



The Village Crier

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

K.M. Kearns, Editor
newsletter@rivershyre.org

www.rivershyre.org

December, 2006



In This Issue

- Pool referendum vote results
- Pool info
- Notes from the President
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Cookie
- 5th Annual Light Up Contest
- Directory Updates Needed

Topics of Interest

Our Address & Phone Numbers	2
Yard of the Month	2
Calendar of Events	2
Meetings, Boards & Committees	3
Home Sales Updates	3
Clubhouse Rentals	5
PAR Form	included

The Rivershyre community has voted for the pool referendum.

The vote was 89 in favor and 64 against. A total of 172 homeowners voted out of 270 eligible homeowners in the neighborhood. (Please note that we had abstentions and a number of neighbors who did vote, but did not sign their ballot.)

Wading into the deep end of the pool!

The pool referendum did not generate as much conversation (or venom) as the garbage collection question did a few months back. More of your neighbors were concerned with who dumps their trash and recycling issues versus paying a one time pool assessment.

We did get a good deal of feedback. All of it pleasant with reasons of why they were for or against the referendum. We also heard a number of concerns of why a number of residents were not current members.

Concerns ranged from the price to join (the \$400 initiation fee was thought to be too steep); cleanliness of the pool (a number of years ago, the pool had to be shut down several times because someone decided to use it as a bathroom – think Bill Murray in Caddyshack!); or the lack of lifeguards.

The largest number of concerns that were expressed was about the swim team. Those who did not have children participating complained about the swim team taking up the pool every evening during the competitive season, closing the pool for meets, and allowing those who were not members of the pool to come in and use the pool well before or well after practice had ended.

I have had a brief conversation with Tim Troutman from the swim team. We talked in general about the concerns and we'll have further conversations after the holidays. If you have any swim team opinions – pro or con – please drop me a note! (Georgiaterp@comcast.net)

With the passing of the pool referendum, there is now over \$20,000 that will be added to the pool coffers. Think of the money from the neighborhood as a “loan”. When banks lend money to businesses, they ask to see a business plan, a budget, a budget forecast, and they create a payment plan that will be fair to the business and to the bank.

Continued on page 2

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

newsletter@rivershyre.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rivershyre.org

Wading *Continued from Front Page*

A budget has to be created that includes ALL expenses and creating specific line items so the Rivershyre board and the community would have a better idea of where the monies are going.

We now have to think of the pool as a "business" rather than a "committee". Running the pool as a business is going to require additional responsibilities. While not a 9 to 5 job, there are going to be changes in how the pool is structured administratively and financially.

Because of the changes that have to be made, Bill Giddings, pool chairman, and the pool committee have decided to step aside. Bill and the committee have done a great job in making the pool one of the best in the area; enhancing our neighborhood; increasing our home values; and making each summer special.

This month, the board will be exploring various options as we go forward. First and foremost, the board does NOT want to run the pool. The board will be responsible for the finances. The new pool committee and the new pool chairman will not be autonomous, rather, they will perform similarly as the other committees have over the years.

If anyone has any interest in the pool committee, has any opinions or concerns, please contact us. Our goal is to continue the fine tradition passed along from Mike Plankey and Bill Giddings keeping the pool one of the finest in the area!

~ **Rivershyre Yard of the Month** ~

Rivershyre's twenty-ninth Yard of the Month can be found at **1144 Hartford Trail**. This competition is sponsored by Philip and Sharon Jones of ReMax Realtors (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** ***

Hanukkah begins	Friday, December 15 th
Light-Up contest judging	Sunday, December 17 th
First Day of Winter	Thursday, December 21 st
Christmas Eve	Sunday, December 24 th
Christmas	Monday, December 25 th
Kwanzaa begins	Tuesday, December 26 th
New Year's Eve	Sunday, December 31 st

**Babysitters
Listing**

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

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

Newsletter articles are due by the 20th of each month. Drop them by 1116 Rivershyre Drive or email them to: newsletter@rivershyre.org.

2006 Board of Directors

Bill Ferguson	President
Grady Taylor	Vice President
Craig Trout	Secretary
Martha Kaphhammer	Treasurer
Chuck Faulkner, Dick Huskin, Lisa McLendon, Darrell Speight	Members

The Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at the Clubhouse.

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 and Sharon Jones of ReMax Augusta Realtors. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Philip or Sharon at 833-4663.

Active Listings as of 11/17/2006

none

Sold Properties 8/17/2006 – 11/17/2006

1107 Rivershyre Drive	\$250,000
1132 Midford Court	\$243,900
1149 Hartford Trail	\$225,000
1198 Newport Trail	\$255,000
2036 Edenton Trail	\$255,000

Pending Sales as of 11/17/2006

1213 Oakton Trail	\$229,900
-------------------	-----------

Average Sales for Previous 6 Months

Average Home Size	2817 sq. ft.
Average Sales Price	\$245,780
Average Dollar Per Sq. Ft.	\$87.20
Average Days on the Market	48 days

Committee Chairpersons

Architectural Control	Chuck Faulkner
By-Laws & Nominating	Dick Huskin
Finance	Martha Kapfhammer
Grounds & Lake	Dan Johnson
Neighborhood Watch & Safety	
Pool	Bill Giddings
Social & Welcome	Martha Kapfhammer

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

New to Rivershyre?

We'd like to include your family in our next Rivershyre directory. Call Martha Kapfhammer at 650-8766 and she will deliver a copy of our current directory to you. She'll also get your information to update our computer database. If you have a new phone number or a new family addition, call with information too. We want to have as complete and up-to-date directory as we can.

Notes From the Association President

The Columbia County Greenspace committee formally presented their long range plans to the board and to several of your neighbors who attended the meeting early last month.

The Greenspace committee is part of the Georgia Land Conservation Partnership that wants to permanently protect 20 per cent of Columbia County's land as greenspace.

Part of the conservation plan is a greenway/trails system plan that would be designed for major creek basins and riverbanks in Columbia County. Currently there is a three phase plan to build a pathway throughout the county that when completed, would connect to the Augusta canal and to the trails currently in use around the area.

Phase one is to build a trail system from Riverside Park all the way out to Washington road. The trail would pass through the Rivershyre nature area, into the Stratford nature area, and through three additional areas currently owned by private land holders.

Our nature area consists of 39- acres. The Greenspace committee is looking at creating or enhancing our nature trail that runs along the Little River. Part of the trail would intersect with the railroad tracks. There are conversations ongoing with the county and CSX about how the trail would cross over or under the tracks.

The trail would be maintained by the county and the county would be responsible for any problems that could arise. A question was brought up about crime and bringing in undesirables. While no one can guarantee 100% that nothing would happen, the Greenspace committee noted that very little or no criminal problems have occurred in other trails in Columbia County, Richmond County, or the on the Greenway in North Augusta.

It was also noted that homes that are close to a community nature trail or greenway are more apt to sell at higher market values and tend to sell quicker.

The meeting was an introduction to what the county would like to create. They will keep us updated on the latest news and updates.. Right now, the Greenspace committee is looking at late 2007 or early 2008 before submitting a formal proposal.

Please note that if the county would like to acquire some land for conservation and/or to build a trail, the entire Rivershyre community would be part of the decision process.

We will put the PowerPoint presentation on the Rivershyre website for everyone to review. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.columbiacountyga.gov/home/index.asp?page=2784>.

Additional Notes!

Rivershyre Board member Darrell Speight resigned last month due to medical concerns. Darrell was on the board for two years and was the head of the Neighborhood Watch committee. Early on, Darrell worked very hard to create programs and events that would help generate community bonding and awareness. We wish Darrell a speedy recovery and hope he is back in top form in 2007!

The Grounds & Lakes committee is cleaning up and fixing up the parking area around Hardy Lake. There will be new railroad ties installed to enhance the parking and help protect the natural habitat.

While we have been quite fortunate to have a mild fall, the leaves just keep on falling! Columbia County wants to remind the community to please not blow your leaves or yard waste into the streets or into the storm drains. Also, you might want to remove leaves from the curbs in front of and around your home. When it rains, the leaves can block up the water's flow causing minor flooding and some traffic obstacles. And wet leaves are just as dangerous as ice and snow!

If you are planning to leave Rivershyre for the holidays, don't forget to call Columbia County at 311 and ask for House Watch. The Sheriff's department will come by and check on your home and it's always nice to have their cruisers coming in and out of our neighborhood. Hopefully there won't be any "Grinches" spoiling (or stealing) Christmas!

The Rivershyre Board would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Bill Ferguson
Georgiaterp@comcast.net
 706.651.1797



Rudolph the Red-nosed Cookie from FamilyFun Magazine



RECIPE INGREDIENTS:

- Favorite sugar cookie dough recipe (chocolate or plain)
- 3-inch-long teardrop cardboard pattern (for Rudolph's head)
- Pretzels
- Cookie Frosting
- M&M's
- Red hots

1. Roll out the cookie dough to a 1/4-inch thickness. Set the cardboard pattern on the dough. With the point of a sharp knife (parent's only), cut out the reindeer's head. Bake as directed.

2. Let cool. Break apart the pretzels to form antlers and attach them at the top of the reindeer's head with dabs of frosting. Add M&M eyes and don't forget the red hot nose. Makes 40 Rudolph cookies.

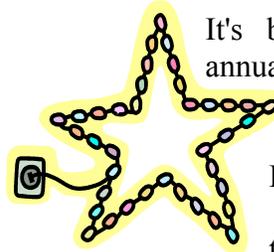


Clubhouse Rentals

If you are interested in renting the clubhouse, please contact Stephany Ricker at 863-5988 or Kathy Armstrong at 863-4154. 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".

5th Annual

Light-Up Rivershyre Contest



It's back!! It's time for our annual contest to set the neighborhood ablaze with lights here in Rivershyre. Again we will have two categories – traditional and whimsical.

A \$25.00 prize will be awarded to a house in each category. The winner from last year will not be eligible for the 1st prize this year but will be eligible for the list of Honorable Mentions.

The judging will take place on Sunday, December 17th so be sure to have your lights glowing that night! Watch the January newsletter for the list of all of the winning homes.

Message Board

Please note that the message board at the front of the neighborhood is for the Rivershyre Association messages only. We ask those who need to pass along info to certain neighbors or to celebrate an event, to place a sign on the "island" and to discard it after the event is completed!



Please remove this page and drop it off at the address mentioned below.

Directory Updating Needed

We are in the process of updating all of our information to print a new Rivershyre Directory in January of 2007. Your help is needed!! Please take a moment to review your family's entry in the directory and see if the information is current. Has a phone number changed? Have a new baby (or two)? A different Emergency Contact number? Or maybe the spelling of one of your name(s) is incorrect? Or maybe you're so new to the neighborhood that we are lacking any of your information? That's the info that we need!!!

A form for this information is included here. Even if your entry in the directory is correct, how about filling this form out and dropping it in the box located at **1216 Oakton Trail**. We'd like to get started on this right away so please take a moment to complete this form today and drop it off. Our Rivershyre neighbors are so great that we're sure the box will be full quickly and for that we say "Thank You".

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

EMail: _____

Optional Information:

Children's Name/Birthday-Month, Date, Year

