



# The Village Crier

Monthly Newsletter for the Villages of Rivershyre, Dartmore, Brighton, Newport, and Edenton

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[www.rivershyre.org](http://www.rivershyre.org)

## Message from the Association President

August, 2009



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Greetings all. This month I would like to highlight a neighbor who every month creates a product that is distributed to all 275 families in our neighborhood – this newsletter! This volunteer is Karen Kearns. Karen stated she volunteered to be our newsletter editor when the previous editor moved out of the neighborhood. Since September 2004, she has religiously collected, formatted, proofread, and incorporated information each month from numerous committee members and authored the document you are reading right now. Karen says she chose this task because she had experience developing newsletters and felt it was a talent she could share with the neighborhood. Also, she said this was one small way to contribute to a neighborhood that she, her husband, and two boys have lived in for the past nine years (Karen may think this is a small contribution but it is huge from my point of view). Most neighborhoods do not produce a newsletter on a monthly basis, so we are extremely fortunate to have a neighbor like Karen.

The Neighborhood Board has decided to hire a new landscaping company to maintain our common areas and grounds throughout the neighborhood. I had received a number of complaints and concerns about the quality of service from the company we were using and the Grounds and Lakes Committee and the Neighborhood Board concurred with this assessment. As of 1 August, you will see our new landscape company - Pebble Creek - throughout the neighborhood. The Grounds and Lakes Committee will work closely with Pebble Creek to improve the appearance of the common areas in our neighborhood.

While I am on the subject of landscaping, one thing we have noticed is the maturity of some of the trees in our common areas. If you walk or drive down Rivershyre Drive between the two Oakton Trail entrances, you will see what I am referring to. Whoever planted these trees years ago did not do us a favor by planting them so close to each other. As a result of years of growth, the trees are starting to crowd each other out. Something will need to be done. Some recommendations have been to remove every other tree (for a total of about 50 trees), cut back existing trees, or a combination of both. Whatever we as a neighborhood choose to do, it will change the landscape of that portion of Rivershyre Drive. This issue will be discussed and possibly voted upon at the 15 September 2009 Annual Neighborhood Meeting.

Speaking of the 15 September 2009 (7:00 PM at the Clubhouse) Annual Neighborhood Meeting, historically and statistically, we have had a poor turnout for this event. Just so you understand what occurs at this meeting: The annual

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**The Villages of  
Rivershyre**

P. O. Box 2194  
Evans, GA 30809-2194

Rivershyre Association  
& Clubhouse Phone  
(706) 854-0229

Pool Phone  
(706) 854-0283

Our E-Mail Addresses:

[feedback@rivershyre.org](mailto:feedback@rivershyre.org)  
[newsletter@rivershyre.org](mailto:newsletter@rivershyre.org)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.rivershyre.org](http://www.rivershyre.org)

**Message ...**

*Continued from Front Page*

budget is reviewed and approved; new Board Members are voted in; important topics concerning the neighborhood are discussed; and residents voice their opinions and cast their votes. In the past there have been some great recommendations made from neighbors during this session. If you have an interest in our neighborhood, you should make an effort to attend this event. If you are interested in joining one of our numerous committees, or joining the Neighborhood Board, you should attend this meeting.

During my time in the military, a civilian friend asked me what she could do to support our men and women that serve our Nation. I gave her a simple answer – fly an American Flag. I have been raising the Flag every day for the past 22 years. There is something about driving by a home that has an American Flag flying out front that just makes the home seem “warmer”. The other day when I was driving through the neighborhood there were three homes side by side that each had the Flag flying – it made me stop and reflect. Remember the days, weeks and months that followed September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001? Everywhere you went you saw the Flag flying. Remember the pride and cohesion you felt when you saw all those American Flags? If you are so inclined, consider flying the Flag more often than just on holidays like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Veterans Day or Flag Day - just a thought.

Finally, by the time you receive this newsletter our kids will have either just started school or will be starting very soon. **Slow down driving through our neighborhood and watch out for them!** It is disturbing seeing the number of folks speeding through our neighborhood – the 10 seconds you save speeding on our roads is not worth an accident or injury to one of our neighbors – especially the little ones.

As always, thanks to those who continue to volunteer their time and effort.

T.M. Weisz, RCA President

**Babysitters  
Listing**

If you would like to add your name to the list, send an email to: [babysitter@rivershyre.org](mailto:babysitter@rivershyre.org).

Include your name, address, phone number, age, rate, and age range of children you will sit.

~ **Rivershyre Yard of the Month** ~

Rivershyre’s fifty-ninth Yard of the Month can be found at **1210 Oakton Trail**. This competition is sponsored by Philip Jones of Re/Max True Advantage. (706-833-4663). The monthly winners will have a very nice sign placed in their yard signifying that they have been selected as having the nicest yard in Rivershyre.

~ **Calendar of Events** ~

1 <sup>st</sup> Second Saturday Neighborhood clean up day	Saturday, August 8 <sup>th</sup>
First Day of School – Columbia County	Monday, August 10 <sup>th</sup>

*Newsletter articles are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Drop them by 1116 Rivershyre Drive or email them to: [newsletter@rivershyre.org](mailto:newsletter@rivershyre.org).*

## 2009 Board of Directors

T.M. Weisz	President
Dick Huskin	Vice President
Michael Nehlsen	Secretary
Holly Bullock	Treasurer
Kathryn and Tim Barrett, Renee Nehlsen, Bob Petty, Russ Lesesburg, Mike Amerson, David Basskette, Ziad Husein, Bill Rutledge and Travis Walden	Members

### Rivershyre Home Sales Update

This monthly newsletter item includes information on the homes in Rivershyre that are either currently on the market or have recently closed. This information is provided courtesy of Philip Jones of Re/Max True Advantage. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Philip at 833-4663.

#### Active Listings as of 7/14/2009

1158 Oakton Trail	\$239,900
1091 Rivershyre Drive	\$234,900
1151 Oakton Court	\$214,900
1198 Newport Trail	\$265,800
1081 Rivershyre Court	\$239,900
1212 Oakton Trail	\$259,900
1150 Parkside Trail	\$205,900
1141 Rivershyre Drive	\$241,500
1107 Rivershyre Drive	\$269,900

#### Sold Properties 2/20/2009 – 7/14/2009

1181 Rivershyre Drive	\$222,000
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#### Pending Sales as of 7/14/2009

none

#### Average Sales for Previous 6 Months

Average Home Size	2651 sq. ft.
Average Sales Price	\$222,000
Average Dollar per Sq. Ft.	\$83.75
Average Days on the Market	164 days

## Committee Chairpersons

Architectural Control	Open
By-Laws & Nominating	Dick Huskin
Finance	Holly Bullock
Grounds & Lake	Open
Neighborhood Watch & Safety	Kathryn Barrett
Pool	Open
Social & Welcome	Renee Nehlsen

If you are interested in joining one of our committees, please visit at our next meeting. If you have a concern or issue that falls under the purview of one of the above committees, please contact the committee chairperson or any member of that committee.

## Committee Meetings

Architectural Control	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday, 7:30 pm
Board of Directors	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 7:30 pm
By-Laws & Nominating	No Regularly Scheduled Meetings
Finance	As needed
Grounds & Lake	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 pm
Pool	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 pm
Neighborhood Watch & Safety	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7:00 pm
Social & Welcome	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm

All committee meetings are held at the Rivershyre Clubhouse unless otherwise noted. All committee meetings are open to homeowners. Please join a committee and help our neighborhood continue to be a wonderful place to live.

## Clubhouse Rentals

If you are interested in renting the clubhouse, please contact Alyson Ludwick at 706-855-2844 or Carolyn Julian at 706-496-2189. The fee is only \$60.00 plus a \$150.00 security deposit. The Clubhouse accommodates up to 80 people. Clubhouse rental does not include use of the pool.

The Clubhouse phone number is 854-0229. The rental agreement, clubhouse rules, and check in/out checklist can be found on our website by clicking on "Clubhouse" or "Documents".

# Committee Updates & Notes

## Neighborhood Watch & Safety



I can't believe that school has already started back! Parents please continue doing the great job you have always done making sure that your children get onto and off of the buses safely. All drivers need to slow down and keep an eye out for the school buses and children.

At the last Neighborhood Watch and Safety event a lot of you expressed an interest on going on a tour of the dam. Jay Wideman from the Corp of Engineers has invited us to come to the dam on **Saturday, September 26**. We will get to see the Visitor's Center, control room and get to go to the observation deck 500 feet above the river. If you are interested in attending, please email me at [kbarrett29@comcast.net](mailto:kbarrett29@comcast.net). We will be meeting at the **Club House** that morning at **9:15 am**. You are welcomed to bring a long a picnic lunch. There is only room for 20 people on the tour. If we have more, we will have to arrange for a second tour at a later date, so, **HURRY AND SIGN UP!**

This month we have had 2 incidents. In one home the residents were in the final stages of moving out and had some items stolen from the yard, garage and kitchen. The other home had their sprinkler system vandalized. Let's keep an eye out for our neighbors. If you see anyone suspicious, please call the **Sherriff's Department at 706-541-2800**.

We still have not heard from half of the neighborhood concerning your emergency contact information. Please email me at [kbarrett29@comcast.net](mailto:kbarrett29@comcast.net) your phone number, address and email address so we can update it. If you want it to be confidential, please let me know. We need volunteers to help us with this project.

With hurricane and flue season around the corner as well as other things that could disrupt normal life, we felt we should ask our resident expert, Pam Tucker, Director of Columbia County Emergency Management to enlighten us on emergency preparations. We have invited her to add her comments to this month's column.

## Keeping Rivershyre Residents Safe

I am happy to have this opportunity to share some basic safety information with my Rivershyre neighbors. Emergencies and disasters can strike with little or no warning. You can have peace of mind if you are prepared and your family knows what to do.

After a disaster, roads may be closed or impassable, stores may be closed, power may be out, and your water supply might be interrupted.

Remember, even if your community or home is not *directly* affected by an emergency or disaster, your life and daily routine may be disrupted due to the affects and emergency service demands in other parts of the community. In these cases, you may need to be on your own at home for a few of days.

### *Make your Home Safe*

1. Have a working smoke detector on each level of your home.
2. Keep at least one multi-purpose (ABC) fire extinguisher handy and make sure everyone knows how to use it properly.
3. Have a fire escape plan with two escape paths from each room. Hold family drills.
4. Identify a "safe room" in your home.
5. Teach children know how to dial 9-1-1. Even very young children can be taught how to call in the event of an emergency.
6. Identify a meeting place in case your family gets separated during or after an emergency or disaster.
7. Learn CPR and First Aid. Defibrillators (AED's) that give are now available for home use and can save a life before help arrives.
8. Make sure your family understands the "safety rules" for severe weather events.

### *Communications*

1. Your family should have a well-thought out plan for

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# Committee Updates Cont'd & More

## Neighborhood Watch ...

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contacting one another during and after an emergency. You should select two meeting places where everyone can meet if you must leave your home quickly. One of these places should be near your home but a safe distance away, such as the nearest major street or roadway corner. The second place is somewhere you would go if a disaster makes it impossible for you to return to the area where you live. This could be the home of a friend or relative in another part of town or a nearby town.

2. Next, you should ask someone to serve as a contact person, such as an out-of-town relative. Every family member should be able to reach this person by phone and should contact them as soon as possible if an emergency occurs. The designated contact person should be given contact information for all family members.
3. If family members have cell phones, the number for the emergency contact person should be programmed into everyone's phone, along with those of each family member. Each phone should have a car charger or extra battery.

### ***Basic Supplies to Keep Handy***

- **A NOAA Alert Radio** (which can be purchased for very little at any store selling electronics.) Remember extra batteries for this also so you can listen to updates and receive warnings even if the power is out.
- **Food:** Start with three days worth of non-perishable food. (Zip open top cans are great!)
- **Water:** Store one gallon of water, per person in your household, per day. (Remember your pets.) This is for drinking, food preparation and sanitation. If you bottle your own water in clean containers, change it out every six months.
- **A manual can opener**
- **Flashlights** and extra batteries. (Candles are not recommended since gas could be leaking.)
- **A battery-powered radio or TV** with extra

batteries to hear the latest instructions from local authorities.

- **A first aid kit and medicines.**
- **An alternate heating source**, such as a portable kerosene heater.
- **Add additional supplies to the list to meet your personal needs**, i.e., infants, senior citizens, or persons with disabilities will need special items.

### ***Fueling your Vehicle***

1. Vehicles should always be kept as fully fueled in case it becomes necessary to evacuate. When you get down to half a tank, fill up.
2. An exception to this would be fuel shortages caused by crude oil production cuts, refinery outages and panic buying due to hurricanes. During fuel supply shortages, stay calm and don't add to the problem. Fuel only when your tank gets low and don't constantly "top off" your tank. Only make necessary trips and consolidate stopping points.

### ***Citizen Training***

Columbia County Emergency Management offers free training and equipment for its citizens to learn basic life-saving skills. The "Community Emergency Response Team" training program (also known as CERT) has been in place for over five years with over 300 citizens graduating through the program. Seasoned personnel from all emergency disciplines train in their area of expertise. Rivershyre has had a few residents become certified, but many more are needed to assure that there are several people who can help save lives during an emergency in our neighborhood before Fire and EMS arrives.

*Visit the Columbia County Website at [www.columbiacountyga.gov](http://www.columbiacountyga.gov) to sign up for CERT training or to get much more information on keeping your family safe during emergencies and disasters.*

# Other Committee Updates

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## Pool Committee Report

August is here and the 2009 pool season will soon be coming to an end. We've had a summer that was HOT early but actually became milder in July. Who knows what August has in store. We just hope having the pool available made the hotter days a little more bearable and the summer a lot more fun for all of our members and guests.

While the pool will be closing after Labor Day, we will be ending the season like we started it; with an OPEN HOUSE! Just like when we began the season back in May, all Rivershyre residents are invited to enjoy the pool facility on Labor Day Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

With school beginning on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, our daily operating schedule will change somewhat until the end of the pool season after Labor Day. Attendants will NOT be on duty on Mondays through Fridays until after 4 pm. That means while adults may use the pool before 4 pm without attendants present, those under 18 may NOT enter the pool facility without their OWN parent or guardian until after the attendants arrive at 4 pm. Attendants will be on duty on weekends during the normal hours of 10:30 am until closing at 9 pm. The Concession Stand will be closed when attendants are not present. As always, no one is permitted to use the facility between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am.

While summer is coming to an end and the pool will have limited hours after school starts, that doesn't mean the fun is over. We still have several parties planned and the Dive-In-Movies will continue until the season ends. Some of the events and dates to watch for are the High School Party on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and the Middle School Party on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Both parties are open to all Rivershyre kids (and their guests) in those respective age groups. There will be a \$1 fee at the gate for all participants.

The next meeting of the Pool Committee is scheduled for 7:30 pm on the third Thursday in August (8/20/09). All are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the operation of our pool facility.

## Grounds & Lake Committee

The Grounds & Lake Committee held its most recent meeting on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. The agenda included a discussion of the lawn care service contract and problems with the neighborhood sprinkler system. Other topics included proposals for new flooring in the kitchen and restrooms in the clubhouse and replacement of the fence at the neighborhood entrance.

In last month's Newsletter, we presented a new plan for holding regularly scheduled neighborhood workdays on the second Saturday of each month. The intent is to have a smaller scope of work than previously undertaken on such workdays with the goal of completing fewer tasks per session but on a more frequent and regular schedule. The initial "Second Saturday" work day was to have been last month. However with planning not complete, it was decided to not start the new plan until August. So, the inaugural Second Saturday neighborhood workday will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup> and will tackle minor repairs to the neighborhood sprinkler system. If you have the time, please join us at the clubhouse at 8 am that morning and lend a hand.

The biggest news coming out of the meeting is the committee's decision to recommend to the Board of Directors the name of a new lawn service provider to take over the contract of regular cutting and maintenance of the neighborhood's landscaped and common areas. The committee has been reviewing the condition of the neighborhood property and has not been satisfied with the service previously provided nor with the direction the condition of the property seemed to be heading. After interviews of several interested parties, the committee made a selection for submittal to the Board. If approved, the new contract will begin in August. The committee is excited with the prospects offered by the new service provider and believes the members of the community will be pleased with the results.

The committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Rivershyre Clubhouse. Please feel free to visit at any meeting. Any questions should be directed to the committee by sending an e-mail to [rca.gl@rivershyre.org](mailto:rca.gl@rivershyre.org).

# Other Updates



Coming late September "Crazy Hat" Adult Bunco! Social Welcome will provide appetizers, tea, coffee, and soft drinks...or B.Y.O.B.

If you would like to get the Columbia County Board of Education eNewsletter, go to this website and enter your email address:

<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001nkQbX511Qs-BR9D7QJkHrA%3D%3D>

or go to: <http://www.ccboe.net/> and click on "Register for CCBOE eNewsletters".



*Are You new to Rivershure?*

Social and Welcome committee would like to welcome all new residents to our neighborhood. Please contact Social and Welcome for all activities we have throughout the year.

[rca.sw@rivershvre.org](mailto:rca.sw@rivershvre.org)

## Baby Sitter / Yard Work List

<u>Names</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Sitter</u>	<u>Yard Wk</u>
Kristen Beasley	706-869-0223	X	
Sohailla Digsby	706-421-6168	X (day hrs)	
Ashlie Morrow	706-550-0178	X	
Nadia & Bianca Franz	706-364-4433	X	
Jason Brickey	706-863-7039		X
Tori Williams	706-854-9569	X	
Becky Sanger	706-364-7562	X	
Oscar Valentin	706-364-4082	X	X
Wesley Valentin	706-364-4082	X	X
Catherine Weisz	706-228-7314	X	
Leah Haney	706-868-7429	X	
Christy Shay	706-210-9034	X	
Paige Jarrard	706-868-7169	X	
Sarine Husein	706-650-7771	X	

## SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, August 1  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

10th Anniversary  
**Back-to-School Festival**  
*For Columbia County students and their families*

Evans Middle School  
4785 Hereford Farm Road

## FEATURING:

- ✓ Information on immunization requirements
- ✓ Drug, alcohol and safety awareness tips
- ✓ Information on before- and after-school programs
- ✓ Information for Military Families
- ✓ Registration for dance classes, sports & other recreational programs
- ✓ College education planning
- ✓ School calendars and bus schedules

PLUS: Fun activities for kids & more!  
\* School supply donation drop off