River Courier

MARCH 2024 ISSUE 3 VOLUME 23

ESTATES

"A ay, your day be touched by a bit of Irish luck, brightened by a song in your heart, and warmed by the smiles of the people you love".

#### 2 • River Country Estates • March 2024



Featured Listing in The Waters of Weeki Wachee - European-styled 4br/4.5ba home, 5,000+ total sq ft /2,500+sqft patio space. Formal living & entertaining rooms, gourmet kitchen, new roof with warranty, private river access, spectacular paver patio, play pool, waterfall, spa, stand-alone fireplace, outdoor kitchen & wooded preserve views. Contact me for a showing appointment to see this home or or for any of your real estate needs including a complimentary market analysis.

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## MESSAGE from the BOARD

#### Hey Neighbors,

Some of you may have heard the news that Steve Reinhardt (President) has resigned from the board due to medical reasons. This news took the board by surprise; however, we wish Steve the best and hope that he recovers soon. Love him or hate him – Under Steve's leadership we were able to accomplish a lot of good things that benefited the community as a whole. His dedication and work ethic will be missed.

The Mission must go on- The mission of continuing to serve our community, working hard to maintain our beautiful park area, and to uphold the rules and regulations. Our new President, Collin Nole and new Vice President Mathew Wise, along with the other hard working board members will continue to move in the positive direction. We look forward to meeting everyone at the upcoming planned community events. We also invite everyone to attend the ZOOM meetings to hear what's going on in the community.

RCEOA Board

## **March Board Meeting**

11 March- VIA ZOOM. 4pm. Must log on between 3:15 and 3:45 to get verified. Zoom waiting room will be closed at 3:45 Meeting Link is posted on the River Country web site. WWW.RIVERCOUNTRYESTATESFL.COM

#### River Country HOA -Board Meeting Zoom Requirements.

The board has voted to modify the means by which Homeowners (HO) can attend the monthly board meeting.

The objective of transitioning to ZOOM is to allow the homeowner a better opportunity to learn about and or contribute to the topics that effect the community in which we live.

Starting 12 Feb, 2024 – Homeowners can join the meeting via ZOOM. This will allow more homeowners to attend the meeting from the comfort of their home. No in person attendees will be allowed.

- The monthly meeting agenda will be posted on the RC web site. (rivercountyestatesfl.com)
- Homeowners whom wish to add an item to the agenda must contact the office no later than 10 days prior to meeting.
- The board will only discuss topics that are on the agenda.
- Any motions made during the meeting are for board members only, homeowners are not required to cast a vote.
- All participants will be muted until they "raise hand" and gets acknowledged by the meeting chairperson. Questions will be entertained; however, time will be limited to 2 mins per person to allow for multiple questions. We will only entertain questions/comments on agenda items only. No new topics allowed.

### Joining Zoom

A link to join the meeting will be posted on the web site prior to the meeting. If you would like the link emailed to you each month, contact the office.

- For first time ZOOM users, you will be prompted to load the zoom application to your PC.
- Homeowners may join between 3:15pm and 3:45pm.
- Please use your full name as your log in, so we can see who is connecting. Once connected, we will ask for your address. No one will be allowed into the meeting after 3:45pm. We must be able to verify the identity of each person joining.
- The meetings will be recorded for historical purposes.

#### RIVER COUNTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

River Country HOA	
e-mailrivercou	
River Country Estates has a new website	, 6

www.RiverCountryEstatesFL.com New Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 to 12:00 PM

#### **RIVER COUNTRY ESTATES BOARD of DIRECTORS**

President	Collin Nole
Vice-President	Mathew Wise
Treasurer –	Marissa White
Secretary –	Virginia (Ginny) VanDerKelen
Director	Mike Kunz
Director –	Cindy Dean
	Paul Grochowski
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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) Emergency Info/General Info	
Withlacoochee River Electric	
Florida – Highway Patrol	352-754-6767
Hernando County Fire Rescue	
Hernando County Animal Services	
Hernando County Health Department	
Hernando County Utilities Department	
FEMA Tele registration.	800-621-3362
Statewide HELPLINE	800-227-8678
Referral Line	
Code Enforcement	



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On Monday 11 February at our scheduled board meeting, it was moved and properly second, to remove the locks from the courts. The motion passed unanimously, with the recommendation for this to be done on a trial basis. We, the board are aware of the potential use of our facilities by non-residents, however unlocking and removing the requirement of purchasing keys by the homeowners of river country allows the entire river country community to use all the facilities in our park. Making our park more accessible (and at no charge) to all homeowners out ways the possibility of a few kids coming from surrounding neighborhoods to play basketball. We will closely monitor this during the trial period to evaluate the use by non-river country residents. Board members have policed the park everyday since the locks were removed and have seen an increase in use of the facilities. We have even questioned several kids as to determine if they are residents or not. As stated above this is a trial and we will reevaluate afterwards.

## **EVENTS** *Movie Night in the Park*

"Movie Night in the Park"; is set for 16th MARCH @8PM. Movie will be shown in the tennis court. Please bring your lawn chairs and blankets. We are looking for a volunteer or two to help at the concession stand. HOTDOGS, CHIPS and WATER are being served free of charge for our Inaugural event. This months FEATURE is Ghost Busters "Answer the Call". Looking forward to seeing everyone that evening.

## COMING UP April - Homeowners General Meeting

The general meeting is scheduled for 15th April @ Regency Oaks Club House. 4445 Breakwater Blvd, Spring Hill-Doors open at 6pm. Meeting will start at 6:30.

Important meeting information and voting documentation will be mailed to each River Country Owner very soon. Please plan to attend this informative meeting. The October 10th, 2023 general meeting minutes will be posted on the website for your review.

# PARK UPGRADES

Work has begun on the installation of new picnic tables and bbq grills in the park, The gazebo will have been painted by the time of printing this edition of the newsletter. Additional trash receptacles are on order. Three benches around our pond have been painted. There are several other park/pond projects that are in the works. These upgrades are being done in order that our residents can continue to enjoy the facilities this coming spring.

# MAIL STATIONS

There has been a little confusion related to the ownership of the mailbox/mail stations. The board has had conversations the to Spring Hill Post Master and was informed that the post office has no responsibility in changing locks. As of 2/12/24, if a homeowner loses a mailbox key and would like a new lock installed, you must contact the office and pre pay the \$20.00 fee. A member of the board will schedule a time to change the lock for you. Same applies to a new home owner moving into the community and not being left a mailbox key, they two can contact the office for assistance. You still have the option of hiring a outside locksmith to replace lock if you so choose. If you see someone changing a lock on a mailbox and you have questions, ASK, The owner of the mailbox and a board member/locksmith will be doing the work.

### SAFETY DEMINIDER - Street

REMINDER : Speed limit in RIVER COUNTRY is 30MPH-Please slow down, as more people are out walking, its imperative that we all be aware of our speed within the neighborhood.

# DRAC

I volunteered for the DRAC committee when Bradley stepped down in 2023 and was voted onto the Board in Oct. of that year. With the help of Johnathan, Joe and now Matt the DRAC Committee continues to GET THE JOB DONE.

In 2023, we created a Violation Form for residents to report Deed restriction violations. The form is available in our RCEOA Office. Instead of calling and emailing without leaving a name, we suggest using the form and being accountable for reporting the violation. Don't look at it as tattling on your neighbor, look at it as keep our neighborhood up to the standards we all want.

We (DRAC) will still be traveling around RCEOA to make sure deed restrictions are followed. At DRAC discretion, we will either knock on your door or send a courtesy letter to you the home owner about the violation. A picture with the time will be noted and be put in your file. If a violation letter is filled out, the Violation will be looked into. A email/ note or phone call is not the proper way to address the problem. it's about accountability and transparency (your name will not be shared) but (No Form -No Violation). Lets all work together to keep our community looking good and thanks for listening,

Paul Grochowski, Director/DRAC





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# 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.

## WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Would greet the new residents and welcome them to our Community

## NEWŞLETTER

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

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# St Patrick's Day

St Patrick is one of Ireland's patron saints and many Americans with Irish ancestry remember him on March 17. Patrick's Day is fixed on March 17, but may occasionally be moved by Catholic Church authorities. This happened in 1940, so that the celebrations would not fall on Palm Sunday, and in 2008 to avoid Holy Monday, the last Monday before Easter Sunday. Celebrations concentrate on Irish themed parties, drinks and food. Many people get into the spirit by dressing in green clothing and eating green colored food. Irish clubs and pubs often hold parties or have special deals.



The most common St Patrick's Day symbol is the shamrock. The shamrock is the leaf of the clover plant and a symbol of the Holy Trinity. Other symbols include:

- Almost anything green.
- The green, orange and white flag of the Republic of Ireland.Brands of beer associated with Irish culture.

Symbols seen on St Patrick's Day include the harp, which was used in Ireland for centuries, as well as the leprechaun and a pot of gold that it hides.



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## **River Country** Beautification

Beautification Day was rained out on the 17th and rescheduled for the 24th of Feb. We still have a few small park projects to do, so if you want to help, let us know by calling the office and leaving your contact information.

Some of the Beautification projects completed over the past few weeks:

- Front entrance wall (300 ft- both sides) was power washed,
- New picnic tables installed in the park.
- Pond Pier was power washed.
- Railing on pond pier repaired
- Bolts replaced on swing set
- Fiber lines ran to park gazebo
- Painting of Gazebo
- Repaired driveway of Service entrance to park
- General clean up of tree limbs, and debris
- Tree removed that was hanging over basketball court.

THANKS to all the volunteers who came out to help on the 24th. We will post additional pictures in the next issue of the newsletter.









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# HERNANDO COUNTY WATERING SCHEDULE

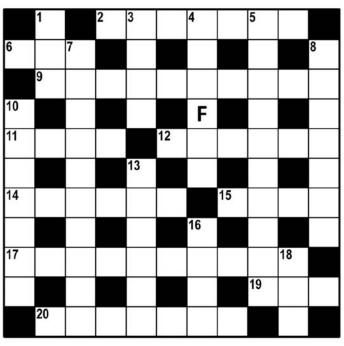
\*One day per week watering restrictions apply to all sources of water in Hernando County. This includes all private wells, rivers, lakes, and streams. \*\*\*More info can be found at www.HernandoCounty.us/HCUDConservation If your House number ends in:

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 <u>Water times : Morning Hours 12:01-8am</u> <u>OR</u> <u>Evening Hours 6pm – 11:59pm</u>



No individual rain drop ever considers itself responsible for the flood.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**



3 letters	4 letters	6 letters	7 letters
NOD	CAKE	BUFFET	GLASSES
OAK	LOGO	SEASON	GRINDER
RAM	OKRA	SPIDER	ORIGAMI
ROW	STEM	TEA BAG	SOYBEAN

10 letters

AMBASSADOR KINGFISHER EXHIBITION MICROFIBER



#### NEW OWNERSHIP – EVENTS CALENDAR NEW DELICIOUS DISHES – LIVE MUSIC TOO MUCH TO LIST!

#### **Come Check Out Our New Menu Items**

#### Chicken Parmigiana

\$26.00

**Chef's Choice**. Perfectly Breaded Cutlet, Served with side of Penne Pasta in Pomodoro Sauce.

### NG Strip Steak

\$32.00

A succulent 14 oz. NY Strip cooked to your desired Temperature served with choice of Garlic Mashed or Baked Potato, Grilled Asparagus or Green Beans

### Atlantic Salmon

#### \$30.00

Served in Lemon Beurre Blanc with Garlic Mashed and Grilled Asparagus.

Chicken Piccata

\$26.00

Lemon and Caper topped Chicken Cutlet in buttery wine sauce served over a bed of Pasta.

### Silverthorn Ribeye \$36.00

A flavorful, 14 oz., marbleized Ribeye cooked to perfection and served with choice of Garlic Mashed or Baked Potato, Grilled Asparagus or Green Beans

## Frutti di Mare \$30.00

**Chef's Choice.** A little on the spicy side, this seafood lovers' dish brings all your favorites including Lobster, Shrimp, Clams and Black Olives into a medley of goodness. Served with Spaghetti in a delicious red Pomodoro Sauce

KARAOKE WEDNESDAYS STAN PRINSTON ON FRIDAY NIGHTS ANDREW MICHAEL POLO COMING IN MARCH



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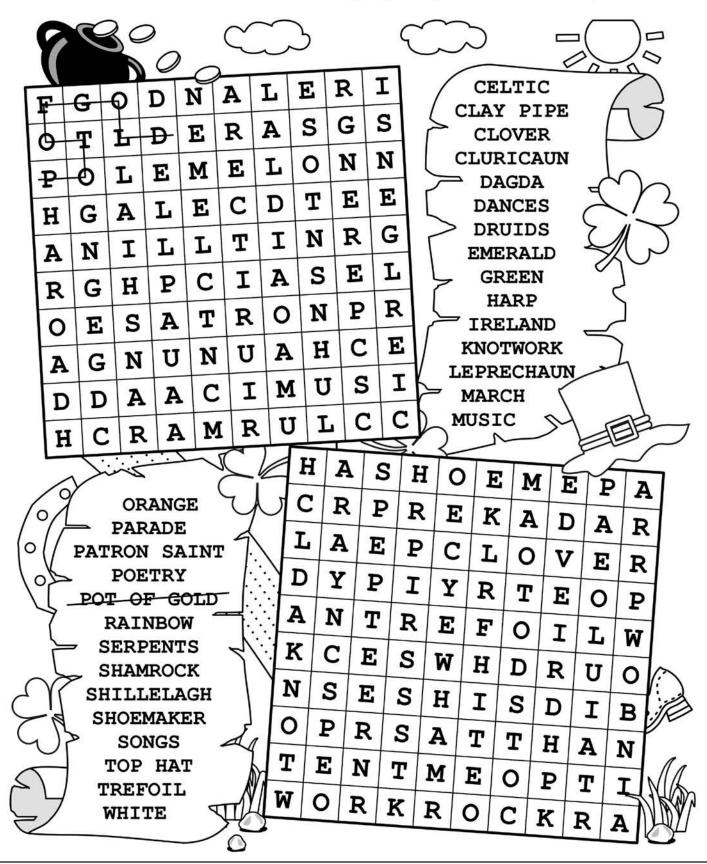
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Words go left, right, up, down, not diagonally, and can bend at a right angle. There are no unused letters in the grid, every letter is used only once.





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## RIVER COUNTRY ESTATES BORDERS A WILDLIFE PRESERVE

For the safety of yourself, pets and children, do not approach or feed wildlife. Never leave small pets or toddlers outdoors unattended, even if you have a fence. In order to avoid any unwanted confrontations with coyotes, bobcats, snakes and other wildlife, River Country owners suggest the following:

"Don't walk your dog after dark." "Don't leave table scraps out." "If you must be out after dark, carry a flashlight and be wary of your surroundings. " "Never leave small pets outdoors unattended, even in a fence enclosure."





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