

Neighborhood News

Riverglen and River Watch Home Owners Associations

FALL 2017

Riverglen President's Update Ralph Brown, President

Greetings Riverglen Homeowners!

First off, I want to extend a heartfelt THANKS to the former Riverglen president, Rick Huber, who stepped down at the beginning of this year. Rick has served the community as volunteer, Committee chairman, Board member, and most recently as Board President for over 15 years. Under his leadership, our community has seen improvement in landscaping, lighting and signage at the entrances, upgraded playground equipment and lighting in both neighborhood parks, and improved irrigation systems. He also worked (and at times fought) with Hillsborough county officials and engineering firms to preserve the integrity of our large park during planning and construction of the Boyette Executive Center. He continues to serve the community as parks chairman and as newsletter chairman, compiling and editing content for this publication.

The neighborhood lost another stalwart volunteer this past year as Jim Egbert, Riverglen Board Secretary and River Watch Board President, moved out of the neighborhood. Jim also served as ACC chairman for River Watch, and as Ponds committee chairman for Riverglen. He was a frequent contributor to the newsletter with his recurring "rants". His wry sense of humor and his dedication to serving the community will be missed.

The current Board of Directors continues the effort to maintain and improve the neighborhood. All of the entrances had landscape upgrades this year, adding micro-irrigation and replacing several plants. Under the leadership of our new ponds committee chairperson, Deb Helmick, we contracted with a new company to perform treatments of the retention ponds. After just a few months, the ponds are already looking better, and will hopefully continue to improve.

Our biggest challenge remains the same – the need for more participation by our homeowners. We are fortunate to have a few people who volunteer to serve on the Boards and the various committees, but we could use more. For example: as of this writing, we still have a vacancy on the Riverglen Board that has gone without a volunteer for several months.

Another example: Riverglen HOA has not achieved a quorum for the annual membership meeting since 2006. If everyone would simply fill out and mail the proxy card that would be all we need. Attending the meeting would be great, but it's not required. We have scheduled the annual meeting on November 14. Details will be mailed out to all homeowners soon. Hope to see you there.

We care about our community, our neighbors, our property values. Hopefully you do also.

We could use your help.

River Watch President's Update Margaret Cabral, President

Hard to believe that summer is almost over and it won't be long before the holidays will be here. If you are a new resident of River Watch a hearty welcome. This is truly a great place to live!

Allow me the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Margaret Cabral and my husband George and I have lived in River Watch for more than sixteen years. For many of the sixteen years that we have called River Watch our home, I have been an active participant in the River Watch HOA serving on both the ACC and the Board of Directors. Presently I am the President of the River Watch HOA and also the Secretary on the Riverglen Board of Directors. I have been fortunate to find a team of Directors who are actively involved in the River Watch HOA. The Vice President is Susan Flynn. She and her husband John have resided in River Watch for more than seventeen years. James Pulkowski is the Treasurer and he is a CPA who manages his own accounting firm locally. James, his wife Kristi and their daughter have been residents of River Watch for more than sixteen years. James has been actively involved in the River Watch HOA for many years. Our Secretary for the River Watch HOA is Judy Serra who has lived with her husband Ken in River Watch for five years. Judy served on the ACC committee before becoming a member of the Board of Directors. Our newest member to the Board of Directors is

Victor Schott. Victor and his wife, Debbie have lived in River Watch for a little over a year. Each of the directors is very committed to the River Watch community as is witnessed by their volunteerism. Our Architectural Control Committee is chaired by Denise Akers. Carol Livingston is our Landscaping Committee Chair and Kara Rutherford is our Welcoming Committee Chair. I am extremely grateful to all of these people for the amount of time, energy and talent that they volunteer for the River Watch community.

Since we are thanking all of those who so graciously volunteer their time to River Watch, I would be remiss if I did not thank Jenn Defreese and her husband. They are the Christmas "elves" who each year at the holidays, decorate the guard house and gate at the entrance. I would like to thank Kathy Snyderwine who has been responsible for managing the yard sales.

Please read the articles that other board members have written as there is important information contained in each of those articles.

We are always looking for new committee members. The time commitment is minimal but the results of your commitment are long lasting. If you are new to River Watch or have lived here for some time this can be a very positive experience. We welcome all residents to attend the Board of Directors meetings

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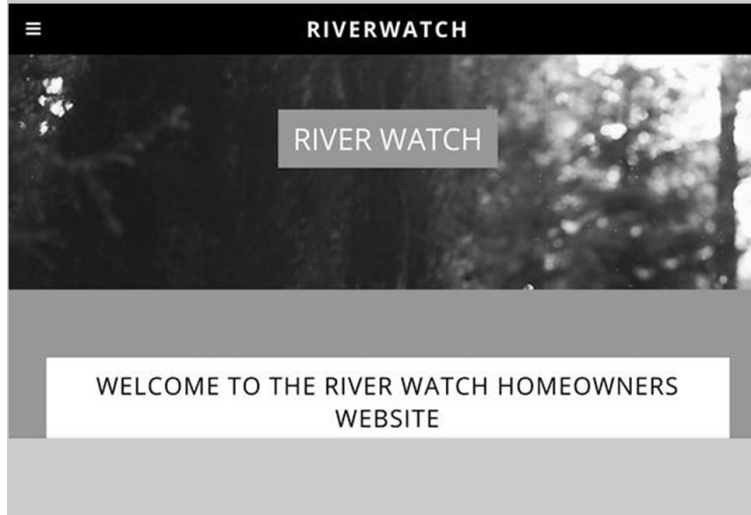
Welcome VACANT

welcome@riverglenhoa.com

Reporting County Problems

http://
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/
en/i-want-to/report

Riverglen Annual Saturday In The Park Bring the Family November 4, 2017 1200-200 PM



**Riverglen Park's Committee
Needs your help with opening and closing the park.
Contact the Park Chairperson for details.
parks@riverglenhoa.com**

Pothole and Sidewalk Issues

Larry Barroner, Riverglen Director

As of the time I'm writing this, it appears that all of the pot holes that have been filled are currently holding. But we all know that will change in the next few months.

I have also noticed that as our street lined trees continue to mature and grow, they are causing multiple tripping hazards on our sidewalks.

Did you know that YOU can take action on getting something done?

Just by going to our home site on <http://www.riverglenhoa.com/> and clicking on the "Reporting County problems" link. Our link will take you to <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/i-want-to/report> where you can submit an online work repair with the Public Works Department to identify the pot hole or sidewalk issue.

If we all do our part, we can ensure our community stays as nice as we all want it to be.

**Riverglen BOD Meetings,
Events and ACC Monthly
Meeting Dates:**

Saturday In the Park

November 4, 2017
1200 – 200 PM
Riverglen Main Park

Annual Meeting

November 14, 2017
700 PM
Riverview Library

RGHOA Monthly Meeting

700 PM October 19, 2017
12114 Boyette Road

700 PM November 17, 2017
12114 Boyette Road

No Meeting December 2017
12114 Boyette Road

700 PM January 19, 2018
12114 Boyette Road

RG ACC Monthly Meeting

700 PM October 12, 2017
9218 Sunnyoak

700 PM November 9, 2017
9218 Sunnyoak Drive

700 PM December 14, 2017
9218 Sunnyoak Drive

700 PM January 11, 2018
9218 Sunnyoak Drive



Enforcement of Covenants and Restrictions Assist in Protecting Our Property Values.

Wrede Kirkpatrick Vice President RiverGlen

If you have received a friendly enforcement letter from our HOA/Property Manager related to your property, your reaction may have been similar to when I received mine: anger, frustration, denial, avoidance, etc. I received mine about 2 years after my wife and I purchased our house and moved our growing family into our community. While the letter was friendly, professional, to the point and (correctly) pointed out a few areas on my house where mold had begun to show, my immediate thoughts were that I knew houses in our neighborhood that were far worse than my mine, why was the HOA picking on me, and didn't the HOA Board have better things to do. After all, I cut my grass and kept my trashcans out of view unless it was trash day. I sat down and planned a scathing response to the HOA which would have, had I actually sent it, probably burnt up my mailbox. Ultimately, I gave it a couple of days to cool off and upon further review, I slowly acknowledged that certain areas of my house did have mold on it and that I should in fact remedy the problem.

We all purchased our homes in our community with knowledge that we were agreeing to abide by and maintain our homes in accordance with the covenants and restrictions set forth in our HOA documents. The developer and our HOA adopted the covenants and community standards not to harass and annoy our homeowners but instead to keep the community in good shape, make it a desirable place to live, and hopefully keep our property values rising. If you think about it, it makes sense to have covenants, restrictions and standards that do set the bar for our community so that we do not buy a house and then have a neighbor or neighbors' failures to maintain their homes to negatively impact our large investments in our homes. No future buyer of your home wants to move into a run-down neighborhood or next to a home that is covered in mold, in disrepair, with a lawn that is not maintained, and whose trash cans are left out for weeks.

I have served on the Board of Directors for the last few years as one of our co-chairs of our legal committee. I am happy to report that recently the number of our enforcement matters has begun to decrease. While I have not performed any scientific study or review, I sincerely hope that the decrease is due to more of us complying with the initial friendly letters regarding enforcement issues rather than digging in our heels for a battle. I can assure you that our Board reviews the enforcement matters and takes its job seriously for maintaining our community standards and enforcing our covenants and restrictions, as we are duty bound to do. I can also assure you that it is every one of your Directors sincere wish that one day we do not have any enforcement or legal matters to discuss during our Board meetings.

I would urge all of our homeowners to review the covenants, restrictions and standards which can easily be found on our website. Additionally, periodically walk around your property and note areas that need to be improved, whether by mold, weeding, re-painting, cleaning, etc. Finally, should you receive a friendly letter from the HOA, if you get angry or frustrated like me, put the letter aside for a day or so and then take it out again, read it objectively and take a good genuine look at the issue addressed in the letter. I'd be willing to bet if you take the time and look at it logically and calmly, you will begrudgingly have to acknowledge that the HOA is right and that your property and all of your neighbor's properties will be improved if you correct the issue. Alternatively, if you continue to disagree with the HOA position, I would urge you to open up a line of communication with the HOA about the issue. Ignoring the letter will only lead to further steps, more letters, and eventually legal proceedings, all of which increases everyone's expenses in time and ultimately money.

Riverglen Landscaping

Larry Barroner,
Riverglen Director



Since our last newsletter, you may noticed a change in our landscaping company, our old landscaping company "Valley Crest" was acquired by BrightView Landscaping Maintenance. Your HOA has coordinated an updated contract with BrightView to include items that were previously considered as add-ons to better manage our community common areas.

As always, if you observe any issues with landscape or irrigation system maintenance, please contact the property manager, Jonathan Grass at jgrass@greenacreproperties.com

Get Your Garden Ready for Fall

Chris Brown

This is a reprint of an article from fall 2012 that still has relevancy today.

Now is the time to prepare your garden for fall and winter. A few simple chores now will allow you to sit back and enjoy the cooler weather. Weed and do a general clean up in planting beds. Remove tired summer annuals and prepare your planting beds for cool weather plants. Add compost to amend the soil before planting and top dress beds with new mulch for a fresh look.

Prune shrubs now so that new foliage has time to mature. Make sure that this chore is accomplished prior to November so that cold weather doesn't kill young leaves. Check your shrubs for aphids and scale and apply insecticidal soap if needed. If your Crape Myrtles are showing symptoms of fungus you will need to spray with fungicide.

Fertilize lawns for the last time in October, if you use a "weed and feed" product, October is also the time for that application.

October and November are typically drier months and now is the time to check irrigation systems. Make sure to calibrate so that all areas of your yard are being irrigated evenly. Set your system for the right day(s) of the week and check the county website for your scheduled days for watering during our water restrictions.

Hit your favorite thrift stores for sheets to use as cold weather protection for tender shrubs and perennials. Make sure to cover plants correctly when cold weather hits. Plants need to be covered all the way to the ground to trap residual heat from surrounding soil. Throwing a sheet or towel over the top of shrubs does little or nothing and may actually harm your shrubs by breaking thin branches. Damp towels and blankets are heavy and will often freeze to the tops of the shrubs you are trying to protect. Drive stakes into the ground around your plants and drape sheets over the makeshift "cage". The fabric won't touch foliage and freeze/stick to leaves. Plants covered correctly stand a better chance of surviving cold weather. Plastic isn't usually recommended unless you are willing to get out early and remove it before the sun heats up too much. Even during winter months the Florida sun can cause trapped heat to burn tender foliage.

A little work now will mean a few months of relaxation, with fewer chores in the spring, and time to sit and admire your neat and tidy planting beds.

Riverglen, ACC Update

Ali Houshmand, RiverGlen ACC Chairperson

Nothing like coming home at the end of a long work day and finding a letter in your mail box from your HOA informing you that you are in violation of a deed restriction and/or ACC standards.

The most common reason you hear from us are:

Landscaping

All curbs, sidewalks, driveways, fences etc. must be properly trimmed, weeded and edged including all areas behind fences and along easements.

All shrubs/hedges/trees must be maintained properly. This includes trimming, removing harmful bugs and diseases and removal of dead shrubs or plants. Shrubs/hedges/trees must be trimmed so as not impede movement along sidewalks or easements.

All flowerbeds must be free of overgrown weeds and grass.

All grass clippings and yard waste must be removed from sidewalk, driveway and street.

Maintenance

ARTICLE VI, Section 18. Each Owner shall keep and maintain each Lot and Structure owned by him, including: all landscaping located thereon, in good condition and repair, including, but not limited to (i) the repairing and painting (or other appropriate external care) of all Structures; (ii) the seeding, watering, and mowing of all lawns; and (iii) the pruning and trimming of all trees, hedges, and shrubbery so that the same do not obstruct the view by motorists, pedestrians or street traffic.

Parking

No vehicle shall be parked (partially or completely) on any grass or landscaped area. Vehicles shall be parked only on hard surfaces specifically designed and constructed for that purpose.

Trash/Trash Cans/Recycle Bins

ARTICLE VI, Section 22. No Lot shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish. Trash, garbage, or other waste shall not be kept except in sanitary containers designed for that purpose. All incinerators or other equipment for the storage or disposal of such waste material shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. All garbage and trash cans and containers shall be kept in the garage or in the rear yard, screened to conceal them from view of neighboring Lots and streets, except on the days of collection.

Please note, each homeowner must receive ACC approval prior to starting any proposed alteration or addition. Alterations or additions started prior to obtaining ACC approval are at the homeowner's own risk. Homeowners who perform alterations or additions deemed to not be in compliance may be required to remove the alteration or addition or otherwise comply with these ACC Standards and the Declaration. Failure of the ACC to provide approval in writing within forty-five (45) days of receipt of application constitutes disapproval of the homeowner's application. The location and time of the monthly ACC meeting is posted on both entrances and on the website 48 hours prior to the day of the meeting.

Subdivision Community Entrance Enhancements

Larry Barroner, Riverglen
Director

You may have noticed some additional plantings as you enter your subdivision communities (i.e. The Palms, Riverwood, Springwood, and The Oaks). We worked with BrightView Landscaping to create a more appealing entrance with different varieties of plants based on the space that was available. The use of perennials was chosen to keep our annual costs minimized and allow for future enhancements as needed. We always welcome any suggestions you may have to enhance our community.

If you have any suggestions, please let me know at landscape@riverglenhoa.com.

Please Pick Up After Your Pet

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you're liable to step in one such reminder!

Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dog in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste with and then dispose of it properly.

By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Thank you for your cooperation!

The Five W's Of Life

Who you are is what makes you special. Do not change for anyone.

What lies ahead will always be a mystery. Do not be afraid to explore.

When life pushes you over, you push back harder.

Where there are choices to make, make the one you won't regret.

Why things happen will never be certain. Take it in stride and move forward.

River Watch HOA Upcoming Events

River Watch Annual Meeting
February 21, 2018
Bloomington Library

River Watch Monthly Meeting

700 PM October 18, 2017
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

700 PM November 15, 2017
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

700 PM December, 2017
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

700 PM January, 2018
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

River Watch ACC Meeting

630 PM October 18, 2017
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

630 PM November 15, 2017
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

630 PM December, 2017
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

630 PM January, 2018
Beef O Bradys
4330 Bell Shoals Roads

River Watch President's Update Margaret Cabral, President Continued...

held on the third Wednesday of each month at Beef O'Brady's on Bell Shoals. Your opinions and ideas are important to the Board. Notices of meeting are always posted in the signboard at the exit to River Watch.

Some reminders from the River Watch HOA:

- Golf Carts are not permitted on the roads or sidewalks within River Watch.
- New roofs, windows, painting etc. all require ACC approval. All of the necessary ACC forms are on our website as are all of the documents for River Watch and Riverglen.
- Boats and trailers cannot be parked in driveways or on the street overnight.
- There is no overnight parking of cars on the street.
- Construction or project materials need to be stored out of sight for the duration of the project.
- Trash and recycling receptacles need to be stored out of sight and should not be placed for pick up prior to 24 hours of collection.
- If a holiday falls on trash collection day there will be only one collection day rather than two that week. If a holiday falls on the recycling day there will be no recycling collection that week.
- Please observe the 25 mph speed limit.
- Please be courteous to all residents of River Watch and not block sidewalks and driveways. Children on bikes, residents on walkers or in wheelchairs and parents with strollers are forced into the street creating a hazardous situation.
- Please notify Jon Grass via our website if you have a sidewalk near your property that needs attention.
- Finally the riverwatchhoa.com <<http://riverwatchhoa.com>> is the official website for our community.



River Watch Management

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River Watch Board of Directors

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Treasurer
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Neighborhood Watch
VACANT

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Newsletter
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Social Committee
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Welcoming Committee
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Reporting County Problems
<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/i-want-to-report>



River Watch Documents, Victor Schott, River Watch Director

I am taking this opportunity to let everyone know the Board of Directors is working on a very important issue for an upcoming vote. As most of you may know, it is necessary to update wording in our HOA documentation from time to time. In order to do this we *need* all the homeowners in the HOA to do their part and let their “voice” be heard.....by casting a ballot.

With that said, there has been a group of volunteers working with the HOA lawyer to get one of the Articles modified in an effort to keep our HOA healthy and strong. Since there are strict rules on how the “Board” can spend money, the one area that needs to be updated is regarding paying the lawyer for legitimate services rendered.

This Article modification was on a ballot, as you may recall, earlier this year. In order to pass a change, two thirds or approximately 180 homeowners need to agree with the change. Sounds daunting, but the Board and some of your neighbors have a solution to assist. We are planning to get a group of “*Homeowner Helpers*” to go door to door in an attempt to answer any questions you may have. This won’t happen until after the ballots are sent out later this year or early 2018.

[http://www.riverwatchhoa.com/Documents/Declaration-of-Covenants ArticlesVII-VIII.pdf](http://www.riverwatchhoa.com/Documents/Declaration-of-Covenants%20ArticlesVII-VIII.pdf) Section 1. Is the proposed Article to be reworded. The following paragraph would be inserted into section 1. Take this time to browse to the document in order to better understand the “*need*” for this to be passed.

“If the Association employs an attorney to enforce the provisions of this Declaration against any Owner, regardless of whether suit is brought, the costs and expenses of such enforcement, including all attorneys’ fees and appellate attorneys’ fees may be assessed against such Owner’s Lot as provided in Article IV, Section 1 of this Declaration and shall be a lien on such Owner’s Lot enforceable as provided herein.”

These individuals, myself included will be dressed alike in T-shirts that will readily identify us as part of a Team. At that time, the **Homeowner** will be asked to update any email address/s, cast their vote if it hasn’t already been mailed in and chat a bit with people from your “neck of the woods”....sorry couldn’t resist, ha.

I do want to emphasize that the “*Helpers*” will not be there to direct you on how to vote, but to ensure that you understand fully what it is you are being asked to do. We firmly believe this will also make our Community a little bit friendlier and a more desirable place to live.

I will also mention that if you haven’t already done so, check out the updated River Watch website. All documents relating to Riverglen (our parent HOA) and River Watch are readily available.

www.riverwatchhoa.com/board.php (Board members, minutes, meeting dates and email link). Use the bod@riverwatchhoa.com email if you are interested in helping out during the door to door campaign or any other questions you may have.

Your River Watch Website has been redesigned, take a look... Judy Serra, River Watch Director

If you regularly use a tablet or a smartphone to access information on the internet, you’ll be pleased to learn that the newly redesigned River Watch website (riverwatchhoa.com) can now be viewed on these devices the same way you would view them on a PC or laptop.

The redesign also contains a **Search** box on the Home page to help you find information regardless of where it is on the site. Enhanced menu items such as Forms, Property Management, Join Board, Committees and Documents add a cleaner more streamlined look.

We encourage you to access the riverwatchhoa.com site often, as it’s updated on a regular basis. Important information like meeting minutes and upcoming events are available to you as well as contact information for your Homeowners Association Board and Property Management Company.

We welcome your feedback. So please take a look at our redesigned website and let us know if you have any ideas to make this site even better for everyone.

Landscaping for the Fall Carol Livingston, River Watch Director

When summer starts to give us a break and we know fall is indeed be on the way, enjoy the cooler weather by spending some time outdoors. There are things you can do this fall to your landscape that you’ll enjoy for months to come. First, start by pruning perennials, cutting back dead leaves and stems. This will allow for another blooming. It’s also a great time to plant a garden. Here are a few plants that enjoy the cooler weather.

Edible Garden: Kale, Cabbage, Collard Greens, Strawberry Plants & Garlic. Don’t forget an Herb Garden.

Ornamental Garden: Bulbs, Pansies, Coleus, Caladiums, Oyster Plants, Dusty Miller, Violas and Mums. You can get more ideas online at Miss Smarty Plants’ website: <http://misssmartyplants.com/winter-flowers-for-florida/>

Hard to believe but fall is also the beginning of dry season. It’s a great time for a layer of mulch. It will not only hold in moisture but help in weed control too! Be sure to watch for correct watering days and continue to enjoy your ‘green space’ year round.



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>



River Watch Gate Code and E-Mail Update

Susan Flynn, River Watch

Vice President

By now all River Watch residents have received a letter from Greenacre Management that as of August 1, 2017 you were assigned a unique gate code that will override our old one. The code assigned in that letter is for your residence only. The contractor code remains the same. Any services or deliveries after 7PM will use the call box and not your entry code. Your decals and clickers will still work.

We also (on a voluntary basis) want to gather everyone's email address to quickly send any information that needs to inform you of any news that would keep you updated from the HOA or Management Company. This will be a great way to communicate with you. Please e mail jgrass@greenacre.com, and in the body of the e mail put your name, address and River Watch. Your e mail will then be entered into the GPI system.



Many people are confused about the holiday known as Grandparents Day. Is it a real holiday? That's the question I hear most often.

It's true that Grandparents Day was not on the calendar when we were growing up. Why is it on the calendar now, and is it an official holiday?

The Truth About Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day is a holiday created by federal proclamation in 1978. It was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. It is a "real" holiday. It is not, however, one of the federal holidays for which government workers receive a day off. It is celebrated each year on the first Sunday after Labor Day, so it falls between September 7 and 13.

Marian McQuade, a West Virginia mother of 15, began a campaign for Grandparents Day in 1970. Three years later, her home state created the first Grandparents Day in the nation. The movement for a national holiday stalled, however. McQuade and her supporters rallied the media and urged organizations for older Americans to support the cause.

They finally succeeded eight years later. Only a few other countries have official grandparents day holidays.

What Grandparents Day Is Not

Many Americans are suspicious of new holidays, imagining that there is a commercial

motive behind them. That is not true of Grandparents Day. It was not designed as a gift grab for grandparents. Instead, the holiday is designed as a two-way experience, honoring both grandparents and grandchildren. According to the National Grandparents Day Council, the holiday is intended to make children aware of "the strength, information and guidance older people can offer." In addition, it is meant to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children. Although many see it as a day to give gifts to grandparents, it is appropriate for grandparents to give gifts to grandchildren on Grandparents Day, especially if they are gifts that honor family traditions.

Still skeptical? It's fun to start new traditions sharing special occasions is one of the best strategies for keeping extended families close. If your family seems reluctant to add another family holiday, win them over with the following strategies.

Be the planner. Young families are busy, busy, busy. If you wait for them to plan a Grandparents Day celebration, you may be waiting for a while. But if you send them a couple of "Save the Date" messages with the message that you are planning something special, they may show up. At the least, they will let you know if they have a conflict that there's no getting around. If the parents aren't available, maybe you can arrange to have the grandchildren solo, for a play date or outing.

Be the host. Few families can resist an occasion where someone else does the work and all they have to do is show up. Sharing a home-cooked meal is a great way to mark Grandparents Day, but if your preference is to host a restaurant meal, go for it. Many restaurants have back rooms or alcoves where a family can celebrate more comfortably.

Maybe you want to try something different. If your traditional mode of celebration doesn't appeal, go for a different kind of celebration. Go out for breakfast. Have a picnic. Go bowling. Roast hot dogs and make s'mores in the back yard. Go for a hike or a bicycle ride.

It's important to let everyone know that no gifts are expected. Inform the kids and grandkids right up front that this occasion is not about gift-giving. The purpose of Grandparents Day is to "honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children, and to help children become aware of the strength, information, and guidance older people can offer."

Make it fun. Share a funny family story. If you have toys or games that belonged to your children, drag them out for the grandchildren to enjoy. Locate some funny family pictures to share, including everyone's baby pictures.

Be flexible. If the actual date of Grandparents Day doesn't work for your family, opt for early or late. Merge the holiday with Labor Day, or move it back one more week, or two. Unlike some holidays, especially religious ones, the date itself has no special significance.

Your main goals should be to make the holiday low in stress and high in enjoyment. If you achieve your goals, your family's resistance to a Grandparents Day celebration may just melt away. And you may find that you have created a new family tradition.

McQuade's Vision

McQuade was something of an iconoclast, and her wonderful vision for Grandparents Day was certainly for it to be noncommercial in nature. One thing she wished to accomplish was to gain attention for nursing homes residents. For years she and her husband consistently promoted Grandparents Day at their own expense. When Hallmark wanted to create a line of cards for Grandparents Day, the company offered a royalty to McQuade. She refused the royalty.

McQuade died in 2008. When she died, she had forty-three grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.




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October Bucket List

www.itsafabulouslife.com

1. Make Caramel Apples
 2. Carve pumpkins
 3. Take a Family bike ride to enjoy the weather
 4. Eat pumpkin pancakes, pumpkin cookies, + pumpkin doughnuts
 5. Jump in the leaves
 6. Tailgate + cheer on your favorite football team
 7. Have a Bonfire
 8. Go Star Gazing
 9. Go apple picking
 10. Decorate with mums
- 



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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