

Neighborhood News

Riverglen and River Watch Home Owners Associations

FALL 2016

Riverglen President's Update Rick Huber, President

Hello Riverglen;

Welcome to our 2016 Annual Newsletter. I would like to welcome all of the new homeowners to the community since our last publication. It is great to see how well the community is coming together and the improvements that are being made to both the common areas and around the neighborhood.

In an effort to consolidate the flow and cost of information we will continue to send you news from the Association via this Annual Newsletter and also maintain the Riverglen Web site for monthly updates. You can find the RGHOA web site at www.riverglenhoa.com. The website is up to date on current issues and news that affects the community. If you have a questions, check the website first. If you are searching for an answer to a question and can't find it, don't hesitate to send an e-mail to one of the Directors or Committee Chairpersons.

As most of you know, there is a Social Web Site called <https://riverglenofbrandon.nextdoor.com>. This is NOT an official Riverglen HOA website. This is a social site for the exchange of news and services. An estimated third of your neighbors have signed up.

Updates:

- New front and rear entrance signs...they look great. The signs and lighting has been updated to present a more modern look. We are working with the county to improve the street lighting to further improve the entrances on Boyette and McMullen Roads and along Dooneymoor Drive.
- The creeping fig, mulching and palms have been trimmed and completed.
- New trash cans have been installed in the large park.
- Irrigation repaired, new main pump maintenance
- Bordering Walls have been pressure washed and painted where needed
- Oaks along Donneymoor Drive have been trimmed.

So what else is going on? The Riverglen BOD is hosting a Saturday in the Park in October - come and join us. We are also hosting the November annual meeting at the Bloomingdale Library, on Nov 1 at 7PM.

If you have ideas or recommended projects please share them with the BOD, don't hesitate to make recommendations. That means volunteering to help execute the projects; the BOD is always looking for help. We do need help with opening and closing the park. Please give send me an e-mail if you would like to volunteer your time.

Continued on page 2

River Watch President's Update Jim Egbert, President

Notes From Riverwatch.

Hello to all of our neighbors in Riverwatch. As the summer comes to a close, it's time to get ready for the holidays. Before you know it, we will be decorating for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. How time flies.

Riverwatch has seen a surge of new homeowners in the recent months. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you. This is a nice peaceful community that just begs your involvement. The thing that keeps the community what it is by volunteers such as you to keep it going. Your Association is maintained by a five member Board of Directors that meet monthly between January and November. There are also committees that you can be involved with. Visit our web page at www.riverwatchhoa.com and view the vacancies on both the board and committees. The neighborhood needs your involvement.

As a private gated community, you need to remember that we are governed by our documents and covenants. I advise you to read through them to be familiar with what is permitted. It is my opinion that the board is not overbearing but it does enforce the documents. If you don't like a rule, there are ways of getting the documents amended. It will take some work on your part but just as you don't ignore the county laws without consequences, you also can't ignore the HOA governing documents. So please, do yourself and the community a big favor and review them. Trust me; it is not easier to ask for forgiveness, but better, cheaper and more stress free to ask permission. If you have any questions that cannot be answered on the web page, you can always contact Greenacre Property Incorporated. All of their contact information as well as Jon Grass the property manager is listed there.

One final note, there has been a rise in people parking on the street overnight. This is a violation of the documents and you are taking a chance of getting towed. Unfortunately, when the community was constructed, the roads were not wide enough to allow for parking and the movement of emergency vehicles if they are attempting to navigate the area. It is understood that you can park on the street during the day, however if there is an emergency, most people are up and able to respond to moving faster than if they are sleeping and unaware there may be an issue. The HOA will begin towing if homeowners ignore the restriction.

Every 3rd Wednesday between January and November you are invited to join us at our monthly meetings. They are held at the Beef O'Brady's on Bell Shoals Road in Riverview. The ACC meets at 6:30 and the Board begins at 7:00PM. Stop by, say hello and get involved. It's your community and it will only remain the community it is if you become involved.

Jim Egbert, President RWHO

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Riverglen President's letter continued....

At this time I would like to say good-bye to Jim Egbert, the RGHOA Secretary and President of River Watch. Jim has served on both boards for over ten years. Goodbye Jim; best wishes to you and your family in your new home. You have been a great asset to both communities.

Also, we would like to welcome to the Riverglen Board Larry Barroner, Director At Large and Debbie Helmick, the Board's new Chairperson for Ponds.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Rick Huber
President RGHOA

YOU Are the Most Important Asset In Our Community!

The most important duty of our association is to protect the value of our property. The most important asset within our community is the members who make up the association. Without you, the homeowner/resident, our community is nothing more than a collection of buildings, landscape and asphalt.

Each of us brings our own individual tastes, likes, dislikes and preferences into the community. It is that diversity that makes our community interesting and full of life.

By recognizing the diverse makeup of our association members, we can begin to understand the need for commonly accepted rules and regulations, architectural guidelines and the need for a Board of Directors made up of a cross-section of homeowners in order to represent the full spectrum of individual tastes and concerns.

In order for our community to develop to its fullest potential, we must develop an appreciation of the others who make up our community. We can choose to embrace the potential of our association and work within its framework to create an atmosphere of peaceful, harmonious living, OR we can choose to ignore that potential and view our association as a hindrance in our own pursuit of happiness. The key to successful association living is to recognize the benefits provided by living within an association and accept that certain behaviors and actions detract from those benefits.

Likewise, successful association living also relies heavily upon recognizing those behaviors and actions that enhance the benefits of living within an association. Conforming to community guidelines, active participation in association activities such as committees and the board of directors, and attending board or committee meetings are perfect examples of how each and every one of us can contribute to the betterment of our community.

Our association is legally obligated to preserve, protect and enhance the assets of the community. Our association can succeed only with the cooperation, support and involvement of the homeowners. The investment we have made in our property demands that we all provide that cooperation, support and involvement. To neglect that responsibility is to neglect our investment, and few of us can afford to do that!

Riverglen BOD Meetings, Events and ACC Monthly Meeting Dates:**Saturday In the Park**

11AM to 2PM
October 28, 2016

Riverglen Annual Meeting

7PM November 1, 2016
Bloomington Regional
Public Library
1906 Bloomington Ave

BOD Monthly Meetings (7PM)

Boyette Springs
Church of God
12114 Boyette Road
Riverview, Florida
33569

November 16th, 2016
No Meeting December
January 19th, 2017
February 16th
March 16th
April 18th
May 18th
June 15th
July 20th
August 17th

ACC Meeting (7PM)

October 13th, 2016
November 10th
December 8th
January 12th, 2017
February 9th
March 9th
April 13th
May 11th
June 8th
July 13th
August 10th

To the world
you may be
just one person,
but to one
person, you may
be the world

Deed Restricted Community

By Larry Barroner

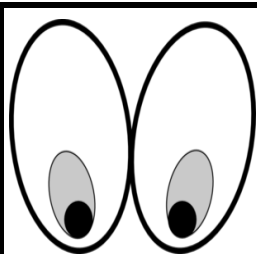
As the "new guy" on the Riverglen HOA Board of Directors, I cannot believe the amount of time the board spends reviewing various discrepancies that our neighbors make or continue to make on a regular basis. We all knew when we moved into Riverglen (and River Watch), that we were moving into a deed restricted community - our entrance marques stated so, but what did that really mean? So for my contribution to this newsletter I decided to remind you what a deed restricted community is and how it impacts all of us.

A deed restricted community is where the community has a homeowner association that has rules and regulations pertaining to the use of land and the appearance of the neighborhood. Our deed restricted communities require a homeowner association fee to continue the upkeep of the community common areas.

Our deed restrictions require the homeowner to submit an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Request Form to the Property Management Company (Greenacre Properties, Inc.) by the first day of the month to be considered for the ACC to review during their monthly meeting. The ACC then provides their recommendation to the Board for approval. Homeowners must have the ACC request approved before any work is accomplished to a home or property. Some examples that require an approval are: painting the exterior of your home, replacing front doors, garage doors, front facing windows, siding, re-paving or adding a driveway, walkway, decorative curbing, adding or replacing a fence, construction of a pool, adding or replacing an arbor, gazebo, swing set or major playground equipment, adding or replacing a water softener, propane tank, pool heater or shed, replacing a roof or shingles on a roof, and other items or alterations that are viewable from the street. It's better to submit an ACC request form and get an approval than to deal with the circumstances of not having approval.

The submission of the ACC Request Form does not in any manner relieve or excuse the homeowner from complying with all local ordinances, permitting requirements, or laws that may be relevant to the work, alterations or changes contemplated by the homeowner. The homeowner is required to obtain all required permits for work to be performed.

Hopefully, you now see it is important to be aware of our deed restrictions. If you are thinking of making any changes or improvements to the exterior of your home, you will want to review the requirements before you begin. All of our required information and ACC forms are available to you 24/7 online at; <http://www.riverglenhoa.com/> or <http://www.riverwatchhoa.com>. If you have additional comments, questions or just want to see what goes on at our HOA meetings, please feel free to attend and have your voice heard.



The Riverglen Board of Directors has a vacancy due to the departure of the Unit 6 (River Watch) Director. The Board is looking for a volunteer from River Watch to serve the remainder of his term. Anyone interested should contact the Property Manager or a member of the Riverglen Board for additional information.

Pond Report

As some of you might be unaware, Riverglen has a pond coordinator for the storm drain ponds located throughout Riverglen and Riverwatch. The pond coordinator acts as a liaison between the homeowners and our pond maintenance company and the Riverglen Board of Directors regarding issues related to the ponds such as algae, duckweed blooms etc. We have 12 ponds within our community that catch/store storm drain run off from our yards and roads. Thus, the ponds play an important role in our community in regard to flood control as well as providing and supporting a wonderful wildlife habitat. Lately, that supportive role has expanded to alligators. It appears they are entering and traveling throughout our ponds via the storm drains.



Please Do Not Feed the gator(s).

This practice does not only result in a danger to humans but to the gators as well as they become a "nuisance" and have to be trapped which usually results in their having to be destroyed. Additionally, it is illegal to feed, kill or harass alligators in Florida. In Florida, alligators are considered a Species of Special Concern but can be harvested legally only under proper licenses and

permits issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Some gator facts: Gators usual diet consists of fish, turtles, birds and small mammals. Once they reach about 6 feet they are large enough to do serious or deadly harm to adults but especially our children and pets. Given they look like prey to alligators, keep children and pets away from the water's edge wherever alligators are likely to be present. Gators are most active from dusk to dawn as to hunting but will take advantage during day. They eat about once a week and can stay under the water for several hours if needed. They can climb chain link fences as well as some wooden fences under 4.5 feet. They have problems with the metal stake or pvc fences. They will sometimes try to enter pool enclosures through pet doors or weak places in screening if highly motivated. They are opportunists and are always watching their environment for food source. If you are attacked their most vulnerable place is their nose so aim for it. Most of the time, alligators and humans can peacefully coexist as long as their natural aversion to humans remains intact and humans remain vigilant to their presence. If you are aware of a gator on your pond and it begins to be act aggressive by stalking or acting unafraid of humans, you can contact the Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286). Please be aware, nuisance alligators are killed, not relocated.

Additionally, if you are trying to reach the pond coordinator regarding an issue on your pond, please contact me at debgar2@verizon.net. Look forward to working with you to keep our ponds and wildlife healthy and happy.

Debbie Helmick

River Watch HOA Upcoming Events

River Watch BOD

September 21st, 2016
October 19th
November 16th

River Watch BOD Meetings

Dates:

7:00 PM
Beef O'Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Road,
Riverview

ACC Meetings

6:15 PM
Same day and location as
BOD Meeting

Meeting notices posted
message box exit of River Watch.

River Watch Yard Sale
October 1, 2016
7AM – 2PM



River Watch Welcome

A Big Welcome to all new residents of River Watch. An effort is being made to contact all new residents and welcomed by Kara Rutherford, a resident for more than 15 years. Welcome packets have been prepared for our new neighbors. A variety of informational brochures, publications highlighting the area's points of interest, a small gift and a short note are included.

If anyone knows of a new homeowner who recently has moved in, please contact me so we can welcome them. You may email name and address of the new homeowner to prplehazedog@aol.com.

If anyone is interested in helping with this committee, please contact Kara Rutherford at 672-9109.

River Watch Website

The new and improved website offers residents an easy way to find information. Have you been looking for information about River Watch and don't know where to find it?

If you have, then your answer is...the River Watch Community Website ... <http://www.riverwatchhoa.com>

Here you will find answers to questions such as...

- Who are the current board members?
- What committees are there and who are the chairs?
- Where can I read the minutes of the monthly meeting?
- What are the dates for the upcoming meetings?
- Where is the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Request Form?
- Whom should I contact to get involved?

Now that you know where to go...it will be easy keeping up-to-date with the happenings in River Watch. And when the time comes to make changes to your property, you can quickly and easily access the ACC Request Form in order to formally submit a request for review and approval.

The website is updated frequently so it's important that you access the site on a regular basis so you don't miss anything.

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) is here to help you!

For those of you unfamiliar with the ACC, this committee reviews and approves requests from homeowners when they want to make changes to their property; the most common being house repaint, reroof or fence installations.

The River Watch Declaration of Covenants (DOC), and amendments (which can be found on the River Watch website under Documents) outline the specific requirements homeowners must follow when making changes to their property.

To assist you in choosing appropriate colors when the time comes to repaint, there is a Paint Palette document (revised December 2015) accessible on the River Watch website that provides pre-approved options which makes the approval process simple. There are over 100 color combinations to choose from. Though you are not required to use these specific colors, you must use similar colors. Roof shingles must be dimensional.

So...when you start planning a change to your property, please consult first with the DOC and then submit a formal request using the Architectural Control Committee Request Form. This form can also be found on the Documents section of the River Watch website.

Remember...rules are meant to be followed and doing so will make the change to your property experience that much more enjoyable for you and your neighbors.

The River Watch ACC is in need of new members so if you are interested in spending 1-2 hours per month helping out we welcome your participation. Interested residents please send an email to RiverwatchACC@gmail.com and someone will contact you.

River Watch Management

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River Watch Board of Directors

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River Watch Committees

ACC

Michelle Akers

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Landscape

Carol Livingston

Neighborhood Watch

Vacant



When the time comes to repaint, there is a paint palette document accessible on the River Watch website that provides pre-approved options .
<http://www.riverwatchhoa.com>

Two (very easy) ways to help keep your community safe

1. Report malfunctioning streetlights. There is a very simple online form available on the TECO website: <https://secure.tampaelectric.com/tampaelectricsecure/forms/residential/streetlightout/> If you notice a streetlight not working, note the number on the pole and submit the online form. Response time from TECO is very good – lights are usually repaired in a week or two, often within just a few days.
2. Report potholes. Hillsborough county also has an online form for reporting issues: <https://service.hillsboroughcounty.org/311/roads-sidewalks/>

The roads within the Riverglen community (except River Watch) are maintained by the county. Please report any issues promptly so that repairs can be made before they become a hazard to vehicle traffic.

River Watch Signage

Certainly most residents are aware that River Watch is in the process of updating the River Watch sign and the surrounding brick walls. Riverglen is one of the more beautiful and well maintained communities in the Riverview area. However, many residents have commented that the sign and the surrounding landscaping does not appropriately represent the beauty that's found inside the gates of River Watch. In an effort to revitalize the property outside as well as inside the gate to River Watch, several efforts are in the works. The sign was updated as well as the green tile on all of the brick pillars. The landscaping at the sign will also undergo renovations. Carol Livingston has graciously accepted the post as Landscaping Chair and she is in the process of articulating those changes. Additionally many residents have noted that the area inside the gate is very dark at night. Lighting will be a new addition to our landscaping and hopefully that will not only beautify the area but also provide a safer area directly inside the gate.

River Watch is an area that has steadfastly preserved it's property values. It is the hope of the River Watch Board of Directors that these changes will only enhance the property values of River Watch homeowners.



The Egbert Rant 2016

My Final Rant is to those who feel that they should jump on social media complaining about how the board allows Donney Moore Drive to get to such disrepair and how the board is responsible for your auto repairs.

Well, here is a news flash!! Donney Moore Drive as well as all the roads in Units 1-4 in Riverglen is County owned and maintained. When there is a pot hole, it gets repaired when the county is notified by residents. The squeaky wheel theory is what works best. When you or I drive down the road and see the pot hole, we go to the county web page to report it. It then gets placed onto the list of repairs. You will receive an email reply informing you the approximate time to completion. That contact page is: <https://service.hillsboroughcounty.org/311/roads-sidewalks/>

Bottom Line, be part of the community. The board meets every month. If you have issues then stop by the meeting and voice your concerns. Don't hide behind some keyboard spouting things that you assume. In the long run it makes you look bad. And by the way, if you think that is what I'm doing? I have been part of both associations in multiple capacities since I moved into my home in 2001. So, yes I do have a right to voice my opinions. Like my opinion on the homeowner posting signs when a family recently moved, maybe it's not them but you who is the problem. Say what you want about my rants but that my friend was a lowlife move. I pity your other neighbors.

Oh and by the way, have fun and be happy. I am!

RIVER WATCH Landscape Committee Update

Hello, my name is **Carol Livingston** and I recently became a member of the landscape committee for our community. It appears that I've come into this position at a great time. I'm sure that you've noticed the changes taking place at the entrance to our community. The RIVERWATCH community has been here for many years and now it's time to rejuvenate the entrance. Our entrance sign is in poor shape and the landscape is overgrown. With that in mind the RIVERWATCH sign is getting a face lift and new landscaping will follow soon. I'm looking forward to seeing the finished product, and I'm sure you are as well.

The goal of the Landscape Committee is to work towards increased property values in the community by educating and encouraging homeowners in the neighborhood to keep their properties well maintained and by maintaining the landscaping in the common areas. This is done through articles in the newsletter and on the website, and through the "Yard of the Month" program, which we hope to implement in the near future.

Each year we are faced with the need for homeowners to volunteer to be on the Landscape Committee. Serving on the committee can be a very rewarding experience and requires very little time each month. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to help out.

your VOTE is your VOICE

Elections present voters with important choices. Whether it is a local race that will affect your community or a national race that could change the direction of the country it is a time to consider the issues which you care about and decide which candidate you support.

How do voters go about comparing and then judging candidates?

These steps outlined below are designed to help you judge a candidate.

- Decide what you are looking for in a candidate.
- Find out about the candidates
- Gather materials about the candidates
- Evaluate candidates' stands on issues
- Learn about the candidates' leadership abilities
- Learn how other people view the candidate
- Sorting it all out

Step 1: Decide what you are looking for in a candidate.

Candidates can be judged in two ways: the positions they take on issues and the leadership qualities and experience they would bring to office. Both are important. Your first step in picking a candidate is to decide the issues you care about and the qualities you want in a leader.

When you consider issues, think about community or national problems that you want people in government to address. For example, you may be interested in the threat of nuclear war, government funding for student loans or teenage unemployment. Those are issues.

When you consider leadership qualities, think about the characteristics you want in an effective leader. Do you look for intelligence, honesty, an ability to communicate?

Step 2: Find out about the candidates.

First find out which candidates are running in the race by going to Smart Voter. If Smart Voter is not available for your county, then look in your Sample Ballot mailed to you from your county elections office. Newspapers are another source of information.

Step 3: Gather materials about the candidates.

Put together a "library" of information about the candidates. Collect any information you can find on the candidates. Call campaign headquarters and watch the press. Sources of information from which you may choose

include:

- campaign literature, including campaign Web sites
- nonpartisan online voter information Web sites, direct mail letters, press reports (newspapers, television, and radio)
- radio and television ads
- candidates speeches
- candidate debates.

In a local race, interviews with the candidates can be helpful. For incumbents, a look at their voting records on issues that you have listed as important can tell you the candidates' positions on those issues.

Step 4: Evaluate candidates' stands on issues.

As you read the materials you collect, keep a record. Do the materials give you an overall impression of the candidates? What specific conclusions can you draw about the candidates' stand on issues? Fill in the Candidate Report Card as you gather new information.

Step 5: Learn about the candidates' leadership abilities.

Decide if a candidate will be a good leader is difficult. How can you know if someone will be honest, open or able to act under pressure if elected to office? Here are some ways to read between the lines as you evaluate the candidates' leadership qualities.

- Look at the candidates' background and their experience. How well prepared are they for the job?
- Observe the candidates' campaigns. Do they accept speaking engagements before different groups - even those groups that might not be sympathetic? Do they accept invitations to debate? Do the campaigns emphasize media events where the candidates can be seen but not heard?
- Review the campaign materials. As you read the materials and watch the campaign develop, add to the Candidate Report Card the information that provides insights into candidates' personalities and leadership qualities. For example, do campaign materials emphasize issues or just images? Are they accurate?

Step 6: Learn how other people view the candidate.

Now that you have accumulated information from campaigns and other sources, you will want to learn what other people think about the candidates. Their opinions can help to clarify your own views, but do not discount your own informed judgments. You may be the most careful observer of all!

- Seek the opinions of others in your community who keep track of political campaigns. Interview three people (not family members) such as shopkeeper, neighbor, or politically active volunteer, to find out which candidate they support and

why. Learn what has shaped their political opinions. Was it an event? An idea or program proposed by a candidate? A particular issue about which they feel strongly? A long-standing party loyalty?

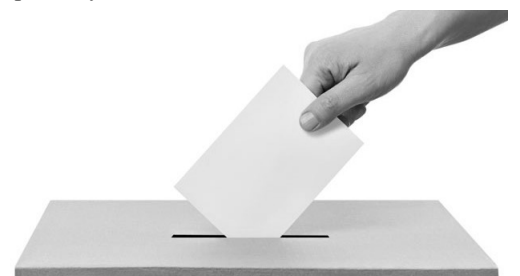
- Learn about endorsements. This is a way for interest groups and organizations to give a "stamp of approval" to a candidate. Endorsements provide clues to the issues a candidate supports. Get a list of endorsements from each candidates' headquarters. Find out what these groups stand for and find out why they are endorsing this candidate.
- Look into campaign contributions. Where do the candidates get the funds to finance their campaigns? Do they use their own money or raise funds from a few wealthy donors, from many small contributors, or from Political Action Committees? Many types of information about campaign contributions must be reported to the government and are watched by the press. Check the newspaper for stories on campaign finance. How might these campaign contributions affect the candidates' conduct in office?
- Throughout the campaign, opinion polls will be taken by a variety of groups to evaluate public support for the different candidates. Polls reveal who is leading at a certain point in the race. As you read the polls, ask these questions: Who sponsored the poll? Were all the figures released? What kinds of questions were asked? Were they slanted or unbiased? Who were respondents selected - randomly or such a way to include all segments of the population? How many people were included in the poll sample?

Step 7: Sorting it all out.

Review the information in your Candidate Report Card and compare all the candidates. Ask yourself these final questions:

- Which candidate's view on the issues do you agree with the most?
- Who ran the fairest campaign?
- Which candidate demonstrated the most knowledge on the issues?
- Which candidate has the leadership qualities you are looking for?

Is the choice clear? If so you may have just picked your candidate.





Sandhill Cranes

Sandhill cranes are fairly social birds that are usually encountered in pairs or family groups through the year. During migration and winter, non-related cranes come together to form "survival groups" which forage and roost together. Such groups often congregate at migration and winter sites, sometimes resulting in thousands of cranes being found together.

Sandhill Cranes are mainly herbivorous, often eating various types of food based on availability. They often feed with their bills down to the ground as they root around for seeds and other foods in shallow wetlands with vegetation or various upland habitats. Cultivated foods such as corn, wheat and sorghum are readily eaten and may support large numbers of cranes. For example, waste corn is useful to the cranes in preparing for their migrations, providing them with nutrients for the long journey. Among northern races of Sandhill cranes, the diet is most varied especially among breeding birds. Northern cranes and their offspring may variously feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

Sandhill cranes raise one brood per year. In non-migratory populations, egg-laying can begin as early as December or as late as August. In migratory populations, egg-laying usually begins between early April and late May. Both members of a breeding pair build the nest using plant material from the surrounding areas. Nest sites are usually in marshes, bogs, or swales, though cranes will occasionally nest on dry land. The female lays one to three (usually two) eggs that are oval-shaped and dull brown with reddish brown markings. Both parents participate in incubation, which lasts 29 to 32 (though usually 30) days. Incubation begins with the laying of the first egg and continues until the second egg has hatched. The chicks are precocial; they hatch covered in down, with their eyes open and are able to leave the nest within 24 hours of hatching. The parents brood the chicks for up to three weeks after hatching. They feed the young intensively for the first few weeks, and with decreasing frequency until they reach independence at nine or ten months old.

The chicks remain with their parents until one or two months before the parents begin laying the next clutch of eggs. After leaving their parents, the chicks form nomadic flocks with other subadults and non-breeders. They remain with these flocks until they form breeding pairs and begin breeding between the ages of two and seven years old. Sandhill Cranes provide extended biparental care to their young. Both members of a breeding pair build the nest, incubate the eggs and feed and protect the chicks for up to 10 months after hatching. Sandhill Cranes that reach independence are expected to live around seven years. Sandhill Cranes can live to at least twenty one years of age. Slow down when you see SandHill Cranes.

How to remove an oil stain!

Oil can leak from your car onto your concrete driveway, causing dark stains to form. Oil stains not only indicate that your car needs to be serviced, but they can also visually mar your property. Although oil stains are difficult and stubborn, requiring multiple steps to thoroughly remove, you can successfully remove the stains from the concrete around your home using everyday items.

Things You'll Need

- Newspaper
- Trash bag
- Clay-based cat box litter
- Liquid dish detergent with grease-cutting agents
- Water
- Scrub brush

Step 1:

Soak up as much of the oil as possible as soon as you can using newspaper. If the oil stain is old, you may still be able to pick up some residual surface oil. Press the newspaper against the stain to collect as much as possible. Place the newspaper into a trash bag and dispose of it outside.

Step 2:

Sprinkle a layer of clay-based cat box litter over top of the oil stain. You want to completely cover the stain so that you can no longer see it through the litter. The amount of litter needed depends on the size of the stain. The litter will soak up the oil from the concrete

Step 3:

Monitor the color of the litter several times while it is sitting on the stain. As the oil becomes absorbed into the litter, it will change to a darker color. When the litter changes colors, remove the old litter by sweeping it up with a broom. Dispose of the discolored litter as you did the oil-soaked newspapers. Sprinkle more litter onto the stain the same way you did in the prior step and continue to let it soak up the oil. Leave the stain covered with litter for a minimum of one day. Clean away all the litter after 24 hours. Sweep up the litter and dispose of it.

Step 4:

Apply a liquid dish detergent with grease-cutting agents to the oil stain. Use a scrub brush to rub the dish detergent into the stain

Step 5:

Pour 1 cup of boiling water onto the dish detergent covered stain. Use your scrub brush to rub the water and the soap into the stain. Take care not to burn yourself with the boiling water

Step 6:

Blot up the now oily and soapy water with newspaper after the mixture has cooled for several minutes. Dispose of the newspaper. Continue to blot the area until you have absorbed all of the oily water

Step 7:

Pour another 2 cups of boiling water over the stain. This will wash away any oily water that was not absorbed by the newspaper. If there is still some oil left do steps 1-7 again.

*Don't let oil ruin
your clothes - cover the oil stain
with baby powder and allow
it to soak in, then wash!*

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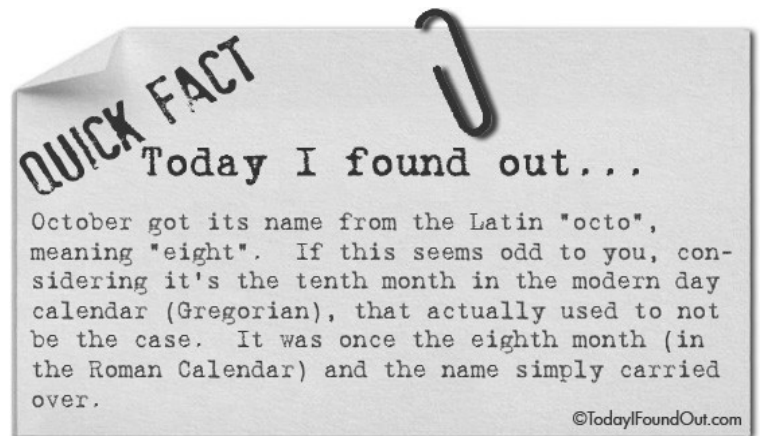


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QUICK FACT
Today I found out...

October got its name from the Latin "octo", meaning "eight". If this seems odd to you, considering it's the tenth month in the modern day calendar (Gregorian), that actually used to not be the case. It was once the eighth month (in the Roman Calendar) and the name simply carried over.

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Pumpkin Spice Puppy Chow...No it's not for the dog!

Ingredients:

- 13.5 oz box (about 7-8 cups) Cinnamon Chex cereal, or Rice Chex
- 12 ounces orange candy melts or pure white chocolate
- 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1-2 cups mallowcreme pumpkins

Directions: Pour the cereal into a large bowl. Set aside.

In 20 second increments, melt the candy melts or white chocolate in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Stir after each increment until melted and completely smooth. Stir in 2 teaspoons of cinnamon, the nutmeg, cloves, and allspice until combined. Pour mixture over cereal and toss gently to coat each square. Be gentle, the squares break easily.

Pour the confectioners' sugar and 1 teaspoon of cinnamon into a large zipped-top bag. Add the coated cereal and shake until each piece is coated. Pour back into a large bowl and discard excess confectioners' sugar. Toss in the mallowcreme pumpkins.

Use 1 - 2 cups, whatever amount you prefer. Cover and store puppy chow for up to 2 weeks.

Taken From Sally's Baking Addiction

