President's Update, Richard C. Huber Riverglen HOA

Hello Riverglen.

Well, we are already around the bend and headed for the summer. The winter came in just like last year and if your yard is like mine it is wiped out. I will need to get smart about what I select for planting this spring. My family and I will be selecting hardy plants to withstand the unexpected freezes that we are now having in Central Florida.

So let me start with the good news; Riverglen added two new Board Members to our group, please join me in welcoming Greg Griffith, Unit 1 and Casey Vaughan, Unit 5.

Greg lives in Unit 1 and replaces JD Grooms. JD will be staying on to continue to help with the parks and his assistance and long service to the community is appreciated. Thank you JD!

Casey is new to the community and is also involved as the Chairperson for the Welcoming Committee at River Watch. She replaces Stan Klos who has moved to a new home with a river view. Stan was with the Riverglen Board for 3 years and was our expert on construction issues. Thank you Stan for your dedicated work to the community and best of luck to you and your family in your new home.

The Board is now reviewing the way ahead for the small park phase two. If everything goes as expected, we should have it ready for the summer. Brian Lorentzen, Director for Unit 4, is heading up the committee and is always looking for others to assist. Your comments and recommendations are welcome. Please visit the Riverglen website to volunteer or give him your recommendations.

The spring Saturday in the Park is going to be an original, so please don't miss this one. At the time of this newsletter's release we have not set a date, but watch for the news on the new entrance boards. Many thanks to Brian for getting those put in.

Another great bit of news is that your dues for this year (2011) were decreased by \$12.00. During the budget review last year we realized that we should be cutting back where we could, thus the decrease in dues.

Now for the bad news; the parks are now being used for the wrong kinds of activities and I have received a number of complaints from homeowners. The Board will be working with local law enforcement to request additional patrols to drive though the park to help curb this behavior.

President's Update, Martin McDonough River Watch HOA

Well, it is that time again to move toward Spring! Funny how it seems such a distant memory – that thing we called Winter. As I reflect back on the previous year, I think about some of the changes that have taken place in River Watch.

We have a Welcome Committee! Thanks to a few of our wonderful neighbors, the River Watch Welcome Committee was reborn in 2010. I am sure a few of you remember the water and muffin hand out at the gate last year. And who can forget the pumpkin decorating contest from Halloween and the house decoration contest this past Christmas? We "welcome" these folks to their (our) new committee and look forward to 2011 and beyond for some great events within the community. For those who have thought about getting involved in our community, this is one committee that is bound to be fun!

By the time you read this, I am hoping that the information regarding the new gate cameras and your being able to view what these cameras record (in "real time" on our website) has been communicated. Wow, with the simple click of a mouse, River Watch homeowners can again see what is happening at the gate from four (4) vantage points. The equipment has been expanded and we now have extended video recording capabilities in excess of 3 weeks. Should there be a need to review the vehicles coming and going into our community, your Board members are committed to working with the authorities as the need arises.

Those that have read this newsletter before know that I have spoken about crime in RiverWatch on previous occasions and this will be no different. In summary, we have had some very interesting criminal activity in River Watch this past year. Neighbors, there is NO SUBSTITUTE for each and every one of us being aware of our surroundings and keeping a watchful eye. If it seems "strange" or "out of the ordinary", it most likely is. DO NOT be afraid to contact the local authorities at anytime or for any reason. There is a great deal of safety and security information on our website and I encourage you to become familiar with some of the safety tips.

In 2010 and continuing into 2011, River Watch will continue to see an expanded presence by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Excessive speed and the "running" of stop signs continue to be problems in our community and your Board remains vigilant in addressing these problems. Please, please, please slow down and stop at all stop signs. HCSO will continue to write citations for these infractions of Florida Motor Vehicle laws. The life you save may very well be that of someone you know who lives in our community.

Continued on page 4

Riverglen HOA Upcoming Events

BOD and ACC meetings are held @ 7:00 PM
The meeting sites will be posted on the notice boards and on the website. The meetings are no longer held at the Tampa Bay Academy conference room due to closure of the facility.

Riverglen BOD

April 21 May 19 June 16 July 21 August 18 September 15 October 20

Riverglen ACC

April 14 May 12 June 9 July 14 August 11 September 8 October 13

Saturday in the Park

Will be held in April
Date to be announced,
watch website for information.

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.

Riverglen President's Message Continued...

Please - if you see this behavior, report it to the County Sheriff's Office in Riverview. With your reporting and the additional drivethrough patrols we may be able discourage this activity. This is an ongoing issue and we need to collectively work together to make the reporting effective. Send me an email if you wish, but I would rather have you call the Sheriff's Office and report the activity immediately. Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency telephone number is 813-247-8200. If you have an emergency call 911! The park will be locked after 9PM and will reopen by 9 AM daily. If you would like to help with opening and closing let me know and I will add you to the weekly roster.

The last issue is the fountain in the main pond. It is broken and will be repaired once we have the final cost estimate. This is a reoccurring issue and the pump and fountain have been working fine for 3-5 years.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Saturday in the Park in April. If you need to contact me, please send me an email at president@riverglenhoa.com, or use the contact link on the website at www.riverglenhoa.com.

Rick Huber President, Riverglen HOA

Riverglen ACC

During our recent neighborhood inspection, we noticed numerous homes that have mold/mildew on the roof, exterior walls, driveways and pool cages. Aside from being unattractive, mold and mildew can have an adverse affect on your health. Mold growing on damp surfaces releases



spores that become airborne and can travel from roof to roof. These spores can be inhaled, leading to a host of respiratory problems. Mold exposure can cause congestion, sneezing, runny or itchy nose, and throat irritation; more serious symptoms include major allergic attacks, cough, and asthma attacks. To read more about it you can visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Mold health issues.

One other note, in case you are not aware, there are exterior paint color books available to review. To request a book, please contact Green Acre Properties (GPI). This booklet contains 45 color combinations that have already been approved for the Riverglen Home Owners Association. The paint brands chosen for the color combinations are: BEHR from Home Depot and Sherwin Williams, Valspar and Olympic from Lowe's. ANY brand of paint may be used, but the colors must be tinted to exactly match the samples provided. For more info please visit http://www.riverglenhoa.com, click Documents on the left then click Riverglen Exterior Paint Palette.

Ali Houshmand ACC Chairman

Riverglen Management

Greenacre Properties

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Ponds

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Welcoming

Rick Huber

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Riverglen Website

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

Registration is <u>not</u> required to view articles and association documents, review meeting minutes, download forms, view the calendar of events, etc. However, some features, such as submitting articles or posting to the forums, are only available to association members who are registered users.

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 has a new landscape maintenance contractor – Valley Crest.

Actually, the name is changed, but most of the operation has not. The previous company – Raymow – was sold to Valley Crest. You may begin to see different logos on the vehicles, but most of the workers remain the same. Valley Crest is a



larger company with nationwide operations and more resources.

As always, if you observe any issues with landscape or irrigation system maintenance, please contact the property manager.



Natalie J. Carr, DDS, MS Board Certified Pediatric Dentist

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Florida Native Trees

Want to add a tree to your landscape? Here's a short list that do well in our part of Florida. As always, make sure that you choose trees that are appropriate in size for your yard, light, soil and available water.

Live Oak, Florida's premier oak tree, long lived, mostly evergreen (drops some leaves each year) Good cover for birds, strong wood 50-60 ft tall and as wide. *Needs space*. Don't plant too close to house due to exposed roots as tree matures. Plant at least 15 ft away from homes, garages, etc.

American Holly, Nice shade tree, evergreen. Berries in winter, needs both male and female trees for berries, major food source for birds. Can be single or multi trunked, must have well drained soil.

Winged Elm, corky growth, seeds good for birds. 30-40 ft. Deciduous, Likes moist, well-drained soil. Upright growth makes it a good candidate for small yards.

Red Maple, nice shade tree, 60-70 ft, grows taller than wide so is good for suburban yards, pretty fall color, deciduous, needs moist soil.

Sweet Bay Magnolia,

30 ft, semi-evergreen, flowers, *requires moist soil*, Thin bark, needs to be planted in bed surrounded by ground cover/ shrubs to prevent string trimmer damage.

Magnolia Grandiflora, The "tree of the South", needs plenty of room! 60-70 ft., spreading branches, flowers. Can be very messy, leaf litter, old flowers, dropped branches. Variety "Little Gem" grows to only about 20 ft so is good for small yards.

Sweet Acacia, Sunny dry sites, small tree, 15 ft. Yellow, highly perfumed flowers bloom throughout year. Thorns. Nice specimen tree.



Yaupon Holly.

Nice small native tree. Small green leaves, evergreen. Red berries. Needs both male and female trees in proximity to produce berries. Good food supply for birds. Varieties include weeping and upright forms. Dwarf form is frequently used in landscape as foundation shrubs, takes well to shearing. Grows in almost any soil, full sun to light shade. Resistant to pests and disease. 15 to 20 ft. Great for small yards.

Wax Myrtle. Small open tree or large shrub. Can form thickets if left unchecked. Does best in moist soil, can be found growing along streams, ponds or lakes. Produces purple fruit. Good source of shelter and food for birds. Evergreen, *does not like to be pruned!* Fast growing. 10-15 ft.

Redbud. Fast growing, up to 20 ft. but frequently smaller. Often multi-trunked. *Prefers moist, organic soil*. Blooms in early spring followed by large heart shaped leaves.

River Watch HOA Upcoming Events

River Watch BOD

All RW BOD meetings are held at 7:00 PM at Beef O'Bradys, 4330 Bell Shoals Road

April 20 May 18 June 15

July 20 Aug 17

September 21 (budget) Oct 19 (budget final)

River Watch ACC

(meeting location to be announced)

April 18 May 16 June 13 July 18 Aug 15 September 19 Oct 17

Community Yard Sale

April 16 September 10

River Watch President's Article Continued...

I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to thank each and every Board and Committee member as well as our community volunteers for their service to River Watch. Without



these folks and the giving of their time to their friends and neighbors, many things within the community would go undone. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for your service in 2010 and I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2011.

As we move into 2011, some of the items we would like to look at, improve, change or add to include improvements to the entrance of our community, entry lighting and security, ongoing maintenance of our equipment, gatehouse and common areas, website updates and much more. We welcome your input and involvement as we strive to keep River Watch the upscale community that we all wish it to be. Remember, this is YOUR neighborhood and home.

Martin McDonough President, River Watch HOA

River Watch Welcoming Committee

I know you have a good Idea!

The New River Watch Welcoming Committee is now in full swing and is actively planning some great fun for 2011. In October we had a great turn out for our 1st Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest, you may have noticed us walking around the neighborhood hand delivering the invitations. We had pumpkins, decorations, snacks and lots of great prizes, including an Apple iPod! Also in December we held our 1st Holiday Decorating contest, where you and your family could vote on who you thought had the brightest, most colorful home!

We want to continue in these traditions and desperately need your input. How did you feel about the events thus far? What would you change? What ideas do you have, you may have the best one yet!

So, get the family together and think of some great fun you'd like to have and then send me an email at <u>riverwatchwelcomesyou@gmail.com</u> and let me know what you're thinking.

Casey Vaughan

River Watch Management

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Landscape

VACANT

Neighborhood Watch

VACANT



The Egbert Rant

The first topic I would like to touch on is to personally welcome some new members to the Riverglen Board of Directors. Greg Griffin is the new representative for Unit 1. Greg not only brings a business background that will be beneficial to the Board but he is also a long time Riverglen resident that brings the knowledge and historical value of watching the community grow. Casey Vaughan is the new representative for Unit 5. As a resident of River Watch, Casey is also the Co - Chair along with Cynthia Allen to the River Watch Welcoming Committee. In the past year, the residents of River Watch have seen a rebirth in activities such as welcoming baskets for new homeowners, Halloween Pumpkin decorating contest and the Holiday Display Contest. Not only will these new Board members bring a couple of new faces, but with them they bring new ideas. Again, thanks to the both of you for taking the time to volunteer. That is the only way the community can continue to thrive.

Ok, so if you have been following my articles in the previous newsletters, you along with others have probably figured out that what may start out as a touchy feely neighborhood newsletter article usually turns out to be some sort of a rant about different items. So to save you the touchy feely stuff which anyone who knows me, knows that I am not really a touchy feely type of guy. That being said, I would like to ask the following: They (our new board members) are here, where are YOU?

Over the past year in conversations with homeowners I have heard what is, to me, lame excuses from people who claim to want their property values maintained. Such comments as:

- "Why should I do anything, it won't make a difference."
- "Those people should just leave everyone alone and stop telling us how to live."

Or the best one I heard recently is

■ "Those people involved are just power hungry."

Each one of those statements is not only the furthest from the truth, but to me they would be laughable if they were not so sad. The fact is that most interaction that a homeowner has with the board or management company in either community is when they receive a notice of violation. They feel that they are being picked on or singled out for something. In majority of these situations the homeowners involved have failed to read the documents that govern the community. There are also those who just do not feel that the Board of Directors or the ACC has the right to dictate to them what they can or cannot do on their property. Au contraire!

A quick reminder about deed restricted communities. When the community was developed, documents were produced that would govern the neighborhood in similar ways to that of a town or city. You have By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, and a Declaration of Covenants. These documents dictate what will occur in the community. Those who sit in position of Director have a fiduciary responsibility to enforce the documents. The board members cannot simply do as they please when managing the community. What everyone is allowed to do and not allowed to do is spelled out in these

documents, including how to make changes to the documents themselves.

This is where YOU need to be involved, even if you don't want to be directly involved in a committee or the Board. Maybe you like the idea of others taking care of association business. That's OK, but you are still important to the community. Personally, I feel that some of the items in our covenants need to be updated. In some cases, these rules were written over 20 years ago. In order for changes to be made, each homeowner needs to be involved. When the annual meeting comes around, you need to attend. If you can't attend, then you need to sign and return your proxy so that the association can have a quorum to do business. If you live in Riverglen then this is only required once a year. If you live in River Watch you will need to do this twice per year to accommodate both associations. Since I have lived in the community, I have only seen 1 quorum at an annual meeting for Riverglen. I have never attended a River Watch annual meeting for which there was a quorum. This needs to change if you the homeowner want change to occur. Here is what you need to do.

- Attend a monthly board meeting to actually see how it operates. You may just realize that what both boards have done over the years has put both communities in a sound financial position. In the case of Riverglen it has allowed us to lower the annual dues for this year.
- Read the covenants and see if there is something you see that may seem archaic to the times and may need to be amended, deleted, updated or changed to accommodate new technology and styles that were not available when the documents were written.
- 3. Voice your opinion to the board members. In doing so, please don't generalize your comments. Be specific. If there is something you feel the Board is doing that is not within the documents or covenants, let us know. We are not "The Man", we are your neighbors, your friends and value your input. Well, maybe we are "The Man" but only in a good way.

Also, where are the residents who live on the ponds in the communities? You are the ones that need to be part of the ponds committee. You are the ones who see the conditions of these areas. There should be one person residing on each pond as a member so that any issues can be noted immediately. In the meantime, each person needs to notify someone if they see any changes to the ponds on their property.

Till the fall when I am sure I will continue......

Jim Egbert Riverglen Unit 6 Director, Board Secretary Riverwatch Board of Directors, Board Secretary Pond Committee Chairman

GARDENING Q AND A

Q. Can you please give me a good alternative to impatiens for a shady area of my yard? My impatiens wilt and die. I also tried Periwinkles with same result. What am I doing wrong?

A. Probably not enough water, or maybe too much sun, or a combination of both. Impatiens need lots of water. If they get any sun at all and not enough water they'll wilt and die quickly. Periwinkles, on the other hand, require full sun and not very much water. Water them only when the soil has dried. If they're wilting, they probably have "periwinkle wilt", a fungus that comes from wet conditions. You can't replant them in the same soil because the fungus infects not only the plant but the surrounding soil. Try <u>Torenia</u>, (Wishbone <u>Flower)</u>.



Torenia comes in a variety of colors, does well in shade, doesn't require quite as much water as Impatiens and can also take some morning sun.

For a no fail, blooms from spring until frost, easy care plant, try *PINK Mexican Petunia*.

It's a little better behaved than the common purple variety. The purple variety is listed as **Invasive** by the State of



Florida and should not be planted if you live close to a conservation area. The pink variety will indeed spread, but not as quickly and will confine itself to a smaller area. It will take a hit during cold weather but comes back in spring. A full sun plant, the pink variety does well in a shady area if it gets a couple of hours of sun. It's much taller than Torenia, so try it at the back of your planting bed with Torenia in front.

Q. I grew Hostas in Atlanta but have been told they won't grow here, is this true? And if so, is there anything else I can try?

A. Yep, It's sadly true. Hostas will grow in Florida, north of Gaineville, but it's just too hot in the Bay area. Try <u>Peacock Ginger</u> instead. It has those nice leaves, similar to Hosta, and will actually produce small pinkish/lavender blooms. Peacock Ginger requires shade and regular moisture and will go dormant in the winter. (No leaves above ground). But it comes right back in spring when the temps get at a steady 85 degrees.

Q. I recently saw a large palm growing in a pot on a friend's lanai. I want to try it but my friend couldn't remember the name of the palm. Can you recommend one?

A.. Growing palms in pots is pretty easy as long as the pot is a large one with good drainage. Use a pot that is at least 7 gallons, 10 gallons or larger is even better. Try one of these: *Robellini*, full sun or a lightly shaded area of your deck or patio. *Lady Palms* grow really well in pots but need shade. *Chinese Fan Palms* also do well. I've had one in a large pot for over 13 years now. *Arecas* grow well in pots but require both shade and cold weather protection. As with any potted plant, keep your palms well watered. They require more water than palms planted in the ground, fertilize with palm fertilizer at least twice a year.



Q. What else can I plant besides Day Iily?

A. Try <u>Peruvian Daffodil</u>. Beautiful white flowers. Same general care as Day lily. Plant the bulbs now for early summer blooms, sun or partial shade, I like them better in a partially shaded area. Also try <u>Blood Lily</u> in a shady area. Beautiful red round blooms in summer. Cut the blooms off after they're spent but keep the foliage which should last until the first frost. Follow the planting instructions carefully on both these bulbs, both are perennial. Finally, <u>Blackberry Lily</u> is a great addition to any garden. No known pests, disease free and will grow almost anywhere except soggy areas. Plant in full sun, keep the crown above soil level and give it some space (can

grow 4 ft. tall and 3 ft. wide, plant it in a peony ring for support) Start your own from seed started with just a ¼ inch of soil over the seeds in a seed flat, transplant seedlings in spring.



TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Two recent questions got me thinking about alternatives to planting the usual suspects in the garden. Especially palms. Many of us have *Sago*, *Queen*, *Robellini*, or *Washingtonian* palms in our yards. But there are a few others which may be better suited to the Subtropical climate of central Florida.

Instead of Queen Palm, try <u>Ribbon Palm</u>. It grows to about the same height, topping out at about 40 ft. tall, with similar shaped fronds. The *Ribbon palm's* fronds separate at the tips to display long tendrils, hence the "ribbon". It may actually be a little cold hardier than our ubiquitous *Queen*.

Speaking of cold hardiness; if you're tired of watching your *Robellini* struggle and perhaps die due to the cold winters we've had the last two years; you may want to give one of these a try:

European Fan Palm.



This smallish palm can take any temperature. It starts out trunkless and clumping, and is typically a slow grower. Within a few years a trunk will emerge and the palm can be pruned to show the trunk and a beautiful sculptural form. As with any tree or palm, make sure you have allowed enough space for mature growth. Europeans can grow from 5-12 ft. in height with a diameter equal to height. (Ditto for Robellini).

Scrub Palmettos.



These are small fan palms that start out trunkless, but can show a trunk after a few years. Can spread and grow into thickets if not managed. They are both heat and cold tolerant, and demand little in the way of care. They also require enough space so that they don't encroach on sidewalks and entrances to homes. They can take full sun but seem to do better with afternoon shade. Height runs from 3-12 ft. with similar diameter.

<u>Lady Palm</u> is the clear winner for shade. Since most palms require full sun and many grow too large for the average yard, Lady Palm is a great alternative for those of us with lots of established shade trees and smaller yards. Height varies from 5-8ft. One caution however, Lady Palm can become a nuisance since it creates many babies. Be prepared to dig up and give away your extras.

Another great small palm isn't a palm at all, but a member of the Cycad Family. *Coontie* is one of our native plants and is extremely hardy when planted properly. It's a great alternative to Sago (another Cycad), especially in shady areas. Coontie stays small, only to 2-4 ft tall, and is more graceful in appearance than Sago. As always, do your homework before selecting any tree for your yard. Just because it's offered at the nursery doesn't mean it will grow well here. Heat and cold tolerance, size at maturity and light and water requirements are important factors to consider before making your selection.







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