

RIVER  
ISLANDS

## C U R R E N T S



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

Susan Dell'Osso

With the holidays upon us, I am reminded of all of the families and friends who have chosen to make River Islands their home. So many people are dedicated to putting down deep roots in the community, providing a helping hand to others as volunteers, mentors, tutors and coaches, to name a few of our unsung heroes. In so doing, they make this a unique and wonderful place to live.

I was reminded of the bonds of community spirit in the fall, when more than 120 residents attended a drop-in Town Hall meeting at the Welcome Center. So many people brought questions and ideas that our guests-- Mayor Sonny Dhaliwal, Police Chief Raymond Bechler and River Islands Academies representative, Principal Michelle Crippen—and I were reminded how deeply our residents care about River Islands.

I was reminded how important it is to really LISTEN and learn from our residents. Some of the issues raised were easily answered or taken care of, like landscaping maintenance and providing dates for the openings of some of our new parks. Other questions have led us to work on new programs for the community for 2023.

The most immediate program is to set up a series of Town Hall meetings, the first one set for the first quarter of 2023 in the multi-purpose room at EPIC Academy. We will invite representatives from the City, the schools and the police and fire department to join us there, to provide answers to your questions, and roll out some new ideas for your consideration as well.

I look forward to seeing you there. We will send out a reminder to all households in January, along with some other dates to keep in mind for happenings around the community during the first months of the New Year.

In the meantime, I wish for all of you a healthy and happy Holiday Season.

All the best—

Susan Dell'Osso  
President, River Islands

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

Every year, there's more to see and do at River Islands, and that's even more true during the holiday season! It's a wonderful time to come out and gather with all your neighbors and meet people from another neighborhood, at activities like these:

**THE GIVING TREE** community gift drive starts at the Executive Office, 73 W Stewart Road. The Giving Tree is set up with names of children from the greater Lathrop area who need Christmas presents. Come pick a name and bring a wrapped gift back to the Giving Tree by December 15 so it can reach its recipient before Christmas!

**LIGHT UP THE ISLANDS** is our annual event to encourage neighbors to put some holiday cheer on display by adding lights and decorations to their homes. Please register at [MyRiverIslands.com](http://MyRiverIslands.com) by December 14, so we can put your home and your street on our roster for choosing the most amazing homes in the community!

**THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY CAR PARADE** allows you to decorate your car and become part of a holiday parade, led by a Lathrop-Manteca fire truck, around River Islands to see the holiday lights and share the spirit with the whole community! The parade starts at the Welcome Center on December 12. More details on this event, and all events, on [MyRiverIslands.com](http://MyRiverIslands.com).



The Giving Tree 2021



Light Up The Islands 2021

## SPROUTS ARRIVES ON FEBRUARY 3!



Sprouts, the grocery store best known for its natural and organic foods, has announced its Grand Opening on February 3. The store is located in the Lathrop Marketplace, at the corner of Golden Valley Parkway and River Islands Parkway. Privately owned, with established local stores in Lodi and Modesto, Sprouts is highly-regarded for its fresh produce, meats and seafood, bulk goods and vitamins. This opening represents the first major grocery store opening in the area since Save Mart in 2005.

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*Happy Holidays to all!*