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# THE Villager



June 2024

[myriverwoods.org](http://myriverwoods.org)

## BOARD CORNER

### Safety is Priority One

Personal safety is a concern for everyone. For years, River Woods has been relatively free of such crimes as car theft or burglary. Recently that has changed. In the past three months we've had one car theft and several car break-ins involving cars parked outside garages. We don't know why the increase in thefts, but we are advising everyone to take precautions to reduce the possibility of crime and injury in our area. Among them:

- **If you park outside** your garage because you use your garage for storage, find somewhere else to store your goods and park your car inside your garage.
- **If you must park your car outside your garage**, please remove all goods you don't want to lose, including your garage door opener. (There have been many cases in the Twin Cities where garage door openers were stolen from cars ... and then used to enter the unoccupied home weeks later to ransack the place.)
- **Don't leave your garage door open**, even during the day. Homeowners at River Woods have often had items stolen from their garages by opportunistic thieves who happened by and saw a garage door open.
- **Bring deliveries inside promptly**. Most companies that accept online orders text you when a package has been dropped off. Bringing it inside promptly reduces the chances a "porch pirate" will get your package instead of you.
- **When your children use tricycles or scooters** in their areas, warn them not to ride too close to garage doors. We've had several "near misses" reported where cars have backed out of their garages and a child on a trike suddenly popped up on their back-up camera's screen.
- **If you use the pool this summer**, please read the rules carefully (available on the HOA website). No alcohol or glass containers are permitted, and pool monitors will check to be sure these rules are followed. Two years ago someone dropped a glass bottle that smashed. Not only did everyone have to be extra-careful leaving the pool not to get cut feet, but the pool had to be closed for two days while the crew went over it with a fine-toothed comb to ensure all shards of glass were removed. In addition, we had to completely drain the pool to eliminate glass shards and pay big bucks to have truckloads of pre-treated water brought in so we could open the pool with a minimum of delay.

### Annual Meeting Reminder

The annual meeting of the River Woods HOA is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, in the Burnhaven Library in Burnsville, on County Road 42. It will last about 80 minutes and elect three homeowners to the Board of Directors, and decide the passage or non-passage of a small change to the By-Laws of the Associa-

### June Dates to Remember

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on June 18 at 6 p.m. in the Burnsville Library.

The **ACC** meets on June 23 at 5:30 in the HOA office.

tion regarding the date of the annual meetings. There will be a presentation on the current HO-6 insurance situation and an opportunity to ask questions of the Board and/or the insurance presenter. All owners have been sent notices and ballots. Ballots can be returned to the office before 3 p.m. on June 18 or brought to the meeting itself.

## Will the Pool be Open Memorial Day Weekend?

The pool opening is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, subject to weather conditions. Bear in mind that more often than not, in spite of our schedule, the pool can't be opened Memorial Day weekend because of rain or an ambient temperature under 70 degrees. Also heavy rain can dilute the water in the pool, making it difficult to balance the chemicals, a problem that can take several days to redress.

If the pool is not open during its scheduled hours, a large red flag will be flying in the pool area. Pool rules are available on the River Woods HOA website; you should read these before going to the pool, as some have changed since last year. For example, the playing of music is now prohibited; if you want to listen to music as you lounge by the pool, please use ear buds or earphones.

## Maintenance Requests Being Reviewed, Prioritized

Many maintenance requests were received by the April 30 deadline. They are currently being reviewed for budget feasibility and available resources. With luck we'll get most completed this summer.

## Touch-up Paint, Yes; But Not Paint on Demand

We'll happily supply you paint in the proper color to touch up your unit at no cost (if you're not on this year's paint cycle, which are units 190-229). However, we need to order the proper amount of paint in advance, as we don't have a standing stock of touch-up paint. If you need paint, please email the Grounds Manager well in advance of your needs. After a certain point in the summer, we will no longer accept paint requests, as we have no facilities for long-term storage of unused paint.



## Need New Grass?

We used to distribute grass seed upon request (and still do, for courtyard owners). But now we prefer to use our crew to spread the seed on common grounds, as their experience lets them select the right type of seed and prepare the ground properly, so the seed germinates. If you see bare areas near your house, please email the Grounds Manager and he'll put your area on list for seeding. If you need seed to plant in your courtyards – which are not part of the common grounds – please let the Grounds Manager know.

## Bring in Those Bins!

Remember to bring in your trash bins by noon of the day following pickup. Any bins left out beyond that time will be picked up and stored at the HOA office, where you can pick them up, or have them delivered for a \$10 delivery fee.

## Don't Remove the Orange Ribbons

You'll notice some trees around the Association have orange ribbons tied around them. These are not marking the trees for removal, but for treatment for disease. These are all ash trees that show signs of a possibly fatal disease. We're going to treat them all. While current treatment isn't 100% effective, it will probably permit at least half of the trees to survive. If you remove the orange ribbon, however, it's likely we'll miss treating the tree and it will die.



## Walk-Through Repair Reminder

Everyone whose property needs repair should have received their walk-through reports. This is a reminder that you need to submit a plan to repair the reported violations/damage, with a specified date this year for completion.

## No Drop-in HOA Office Visits

Personal visits to the HOA office are by appointment only. The Association Administrator is usually the only person working in the office. She is often busy with payroll, bill paying, conference calls with vendors, etc., and is often not in a position to break off and deal with visitors. Also, if there were more than one visitor at the same time, it would preclude any privacy a homeowner might want to discuss their private issues.

Most homeowners' business with the Association can be handled by email (preferably) or by phone. When a face-to-face visit is necessary, please make an appointment so the visit can be scheduled so as not to interfere with other work. Remember, if you need to deal with maintenance issues, you can email the Grounds Manager, Loren, directly (rwgroundsmgr@gmail.com).

## Disturbing Wind Chimes

Wind chimes can make a pleasant sound. But they can also be so loud that neighbors are bothered and have trouble sleeping. There are currently no rules against wind chimes in River Woods. If there are a lot of complaints about overly loud wind chimes, that may change. So please be considerate of your neighbors, and make sure any wind chimes you hang aren't too loud, or that you don't hang so many wind chimes that they are loud enough to bother your neighbors.



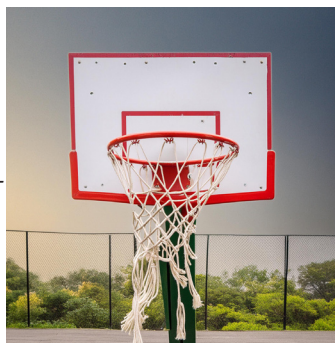
## Basketball Hoops Removed ... For Now

The basketball hoops in the Sport Court have been temporarily removed, for two reasons:

- Extensive use by non-residents of River Woods;
- Possible refurbishment

and/or replacement of the Sport Court.

Early in May, one of the board members noticed a dozed or so young men playing basketball after sunset, and asked them to leave, the danger of injury playing in the dark so high. All of them departed in cars that left the



Association grounds immediately. This confirmed what the staff has long observed: The vast majority of users of the Sport Court do not live at River Woods. Hopefully the removal of the hoops for a few weeks will discourage some outside users from coming into River Woods. We are not a public park, and there are basketball courts available at nearby Red Oak Park.

Wear and tear of the Sport Court has increased,

and we can no longer find replacements for worn tiles. When enough tiles wear away, the court will be unsuitable for basketball, just as the floor of the tennis court that preceded it became so uneven that play was near-impossible. The Board is conducting a study to see whether there is a better use for the Sport Court area that would benefit more residents and that isn't prohibitively costly.

## Watch for Insurance Questionnaire in the Mail

The annual insurance questionnaire will be arriving in your mailbox soon, so please watch for it. Kraus-Anderson Insurance, our insurance broker, mails out the questionnaire to see if there is any updating needed. Updated information on home ownership helps ensure that you are properly compensated for any losses covered by the plan. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to Kraus-Anderson Insurance.