

Neighborhood News

RIVERGLEN

Fall 2019

Riverglen and River Watch Owners Associations

Riverglen President's Update Ralph Brown, President

a big
**thank
YOU**



Hi neighbors!

This time last year we were still looking for a volunteer to fill a director position on the Riverglen Board that had been vacant for over a year. At the annual meeting, Sean Shedenhelm stepped forward to serve on the board, and he has also taken on the task of editing this newsletter. Thanks, Sean, and welcome aboard!

We continue to get complaints about the streets in Riverglen, particularly the recurring potholes on Donneymoore Drive. Please understand that the streets are county roads, maintained by the county, not the association. Reporting a pothole or other issue is easy on the county website. And there is a convenient link on the RiverglenHOA website as well.

The parks committee is always in need of volunteers to open and close the park. If you can help (even if it's just occasionally), please contact the Parks Committee chairman, Rick Huber. And mark your calendar for the annual Saturday in the Park event, scheduled for Oct 19, 11am – 2pm. Join us for a burger and beverage, and maybe meet a new neighbor.

If you have lived in Riverglen for a couple years or more, you probably have heard this before – but it needs to be said again. We have just a very few people who volunteer to participate on the Board of Directors or the various committees. We'd like more involvement. Occasionally a homeowner will come to a board meeting to speak (usually complain) about an issue. Only a few participate on a continuing basis. For the most part, there seems to be general apathy about the association and the neighborhood. Perhaps it's a sign of the times that we live in. But it's also hard to understand, because for many of us, our home is our biggest investment.

This year, as usual, we will schedule our annual Homeowner meeting for early November. The meeting notice will be mailed out to all homeowners along with proxy cards and a copy of the proposed annual budget for 2020. It would be great to be able to have an actual annual meeting, rather than adjourn due to lack of a quorum. So please read the materials, sign and send in those proxy cards. Or come to the meeting in person. Maybe bring a neighbor.

Let us know your ideas, and how you can help out. Thanks!

River Watch President's Update Margaret Cabral, President

Happy Fall 2019. The River Watch Board of Directors has been quite busy this past year. We have faced several challenges and are attempting to resolve those challenges in a fiscally responsible manner. One of the most expensive challenges that we are facing is the damage occurring to the streets, gutter pans and sidewalks due to tree roots. Sidewalk repair has proven expensive and does not pose a long-term resolution to the problem. This is not a unique situation to River Watch as most communities with live oaks are facing the same issues. The Board of Directors has met with the county arborist for direction in resolving the problem. Those solutions will be presented at our annual meeting in January. We would urge all residents to attend. If you have a sidewalk panel or panels that you feel poses a hazard, please notify the management company immediately.

Several residents pile yard waste on the storm drains. This is not acceptable. Yard waste can be dragged into the storm drains in a storm which can result in damage to the storm drains. Since we are a private gated community, it is the responsibility of the HOA to repair those storm drains and in many cases, those repairs are extremely costly. It's also not good to have the yard waste dragged into the retention ponds.

Please remember as you travel through River Watch that there are many children in our community. The speed limit throughout River Watch is 25 mph. We are trying to be proactive and avoid an accident rather than to react to an accident after the fact. It is sometimes frightening to see the speed at which some residents travel through River Watch.

Keep in mind that you reside in a deed restricted community. The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) must first approve any renovations or improvements to your property.

It is most important that all residents attend the annual meeting in January. We will attempt to modify the deed restrictions to better meet the needs of River Watch. The BOD has been working on these modifications and will present them to residents sometime in the Fall so that all residents have time to read and understand those modifications and also have the opportunity to raise questions or discussion about the changes.

Parking overnight on the street is prohibited in River Watch. Residents or their guests who park overnight will be towed. Letters were sent to all residents in June informing them of the deed restriction enforcement. Signs to that effect have been posted inside and outside the entrance gate.

Finally, resident participation is encouraged. We are always seeking new members and encourage all members to at least attend the monthly Board of Directors Meetings. Those meetings are now held at the Crossings on Route 301 on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Please plan to attend a meeting, volunteer for the BOD or a committee.

**Riverglen Management
Greenacre Properties**

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Welcome VACANT

welcome@riverglenhoa.com

Reporting County Problems

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

We Want a "Waste-Free" Community!

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!

What Does Our Management Company Do?

We receive non-compliance notices from the management company. We send our assessment checks to the management company. We report common area maintenance problems to the management company. So, the management company makes all of the important decisions regarding our community, right? WRONG! The management function of our association is administrative in nature. The board is the principle policy-making body which sets policies, standards, procedures, programs and budgets. Management's function is to carry out these board decisions. The board has the authority and the power to set policies and standards to carry these policies out. It may delegate its authority to implement its decisions, but it cannot delegate its responsibility to see that they are implemented and implemented properly. Management implements decisions of the board and administers the programs, services and activities of the association within the policies and guidelines set by the board. When communicating with our management company, please keep in mind that although the board has given them the authority to make many of the day-to-day operational decisions, some requests are going to need the approval of the board of directors. Here are some tips to help facilitate your communication with the board: - When in doubt about your request, put it in writing. - Attend the Open Forum portion of the Board of Directors meeting. - If your request is "non-emergency" in nature, please be patient. In most cases, management will research the issue for the board so that the board can make the best educated, business decision possible. - If you have any questions whatsoever, do not hesitate to call our association manager.

Making Any Changes?

Don't Forget To Obtain Approval First!

Our governing documents require that the Association approve all proposed architectural changes before any work is started. The importance of this requirement cannot be overstated when you consider the reason for such a restriction. Membership in a community association requires compliance to pre-existing conditions and regulations. One of the biggest advantages of these conditions is the protection of our property values. The value of your home is directly related to the condition, appearances and aesthetics of our community as a whole. By regulating the kind and types of architectural changes that can be done, our Association is better able to maintain our property values. Getting our Association to approve all proposed architectural changes is not just a good idea to protect your investment, it is a requirement! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Association Manager.

Continued on page 3

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

↙ **Saturday In the Park
Bring the Family
October 19, 2019
11:00 – 2:00 PM
Riverglen Main Park**

Riverglen Park's Committee
Looking for volunteers to help with opening and closing the park. Contact Richard Huber

Pothole and Sidewalks Issues
Larry Barroner, Riverglen

As of this writing it appears that all of the pot holes that have been reoccurring have been fixed. But give it 24 hours and that will change.

As the trees mature along the sidewalk they are and will be tripping hazards.

If this is occurring in front of your home or along the streets within the community you can take action and request the county to repair the damage.

Go to..... <http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/i-want-to/report> where you can submit an online work order with the Public Works Department to identify the pot hole or sidewalk issue.

Riverglen meetings and events

RGHOA Monthly Directors
meeting held every 3rd
Thursday of each month.
Meeting notification posted on
bulletin board 48 hours prior to
the meeting.

RGHOA ACC meetings are
normally held every 2nd week
of each month. Meeting
notification posted on bulletin
board 48 hours prior to the
meeting.

↘ **Annual Meeting tentatively
scheduled for
November 7, 2019
7:00 PM**

Bloomington Library based on
availability. Written notice will
be sent with confirmed date.

Continued from page
one...

Get Involved, Stay Informed, Do Your Part

When most of us decided to buy our home and live within our community association, the last thing that probably came to mind were the possibilities that community association living presented. After all, anytime a group of homeowners work together for a common goal, practically anything is possible. From increasing our community's aesthetic appeal and eliminating neighborhood crime, to creating a more influential voice in regional issues, the opportunities to benefit from being a part of a community association lie waiting to be seized. The possibilities are limited only by our ability to work together. Unfortunately, without a clear understanding of how and why our community association operates, those possibilities will elude us. When we can grasp the theory that underlies our governing documents and the reasons that our Board and management company must, at times, do what they do, then we take a giant step towards realizing the potential of our community. Our community association is no different than any other organization. In order to succeed and reach its potential, it needs the support and involvement of its members. Just think of the goals that can be achieved when we all work together for the betterment of our community. Instead of perceiving our association as an obstacle to overcome, try thinking of it a tool to help us create a more comfortable life-style. But, like any tool, we need to learn how to use it effectively before it can do any good. Get involved, stay informed and do your part.

You won't be sorry!

Riverglen Architectural Control Committee

Hello Homeowners/Residents of Riverglen.

I want to take this opportunity to share some statistics with you. In 2018 the ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC) reviewed 73 requests for home improvement. The Committee also sent 211 Friendly Violation Letters, 70 First Violation Letters, 27 Second Violation Letters, and only 3 Attorney Violation Letters, which is significantly lower than previous years. The ACC sincerely appreciates the many homeowners who took the time to respond to the Friendly Violation Letters.

I am also taking this opportunity to remind everyone that the ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE revised the ACC Guidelines in March 2018 and they were published in last year's newsletter. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these changes.

Exterior Lighting

All exterior lighting shall be limited to the minimum necessary for safety, identification and decoration. Lighting associated with a building shall be consistent in style and theme with that of the associated building. Lights may be solar powered, battery powered or electrically powered. Top of lights may not be higher than 24 inches above the ground. Landscape lighting is not permitted in easement. **The lighting color must be white or clear** (Exception: During the holiday season from November 1-January 31.). Landscape lighting can also be used in plant beds as accent lighting. Lights which no longer function or are in disrepair must be replaced or removed.

Flags/ Flagpoles

Flagpoles no taller than 20 feet high are permitted as long as the flagpole complies with all other requirements set forth in the FL Statutes chap 720. Flagpoles may be freestanding or mounted on the house, **but must not be mounted upon the roofs, Trees, or Electric/Phone/Utility poles.** All flagpoles must be maintained in good condition. The ACC recommends that a homeowner submit an application prior to installation of a flag or flag pole if the homeowner is unsure of whether or not a planned installation complies with these Standards and the Florida Statutes.

Garden Flags

No more than two small garden flags attached to in-ground flag holders are permitted in the front yard/garden area visible from the view of the right of way (street) or common area. The following types of garden flags are not authorized: letters, words, logos or representation which are in the nature of an announcement, direction or advertising. No flag shall display any topic offensive in nature. In the event a homeowner is unsure if a flag can be displayed, the ACC recommends the homeowner submit an application to the ACC for a decision.

Fountains/ Yard Art / Exterior Decorative Objects

A maximum of **FIVE** exterior decorative objects per home are allowed visible from the view of the right of way (street) or common area. This includes, but is not limited to, such items as garden statues, yard art, lawn ornaments, sculptures, gnomes, and plant pots. Objects exceeding 12 inches in height and 12 inches in either width or depth require ACC approval. Exception: cranes/herons may not exceed 36 inches in height. An application to the Architectural Control Committee is not required for 5 or less decorative objects. Decorative items must be in good repair. No decorative objects which are offensive in nature shall be allowed. All fountains require ACC approval.

Landscaping Decorations (Faux lawn/synthetic turf/artificial foliage)

Faux lawn and synthetic turf is not permitted. No artificial foliage may be attached to the exterior of a house or located within the garden, yard or easement without ACC approval.

Only street trees and mailboxes are permitted in the area bordered by the edge of the public sidewalk and the curb of the roadway, as well as in any platted easements. Homeowners may replace the sod and street trees with the same species should the need arise without ACC approval. However, other type of planting/landscaping designs or decoration in the easement is not permitted without ACC approval. (Exception: During the holiday season from November 1 through January 31.

Roof

Only shingles allowed for roofing.

Storage Unit (Sheds)

Vinyl/Plastic/PVC shed no longer permitted

Thank you,
Ali Houshmand
Riverglen ACC Chairperson

ACC/BOD - who are they, what do they do?

I have been a Riverglen owner/resident for 18 years. Like many of us, I had essentially no contact with the ACC (Architectural Control Committee) or BOD (Board Of Directors) through the first dozen or so years of my residence. I did receive the infamous "friendly letter" a few times and thought the violations were nit picky and subjective, but compliance was fairly easy, and so I edged the lawn, cleaned the roof, etc and went about my business.

About 5 years ago, it was time to repaint my house, so I submitted an ACC request for colors, which were not on the pallet. After a series of miscommunications and misunderstandings, the painting was completed, and I soon found that the definitions of trim, accents, etc were somewhat different between the ACC, BOD, and me. After further negotiation, a compromise was reached. And it was during this process that I became an ACC member (subsequently, I filled a vacant BOD position as well).

This anecdote is an illustration of how the committees and processes work. Many residents think that the ACC and Board members spend their waking hours devising ways to deny them their property rights and generally make life miserable for them alone. The reality is that, with over 600 homes in Riverglen and River Watch, most of the ACC and Board members know only a small percentage of homeowners.

The members are a diverse group in terms of age, gender, geographical location within Riverglen, length of residence, and most importantly, opinions on how to enforce rules & regulations, spend HOA dues, and be attentive to homeowners concerns and property rights.

Most agenda items require a vote, and there are some lively discussions. All meetings are open to all owners. Meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes are posted on the Riverglen of Brandon website.

BOD positions are on a one year cycle, and all homeowners are eligible to run for a position, or, in the case of a failure to reach a quorum of attendees or proxies at the annual November meeting (sadly, the usual situation), to volunteer for any openings.

So, if you feel that the regulations are outdated, improper, or inconsistently enforced, or that your dues are being used wrongly, please attend a meeting, ask a question, or run or volunteer for an ACC or BOD position.

Animals by Becky Clemments

If you love animals as much as I do, please keep this information in mind.

Hillsborough County and River Watch have the same restrictions for domestic animals. Pets must be kept leashed or within the confines of their property. Owners must clean up after their animals.

For their own protection, a pet must be contained within the owner's property and under their control at all times. This is not only for the health and safety of your pet, but for those around you. It is beyond annoying for a cat to be roaming around and using our property as a giant litter box and disturbing our own pets. It is unfair to the animal to have to live outside where we have wild and dangerous animals.

These wild animals include the stately (and protected) Sandhill Cranes. You may have seen the babies being raised this year in our neighborhood? These birds are the color of the asphalt and are very hard to see. Please drive slowly and carefully.

The raccoons have had babies as well this year, but one of the babies was hit and killed while following its' mother crossing Riverglen Dr. one night. Again, please slow down and look around. We have deer, opossum, bobtail cats and even coyotes. I have even seen owls standing in the road at night.

If you look closely, you never know what might see and enjoy.

Hello fellow River Watch residents. I hope everyone holding up in this heat.

There have been several complaints on some residents letting their dogs go on their property to relieve themselves. Some do carry bags to clean up while others leave it. I know animals need exercise but maybe let your dog go in your backyard first, then take them for a walk. If you use a retractable leash while walking, letting it out to the max allows the animal to roam on properties. Also, please do not deposit your dog's waste in someone's garbage can. Take it home. It belongs to you. With cameras nowadays for security, you may be on video.



On the cat issues, we are aware of feral cats and people feeding them. Please don't. You'll have a friend for life. If you own a cat, please keep it contained so it doesn't roam the neighborhood. FYI: It is against Deed Restrictions to let cats roam free. When it does, it marks it's territory on residents property and continues to do so damaging grass and shrubbery. Residents work very hard to make their property pristine and it shows. Great job. So, in closing, the above were concerns and complaints by residents. I'm just the reporter. Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay safe. Thank you.

Regards,
Susan Flynn
VP River Watch HOA



**Hillsborough
County Florida**

For County Services Who Do You Call?

Contact Hillsborough County at 272-5900, a one-stop county service and information center!

The center provides comprehensive information and referral to all government, health, and social services in the community. It coordinates government service requests and handles complaints quickly and courteously. This office works with all county departments to ensure you receive accurate and timely responses.

Hillsborough County Information
272-5900

River Watch HOA Upcoming Events

River Watch Annual Meeting
The specific date, time and location is still under discussion the Annual event is scheduled to be held in January 2020.

Community Yard Sale:
October 5, 2019
8 AM till -1 PM
River Watch Only

River Watch Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday September 18, 2019
The Crossings 9641 US Hwy
South Riverview, FL

Wednesday October 16, 2019
The Crossings 9641 US Hwy
South Riverview, FL

Wednesday November 13, 2019
The Crossings 9641 US Hwy
South Riverview, FL

December no monthly scheduled meetings

Monthly BOD Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month
Monthly ACC Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month.

All ACC and BOD Meetings are posted at the community entrance.

The 2020 Schedule will be posted on the www.riverwatchhoa.com

You're Source of Information and
Community News:
www.riverwatchhoa.com

Reporting County Problems:
<http://hillsboroughcounty.org/en/i-want-to/report>

River Watch Management
McNeil Management
Services Inc.

River Watch Management
Jennifer
P.O. Box 6235
Brandon, Florida 33508-6004

jennifer@mcneil.com

Greetings from your River Watch ACC,

Wow this year is flying by and our committee has been really busy. We've processed 58 ACC applications since July! We're currently working on consolidating the guidelines and revising the paint pallet so be on the lookout for those changes on our web site. We want to thank all of our neighbors that have submitted their alteration requests in accordance with the ACC guidelines already this year. If you're new to our neighborhood, we want to take a minute and explain the process for requesting alterations to your new home.

First be sure to review our ACC guidelines and restrictions, you can find them posted under the "Documents" tab on our web site. The instructions and application are under the "Forms" tab. Our ACC consist of 5 volunteers that live in our neighborhood and have a shared interest in keeping our neighborhood nice. We meet nearly every month and normally on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (there are some exceptions--the schedule is posted on our website under the "Calendar" tab so check it out before submitting). To be considered at the monthly ACC, your application must be complete and received No later than the Friday prior to the ACC meeting.

Next, be sure to fill out your application completely. One area that is often overlooked is the first paragraph where you state what alteration you are requesting i.e. repaint our house, replace our roof, install a fence. Also, don't forget to include all supporting documentation. Examples of supporting documentation include but is not limited to, lot surveys, color swatches of paint, exact dimensions and placement of alterations--the intent here is to insure that your application request is clear and completely understandable. Incomplete or confusing applications will be returned, so a good general rule is to include all supporting documents with every request.

Lastly, we want to remind you, approved applications are good for 90 days with the option for one additional 90-day extension. Alterations not completed within these time lines will need to re-submit. Also no alterations should begin until you have an approved application from the ACC and HOA. So plan head, submit early and enjoy your home and our neighborhood!

It is our pleasure to serve on the committee and look forward to seeing you around!

River Watch Officers and Chair Persons:

President

Margaret Cabral
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Vice President

Susan Flynn
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Secretary

Michael Dunn
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Treasurer

James Pulkowski
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Director as large

Becky Clemments
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

ACC Chairperson

Dawn Callao
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Welcome Chairperson OPEN

bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Landscape OPEN

Carol@LivingstonMail.com

Happy Thanksgiving!



Merry Christmas!

Happy New Year!



Plastics

We all use plastics in some form, and we inadvertently ingest some plastics in our lifetime. There are plastic bottles, computer shells, keyboards and mice, plastic pipes, cups, straws, car parts and just about a million more things in grocery stores and pharmacies that come in plastic. Plastic makes our lives easy. However, we should consider some things about plastics that are not good for us. Here are a few things to dwell on over our spaghetti tonight (Ragu just recalled a lot of their jar sauces because of plastic contamination):

Eight million metric tons of plastic enter our oceans every year, with over 150 million metric tons of plastic circulation throughout our oceans.

The Plastic takes 100-500 years to degrade, so plastics are still on earth from the invention of plastic in 1907 (Bakelite).

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, consisting mostly of plastic, is located between Hawaii and California, covers an area twice the size of Texas. Since plastic has more density than water, it floats. The bigger pieces contain the dump, and the waves, currents and storms carry plastics into the gyre of garbage which helps to sustain the massive mess. There is no end in sight or solution for this problem.

I have decided to help the environment just a bit, so I am putting my canvas bags into my truck and I can then stop using the single source plastic grocery bags. Those annoying plastic bags end up somewhere un-cool, like our Hillsborough dump site. In addition, I am now cutting up those plastic carry things to hold many plastic bottles because the birds get their beaks get stuck in them and cannot get free.

What are YOU going to do?

WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO



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.

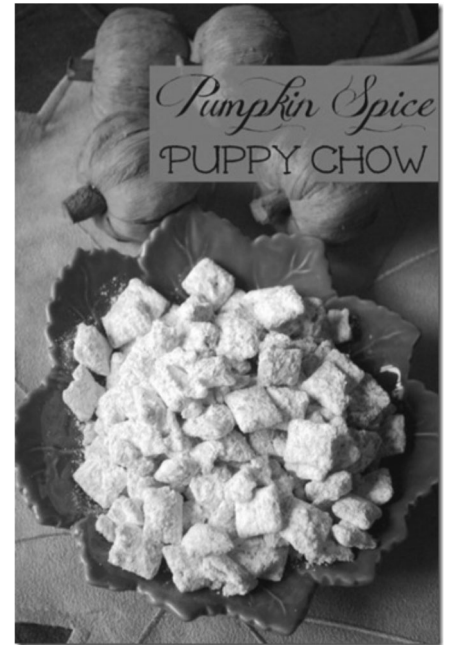
In 20 second increments, melt the candy melts or white chocolate in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Stir after each increment until melted and completely smooth. Stir in 2 teaspoons of cinnamon, the nutmeg, cloves, and allspice until combined. Pour mixture over cereal and toss gently to coat each square.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

**Instead of nutmeg, cloves, and allspice - you may use 1.5 teaspoons of pumpkin pie spice.*

**Instead of mallowcreme pumpkins, try adding 1 cup of Pumpkin Spice M&Ms or Candy Corn M&Ms, 1 cup of Pumpkin Spice Hersheys Kisses, 1 cup of cinnamon chips, 1/2 cup of orange sprinkles, or even 1 cup of salty pumpkin seeds (which will cut the sweetness of the snack mix).*



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Even if your kids are Halloween veterans, it can't hurt to go over the ground rules. The Sheriff's Office offers the following tips to having a fun and safe Halloween.

Tips for Treaters

If you want trick or treaters to come to your home, keep your outside and front room lights on. It is also good to have Halloween decorations on display.

Give store-wrapped or non-edible (crayons, stickers, small party favors) treats.

If you must give homemade goodies, put your name and address on each treat (address labels work well) and give them only to children who know you.

Tips for Kids (For parents to review with children.)

Stay in your own neighborhood. Go with a friend, a group, or an adult.

Go only to houses with lights on or with Halloween decorations up.

Do not eat any treats until an adult has checked them.

Watch for cars when crossing the street.

Tell your parents about anything that makes you uncomfortable or scared.

Have fun; be courteous and polite while you're trick or treating. No silly string, eggs, graffiti materials, toilet paper, or squirt guns

Parents if an incident occurs note a description of vehicle, person(s), license plate numbers, etc.

Remember to enjoy yourself but not at the cost of someone else.

Call It A Night — No one should trick-or-treat after 9:00 P.M.



Riverglen of Brandon HOA
C/O Greenacre Properties
4131 Gunn Highway
Tampa, FL 33618

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Advertising in the Newsletter

If you are interested in placing an ad in the next edition of this newsletter, or know of someone who may be interested, submit contact information (Business name, phone and e-mail) to the publisher at IKarePublishing@gmail.com, or call Kim at 813-991-7843 and let her know that you wish to advertise.

Ads are limited to 1/8 page (business card size), and are priced at \$60.

Advertisements will be accepted from any reputable business; however, we especially encourage local businesses, and those operated by Riverglen and River Watch residents, to submit ads.



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www.Carrdental.com

Honor Our Veterans and Active Military November 11, 2019.

November is the appropriate time to again honor and salute our military for their unswerving service to keeping our freedoms. "In Flanders Fields" is a war poem during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of a friend and fellow soldier who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. According to legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially dissatisfied with his work, discarded it. "In Flanders Fields" was first published on December 8 of that year in a London magazine.. It is one of the most quoted poems from the war. As a result of its immediate popularity, parts of the poem were used in efforts and appeals to recruit soldiers and raise money selling war bonds. Its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognized memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict. The poem and poppy are prominent Remembrance Day symbols throughout the UK Commonwealth, particularly in Canada, where "In Flanders Fields" is one of the nation's best-known literary works. The poem is also widely known in the United States, where it is associated with Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

The Second Battle of Ypres was fought from 22 April – 25 May 1915 for control of the strategic Flemish town of Ypres in western Belgium after the First Battle of Ypres the previous autumn. It was the first mass use by Germany of poison gas on the Western Front. For the first time, a former colonial force (the 1st Canadian Division) defeated a European power (the German Empire) on European soil (in the battles of St. Julien and Kitcheners' Wood, engagements during the battle) The losses were horrific. Allied: 87,000 killed, wounded, or missing; German: wounded, or missing. Immediately following the German gas attacks at Ypres, the French and British began developing their own chemical weapons and gas masks, and battle tactics became even more deadly. -various sources

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses,
row on row,
That mark our place,
and in the sky,
The larks,
still bravely singing,
fly,
Scarce heard amid the
guns below.
We are the dead;
short days ago we lived,
felt dawn,
saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved,
and now
we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the
foe!
To you from failing hands
we throw
The torch;
be yours
to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us
who die
We shall not sleep,
though poppies grow
In Flanders
fields.*

