

RIVER ISLANDS

C U R R E N T S



Susan Dell'Oso

OPEN LETTER FROM SUSAN DELL'OSSO PRESIDENT, RIVER ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT

I find myself talking about River Islands every day—whether the conversation starts within the community or outside of its boundaries, there is a constant push and pull, as people ask questions, voice their concerns, share their gratitude or express their impatience about waiting for one amenity or another to open.

The most constant conversation is about change, and how it affects us, guides us and motivates us all. To paraphrase a philosopher many miles and many years distant, “change is the only constant in life”.

When you are part of the greater River Islands community, change IS always in the horizon. For the most part, the only difference between good change and bad change is in our own perception.

We are still in the early stages of our 11,000 home master planned development. In the four and a half years since we started building homes, we have sold approximately 1,100 residences and moved in approximately 850 families. We have many more parks to plan, lakes to engineer and schools to design. We look ahead to building a business park, planning a downtown retail area, and fostering a community culture that will grow organically from the first residents who have chosen to make River Islands their home.

When I attend a community meeting and see how much trust the parents put into our committee responsible for planning a high school, it reinvigorates my goals to be inclusive, keep asking for input, and make this a high school that all of our children and grandchildren will be proud to graduate from.

When I see how many residents voted in the school board and city council elections, and that THREE of our own residents chose to run for an elected position, I see it as an “A+” in community citizenship for us all.

And when I hear about new experiences being hosted and shared by members of the community—the holiday cookie exchange and the walking club immediately come to mind—I am so thankful to our residents for reaching out and creating new friendships, community-wide.

Change is a part of our landscape, our common DNA. And change is going to continue to help River Islands grow and evolve, and become even more the place where we all want to be. Let's take the long view, and think about all that is yet to come. It's an exciting future.

Wishing you all the best of holidays,

Susan Dell'Oso

President, River Islands Development

COMMUNITY MEMBERS START THE CONVERSATION FOR PLANNING A HIGH SCHOOL

For the group of parents and residents who attended the first Community Meeting to discuss planning the high school for River Islands, the evening provided an informal presentation on the progress being made by the combined efforts of River Islands and the Banta Elementary School District and an opportunity for a wide ranging question-and-answer session.

River Islands President Susan Dell'Osso spoke for the assembled team on stage, which included the top administrators of River Islands Technology Academy, Banta School, Next Generation STEAM Academy and the Banta Elementary School District. In her comments, she shared these points, all critical to decision making:

- Construction of the school should kick off at the time that River Islands' builders have constructed 1780 homes.
- The timeline for the process is two years to plan, and two years to build.
- The developer has already set aside \$100 million to build the school, not including land costs.
- The high school would educate approximately 1,800 students, grades 9-12.
- A 55+ acre site has already been designated for the school, at Paradise Road and River Islands Parkway.
- Banta is looking at becoming a Unified School District, capable of credentialing a high school – a process that would take at least 18 months.
- Banta students could still attend high school in Tracy, per existing agreements.

Not yet determined, but certainly a part of the discussion were the following questions:

- Will this be a Charter high school program?
- Will the uniforms culture of both STEAM and RiTechA continue into high school?
- Can a dual enrollment program be created to allow students to attend Delta and UOP while in high school?
- How will future Business Park tenants create internships for the high school students?

Future meetings will be announced on MyRiverIslands.com and in The Currents. As the meeting closed, one of the attendees reminded the group, "Let's plan for the future, understanding that we can't predict it."

BOCCE LEAGUES COMPLETE FIRST SEASON WITH AWARDS



The first season of play for the River Islands Bocce Club drew more than forty players, who started the season in July with training by international bocce champion Dave Canclini and a team of five other professional bocce players.

The winning Bocce League team is "The Last Stand", who overcame "The J Crew" team by a narrow margin. The two teams tied for the most games won (5). At that point, game scores were used to determine the winner. "The Last Stand" players include Suzanne and Frank Sahagun, Elizabeth Coble, Mark Brazo and Kenny Eastburn. Honorable Mention to "The J Crew" players Janet and James Mackey, Jeannie Pagano and John Sterry.

Bocce will start up again in early 2019, weather permitting. New leagues will be formed at that time. Information will be posted to MyRiverIslands.com.

2019 RESIDENT STICKERS TO BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

After the New Year, please plan to stop by the Welcome Center and pick up your free Residents Stickers for your automobiles. Jamie Koski and Tiana Gatan, our friendly Welcome Center staffers, will have stickers for up to four vehicles per household, starting on January 2!

Welcome Center winter hours are 10 – 5 daily.

WHAT'S COMING NEXT? A QUICK UPDATE OF OPENINGS AT RIVER ISLANDS

Six competition soccer fields, with tournament play starting in December 2018.

Islanders Field baseball stadium, opening in Q1, 2019

Bridgeporte, large and luxurious homes on their own lake by Van Daele Homes, are now preselling at the Summer House sales office.

THE GIVING TREE RETURNS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Welcome Center will again host the Giving Tree, an annual opportunity for residents and friends to give to those in need in the local community. River Islands residents (Jennifer Love and Trishelle Love) are working with Welcome Center staffers Jamie Koski and Tiana Gatan to select a number of families and pets. Their wish lists are printed and available at the front desk.

Wrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Welcome Center daily from 10 – 5. In years past, our residents have purchased toys, night clothes, winter coats and all sorts of sports equipment.

The Giving Tree is a terrific backdrop for a holiday photo; please bring your camera when you drop off your gifts and share the beauty of giving!

For more information about The Giving Tree—and an update on when Santa will be arriving to pick up the gifts and pose for pictures, check out the Residents Facebook Page or MyRiverIslands.com.



HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST BRINGS STREETS TO LIFE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

This year, River Islands is again hosting a Holiday Lights Contest, both at an individual level and for a block of homes that shows off the most holiday spirit through its decorating.

Five cash prizes—one for \$350, one for \$250, one for \$150, one for \$100 and one for \$75—will be awarded to the residents who create a special holiday experience with their holiday décor and lighting. Judging will be based on:

- Uniqueness of design
- Theme
- Creative use of lights
- Decorations display
- Overall presentation

The neighborhood block considered to be the most festive will be awarded with a private pizza party for its residents sometime in Q1, 2019.

To participate in the contest and compete for the prizes, you must be registered at MyRiverIslands.com. A link to the registration form is attached to the announcement on the home page, and a copy of all of the rules is posted in the “Events” section of the website.



KIPER OPENS NEW MODELS IN A TOWN CENTER LOCATION

Kiper Homes, builders of 360 Lakeside and Beacon Bay, have just opened up a new collection of three model homes at their Lakeside neighborhood, above Garden Farms Avenue at Somerston Drive.

The three new models highlight the spacious 3 – 5 bedroom floor plans and their many amenities. Designed as an extension of Kiper's best-selling 360 Lakeside neighborhood, these Lakeside homes are built on larger lots, offering approximately 1,000 more square feet. The homes themselves are large, ranging in size from 2,001 to 2,566 sq ft. Although the popular Plan One from 360 Lakeside does not have a decorated model, it is also being offered.

Lakeside is among the first communities to enjoy a location within walking distance of the new soccer fields and Islanders Field, the River Islands baseball stadium. Both of the sporting facilities will be open and operational in early 2019. In addition, the popular Farmers Market will be returning to River Islands in the spring, just outside of Islanders Field. The Lakeside community is also close to both K-8 charter schools, the Next Generation STEAM Academy and River Islands Technology Academy.



SPECIAL PRE-OPENING NIGHT AT "HOLIDAYS AT THE FARM" FOR RESIDENTS ONLY

Every year, Dell'Oso Family Farm sparkles with an array of holiday-themed events. This year, the night before the Farm opens its gates to the public for "Holidays on The Farm", River Islands residents are invited to experience a special pre-opening event planned just for them.

On Friday, December 14 from 5 pm to 9 pm, there will be snow tubing, ice skating and a private holiday party, with refreshments served at Party Central, next to Snow Mountain.

Snow tubing tickets are available on-line ONLY on a first-come basis, with a 90-minute session, usually priced at \$22, offered to the residents for \$15 per person for this special event. Two sessions are available, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm and from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.

Ice skating, usually priced at \$10 - \$14, will be priced at \$5 per person. No pre-purchasing on-line necessary.

An invitation is included in this issue of The Currents; please bring it with you to present at the Main Ticket Booth on December 14. We hope you enjoy this very special night with your friends from Dell'Oso Family Farm!

OLIVE PICKING IN EARLY DECEMBER AT DELL'OSSO FAMILY FARM



For the first time, River Islands residents will be able to participate in the olive harvest at Dell'Oso Family Farm. The reward for their endeavor? Bottles of freshly pressed, extra virgin olive oil!

For residents who are interested in coming over to the Farm, learning about olive harvesting and taking part in the process, set aside Sunday, December 9th from 8 am – 12 pm for River Islands Community Harvest Olive Day. In a single morning, the olives will be picked in buckets, poured into bins and sent off to be pressed. A registration sheet and rules—including ages for children to participate—are all linked from the home page of MyRiverIslands.com to a special EVENTS page.

Although there is no precise way of estimating how much olive oil will be pressed from the olives—their size, moisture level and oil content vary—the River Islands residents who participate will receive one bottle of olive oil for every bucket of olives they harvest, to share the fruits of their labor with their loved ones. An excellent holiday gift idea!

"There is even an opportunity for residents to join in the bottling process", says Sophie Kruij, who is working with Dell'Oso Family Farm to coordinate the volunteers and produce the first press. Along with Krystal Gouveia, coordinator of our first Farmers Market season, Sophie is working to create opportunities for the River Islands residents to enjoy some of the bounty of fruits that are growing, quite literally, next door.

For more detailed information and registration sheet, go to MyRiverIslands.com.