

River Bank Woods Newsletter

Check out River Bank Woods on-line
www.riverbankwoods.org
for updated community information

Volume 4, Issue 4

Fall 2007

From the Board...

The River Bank Woods Homeowners Association (HOA) meeting for fall 2006 was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at Great Falls Chase Community Center. Officer and committee reports were presented by the board members.

Mike Morgan, President, River Bank Woods HOA, is working with Shiva Chen, Rivercrest HOA to obtain a sidewalk along River Bank Street. We have had correspondence and meetings with representatives for the Loudoun County Department of Management & Financial Services, Office of Transportation Services (OTS), and Sugarland Run District Supervisor Mick Staton. We hope to obtain primary and secondary funding through the SAFETEA-LU program, developer/builder proffers and/or local gas tax revenue. Obtaining funding through a SAFETEA-LU grant will be a long and complex process. We submitted our preliminary SAFETEA-LU grant application in April. It was considered at a Transportation/Land Use Committee meeting in May. The committee recommended the project for public hearing in July. There was a public hearing and vote by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in July to submit our SAFETEA-LU grant application to VDOT. The final, modified/enhanced grant application was submitted to Loudoun County on October 16th. Loudoun County will submit our application to VDOT on November 1st. The grant applications will be reviewed, and then discussed at a VDOT meeting next May, and awards will be made in July, and contracts and funding will be available fall of 2008. In the meantime, Supervisor Staton, Chair, Transportation/Land Use Committee, is working with OTS to determine the cost of a feasibility study for the proposed walkway.

HIGH-LEVEL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Safety: Walkers, runners, and bikers are currently in great danger of getting struck by vehicles traveling along River Bank Street.

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities: "River Bank Trail" – Approximately one-third (1/3) mile of pedestrian and bicycle trail (consisting of concrete sidewalk since it would be in the VDOT right-of-way (ROW) along River Bank Street (Rte 2270) to safely connect Rivercrest HOA (385), River Bank Woods HOA (78 homes), and Lowes Point HOA (35 homes) to the existing "Algonkian Trail" sidewalk/trail system along Algonkian Parkway (Rte 1582).

Annual Meeting and Election – Please run!!! Please vote!!!

The River Bank Woods HOA Annual Meeting and Election will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Great Falls Chase Community Center.

WANTED 2 BOARD MEMBERS FOR OUR RBWHOA

2 of 5 seats on the board will be open. Please consider running. The Notice of Call for Candidates including the Petition of Candidacy form will be sent to your home address.

We must have a homeowner quorum to complete the election process. Please mark your calendar to attend the meeting and vote. If you cannot attend in-person, please vote by proxy. The Annual Meeting Notice with the Slate of Candidates and Proxy Form will be sent to your home address. Last year we had to stop the meeting to get enough Proxies to conclude the election. Please attend or send in your proxy vote so we can conclude the election in a timely manner. We will need 2 new board members if the homeowners want to continue having a say in decisions that affect your home, community, and home values. Please volunteer for the HOA Board. A few hours of your time can make a huge difference for our community.

Communications Committee Update

Please visit www.riverbankwoods.org. Please e-mail webmaster@riverbankwoods.org to be added to the **River Bank Woods e-mail distribution list**. If you would like to help write, publish or distribute the **River Bank Woods Newsletter**, please contact Teresa Bettac at secretary@riverbankwoods.org. We are still trying to get all our neighbors listed in the **River Bank Woods Directory**. We hope you will complete, sign, and return the **Neighborhood Directory Information Sheet** (available on www.riverbankwoods.org). We really want to get all 78 homes in the Directory! Being able to contact all our homeowners quickly and efficiently will benefit everyone if a safety issue or crisis arises. Board members will be canvassing the area to get your directory information. We hope to publish and distribute an updated directory as soon as we have correct information on all our neighbors. Contact Amy Nolasco for additional information on the neighborhood directory at vpresident@riverbankwoods.org

Activities Committee Update

Holiday Activity/Event

Would you like to plan a holiday activity/event for our community? The board is open to suggestions. We have money set aside for a neighborhood get-together. We just need someone to take the lead in planning the event. Sleigh rides, caroling, bonfires, and hot chocolate are just some of the many possibilities. Perhaps you would like to plan a day trip for your neighbors. Let us know and we will be glad to get the word out to everyone.

Please contact Jina Ames at director@riverbankwoods.org or Jinasfun@aol.com if you have any ideas or suggestions.

DON'T MISS FIRST ANNUAL RBWHOA HALLOWEEN GET TOGETHER

Contact: Brenda Landry
Location: 20570 Noland Woods Court
Time: 5:00 pm or whenever you can get here
Phone Number: 703-421-3535
E-mail: dblandry@verizon.net

Join your neighbors for a great start to Trick-or-Treat this year. Neighbors with odd house numbers should bring a side dish to share and napkins. Neighbors with even house numbers should bring drinks (hot/cold) plates and utensils.
Costumes optional

Fall Yard Sale

Thanks to Jina Ames for organizing a very successful Fall Yard Sale. Also, thanks to all the homeowners who participated. It was a beautiful day. There were many happy shoppers and sellers. Fall seems to be a good time to hold the neighborhood yard sale. Start planning now to participate with your neighbors in this fun and profitable activity. Thanks again for all who participated in this activity.

Bunco

RBW Bunco Ladies who are interested in Bunco should contact Jina Ames at (703) 406-0088 or e-mail director@riverbankwoods.org or Jinasfun@aol.com. No experience is necessary to play Bunco. Bunco will start again in November. Please let me know if you are interested in playing. Bunco is a nice way to meet your neighbors and have some fun!

CountrySide Women's Club

The CountrySide Women's Club general meeting will be Friday, November 9th, at 9:30am at the Parkway Meeting Room off Algonkian Parkway. Lynn Werner of the Good Shepherd Alliance Homeless Shelter will be discussing their new locations and goals for the year. We welcome prospective members to our monthly meetings that are held on the second Friday of the month. Become a member in November and join us for our Ornament Exchange and Holiday Party in December. Call Teresa Bettac, CountrySide Women's Club President, at 703-444-3035 for more information.

Poker and/or Game Night

We are still looking for men and women interested in playing poker or card/board games one night a month. This is a nice way to get to know your neighbors and have some fun! If you are interested please contact Jina Ames at (703) 406-0088 e-mail director@riverbankwoods.org or Jinasfun@aol.com. No experience is necessary! We would love to get this group started this fall. I currently have two couples that have expressed an interest.

New Ideas

If you have a recommendation for a new activity, event or club please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas. If you have an idea or a column for the newsletter, please contact Teresa Bettac at secretary@riverbankwoods.org or contact a board member. If you have photographs of a community activity, we would like to include them in the newsletter.

Action Items/Hot Topics/Issues/Concerns/Special Projects

The River Bank Woods HOA Board of Directors logs all action items, hot topics, issues, concerns, and special projects in a spreadsheet and works to close each item ASAP. If you have an item for the spread sheet please e-mail Mike Morgan president@riverbankwoods.org . There are currently:

32 Open + 0 Re-Opened + 25 On-going + 11 Not Started + 199 Closed = 267 items

Neighborhood Watch Committee Update

We need volunteers for **Neighborhood Watch Block Captains**. We have a new representative from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Specialist Leydig J.A. #2361. If you have missed our meetings and want to become involved with the **Neighborhood Watch Program** please contact Jina Ames at Jinasfun@aol.com. You will need to read the Policies & Procedures booklet and fill out an application form and sign a waiver. This is a very important program for our neighborhood. We need as many neighbors involved as possible. The more patrols we have the safer our neighborhood will be for everyone.

Neighborhood Watch Committee Meeting:

January TBA 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

The home of Mitch and Jina Ames

47427 River Bank Forest Place

For additional information, e-mail director@riverbankwoods.org or Jinasfun@aol.com or call (703) 406-0088

Several automobiles have been broken into and vandalized in our neighborhood. Also some acts of vandalism have occurred to homes in our area. **Last week several mailboxes were vandalized in our neighborhood.** If you see anything suspicious please contact the Loudoun County Sheriff. If you have an incident, contact the Sheriff. They routinely record all crime in our area. The Sheriff's Department will step up patrols if they are aware of specific acts of vandalism or trespassing. You are encouraged to:

Park your vehicles in your garage to help curb acts of theft and vandalism.

Keep your property well lit at night.

Be alert to any unusual sounds or activities around your property or street.

So far we have had relatively minor crimes of opportunity in our neighborhood. We need to be constantly vigilant and take away any opportunity for crime to escalate. **Please join the Neighborhood Watch Program.**

The Law of Solicitation

According to the Codified Ordinances of the County of Loudoun section 828.04, a peddler, solicitor, or canvasser must first register with the Sheriff on forms furnished and prescribed by the Sheriff. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office encourages residents to take preventive measures. When people come to your house selling items, you should ask for proof that they are there legitimately as they should have a solicitor's permit. The Code also defines situations that are not considered soliciting, such as sales where the proceeds are to be used solely for nonprofit charitable, religious or community service purposes, e.g. churches, volunteer fire and rescue groups, Scouts, etc. For those residents wishing to discourage solicitors, it is permissible to place a small, discreet 'No Solicitation' sign next to your front door. These signs can be purchased at a hardware store, but should not exceed one inch in height by four to six inches in length. If a solicitor is abiding by a county ordinance, the LCSO cannot require them to cease based strictly on the sign by your door. If you request that the solicitor leave your property and they fail to do so, the LCSO office can then charge them with trespassing.

Water Alert! Mandatory Water Restrictions

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution declaring a water shortage emergency and instituting mandatory water restrictions for Loudoun County.

The ongoing drought has greatly reduced water levels in the reservoirs used by LCSA to provide water to its customers. Voluntary restrictions imposed by the County Administrator in early August reduced demand by approximately 10% but not enough to significantly impact the water levels in light of the continuing lack of rainfall in the area since the beginning of August.

LCSA officials say the mandatory restrictions will ease demand, and if rainfall increases, help return the reservoirs to their pre-drought levels. Effective immediately, the restrictions prohibit:

- Watering of lawns and landscaping, except using three-gallon containers
- Washing vehicles except in a commercial washing facility or using a bucket or other container not exceeding three gallons in capacity
- Washing streets, driveways, or other paved areas and buildings except using three-gallon containers
- Operating ornamental fountains
- Filling swimming or wading pools, unless already more than three quarters full
- Serving drinking water in restaurants, unless specifically request

Violators may be fined up to \$500 for each offense, and repeat violators may be subject to a cutoff of their water supply for up to five days. Before any customers are fined, they will receive a verbal warning from the Sheriff's Office.

Due to the dry conditions, the Fire Marshal has issued a ban on open burning.

Lawn Care

During our monthly neighborhood walk through we noticed several lawns in our community that need some tender loving care. Because of the Watering Band it will be even more important to prepare your lawn for winter. Unless we get much needed rain it will be hard to patch bare spots with grass seed this fall. If we do get some rain be sure and apply the fall fertilizer application that will prepare your yard for the spring growing season. Be sure to attend to weeds now to prevent their spreading. Also, remove leaves and twigs from your yard before the first winter storm. Leaves should be bagged for yard waste collection. Remove any dead or dying vegetation due to drought. Trim your bushes in preparation for winter. Maintaining your lawn is the neighborly thing to do. It makes the neighborhood more inviting and it also helps your neighbor maintain their lawn. Finally, when it comes to curb appeal not enough can be said about the importance of a well manicured yard. There is no substitute for neatly mowed and edged turf, nicely pruned shrubs and trees, and pockets of seasonal color.

Please Remove Tree Stakes from the Trees in Our Neighborhood

October Gardening Checklist

There's a snap in the air, the songbirds are looking at their calendars, and trees are exploding in hues of yellow, orange and red. But don't think that means you can spend the weekends in your jammies. Make haste while the weather is still gardener-tolerant.

Perennials

Keep planting spring-flowering bulbs, all the way up until the ground becomes frozen, and prepare tender perennials for winter.

- Holes for planting crocuses, daffodils, tulips and other spring flowering bulbs should be about three times deeper than the diameter of the bulbs. Add peat moss, fertilizer and bulb dust to the soil as you plant; then give them a good watering. (Use recycled water)
- In milder climates, bulbs can still be divided and transplanted.
- Before the first frost, move tender plants such as begonias, geraniums, gerbera daisies and impatiens indoors for the winter. (If space permits) Otherwise remove them from the garden.
- Buy hardy garden mums to plant in well-drained soil in a sunny location; fertilize now, and again in the spring. Color spots of winter pansies and flowering kale and cabbage can also be planted early in the month, or until the ground freezes.
- Hold off on mulching perennials until the ground has frozen.

Maintaining Your Mailbox

Many of you took advantage of the mass painting of neighborhood mailboxes this spring. Others have painted their mailbox this summer. If you have not painted your mailbox please complete the task this fall. All mailboxes in our community need to be maintained and painted white. Thanks again to all our neighbors who completed this project.

Trash Can Storage

Trash cans are to be stored away from the front of the house. Trash cans should not be visible when you drive down the street. The proper storage of your trash can was part of the original document you signed when you purchased your home. You will be sited and eventually fined if you ignore this guideline. A row of trash cans as motorists drive down our streets is not the first thing we want our guests or potential buyers to see.

Snow Alert

Loudoun County is responsible for all snow removal from our streets. Neighbors need to shovel all sidewalks. Please make it safe for our students and everyone to walk. Please be sure our students do not have to walk in the street to catch the school bus. Shovel your sidewalk!

Next Up...

The River Bank Woods Homeowners Association (HOA) Annual Meeting and Election will be held on **Tuesday, January 22, 2008**. The Board is actively seeking new members for the Board. Please remember that every member of the HOA Board is a volunteer. We need your help and expertise to keep our HOA a strong and viable association. Please contact Mike Morgan at president@riverbankwoods.org if you would like to serve on the HOA Board.

***** New Payment Address*****

HOA dues payments should be mailed to:

**Your HOA Name (or abbreviation)
P.O. Box 64412
Phoenix, Arizona 85082-4412**

*****New Account Numbers*****

Effective immediately, all owners have been assigned new account numbers. Your new account number is listed on the 4th Quarter statement. Please do not use your old account number on checks or other forms of payment. Please write your account number on your check or money order. If you have any questions, please contact LMA at 540-751-1888, Fax 540-751-1899, Toll Free 866-LMA-1890.

Making Our HOA Work

To ensure the safety of our children, the use of playground equipment should be monitored by an adult. All playground equipment should be used as designed to ensure safety. Residents need to be aware there are recommended weight and height limits for each piece of equipment.

Recommendations / Comings and Goings / Congratulations

This is your newsletter. If you have news to announce, please contact Teresa Bettac at (703) 444-3035 or secretary@riverbankwoods.org, or contact any Board Member.

Several houses are for sale or rent in River Bank Woods. If you have friends or relatives you would like to have as neighbors please invite them to check out our homes. We will miss all of our great neighbors.

UPCOMING RIVER BANK WOODS HOA MEETING DATES:

“Winter” – January 22, 2008; Annual Meeting and Election

“Spring” – April 22, 2008

“Summer” – July 22, 2008

“Fall” – October 21, 2008

CONTACT INFO

River Bank Woods Board of Directors

Mike Morgan, President

president@riverbankwoods.org

Amy Nolesco, Vice President

vpresident@riverbankwoods.org

Teresa Bettac, Secretary

secretary@riverbankwoods.org

Samer Beidas, Treasurer

treasurer@riverbankwoods.org

Jina Ames, Director

director@riverbankwoods.org

Election: November 6, 2007

Loudoun County voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, for a general election. Loudoun County sent new Commonwealth of Virginia Voter Cards to all registered voters. **River Bank Woods has a new voting location: Potomac Baptist Church, 20747 Lowes Island Blvd.**

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Please Vote!**

**Veterans Day is November 12, 2007
Please remember our Service Personal**

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!