



River Reader

January 2014

**THE RIVER OAKS COMMUNITY HAS MANDATORY REGIME FEES
AND IS GOVERNED BY COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS.**

2013 Board of Directors

Ansley Pointe

Vacant

Vacant

Appian Landing I

Donna Larson 760-0777

Vacant

Appian Landing II

Paul Amarrendran 552-2601

Vacant

Appian Landing III

Vacant

Vacant

Marsh Hall

Dean Hinson ARB 760-6850

Vacant

Marsh Side

Paul Kowacich Secretary/Web 552-7894

Vacant

Palmetto Plantation

Bill Summer ARB 552-0706

Rhonda Long 760-9954

River Chase

Karen Graham ARB 207-9912

Vacant

Woodington I

Vacant

Vacant

Woodington II

Betsy Mitchum Treasurer 552-0945

Vacant

Woodington III

Jeff Morey VP/Newsletter 552-9012

Kevin Bruch President 767-8299

***ARB Architectural Review Board**

Please submit plans and drawings before beginning projects

GENERAL MEETING

27 January 2014

The ROHA General Meeting has been scheduled for 27 January 2014. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM and is being held at the Faith Assembly Church on Appian Way. If you would like to be involved in shaping our community, we are accepting nominations for the Board. We will be a voting on Board members and the budget for 2014.

Board Members NEEDED!!!!

Neighbors, YOU need board members from your neighborhoods to bring your concerns forward and assist with community activities. Without taking an active role in YOUR ROHA Board, you are leaving some important decisions up to a few dedicated people. Just remember that the fewer board members we have, the fewer opinions are heard. A full board consists of 22 members and as you can see from the list to the left, we are far short of full membership. We normally meet only once a month for approximately 1 ½ hours. Step up and request to be a board member, make a difference in your neighborhood.

The 4 stages of life:

1. You believe in Santa Claus
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus
3. You dress up as Santa Claus
4. You look like Santa Claus

POTHoles

The ROHA Board continues to appeal Dorchester County to repave many of the roads in our community. Until we can convince them that they are way overdue, we will have to settle for having them patched. So, when you see a pothole please report it.

North Charleston Roads – 745-1026
Dorchester County Roads – 832-0070

Community Events

October 26th- Fall Harvest Festival

The first annual Harvest Festival is over and all we can say is that you missed some good food and great company. I don't think that anyone left hungry because there were great chilies, hotdogs and an assortment of desserts. We donated \$225 from the event ticket sales to the Ashley River Fire Department. The raffle was a huge success and the winners received some really nice gift packages (none were worth less than \$70, not bad for risking a dollar for a ticket). First place for the chili cook-off went to KB's Killer Chili. Sorry you missed it, maybe next year. We would like to thank all of the homeowners that supported this event and as always we would like to thank all of the local business that participated, please remember to support them.

*** SPONSORS ***

- * Cantinas Burgers, Tacos & Beer *
- * Carrabba's Italian Grill *
- * Chinese Express *
- * Carolina Nails *
- * Frankie's Fun Park *
- * Firewater Grill *
- * Famulari's Pizza *
- * Key Logistics Solutions *
- * La Carreta Mexican Restaurant *
- * La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant *
- * Ladels *
- * Los Reyes *
- * Namaste Day Spa Salon *
- * Northwoods Cinema *
- * Outback Steakhouse *
- * Osaka Modern Asian *
- * Oakbrook Theater *
- * Papa John's Pizza *
- * Senior Tequila *
- * Sun Station *
- * Smokey Bones *
- * Steel City Pizza *
- * T-Nails *
- * Tupperway Tire Service *
- * Valentines Pizza *
- * Wal Mart *
- * Wonder Wash Car Wash *

Winter Lawn Care?

Many of us wait for it and it is finally here, the lawn mower was put away a while ago and you have been relaxing for a couple months, but not so fast if you want a healthy lawn in the spring. It is extremely important not to leave debris, leaves, or toys out on the lawn. These things can smother the grass, create disease conditions, and invite insects, mice and other damaging pests. Winter is also the best time to prune trees and roses. If you prune before they bud, it encourages new growth and it is the perfect time to dress up the area around the trunk. You should have a mulch ring at least three feet in diameter (depending on tree size) around the base of the tree. And finally it is the perfect time to prepare your mower for the next season. When was the last time you changed the oil, cleaned the intake filter and sharpened the blade? A well maintained lawn mower cuts grass cleaner which helps prevent common lawn diseases, promotes growth and just downright looks better.

Second Annual River Oaks Bridge RUN/Walk

That's right it's that time of the year to put on your running shoes and see who is the fastest person in the River Oaks Community. The run/walk this year will be on April 12th and early registration is now open. Early registrants will receive a logoed t-shirt for the event. Registration forms are available on the River Oaks Web site or from any board member.

Parade Participants

- *Fort Dorchester Cheerleaders*
- *Fort Dorchester Step Team*
- *Fort Dorchester ROTC*
- *Jet's Pizza*
- *Chick-fil-A*
- *CresCom Bank*
- *Antique Auto Owners*
- *Boy Scouts Troup 484*
- *Will & Anne Schuler*
- *Carolina One Reality – Karen Graham*
- *Agent Owned Reality – Jennifer Pfeiffer*
- *Stice Heating and Air*
- *Mary Kay – Glennita Green*
- *Dorchester County Sheriff*
- *Ashley River Fire Department*

Christmas Parade

Well the 18th Annual Christmas Parade got kicked off a few minutes late on December 14th, 2013. A small volunteer committee put in a significant amount of time and effort into this year's event. For the first time they had to fight off the weather and a couple of technical difficulties, all in all it appears to have been a success. Community events such as this would not be possible without support from the Faith Church, Police and Fire Departments, the participation of groups from local schools and some of your neighbors. This event is a way to bring our community together and support local charities, but would not be possible without the donations from local businesses, so please remember to support them. The ROHA would like to acknowledge all who made this possible and extend a heartfelt Thank You. Some of our participants, Thanks To All!



Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

You know Dasher, and Dancer, and
Prancer, and Vixen,
Comet, and Cupid, and
Donder and Blitzen
But do you recall
The most famous reindeer of all

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
had a very shiny nose
and if you ever saw it
you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer
used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
play in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas eve
Santa came to say:
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him
as they shouted out with glee,
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
you'll go down in history!

Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la!
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la la la!

See the blazing yule before us, Fa la la la la la la!
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la la la!

Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la la la la la!
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la la la!

Fast away the old year passes, Fa la la la la la la!
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, Fa la la la la la la!
Sing we joyous all together! Fa la la la la la la!
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la la la!

BURNING

[State law](#) requires that you notify the Forestry Commission prior to burning outdoors. In most cases, the law applies to burning leaves, limbs and branches that you clean up from your yard. The notification law does not apply within town or city limits.

The toll-free numbers below allow you a quick, easy way to make your yard debris burning notification. Just dial the appropriate number, listen to the message, and leave your name, address and phone number.

The law requires that you clear a firebreak around the burning site and have the right equipment available to keep the fire under control. You must also stay with the fire until it is completely safe.

Dorchester County toll free number is 1-800-986-3746

After a permit number is obtained from the Forestry Department, the information must be provided to the Ashley River Fire Department.

What Makes a Community Desirable?

Most people searching for a place to call home have a laundry list of items that they are looking at when making a decision to buy a home in a given area. Some of the obvious elements to making this decision are; overall general location, are there good schools nearby, quality and variety of shopping and restaurants in the area, and don't forget the dreaded commute, how close am I to work? But what about the overall aesthetics of the neighborhood and a sense of community, not overlooked but often taken for granted. Just because the houses are new and the neighbors seem nice does not mean it will always be that way. The association through establishing contracts to maintain our common areas, enforcement of the Covenants and Restrictions and the Architectural Review Board attempt to preserve and enhance the aesthetics of our community and with the dedication of a few board members have attempted to provide community events, all of which adds to the desirability of our community. We all lead busy lives and for most it is easy to say "I pay my dues isn't that enough?" The answer would be no. Do you know what is going on in your neighborhood, your area, or your county? Are there issues that you would like to be addressed or do you just complain about them, assuming that someone will or won't take care of it? So instead of making excuses as to why you don't have time to volunteer are attend the General Meetings, get involved and help us make this the best and most desirable community in the area.

Details for all community events can be found on our web page at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/riveroakshomeownersassociation/home>

or simply go to Google and type Google Sites River Oaks.

ARB APPROVAL FIRST

Homeowners in all subdivisions **MUST** have Architectural Review Board (**ARB**) approval for **ANY** change to their property. If you make improvement without first getting **ARB** approval, you will be in jeopardy of having to redo or remove the project. The most common requests are for satellite dishes, fences, paint color, landscaping changes and construction projects including roofs, windows and doors. The preferred placement for a satellite dish is at the rear of the house and not visible from the street. Dish placement requires ARB approval. You may obtain an ARB request form on our website or make copies of the attached copy and send your completed **ARB** request forms to:

ROHA

P.O Box # 40956

Charleston, SC 29423

ATTN: Architectural Review Board

RIVER OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR 2014

ITEM	Description	Previous Years	
		2013	2012
674 Homeowners (5% non-payment)	Income with current dues (typical)	\$64,030.00	\$49,232.25
Average Yearly Late Fees/Fines Collected	(Not included as income cannot count on)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Lawn Maintenance	Forty visits all common areas	27,000.00	23,748.00
Pine Straw	\$2500 each application, once in Spring and once in Fall	5,000.00	5,000.00
Electricity and light maintenance	Lights on Park Forest, Appian way and entrance signs	9,600.00	7,000.00
Water	Water meter minimum for irrigation system on Park Forest	420.00	420.00
Invoicing Agent		5,400.00	5,400.00
C&R Agent	Weekly enforcement of C&Rs	3,600.00	3,300.00
Pond Maintenance	Maintain water quality of Marsh Hall Ponds	1,620.00	1,300.00
Insurance	Liability insurance for common areas	3,600.00	3,100.00
Postage	Mailing of invoices, news letters, C&R letters, bill payments, etc.	1,200.00	1,300.00
Street Sweeping	Removed until roads are resurfaced	0.00	1,200.00
Legal Fees	For Routine legal expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Emergency Fund	To Accrue Emergency fund to replace the \$7500 place in a legal escrow account	1,000.00	1,000.00
Newsletter and Flyers	Four per year as required by the Bylaws	750.00	1,300.00
Taxes	For common area owned by the Association	400.00	400.00
Tax Preparation	Preparation of annual tax returns required for non-profit organizations	500.00	300.00
Bulk Mail Fee	For the Bulk Mail stamp	200.00	200.00
Bank Fees	Fees charged for transactions above the maximum allowed	100.00	100.00
Facility Use	Twice per year donation to use space for General Meetings.	100.00	100.00
Mail Box Fee		90.00	70.00
Community Events	5K race, Christmas Parade, yard sale, etc.	1,000.00	50.00
Corporation Fee		25.00	25.00
Supplies	Copies of materials handed out at General Meetings	100.00	100.00
Funds available for improvements	Additional funds (\$3400) would be available with all members paying.	1,500.00	100.00
From Improvements list posted on the ROHA Web Page			25,300.00
Total Planned Expenditures		\$64,205.00	
Estimated Income (dues and late fees)		\$66,030.00	
Annual Dues Required		\$100.27	

Dues Will Remain \$100 per Year

Carryover from previous years and surplus funds will be used for projects posted on the ROHA Web Page as funds are available.



RIVER OAKS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box #40956
CHARLESTON, SC 29423

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US POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLESTON, SC
PERMIT NO 194

VOTE on proposed 2014 ROHA Budget:

If you are unable to attend the general meeting, please fill out the proxy vote and ensure that it is received by the ROHA association no later than January 13, 2014.

PROXY—FOR ROHA 2014 Operating Budget

I, _____, who is the registered owner of _____,

(Printed Name)

(Printed Address)

do hereby constitute and appoint River Oaks Homeowner's Association Board of Directors and agents for me in my name, place and stead, to vote as my proxy or proxies in accordance with the choices indicated on the attached ballot at the bi-annual meeting of the members of the River Oaks Homeowner's Association to be held at the Faith Church, 3001 Landing Parkway, City of North Charleston, South Carolina, at 7 o'clock PM, on 27 January, 2014.

(Signature of owner)

(Date)

YES _____

I vote to approve the 2014 operating budget for the ROHA as proposed.

NO _____

I vote to not approve the 2014 operating budget for the ROHA as proposed.