT came on board the board~ Dave and Jim worked on the Spring chipping event and it will be Dave's baby in the fall! We all want to thank the members of our community who worked really hard this spring to clean up their areas. All around the community, you could see huge piles of tree debris piled up and ready for the chipper. On several roads, a few of the community members began clearing small trees from the sides of the roads to help with the root erosion into our roads. More of that work will be done before the fall chipping and if you would like to help, please call Dave to coordinate the effort.

While we are on the spring cleanup theme, (without meaning to hurt anyone's feelings for leaving them out) I would like to give a big shout out to a several of our community members who I know worked really hard on the spring cleanup.

The first being Jim Cates. As he does every year, he takes it upon himself to clean out the common space in front of his home. If you have ever been on Mountain Springs Circle, you know that it is a big area! This year, Phil Teagarden helped him. Thank you, guys, for all of your hard work.



The second is Penni & Brian McDaniel! Anyone who has gone out the Lazy River gate in the last six weeks, has seen how hard the two of them worked and it looks beautiful thanks to their efforts.



You may not go out the Estates Drive gate, but if you did, you would have seen a 4-5 foot high and about 25 foot long wall of debris that Lisa and Ralph Nelson built from cleaning up their property. (Sorry, I don't have pictures but would like to acknowledge the hard work)

AGAIN, we'd like to thank all of our hard-working community members for caring about how we look and knowing that the cleanup could help prevent a major fire in our community.

Continued from page 2—Keeping Up With the Board

Penni McDaniel has graciously taken on the task of the website makeover. Penni's challenges include finding a reasonably priced website replacement, reconstructing the site to house the information our users need while making it easy and safe to access, and keeping the website updated. Linda Black and her years of knowledge working with our community and their needs will be assisting Penni. You can access the new site, even while it is under construction at Rivers Edge of Ellijay and we welcome your suggestions and pictures. We will keep you informed as to its progress and completion.

SUMMER REMINDERS FROM THE BOARD

*****MEMORIAL DAY** is almost in our rear view mirror and that means that once again our office gate off from Mulkey Road will be inundated with river tourists!! Blackberry Mountain and River's Edge jointly hire a security guard to help with the confusion and help make it safer for all. His duties include keeping the river tourists off our communities' property and if he suspects a car is not supposed to be inside the gate, he may stop and question them.

Please beware that there could be crazy drivers as you pull out onto Mulkey Road and better to be slow and safe than to be hurt or hurt someone else!!

*****The BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY** has asked us to remember that golf carts motorcycles, 4-wheelers, and the like are not allowed on their community roads.

*****SPEED LIMIT, SPEED LIMIT, SPEED LIMIT.** Please observe our speed limits and tell your guests and service vehicles to do the same! While mentioning service vehicles, please remind them to enter via the Lazy River gate.

*****OUTDOOR** burning ban remains in effect for River's Edge, but also starting May 1 and continuing until September there is also a state-wide ban.

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

*****SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION.** Since we are having beautiful weather and everyone wants to be outside working in the gardens or washing their cars, 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.

*****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.





Some of you may have seen this on the Nextdoor site. For those who did not, here is a great reminder not to leave your boots and shoes outside. If you do, please check them before you put your feet inside of them!!

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

If you have a house for sale in our community or are about to put it on the market, please contact Linda at the office so we can put it on our new website and also post it at the office. We have several of our community members who are looking for a house in River's Edge either for friends, relatives, or themselves.

CHEROKEE BIRTH BLESSING, "MAY YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHY YOU WERE BORN,:"

FIREWISE

by Byron Trotter

Summer Fire Prevention Tips

Most home fires occur during the late fall and winter months, however, there are summer activities that are linked to outdoor property fires and to a slightly lesser degree home fires. Being careful during those summer activities will go a long way towards helping to keep your property, home and community safe. Some of those safety tips will be mentioned below.

*Summertime Grilling

- Whether you're using a gas or charcoal grill, if you are grilling on your deck, make sure the grill is several feet away from both your house and deck railing and that you have a fireproof pad underneath the grill.
- Make sure that the fire is always supervised by an adult from start to finish; keep small children and pets away from the grill at all times. It is possible that they will bump against the grill, get burned, and aside from being injured, in a panic they can knock over a charcoal grill potential causing a deck fire or causing the hot coals to ignite dry yard debris that may be under or around the deck.
- Make sure to keep a fire extinguisher (preferably a type ABC) handy when grilling. You should always have one in your kitchen, and every floor of your house if possible. The image below describes the different types of fire and fire extinguisher effectiveness.
- When turning off a gas grill always close the valve on the propane tank or gas line prior to turning off the front facing knobs. This cuts off the fuel at the source and ensures there will be no fuel that can leak back into the main grill.

*Using Wood Burning Fire Pits

- If you are using (or planning to build) an inground, brick fire pit placed somewhere on your property, make sure it's at least 20 feet away from your home or anything that is flammable. The fire pit has to have a wire mesh spark screen that will prevent embers from floating

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| A | Ordinary Combustibles | Wood, Paper, Cloth, Etc. |
| B | Flammable Liquids | Grease, Oil, Paint, Solvents |
| C | Live Electrical Equipment | Electrical Panel, Motor, Wiring, Etc. |
| D | Combustible Metal | Magnesium, Aluminum, Etc. |
| K | Commercial Cooking Equipment | Cooking Oils, Animal Fats, Vegetable Oils |

in the air and igniting trees or your home or the homes of your neighbors.

- Avoid using portable wood burning fire pits on your decks—particularly decks that have a roof or some other type of overhead structure. The heat generated by fire pits is fairly intense and could cause a fire on your deck or damage your home. There are fire pit mats that can be placed underneath the fire pit that can withstand the heat but the pit should also be 20 feet away from your home and most wrap-around decks don't meet that criteria.
- Always have a way to quickly extinguish your fire in case of an emergency such as: a portable pit is knocked over or a sudden gust of wind causes excess embers that are making their way through your spark screen. A water hose or bucket of water or sand should be sufficient.
- Avoid using any type of fire pit on days when the relative humidity is 25% or less and/or sustained winds are predicted to be 8 MPH or greater. That's a California standard and you see how many fires occur there. Gilmer County Emergency Management issued a Red Flag warning in early May when humidity was between 22-25% and winds were 15- 20 MPH.
- Refrain from using an accelerant to light your fire pit.
- Make sure that any active fire pit is always attended by a responsible adult; keep small children away from a burning fire pit.
- Always extinguish the burning embers once you've finished using the fire pit.

The River's Edge Community would like to thank Meg Earle and Catherine Webster who donated their time and energy to design and buy new plants for the Lazy River Lane entrance. In the last couple of days, Meg & Catherine enlisted the help of Dave Schmitt & Jim Carr to plant the scrubs and mulch the area. Last year's freeze destroyed many of the efforts from 2022 & we were looking a little unloved! It is wonderful when our community members step up to keep us looking beautiful!

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

The Spring chipping season is over. Please do not continue to pile debris in the community or you could be asked to remove it at your own expense. We will let you know when it's time to get ready for the Fall chipping. Thanks for your cooperation!

BABY FAWNS

by Kathleen Renzi

We are at the time of year where we start to see the little baby fawns. Deer deliver their newborns in the strangest of places! Residents will see them and be concerned about a newborn deer on their lawn, in their garden, under the azaleas (who has azaleas when we have deer in our yards-but you get the idea), etc. Most people call an agency because they think the fawn is in peril and Mom is nowhere to be found. Well, Mom is actually off feeding and helping to keep predators away. Those who call ask what they should do for the fawn...Leave it alone, do not touch, move, or attempt to feed it. Here's the scoop. Deer are NOT like horses. They do not have their walking legs under them immediately and need time to rest after birth. Horses get up and go, that's the sign of a healthy horse. A healthy fawn will curl up, nap most of the day and move their heads. They have no scent and predators cannot find them unless humans interfere. Mom leaves during the day for two primary reasons: to feed and to keep her scent a distance from the fawn. Mom will come back (unless something tragic happens to her), but don't expect her until dusk and certainly don't expect her if humans are hovering around. If you are fortunate enough to have the gift of a fawn, please, enjoy the experience, respect Mother Nature and let the Mom do what comes naturally. She will move the fawn daily so you may see it in different locations!

**LIVING WITH BLACK BEARS**

The black bear is a long-time resident of our area and as the human population and their housing requirements grow, so does the need for people and the bears to coexist safely. Bears are most active from mid-March through November and so it makes sense that in the last 6 weeks, our bear sightings have increased. Most of those sightings have been at night via our animal cams, however, you can encounter them at any time of the day or night. Their constant search for food sources is what draws them to your home. Coming to a beautifully wooded area with fresh water sources and people already feeding the birds and the deer is like us going to an upscale food court!

Black bears live to eat, consuming up to 25,000 calories a day! They have a keen sense of smell and are driven to investigate. Bears learn quickly and will repeat behaviors that reward them with food. Thus, if they found a food source at your house last year, they'll check it out again this year. Bears in pursuit of an easy meal can damage property or in rare cases, injure people, although neither is the bear's first choice. They would rather come and go at their own convenience, eat and leave. However, if you see a bear, give him space and remain calm. Most often the bear is just passing through and if he does not find a food source, he will go on his merry way.

Paying attention to common household activities will reduce encounters and contribute to a Bear Smart community.

NEVER FEED OR APPROACH BEARS: Feeding bears intentionally or unintentionally trains them to approach homes and people for more food. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close.

SECURE FOOD, GARBAGE, and RECYCLING: Food and food orders attract bears, so don't reward them with an easy meal.

REMOVE BIRD FEEDERS WHEN BEARS ARE ACTIVE: Bird seed and other grains have high calorie content making them very attractive to bears.

NEVER LEAVE PET FOOD OUTSIDE: yum!!

CLEAN AND STORE GRILLS: After you use an outdoor grill or smoker, clean it thoroughly and store securely from the bears and other wild animals.

ALERT YOUR NEIGHBORS: Bears have adapted to living with people—have you adapted to living with them?



*****SPRING ARTS IN THE PARK-Memorial Day Weekend, Downtown Blue Ridge, Saturday & Sunday May 27 & 28, 10:00 am -5 pm, Admission \$5**

*****Ellijay Farmer's and Artisans Market, next to the Gilmer County Courthouse, Every Saturday from now until September 30, 8:00 am -12:30 pm**

*****BRASSTOWN BALD LOOP SCENIC DRIVE:** Drive time is at least 3.5 hours. Starting at Dahlonega Square, head East on Main street for 2 blocks. Turn left onto North Grove Street and continue for 2 miles. Turn left onto Camp Wahsega Road and continue for ¾ mile. Turn right onto Black Mountain and continue for 6 miles. Continue straight onto Yahoola Road for 4 miles. Turn left onto Hwy 19N and continue for 7 miles, staying right at Stone Pile Gap to continue on Hwy 19N. At Turner's Corner, turning left onto Hwy 129N and continue for 13 miles. Turn right onto SR 180E and continue for 12.5 miles. Turn right onto Hwy 75/17 and continue for 10.5 miles. Turn right onto GA 75-Alt and continue for 2 miles. Turn right onto GA 348/Richard B. Russell Scenic Hwy and continue for 14 miles. Turn left onto SR 180E and continue for 1 mile. Turn left onto Hwy 129S and continue for 2 miles. Turn right onto SR 180W/Wolfpen Gap Road and continue for 11 miles. At Suches General Store, turn left onto Hwy 60S and continue for 7 miles. Turn right at R-Ranch onto Stone Pile Gap Road and continue for 2 miles. Turn right onto Yahoola Road and continue for 2 miles. Continue straight onto Black Mountain Road for 6 miles. Turn left onto Camp Wahsega Road and continue for ¾ mile. Turn right onto GA 60S and continue for 2 miles. Turn right onto East Main Street and you have made it back to the Dahlonega Square!!!!

*****Sunday Brunch at Black Sheep. May 28 - June 25. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm every Sunday. 480 W Main Street, Blue Ridge, music by Treavor Ciongoli from 12-3. Special menu items like Red Velvet Waffles and Fried Chicken and so much more!**

*****TRAVIS TRITT Live, June 10, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-4191**

***** BLAIRSVILLE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES, June 10 & 11, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Highland music, dancing, and food with a Scottish flair. \$20 per person, cash only (no ATMs in Meeks Park)**

*****Chestatee Wildlife Preserve & Zoo: Dahlonega, a beautiful nature preserve that brings you closer to nature. You'll see African lions, emus, Siberian tigers, zebras, grizzly bears, tortoises, cockatoos, alligators, breaded dragons, pythons, and more.**

*****MADE IN GEORGIA FESTIVAL 2023: June 24 & 25. Saturday 10-5 & Sunday 11-4, Young Harris. Over 75 vendors with a wide variety of products: pottery, paintings, olive oil, pecans, chocolate, dog products, wreaths, log furniture, teddy bears, mushrooms, plants, jewelry, sugared peppers, cheese straws, woodwork, soap, array of food products and home décor.**

*****SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AT CHATEAU MEICHTRY, Talking Rock. All Summer Concert Series are from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Opening act plays from 6:30 to 7:45, Main stage plays from 8pm to 9:30 pm. Outside food is allowed but there will be No outside alcohol. Buy your tickets on their website.**

June 30 :Back by popular demand! A1A, The official & Original Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band
July 28: Back by popular demand! Trouble in Shangri-La, featuring Kristin Tinsley, A Stevie Nicks Tribute
August 18: National Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band, Skyn-Folks
September 8: National Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers Tribute, The Mad Hatters

*****Lake BLUE RIDGE FIREWORKS, Saturday closest to July 4th. Fabulous fireworks will be shot off near the Lake Blue Ridge Dam and can be viewed from there as well as the Morganton Point Rec Area, Tammen Park, and Lake Blue Ridge Marina. The marina will have live music and barbeque throughout the day.**