

River Bank Woods

Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring 2005

From the Board...

The River Bank Woods Homeowners Association (HOA) Board of Directors met on Tuesday, April, 26th at the Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace. Reports and updates were presented on a variety of River Bank Woods action items. There was a general discussion of community hot topics, social activities and HOA guidelines. These quarterly meetings are open to River Bank Woods residents. We encourage all homeowners to attend. There is a Homeowner Forum at every meeting for residents to share ideas on how to improve our neighborhood. We hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2005.

The Board of Directors' primary mandate is to oversee the financial assets of our community, to protect and maintain common areas, and to develop and monitor homeowners association architectural guidelines. These guidelines are intended to enhance the beauty, openness and desirability of the neighborhood and to promote long-term improvements in property values. We also believe in building a strong sense of community through communication and activities & events.

Our Neighborhood Clean Up in April was a wash-out due to the heavy rain-fall. Thank you to all the individuals that took the time, at a later date, to clean up their area using the trash bag provided by the HOA. The Board encourages every residence to continue the clean up of our neighborhood with the garbage bag provided with this newsletter. We hope to schedule a group clean up including Brockman Farm Lane at a later date. If you are interested in helping with this activity please contact Jina Ames.

Jina Ames is the newest member of our board. She was appointed to the Board as a director replacing Lisa Toohey, who is moving. Jina has already been actively involved in a variety of our neighborhood activities. She has coordinated our Community Yard Sale for the past two years. She helped with activities at the Spring Fling and she has agreed to continue to work on the Brockman Farm Lane issue.

We still need someone to step forward and organize a tree planting day for the neighborhood next fall. The Board is also hoping to find block captains for our neighborhood to expand our outreach and involve more residents in our decisions and activities.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Toohey family and the Blonder family are moving out of our neighborhood. Lisa Toohey has served on the River Bank Woods Homeowners Association Board and Karen Blonder has organized a variety of community activities for our neighborhood. Both Lisa and Karen have worked hard to bring us together as neighbors. Lisa served on our Board as Treasurer and then Director, organized Ladies Night Out, assisted with the Newsletter and worked on the Brockman Farm Lane issue. Karen organized last year's Spring Fling, Bunco and helped with the neighborhood directory. Karen has agreed to organize our Spring Fling on June 4th. Plan to attend this community event and take this opportunity to say thank you to two very dedicated ladies. They will be greatly missed by the Board and everyone in our community. These ladies will be hard to replace, but we need to find other residents to step up and help us create the friendly, socially connected neighborhood we all want. Thank you for a job well done.

SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 7th 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mark your calendars! The SECOND annual River Bank Woods Community Garage Sale is scheduled for May 7, 2005 from 8:00AM until 2:00PM. Start digging, sorting, unearthing and culling through all of your unwanted, no longer needed, gently used items. Selling clothing, household goods, lawn items, furniture and old treasures is a wonderful way to get rid of items you no longer have use for. These items may be just what someone else has been looking for!

NEW - This year we will be teaming up with the homeowners in the adjoining development (Lowes Point – the Richmond American homes) to make the sale even BIGGER and better.

We are planning this as a community wide activity. We will be advertising, making signs and creating a map of the households that will be participating in the sale. We will need lots of help to make this day enjoyable, well attended and profitable. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jina Ames: 703-406-0088 or email: Amesx3@aol.com (subject – SALE).

SPRING FLING

Saturday, June 4th 4 to 7 p.m.

The Spring Fling will be held at the tot lot in Section II. The HOA will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments and drinks. We are asking that each family bring a side dish or a dessert to share. Last year we had over 70 residents attend this event. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and catch up after the long winter. If you have ideas for games or would like to help out please call Lisa Toohey at 703-450-2775 or email at mjtoohy@aol.com. Please let us know that you are coming so we know how much food to buy. RSVP to Karen Blonder at 703-421-6265 or kblonder@adelphia.net or Lisa Toohey.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Several neighbors have expressed concerns over unsupervised dogs and barking dogs in the neighborhood. If you have a pet it should be on a leash or in a fenced yard at all times. Pets can be wonderful companions but a pet can be a tremendous nuisance if left unattended. Be a good neighbor and be a responsible pet owner.

We still get complaints about trash cans that are left out in front of the garage or house. Trash cans that are visible from the road are an eyesore and give our neighborhood an urban rather than a suburban look. Be a good neighbor, locate your trash cans out of view. Be sure you place all trash inside an approved container. Trash left beside the container is likely to blow away or become a feast for a wild critter.

Some neighbors have concerns about yard waste being dumped into tree save areas. While yard waste is biodegradable be a good neighbor and respect the beauty of our neighborhood. A mulching lawn mower or a lawn service will keep your yard free from excess lawn clippings.

Everyone in the neighborhood can see the strip of grass running along the street. Each homeowner is responsible for the maintenance of this strip of grass. This area should be treated for weeds as needed and mowed weekly. Be a good neighbor and create an attractive green space on your property.

Tree stakes should be removed from trees after the first year. Leaving stakes and wires around a tree can result in girdling the tree leading to a dead or dying tree. Be a good neighbor and save all of our trees by removing unsightly tree stakes.

Several signs have gone missing from our neighborhood. We lost a sandwich board to announce HOA meetings and several child safety signs have been removed. Please return all signs to their rightful owners. Be a good neighbor and respect the property of others.

Please park your cars off the street and in your garage or drive way. Be a good neighbor and make our streets safer for everyone by parking off the street.

Homeowners need to get approval of architectural modifications by notifying their neighbors of planned improvements and submitting an Architectural Modification Request Application to the HOA Board for approval. Be a good neighbor by submitting forms for approval before you begin a project.

Good neighbors make great neighborhoods. At River Bank Woods we want to create an environment where everyone enjoys the beauty and tranquillity of our neighborhood.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The HOA Board is often asked to solve problems outside of our purview. Listed below are some agencies that may be better able to help you solve your problem.

LOUDOUN COUNTY: www.loudoun.gov or main line 703-777-0100

ANIMAL CONTROL: 703-777-0406 Problems with animals

BUILDING INSPECTIONS AND PERMITS: 703-777-0220 Permanent construction inside or outside of a house requires county inspections and permits. These permits are the responsibility of the homeowner.

CITIZEN COMMENT LINE: 703-777-0115 Open information line.

RECYCLING: 703-771-5318 Information on disposal of hazardous waste products.

LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE Non-emergency 703-777-1021
Crime Prevention 703-771-5747
Emergency 911

STERLING VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY 18 703-430-4013

STERLING VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD COMPANY 25 703-430-2539

SUPERVISOR D.M. “MICK” STANTON JR. 703-777-0204 703-771-5033
Contact person for community problems; sidewalks, overcrowding etc.

Save this page of numbers and when problems arise please call the correct department or authority. The HOA Board cannot solve problems that do not fall under our guidelines. We do want to help you find the right person(s) for your problem or concern.

Finally, recently I heard a comment that Toll Brothers said I could do this or that. Remember Toll Brothers only wanted to sell you a house. Toll Brothers is in the process of getting off bond with Loudoun County / VDOT for this neighborhood. They are not involved in developing our sense of community or making our neighborhood a welcoming home for everyone.

RIVER BANK WOODS ARBOR DAY

WANTED: Planner and Planters

Dana Malone
Loudoun County Arborist / Urban Forester
Department of Building and Development
703-771-5991
dmalone@loudoun.gov

OH DEER, OH DEER! DEERESISTIBLE SUN GARDEN

One way to discourage a deer from eating your plants is to grow deer resistant blossoms. The following plants have blossoms that will attract winged visitors to your garden and supply plenty of bouquets all season and for years to come while discouraging deer nibbling. With these super-low maintenance perennials, a sun garden is easy to achieve.

Echinacea purpurea: Unique blooms attract butterflies and feed winter birds with the seedheads.

Wallflower “Fragrant Sunshine”: (Erysimum hybrid) This tidy, compact plant brightens your patio and garden with a long season of perfumed flowers. It gives you months and months of sweet scented blooms. Its foliage turns a rich purple in winter, giving you year around interest.

Snapdragons (Penstemon palmeri): So tough, this American prairie native survives icy winters and sweltering summers. Grows well even in dry or sandy soil.

Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis): Curtains of vivid tiny blue blooms, twice a year, plus deer-resistant, aromatic foliage. Perfect for tucking into rock gardens or trailing down slopes. And, the savory leaves can be used to season favorite dishes.

Yarrow (Achillea millefolium): Abundant blooms with rich color, lasting all summer into fall.

Sea Holly (Eryngium planum): This prickly plant won’t appeal to deer, but it is a wonderful border plant. Drought-tolerant, grows best in loamy soil.

Other plants to try: Firs, hollies, junipers, pines, spruces, boxwoods, cherry laurels, mahonias, nandinas, pyracanthas, rhododendrons and viburnums.

In case you want to grow other plants than those listed above you might try Concentrated Garlic Sticks, Deer Repellent Spray, Cold Water Blasts, or Electric Shock. All of these devices or products can be found at your local nursery.

CRAB GRASS ALERT: Be sure and treat your lawn immediately for crab grass. Visit your local garden center to purchase the pre-emergent control best suited to your yard.

GRUB ALERT: The soil in our neighborhood is saturated with grubs. If you don’t treat these grubs now, they will destroy your lawn later in the year. Visit your local garden center to purchase products to control grubs. Or you can contact www.byebyebeetle.com for more information.

REMINDERS:

**Recycling service with AAA Trash & Recycling
has changed from Wednesdays to MONDAYS
for our service area.**

**Play DateS!
Wednesdays @ 3 p.m.
@ the Tot Lot & Play Area on
River Oaks Drive (RBW Section II)**

Nothing fancy. Just show up. This is a great opportunity for you and your child/children to meet others in the neighborhood.

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMINGS AND GOINGS/CONGRATULATIONS

This is your newsletter if you have news to announce, please contact Teresa Bettac at 703-444-3035 or contact any board member with your information.

ARRIVALS

Please welcome our newest RBWer! Congratulations Yunhui Yang and Mark Judson on the birth of their daughter, Arwen, born April 1st.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

Please use the trash bag with this newsletter to pick up trash around the neighborhood. Do your part to keep our neighborhood beautiful. Please look for trash along the roadways and in the tree save areas. If you would like to help organize a neighborhood clean up, contact Jina Ames at Amesx3@aol.com.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Activities and events tie neighbors together, rather than facilities or formal meeting areas. We would like to have a Fourth of July bike parade, a Halloween parade, which has children marching in our neighborhood. Holiday caroling in December could be fun for all. Potluck dinners where a different course is served at each of several homes can become a regular event. Neighborhood clean ups, a weekly playgroup and perhaps a monthly book club for adults can be developed for our area.

River Bank Woods does not have a formal meeting area, but we do have a web site (www.riverbankwoods.org) that posts activities and information, a quarterly newsletter, a directory published by volunteers, and an e-mail distribution list. We have accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. We have the structure in place to build a close-knit, informed community. We need your help. Please look at some of the suggestions above and plan to take action. One person can not do everything. But everyone can do one thing. Your HOA will assist you in any way we can with funds and publicity. Working together we can make this a great community for all of our residents.

River Bank Woods Directory

If you are not in the current directory, please complete, sign, and return the [Neighborhood Directory Information Sheet](#). We really want to get all 78 homes in the Directory!!!

River Bank Woods e-mail distribution list

Please send an e-mail to webmaster@riverbankwoods.org to be added to the River Bank Woods e-mail distribution list.

Please "Catch Up and Plan Ahead" for exterior home improvements.

Please use the [Architectural Guidelines](#) to complete an [Architectural Modification Request Application \(AMRA\)](#)

- Anyone wishing to add or make changes to their property such as landscaping, decks, patios, storm doors, etc. must, along with obtaining all necessary permits, submit an AMRA prior to beginning any construction.
 - Applications are available via download (above or on www.riverbankwoods.org under "Documents") or by contacting Crishana Loritsch, Property Manager, Cardinal Management Group
 - Please submit completed applications to Teresa Bettac, Secretary, River Bank Woods, at 20667 Forest Overlook Court.
 - NOTE: If you have made such improvements without getting an AMRA approved, please take this opportunity to seek approval. Please catch up and, going forward, plan ahead.

NOTE: The Architectural Guidelines and AMRA are currently featured on the home page, but are always available on www.riverbankwoods.org under "Documents".

BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION:

Mike Morgan	President	president@riverbankwoods.org
Dennis Coombe	Vice President	vpresident@riverbankwoods.org
Teresa Bettac	Secretary	secretary@riverbankwoods.org
Samer Beidas	Treasurer	treasurer@riverbankwoods.org
Jina Ames	Director	director@riverbankwoods.org

DATES TO KNOW AND REMEMBER:

July 26, 2005	Quarterly River Bank Woods HOA Meeting
October 25, 2005	Quarterly River Bank Woods HOA Meeting