

RIVER ISLANDS

CURRENTS



Susan Dell'Oso

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

I am happy to announce that since the private, residents-only Islanders Network went live last year, more than 1,300 households have signed up to access the ONE site dedicated to sharing news about the entire River Islands community.

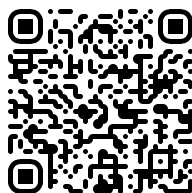
Instead of focusing on rumors and gossip which ultimately leads to misunderstandings and negativity, we wanted to provide our residents with news exclusives, special announcements and a platform for sharing their own questions, thoughts and stories about living at River Islands.

We have created this site with the understanding that it can be a puzzle sometimes to access the kind of information you need. We also recognize that so much is changing as the Town Center evolves, and we want you to be in the know. The main goal of Islanders Network is to provide a central access point to give all our residents more access to what's new and what's coming next. It's also an amazing tool for getting to know your neighbors, creating a group, or joining a group and getting involved in the community.

It's easy to join: scan QR code below and it will take you to an enrollment page that can verify that you are a resident and let you set up your own account and start conversations in your neighborhoods or River Islands-wide.

For additional help to get signed on, send an email to: welcomecenter@riverislands.com.

All the best,
Susan Dell'Oso



Scan with your phone

FISHING PROGRAM IN FULL EFFECT

We've recently received questions and concerns from residents regarding unauthorized fishing and litter left by people fishing. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the rules that help keep our waterways beautiful and enjoyable for all.

To report trespassing on private property, please call the Lathrop Police Department at (209) 249-1800. For all other issues, call Security at (279) 777-6694.

River Islands offers a catch-and-release fishing program for River Islands and City of Lathrop residents only at designated lakes. To participate, Lathrop/River Islands residents age 16 or older must have a valid City of Lathrop Resident Fishing Permit and must also possess a valid California fishing license. Permits can be obtained at the River Islands Welcome Center at 1401 River Islands Pkwy during posted hours, or at the CC&Rs office at 401 Stewart Road by appointment only.

To help protect our community and preserve our lakes, please review the rules on MyRiverIslands.com.

Our lakes are one of the community's most cherished amenities, and keeping them clean, safe, and enjoyable is a shared responsibility. We appreciate everyone who does their part by following the fishing program guidelines and helping care for our community.

OUR STRONG SCHOOL SYSTEMS ARE OUR PRIDE AND OUR FUTURE

THE RIVER ISLANDS ACADEMIES: A PROVEN SUCCESS FOR OUR STUDENTS

Every school-age child at River Islands is part of a full continuum of learning, from kindergarten through twelfth grade, without ever leaving the community. The River Islands Academies and River Islands High School make up the public school system within the River Islands community that serves all River Islands and Banta students.

While all schools are authorized by the Banta Unified School District, the K-8 schools are administered by the River Islands Academies charter organization which allows a lot of flexibility and creativity in curriculum development.

Chartered by Banta Unified School District; the River Islands Academies, grades K-8, answer to a governing board of appointed members, with public meeting agendas. The schools are tuition free, and River Islands and Banta district residents receive first enrollment priority. Of course, proof of residency is required for new families. The River Islands Academies students take the same state-required standardized tests (SBAC) as traditional public schools—the results are public and compared year over year.

Since its beginning, the River Islands Academies have offered a one-to-one device program at every school, putting a personal learning tool in each student's hands from day one. A non-elected governing board removes politics from educational decisions. Importantly, the direct pipeline into River Islands High School removes the uncertainty of a mid-adolescence school switch.

Charter schools have significantly more flexibility than district schools for curriculum and the River Islands Academies have taken a discernible lead in music, art and specialized classes. Not surprisingly, given its “college bound” culture, scores at the K-8 academies have consistently run well above San Joaquin County and California state averages on state assessments.

In August, the fourth and newest campus of the River Islands Academies opened. The new campus feels very much in look and style like the EPIC Academy—with sophisticated architecture and well-designed classrooms to support its wide-ranging curriculum. The campus is now the permanent home of River Islands Technology Academy, the first charter school which opened in 2013. Many of the teachers, administrators and students from the first RITechA campus have now moved into this new space. The original portable buildings that made up the founding RITechA campus are being put into use for SPARK Academy which began operation under the River Islands Academies charter in August.



Raising the flag at the new RITechA campus on the first day of school.

RIVER ISLANDS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ITS FIRST SENIOR CLASS



The four K-8 campuses of the River Islands Academies feed directly into River Islands High School, which opened in 2022 and is now operated by BUSD as a public high school— giving families one continuous path through graduation. Designed to feel more like a small college than a typical high school, the school features several career and technical education (CTE) pathways such as robotics and engineering, computer science, biomedical science and STEM leadership. A robust academic and sports culture keep parents involved every step of the way, and as the district's only high school, River Islands High School serves as a true focal point for the community of Banta and River Islands.

River Islands High School graduated its first students in June— and in that graduating class were many members of the first kindergarten class from RITechA, who started school back in 2013, a full year before River Islands welcomed its first residents! Getting the first school built was among the first goals for the community.

The high school campus also just opened its new, large gym that can accommodate up to 2,000 people for school events, which traditionally draw huge numbers of family members to academic and sports events, and a Jumbotron, to bring every minute of sports programming to life. It includes state-of-the-art weight rooms, locker rooms, rooms for dance classes and the student cafeteria. The gym takes up two acres of land.

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

You'd be amazed how quickly two years can go by, and yet the first members of the Citizens Advisory Committee who started their term in 2024 have now become alumni members and a whole new committee comprised of 12 members of the River Islands community has now had their second meeting. After years of lengthy Town Hall meetings— where residents raised issues, asked questions, and met with River Islands representatives and occasionally Fire, Police, and school officials— the idea for the committee took shape: a two-way channel for residents to share ideas with leadership and raise questions as official representatives of the community.

Starting an Advisory Committee comprised of residents representing many walks of life within the community— parents of young students and high schoolers, lakeside residents, recreation enthusiasts, commuters, tech workers, families and empty or never nester households— has provided a more active face-to-face forum and allowed more information to flow about River Islands today and what is planned for the near future.

As this new committee settles into its role, we're excited to see the conversations, ideas, and connections that will shape River Islands in the years ahead. Thank you to everyone who applied, and to our outgoing members for helping build something that will serve this community for years to come.



THE PAVILION EVENT CENTER IS UNDERWAY

When you are driving into the Town Center area of River Islands, anchored on two sides of River Islands Parkway by the Lathrop Police Department and Islanders Field, there's a lot of construction that attracts the eye—and the one that looks like a coliseum is The Pavilion, a new community amphitheater and events center. The Pavilion has been planned with our residents in mind, with the goal of bringing people together for music concerts, performances, outdoor movie nights, community gatherings and celebrations as well as private events.

We plan to host a variety of events open to the public—which includes residents of Lathrop and the greater surrounding area—while also planning Islander-exclusive events to celebrate and strengthen our local neighborhood connections. It is not a mega-venue, designed to attract the region in on a regular basis. Rather, it will hold approximately 3,400 people—an appropriate size given that more than 12,000 people already live at River Islands.

We want this space to serve everyone, and we are committed to doing so responsibly. That means honoring all local quiet time ordinances and thoroughly evaluating traffic and parking considerations to minimize any disruption to nearby homes.

As we move forward, we'd love to hear from you! Be on the lookout for an upcoming survey regarding the community amphitheater which will be posted ONLY Islanders Network. To join, scan this QR code:



SUTTER HEALTH BEGINS GRADING

Another change in the visual landscape along River Islands Parkway is the beginning of grading for Sutter Health's new 40,000-square-foot medical office building. Scheduled to open in 2028, the facility will bring both primary and specialty care providers to River Islands, offering convenient access to healthcare for residents within the Sutter Health network—right here in the community.

In the meantime, Sutter Health has also recently opened its new Urgent Care location in the Target shopping center, providing residents with even more nearby healthcare options.

This exciting addition is just another piece of the continued development of the River Islands Town Center, bringing more essential services, amenities, and convenience to the heart of the community.

FUN AT LATHROP LANDING COMMUNITY PARK

Lathrop Landing Community Park is now open in the Town Center, right next to the Lathrop Police Department headquarters, marking the latest addition to the community's growing network of parks, trails and shared spaces.

The park's centerpiece is its splash pad, already a favorite for families looking to beat the heat. With bursts of water, colorful features and plenty of shaded seating nearby for parents to relax, the splash pad gives kids of all ages a place to cool off and have fun.

Beyond the splash pad, the park offers a place to gather, play, and unwind close to home. Whether it's a weekend picnic, a quick tennis match, or an evening stroll, Lathrop Landing adds another welcoming space to everyday life in River Islands. The park also features both little kid and big kid playgrounds for kids of all ages and stages to play.

A friendly reminder as you plan group activities: picnic shelters and spaces for organized events and gatherings go through the City of Lathrop reservation process. Reserving ahead helps make sure every group—from youth sports teams to running clubs—has the space and time they need without conflicts.

We have loved seeing the park come alive with residents making it their own!



REDWOOD CAFÉ COMING IN 2027!

The Redwood Café, once Modesto's most popular upscale dining destination, has always been known for its style and personality—so much so that when we at River Islands Development found out they were closing down because the land had been sold, we asked if we could move (yes, literally move) the restaurant to River Islands. Rather than demolish a unique architectural treasure that holds so many memories, River Islands Development has moved the restaurant building and is "enshrining" such beloved rooms as the main dining room and the original bar. We are recreating the original cellar room, and adding three more cellars below ground for private dining. We are also creating an art gallery that will feature artisan-created custom furnishings and original artwork showcasing Lathrop's own local artists' community.



The new building will occupy two stories: the ground level will house the original main restaurant while a subterranean level—roughly doubling the venue's size—will add additional private cellar rooms. We will have expanded outdoor seating at the ground level and will have restored pieces of the original “Vintage Garden” and wedding venue. Most importantly, we are retaining all key staff members and have become partners with the original owner, Bob Campana, who will manage all operations.

The cellar level opens into a demonstration kitchen, which can be used for on-site cooking classes or provide room for a partnership with our students to provide space for a future cooking program.

“The concept is one of creating a hub for River Islands residents and surrounding communities to gather, enjoy an evening with family and friends in a distinctive setting that sets the stage for a memorable evening,” said Bob Campana.

“Bob has ideas about reaching out to every part of the community to make Redwood Café relevant and to touch lives,” commented Susan Dell’Osso. After the restaurant opens in early 2027, there will be additional programs, such as a Supper Club and a to-go dining concept that will allow for “take and bake” dinners from the Redwood Café kitchen.

“More plans for 2027 include the announcement of a Redwood Café wedding venue, a place for special private events and even corporate gatherings,” she said. It’s going to be an amazing gathering place for our River Islands residents.”

For more information about Redwood Café’s opening, join Islanders Network or go to RedwoodCafeRiverIslands.com.

BUSINESS PARK BEGINS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Planning a community as large and with as many uses as River Islands has taken the better part of 35 years. In that time, the needs of our area have changed so much that the original plan for development is more of a historic document representing a goal of a creating a strong community, while the specific parts and pieces have been re-thought and improved.

Envisioning a successful business park 30 years ago meant building spec office buildings, and lots of them. Truly, the “if we build it, they will come” philosophy created a lot of empty space without defined users. The business parks of the future will be oriented toward fulfilling the needs of businesses who understand the River Islands may well be their best opportunity to stay and grow in California, and a landing pad for businesses who left California and are planning a return.

The development team is now working on a vision of a business park that serves the needs of the future River Islands community as well as San Joaquin County. We have always chosen to be the community of choice, and the business park will be another example of listening first, and developing in response to what we learn. In our thinking about the Business Park, a 350-acre parcel that can accommodate approximately 5 million square feet for research and business uses, we are excited about introducing some vital employment opportunities to the community and to our well-skilled residents.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS NAMED

The third annual Photo Contest is now complete, and a digital version of the entrants and winners is available online, both on Islanders Network and MyRiverIslands.com. More than 250 contributions were received and never has River Islands looked more amazing! Sunsets, lake views, avian neighbors, our pets, our kids, the schools, our parks, special events and personal moments are all captured beautifully, with our own neighbors as the models and our homes and exterior spaces as the backdrops.

Award winners include:



Spirit of RI - *Satinderjit S.*



Everyday Life - *Gabe L.*



Recreation/Parks - *Grace J.*



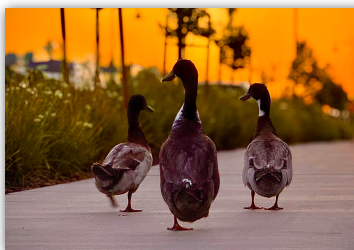
Your Favorite View - *Seema P.*



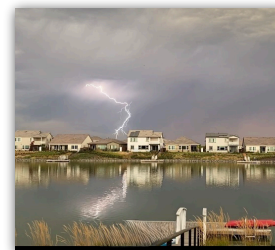
RI Staff Favorite - *Gregg A.*



People's Choice - *Tamara T.*



Animals/Wildlife - *Nibar K.*



Action Shot - *Jan C.*



Lake Shot - *Brenda L.*

LAKEVIEW CLUB: WHERE CONNECTION MEETS THE LAKE

At Del Webb at River Islands, the Lakeview Club is more than an amenity center—it's the heart of the 55+ Del Webb community. The nearly 14,000-square-foot lakefront clubhouse was designed to give residents endless opportunities to stay active, relax and connect with neighbors.

Inside, residents can enjoy a spacious Great Room with lake views, fireplace and beverage bar, along with a fitness center, yoga room, billiards lounge, game rooms and flexible spaces for clubs, classes and gatherings.

Step outside and the possibilities continue with a resort-style pool, spa, pickleball and bocce courts, walking paths, lakefront gathering spaces and a scenic dock. A stunning fire pit offers the perfect place to unwind and take in a beautiful lakefront sunset, while a dedicated dog park gives four-legged residents a place to play and socialize, too.

Whether you're starting your morning with a workout, meeting friends for a game, enjoying a swim or simply relaxing by the water, the Lakeview Club makes it easy for Del Webb residents to embrace an active and connected lifestyle.

