



**President's Update
Richard C. Huber
President, Riverglen HOA**

In the classic Peanuts® holiday TV special, Lucy tells Charlie Brown "You need involvement." I'm not sure anybody balancing work, family and a checkbook these days feels like they "need" any more involvement...you're likely to say "Good grief!" But being part of Riverglen Homeowners Association does have positive rewards.

If you can spare a little time, Riverglen participation offers you a chance to make a difference in your neighborhood. What the association does is a direct result of member input. When we floated the idea of rebuilding the small park, response was near zero. We need commitment and manpower to make things happen in Riverglen.

Do we need block captains? Would you like to attend a crime meeting? Got an idea for a newsletter story? Would you like to get involved with the parks, keeping the area free of graffiti and trash? Public relations...legal counsel...working with surrounding HOAs and businesses to foster positive growth in our area...monitoring real estate development...putting together a neighborhood directory or preferred vendors list or a cookbook – there are small projects and big initiatives just waiting for the right people to get involved to make our community better.

The Riverglen Board of Directors works to maximize the value members receive for their dues in terms of beautification efforts, parks and useful communications with our newsletter and web site. But don't overlook the value you can bring with your own experience here in Riverglen.

Email any Board member or come to the Annual or Monthly Meeting to hear more and find an area and level of involvement that's right for you. As the Peanuts gang learned, great things happen when we work together.

Updates for this newsletter:

The rear entrance sign will be repaired prior to the release of this newsletter. The accident occurred on December 24, 2009, again the sheriffs' office reported excess speed and inattentive driving was the main

**River Watch And Crime
Martin McDonough, President
River Watch HOA**

In early 2009, the RiverWatch President's message was written to highlight and address speeding within our community. In some respects, we have made some headway, in others we have not. A year ago I commented, "Let there be no mistake, speed kills. It kills indiscriminately, without rhyme or reason and we all shake our heads after a tragedy occurs." With 2010 just begun, one of the priorities of the Board of Directors is to continue to address this issue.

Please keep in mind that RiverWatch has a Uniform Traffic Agreement with Hillsborough County. This Agreement does two things:

First, it insures that the control devices (stop signs, speed limits, etc.) are in compliance with the Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Hillsborough County and the State of Florida. When this agreement is being drawn up, it means that the traffic controls in RiverWatch are inspected by a County Engineer and are consistent and in accordance with the County and State law.

Secondly, this agreement gives Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office the ability to enforce County traffic laws – as well as writing traffic citations for infractions of those laws.

Make no mistake; speeding in RiverWatch is against the law. A recent "patrol" by the Sheriff's Office yielded 9 traffic citations. This is 9 too many. The traffic laws are designed to protect the lives and property of those who live here. Every time we ignore this extremely bad, unsafe and illegal behavior, we place the lives of our friends and neighbors at risk. Expect to see more of those patrols in 2010 as we work for a safer community.

What can you do? First, slow down. Is your "excuse" for speeding worth the life of a child? An adult? Your next-door neighbor? Secondly, get involved. Here are a couple ideas to put into practice:

Look both ways before you back out of your driveway.

Obeys the posted speed limits (maybe you need to leave the house 5 minutes earlier).

Watch for on-coming traffic when you STOP at the stop signs.

And for goodness sakes, watch out for that child that "darts" out into the street or your neighbor walking his/her dog.

RiverWatch has been very fortunate to have avoided the tragedy of someone being struck by a speeding vehicle. Let's all make a commitment to our neighbors as well as ourselves to keep it that way.

Riverglen HOA Upcoming Events

All BOD and ACC meetings are held at the Tampa Bay Academy conference room @ 7:00 PM

Riverglen BOD

April 15
May 20
June 17
July 15
Aug. 19
Sept. 16
Oct. 21

Riverglen ACC

April 8
May 12
June 10
July 8
Aug. 12
Sept. 9
Oct. 14

“Saturday in the Park”

April 24
2 – 5 PM at the large park

Auto-debit your Association Dues!

Isn't it hard to remember quarterly payments? Take the hassle out of paying your Riverglen Association dues by signing up for Auto-debit.

You can find the Auto-debit form at www.riverglenhoa.com on the Menu under the Forms section.

President's Update Riverglen Continued...

cause of the accident. A check for the damages was recently received and the contractor will begin work in February 2010. The Sheriff's Office has also informed us that an increase in patrols is occurring to cut down on speeding, also lines will be placed on Donneymoor Drive to help route traffic.

The Small Park has been a challenge, we have finally received the check from the insurance company and now we are going through the process of selecting a contractor. Currently Unit 4 Director Brian Lorentzen and Unit 2 Director Cathy James has taken the lead to get proposals and concepts together. In January Brian brought two contractors to provide oral proposals, some really great ideas and upgrades were proposed at the January BOD Monthly Meeting. During the February BOD Monthly Meeting we narrowed the selection and proposed a counter offer on one of the proposals. Once a contract has been awarded we expect that the park will be back to normal within two months, just in time for spring.

Riverglen ACC

Ali Houshmand, Chairperson

Over the past two months, Hillsborough County has informed the Riverglen Community of multiple changes related to yard waste and recyclable pick-up service effective January 2010. This has understandably caused some confusion.

Please note per Hillsborough County the current weekly schedule is:

Wednesday - Trash Pick-Up

Thursday - Recycling Collection and Yard Waste Collection Service

Saturday - Trash Pick-Up

Please observe these days and do not place trash, yard waste and recyclable items out on days other than designated collection days. Also, after collection day, please remember to remove trash can(s) and recycle bin (s) from view so that they do not become an eyesore or hazard to others.

The Riverglen Architectural Control Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the committee. I have been active on the ACC since 2001 and like many of you I have a full time job and other hobbies. However, I do make time to serve on the committee. Please join us and get involved with your homeowners' association and make a positive difference in our community.

The ACC is in the process of updating the standards and is currently considering metal roofs since they are becoming more popular. They come in many different shapes and colors. We want to hear from you before any decisions are made about allowing them in our community. Please share your opinion by sending it to acc@riverglenhoa.com

Thank you,
Ali Houshmand
Riverglen ACC Chairperson

Riverglen website update

The automatic registration feature for new users on the www.riverglenhoa.com website has been turned off to preclude unauthorized user /spammer access.

Without being a registered user, you can still view articles and association documents, review meeting minutes, download forms, view the calendar of events, etc.

Any Riverglen HOA member who has not yet registered and who wishes to set up an account can do so by sending an e-mail request to website@riverglenhoa.com. Include your name, address, desired login (nickname) and your desired password. The administrator will set up your account and notify you by return e-mail.

If you have previously registered and have an account you can still login, but you cannot make changes to your user account. Contact the administrator at website@riverglenhoa.com to make changes.

Riverglen Ponds Committee

Jim Egbert Chairperson

The difference this spring is that there is actually water in the ponds to start the season with. We have actually been getting some much needed rain the first couple of months of the new year. As we begin the new spring doing the "yard" thing, we need to keep the ponds in mind. So leave it to me to remind you of the following:

Rain runoff from your roof, lawn and driveway can end up in our ponds. This is because they are storm water or retention ponds. So, as you take care of your home, consider taking care of the ponds in our neighborhoods by following some basic rules.

1. Don't overuse lawn or garden pesticides and herbicides. They may be toxic to the wildlife of our ponds and conservation areas.
2. Use chemical fertilizers sparingly, which can contribute to algae overgrowth.
3. Utilize native plants when landscaping as they reduce the need for fertilizer and pesticides.
4. Redirect rain runoff from roofs, patios and driveways when possible. Redirect runoff to grassy areas.
5. NEVER throw anything such as grass, leaves or other waste into storm water drains or sewers (excerpts from A Citizen's Guide to Storm water Ponds, Southwest Florida Water Management District).

Again as always, I ask for those whose homes and property are on the ponds to be active in the ponds committee. The ponds are maintained by a service contract. If there are any issues with the condition of the pond, contact Greenacres Property Management so that the contractor can tend to the issue.



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Easy Color For The Garden

Chris Brown, Landscape Chair

After the brutal winter we experienced, many of us are dealing with dead or freeze damaged shrubs and plants. If, like me, you're longing for some color and just want to spruce up your garden beds, here are some tried and true annuals to plant now.

For sunny areas, plant Scarlet Sage, Snapdragon or one of the many Salvias available in the garden centers. Dianthus is another spring favorite. Dusty Miller, with its silvery green foliage, contrasts nicely with all these garden favorites. For areas that get light shade Snapdragons still do beautifully along with Wax Begonia, Petunia or Ageratum.

As the weather warms up in April, you can begin adding heat loving annuals; for shady areas try Torenia (also known as Wishbone Flower), the ever popular Impatiens, Coleus and of course, Caladium.

For sunny areas, nothing beats the perennial, Pentas.

This native of Africa will bloom from spring until frost in a variety of colors. The old fashioned red variety can reach 4 feet tall but also does well in a partly shady area. Pentas is a huge favorite of butterflies. Pull off brown leaves and cut it back by half mid-way through the growing period to keep it looking its best. During our "normal" easy winters, Pentas will come back and may not die out at all. However, this past winter may have killed them off completely, so if you planted Pentas last year prepare to replant this spring. (ditto for Caladiums). The list of both perennials and annuals that do well in zone 9 of Central Florida is virtually endless. Try the favorites listed above for guaranteed quick, easy color and experiment with new plants to find those that do best in your yard.



This year I'm going to try Ginger Lily.

A tropical perennial, with palm like leaves, it's known for its heat tolerance and without frost, will remain green all year. It takes full sun to partial shade and gets 4 to 6 feet in height and as big around if not divided occasionally. Sweetly scented white flowers appear in late summer. Ginger Lily may be labeled as "Butterfly Ginger" but check to make sure that you are getting *Hedychium coronarium*. Although said to be easy to grow, it does require extra water, particularly if grown in full sun. Remove brown leaves and ragged stems to keep it looking neat. After a hard freeze or long period of frost cut the brown, dead foliage off and top with several inched of mulch. Ginger Lily will sprout new growth in the spring.

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@aol.com, or call Karen at 813-907-3629 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.



**Serenity Stream
Yoga & Wellness Spa**

www.serenitystream.com

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Personal Training | Massage**

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E-mail: info@serenitystream.com

River Watch ACC

Jim Egbert
ACC Chair

WOW! If this weather doesn't warm up soon I am going to pack up and move to Florida! Oh wait a minute, I already did that. The way the temperatures have been lately we have to keep looking at the address on our driver's license to prove it.

Well, it is that time of year again. The winter blahs will

soon end and it hopefully it has by the time you read this. That also means that it is time for my bi-annual blah, blah blah about the neighborhood. The spring means time for sprucing up the yard and this year after the hard winter temperatures, there is probably a lot of sprucing up that is needed. Hopefully your plants and landscaping did not get hit too hard. With other issues around your home, you may be planning some

projects for the near future. While planning, you need to make the ACC request submittal part of that process. Whereas it may not be necessary to remind you that you are in a deed restricted neighborhood, it has been obvious in the last few months that the need to remind homeowners of the process for their projects.

Article 5, Section 3 of the Declaration of Covenants state in part:

"No structure shall be commenced, erected, or maintained on any lot, nor shall any exterior addition to or alteration thereof or any color change be made until the plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, height, materials, and location of the same shall have been submitted to the Architectural Control Committee for written approval."

Most submittals to the ACC are approved by the committee as tendered, or with minor revisions. But, some may wonder why the ACC may ask for stipulations, or in rare instances turn down a submittal altogether. Just as the covenants and restrictions are in place to preserve the lifestyle and property values of our neighborhood, so is the ACC. The ACC is asked to take a very subjective task and make it as objective as possible. We do this, not

to make style judgments on our community, but to protect all homeowners' property values by following the covenants of Riverwatch. While one person may be disappointed by the decision of the ACC to deny a project, the neighboring homes potentially benefit from a decision that may affect the value of their homes. One of the issues we have been faced with lately is homeowners who have been making changes to the exterior of their homes and property without following the rules and procedures. As a member of the association, you may have a situation where the time and money you spend on a project may not be approved for one reason or another

or it may be approved with specific stipulations. If you use the "ask for forgiveness rather than permission" approach, it may in the long run cost you a lot more time and money to make the changes and/or remove something that was installed. Just because you see a project underway on someone's property, does not mean that it was approved. We would like to think



that all of our neighbors adhere to the rules, but in some very few instances, it is just not the case. So remember that you need to complete an ACC request form and submit it for approval. Follow the directions on the form before submitting it. It will only delay the approval process if it needs to be sent back to the homeowner for addition information. If you are making an alteration to your yard, please submit a plat map with the changes, dimensions and location of the change. The members of the ACC do not know what is on your mind. We don't want to assume what your plan is. We can only go by the information that is supplied. If there are questions it may be returned to the homeowner for clarification which would delay the approval for another month. Another way to avoid any delays is to come to the meeting where your request will be reviewed and you can answer any questions that may arise. You will also see what the process is all about. Again, as I always do, I am asking you the homeowner to get involved in your neighborhood. Be part of a committee or just come to a committee meeting or a monthly board meeting to see what it is all about and understand the process of running the association. This association and committees are made up of volunteers.

Why not include you?

Security – Tips for homeowners

One need only look as far as the newspaper to realize that crime and criminal activity is on the increase in Hillsborough County. According to recent crime statistics:

Hillsborough County, FL, violent crime, on a scale from 1 (low) to 10 (high), is a 6. The US average is 3.

Hillsborough County, FL, property crime, on a scale from 1 to 10, is also 6. Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The US average is 3.

What can we do to prevent crime in our community? Listed below are some tips:

- First and foremost, be observant. If it does not seem “right”, it most likely is not. Suspicious people or vehicles should be reported to the Sheriff’s department immediately. DO NOT DELAY.
- Burglars can gain easy access through an unlocked door or window. Keep them locked.
- Your house should appear occupied when you are not home. Use timers to switch lights and radios on and off when you’re not at home.
- Replace the screws in your door strike plates with 2 to 3 inch screws. If someone tries to “kick in your door”. It is pretty safe to assume that with new screws in your strike plates, you will find them (“the perp”) near your door with a broken leg!
- Keep the garage door closed, even if you are at home.
- If you have to park your car outside the garage, remove the garage door opener. Do not leave valuables or easy targets inside your car, such as radar detectors, GPS devices, sunglasses and iPod.
- Never leave your car running unattended and never leave your keys inside the car.
- Do not keep a spare house key in a mailbox, under the doormat, or on a nail behind the garage. You might consider a close friend or trusted neighbor.
- If the entrances to your home are dark, consider installing lighting with an infrared detector. Most thieves don’t want to be observed trying to get in a door.
- Trees located near windows or shrubbery that might shield a burglar from view can be a major flaw in your home-protection plan. Consider your landscaping plan in light of your protection needs. Shrubs should be no higher than the window ledge.
- Ask for credentials from any sales-person (and in 2010, census workers) who request entry to your home. If you’re doubtful, check with the person’s office before letting him or her in.
- If someone comes to your door asking to use the phone to call a mechanic or the police, keep the door locked and make the call for them.

Rick Huber, President, Riverglen HOA and
 Martin McDonough, President, River Watch HOA

River Watch Management

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Jim Egbert

Landscape, Welcoming & Neighborhood Watch

VACANT

RIVER WATCH HOA UPCOMING EVENTS

All BOD and ACC meetings are held at the Tampa Bay Academy conference room @ 7:00 PM

River Watch BOD

April 21
 May 19
 June 16
 July 21
 Aug. 18
 Sept. 15 (Budget)
 Oct. 20 (Budget final)

River Watch ACC

April 19
 May 17
 June 14
 July 19
 Aug. 16
 Sept. 13
 Oct. 18

Community Garage Sale

April 24 and August 28



River Watch Spring Cleaning (Updated Reprint from 2009)

Now that Spring is upon us, take a moment to look at your home and property with a “new set of eyes”. Spring brings all sorts of things to the surface, the least of which is cleaning and repair missed from 2009. Some of the most common issues are:

Mailboxes – How does it look? Are there mildew stains on the box or post? Are the numbers clearly and easily readable from the street in an emergency? Are all the numbers present and painted black? Could the post use a new coat of paint?

Trees (street) – Association and Hillsborough County requires your street trees to be higher than 8 feet over the sidewalk and higher than 12 feet over the street. You may find out that in speaking to your neighbor that he or she may have a “green thumb” and can offer tips to the proper cutting and shaping of an Oak tree. We have some VERY talented residents in RiverWatch!!

Trees, Shrubs and Lawns – Wow, another disastrous winter with freezing temperatures that damaged or killed many landscaping plants and shrubs. Maybe it is time to stand in front of YOUR HOME and take a good look. As you think about replacing damaged landscaping, maybe give some thought to cold-tolerant landscaping. With respect to lawns, we remain under watering restrictions; however, a good soaking on your approved day will go a long way in saving you from some very expensive sod repairs and/or replacement. For those living near ponds, the water from the ponds may not be used for irrigation. A little tip – some of the BEST fertilizer for BOTH St. Augustine and Bahia lawns is Milorganite and is available at Wal-Mart, Lowe’s and Home Depot.

(NOTE: The RiverWatch yard waste pick-up day has changed again and is now on Thursday. Other pick-up days are household trash – Wednesday and Saturday – recyclables on Thursday as well.)

As an aside, tree planting or removal (trees with a diameter over 6 inches, measured 2 feet up from the base), require ACC approval. With hurricane season on the horizon, now may be the time to look at your trees.

Home Exterior – If repainting, do not forget to submit a request to the ACC via McNeil Management PRIOR to painting. Check out the new paint palette on the HOA website.

Over the next few weeks, additional articles and “tips” for maintaining your property will appear on the RiverWatch website (www.riverwatchhoa.com).

Let us take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for taking pride in your neighborhood and community. While home maintenance is not the most “fun” activities for some (or most), if nothing else, it allows us to meet and greet our neighbors and find out that they are really pretty interesting people after all.....

RiverWatch HOA

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Tampa, FL 33618

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“Saturday in the Park”
will be held on
April 24, 2010, from 2 to 5 PM at the
large park next to the Boyette
entrance. This event is hosted
semiannually by the Riverglen HOA
Board of Directors. Food and
beverages will be served. Bring the
family, meet your neighbors, and
enjoy the park.

