

RIVER'S EDGE ESTATES ASSOCIATION



APRIL-MAY 2024

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

April 17, 2024*

May 15, 2024*

June 19, 2024*

July 17, 2024*

August 21, 2024*

September 18, 2024*

October 16, 2024*

November 20, 2024*

November 2, 2024-Annual Meeting

*Board Meetings are held at the HOA Office at 4 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

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. The larger package boxes have arrived and are in the process of being installed at the mailbox area. Once installed (thanks to Phil Teagarden and Jim Carr), the post office will do their part so they can be used!!

REMINDERS FROM THE BOARD

SPRING CHIPPING!!

Spring Chipping for River's Edge has been scheduled for the week of April 8th. We are not sure what days Carlos will be here, since weather conditions can affect his schedule. We ask that you do not include anything with a diameter over 8" on the largest end or anything longer than 10' in length. We need to keep our roadways clear for vehicle traffic and pedestrians, with that in mind, please stack your debris off of the roadways with all the branches and trunks laying in the same general direction.

The Board has also had Carlos clean three of our common areas this year, (as designated in our budget): Orchard Circle, Lakeview Lane/Lakeview Terrace, and Lakeview Circle.

There is still a Facebook page out there that suggests it is an official product of the River's Edge community. The Board has not been asked to have an official site, nor does it share in the many opinions expressed by its participants. Whatever is out there, is totally the opinions of whomever posted on the site and is not sanctioned by the Association!

*****This is the second newsletter in a row that several community members have requested that I put something in the newsletter concerning our dog walking habits! PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WHEN WALKING YOUR DOGS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD, THEY NEED TO BE ON A LEASH and WE NEED TO CLEAN UP AFTER THEM! 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 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 Home Association, Inc., page 40, Exhibit "C", #5 (as recorded in the Gilmer County records, Book 2152, Page 165).



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

***** A BIG THANKS TO PHIL TEAGARDEN!!! He is making signs to put throughout the neighborhood reminding us to clean up after our dogs!!!! In addition to the dog signs (which Phil has donated) he will be working on signs to replace our damaged signs throughout the neighborhood. THANKS Phil, for all of your hard work!!

As Spring 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. A minimum of 6 (six) months or more are allowed. Anyone engaged in short term rentals will be fined up to \$500 per day.

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



**GILMER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**
North Georgia Health District 1-2
Georgia Department of Public Health
Gilmer County Courthouse
1 Broad Street, Suite 003
Ellijay, GA 30540
Website: www.nghd.org  

(706) 635-6050 office
(706) 635-6030 fax

MARCH 18, 2024

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC REGARDING POTENTIALLY RABID RACCOONS IN THE AREA OF BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN SUBDIVISION

Gilmer EH office has received multiple reports of raccoons displaying erratic behavior in the area of Mulkey Road/ Blackberry Mountain Subdivision. The deceased raccoons were not available to be shipped to Georgia Public Health Lab for testing. Rabies virus can be present in almost all wild mammals including (but not limited to) foxes, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, bobcats, wild dogs and bats. If a typically nocturnal animal is active during the day and exhibiting abnormal behavior (i.e. “wobbly”, circling, partially paralyzed, excessive drooling or overly aggressive) use utmost caution and report immediately. Do not attempt to rescue the animal.

Please protect your animals with rabies boosters every year. Make sure their rabies vaccines are current at this time, and don't forget about your livestock.

Please contact our office if you have possible sightings or exposures at 706-635-6050. You may also email Holly.Cochran@dph.ga.gov or Andrea.Mathis@dph.ga.gov.



NORTH GEORGIA HEALTH DISTRICT 1-2

Cherokee (770) 345-7371 / Woodstock (770) 928-0133 Gilmer (706) 635-4363 Pickens (706) 253-2821
Fannin (706) 632-3023 Murray (706) 695-4585 Whitfield (706) 279-9600

***Side note to Notice From Gilmer County-just because this notice says potentially rabid, until the animals are tested nothing is for sure. It could be another condition like distemper *



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

By Byron Trotter our Firewise Coordinator

Springtime Wildfire Prevention Tips

While the recent rainfall seen over the past couple of weeks has somewhat alleviated the dry conditions experienced over the winter season, current high winds are evaporating some of that humidity putting us once again at risk of wildfire. High winds have also knocked down a greater than usual amount of tree limbs and branches that provide fuel for fires around your homes. Here are a few tips to help make your property less vulnerable to external fires.

- **Clear as much tree debris from your property as possible; chipping will occur the week of April 8 so now is the time to get as many limbs, branches or downed small trees (not to exceed 8 inches in diameter or 10 feet in length) as possible out to the side of the road for disposal.**
- **Although I personally raked and blew leaves at least ten times last fall there are still more leaves to be cleared from around the house.**
- **Check your gutters and roof seams for leaves, twigs and pine needles and clear as necessary.**
- **Do a visual inspection of your roof's shingles to see if any blew off during the high winds.**
- **If planting new bushes or shrubbery make sure that they are planted far enough away from your home so that the growth won't encroach on the "immediate zone" that is within 5 feet of your home.**
- **Always keep unnecessary flammable items away from your porches, decks, etc.**
- **Avoid using your fire pit (even if screened) during high winds or low relative humidity.**

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

WHY ARE WOODPECKERS PECKING MY HOUSE!!!!

There are several reasons that woodpeckers are pecking at your home this time of the year. It is an act of survival as they do it for food, shelter, storage, and reproduction. But, but the most likely is for food! Insects such as Carpenter Bees often hide their larvae inside the wood. Woodpeckers also create larger holes to store their newfound food.

Woodpeckers also use their pecking ability to create small to large holes to build a nest during their breeding season. The holes also mark and claim the area as their territory. During the mating season, woodpeckers also peck to attract mates. None of the habits are good for your home! One of the best ways to deter the woodpeckers is to be vigilant against the Carpenter Bees!!

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 placed 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!!



***** Cruise in at the Blue Ridge Dairy 'Queen, the 4th Friday of each month, March-September, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

*****The Rhododendron Festival, April 11-May 4, Fridays-Sundays, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee

*****North Georgia Mountain RV Show, Friday April 12-Sunday April 14th at Tolona Ridge Resort, Ellijay

*****Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park", April 11-28, Thursdays-Sunday, Blue Ridge Community Theater.

*****Chimps Rock! April 13 & 14th, a special art and discovery for kids and kids at heart! Each child's ticket (\$10) comes with a free adult's ticket. Project Chimps, Morganton, GA

*****Dustin Lynch, Killed the Cowboy Tour, April 20th, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds

*****Memory Lane Classic Car Show, April 26-27, Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Hiawassee

*****Georgia Mountain Needle Arts Festival, Friday April 26,-Sunday April 28, Gilmer County Civic Center, 1561 S. Main Street, Fiber arts fest for knitting, crocheting and other needle arts

*****Georgia Mountain Classic Car Show, May 11th, Downtown Blue Ridge

*****Introduction to Fly Fishing, Noontoola Creek Farms, Saturday May 11th

*****Garden Club Plant Sale, Saturday, May 18th, Ellijay Lions Club Pavilion

*****Ellijay Songwriters Festival, Monday, May 20th-June 2 at multiple venues. A Variety of singer/songwriters from Nashville, Tennessee and Georgia perform on stages Around the county during this 2-week period

*****Annual Spring Arts in the Park, May 25-25, Downtown Blue Ridge