

# RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES ASSOCIATION



FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024

## RIVER'S EDGE COMMUNITY NOTICES

### BOARD MEETINGS

February 21, 2024*	July 17, 2024*
March 20, 2024*	August 21, 2024*
April 17, 2024*	September 18, 2024*
May 15, 2024*	October 16, 2024*
June 19, 2024*	November 20, 2024*
November 2, 2024-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.



### KEEPING UP WITH THE BOARD

**You will remember, as part of the preparation for the annual HOA meeting in early November, voting information to purchase additional package boxes to have installed at the Lazy River Lane entrance was sent out and approved. As discussed at the annual meeting, Phil Teagarden and Jim Carr were working on repairing the existing unusable boxes and had at that time, fixed 4 of them. Following the meeting, an additional 3 were restored back to usable condition. Even though this project was approved and the additional assessment bills for purchase of these boxes were sent out to our land and homeowners, the Board is reconsidering this expenditure.**

#### 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, Secretary  
Byron Trotter, 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.

After the restoration of 7 boxes, we went through the Christmas season with very little return to the post office and most days we have restored boxes that are not even being used. The return of packages that we did see was due to the size of the items trying to be delivered and that would not be eliminated with the purchase of additional boxes. The Board is trying to be considerate with your money and yet attentive to your concerns. Please let us know your thoughts by e-mailing the office (riversedge@ellijay.com). We will take a look at your responses and go from there.

## REMINDERS FROM THE BOARD

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!

**\*\*\*As springs starts to sprout around us and there is an increase in tourists, please remember that SHORT TERM RENTALS are prohibited in River's Edge Estates. Minimum rentals of 6 (six) months or more are allowed. Anyone engaged in short term rentals will be fined up to \$500 per day.**

**\*\*\*New construction, addition/changes to existing home/garage, landscaping, changing the outside home color, etc must be approved by the Architectural Committee. If you have any questions as to whether you need approval, please contact the Architectural Committee consisting of Dave Schmitt, Jim Carr and Esther Lax and they will be glad to help you. For the approval forms that need to be filled out for your projects, please contact Linda at the HOA Office.**

**\*\*\*Road Impact Fees: Just a reminder when evaluating your spring projects, as of January 1, 2022, the road impact fee was updated to include large renovations along with new constructions. This includes the addition to a home or garage and could include large yard work if heavy trucks and equipment come in to do the work as the large equipment will degrade our roads.**

**\*\*\*Please remember that when walking our dogs around the neighborhood, they need to be on a leash. This is not an "optional" suggestion as some may think, it is part of our covenants, as is cleaning up after our dogs, including in common areas. Cleaning up after our dogs is just being a considerate neighbor to those who also walk the neighborhood for exercise. If you have a dog walker, please inform them of these rules.**

**If you would like to look up this information, please refer to our "Declaration of Restrictions, Covenants and Conditions of the River's Edge Estates Home's Association, Inc., page 40, Exhibit "C", #5 (as recorded in the Gilmer County records, Book 2152, Page 165).**

## OUR ROADS AND ENTRANCES

Just a reminder concerning our roads and entrance gates. Linda is constantly trying to stop large delivery trucks from entering at the main gate. She will physically run them down to avoid the trucks from damaging our bridge. When you are having something delivered, please let the service know that they must enter through the Lazy River Gate. Likewise, our subdivision is not a throughfare from Highway 52 (and Mulkey Road) to Blackberry Mountain Road. AND most of us need to slow down on Lazy River Lane and Estates Drive.

### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

**In addition, if you would like to be an article contributor, please let me know! Thanks, Judy**

**IF YOU HAVE CHANGED OR WOULD LIKE TO ADD ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LINDA BLACK AT OUR HOA OFFICE (RIVERSEDGE@ELLIJAY.COM)**



Probably a lot of you know that we had an unfortunate incident in January during one of the storms. A dead tree fell upon one of our homes resulting in a gapping hole in the roof. Observant neighbors alerted Linda at the HOA Office and the homeowners were contacted immediately. As this was their second home, they were able to come to Ellijay that day, remove the tree, cover the hole and start contacting people to do the repairs. In retrospect, it would be prudent for all of us to inspect our properties and have any dead, diseased or injured trees removed. Should you have any questions, the Architectural Committee will be glad to answer your questions.

Even though we are tired of the cold and drizzle, winter is not quite over yet! Please continue to be diligent about protecting your outside spigots and pipes and you may want to let your faucets drip a little during an extended freeze. Make sure your heating system continues to be in good working condition and that you have adequate propane for your generator in case we lose power. If you are away from your home for several days or this home is your second home, make sure your thermostat is set to 50 degrees or above. During this last severe cold spell in January, authorities said to have your thermostat set at 70! Whatever temperature you choose, have your cupboards open where your water pipes are located to give them extra protection. And remember that if the electricity goes out, so does our water. You may want to have extra water ready for drinking water and toilets. Another reminder that our electricity is on the same grid as the county jail and therefore we are one of the first in the county to be worked on—but it still gets cold waiting for them to fix it!!



## FUN THINGS HAPPENING NEAR US!!

\*\*\*\* **PROJECT CHIMPS** and Dad's Garage partner to hold an Improv Show,

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Blue Ridge Community Theatre, 91 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Blue Ridge. It promises to be a night of improv and laughs with guest performers from Dad's Garage, Atlanta's most tolerated comedy theatre Since 1995. A team of improvisers led by television's Amber Nash (Archer) will perform games, stories and characters all made up on the spot for your pleasure. Never seen before, and never to be seen again, a night of improv with Dad's Garage is always guaranteed to be one of a kind. Ticket sales for this performance will benefit our fellow primates at Project Chimps. Every ticket purchased helps buy 8 bananas for the chimpanzees! Support Project Chimp's lifelong exemplary care to over 200 former research chimpanzees at its 230+ acre sanctuary of forested land in the Blue Ridge Mountains. River's Edge resident, Deanna Stratton is the Manager of Administration which includes overseeing human resources, staff recruitment and retention, compliance, accounting, donation administration, merchandise, and volunteer management. If you cannot attend this performance, I'm sure that Project Chimps would love a donation directly to Project Chimps!

Dad's Garage, based in Atlanta, does hundreds of shows and formats of classes/workshops throughout the year. It's their mission to transform people, communities, and perspective, through laughter.

\*\*\*\***Fire and Ice Chili Cook Off and Craft Beer Festival**, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, 790 Block of East Main Street and Downtown City Park, Blue Ridge. Live Music, ice sculptures, amazing chili and craft beer! Buy a \$10 Tasting Card to sample the competition and vote for the Peoples Choice Award. An amazing display of individual and unique ice sculptures from the award winning, National Ice Carving Champion Rock On Ice including several ice carving demonstrations in the park during the entire event. Tasting cards will be sold from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Tasting begins at noon.

\*\*\*\***Kool Breeze Band** featuring Jim Richter will be in concert March 2, at the Blue Ridge Community Theater, 91 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Blue Ridge, doors open at 7:00 pm and the concert starts at 7:30 pm. The link to purchase tickets is: [KOOL BREEZE BAND Tickets | Blue Ridge, GA | Blue Ridge Community Theater \(etix.com\)](#). Jim formed the Kool Breeze Band, which he characterizes as "jazzy, but with rock influences". He has had numerous songs that have appeared in the Top-100 on the Smooth Jazz charts. Come see this concert as River's Edge residents John Rathbone and Markham White also play in this band.

\*\*\*\***Country Star and hometown hero, Brandon Maddox** will be performing country hits on March 29, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Cairn View Winery, 299 Happy Trails Way, Jasper, GA Tickets are \$20 per show and must be purchased in advance. Wine, Beer, and their regular menu food items will be available for purchase.





**FUN THINGS TO DO ON VALENTINE'S DAY  
TO HELP YOU CELEBRATE!  
(ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN GOOD HOUSEKEEPING)**

The classic dinner for two and late-night romantic movie makes for a lovely Valentine's Day, but it's fun to change things up with new activities and date ideas. But whether you're spending it with your spouse, friends, or family there is a lot of amazing things you can do on Valentine's Day that can take the holiday from good to great! Luckily, we have ideas for every budget and every kind of Valentine!

If you are someone who does the same thing year after year (or you do nothing at all for your sweetie) try shaking things up by going outside your comfort zone with these Valentine's Day ideas.

- 1) Watch your wedding video together. Nothing gets you in the romantic Valentine's Day mood more than looking back on the momentous day that you said "I do!"
- 2) Bottle your own wine. Certain vineyards and organizations let you stomp your own grapes and then bottle your own wine for you to take home. Talk about a treat specially made just for you and your Valentine.
- 3) Take that trip you've been putting off for the last few years. Even if it's only for a weekend, a sweet escape to somewhere you enjoy would be a great mid-winter pick-me-up!
- 4) Slow dance to your favorite song. Cue up the song that you danced to at your wedding or a ballad that you both absolutely love and let the music move you.
- 5) Perhaps it's been a while since you've had a picture taken together? Dedicate time on Valentine's Day to create photo memories with a photoshoot by a professional photographer.
- 6) Visit a bookstore if you both are bookworms. Spend the day exploring new reads together, grabbing a cup of coffee or wonderful dessert and enjoy all the new books you bought.
- 7) Sign up for a cocktail class to learn how to make your favorites.
- 8) Make fondue. Calling all foodies. Have some fun with your sweetie and make a cheese or chocolate fondue.
- 9) Make a bucket list together. Valentine's Day is a great day to conquer some of those things on your list, but what about the other days. There's no better time than today to make a list together and start your planning.
- 10) Go to a concert or purchase the tickets for your favorite concert together!
- 11) Volunteer Together. Spend the day giving back. Help paint local murals at the school, serve meals at a soup kitchen, go to a nursing home and visit with the elderly. Any activity that helps give back and the two of you would enjoy.

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- 12) Have a Valentine's Bake-off. In the true British Baking Show fashion, have a friendly competition in the kitchen to see who can make the best Valentine's Day desserts!
- 13) Go thrift shopping. The only thing more fun than thrifting or antiquing is doing it with your sweetie. Challenge each other to find the zaniest, most unique item or create a whole new look for each other. You'll definitely make some memories, even if you do not find treasures.
- 14) Play tourist! Look at the surrounding towns with fresh eyes and get out and explore like tourists. Wander main street and check out cute shops, local landmarks or just meander through an area that you don't usually explore.
- 15) Enjoy breakfast in bed. Start off the day by serving a romantic Valentines breakfast, then enjoy it together while lounging in bed a while. Don't forget the champagne!
- 16) Take a scenic drive. Put together a road trip-worthy playlist and hit the road. There's something about driving that gets conversation flowing.
- 17) Go on a hike. Get your blood moving. Take a scenic hike together and enjoy all the beautiful sights and fresh air. It will give you some much needed alone time and get you away from your electronic devices.
- 18) Exchange Love Letters. Make Valentine's Day even more special by putting into words why your partner means so much to you, Get really specific and super personal for a letter that will become a keepsake.
- 19) Recreate your favorite date. Take a trip down memory lane by recreating your favorite date, whether it was your first date or where you really fell for each other! Maybe you can go to the same restaurant or cook up the same meal at home.
- 20) Cook together. They say the way to a person's heart is through their stomach, so test that theory by spending time preparing a romantic Valentine's Day dinner together. You can even try out a virtual cooking class-it's a great way to ditch the traditional dinner date for something more hands on.
- 21) Take a relaxing bath together. Turn on the warm water, add your favorite essential oil or bath bomb and watch the stress melt away. And don't skip the romantic candles and music!
- 22) Book a couples massage. Take time to have a spa day with the one you love.
- 23) Listen to music together. There's nothing that brings two people together like music.
- 24) Have a wine and cheese night. Pop open your favorite bottle of wine and pair it with a delectable homemade charcuterie board. Don't forget the crusty bread, artisanal cheeses, cured meats and olives to round it all out.
- 25) Visit a conservatory or botanical garden, Go beyond the traditional red roses this year and give your loved one a whole garden of beautiful flowers. It will also make for a great photo op and you'll get a romantic nature walk with your sweetheart.