

## RIVER ISLANDS

# CURRENTS



Susan Dell'Oso

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

Doesn't it feel wonderful to get outside and enjoy our community? Every day, I see neighbors and friends out walking on our trails, heading for the

parks and enjoying our beautiful lakes. It does my heart good to see so much activity even as we uphold health policy standards, because we really are social animals!

Members of the River Islands staff joined me on a community-wide walk in May to deliver marigold seeds to every home in River Islands—about 1600 residences. We wanted to express our appreciation to everyone for sheltering in place, AND remind all of our community members that there are plenty of good things to look forward to in the days to come—as the bright marigold flowers represent.

The Executive Office at River Islands is open again, and although we were productive from home, we are a very collaborative group and always at our best when we are together! We have a lot of projects underway, from the construction of the new police station for the City of Lathrop to new classrooms at the STEAM Academy, and we are dedicated to the future of River Islands!

To that end, we are planning to put together a Residential Survey to be mailed to each home in July. Now that so many of you are working from home, we'd love to get more information about how often you'll be heading back into the office, what you're enjoying best about River Islands and how we can plan our whole community to better suit your needs. There's a story about it in this month's Currents with all of the details.

In the meantime, and always, stay safe and healthy!

All the best—

Susan Dell'Oso  
President, River Islands Development

## SOLIDARITY MARCH: "WELL DONE, WELL SAID AND WELL HEARD"

Lathrop Police Chief Ryan Biedermann has been to many a Black Lives Matter march and rally in the last few weeks, but in his mind, none of them compared to the one hosted at River Islands on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

"Any time you can bring so many people to one place, to talk in a positive way about coming together, it is an amazing occurrence", he said. "It says so much about the character of the folks who live in River Islands, to have organized and supported this event."

Chief Biedermann joined River Islands President Susan Dell'Oso at the opening of the event. Both were "thrilled by the big, positive message this event had to send." They recognize the outstanding efforts by River Islands resident Tara Sova and a group of her neighbors, who reached out to long-time Lathrop resident Minnie Cotton Diallo to put together a unifying event for all of Lathrop and the surrounding area.

Said Tara, "I hope that this is something that opens people's eyes and hearts and allows people to listen. This is about coming together to make the world a better place for everybody and it's great to see this many people that support that."

Hundreds of people met together at Michael Vega Park to participate in the Black Lives Matter march through the streets of River Islands. Its final destination: a site at the River Islands Technology Academy. Streets were temporarily blocked for the safety of the attendees as they walked the route, allowing the youngest attendees-- children in strollers—and their parents to join their neighbors in this peaceful gathering. At the end of the march, people sang and listened to a group of speakers, including Police Chief Biedermann, who was welcomed by the pro-law enforcement crowd.

Speakers shared a common theme: the shared responsibility for everyone to work for a more equitable world.

## INTRODUCING THE RIVER ISLANDS ACADEMIES

The highly-anticipated creation of an all-new charter school organization, authorized by the Banta Elementary School District, is complete. The result? Commencing with the Fall 2020 Term, all of the River Islands K-8 students will be a part of The River Islands Academies. No matter whether they are enrolled in River Islands Technology Academy or Next Generation STEAM Academy, the students will ALL benefit from the same curriculum and the same “College Bound” culture.

Brenda Scholl, the founding principal of River Islands Technology Academy, is now the Executive Director of this program. “We are excited to bring together the two charter schools already in operation at River Islands as one high-performing academic program on two campuses,” she said.

In addition, a third K-8 school already designed for River Islands and currently planned for completion in the 2022 academic year, will open as a charter within this group. And a high school at River Islands, whose timing is currently pending the future unification of Banta Elementary School District into Banta Unified School District, will be operated as one of the River Islands Academies.

Said Scholl, “This is a wonderful opportunity for all of our students, teachers and parents to work together to build upon all the principles behind this charter group of academies. The schools at River Islands are one of the key reasons that people choose our community over so many others. When an entire community is focused on the success of its children, expect wonderful things to happen inside and outside of the classroom.”

*NOTE: At the time of this writing, the newly formed school board is considering the merits of offering both in-class and live online instruction for the fall term. Please check back at [riacademies.net](http://riacademies.net) for updated information.*

## TRI POINTE HOMES GRAND OPENS BREAKWATER

Tri Pointe Homes, a nationally-recognized leader in designing homes with smart home technology, is Grand Opening its first neighborhood in River Islands, Breakwater. Four plans with three to five bedrooms offer up to 2,841 square feet of living space. The security, energy features and comforts of the homes can be controlled by voice activation or the push of a button through its Home Smart 2.0 system. Residents can lock their doors, adjust their thermostats and view security camera footage all from their smart phones or tablets. The models are open by appointment at this time. Go to [tripointehomes.com/bay-area/breakwater-at-river-islands/](http://tripointehomes.com/bay-area/breakwater-at-river-islands/) to contact the sales counsellors.



*Residence 4 Approx. 2,841 Sq. Ft., 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, Flex Space, Loft, 2-Car Garage*

## CATALINA AN INSTANT SUCCESS FOR KIPER HOMES

The brand-new Catalina neighborhood is a great reminder of why Kiper Homes has been one of the most successful builders in River Islands. Catalina offers three to five-bedroom plans from approximately 1,900 to 2,380 square feet, with good sized back yards. Award winning architects WHA has designed three different floorplans with room for home offices. All of the floorplans and 3-D tours are online at [kiperhomes.com/new-home-communities/lathrop/Catalina-at-river-islands](http://kiperhomes.com/new-home-communities/lathrop/Catalina-at-river-islands). The neighborhood's location is close to the next charter K-8 school, which will be built for a 2022 opening. The models are available for private touring by calling 209-519-4818 and making an appointment.



*Residence 2 Approx. 2,2050+ Sq. Ft., 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 2-Car Garage*

## COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY IS ON ITS WAY!

*Return the survey for a Starbucks's gift card and chance of winning a \$500 Home Depot gift card!*

In order to better plan for the future of our community, we would like everyone to respond to this first-ever community-wide poll. Now is the time to share some information about your work life and your home life so that we can plan our community to represent your ideas and needs.

We'd also like to know more about our residents who are now working from home, to see if we can plan facilities or programs to keep your home life and work life in balance!

We will be sending the survey out by mail to all households the week of July 6. It will come with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and will also include instructions for those who would prefer to take the survey online.

It's like a community-wide focus group, and we hope that everyone participates!

## HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS NEED APPROVAL FROM YOUR CC&RS TEAM!

Please contact the CC&Rs team before you begin making any changes to the exterior of your home, such as adding shutters, porch extensions, side yard pathways, changing your fencing or gates, as well as any of the following:

- Driveway extensions
- Retaining walls
- Sheds to gazebos
- Front yard re-landscaping
- Pools
- Exterior repainting

All of these projects fit within River Islands' CC&Rs guidelines, and need the approval of the team. Please download a form at [MyRiverIslands.com](http://MyRiverIslands.com) on the home page and return it to [ccrteam@riverislands.com](mailto:ccrteam@riverislands.com)

Any questions or need advice? Send them along to [ccrteam@riverislands.com](mailto:ccrteam@riverislands.com) and the staff will get back to you with the information you need!

## FISHING PERMITS AVAILABLE AT EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Now that the Executive Office, at 73 W Stewart Road, is open and operational again, anglers are invited to bring their proof of residence and get their picture taken for a fishing permit. Only River Islands and City of Lathrop residents are allowed to fish in the areas designated within River Islands, so permits are essential. More information, including all of the forms, is posted on the home page at [MyRiverIslands.com](http://MyRiverIslands.com)



**REMINDER: WARM WEATHER MEANS IT'S TIME TO RESET YOUR WATER TIMERS**

## NO ACCESS TO LEVEE BEACHES

Even though the sandy areas that border the San Joaquin look inviting, they are not open for public use...at least not yet! River Islands is working on a plan that would allow residents to use those areas with appropriate guidelines. Unfortunately, the beachfront areas directly abut the levees, which are a part of the state and federal flood protection system. Due to heavy use and some careless beach-goers, River Islands had to shut down the area until a formal plan for its use could be established. River Islands wants to recognize John Sterry, a resident who decided to do something about the trash left behind by picnickers and sunbathers. He brought his truck in and hauled away all of the trash, preserving the area's natural look.

John, now retired from UPS, has been living at River Islands for the past four years. He loves fishing and is looking forward to the start up of bocce leagues at The Boathouse. John, an artist, and his girlfriend Jeannie Pagano have just started to sell their art on Etsy and online, at [jsquaredcreations3.wixsite.com/website](http://jsquaredcreations3.wixsite.com/website). Thank you, John!

