

River Country

NEWS COURIER

ESTATES

FEBRUARY 2025
ISSUE 2 • VOL 24



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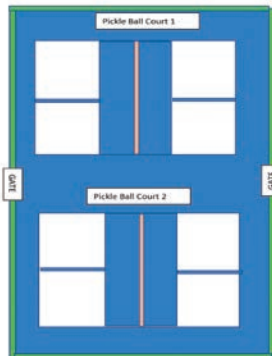
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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

PICKLEBALL COURTS

WE have had several calls about the courts progress. The project is almost done- we ran into a few issues with the court surface curing properly due to the cold weather. The vendor cannot make the repairs correctly until it's a little warmer. In Phase two, we plan to add a new children's swing set and an area designated for movie night. Please be patient with us, we want the courts opened just as much as you all do.



NEW NEIGHBOR SOCIAL

February 10th 5:30pm- 6:00pm

If you are new to the community and would like to meet the board, please stop by the office. We will be available to answer your questions or to just say welcome. Please rsvp before 10th Jan by calling the office @ 352-596-0740

Our new welcome committee is up and running. They will be bringing greetings and welcome packages to your door soon.

MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK

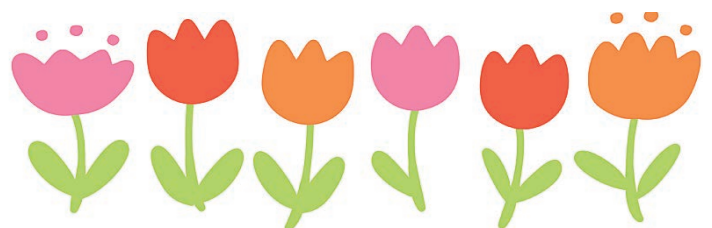
DESPICABLE ME 4 (2024) - is postponed

The constructions plans have been delayed therefore MOVIE NIGHT for Feb is being postponed. We are working hard to complete the project as soon as possible. Stand by for more information via our FB page.



SPRING FESTIVAL - APRIL 2025

If you're interested in assisting with the planning and the organization of the next festival, please let us know. Volunteers needed for this event to take place. Please reach out before 10 Feb if interested.



MESSAGE *from the* BOARD

Hey neighbors, for those of us who are football fans, this season is almost over and a champion will be decided on Sunday. On that note, our community has begun to come together and work as a team. Several of you have stepped up to volunteer and some of you have reduced the negative rhetoric towards the board. We all want the best for our community and must work together to accomplish the mission. As I mentioned before, there are only five board members doing the work of nine. The mission to keep our neighborhood looking good, to maintain the property values and just to support our neighbors cannot be accomplished without your help. If you are a person that cares about the community and believes that teamwork is important, we could use your help. Increasing our teamwork will bring a sense of unity, creativity, collaboration and motivation to our community. By having a diverse team of differing ages, backgrounds, skill sets and experience levels will provide us with a unique set of team members. When a team is diverse, there's a higher likelihood of unique perspectives and ideas. A safe space, where individuals can work together as a team without the fear of criticism to deliver new ideas, helps cultivate this benefit. Are you ready to join the winning HOA SUPER BOWL team?

Collin Nole and RCEOA Board
RCEOA President

FEB 10TH BOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM. 4pm. Must log on between 3:30 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 are located on the web page.

DEED RESTRICTIONS REVISIONS

Next big community project is the *DEED RESTRICTIONS REVISION*. The board has begun the revision process. Once done the proposed changes will be vetted by our lawyer and then sent to the community for review. We will have a draft of the proposed revisions available before the April General meeting, however the actual vote will not take place until late in the year. Two thirds of the voting community must approve of a change before its official. The DEED restrictions are designed to ensure our property values remain at its current level and not allow the neighborhood to deteriorate. Once the proposed changes are finalized its imperative that every homeowner in good standing votes.

LATE ASSESSMENTS

Certified letters have been sent out to those who have not paid their 2025 assessment. As of 1 Jan 2025, any homeowner who has not paid their 2025 assessment of \$125.00 will be charged an administrative late fee of \$25.00. As you know the assessments are due 1 Oct. If you have not paid, please stop by the office to pay by check or cash; it's recommended that you get a receipt. You may also call the office to inquire about an electronic payment.

RIVER COUNTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

River Country HOA.....352-596-0740
e-mailrivercountry79@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 -Matthew Wise
Treasurer - Marissa White
Secretary -Virginia (Ginny) VanDerKelen
Director -Mike Kunz

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 Police352-754-6830
(Emergency Only).....911
Emergency Info/General Info.....352-754-4083
Withlacoochee River Electric.....352-596-4000
Florida - Highway Patrol352-754-6767
Hernando County Fire Rescue352-540-4353
Hernando County Animal Services.....352-796-5062
Hernando County Health Department.....352-540-6800
Hernando County Utilities Department.....352-754-4037
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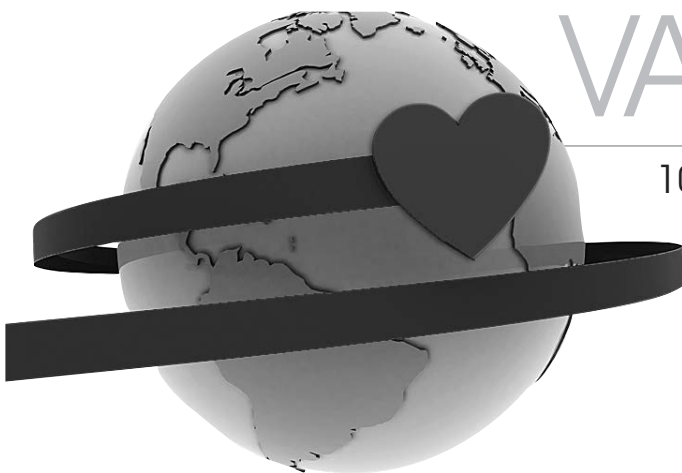
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VALENTINE'S DAY

10 Valentine's Day Traditions Around The World In 2025 To Make The Day Of Love Special

History Of Valentine's Day

Valentine's day around the world is celebrated in the name of Saint Valentine, but who's this mysterious saint and why's the festival celebrated with such gusto! Although the truth behind the festival is murky, there are a few stories you would like to know. It's said that Valentine was a priest who served during the 3rd century in Rome. And when emperor Claudius II announced that single men made better soldiers than those with families and wives, he outlawed marriage for young soldiers.

Valentine went against this injustice being done to young men and started performing secret marriages for young lovers. When the emperor found out about Valentine's actions, he ordered that the saint be put to death. The other tale suggests that the saint may have been killed while helping the Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were tortured. Gradually, Saint Valentine became so popular that couples all across the world started celebrating Valentine's Day as the day of love.

— Valentine's Day Traditions Around The World

If you are wondering how is Valentine's day celebrated around the world, Check out the interesting Valentine's day traditions around the world. This day isn't all about flowers and chocolates around the world. Different countries celebrate it in their own way.

—1. Argentina – For A Week Of Sweetness

Argentines don't celebrate Valentine's Day in Feb, but "the week of sweetness" in July. It's the day when lovers exchange kisses and receive chocolates and other sweets. In the country, the day actually started as a commercial invention but later became Valentine's traditions.

—2. France – Epicentre Of Romance

It is believed that the first-ever Valentine's Day card originated in France, when Charles, the Duke of Orleans, sent love letters to his wife from prison in 1415. The French village called "Valentine" turns into the epicentre of romance between the 12th and 14th of February. One can see the beautiful yards, trees, and homes decorated with love cards, roses, and proposals for marriage flakes. It probably is the most beautiful Valentine's Day traditions in the world.

—3. South Korea – For A Unique Set Of Experience

The romantic couples in South Korea celebrate the day of love on the 14th of each month. Yeah, you read it right! "the day of roses" is celebrated in May, "the day of kisses" is celebrated in June, "the day of hugs in December" and single people celebrate "the black day" in April by eating black noodles. It is a completely different and old Valentine's Day traditions around the world.

—4. Philippines – A Gala Event

In the Philippines, Valentine's Day is the time when many young couples marry in an event sponsored by the government as a form of public service. Among the most amazing Valentine's Day celebrations around the world, this one is a gala event in the country and a special day for young people.

—5. Ghana – National Chocolate Day

In Ghana, Feb 14 is celebrated as the "National Chocolate Day." It is a step that the Ghana government took in 2007 to increase tourism in the country. Ghana is among the largest cocoa-producing countries in the world. On Feb 14, one can attend performances, music events, and restaurants that have themed menus for the special day.

—6. Bulgaria – Day Of Winemakers

Like any other country, Bulgaria celebrates Valentine's Day in its own style. On 14 February, San Trifon Zartan is celebrated in Bulgaria, which means "day of winemakers". Young and old couples celebrate their love with a glass of wonderful local wine.

—7. Wales – Day Of San Dwynwen

In Wales, Valentine's Day is celebrated in the most unique way. The country celebrates its day of love on Jan 25, which is called the "day of San Dwynwen." On the day, lovers exchange unique and beautifully handcrafted wooden spoons to each other. This tradition has been practised since the 16th century.

—8. Spain – Feast Of Saint Dionysus

The day of love in Valencia of Spain falls on 9th Oct. This is known as the feast of Saint Dionysus. The festival is celebrated in most of parts of Spain by making 'macadora', a marzipan figurine. The figurines are made by men to gift to their female companions. One can also witness colourful parades on the streets of the villages of Spain.

—9. South West China – Sisters' Meal Festival

In Miao, southwest China, the "Sisters' Meal" festival is celebrated on 15th March. During the festival, women wear silver accessories and beautiful dresses, which are probably the most gorgeous Valentine's Day customs around the world. They cook various dishes of coloured rice that's offered on silk fabric to young men walking on roads. The destiny of the lovelies inside the object found in the chosen rice. Two chopsticks mean love and a clove of garlic means the love is over before it has even begun.

—10. Denmark – A Celebration Of Love

Although Valentine's Day is one of the new Denmark festivals, the country also celebrates the day of love and romance on 14th Feb with a twist. In Denmark, Valentine's Day is not limited to roses and chocolates. Friends and lovers exchange handmade cards with pressed white flowers that are called snowdrops.

Whether you're single or already in love with someone, these centuries-old Valentine's Day traditions around the world that celebrate love and friendship will give all of you something to enjoy. So, get packed and plan your international trip right away!



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No Soliciting Signs in an HOA

Homeowners' associations are particularly attractive communities for commercial, religious, and political solicitors. The close proximity of homes, neatly manicured lawns, and accessible sidewalks lend appeal to neighborhood canvassers. So, what's a homeowner to do if solicitations are not particularly desired?

Signage is Posted – Is it Actually Enforceable?

Many associations post "No Solicitation" signs at the entrance 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 salespeople canvassing your community have a constitutional right to be there. Since 1976, the Supreme Court has upheld free speech for commercial purposes. Now, that doesn't mean that the homeowner has no right to privacy on their private property.

Solicitation vs Advertising

Typically, solicitation is considered door-to-door selling, which is different from someone leaving advertising material on the

door. Hand delivery of advertisements is cheaper than mailing, but it is still a common form of junk mail. Basically, anyone who wants to sell something can use this tactic.

The RC Crime Watch team collected the following data to assist RIVER Country RESIDENTS:

There have been an increase of solicitors in our community therefore, we want you to be aware of your rights as a Hernando County resident. As per Florida Statute 501.022: Home solicitation sale; permit required. It is unlawful for any person to conduct any home solicitation sale, or to supervise minors without first obtaining a valid home solicitation permit from Hernando County. Every single adult solicitor must have a current individual physical picture I.D. The permit process includes fingerprinting, background check and verification of the business. This is to protect the residents. The permit has an expiration date. Options:

- Do not answer or open the door particularly, if you can not see out the door or view through your camera. Especially, if you are the only one home.
- A "no soliciting" sign as well as a "no trespassing sign" is a discouragement for solicitors. They do not have a right to be on your property.
- If you do engage ask for: 1) Physical Hernando County ID with photo permit and check expiration date.
- Do not allow them into your house. There have been reports of solicitors requesting to use the resident's restroom. Refer them to the businesses on US 19.
- Contrary to what they may tell you, they do not have permission from the Sheriff's office to solicit without a permit. River Country residents have all reported that the solicitors encountered did not have a permit or even a business card. (That certainly is a "red" flag). When called by River Country resident's, the deputies escorted the solicitors out of our community. Thank you to all who follow the Sheriff's motto: "see something, say something." We are all here to look out for each other.

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