

RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES ASSOCIATION



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 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, Secretary

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

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.



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!

ANNUAL MEETING!

The River's Edge Annual Association Meeting Will be held November 4th at the Victory Christian Center, 208 Victory Circle, Ellijay.

Starting at 9:30 am with a BBQ lunch afterwards.

This year there is one Board Member up for re-election, David Ratner. David's qualifications are as follows: (continued on page 2)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

David and Barbara Ratner have been property owners in Rivers Edge for over 19 years and became full time residents in 2020. It was always their hope to move to Ellijay and enjoy all the Great People and Surroundings. They really do believe that now they are living the Dream!

David has been on the HOA Board since 2016 and served as President since 2017. David's extensive business background includes the creation of the Pillow Perfect Co. in 1989 with his brother. When David sold his ownership 7 years ago, Pillow Perfect had about 150 employees. David has also served as President of the Canton Rotary Club for two terms and has sponsored a Christmas Party for underprivileged children for the last 26 years.

David has always felt Honored to be able to serve as President of River's Edge HOA. In his opinion, River's Edge is the best community in Ellijay and added that if elected to serve again, he will continue to keep River's Edge the best it can be.

If you desire to run for a position on the Board, please contact Linda Black at 706-273-3100 or email riversedge@ellijay.com so we can get your qualifications out there before the meeting.

KEEPING UP WITH THE BOARD

The Board is working on the mailbox project at Lazy River gate. In their research, they have found that our mail carrier takes approximately 4-6 packages per day back to the post office because of lack of space or the package is too large for the box. The Board will prepare at least two proposals to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in November. The cost for this project would be categorized as a special project and would come as an additional assessment above our annual assessment. We will seek approval for one of the proposals in order to help eliminate or reduce the number of packages being returned to the post office. Some packages may still be returned simply because of their size.

PREPARATION OF THE 2024 BUDGET

Our Board has a multitude of responsibilities. At this time of the year, one of its major responsibilities is to prepare the coming year's budget. Most associations rely exclusively on homeowner assessments to pay their bills, as is the case with our association. You trust our board to develop realistic annual budgets. The Board bases the budget on past costs of repairs/replacements, current pricing, predictions of future pricing, projections of what may need to be replaced for the following year, and also try to determine what income will be needed from assessments. Our budgetary obligations do not go away if our board does not collect enough revenue to pay our expenses. We need money for increased insurance premiums, salaries for association/office staff, spring/fall chipping, repair of security cameras, repair or replacement of gates, repair/additions to our mail area, 1/2 of any bridge repair, common grounds must still be maintained and mowed, well/water system regular maintenance, financial ability to fix the well/water system if a problem should arise, and reserve for future large obligations such as road repairs or replacement and water/well replacement. If we fall short for any given year, the required amount does not go into our reserve account for those big expenses that we will have sooner rather than later. Associations that do not adequately plan and budget for reserves often end up with deteriorating infrastructure that adversely affects property values. Our proposed budget will arrive with the Annual Meeting announcement in October. (Most of this article is taken from "Common Ground", a community association magazine)

KEEPING UP WITH THE BOARD

FALL CHIPPING EVENT

The fall chipping process is scheduled to take place in River's Edge the week of October 23rd. Carlos and his crew are set to be here that week to clear our roadways of accumulated wood debris and he is asking we **DO NOT** include any material with a diameter of more than 8 inches (at the largest end) or with a length that exceeds 10 feet. These restrictions are due to equipment limitations and safety concerns for his crew. Any materials that exceed these parameters, will be left behind and will be the responsibility of the property owner to remove at their own expense.

Let's be sure we keep our roadways clear for pedestrians and car traffic as we pile up our debris. By starting our effort in late September, this will give us all 4 good weeks to get ready. Your cooperation on this project is appreciated.

In case you did not see the e-mail earlier in September, the purpose of the work done in September on our roadsides was to clear the problematic overhang of the low branches and/or trees up to a height of between 10'-12'.

IF YOU LIKE WORKING WITH COMPUTERS, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR OUR WEBSITE!!

PENNI MCDANIEL HAS DONE A WONDERFUL JOB REVAMPING OUR WEBSITE, BUT SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE UPDATING PROCESS AND WE NEED SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT TASK FOR US. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT LINDA BLACK AT THE OFFICE BY CALLING 706-273-3100 OR E-MAILING RIVERSEEDGE@ELLIJAY.COM

FIREWISE by Byron Trotter

Fall Fire/Wildfire Prevention Tips

Fall is here and the leaves on some trees are already turning and hitting the ground. The recent heavy winds and rain have knocked down both living and dead branches. Soon, tall grasses and weeds will turn brown. This all adds up to a lot of potential fuel for a fire. As the weather cools there will be an increase in fire pit and fireplace usage. If an active fire pit doesn't have a proper mesh screen covering it, the resulting embers can travel as far as a mile or even more before burning out. A dirty chimney can produce embers, as heat from the fireplace can ignite a buildup of creosote or some other debris such as an animal's nest. It's important to have an annual chimney inspection and if necessary, cleaning, particularly if you've burned 1½ face cords or more of wood since it was last cleaned.

While you can take steps to ensure that your chimney or fire pit won't emit significant embers, you can't depend on everyone to take those same steps. However, you can maintain your property in a way that will make it a little more resistant to fire that may come from an external source.

The following page is a Firewise USA® fact sheet copied from the NFPA® (National Fire Protection Association) website. I encourage you to read the whole article located at the link below. Quite a bit of the suggested preparation applies to and can be implemented by individual property owners. Other parts, such as tree spacing are somewhat impractical since we do live in the woods.

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>
(Continued on page 4)

Fall is in the air! Did you get your chimney cleaned yet? You need to because it is time to have our cozy fall fires and hot chocolate! If you haven't done so, make that call now. Even clean-burning gas fireplaces need regular cleaning and inspection. Servicing a gas fireplace is less messy than cleaning a wood burning fireplace, but you may still want an experienced serviceman to do it. The steps necessary to service a gas fireplace are as follows:

•••Inspect the exterior making sure the unit is properly mounted and there are no gaps or cracks in the framework. Check the glass for cracks, loose glass panels, make sure the door gaskets are airtight and clean with vinegar.

•••Inspect the logs which can deteriorate over time.

•••Check the gas ignition. Test the gas ignition under the logs and make sure it lights correctly. Turn off the gas and clean all the valves and ports under and amid the logs by gently rubbing with steel wool. Check for gas leaks by brushing with water and dish soap while looking for bubbles.

•••Vacuum the interior. Dead bugs, dust bunnies and pet hair can accumulate and cause a fire.

•••Check your carbon monoxide detectors! If you do not have one, get one.

•••Inspect your chimney. With gas fireplaces, the biggest threat is condensation. Damp patches on the walls, ceiling stains, and white blotches on the exterior masonry are signs of a compromised chimney.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE



■ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

To increase your home's chance of surviving a wildfire, choose fire-resistant building materials and limit the amount of flammable vegetation in the three home ignition zones. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: (0 to 5 feet around the house), the **Intermediate Zone** (5 to 30 feet), and the **Extended Zone** (30 to 100 feet).

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch, and deck and prune branches of large trees up to 6 to 10 feet (depending on their height) from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils, and waxes. Use crushed stone or gravel instead of flammable mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house). Keep your landscape in good condition.

■ FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products, such as composite shingles, metal, concrete, and clay tiles, offer the best protection. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks and porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster, or stucco, and use dual-pane tempered glass windows.

■ BE PREPARED

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood have legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet for emergency vehicle access.

- Develop, discuss, and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for handling pets, large animals, and livestock.
- Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a predesignated meeting place.
- Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay—don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy checkup to adjust for local building costs, codes, and new renovations.
- Create or update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



**TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY
OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK
WHERE YOU LIVE.**



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

Firewise® is a program of the National Fire Protection Association. This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters. NFPA is an equal opportunity provider. Firewise® and Firewise USA® are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA 02169.

Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at Firewise.org

STATE TRIVIA: Do you know what letter is not in any of the state names?
Do you know what 2 letters only appear once in all of the state names? What are the names of these states.
There are 2 states that contain the letter "B". What are they?
There are 2 states that contain the letter "X". What are they?
There are 2 states that contain the letter "F". What are they?
What state contains only one consonant? (answers on page 6)

HIKE AND SEE THE AUTUMN COLORS

1) LAKE BLUE RIDGE RECREATION DAY USE AREA

Here's a quiet spot with great paved walkways that make for easy strolls and biking. Open every day, the trails wind close to Lake Blue Ridge through thick mixed hardwood forest. It's right off Aska Road. Please be careful after a rain... fallen leaves can be slick on the pavement.

2) ASKA ROAD AREA HIKES

Deep Gap: From Blue Ridge, go 4.4 miles south on Aska Road to Deep Gap parking lot which is located south of the gap on the right side of the road.

Shady Falls: From Blue Ridge, go south on Aska Rd 5.9 miles to Shady Falls Rd. Turn left and go 0.2 miles. Parking lot is on the left side of the road.

Stanley Gap: From Blue Ridge, go south on Aska Rd 8 miles. Turn right on Stanley Creek (Toccoa Riverside Restaurant on left). Proceed for 4.1 miles and the parking lot is on the right.

3) SWINGING BRIDGE

This beloved 1-mile (or 7-mile) hike along the Benton MacKaye Trail is worthy of the effort, even without the special feature for which the trail is named. Lined with rhododendron and hemlock, the rich forest is a lovely respite in the summertime. You'll see gnarled roots, lush moss and the periodic mushroom cluster that reminds you how close you are to the Toccoa River.

4) SPRINGER MOUNTAIN

The beloved Springer Mountain trail is great for every age. In case you are not aware, Springer Mountain is the south-most point of the AT which travels north 2200 miles to Maine. From the parking lot this hike gently ascends the mountain on a trail lined with hardwoods, rock outcroppings and beautiful wildflowers. You get peaks along the way through the trails of the view that is waiting for you at the top. Just after hiking through a thicket of Mountain Laurel the trail widens onto a large rockface allowing magnificent long-range views of the southern Appalachian Mountains.

5) THE COHUTTA WILDERNESS

The rugged wilderness in the Cohutta is best experienced by seasoned backpackers and hikers, but you can get a good taste of its beauty in a sturdy 4-wheel drive vehicle. Try Jacks River Fields or try hiking down to Jacks River from Dally Gap. Cell phone service and GPS can be spotty, and you should be prepared for a serious wilderness adventure when heading into the Cohutta Wilderness.

6) RICH MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

A hidden treasure off Aska Road (turn at Stanley Creek Road near the Toccoa River Restaurant to Rock Creek Road). Another access point is the Aska Trails Area, where you can climb into the thick mixed hardwood forest and views across the Rich Mountain Wilderness. The Benton MacKaye Trail also crosses through Aska Trails, for those wanting to combine your adventure with a longer hike.

7) BRASSTOWN BALD

The highest mountain in Georgia at 4,784 feet above sea level, is one of the most magnificent places to experience 360 degree views of the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. In fall the colors sweep out in vistas literally hundreds of miles across. You reach the summit by driving up the mountain in a twisty paved access road, then you can hike from the huge parking lot to the summit and visitor center deck, or in season, take a shuttle. The trip to Brasstown Bald is a real memory maker, to be experienced in solitude or shared with loved ones.

8) FALL BRANCH FALLS

The trees along this secluded hike are towering, creating shade and lush landscapes of fern and moss along the sides of the trail. The creek is filled with large rocks, creating a rushing sound as the water runs down, adding to the tranquil nature of the hike's slight, uphill climb. The upper portion of Fall Branch Falls is a series of cascades that lead to a single major drop of some 30 feet, with the water plunging into a deep pool at the base of the falls. This hike is not flat terrain, but it is a relatively easy get to the base of the falls.

9) Georgia's state parks are also ideal for "leaf peeping." Amicalola Falls State Park in Dawsonville has views from the state's highest waterfall. Black Rock Mountain State Park near Clayton is also great as it's Georgia's highest elevation state park.

ROAD TRIPS TO SEE THE AUTUMN COLORS

- 1) **Blood Mountain-Walasi-Yi Interpretive Center**, a historic stone structure completed by the CCC in 1937 marks the only covered portion of the Appalachia Trail. On site is the AT gift center for hikers and tourists.
- 2) **Richard Russell Scenic Highway** is surrounded by the beauty of the Chattahoochee National Forest. This 40.6 mile byway winds through the valleys and mountain gaps of the southern Appalachians in Georgia. From the vistas atop Brasstown Bald to the waterfalls, scenic wonders fill the region. Enjoy spectacular views of the mountains and piedmont at scenic overlooks.
- 3) **Suches**, the highest “community” in the state is called “the Valley Above the Clouds”. Elevation “downtown” Suches is 3,000 feet. The drive on Highway 60 South from Morganton to Suches combines some of the prettiest views of the countryside with curvy mountain roads and lots of roadside attractions including Skeenah Mill, the Swinging Bridge on the Toccoa, Chattahoochee National Fish Hatchery, Deep Hole and Coopers Creek Recreation Area.
- 4) **Cherochala Skyway**, From Tellico Plains, TN to Robbinsville, NC wind through scenery that rivals the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Cherochala Skyway crosses through the /Cherokee & Nantahala National Forests providing spectacular mile-high vistas and brilliant fall foliage.
- 5) **Lookout Mountain Parkway** runs through Alabama and Tennessee before crossing into Georgia and past Cloudland Canyon..
- 6) **Nantahala River & Gorge (north of Murphy)**. Follow Highway 19/74 through the Nantahala Gorge along the Nantahala River where there are lots of places to stop and have a picnic, watch the white water rafters, and stick your toe into the water.
- 7) **Northeast Georgia’s scenic Highway 197** begins at US76 You will first come upon the 2,800-acre Lake Burton surrounded by majestic mountain vistas. Moccasin Creek State Park is on the shores of Lake Burton Heading south the road follows the Soque River, which is known as one of the finest trout streams on the planet. Meandering past pastures with cows, horses, or some times wild turkey, this scenic route arrives at the historic town of Clarksville. Long on history, rich in culture, Scenic 197 is one of the most beautiful drives in Georgia.
- 8) **The Blue Ridge Scenic Railway in the Fall!** What else is there to say!
- 9) **Anyone who has 4WD or AWD** may want to take advantage of the beautiful forest service roads around our Area by using the following link: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5210762.pdf

“Q” is the only letter not in the state’s names.
 “J & Z” appear only in New Jersey and Arizona.
 Letter “B” – Alabama and Nebraska
 Letter “X” – Texas and New Mexico
 Letter “F” – Florida and California
 One consonant- Iowa





***Octoberfest in Helen, Daily, September 28-October 29.

***Blairsville Cruise-in, the first Saturday of the month from 3-7 at the Union County Farmers Market. Also, the UNION COUNTY FARMER'S MARKET Saturday mornings and Tuesday afternoons through the end of October.

***Blairsville's Last Cruise-in of the year is downtown Blairsville on the square, the third Saturday of October.

***Gibbs Gardens Twilight Concert in Ball Ground, GA:

October 7, 5-8 pm, The Radio Show, a 5-piece band playing all of your favorite oldies.

October 14, 5-8 pm, The Loose Shoes Band, who have played live Blues and Rock & Roll since 2001.

***Indian Summer Festival, October 7 & 8, in Suches, GA. Activities include a craft show, 10K run, country square dancing, weaponry demonstration, auction, play performed by the elementary students and much more!

***13th Annual Fall Arts in the Park, Blue Ridge, October 14 & 15th, 10 am to 5 pm, \$5 admission.

***Cars & Coffee at Roo's Vineyard every 3rd Saturday from 8am to 11am. The next one is October 21st.

*** Georgia Apple Festival, Ellijay, October 14 & 15, AND October 21 & 22.

***Ride the Rails Festival, Mineral Bluff, GA, October 14 & 15 and November 24 & 25. Trips are continuously scheduled from Noon to 3:00 pm. L&N Depot, 150 Railroad Avenue, Mineral Bluff. A five-mile round-trip ride by Railroad Motor Car traveling through the Iron Bridge over beautiful Toccoa River to Murphy Junction and returning to historic Mineral Bluff Depot. Then take a short ride on the genuine Railroad Hand Car.

***Annual Paws in the Park, October 21, at 10am-5 pm, downtown Blue Ridge City Park. Have a fun day with your favorite pet. Includes a pet parade, pet education and demonstrations, costume contest, prizes, and photos. Also has Blessing of the Pets, rabies clinic, micro chipping and more. Sponsored by the Humane Society of Blue Ridge.

***56th Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival and Car Show, Friday, October 27 from 8am to 5pm. The festival will take place at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and Dawsonville City Hall's Main Street Park. Car Show 8am - 5pm. Moonshine Run departs at 10am from Beardens.

***Dancing Goats Folkfest, October 29, @ 10 am- 6 pm. Old-time mountain shindig celebrating art and culture. Juried folk-art show and sale, homegrown music, storytelling and good eats celebrate our Southern Appalachia way of life featuring two days of the goats strutting their stuff in the popular goat pageants!

*** Sip and Paint Class "Pumpkins", November 4, @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sip and Paint Class "Snowman", November 7 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm OR November 18 @ 3:00 pm - 5 pm

Sip and Paint Class "Winter Trees", November 28 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm OR December 2 @ 3:00 pm - 5 pm

\$35.00 Gilmer Arts Gallery, 207 Dalton Street, Ellijay, A great activity for a date night, bridal party, girls night out, or just an excuse to drink some wine and paint a picture. Work with Maria Sarmento to create your own art.

***Surrender Hill with John Cable, November 25, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at Gilmer Arts Playhouse, 135 Dalton Street, Ellijay. \$29.00 (buy your tickets early) Join Surrender Hill for a special concert including John Cable (formerly of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) on Thanksgiving Weekend.

***Decorating Ornaments with Alcohol Inks, Saturday December 2, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, class fee \$45 plus supply fee of \$20. Decorate glass or plastic ball ornaments with colorful alcohol inks, metallic inks and glitter. No experience needed. The instructor is Joyce Clair and the workshop is held at the Gilmer Arts Gallery, 207 Dalton St, Ellijay