

# REPOA Jan-Feb Newsletter

## A YEAR IN REVIEW!



- \* Three Board Members were elected at the Annual Meeting in October 2023: Carol Bolmen as 2nd Vice President, Randy O'Neal as Treasurer, and Karen Smith as Secretary. Immense thanks to our exiting Board Members: Lisa Crites, Robyn O'Lear, and Kristie Musial. We appreciate you!
- \* The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) thanks the residents of River's End for their involvement in keeping our neighborhood looking its best. Thanks to all who submitted request forms for projects to make modifications to their homes and properties. These projects could be evaluated beforehand to be sure that they met the Covenants that maintain the unique character of River's End.
- \* New Safety Committee Chair, Richard Bolmen, was named. The goal of this committee is to address speeding and other safety issues to keep our residents safe and healthy.
- \* Ongoing Annual traditions for our neighborhood successfully continued with:
  - Walk and Roll River's End—Neighbors walked the 5 miles of road in River's End.
  - Christmas Tree decorating at the pond and the entrance to River's End was completed by volunteers.
  - Holiday Decorating Celebration Contest (HDCC) — homes are recognized for having outstanding holiday spirit.
  - Christmas Parade—bikes, golf carts, vehicles, and spaceships paraded throughout the five miles of River's End streets.
- \* Robyn O'Lear initiated the Community Cares Committee (CCT) that will be a central repository for residents to make requests for temporary help such as transportation, child care, lawn care, mail pickup, etc.
- \* Landscaping contract was awarded to Broker Post for another two years.
- \* Envirotech has successfully treated the invasive Milfoil issue at the pond. The water levels are good and the water is clear.
- \* An electrical panel was purchased so that any community events at the pond have access to electricity.
- \* Special Projects Committee continued to trim trees, keep the mailbox area clean and debris free and work on other common area projects throughout River's End.
- \* Mary Meredith continues as the Welcoming Committee Chair. She provides all new residents with information packets and a welcome to the neighborhood gift.
- \* Kati Brown has grown the community happy hours for the past five years. These events have been extremely well received by neighbors.
- \* REPOA remains financially sound!

It is the camaraderie of neighbors and the commitment of volunteers that keeps the spirit of River's End alive and makes this a great place to live. Your time, energy, and your enthusiasm are cherished! Continuous thanks to our residents that volunteer to clear fallen trees, planting flowers, pulling weeds in common areas, for providing a hot cocoa bar at bonfires, for chopping wood at the pond, for serving on committees, and generally for all neighbors that make contributions toward the betterment of our community.



This is what December looks like in River's End.  
Lisa and Ken Crites out for a leisurely afternoon bike ride.

## SPREADING CHEER

Delivery drivers are basically Santa's elves during the holiday season, considering all of the Christmas packages they drop off at our houses. Since it is the season of giving—one River's End family had a special treat on their doorstep to make delivery drivers work day a little more enjoyable. Thank you Pauze family for spreading cheer!



## NEWS

Introducing the River's End Community Cares Committee (CCT). Are you a neighbor who could occasionally use a little help? Are you a neighbor who would volunteer to help? Would you like someone to know who your emergency contact is? The Community Cares Committee has been established to provide good will and help to our neighbors. Requests for help and to volunteer can be made through [CBolmen@aol.com](mailto:CBolmen@aol.com) or [RepoaBoard@gmail.com](mailto:RepoaBoard@gmail.com). More information to follow.

## Let's Tailgate for Superbowl LVIII!

Lets have a Superbowl tailgate party at the River's End pond on Sunday 2/11. Time 1-4PM. REPOA will provide hot dogs. The bonfire is ready to be lit. Bring your chairs, beverage of choice, and favorite football food to share.

## What's Yours is Mine... If I don't get caught" - Burglary Prevention Tips

Living in River's End, we are fortunate to be isolated and somewhat immune from the impact of what I will broadly categorize as the "maddening crowd"; one of the many reasons we chose this community. That being said, it is very easy to develop a sense of complacency when it comes to our day-to-day safety, particularly as it relates to preparing for and responding to potential hazards that could have the potential to impact our relatively safe environment here. If you look at crime statistics for the State of Delaware, Sussex County, specifically Seaford, ranks as one of the highest in terms of crime "rates". I bring this up to also point out that those numbers are somewhat skewed when one factors in the relatively small population of Seaford. While property crimes nationwide are decreasing at significant rates, criminals who perpetrate these crimes are getting smarter and more creative in their efforts to liberate us from our possessions. Residential burglars go thru neighborhoods looking for unkempt lawns/lots.... somewhat of a rarity in River's End, darkened houses or lights that have been left on too long, unlocked doors or gates, open garage doors and any other signs that make a house a potential "soft target". The following burglary prevention tips will help to make you and your family safer and be part of a neighborhood effort to serve and protect River's End together.

### Burglary Basics

- ◆ Make your home look occupied and difficult to break into.
- ◆ Lock all doors and windows at all times before you leave the house and go to bed. If you are locked out of your house and can easily find a way in without a key, so can a burglar! That's their specialty!
- ◆ Moving into a new house; change/rekey all exterior locks. The same applies if your keys are lost or stolen.
- ◆ Install an alarm system; set it at night and have it monitored. A relatively cheap investment when you consider how much a burglar can steal in 15 minutes!
- ◆ Leave lights on when you go out. Even when home, put lights on timers.
- ◆ Keep your garage door closed and locked, particularly when on vacation. Remove your automatic garage opener from your car when on vacation....think about it!!
- ◆ Install deadbolts on all exterior doors. Sliding glass doors are particularly vulnerable and easy to open. Deadbolts are relatively inexpensive and a DIY installation in most cases.
- ◆ Lock the gates to your fence and garden shed.....padlocks are cheap! And, the back yard is where many of our valuables are stored. Is the key to your lawn tractor currently in the ignition?
- ◆ Have adequate exterior lighting. Lighting on timers or motion activated are readily available and have never been cheaper to purchase.
- ◆ Make sure hedges, shrubs and trees are pruned so they cannot be used as hiding places for unwanted intruders.

These tips may seem like common sense, they are! However, these are the same items that regularly come up when law enforcement investigate property crimes. "Ya know, I've been meaning to do that for a long time." The time has come! Making our homes, property, and community "hard targets" to criminals are our collective responsibilities and key to keeping River's End a safe and sustainable community for all to enjoy!

Until next time! **Stay safe! Richard Bolmen**

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](mailto:REPOABoard@gmail.com)

# River's End 2023 Holiday Highlights

Announcing the 2023 Winners of the Holiday Decorating Celebration Contest

Winners of the HDCC



For 2024, the Holiday Decorating Celebration Contest will be held on Friday, December 20. Winners received a sign in their yard, plus an annual "HDCC Winner" ornament for their tree plus some other small gifts from the committee.

Start planning your decorations now!!



Mark your calendars for 2024, the Christmas Parade will be on Sunday, December 15. This event will start at the pond a 5PM with Santa pictures. The parade will follow at 6PM throughout all five miles of River's End. Watch the calendar for all upcoming events.

Below is a look back at the 2023 River's End Christmas Parade



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