

RIVER ISLANDS

C U R R E N T S

Open letter from Susan Dell’Osso, Project Director:

WELCOME TO THE FIRST RIVER ISLANDS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

With approximately 225 homes sold, and almost half that number already occupied—all in less than a year from our Grand Opening last September— we thought this would be a great time to start a regular monthly newsletter to all of our residents, to keep you apprised of all of the news and updates about our remarkable community!



SUSAN DELL’OSSO,
PROJECT DIRECTOR

This month, I have a lot to share, on topics as wide-ranging as the opening of Sunset Point Park to our first installation of community security cameras.

One question that comes my way these days concerns the water level in our lakes. If you have noticed that the lake levels appear lower than normal and sometimes a little more brown, it is because we are de-watering key areas of the project to accommodate the construction of future lakes and to install a deep sewer line to our new school site.

This is NOT a condition brought on by the drought. The groundwater that feeds our lakes needs to be drawn down in order to move ahead with construction. Once construction is completed, the lakes will return to normal.

Whenever you have a question about our community, send me an email at: info@riverislands.com and I will do my best to answer back in a timely fashion. Some of your questions may be of widespread interest to the community, and I will include them in the next month’s newsletter.

We would like to make this a paperless publication. To make our goal a reality, please stop by the Welcome Center and give them your email address. I promise that we won’t sell it or let anyone use it for marketing purposes, but it would be wonderful to be able to send out timely information to your inboxes instead of your mailboxes.

All the best!



RIVER ISLANDS TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY STARTS MOVING INTO ITS NEW CAMPUS!

Back in January, just six short months ago, when River Islands Technology Academy was informed that Banta Elementary School District would not extend the school’s lease, we had only one choice: move our entire school community to a new campus or terminate this amazing program.

Luckily, we had been preparing for this kind of news, and our crews of land planners, engineers, construction professionals representing every trade, landscape architects and our own school principal Brenda Scholl went to work on creating an amazing campus for students K-8, to be ready for the beginning of school in mid-August.

Streets were temporarily rerouted for new water pipes and electrical conduit; our all-important infrastructure for high-speed computers and cloud-based systems was put in place; buildings were brought in by cranes and crews went to work seven days a week. We could never have made our deadlines without the constant support of the City of Lathrop. The City’s belief in the importance of the River Islands Technology Academy, and the support of members of the City staff and council helped us leap over hurdles that would have taken months in another location.

Meet the Teachers night is scheduled for August 6. We are excited to announce that almost all of our original student families are making the move with us, and our classrooms will be full of familiar faces.



NEW TECHNOLOGY AT THE SCHOOL

One of the unexpected silver linings from moving to a new campus has been the opportunity to update the technology for all of our students. As many of you know, our River Islands Technology Academy is a “one device” program, meaning that all students get their own iPad or Chromebook for their personal use...they even get to take them home at the end of each school day!

When we first developed our program in 2013, we were thrilled with the level of technology that we provided. But just two short years later, educational programs have advanced so much that with more robust technology at our fingertips, our students will enjoy even more enhanced learning opportunities. We are truly excited about the changes and think your students will share in the discovery of new programs to enhance their educational experience.

SAFETY AND PEACE OF MIND

Here at River Islands, we have a number of systems in place, some new and some existing, for your safety and peace of mind:

- If you have concerns during the business day, you can always contact the Welcome Center (209) 808-5168 or the Executive Office (209) 879-7900 with questions about vehicles on site, temporary road closures, or possible suspicious activity. For any criminal activity or immediate threats, please call 911 or the Lathrop Police Department at (209) 468-4400, which has a 24/7 response line.

- Our on-site security service is on site after business hours, and all through the night. Please keep this number on hand: 209-373-7633 for night-time use. It will connect with our security line after business hours. The head of security, Jose Bedoya, is implementing a program that allows you to easily recognize a River Islands security vehicle by its side panel and trunk signage branded with our community logo. All of the security cars will have amber lights on their roofs.
- The security office at the community's entrance, just before the Welcome Center, will have a new sign on it that clearly indicates that we have security on-site. However,

because we expect our security staff members to be actively monitoring the site in the evenings, there will not always be a person in the office.



- Please note that our private security only acts as a deterrent and an additional set of eyes and ears for the development. Any suspicious or criminal behavior or activity should be immediately reported to the Lathrop police department, including if you feel threatened

for any reason. The Lathrop police also patrol the project and are here to keep you safe.

- We will be installing portable on-site security cameras soon! We see the security cameras as a key element in our long-term security plan, and a great balance of high-tech to complement the live security staff on the project site. The first cameras will be mobile and will be moved around to determine the best permanent locations. Please note that the cameras will NOT be located in residential areas or in any non-public location. Our intent is to keep on top of potential problems but not to inhibit privacy.

HERE COMES THE BOATHOUSE!

When we first started planning a boathouse for River Islands, we envisioned a simple building on the lake, open for seasonal activities and get-togethers. As we began construction of the boathouse, we could see that the space would be enormously appealing, providing views out to the water and to Sunset Point Park's many amenities. We began to research opportunities to keep the boathouse open and available to the community year-round.

We have come up with a way to make the Boathouse a real lakeside jewel for everyone to enjoy by redesigning the boathouse as a full service restaurant with a full kitchen, bar and furnished seating areas, both inside and out. Current plans for the boathouse include serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, all year long. We are in the process of obtaining a liquor license, which will take 60-90 days, and decided to wait for approval before opening for business. The boathouse should be open for business this fall!

In the meantime, we will be making the amenities of Sunset Point Park available to residents. Now, during the summer months, you can bring your family out to enjoy the almost-7,000 sq. ft. deck and the bocce and volleyball courts (at this time, it will be “bring your own sports equipment”). Once open, the boathouse will have boats, bocce ball sets, volleyball equipment and horseshoes for rent.

Have a safe and satisfying summer, and we look forward to opening the boathouse in the fall!





HERE COMES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

Set aside some time to spend with your neighbors at our first annual National Night Out celebration at Michael Vega Memorial Park on Tuesday, August 4 from 6:00 pm till dusk.

We are planning a night of fun and surprises, including a bounce house, a corn hole tournament, hot dogs, root beer floats and even a recipe swap: just bring your favorite dessert and copies of the recipe, and swap your recipe with your neighbors!



INTRODUCING RESIDENT STICKERS – FREE AT THE WELCOME CENTER!

With our new systems in place, we invite you to come to the Welcome Center to pick up your own “Resident” identification stickers for your cars. With your car sticker in place, the security staff can more easily identify you as a part of the River Islands community.

Just show your driver’s license or a bill with your name and address on it to the Welcome Center staff, and they will provide you with stickers for your vehicles. If you are willing to share your email at that time, we will use it to alert you in advance to changes in the community—street closures, landscaping maintenance and heavy construction—that might change the routes you drive. We look forward to handing these out at the Welcome Center, which is open daily from 10 – 6.

RIVER ISLANDS WELCOMES ORGANIZER FOR EVENTS!

Want to join a boating team at River Islands? Organize a community Pot Luck? Brainstorm how to have a safe and happy Halloween? Yvonne Sampson has joined the River Islands team to help the residents get together for group events, team activities and even neighborhood vs neighborhood competitions. You’ll probably meet her at *National Night Out* or at the *Meet the Teachers* night at the River Islands Technology Academy. She’s available to answer questions and make plans at: ysampson@riverislands.com



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LIVE LEARN BELONG