

RIVER ISLANDS

C U R R E N T S



Susan Dell'Ossso,
Project Director

OPEN LETTER FROM SUSAN DELL'OSSO, PROJECT DIRECTOR

With the beginning of a new year comes a sense of optimism and the desire for change—that's what New Year's Resolutions are all about! This year, I would like to share a hope for 2018 with you: that as residents, you truly feel that River Islands is YOUR community, and Lathrop your home town.

I feel so strongly about this that I want to invite you to start using the Welcome Center as a gathering place. The outside decks are furnished year-round, and heat lamps are available, so if you want your running group or bicycling club to meet up at the Welcome Center before heading out together, please consider it a convenient, central meeting point.

If your group or club needs an actual meeting room, let me know. The Sunrise Rotary uses the conference room at the Welcome Center every Thursday morning before the office opens, and we coordinate with security to allow the members access to the building hours before and after office hours. If you are interested in using the Welcome Center or its deck for regular meetings, go to MyRiverIslands.com and print out the application form there. That way we can keep a calendar of scheduled meetings, and ensure that we have sufficient room for everyone.

Our Community Events Coordinator, Yvonne Sampson, is working on a 2018 calendar of community activities, with more Movie Nights in the Park and an all-new Concert Series now in the planning. Beyond that, Yvonne is your best contact person as you start up new clubs or teams. By springtime, the Boathouse will be renting non-motorized boats for our lakes, and we hope to have neighborhood boating teams and bocce teams signed up and outfitted with team tee shirts. If you are thinking about starting up any kind of neighborhood or community team or club, please feel free to contact Yvonne at ysampson@riverislands.com. She can serve as an advisor for your start-up and help you through the process of using public spaces, such as parks, for your events.

Last but not least, I encourage all of you to register to vote, to attend City of Lathrop meetings to acquaint yourself with our local government, and to speak up about issues and opportunities in our community's future. The conversation about building a new police station within River Islands is ongoing, and the floor plan for the new fire station—with its wonderful Community Room—is available for your review. Both of these buildings will have a positive impact on your River Islands life, and acquainting yourself early with their plans and progress would be to your benefit.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous New Year, and I look forward to seeing you in our new parks, on our new trail, and at our Welcome Center!

All the Best,

Susan Dell'Ossso

SUMMER HOUSE HOSTS FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Beck and Blount families, both residents of Summer House, co-hosted the neighborhood's first annual holiday block party and White Elephant exchange in December. Approximately 30 families participated, with adults and children enjoying a potluck feast and a number of crafts projects for the children. According to Cynthia Beck, "the competition was fierce" for the White Elephant items, proving that one person's decorating nightmare is another person's treasure.

The Summer House residents were so inspired by the number of friendships initiated during their event that they are now planning their next block party for the 4th of July. Said Ms. Beck, "This is definitely a great way for the neighborhood to gather together to get to know one another better and create memories."



BOATHOUSE STARTS 2018 WITH NEW WINTER MENU

The Boathouse Restaurant will debut its new menu by the end of January, including some seasonal specials for the winter months ahead. Its new outdoor tent now makes dining on the lake possible year-round, rain or shine.



In keeping with its goal of being neighborhood-focused, the Boathouse is now offering Sunday brunch, weekend specials and offers special Happy Hour prices during the week.

Please note that The Boathouse will NOT be open on Super Bowl Sunday.

The staff is now taking reservations for Valentines Day dinner. Contact Linsey Moses Smith at 209-932-9986 to reserve your table!

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NIGHT SET FOR FEBRUARY 7 AT RIVER ISLANDS TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Principal Brenda Scholl has announced that River Islands Technology Academy will again host a school-wide Science and Technology Night from 6 pm till 7:30 pm on February 7. "This is a huge night for the students, from kindergarten through 8th grade, to show their parents and friends what they are studying in both the science and technology fields," said Principal Scholl. "The exhibits represent what the students are learning in the classroom at every grade level, and show our parents how our curriculum ties in with the Next Generation Science Standards for education in California."

Included in the evening's program is a Star Lab, a portable planetarium set up for visitors to enjoy the sophisticated software available to the River Islands Technology Academy students. Although the subject matter to be exhibited in this year's program has not yet been announced, last year's exhibits included a scientific look as to how penguins stay dry, the composition of color, what makes boats float and the nature of magnetic slime. "Expect more creative approaches to learning at this year's event," said Scholl. The Technology portion of the event will include exhibitions representing the popular robotics program, which exists at every grade level, as well as advances in 3-D printing.

MUSIC CONCERT TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 15

River Islands Technology Academy is highlighting the musical talents of students on February 15, with a concert at 6:00 pm in the multi-purpose room. Student musicians from all grades will provide a program highlighting their levels of musical proficiency and the broad appeal of live performances. The concert is free and families are invited.

RIVER ISLANDS ANNOUNCES FUTBOL CLUB FOR YOUTH SOCCER PLAY

River Islands is proud to announce the formation of the River Islands Futbol Club (RIFC), formed to develop a premier level soccer program for River Islands and the region.

Former Olympic soccer player John Doyle and his award-winning youth sports organization, John Doyle Soccer, will be holding an inaugural clinic at River Islands during spring break, the week of Monday, March 26th to Friday, March 30th. This first clinic will focus on individual player development for participants from 5 to 14 years old. Participants will be exposed to the technical, tactical, physical and mental aspects of soccer that create successful players.

Six fields in an area adjacent to River Islands Parkway near Bradshaw's Crossing Bridge have been planted for RIFC play. While the grass is establishing itself this winter, inaugural clinic play will be held on the field at River Islands Technology Academy.

Based on signups, players will be grouped by ages, 5 – 14, and gender. In future programs, as the RIFC develops, it will include players through high school age.

Director John Doyle explained, "Players will focus on individual dribbling, passing, shooting and defending skills. Each clinic will cover individual skills and abilities, focusing on the development of each participant. Players will have an opportunity to apply the learned skills in small-sided games and full scrimmage environments."

Doyle represented the United States in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. He was a World Cup Starter in 1990 and was named MLS Defender of the Year in 1996. From 1986 until his retirement in 2000, he was the Team Captain for the San Jose Earthquakes.

NOTES TO REMEMBER:

Dates: Monday, March 26 – Friday, March 30

Times: Camp will run from 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday

Location: River Islands Technology Academy Field – 1175 Marina Drive

Cost: \$225 per player. Sibling Discount of \$15 (\$210 per sibling after original player signup)

Contact: John Doyle Soccer, www.riverislandsfc.com



LATHROP SUNRISE ROTARY TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE ON JANUARY 26

Lathrop's own Sunrise Rotary Club is hosting its second annual Father-Daughter Dance on January 26 in the Multi-Purpose Room at River Islands Technology Academy, starting at 6:30. Girls from kindergarten age through eighth grade from all schools in Lathrop are invited. This year, the River Islands Technology Academy is the location for this event and will also be the recipient of 100% of the profits. The Sunrise Rotary, in keeping with its charter as a community-wide service organization, will continue to move the event around to other campuses in the Lathrop area in years to come.

The Father-Daughter dance allows not just one daughter to attend per father: pricing is set at \$20 for a father and one daughter, and an additional \$5 will be charged per each additional child attending.

To purchase tickets online, go to riverislandsacademy.net and go to the Donate tab. Tickets may also be purchased at the school office, and at the door the night of the event. The Rotary is promising food, fun and photos as well as great dance music for the event.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The results are in, and the judging committee was overwhelmed by the design and layout of the decorated homes and their lights this year—so much so, that they presented prizes to six participants, as follows:

First Place Winners: \$350



Rod and Leigh Lewis



Cody and Jennifer Love

Second Place Winners: \$250: Cathy Henrick and Chris Leister; Miguel and Inez Miramontes

Third Place Winners: \$150: Cindy and Antonio Basurito; Lein & Scott Clark

Honorable Mention Winners: \$75.00: Carolyn and Donald Kohn; Martha Robles and Gabriel Almendarez; Paul Nguyen

Best Block Winners: Berkshire Court, Calaveras Drive, Channel Drive, Navigator Drive, Mariners Drive and Melones Drive.

THE GIVING TREE PROVIDES HOLIDAY MIRACLES FOR 15 CHILDREN

In 2015, in response to new residents' requests for ways to help those less fortunate in the Lathrop community have a happier holiday, a program called the Giving Tree was started. Right after Thanksgiving, a festive tree was installed, full of lights and themed decorations, to attract attention to the Christmas wish lists of children who were facing a holiday season without gifts.

That first year, thanks to the generosity of the residents, nine children were "adopted" by River Islands and gifted with everything from the basics of pajamas and slippers to the high-tech fun of electronic games. With the number of new residents now calling River Islands home, 15 children had their holiday wish lists fulfilled!

Every year, Dell'Osso Family Farm sparkles with an array of holiday-themed events. In December, the night before the Farm opened its gates to the public, the Dell'Osso family hosted a special event just for River Islands residents, with snow tubing, ice skating and a private holiday party.

