

River Bank Woods Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Issue 3

Summer 2005

River Bank Woods Spring Fling

THANK YOU to **Karen Blonder**, **Carolyn Coombe**, **Joyce & David Park**, **Jenni & Tom Aprahamian**, **Mike Morgan**, and **everyone** who helped make our Spring Fling a success! A special thank you to the **Sterling Volunteer Fire Department!!**

Karen Blonder was responsible for organizing the Spring Fling. It was a wonderful event with over 70 adults and children participating in a variety of summer time activities. The Board would like to thank **Mike Morgan**, President, for scheduling a wet and wild visit from the Sterling Volunteer Fire Department. Everyone had some great food and a lot of clean fun. Thanks to Karen and her family for making this event the highlight of the year. Karen and her family will be greatly missed in our neighborhood. We are looking for someone to plan next year's Spring Fling.



River Bank Woods Community Garage Sale

The Board would also like to thank **Jina Ames**, Director, who organized our 2nd Annual River Bank Woods Community Garage Sale. The weather was delightful and the streets were packed with shoppers and buyers. Plan to join in the fun next year. If you see Jina, please thank her for all her hard work. The Board appreciates her organizing this activity for the second year.

From the Board...

The River Bank Woods Homeowners Association (HOA) Board of Directors met on Tuesday, July 26th at the Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace. Reports and updates were presented on a variety of River Bank Woods action items, hot topics, issues, concerns, and special projects. There are currently: 38 Open + 2 Re-Opened + 20 On-Going + 11 Not Started + 59 Closed = 130 items total.

These quarterly HOA meetings are open to all River Bank Woods residents. We encourage all homeowners to attend. There is a Homeowner Forum at every meeting for residents to discuss issues and concerns, and share ideas on how to improve our neighborhood. We hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2005.

There was a general discussion of street parking concerns. Please read Loudoun County Parking Ordinances found in this newsletter. Be sure that you and your family are following all county ordinances. Be a good neighbor and make our streets safer for everyone.

Toll Brothers is still in the process of getting off bond with Loudoun County/VDOT. Recently, Toll Brothers has replaced dead street trees. These trees are calculated in the required tree save area for our neighborhood. Please water and care for these trees if they are planted close to your home. A healthy green space creates a welcoming environment for everyone.

Toll Brothers has replaced street signs and completed repair work to curbs and sidewalks to meet Loudoun County specifications. Toll Brothers is also working on the Storm Water Management Pond to meet Loudoun County requirements. This is a work-in-progress at this time. The HOA Board is monitoring all of these activities with Toll Brothers and Loudoun County.

The Board would like to organize some family activities for our community. If you have any suggestions for social activities, please contact an HOA Board Member. We would like to organize a neighborhood activity for the fall.

Please remember that homeowners need to get approval of architectural modifications by notifying their neighbors of planned improvements and submitting an Architectural Modification Request Application (AMRA) for approval. Be a good neighbor by submitting forms for approval before you begin a project. All projects should be completed in a timely manner. AMRAs and Architectural Guidelines are posted on the River Bank Woods web site www.riverbankwoods.org.

<p>This is your neighborhood newsletter. If you have information for the newsletter, please contact Teresa Bettac at secretary@riverbankwoods.org or (703) 444-3035.</p>

<p>Please send an e-mail to webmaster@riverbankwoods.org to be added to the River Bank Woods E-mail Distribution List.</p>

WANTED: RIVER BANK WOODS BLOCK CAPTAINS

**For additional community leadership and participation
to help build community in River Bank Woods**

- **ATTEND QUARTERLY RIVER BANK WOODS HOA MEETINGS**
- **SHARE COMMUNITY INFORMATION WITH NEIGHBORS**
- **HAND-DELIVER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER / OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**
- **COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE DIRECTORY, NEWSLETTER, AND WEB SITE www.riverbankwoods.org**
- **PERSONALLY GET RSVPs FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

If you are willing to serve as a block captain, please contact Teresa Bettac at secretary@riverbankwoods.org or (703) 444-3035.

Block captains are needed for the following areas:

River Bank Forest Place:	Lots 1-5 & 25-29
River Bank Forest Place:	Lots 6-13 & 22-24
Forest Overlook Court:	Lots 14 -21
Mason Oak Court:	Lots 30-37 Jenni & Tom Aprahamian
Five Oaks Court:	Lots 73-78
Hilltop Oaks Court:	Lots 38-44
Noland Woods Court:	Lots 61-72
Meadow Island Place:	Lots 45-52 & 53-60 (2 people)

Working together we can make River Bank Woods a wonderful neighborhood community. If you have any suggestions for activities or ways to improve our neighborhood please contact a member of our HOA Board.

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

LOUDOUN COUNTY PARKING ORDINANCES

In 2003, in response to numerous parking complaints throughout the county, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Team along with the Loudoun County Attorney's Office began reviewing and revising county ordinances to better suit the current parking situation in Loudoun.

The Sheriff's Office was receiving more and more complaints from homeowners, particularly in Eastern Loudoun, regarding vehicles parked too close to the corners of intersections, stop signs, and crosswalks or even parked facing in the wrong direction.

A majority of the complaints were difficult to enforce as there were no ordinances to address them, even parking a vehicle on a sidewalk. Since that time the county ordinances have been amended and have been enforced since last year. The amended parking ordinances can be viewed at

http://inetdocs.loudoun.gov/pio/docs/ordinances_/adopted_/chapter480parki/chapter480parki.pdf

Residents of the county who encounter parking violations or have other traffic related concerns are encouraged to contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office **Traffic Hotline at 703-771-5798**. If the situation needs immediate attention, but is not an emergency, residents can call the Sheriff's **non-emergency line at 703-777-1021**.

NEW PARKING ORDINANCE – ARE YOU IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW?

The Sheriff's office has had a lot of complaints concerning the new parking ordinances in Loudoun County. Residents are unaware that parking the wrong way on a street can get them a ticket, as well as to close to an intersection, or parking too close to a sign. Residents have been parking this way for years. In response to this problem the deputies may issue you a time warning. This is a \$40 fine if you are found in violation of the new county parking ordinance.

Listed is the new parking ordinance:

480.105 Parking prohibited in specific places.

- On a sidewalk
- In front of or in any such manner which obstructs access to or from a public or private driveway.
- On a crosswalk or within twenty (20) feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- Within thirty (30) feet upon the approach of any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic –control signal located at the side of a roadway.
- On the roadway side of any vehicle parked at the edge or the curb of a street.
- Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a street or highway or within a tunnel.
- So as to prevent the use of curb ramps located on public property or on privately owned property open to the public.
- At any place where official signs prohibit parking.
- Perpendicular to any curb whether on roadway or dead end cul-de-sacs where not marked as an official parking space.

- Parking on the left edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Within twenty (20) feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station and on the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five (75) feet of the entrance when properly sign-posted

No person other than a deputy sheriff, police officer, or member of the fire and rescue department shall move a vehicle into any such prohibited area or away from a curb such distance as is unlawful, or start or cause to be started the motor of any motor vehicle, change or move the levers, brake starting device, gears, or other mechanism of a parted motor vehicle to a position other than that in which it was left by the owner or driver thereof, or attempt to do so.

By Deputy Barry Dufek

Whenever possible, please park your vehicles in the garage. It is safer for the vehicle, safer for our children, and provides an inviting vista for friends and neighbors alike. Please remember that all commercial vehicles should be parked in the garage per our HOA guidelines.

Overcrowding Hot Line

The Loudon County Zoning Ordinance permits family members plus two roomers in a residential home. If you have any questions or concerns about an overcrowding situation, call the Overcrowding Hot Line at 703-737-8190. Be prepared to give specific details regarding the overcrowding situation.

Trash and Recycling

The River Bank Woods HOA Board of Directors has contacted AAA Recycling and Trash Removal Services to improve the level of service in River Bank Woods. Here are two things that you can do to help:

1. Please be sure to have your trash and recyclables out before 6 a.m. on the day of pick-up (schedule below) – but not before 6:00 p.m. the night before.
2. All trash and recycling must be in AAA trash or recycling bins to guarantee pick-up. Trash left in bags alongside the curb is unsightly and can be unsanitary when animals tear into the bags.

AAA Trash Recycling and Trash Removal Services schedule:

- Mondays: trash and recyclables collection
- Wednesdays: yard work collection
- Thursdays: trash collection; and special collection for large items if you have called to give 24-hour notice

If you have any questions, you may contact the AAA Recycling and Trash Removal Services Customer Care Center at (703) 818-8222 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Also, please be a good neighbor and store your trash and recycling containers in your garage, out of site of the front of your home. We receive many complaints about this from your neighbors.

Welcome To Our New Neighbors

We want to welcome our new families to River Bank Woods. We are delighted you selected our neighborhood and community!

George and Judy Wolfe
20558 Noland Woods Court

Suiteh K. Huang
47427 River Oaks Drive

River Bank Bunco!

LADIES! We are taking names for women interested in playing the exciting, thrilling and mindless game called Bunco. Last year 12 women gathered the first Friday of every month from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. to play at alternating homes. We had many winners, losers (equally rewarding), and players express a desire to play again this coming Fall 2005. We will resume play in September and are looking for players (12) and alternates (if the time commitment is too great). No prior Bunco experience is necessary! This year we will be opening play up to Rivercrest and Lowes Point residents. The more the merrier! If you are interested please contact Jina Ames, 47427 River Bank Forest Place, (703) 406-0088, or by e-mail director@riverbankwoods.org. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and have some fun. See you in September!

Ladies Night Out

If you are interested in a casual evening of dining at the Fox Chase Tavern please contact Teresa Bettac at secretary@riverbankwoods.org or (703) 444-3035. It is a great way to relax, meet the neighbors, and find out what is going on in the community. Date and time to be determined, I hope to see you in September.

Poker Anyone?

Several residents have expressed an interest in a monthly Poker night. If you are interested in a Poker Night or some other type of card activity, please contact Jina Ames at (703) 406-0088 or director@riverbankwoods.org. Look for additional information on date and time of this activity.

Tree Stakes

Toll Brothers has removed the stakes from the street trees, but River Bank Woods homeowners must remove the stakes from the decorative trees. The wires around the tree will girdle the tree and eventually kill the tree. **Please remove any tree stakes in your yard immediately.** If you see that your neighbor has not removed the stakes, please remind them to do so, or perhaps offer to help them. Our trees and tree save areas are an important community resource.

Deer Crossing

The Virginia Department of Transportation is in charge of removing dead animals from the roadways. To report one, call 703-383-VDOT. We should drive cautiously at dusk, dawn and at night along roads flanked by forests. Deer can run into your path without warning.

Beetle Alert

Beetles feed on ornamental plants and are particularly fond of roses and flowers of all kinds, as well as trees that grow fruit. They nibble away at the soft, meaty parts of the leaves, leaving behind only the harder veins.

Typically, in July, the beetles lay eggs, which hatch within about 10 days. The C-shaped grubs are creamy colored with brown heads, have three pairs of legs and are about an inch long when fully grown. They feed on the roots of such turf grasses as Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass and bent grass. Root loss from grubs can be so extensive that the turf can be rolled back from the soil like a rug.

The beetles fly, making them very mobile, and they flock in large numbers to attractive climates and plants. Gardeners can use a variety of methods to kill the beetles. They can pick them off of plants and trees by hand; grow different plants that are not favored by the beetles; use dishwashing soap or insecticides, such as pyrethrum blends. Commercial beetle traps attract beetles to the area.

Poison Ivy Alert

Learn to recognize this plant, which can look like a small shrub, or like a vine if it's climbing a tree. Scouts are taught, "Leaflets three, let it be," because the leaves grow in groups of three, usually with a red area in the center where the stems of the leaves meet. The leaves might have smooth edges, be slightly lobed or have an undulating margin. The woody stems are tan and might be covered with reddish-brown, hair-like aerial rootlets if they're climbing a tree or building.

If you have to work around poison ivy, wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants, and keep your socks pulled up. Wash your clothes with a strong soap; as soon as possible, use a solvent, such as isopropyl alcohol, to rinse any areas where the plant touched your skin. To kill poison ivy, carefully cut the stems growing up trees near the ground. When they leaf out again, spray with a glyphosate weed killer, such as Roundup or Kleeraway.

Next River Bank Woods

Homeowners Association Meeting

October 25, 2005

Recipe Corner – Oatmeal Cake

Place 1 cup of oats in 1 ¼ cup boiling water. Let mixture stand for 20 minutes.

Combine the following ingredients:

1 cup of brown sugar	2 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup of white sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
½ cup of butter	½ tsp. salt
2 eggs	½ tsp. vanilla
1 ½ cups of flour	

Blend the butter and sugar. Add the eggs and vanilla. Add the remaining dry ingredients. Stir in the oatmeal. Place in an 8” square pan. Bake at 350 degrees 40 to 50 minutes.

Topping for cake:

3 Tablespoons cream or milk	½ cup nuts
¾ cup brown sugar	¾ cup coconut
¼ cup butter	

Mix all the ingredients together. Spread on top of hot cake. Place cake in the oven under the broiler. Turn on oven to broil. Broil topping until the nuts and coconut begin to brown. Serve warm or cold. This cake is very rich and moist.

Neighborhood Watch

Several residents have expressed an interest in a Neighborhood Watch program for our community, River Bank Woods. If you are interested in participating in the Neighborhood Watch program please contact Jina Ames at (703)406-0088 or director@riverbankwoods.org. Look for more information in the coming months on this program.

River Bank Woods Homeowners Association Directory

Members of the River Bank Woods Homeowners Association will canvas the community to get information for our neighborhood directory. Hopefully everyone will participate in the directory this year. Having everyone listed in the directory provides valuable information for all homeowners. It can help build community relationships and provide another layer of security for all of us as we watch out for one another.

Please help us include your family in our community directory. All River Bank Woods households will be provided with a copy of the updated directory later this year.