

REPOA September 2023



Why I love living in River's End!

River's End is such a beautiful park-like setting, great for walking, biking or tootling in a golf cart. The pond is a gathering place for barbecues, music and socializing with neighbors. People are friendly and caring. I love meeting neighbors at our monthly happy hours and other events. We have rivers and ponds nearby for additional enjoyment. The weather is moderate but I do enjoy the thunder storms. There is nowhere else I'd rather live.

— Carol Bolmen

ARE YOU PREPARED? WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Recently the deadly fires in Hawaii proved to be a stark reminder that people need to prepare for disasters. This tragic disaster, unfortunately, can also happen in communities like River's End where we are surrounded by forest and dense vegetation.

Let's start with fire... Fire extinguishers – 10lb. ABC dry chemical on every floor and in the garage... most house fires start in the house! Establish a Fire-Resistant Perimeter Around Your House – Clear combustible plants, debris, and forest underbrush 50 feet away from your house. In wildfire prone areas this is one of the most effective methods to protect your home. Develop an Evacuation Plan for your Family – This should include from your house and from River's End... remember, there is only one paved road in and out of River's End. Be familiar with "known" secondary evacuation routes on non-paved roads/trails if primary roads become blocked and only if this is a safe alternative. If your family are in different locations during an emergency, establish a meeting place if you cannot return home.

Assemble a "GO KIT" – Backpacks, roller bags, etc. containing clothing, flashlights, medications, water, snacks, cell phone back-up battery, 1st aid kit and other basic supplies for your family and pets you may need for 24 hours after them emergency. As the name implies, these are designed to grab and go... immediately!

These guidelines are only a starting point and designed to get you thinking about what you need to do to protect your family, pets and home during an emergency. And, what you can do now! Over the next several months we will be publishing a series of guides and informational resources to assist members of this community with developing their emergency plans. Your family's safety and even survival may depend upon your preparedness and ability to initially respond during and in the immediate aftermath of these emergencies!

Remember... "a plan to develop a plan is not a plan!" Until next time... stay safe out there! — Richard Bolmen

Upcoming Events

- REPOA Annual Meeting: Tuesday, 10-17-23 Seaford Library, 7PM
- REPOA Fall Bonfire: Saturday, 10-21-23 Community Pond, 4PM
- Monthly Happy Hour: Saturday 10-28-23 5 River's End, 6PM

REPOA General Elections!

There are three positions that are coming up for vote: **2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.** These positions will be voted on by all good-standing members of River's End and ballots will close at the Annual Meeting set for October 10, 2023. Please watch your regular mail for the official ballots and/or contact the REPOABoard@gmail.com if you need an electronic ballot sent to you.

An Interview with Aimee Massey, Published Author in River's End

◇ What is your main inspiration or who/what book inspired you to become an author?

I can't really say I have a specific inspiration or influence. I read a lot, always have, and I think that the more you read, and the more diverse/eclectic you are in your reading, the more ideas of your own you can come up with. Sometimes an idea will just come out of what seems like nowhere at all, other times I'll read something or have a conversation that gets me to thinking "Now, there is a story in here somewhere..."

◇ How did you learn to write or what prompts your creativity?

Not only does reading give you ideas About what to write, it also shows you how to write, or how not to write. You learn the basic rules of writing in school, but as you read for your own enjoyment, you see examples of why the rules exist, and how you can work with them, and even how you can deliberately break them to improve the story.

◇ How many books have you written?

I've published two so far. "Odric the Bold" and "Fearless Friends." I have completed a third one about little clothes fairies who come into your closet and vandalize your clothes, but it hasn't been published yet; I've just started working with a new illustrator, and we are going to redo the art for "Odric the Bold" and re-publish that book before moving on to the clothes fairies.

◇ What do you enjoy most about being an author?

Hearing from people not required by family ties or friendship who tell me they enjoyed my books!

◇ Tell us something about what makes you unique?

I'm very proud of the fact that I was able to get "Odric the Bold" professionally recorded by the National Library Service for the Blind, so it's now available to borrow or download by anyone who is eligible for the talking-book and braille program. And hearing a total stranger, a professional actor and audiobook narrator, read my words and bring my characters to life was just about surreal.

◇ Tell us a funny story or experience about being an author!

I like talking animals, so in Odric, I have several. One of them is a beaver named Igor. I chose the name because I liked the pun Igor (eager) Beaver, and with no thoughts that the beaver was Russian or any other specific background. When I listened to the audiobook version, the narrator had given several characters accents, and he gave Igor a very charming Russian accent. My brother said he had never told me, but when he'd read the book, he'd imagined Igor as sounding just like that too.



This is your community newsletter and we want to hear from you! Have some news? Have something to share? Have some River's End photos? Want to thank someone? Have a special talent? We want to feature you. Contact the REPOABoard@gmail.com