

Neighborhood News

RIVERGLEN

Fall 2021

Riverglen and River Watch Owners Associations

Riverglen President's Update Ralph Brown, President

Hello neighbors!

We have a new property manager for Riverglen HOA. Angela Parker is our Certified Community Association Manager at Greenacre Properties. Her contact information is listed on the association website, www.riverglenhoa.com, under "property management." Welcome Angela!

I would like to give a shout out to Larry Sommers, who served on the Riverglen Board of Directors until April of this year. Thanks Larry!

Earlier this year, the Riverglen Architectural Control Committee (ACC) proposed a revision to the ACC Design Standards for Units 1 – 4. After much discussion, and several modifications, the Board voted to adopt the revised Standards at the July Board meeting. The new ACC Standards have been recorded and are posted on the association website under "documents." Note: Riverglen ACC Standards are not applicable to River Watch.

The Riverglen Board of Directors continues to conduct virtual monthly meetings using Zoom. The Board is considering resumption of in-person meetings, perhaps after the new year. Meeting notices, including login information, are posted on the entrance sign boards. As always, all Riverglen homeowners are welcome to attend. However, if you have a specific item to discuss or present at the meeting, please contact the property manager in advance so that you can be placed on the agenda.

Due to the resignation of one of the previous Board members, there is an open position on the Board. We would prefer a volunteer from Unit 4 (Springwood). However, since the position has been open for several months, the Board will also consider appointing an at-large member from Units 1, 2, or 3. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact the property manager at Greenacre Properties.

We continue to get complaints about the streets in Riverglen, particularly the recurring potholes on Donneymoor Drive. Please understand that the streets are county roads, maintained by the county, not the association. Reporting a pothole or other issue on the county website is simple. There is also a link for the county website available on the association website for your convenience.

The annual Homeowners Meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2021. The meeting notice will be mailed to all homeowners, along with proxy cards and a copy of the proposed annual budget. When you receive the mailing, please read the materials, sign and return those proxy cards.

Continue on page 2

River Watch President's Update Margaret Cabral, President

I hope that you and your family have fared well through the ongoing, mutating COVID crisis. It has really been a very trying time for all of us. In River Watch, as well as throughout the United States, we have seen a spike in housing prices which is good news for sellers.

As we enter fall, the River Watch Board of Directors has some important dates for you. Please mark them on your calendar.

Budget workshop – September 15
Budget Adoption – October 20
Annual meeting – January 19, 2022

We are hoping to schedule the annual meeting at the new Riverview Library. All information will be mailed to you and posted on the message board at the community exit. Since April 2020, we have held our board meetings via Zoom. The details for the meeting and the Zoom link are available on the riverwatchhoa.com website. Meeting details are also posted on the message board.

The items we need to address are:

- Attendance at the Board of Directors Meetings – This is your Homeowners Association. Become an active participant in this community! Meeting dates are included in this newsletter.
- ACC Requests – All alterations must first be approved by the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). If you proceed with an unapproved alteration, you may have to remove the alteration and return the property to its original condition at your expense. All documents including the ACC standards, paint palettes and requirements are available on the riverwatchhoa.com website.
- Speeding – This remains the number one topic of conversation with homeowners. We have installed speed bumps as a deterrent to speeding. We have also enlisted the services of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. The posted speed limit within River Watch is 25mph. Please be vigilant in maintaining the posted speed.
- Blocked sidewalks – Please note that we have several residents who are wheelchair bound, several who have sight issues, and many families who use strollers for their young children. It is very difficult for them when you block the sidewalk with cars. In some instances, they are forced to walk in the street. Please be considerate not to block the sidewalk.
- Street Signs – You have probably noticed that all the street and traffic calming signs have been replaced and are now at uniform heights. New blue street signs have been installed throughout River Watch. Many of the old street signs were peeling and badly faded. The posts were also at different heights, and many were bent.

Continued on page 5

**Riverglen Management
Greenacre Properties**

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4131 Gunn Highway
Tampa, Fl 33618
813-936-4158
aparker@greenacreproperties.com

Riverglen Board of Directors**President**

Ralph Brown Unit 7
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Vice President

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Secretary

Margaret Cabral Unit 6
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Treasurer

Cathy James Unit 2
Treasurer@riverglenhoa.com

Directors

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DirUnit3@riverglenhoa.com

Vacant Unit 4

Kathy Hofstad Unit 5
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Ponds

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Parks

Richard Huber
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Website

Ralph Brown
website@riverglenhoa.com

Reporting County Problems

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

**Riverglen President's Update
Ralph Brown, President Continued from page 1...**

Finally, I would like to say thanks to my fellow Riverglen Board members who hung in there through the pandemic, virtual meetings, and many other unique challenges of the past couple of years. These ladies and gentlemen consistently demonstrate sincere concern for the community and the homeowners, while maintaining a cooperative attitude and mutual respect for the other Board members. Also, to our committee chairs: Ali Houshmand (ACC), Rick Huber (Parks), Trina Dooley (Ponds), and Carolyn L. Austin (Newsletter Editor) – a big thanks for your energy and initiative.

Ralph

Landscape Update

By Larry Barroner

A few years back, we identified numerous pine trees along Donnymoor Drive that were infested with the Southern Sculpted Pine Borer. Initially, when given this diagnosis, we feared the worst and thought all the pine trees would have to be removed. At this time, it appears the infestation has slowed to the point that it has been several months since we have had to remove a pine tree. We will continue to monitor the trees. Should other pine trees become infested, they will be removed based on the recommendation of the Brightview Landscape Team.

Other projects we have completed include lifting the canopies of the trees in the park and trimming the palm trees within the community common areas. This general maintenance is required to ensure the trees are healthy and do not pose a hazard to anyone.

During the Florida dry season, our community landscape is dependent on the irrigation system. Our irrigation system was installed when the community was established. Since then, we have grown 132 live oak trees into the majestic markers that line Donnymoor Drive. However, they become a problem when the roots of the trees cause leaks in our irrigation system. If you ever notice leaks (e.g., unexplained running water on a dry day in the gutter of Donnymoor Drive), issues with the irrigation system (e.g., broken sprinkler heads or water spraying on the street), or issues with the landscape, please contact our property manager at aparker@greenacre.com.

We always welcome suggestions to enhance our community. If you have a suggestion, please let me know at landscape@riverglenhoa.com.

Six tips to prepare your lawn for next year.

By Larry Barroner

As the days start to shorten, we will soon say goodbye to the rainy season and the constant 90-degree weather. Your lawn maintenance patterns will begin to change as well. Here are some tips for lawn and landscape maintenance during the fall season.

1. Mow your grass less frequently. Our grass may not grow as much from October - March, so lawn mowing once a week is usually not necessary. During the fall months, mowing twice a month may be enough to keep your grass at the ideal height of 2 ½ - 3 inches.
2. Start Watering. When the rain gets less frequent, it is a good idea to increase your watering schedule. Most lawns need about an inch of water per week. Continued on page 3

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

BOD and ACC meetings are currently held @ 7:00 PM via Zoom. Meeting login information is posted at the community entrances 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Riverglen BOD

September 28
October 26 (budget meeting)
November 23
December (no meeting)
January 25 (2022)
February 22
March 22
April 26

Riverglen ACC

September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16
January 20 (2022)
February 17
March 17
April 21

**Annual Homeowner
Meeting**

November 4, 2021, 7 PM,
Location TBA

Saturday in the Park
October 16, 2021,
11 AM – 2 PM

Community

A place
where people
live, work, and
play.



Six tips to prepare your lawn for next year. Continued from page 2...

3. Loosen the soil. Aerating the soil keeps it from getting compact, and supplies roots with water, oxygen, and nutrients. Although Florida soil tends to be looser and sandier than soil in other places, aeration still promotes healthy root systems and plants.
4. Fertilize. Fertilizing with slow-release nitrogen-rich mixes revitalizes the soil and gets it ready for seed and plant growth. Timing is important – though fertilizing after loosening the soil makes it more receptive to the nutrients. The combination of the two will prepare your lawn for springtime and heavier rains.
5. Spread seed and sod. After you have aerated and fertilized, it is a good time to spread seeds or install sod. The thicker your grass, the less weeds can grow.
6. Control weeds and insects. The fall is a good opportunity to attack weeds while they are more absorbent. Hitting weeds hard with weed killer can prevent your lawn from being overwhelmed with weeds during next season. The same goes for insects. If you can get rid of them when they are most dormant, you will prevent them from becoming pests in the spring.

These few steps during our cool season will help to ensure your lawn continues to look good and be well prepared for next year.

“Florida-Friendly” Landscaping

Recently, questions have surfaced about the Florida law (SB 2080) regarding Florida-Friendly Landscaping and how it applies to homeowners in a deed restricted community.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and Hillsborough County representatives recently conducted seminars for Community Association Managers and Homeowner Association (HOA) Board members to explain and discuss the impact of the law on homeowner associations. Here are a few highlights:

1. HOA covenants, restrictions, and ordinances may not prohibit Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices. There are nine (9) principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping. Details are available from several sources, including: SWFWMD - <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/yards/> University of Florida - http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/nine_principles.htm.
2. The law does not invalidate HOA architectural control committees or landscape committees. It does apply reasonable limits.
3. The law does not prohibit reasonable limits on Florida-Friendly Landscaping such as a requirement to be well maintained or limit particular elements (such as a butterfly garden, composting bin, or rain barrel) to a backyard or screened area where feasible. It is also important to note what is not included in the 9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping – neglecting to water turf areas and letting the grass die. Allowing your yard to become a wasteland of dirt and weeds is not Florida-Friendly.

The 9 Principles do include proper irrigation and fertilization. Replacing some areas of your lawn (subject to ACC approval) with alternative plantings that require less water would also be consistent with Florida-Friendly principles.

Did you know that?

If you notice a pothole on your street or a sidewalk that has been raised by a tree causing a tripping hazard in Riverglen, 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 pothole or sidewalk issue.

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

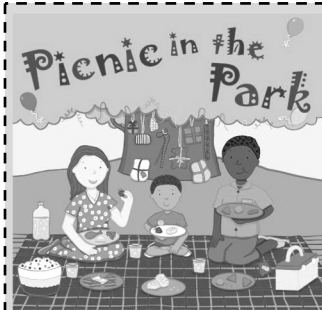
Why Scoop Poop?

Uncollected pet waste is a nuisance, as well as a serious problem for our neighborhood. Next time you are tempted to leave your dog’s droppings, please remember this:

1. The appearance and quality of common areas are known to affect home sales – not just if they sell or for how much, but also how quickly they sell.
2. The more residents complain about dog waste, the more time the Board spends on enforcement rather than serving the association.
3. Uncollected dog waste spreads disease and attracts rodents who feed on pet waste.
4. So... always take a bag on pet walks and pick it up!!

Riverglen Saturday in the Park
October 16, 2021
11am – 2pm

Bring a lawn chair and join your neighbors!
Food, Music, Activities, Snow Cones, Bouncy House
and Slide



Riverglen ACC Chairperson

Ali Houshmand

By now, we have all read interesting reports regarding the effects of the pandemic. Some articles suggest that expanded at-home activities, including work, school, exercise, and entertainment, have inspired many home improvement projects. The Riverglen Architectural Control Committee (ACC) compared the ACC Applications submitted between May 2020 and May 2021 to the previous years. As a result, we found this is also true for Riverglen! The ACC received and reviewed a total of 135 applications for a variety of outdoor projects. This is quite an increase compared to the 74 applications received in the previous year.

It is important that each homeowner receive ACC approval prior to starting any proposed alteration or addition. Alterations or additions starting without ACC approval are at the homeowner's risk. Homeowners who perform alterations or additions that are deemed non-compliant with the ACC Standards and Declarations may be required to either comply or remove the alteration or addition.

To ensure the ACC can process your request in a timely manner, please complete the requested information on the first page of the ACC Application. Also, some applications may require additional supporting documents. Therefore, kindly provide the ACC with information that would be helpful to assist in making a well-informed decision without a visual inspection of the property. However, some ACC Applications will require an on-site inspection if clarification is needed.

Please be mindful that this is a Deed Restricted Community. Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, you have the responsibility to maintain the exterior of your property and ensure compliance with the ACC standards and Declarations. As a reminder:

- All flower beds must be free of overgrown weeds, grass, and dead leaves.
- Inspect fences and other property improvements to ensure they are good in appearance.
- Trash receptacles, bicycles, grills, and other miscellaneous items should be stored from public view.
- Watercrafts, RVs, and trailers must be concealed from view if kept on property.
- Shrubs, hedges, and trees must be trimmed so they do not impede movement of high-profile vehicles in the streets or along sidewalks.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Board Vacancy

Ralph Brown

The Riverglen Board of Directors (Board) is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Board. If you have read previous editions of the annual newsletter, you are aware of the recurring issue regarding the lack of volunteers to serve on the Board and various committees. Perhaps you are interested, but hesitant to volunteer because you do not think you have the time or know what is involved. Here are a few things you should know.

The time requirement is fairly minimal. The Board meets monthly, and meetings generally last about 2 – 2 1/2 hours. You would be expected to prepare for the board meeting by reading the agenda, minutes, committee reports, etc., that are disseminated prior to the meeting. Unless you are involved with one of the committees or some special project, that sums it up!

There is an additional requirement for new directors to go through a certification process to become familiar with the applicable rules and regulations. This can be accomplished by attending a certification class or self-study.

What does the Board do? Basically, the Board conducts the business of running the homeowner's association (HOA). All homeowners pay dues to the HOA, and the Board's responsibility is to ensure that the money is spent wisely to maintain the community amenities, preserve the appearance of our homes, and protect property values. Obtaining estimates, approving expenditures, reviewing and approving contracts, etc., are all part of the Board's responsibilities, with the assistance of the property management company.

Another important duty of the Board is to equitably enforce the rules and regulations, as outlined in the governing documents. The enforcement of the rules must be strict and consistent because the rules protect the quality of life and the property values. The Board does not assume the duties of the sheriff, code enforcement, or animal control officers. The Board is empowered by law to enforce association rules only, including the collection of assessments.

To get a better understanding of the business conducted by the Board, feel free to review the last 12 months' meeting minutes currently posted under the "Board of Directors" tab on the riverglenhoa.com website. Better yet, come to a meeting and see for yourself. Homeowners are always invited to attend board meetings. The dates, times and place are also listed on the website and in this newsletter.

Hope to see you at an upcoming board meeting!

Parks

Rick Huber

Hello Riverglen!

Here is your annual park update. I am requesting volunteers to assist with the opening and closing of the large park. Currently, we have six members who rotate this duty every week. The park is opened by 9 AM and closed at dusk. Just a few more volunteers will help a great deal with the rotation. Kindly send me an email at: parks@riverglenhoa.com, if you have any questions or would like to join our group.

Vandalism: There have been several vandalism cases in the park this year.

The slide was broken, and a replacement has been ordered.

The pond's electrical control panel, and the gazebo light were both destroyed and have been replaced.

My favorite (not really) is the graffiti on the walls of the racquetball court. I am getting very good with matching the paint color!

Upgrades: New rubber mulch for the large park will be installed in the fall.

Additional drainage was installed on the tennis court to assist with water runoff. Cleaning, refreshing, and relining the surface of the tennis court is also being discussed.

The Board is investigating the costs of repairing or replacing the fence surrounding the tennis court; and for purchasing a security camera for the parks.

Saturday in the Park: The community will host a BBQ in the park on Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Please come and join us.



River Watch HOA Upcoming Events

**October 2, 2021 – Community
Yard Sale 8am – 1pm**

**January 26, 2022 – River
Watch Annual Meeting –
Venue TBA**

River Watch Board of Directors Monthly Meetings:

September 15, 2021 – Budget
Workshop

October 20, 2021 – Budget
Adoption

November 18, 2021 – (Note this
is a Thursday meeting)

December – No meeting

ACC Meetings:

September 14, 2021
October 19, 2021
November 16, 2021
December – No meeting

River Watch President's Update Margaret Cabral, President Continued from page 1...

Entry gates – The entry gates were MIA while being refurbished. The gates were badly faded and peeling. The previous black paint was stripped and re-painted, and the finials are gold once again! The pedestrian gates were also refurbished. The gates are now beautiful at the entrance and exit.

Sidewalk repairs – All phases of the sidewalk repairs (grinding and replacement) have been completed. However, this is not to say that no further sidewalk repairs will be needed. This will be an ongoing project since the live oaks continue to grow, pushing up the tree roots and sidewalk panels. This has become a costly situation. If you notice any sidewalk panels that need grinding, repairing, or replacing, please notify McNeil Management immediately.

Yard waste – Please do not pile yard waste in front of or on the storm drains, or in the gutter. The yard waste can be dragged into the storm drains resulting in very costly repairs for the HOA. Recently, we made two expensive repairs to the storm drain system. Reminder: Yard waste should not be in view before Monday.

The River Watch Board of Directors would like to thank several residents within River Watch for all that they do.

- Kara Rutherford is our yard sale chairperson. Kara places the ads for the sale and sets up the signs to direct people to the yard sale.
- Jenn and Rob Defreeze decorate the front entrance for the holidays every year. They do a spectacular job!
- Dawn and Carlos Callao, who are both retired Air Force members, raise and lower the flag. They ensure the flag is always in good condition while flying.
- The ACC members who always ensure that our neighborhood looks its very best!

We are always looking for volunteers. Currently, we need a landscaping chairperson, and volunteers for the landscaping committee. We also need volunteers for the welcoming and yard sale committees. Please become an active member of River Watch.

The River Watch Board of Directors wish you and your family good health as we all continue to navigate through COVID times.

River Watch Officers and Chair Persons:

President

Margaret Cabral
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Vice President

Becky Clemments
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Secretary

Michael Dunn
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Treasurer

Larry Ward
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

Director at Large

Cosmin Achim
bod@riverwatchhoa.com

ACC Chairperson

Cosmin Achim

Welcome Chairperson

Becky Clemments

Landscape Chairperson

Open

Yard Sale Chairperson:

Kara Rutherford

River Watch Property Management:

McNeil Management
Services Inc.

Jennifer Conti- Property
Manager

Jennifer@mcneil.com

P.O. Box 6235

Brandon, Florida

33508-6004

813-571-7100



We're
Searching for
Volunteers



River Watch Welcome Committee

Becky Clemments

Your River Watch Welcome Committee consists of exactly one person, me! I am Becky Clemments, currently on the River Watch Board of Directors. I volunteered for this task because I love meeting new people and getting to know my neighbors. The Welcome Committee provides a folder to each new homeowner. The folder is filled with important information which includes contact names and phone numbers, email addresses, and website information. The folder also includes a few brochures, flyers, and publications from the Riverview Chamber of Commerce.

If you accidentally misplace your folder like I do from time to time, please visit our website, www.riverwatchhoa.com, to find what you need. This website also includes instructions for joining the monthly board meetings via Zoom.

Please note:

The speed limit is 25 mph and is enforced by the Hillsborough County Sheriffs' Office (HCSO).

You can and should contact the HCSO non-emergency phone number (813) 247-8200 if you observe something in River Watch that is annoying, dangerous, or of concern to you. Social Services may be called if you see children who you feel are at risk, and Animal Control for loose animals. Also, if you witness a fire hazard, please do not hesitate to contact the Fire Department. We all share a personal responsibility for our community.

If time is of the essence, do not rely on reaching management or the president of the board, but do keep them informed.

As always, before beginning any work on your house or homesite, please submit an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) request or contact McNeil Management Services, Inc. (813) 571-7100 for assistance with filling out an ACC request form. If unsure about needing ACC approval, please call.

River Watch Architectural Control Committee

Cosmin Achim

Hello River Watch Residents,

My name is Cosmin Achim. I am the Chairperson of the River Watch Architectural Control Committee (ACC). The ACC approves proposed home alterations for a resident's property and ensures those alterations follow the approved ACC guidelines. Alterations may include, but are not limited to: repainting the home, adding or replacing fences, installing new roofs, installing new doors/windows, etc.

Any resident who would like to make alterations to their home must first print out, complete, and submit an ACC application. Applications are available on riverwatchhoa.com website. The resident must also ensure that any required documentation accompany the application to get a speedy approval. Otherwise, the application could be delayed. No alterations should commence before the application is approved. Applications must be sent to McNeil Management Services (mneilmsi.com) no later than the Friday before the next ACC meeting.

Currently, River Watch ACC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom. Please visit the riverwatchhoa.com website or the message board at the community exit for more for information regarding ACC meetings.

Snake Encounters (information provided by FloridaMuseum.ufl.edu)

Kathy Hofstad

With the wet weather, snakes are out and moving. You may encounter a snake in your backyard, swimming pool, or garage. Do not try to kill it! Instead, try to identify and appreciate it like you would the birds who visit your yard. If you see snakes around your house, you are lucky because they are there for a reason.



All snakes are carnivorous and a benefit to us humans. Many eat rodents, like mice and rats. Some eat other snakes, including venomous ones. Others even eat little pesky insects. Regardless of what some people say, Florida snakes are not aggressive.

There are approximately 50 established species of snakes in Florida, but only six species are poisonous. If you encounter a snake, the safest thing to do is leave it alone. Snakes will usually defend themselves by fleeing but may bite if they feel captured or in harm's way. Unless a snake is cornered, most will flee when they see you. Remember, try not to capture the snake, just let it move along its way.

Learn to safely co-exist with snakes at:

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-snake-id/safely-coexist-with-snakes/>

Identify a Florida snake at:

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-snake-id/>

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.

The Importance of Involvement

Larry Ward

It's your community too! Be a part of it!

I am the newest member of the River Watch HOA Board and have been attempting to understand the HOA processes and issues most pressing to homeowners. Unfortunately, in my short tenure, I have noticed a significant lack of homeowner involvement in the River Watch HOA Board meetings. Homeowners who live in River Watch pay yearly HOA fees in addition to the yearly Riverglen HOA fees. Therefore, I am puzzled regarding River Watch homeowner absence from board meetings.



Join From Your Phone!

Keep in mind that Board members volunteer for YOU and the community. The decisions that Board members make, can and will have a direct impact on your property values, community funds, and the overall quality of living within the River Watch community.

I understand that board meetings CAN be a bit boring and often include topics and information that are not relevant to you. However, there are times when YOUR feedback is important. This is especially true for changes or actions that Board members decide to pursue and vote on. Each Board member should cast votes on items of significant structural change and based upon what is best for the community. But without your input, the Board can and will make decisions on behalf of all homeowners. That is why it is so important for River Watch homeowners to participate in board meetings. It is the only opportunity to voice your opinion and understand the actions that are being proposed and undertaken for the community. Remember, as homeowners, you have a vested interest in how your HOA dues are managed.

Joining meetings is EASY! The Board meets every third Wednesday of the month. The best part is that you do not even have to leave your home to participate! All meetings are conducted on Zoom and the link can be found on the River Watch HOA website: www.riverwatchhoa.com. On the website, in the column on the right, you will find Upcoming Meetings. The Zoom link is provided for easy access to board meetings. So, mark your calendars. I hope to see you there!

Your Dog's Paws and the Hot Asphalt: (information from a dog training site on Linked In)

Kathy Hofstad

HOT ASPHALT AWARENESS

Air Temperature:	Asphalt Temperature:
77°	125°
86°	135°
87°	143°

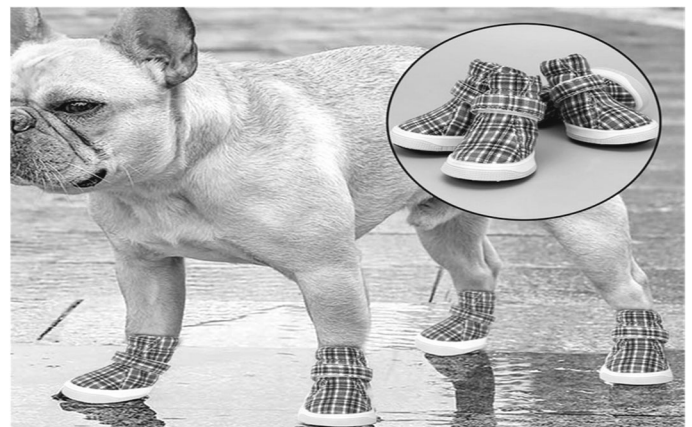
*These temperature are if pavement is in full sun.

At 125° F, Skin Destruction Can Happen in 60 Seconds.

7 SECOND RULE:

PRESS BACK OF HAND AGAINST THE ASPHALT FOR 7 SECONDS. IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOU, IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOUR DOG'S PAWS.

As we wear shoes, we likely do not notice how hot asphalt or even concrete becomes in the heat. During the summer months, protect your dog's paws by walking it on dirt or grass, either in the early morning or late evening. Dogs rely on the sweat glands in their paw pads to cool themselves. If the ground on which they walk is too hot, the dogs will not be able to get the relief they need. A good test is to place your hand on the asphalt. If it feels hot to your touch, it is likely too hot for your dog's paws!



ATTENDING IS SIMPLE

The screenshot shows the River Watch HOA website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'RIVERWATCH HOA' and links for 'BOARD', 'COMMITTEES', 'DOCUMENTS', 'FORMS', and 'PROPERTY MANAGEMENT'. Below this, there's a section for 'Upcoming Events' with two entries: 'MONTHLY ACC MEETING (CLICK TO VIEW ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION)' and 'MONTHLY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING (CLICK FOR ZOOM INFORMATION)'. A large arrow labeled 'Click Here' points to the first meeting entry.

IKare Publishing is provided all articles in this newsletter by the BOD or residents. IKare Publishing is not responsible for content.



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Natalie Carr Bustillo, DDS, MS
Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

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Riverview, Fl 33569 Fax: 813 672-3398

www.Carrdental.com



Don't Eat Your Vomit! written by Carolyn L. Austin, will help you recognize or identify certain people, unhealthy relationships, and patterns of destructive behaviors. Based on Proverbs 26:11, it is a must read! Look for it on Amazon in October 2021. Carolyn's first book, *Prayers of My Mother*, is available now. For more information, please visit: www.prayersofmymother.com.

Advertising in the Newsletter

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just be nice™

Florida Native Plants (information from gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu)

Kathy Hofstad

If you are thinking about modifying or enhancing your landscaping, please consider native plants which are bird, butterfly, and pollinator friendly. Native plants are often a good bet for the Florida gardener. A wide variety could work in your landscape, from vines to groundcovers, shrubs, trees, and palms. Many can serve as good sources of food for wildlife. Remember that native plants, like all plants, are more likely to thrive when they are planted in the right place. Use them correctly and your garden will flourish. There is a list of native trees, shrubs, ornamentals, etc., on the gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu website.

Hummingbirds are brightly colored birds that are always a wonder to see. It is easy to attract them to your garden. These remarkable creatures have striking plumage and a high energy lifestyle. Three species of hummingbirds live in Florida through much of the year. Two other species can be seen occasionally during the winter months. To support their high-speed activity, hummingbirds need to consume large amounts of nectar. To attract hummingbirds to your garden, choose plants with brightly colored or tubular flowers, like hibiscus or the native coral honeysuckle. Hummingbirds prefer red, orange, and pink flowers, and use their long tongues to sip the nectar found within. The following are examples of some Florida native plants which can also be used to attract hummingbirds: bottlebrush, cigar flower, columbine, coral bean, firebush, shrimp plant, and salvia.

Florida has over 200 species of butterflies, some of which cannot be found anywhere else on Earth. To attract these delicate creatures, your landscape must provide food for both the adult butterflies and their caterpillars. Though many butterflies will drink nectar from a variety of flowering plants, their caterpillars are often limited to the plants they can feed on. Butterflies are attracted to brightly colored, simple flowers with good places to perch. To ensure nectar is always available, choose your flowers so that something is always in bloom. The following are examples of some Florida native plants which can be used to attract butterflies: black-eyed Susan, bottlebrush, butterfly bush, coral bean, coral honeysuckle, dill, firebush, jatropha, lantana, milkweed, pentas, porter weed, passionflower, purple coneflower, and saltbush.

Bees are also a very critical component of our environment. It is important to maintain landscaping which is friendly to these pollinators as well. A yard that attracts native bees will include a mix of annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs, and trees. Most bee species prefer yellow, white, blue, and purple flowers. Bees cannot see the color red. They prefer flowers with broad petals that offer a large landing pad. Plants which often attract native bees include anise hyssop, coral honeysuckle, gaillardia, nasturtiums, passionflower, pentas, and purple coneflower.

There are some herbs which also attract pollinators (butterflies and bees). These include basil, cilantro, mint, oregano, and rosemary.