

RIVER ISLANDS

CURRENTS



Susan Dell'Oso,
Project Director

OPEN LETTER FROM SUSAN DELL'OSSO, PROJECT DIRECTOR

Since our first “town hall” style meeting at the end of February, when forty five residents took to the microphone to share their ideas about how to improve the Boathouse experience, we have had a steady stream of emails from our residents to express their thoughts about food, service, parking, and

above all else, the importance of the Boathouse to the community. The vision from everyone was amazingly similar: “let’s create a place that reflects the values of River Islands”; “a place we can enjoy with our families and friends”; “a place that is a good neighbor”. We took all of your comments to heart and have made a lot of progress in the last month. Within 10 days of the meeting, we had written and issued a “Request for Proposal” for a new operator, and then booked times for prospective restaurant teams to tour through the existing facility. We assembled a committee to identify the pros and cons of each proposal; two of the six committee members are residents of River Islands. We are happy to announce that we are now in the process of interviewing four qualified parties. While we are very interested in the alternatives for cuisine, we also need to make sure that the new operator is financially stable, highly experienced, and will be a good and inclusive neighbor to our community.

This has been a great experience for me, working with you to come up with a new and improved experience for us all. As a new community takes shape, its residents can step up and choose to become engaged in its future, or they can complain from the sidelines. I am so proud of the participation and positive spirit behind the suggestions for the Boathouse’s future. I cannot wait to share with you the news when we select a new operator, and what their vision for the Boathouse will be.

Thank you all!

Susan Dell'Oso
Project Director

VISIT THE NEW RIVER ISLANDS COMMUNITY-WIDE WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY UPDATES!

Whether you are among the original homebuyers at River Islands or still have moving boxes in your entryway, River Islands has created a community directed website just for you! Called MyRiverIslands.com, the site is now live and full of information about how to live in our community and explore and enjoy the greater region around us.

Because it is produced in house, MyRiverIslands.com provides residents with the most current news updates about the community, lists special events and serves as a communication center for time-sensitive information about road detours or closures, emergency situations and alerts.

The site also contains past issues of *The Currents* and local newspaper stories about River Islands.

MyRiverIslands.com includes the answers to a number of “how to” questions, from getting mail delivered to finding out more about the rules governing the City of Lathrop’s parks, including Michael Vega Park at River Islands.

Importantly, the site has an email address of its own, CommunityatRiverIslands.com. We encourage you to use it to suggest new additions to the content so that the site can become even more helpful and relevant to your needs as residents of our community.

If you would like to be notified of updates to the website, please visit the site and provide your email address at the bottom of the Home page for Alerts.

FAMILY DAY FOR DISCOVERY CHALLENGE ACADEMY HELD AT DELL'OSSO FAMILY FARM



The Discovery ChalleNGe Academy is a partnership between the California National Guard and San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) for youth between the ages of 16 and 18 who are “at risk”—having dropped out of high school, are at-risk of dropping out, or are credit deficient. Many of the cadets are on drugs, homeless, or just failing in life when they enter the program. Their futures look bleak. DCA offers them a chance to turn their lives around and start making good choices to become successful members of our society.

Applicants must enter the program voluntarily. They live on campus for six months. Adult mentors follow the cadet during the program and for one year after their graduation. Cadets are introduced to the military structure, participate in team-building activities, practice making healthy choices, attend school daily, gain organizational and study skills, participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and receive the support they need to turn their lives around. Cadets also engage in 40 hours of community service during their six month program.

The San Joaquin County Office of Education’s (SJCOE) County Operated Schools and Programs (COSP) provides the educational component at Discovery ChalleNGe Academy. Jamie Mousalimas, the County Superintendent of Schools, worked with the National Guard and the City of Lathrop to bring this program to our area. This is the first branch of the program in Northern California. Mr. Mousalimas predicts that in the next ten years, more than 4,000 young men and women can have their lives changed in a positive way by participating in the Discovery ChalleNGe Academy.

The inaugural class of cadets started the program at Sharpe Depot in January, 2017. After being in the program for approximately three months, these cadets got to see their families for the first time since they left “home”. Over and over again, parents and family members noted how their student had changed. Rather than being difficult and reluctant, they were proud and eager about their current lives and had positive and energetic attitudes.

The event was held at Dell’Osso Family Farm. Over 1000 family members attended the event and were able to spend a day with their loved one. Major Peter Lewis of the National Guard and Director of the Academy was on hand to engage with family members and recognize the successes of the participants. Several key dignitaries also attended the event, including members of the Lathrop City Council and members of the County Board of Supervisors. Approximately 80% of the participants in the program are local youth.

The program reports a success rate of about 90%. This means that one year after graduation, 90% of all cadets will either graduate from high school, obtain a full time job, or both. This level of success is unprecedented in federal programs.

(Note: the capital “NG” in the Academy’s name reflects the program’s affiliation with the National Guard.)



LIVE LEARN BELONG

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT CELEBRATES THE CULTURE AND CUISINE OF MANY LANDS



One of the most popular family events of the year, Multicultural Night was held on March 24 at the River Islands Technology Academy multi-purpose room. With food from many countries representing the heritage of our student body, and entertainment provided by students and their families, Multicultural Night was a fantastic success.

NEW PARK OPENING SLATED FOR TIDEWATER

This summer, residents will discover a new park within River Islands, at the Tidewater neighborhood. This approximately 2-acre park has lake access for launching kayaks, canoes or any non-motorized boat. It is characterized by its expansive open space for play, and made comfortable with park seating. A playground has been designed and will be installed for the park's opening. The date is yet to be announced, but will be sent out via our new community website and the next issue of *The Currents*.



Spring has sprung! What a lovely first impression of our development. Thank you to everyone who takes pride in their home and community.

Photo courtesy of Susan Dell'Osso.



KATI'S CORNER: INTERVIEW WITH DAN-JOE LOPEZ ABOUT CUB SCOUT PACK 425

Dan-Joe, his wife Maria and their three small children moved to River Islands in August 2015 from Pleasanton. Their goal was to live in a larger home on a larger piece of property and to be closer to family living in the Central Valley.

Since moving to River Islands, Dan-Joe has been an active and engaged member of the community, but nothing has attracted his interest and time like the startup of a Cub Scout pack here in River Islands. Cub Scout packs are comprised of boys age 5 to 10. The Cub Scouts program has ten purposes related to the mission of the Boy Scouts of America, including building character, learning citizenship and developing personal fitness.

Dan-Joe joined the Cub Scouts when he was 8 years old and achieved the highest rank of Eagle Scout at age 18. Dan-Joe is now an Adult Leader for his own six year old son's Cub Scout Pack 425, established in Lathrop.

Expanding the Scouting program within the River Islands community is important to Dan-Joe because he has seen first hand how the Scouting organization gives young boys the tools to be involved in their community, give back, become good citizens and learn unique skill sets that they would not ordinarily have the chance to learn otherwise. Dan-Joe feels that it is important to expand the program in River Islands because there are currently only 8 local boys in Pack 425. When more local children and parents in River Islands get involved, it will increase the community outreach and service the Pack will be able to provide while simultaneously having a positive impact on the River Islands families who are participating.

Dan-Joe's favorite memory took place during the organization's annual "Scouting for Food" drive that the Lathrop Pack 425 participated in last November. Pack 425 went door to door collecting canned and nonperishable food for a local food bank. Dan-Joe said it was overwhelming to see how much food the River Islands residents contributed to the scouts. The reaction from the food bank when the donated food was delivered was one of surprise and gratitude.

Pack 425 meets the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the NextGeneration STEAM Academy Gym. Pack 425 is currently selling \$5.00 coupon cards that contain great savings from many local stores including Save Mart and Big5. Proceeds from the coupon cards go toward their annual Summer Camp.



Any parent interested in learning more about Scouting opportunities should send an email to pack425lathrop@outlook.com and to stay up-to-date on their current drives, fundraisers and other activities at the troop's Facebook page at Facebook.com/Pack425Lathrop.

Resident Stickers - Free at the Welcome Center!

Be sure to get your "Resident" identification stickers for your cars. Their purpose is simple: with your car sticker in place, the security staff can more easily identify you as a part of the River Islands community.

Just come out to the Welcome Center and show your driver's license or a bill with your name and address on it, and the Welcome Center staff will provide you with stickers for your vehicles. If you are willing to share your email at that time, we will keep it on file to alert you in advance about changes in the community, street closures, landscaping maintenance and heavy construction that might change the routes you drive.

We have enjoyed seeing familiar faces as many of our residents have already come in; we look forward to providing you with your stickers at the Welcome Center, which is open daily from 10 - 6.



“YOU’VE BEEN EGGED”

Two years ago, River Islands resident Amber Boswell “egged” Trichelle Love’s home—leaving Easter gifts at her front door.

Trichelle says that she SO loved the idea that she put together a Facebook group to add more residents who want to participate in neighborhood holiday fun. In her own words, “We have families who have been “egged” for Easter, “boo’ed” at Halloween and “socked” at Christmas time. We have more than 80 families who are interested, and for each round, about 40-50 families participate.”

“I love River Islands and seeing all the happy kids and so many families doing something good and getting into the spirit of it. I have so many videos of people door bell ditching, with their families behind them, running and laughing and having the best time.”

To be included in this Facebook group, look for “R.I. holiday participation page” online.



SPRINGTIME EGGSTRAVAGANZA ADDS COLOR TO RiTechA GYM



The Easter bunny visited River Islands on April 8, providing children with an Easter Egg Hunt to remember. Due to rain, the event was moved from Vega Park to the gym at RiTechA. Two sets of eggs were hidden, so that the youngest children could have the excitement of an Easter Egg Hunt without competition from their eagle-eyed older siblings, and the older children could enjoy a hunt on their own. Face Painting, balloon animals and arts and crafts rounded out a morning “Eggstravaganza” for all River Islands families.

OPENING IN MAY: SANDPOINTE FROM RICHMOND AMERICAN HOMES

Nothing says “spring” more than a new set of model homes!

Richmond American Homes will debut its large (up to 3,560 sq ft) and luxurious (check out the butler’s pantry!) homes with a Grand Opening in May, but in April, as the models are getting completed, Richmond American will host VIP tours of the models before the furnishings are installed. Sandpointe’s permanent sales office will open on April 15, and the models will be available to tour starting the week after. The actual Grand Opening with furnished models is scheduled for mid-May.

Richmond American has planned four home designs for Sandpointe, including a ranch style single story plan. With three or four bedrooms and approximately 2,323 sq ft of living space, this plan will be priced from the mid-\$400,000s.

Three more home designs, all with two story configurations, will range in size up to 3,560 sq ft and offer up to 6 bedrooms with as many as five baths. Some of the larger plans offer three car garages, and such features as upstairs laundry rooms, walk-in showers, large pantries, and such personalizing options as gourmet kitchens with 5-burner stove tops.

For more information, go to www.richmondamerican.com and look for Sandpointe at River Islands.



Sandpointe at River Islands / The Caroline



Sandpointe at River Islands / The Clarissa

River Islands Realty offers a personal yet professional approach to selling your home within the community. Offering over 25 years of real estate experience and a deep knowledge of the local market, River Islands Realty provides uncommon insight and experience, and understands what it takes to get the best offer in the shortest amount of time. Call us for a free consultation on the local market and home values within River Islands.



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Did you know... (just for fun!)

- ◆ Peep peep... did you know Americans buy more than 700 million marshmallow Peeps during Easter?
- ◆ Are you an ears, arms or tail person? Seventy-six percent of people eat the ears on the chocolate bunny first, 5 percent go for the feet and 4 percent for the tail.
- ◆ During the holiday, more than 90 million chocolate bunnies are produced each year in the United States alone.

