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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hello River Country,

Volunteers - Volunteers - Volunteers. First - Many Thanks to all the Volunteers/Home Owners who have taken the time to help with the many projects needing attention within our community. Volunteers who not only assist but also run your community! The Board - DRAC - Committees - Home Owners, Crime Watch all volunteers. Forty years of volunteers - Not liked by some but Loved by many. That's what makes River Country operate. What is not seen is all the volunteer hours put forth to run a community. The Board members all have separate pivotal roles and collectively make those tough decisions that many people comment about. DRAC being out and working with the homeowner to keep that curb appeal looking great. Crime Watch driving around keeping a watchful eye. Committees whether greeting new home owners, setting up community pages, stuffing envelopes or even keeping an eye out for hazardous conditions. Countless hours spent by many with one thing in common. All Volunteers who love this community!

RCEOA Board

RIVER COUNTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

River Country HOA	352-596-0740
e-mail	
River Country Estates has a new websit	e www.RiverCountryEstatesFL.com
New Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 9:00 to 12:00 PM	y and Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 PM

RIVER COUNTRY ESTATES BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Steve Reinhardt
Vice-President	Cindy Dean
Treasurer	Marissa White
Secretary	Ginny Vanderkelen
Director	Mike Kunz
Director	Collin Nole

Board meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at 4 PM - 5331 Commercial Way, Suite 106, Spring Hill FL 34606

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Hernando County Sheriff Police(Emergency Only)	352-754-6830
Èmergency Info/General Info	352-754-4083
Withlacoochee River Electric	352-596-4000
Florida – Highway Patrol	352-754-6767
Hernando County Fire Rescue	352-540-4353
Hernando County Animal Services	352-796-5062
Hernando County Health Department	
Hernando County Utilities Department	352-754-4037
FEMA Tele registration	
Statewide HELPLINE	
Referral Line	211
Code Enforcement	352-754-4056

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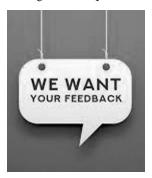
COMMON AREA UPKEEP

Hello River Country residents. This is Cindy Dean, current VP for our HOA, I wanted to let you all know that I am currently working with the contractors that we have already have in place for landscaping. The company is JEM landscaping and they recently purchased the business from the old owner, Justin. They were not given a copy of the contract, so they really had no idea what they were supposed to be taking care of. I have met with the current owner on several occasions to clarify the details within the contract. Work has begun on getting our mail stations, retention ponds, park pond area, and the front entrance looking as it should. It has all been neglected for a while, we are working hard to get it corrected. The owner, as a goodwill gesture, added all the new plants on the front islands at his expense. I had no idea he was going to do this but am thankful that he did. I think it makes for a much nicer entrance when coming in to River Country! I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful new front entrance. They will continue the work needed to bring the other area up to our standards.

I hope you all have a great summer, and stay cool.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SURVEY

We want to hear from you – We are planning to conduct a survey; asking a few questions on how to improve River Country.



The survey link will be provided in the September newsletter and be available until 1st of October. There is also plans to produce an electronic version of the newsletter, which we plan to send via email. If you would like to participate please send a note to rivercountrynewsletter@gmail.com stating "I OPT IN" Your email will not be used for any other purpose other than the electronic newsletter.

BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTION IS HELD EVERY OCTOBER

Owners interested in serving on the Board of Directors may submit a short Bio and statement of what you hope to bring to River Country as a Board member to RiverCountry79@gmail.com by August 15, 2023 to be included on the ballot for the October 2023 General Meeting election. There are three (3) Director positions available. Owners in good standing are welcome to run. Must be able to attend monthly Board meetings and two General Meetings per year. For a complete description of the powers and Duties of the Board, See the RCEOA By-Laws.

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is the key to success. As a community it is critical that we share information in order to live in harmony. We have made several steps to help in this matter. The newsletter is now being published monthly and will be available on the 1st of the month at the new community boards located at each mail station. Please only take one copy as we want to make sure every resident gets one. The community boards are for residents and the RCEOA Board to post flyers that are of importance to the community- (Lost pets, Yard sales, Meetings, etc.) No commercial advertising is allowed. Please help us keep the boards neat and presentable.

Volunteer GROUPS

PARK MAINTENANCE/REPAIR:

Help with basic repairs and upkeep of our park' All skill levels from light construction, painting, lending a hand or even passing out refreshments etc. All Volunteers are a plus with this group.

ACTIVITIES:

Brainstorm, establish and help coordinate activities during the cooler months

DECORATING/MAIL STATIONS

Possible future installation of Community Boards installed at all Mail Stations. Would be responsible to maintain, keeping a clean and organized appearance. Decorating the front entrance during the holidays as well as the mail stations

WELCOMING COMMITTEE:

Would greet the new residents and welcome them to our Community

NEWSLETTER:

We are always looking for content for this newsletter! (Pictures, recipes, events, neighbor recognitions, student achievements, etc.) If you have anything you would like to see in here email it to rivercountrynewsletter@gmail.com, text it (352) 600-1064, or drop it by the RCEOA office!

DEED RESTRICTION (DRAC)

This group would drive around looking for violations of the Deed restrictions - making a photo and help do a follow-up with our neighbors to correct any infractions. Looking for personable, patient, and kind people that want to build relationships with our residents.

CRIME WATCH:

This group is part of the Hernando County Sheriff's Dept. and patrols our community, but is not affiliated with the River Country Estates Home Owners Association.

If interested in please contact Mike Lutman 352-200-5262



John K. Grothe, D.M.D., P.A. Dr. Jay Chokshi, D.M.D.

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WHY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

Citizens are 'engaged' when they play a meaningful role in the deliberations, discussions, decision-making and/or implementation of projects or programs affecting them. Accordingly, organizational and government leaders need to broaden the way they see their responsibilities to include roles as facilitator, supporter, collaborator, and empower of citizens and stakeholders.

This change requires letting go of some of the traditional reins of power and trusting that citizens can and will effectively engage in the issues. The result is a partnership(s) that is nearly always healthy for a community and can more effectively address the issue or problem.

While research regarding the benefits and importance of community engagement varies, several key opportunities are commonly identified. Among these are:

- Increase the likelihood that projects or solutions will be widely accepted. Citizens who participate in these processes show significant commitment to help make the projects happen.
- Create more effective solutions. Drawing on local knowledge from a diverse group creates solutions that are practical and effective.
- Improve citizens' knowledge and skills in problem solving. Participants learn about the issues indepth. Greater knowledge allows them to see multiple sides of the problem. Citizens can practice communication and decision-making skills.
- Empower and integrate people from different backgrounds. Groups that feel ignored can gain greater control over their lives and their community. When people from different areas of the community work together, they often find that they have much in common.
- Create local networks of community members. The more people who know what is going on and who are willing to work toward a goal, the more likely a community is to be successful in reaching its goals.
- Create several opportunities for discussing concerns. Regular, on-going discussions allow people to express concerns before problems become too big or out of control.
- Increase trust in community organizations and governance. Working together improves communication and understanding. Knowing what government, community citizens and leaders, and organizations can and cannot do may reduce future conflict.

(Adapted from Bassler, A. et al., "Developing Effective Citizen Engagement: A How-to Guide for Community, 2008).

Social media..... Good or Bad

Social Media can be a great means of communication if properly controlled. You're able to meet neighbors, exchanging questions/ideas, find contractors, host events and in many ways much much more. Recently the community page "The Face Book Forum" (which is not affiliated nor supported by the RCEOA and was set up for residents by residents) had posted sev-



eral fictitious comments. The HOA does not support any type of Bullying and is very open, honest and transparent with all the owners in mind and treated equally with respect. We encourage owners who may have questions to contact us for the truth backed by documents and timelines.

Recently the HOA has been working with several home owners to promote social media that produces/promotes a positive impact on our community. These homeowners have started two (2) new Face Book pages (both of which are supported by the HOA.)



A place in social media where you can feel welcome, enjoy your neighborhood, be advised of upcoming events and much more. Any HOA matters will be directed to the RCEOA. This site shall be used to promote positivity not complains. Complaints or negative comments should be address via the proper means, ie phone call, email, written letter, or meeting attendance.



Dogs - Cats- Birds - Bunnies. River Country loves their pets. Lately some pets are reported missing or even found without the owners knowledge. Many residents have requested some sort of pet registration with photo to help safe guard these pets. The Internet option doesn't work! Working with homeowners we have set up a Facebook page "River Country Pet Directory" This page is monitored by River Country Home Owners and is separate from RCEOA for a quicker response to get those Loved Ones back! This sight will be secure and is where you can post your Pets Picture and receive a Pin number for easy identification. No personal info is posted on this site for Safety reasons. We have two (2) ways to post 1. Logon to Facebook in Groups search "River Country Pet Directory" and follow prompts. 2. Contact the RCEOA Office (352) 596-0740 and request a meeting with a volunteer to take a picture of your pets and log them onto the site. Its that simple! You do not need to be on the Face Book page to post just contact the RCEOA Office and a Pet Directory Admin will contact you to obtain the required information.



FIBER IS COMING TO RIVER COUNTRY

OPEN Infra Fiber

Open Infra representative (Mr. Sterling Waterman) has been canvasing the community, meeting residents and answering questions. OPEN Infra is the ticket to getting fiber into our community. This will give us an alternative to Spectrum. If you are interested in participating in Open Infra's Fiber build-out in River Country Estates, we kindly request that you visit Open Infra's website and complete a formal agreement. You can access the portal directly by clicking on the following link: https://us.openinfra.com/customer-portal/. Once on the website, please search for your address, click on "See active offers", select the offer, fill in your name, email, and phone number, and then create a proposal. Once 52% of the residents of the HOA have signed up, Open Infra can start preparing for construction.

Open Infra construction process includes:

- Putting Fiber underground in the right of way/utility easement.
- Digging holes, approximately 50'-70' apart in the right of way.
- Installing Fiber-boxes Inside and outside of the homes.
- Installing Wi-Fi mesh in the homes.
- Running conduit from the home to the right of way in preparation to connect to the mainline.
- Any areas affected by digging will be put back to original condition after construction is completed.

At 52% commitment, we will offer each homeowner: Fiber installation cost is \$69 monthly for 12 months and includes:

- Complete Build out, Yard work, Modem set up.
- Service 1000/1000 Mbps from Optyx Broadband for 12 months.
- Wi-Fi Mesh Router included.

There is additional info posted on the new community boards; you can contact Sterling Waterman at (352) 428-5305 to sign up directly or ask specific questions.

You should also receive a notice via mail or an open infra tech may knock on your door to provide additional information. Let's all join in to bring fiber to RIVER COUNTRY ESTATES.





REPORT CRIME

If you see suspicious activity in our community, including the park CALL OUR SHERIFF IMMEDIATELY (352) 754-6830

Afterwards, please email us a description of the incident, including date and time so that we may have a running record to help the police catch the culprits. RiverCountry79@gmail.com or call Crime watch leader Mike Lutman directly @ (352) 200 5262

Tasty Temptations GRILLED THREE-POTATO SALAD

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 25 min. + cooling Grill: 10 min. YIELD: 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS

3/4 pound Yukon Gold potatoes
3/4 pound red potatoes
1 medium sweet potato, peeled
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
1/4 cup canola oil
2 to 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon celery seed
1/4 teaspoon pepper

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Place potatoes and sweet potato in a Dutch oven; cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until tender. Drain and cool. Cut into 1-in. chunks.
- 2. Place potato mixture in an oiled grill wok or basket. Grill, uncovered, over medium heat for 8-12 minutes or until browned, stirring frequently. Transfer to a large salad bowl; add onions.
- 3. Whisk the oil, vinegar, mustard, salt, celery seed and pepper. Drizzle over potato mixture and toss to coat. Serve warm or at room temperature.



REPORT STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

Please report light outages to our Office for submission to WREC for repair, RiverCountry79@gmail.com

Include the pole number or nearest property address and note whether the light is out completely or flickering. Broken drainage caps can be reported to our office as well. We will forward request to Public Works.

HERNANDO COUNTY WATERING SCHEDULE

*One day per week watering restrictions apply to all sources of water in Hernando County. This includes all private wells, rivers, lakes, and streams.

***More info can be found at www.HernandoCounty.us/HCUDConservation If your House number ends in:

0 and 1 on Monday 2 and 3 on Tuesday 4 and 5 on Wednesday 6 and 7 on Thursday 8 and 9 on Friday No Watering Days Sat & Sun

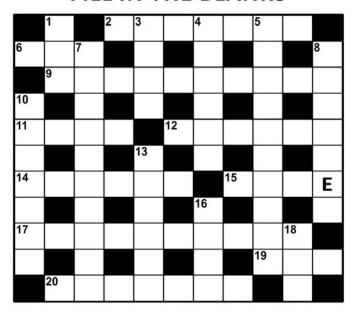
Water times : Morning Hours
12:01-8am
OR

Evening Hours 6pm – 11:59pm





FILL IN THE BLANKS



3 letters	4 letters	6 letters	7 letters	
BUS	COIN	BADGER	CONCEPT	
CUP	ONCE	CANVAS	HERRING	
DAY	PATH	NEEDLE	SPANIEL	
GAS	SHOE	PLAYER	STORIES	

10 letters

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	4		8					
	7					9	6	
	6	5						
	3	1				6		5
	2	9	6				7	
6	9						2	1
				5	1			6



DRAC REPORT

River Country Neighbors,

The governing documents of homeowner associations (HOAs) include the declarations (deed restrictions), bylaws, articles of incorporation, and any published and recorded rules and regulations. When someone purchases a home in a residential community, they receive a set of deed restrictions at closing. These restrictions indicate what you can and cannot do with the property you own. The HOA is charged with ensuring compliance with these deed restrictions. While most homeowners are compliant with these covenants, there are times when violations occur and must be addressed.

As we drive around the neighborhood, we would like to remind all about the maintenance of our front lawns and their curb appeal. With the recent heat wave and County watering restrictions some lawns have become neglected.



Several have become overgrown, needing attention and must be mowed. Please give your yard a little love and attention to avoid any future violations. Thanks.

River Country Deed Restriction Committee.

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