


# River Country ESTATES

NEWS  
COURIER

APRIL 2024  
ISSUE 5  
VOLUME 23



" Easter eggs symbolize our ability to break out of the hardened, protective shell we've surrounded ourselves with that limits our thoughts and beliefs. As we break open our hearts and minds we discover a transformation to new, life enhancing thoughts and beliefs."



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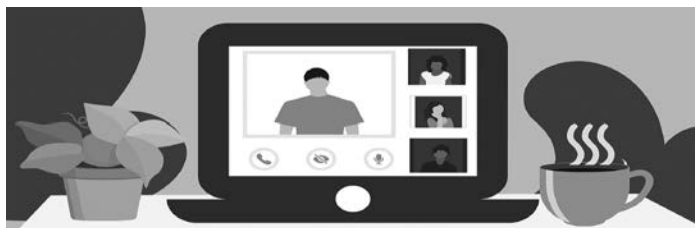
# MESSAGE *from the* BOARD

Hey Neighbors,

Spring time is here and summer is right around the corner. It's time to get out in the community and socialize with each other. We are inviting everyone to the APRIL general meeting. We will provide updates on all River Country Estates happenings as well as various business topics. The meeting agenda is shared below as well as on the web page for all to see. Towards the end of the meeting, there is time set aside for open discussion. Please let's be respectful to one another, as we have two things in common, 1- We live in the same community and 2- We have a passion to ensure our community continues to flourish.

How we all work together is critical to growth and happiness of our community.

Collin Nole  
RCEOA President



## 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. (rivercountystatesfl.com)
- Homeowners who 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 get 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 are 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.....352-596-0740  
 e-mail .....rivercountry79@gmail.com  
 River Country Estates has a new website  
 .....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  
 Director - ..... Paul Grochowski

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 .....352-754-6830  
 (Emergency Only).....911  
 Emergency 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.....352-540-6800  
 Hernando County Utilities Department.....352-754-4037  
 FEMA Tele registration.....800-621-3362  
 Statewide HELPLINE.....800-227-8678  
 Referral Line.....211  
 Code Enforcement.....352-754-4056

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# MEETINGS

## 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 6:30pm.

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

# RULES & AGENDA

## General Meeting Rules

1. Each homeowner must check in at registration table prior to meeting
2. If you wish to speak, raise your flag and wait to be acknowledged by chairperson.
3. Each homeowner is allowed only 2 questions/comments per topic
4. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
5. Professional meeting etiquette is required. No interrupting another person or calling out, No sidebar conversations.

## General Meeting Agenda

- Meeting Called To Order
- Quorum Established
- Introduction of Board Members
- Welcome by President
- Reading of Previous Minutes
- Secretary Report
- Treasurer Report
- 2024 Budget
- Community Improvement Projects Report
- DRAC Report
- Old Business
- SHED Amendment
- New Business
- Social Committee Volunteers
- Welcoming Committee Volunteers
- Bylaws revision
- Open Discussion
- Adjourn meeting

### ***APRIL 8th Board Meeting***

Will not be available via zoom because the general meeting is the following week, Please attend the general meeting.

### ***May 13th Board Meeting***

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

# RCOA 2024-2025 BUDGET

Proposed Fiscal Budget for  
10/01/2024 to 9/30/2025

Annual Assessment per Property to  
remain \$125 per year.

## INCOME

HOA Assessments (415)  
\$51,875.00

## EXPENSES

Accounting	\$300.00
Community Activities	\$1,000.00
Corporate Annual Fee	\$200.00
Insurance	\$5,300.00
Lawyer	\$15,500.00
Meetings	\$350.00
Office Assistant	\$12,000.00
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$2,000.00
Printing & Shipping	\$1,925.00
Property Taxes	\$300.00
Rent	\$5,700.00
Repairs	\$5,100.00
Telephone & Internet	\$2,000.00
Website	\$200.00
	\$51,875.00





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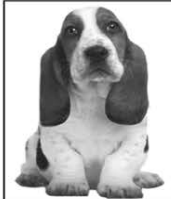
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Stefanie DiFrancesco, D.M.D.  
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# COMMUNITY EVENTS & PARK NEWS



## PARK BEAUTIFICATION

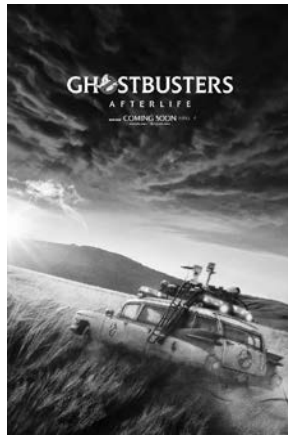
A big thank you goes out to all those who came out on help with park projects. Your support and hard work are what make this community a great place to live. Community BBQ grills will be installed soon. There will be posted rules that we must follow for proper use and cleanliness. There are several other park/pond projects coming soon. Stay tuned.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### *Movie Night in the Park*

The next "Movie Night in the Park"; is set for 13th April @8PM. Movie will be shown in the tennis court. Pls bring your lawn chairs and blankets. POPCORN, SNACKS and WATER are being served free of charge.

This months FEATURE is Ghost Busters "After Life". Looking forward to seeing everyone that evening.



## 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. The same rule applies to a new home owner moving into the community and not being left a mailbox key, they too can contact the office for assistance. You still have the option of hiring an 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.

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# The Easter Bunny's Connection to Christianity

The origin of the Easter Bunny dates back to the 13th century in Germany. The Germanic folk, known as the Teutons, worshiped pagan gods and goddesses. One such goddess was Eostra (otherwise known as Ostara or ?ostre). She was revered as the goddess of fertility and spring. The word "Easter" finds its etymology from the goddess's name.

Due to its prolific breeding tendencies, the rabbit became a symbol for Eostra. In AD 595, Pope Gregory sent Roman monks to convert the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons, like German forefathers, celebrated Eostra. When converted, they accepted the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection at Easter while still continuing the celebration of spring renewal and the rabbit's symbolism.



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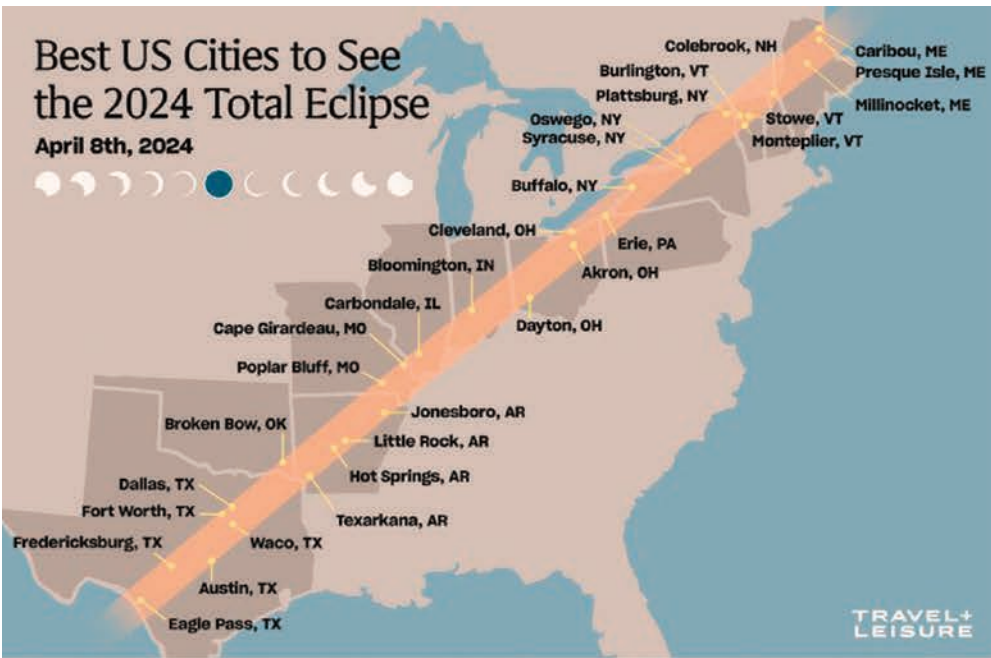
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HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00am - 5:30pm • Saturday 8:00am - 12:30pm • Closed Sunday

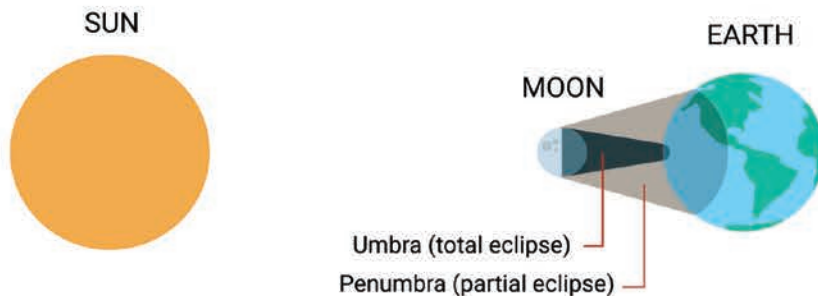
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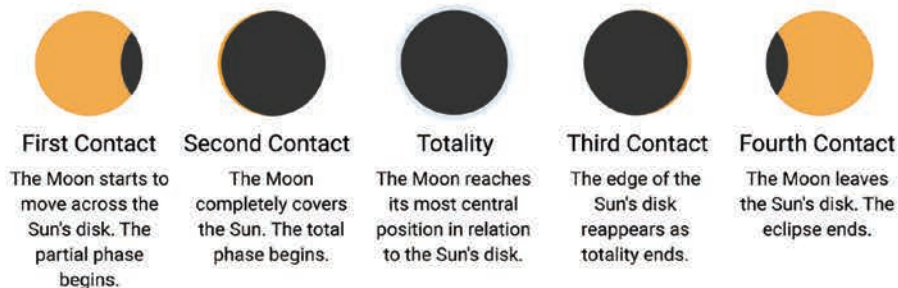
## April 8, 2024 — (Total Solar Eclipse) Great North American Eclipse

The narrow path of totality—where the Moon covers the Sun completely, causing a total eclipse—runs through Mexico (from Sinaloa to Coahuila), the USA (from Texas to Maine), and Canada (from Ontario to Newfoundland). A partial eclipse will be visible across nearly all of North America, and a sliver of western Europe.



Total solar eclipses happen when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, casting its umbra, the dark central portion of its shadow, on Earth. In areas around the umbra, within the penumbra, the Sun appears only partially eclipsed.

### Phases of a Total Solar Eclipse



### Awesome Totality



**WARNING:** Never look directly at the Sun!

Protect your eyes by using eclipse glasses or by making a pinhole projector.



### Did you know?

#### 375 Years

On average, it takes about 375 years from one total solar eclipse to the next, at a specific location.

#### Longest Totality

The total phase of a solar eclipse can last up to 7 minutes and 30 seconds.

#### Come in Pairs

A solar eclipse always happens 2 weeks before or after a lunar eclipse.



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# April 22nd is Earth Day

Here are some things you can do to make our planet a better place to live.

**Your Part**  
 There are many ways to reduce your carbon footprint. One way is to use less energy. Another is to consume food items that require less energy during the production process.

Here are some things you can do to help plants and wildlife.

Do not disturb the natural habitats of plants and animals. Do not pick wildflowers or gather critters or pets.

Talk to people at home or to your teacher about planting a garden to attract butterflies and birds. These gardens provide habitats to replace those taken away by buildings, streets, and parking lots.

Pet waste has bacteria that can threaten fish and wildlife. Clean up after your dog so its waste can't drain into lakes, rivers, and streams during a rainstorm.

**Reduce**  
the amount of garbage you make.

**Reuse**  
things instead of throwing them out.

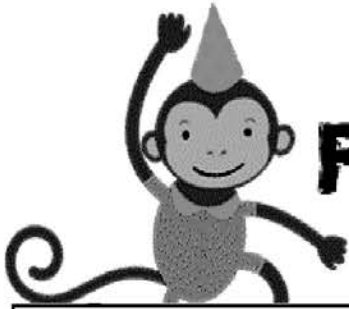
**Recycle**  
paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum.

- Fix something that's broken instead of throwing it away.
- When you buy something, carry it home without a bag or take your own bag to the store.
- Avoid using throw-away forks and cups.
- Refill empty bottles of water instead of buying new ones.
- Use both sides of every sheet of paper. Save scrap paper for recycling.
- Buy and use things that are made to last.
- Buy goods that require less wrapping and packaging.
- Reuse empty jars as holders for things like pencils and pens.
- Instead of throwing out food waste and grass clippings, use them to make compost, which turns into new soil.
- Separate trash so you can recycle paper, glass, aluminum cans, and plastic.
- Take old cell phones and other electronic equipment to a recycling center.

- Compact Fluorescent Lights, or CFLs, use 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs. Plus, they last longer. Talk with adults in your home about choosing CFLs instead of standard bulbs.
- Help move furniture away from radiators, so heat goes into a room and is not absorbed by the furniture.
- Homes should not be kept freezing in summer and boiling in winter. Ask adults to keep the indoor temperature at 75°F in summer and 68°F in winter.
- To cut down on pollution linked to shipping and packaging food, plant a vegetable garden. Talk with adults who buy your food about choosing food that is grown locally (within 100 miles of home).
- Processed foods, which are frozen, canned, or packaged, carry a big carbon footprint. Eating fresh food reduces your carbon footprint. Whenever possible, choose baked potatoes instead of potato chips. Eat an apple instead of applesauce.

Text: Kids Discover Conservation  
 Infofoto: Michael Kline (dogfoose.com)





# APRIL FOOL'S Day APRIL 1st

Y L L I S B P E L Z O O B M A B  
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 A E T U P S L B S E K O J E E E  
 R D T O N D U P E H U F P T K L  
 C U S I M S C L M F D O R Y A A  
 E L E O I F D P E N S I Y U Y Y  
 A E J N I D O I U T C T G E K L  
 E D E R U P H O E K I H K C I X  
 F S S F R C F R L V T R A R V A  
 S T E A S B O D E E A W P M X O  
 E B N I M U A L R L R A D F Z H  
 Y K M U S E Y P A O B Y O R J R  
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| APRIL     | FIRST    | BUSINESS     |
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| BEMUSE    | JEST     | SHENANIGANS  |
| BEWILDER  | JOKES    | SILLY        |
| CAPER     | LAUGHTER | SURPRISE     |
| DELUDE    | LEVITY   | TOMFOOLERY   |
| DUMBFOUND | MALARKEY | TRICK        |
| DUPE      | MISCHIEF | WACKY        |
| FARCE     | MONKEY   |              |



# 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](http://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



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

# THE CLUB *at Silverthorn*



## Two Venues in One!

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## THE CLUB *at Silverthorn*

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1-FREE Dessert per Guest Ticket  
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## April Calendar of Events:

- Trivia Thursday Nights
- Live Music Fridays
- Weekly Specials
- **April 11<sup>th</sup> Wine Tasting Event!**

Visit our website and Facebook page  
For updates....

**4550 Golf Club Lane Spring Hill, FL (352) 799-4653**  
**[www.silverthorncc.com](http://www.silverthorncc.com)**



# Tasty Temptations

## Classic Italian Meatballs

(Tender and Juicy!)

Prep Time:  
15 minutes  
Cook Time:  
15 minutes  
Total: 30 minutes  
Calories: 184



- 1/2 cup (54 g) fresh breadcrumbs from 1-2 slices white bread (crust removed)
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) milk
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup (50 g) grated pecorino Romano cheese
- 2 garlic cloves finely chopped or grated
- 1 tablespoon (15 g) Diamond kosher salt OR 2 teaspoons Morton's kosher salt, OR 1 1/2 teaspoons table salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 pound (450 g) ground beef chuck
- 1 pound (450 g) ground pork or veal
- 1/4 cup grated onion optional
- 1/3 cup (30 g) chopped parsley or basil
- Olive oil

### DIRECTIONS

- Put the breadcrumbs in a small bowl and pour the milk over. Let them soak for 5 minutes. Add the egg yolks, cheese, garlic, salt, and pepper to the bowl and mash together to form a coarse paste.

- Put the beef, pork and onion (if using) in a large bowl and mix with a fork to blend. Add the bread mixture and parsley. Blend everything together well, using your hands, large wooden spoon or large fork. You can also mix in a standing mixer on low speed, just until blended. The meatball mixture can be mixed and refrigerated 2 days ahead of shaping and cooking.

- **Form the meatballs:** Use a 1/4-cup measuring cup or cookie scoop to portion the mixture and roll lightly into balls. They don't have to be perfect — craggy meatballs have character and hold the sauce better!

#### To cook on the stovetop:

- Pour enough oil into a large skillet to coat the bottom and place over medium-high heat. When the pan is hot, add as many meatballs as will fit in the pan without crowding. Note: They should sizzle as soon as they hit they pan or the pan isn't hot enough.

- Brown the meatballs on all sides. Cover the pan, lower the heat and continue cooking and until the meatballs are firm and cooked through (165 degrees on a instant thermometer), which should take about 15 minutes total. Repeat the frying with remaining meatballs, pouring out the oil and adding a fresh layer.

#### To finish cooking in tomato sauce:

- After browning the meatballs, transfer them from the skillet to a simmering pot of marinara sauce. Cook 10-12 minutes.

#### To bake the meatballs:

- Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.
- Arrange the meatballs on an olive-oiled coated rimmed baking sheet. Bake 10 minutes, then turn the meatballs over with a spatula or pair of tongs. Continue baking until nicely browned and cooked through, another 10-12 minutes.

- Serve the warm meatballs with marinara sauce or your favorite prepared tomato sauce.

#### NOTES

- To make **fresh breadcrumbs**, trim off the crust from one or two slices of hearty white bread. Tear or slice the bread into small pieces or pulse in a food processor to make coarse pea-size crumbs.

- To use **dried breadcrumbs**: Adjust the amount to 1/3 cup instead of the 1/2 cup of fresh crumbs. I recommend unseasoned dried breadcrumbs. If yours are seasoned, reduce the amount of salt in the recipe by 1/2 teaspoon.

- **Panko**: Use the full amount (1/2 cup), adding more by the tablespoon if the mixture doesn't hold together

- **Gluten-free breadcrumbs**: Fresh or dried will work fine, following the tips above.

- Meatballs **can be made ahead** and frozen up to 2 months.

- An electric standing mixer is handy to blend the meat and seasonings if you'd rather not do it by hand.

- If you like, finish cooking the meatballs in your favorite simmering sauce in step 5.



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# NO SOLICITATION

**Signage is Posted - Is it Actually Enforceable?** Many associations, whether gated or not, post "No Solicitation" signs at the entrance(s) or throughout the community. However, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

So, what does this mean? It means that the door-to-door sales people canvassing your community have a constitutional right to be there.



# STREET LIGHT OUT?

If you see a street light in need of repair, please report the pole number or nearest property address to WREC 352-596-4000 or to the RCEOA Office and we will be happy to report it for the safety of our community. Please note if the light is flickering or out completely.



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