



Rivers Run Cottage Connections

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LIGHT DISPLAYS

If you're anything like me and like to take an evening to drive around looking at holiday decorations, here are some options for you.

Endicar Drive - Located in Irondequoit north off Titus Avenue., between Kings Ave. and Culver Rd.

Colony Lane Circle - Located between Calkins Rd. and Lehigh Station Rd., east of 15A.

127 Quesada Drive - Located south of Latta Rd., off Bridgewood Drive, just west of Hwy 390

16 Beauclaire Lane - It is a dead-end street located west off Turk Hill Rd. in Fairport

76 White Oak Bend - Located north off Paul Road, between Red Bud and Marshall Roads.

6221 Buckskin Drive - 12 houses, located south off 96, west of 332 in Farmington

34 Havenshire Road - Best set your GPS for this one in Penfield

9 Burning Tree Lane - Located south of 441, between Biard and Nine Mile Point Road in Penfield



Third Monday of each
Month, 6:30 PM
For more information
Contact Jim Galvin

November's book is
The God of the Woods
by Liz Moore



REMINDER
Woman's Luncheon
Phillips European
Dec. 12 @ 1:00 PM

For more information
Contact Claire Gnazzo

Monthly RR Dining Out
Rohrbach Brewing Co.

3859 Buffalo Road
585-546-9800

Thursday, Dec. 18 at 4:00 PM



A cozy pub that's been part of the neighborhood for more than 30 years. From down the street to across the country, all are welcome. Enjoy classic American and German pub fare that's a step above the rest, paired with Rohrbach brews or a full bar for whatever strikes your fancy.

If you would like to join us, contact Barbara DeOca at 813-892-1219 or email bdeoca@aol.com.

Everyone is welcome!

Monthly Women's Luncheon
Phillips European

26 Corporate Woods
585-272-9910

Friday, Dec. 12 at 1:00 PM

Phillips European is perfect for a leisurely meal or a quick lunch during a busy workday. Select one of their Chef prepared salads, freshly made quiche or something from the list of their all-time favorites. Its European ambiance offers casual elegance, making it a comfortable dining choice for friends, family or business associates. After your meal, try some of our award-winning desserts.



Please contact Claire Gnazzo at 631-478-9688 if you are interested in joining us.



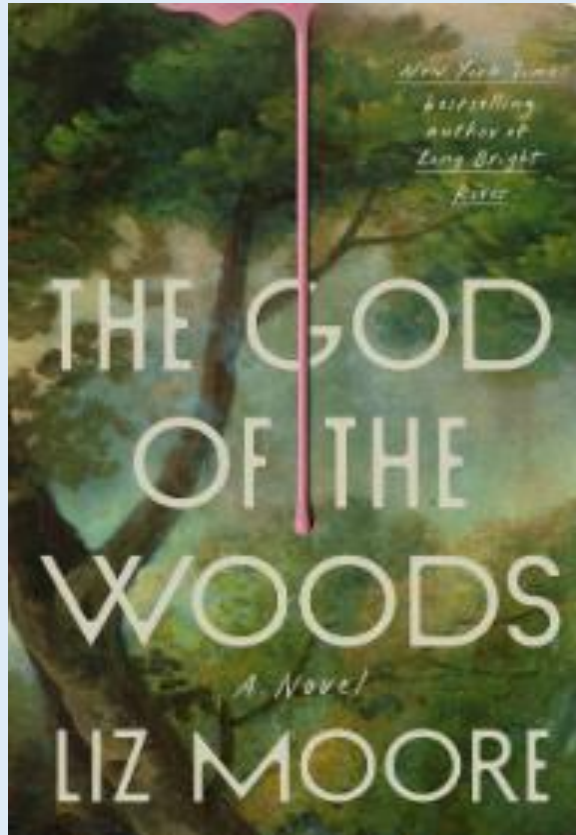
December Centerfold

Did you guess last month's centerfold picture? If not, the answer can be found somewhere in this newsletter.

We would all love to see you as a child. Please feel free to submit your childhood picture so we can honor you. Just send it to bdeoca@aol.com and you too can become a star.

WHO IS THIS?

BOOK CLUB



Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing.

Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found.

As a panicked search begins, a thrilling drama unfolds. Chasing down the layered secrets of the Van Laar family and the blue-collar community working in its shadow, Moore's multi-threaded story invites readers into a rich and gripping dynasty of secrets and second chances



The Book Club will be meeting in the sunroom of Jim Galvin's house at Rivers Run on December 15 at 6:30 PM. New readers are always welcome to join the group. Please contact Jim or Charline at 585-270-8145 and let them know if you want to be included.

Holiday Open House

at

Jimmy & Brenda Peters
cottage 1003

Saturday December 6, 2025
2-4 PM

Come and share the holiday spirit
with friends and neighbors.

-RSVP is not required-



*"From home to home
and heart to heart,
from one place to
another, the warmth
and joy of Christmas
brings us closer to each
other."*

*- Emily
Matthews*

The Christmas Tree

The history of Christmas trees has many roots, ranging from the use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome to the German traditions of candlelit trees that made its way to America in the 1800s. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition—as we now know it—by the 16th century when sources record devout Christians bringing decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. According to a common version of the story, walking home one winter evening, Luther was awed by the stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Most 19th-century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. As late as the 1840s, Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans. New England's first Puritan leaders viewed Christmas celebrations as unholy. The pilgrim's second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out "pagan mockery" of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations.

In 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the *Illustrated London News* standing with their children around a Christmas tree. Unlike the previous royal family, Victoria was very popular with her subjects, and what was done at court immediately became fashionable—not only in Britain, but with fashion-conscious East Coast American Society. The Christmas tree had arrived.



By the 1890s Christmas ornaments were arriving from Germany and Christmas tree popularity was on the rise around the U.S. It was noted that Europeans used small trees about four feet in height, while Americans liked their Christmas trees to extend from floor to ceiling.

The early 20th century saw Americans decorating their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while many German Americans continued to use apples, nuts and marzipan cookies.

RPO

On November 8th, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra put on *A Soul Symphony* with a community gospel choir at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre. It was an amazing and inspiring event that a group from Rivers Run enjoyed. Here are just a few of our residents and some pictures from the night. We're so grateful to our new neighbor, Dr. Arlette Miller Smith, for helping us celebrate the incredible power of gospel and classical music when they come together.



Friday by the Fire

4 PM

-location announced weekly-

Share the holiday spirit
with friends and neighbors.

Bring a drink and an hors d'oeuvre (optional).

People need people --- for initial and continued survival, for socialization, for the pursuit of satisfaction. No one --- not the dying not the outcast, not the mighty--- transcends the need for human contact - Irvin D. Yalom

Come join us on Friday!



Christmas Caroling
Monday, December 22 at 6:30 PM
1301 Rivers Run

Every holiday season, the Rivers Run residents get together to exercise their vocal cords. No, we cannot hold a candle to the RPO but we sure do have a good time. Sometimes we sing off key and sometimes we forget the words. None of that matters. It's all about camaraderie ship.... eating cookies.... drinking hot chocolate.

On Monday evening, December 22, we will be gathering at Linda Kraft's house at 1301 Rivers Run to sing Christmas Carols and socialize. Cookies and hot chocolate will be available. All cookie contributions will be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at Linda's house earlier in the day. Everyone is welcome The more the merrier!

**HEADS
UP!**

It's Time for Fun and Games Again!

On January 1 we are planning our annual "New Year's Day Fun & Games" event. Feel free to join us from 1-4:00 PM at the Cove. We plan to have Mexican Dominoes, Rummikub, Poker and Telestrations for your enjoyment but if you have a favorite game, you can bring that along as well.

Pizza or submarine sandwiches will be ordered, and you can bring a drink of your choice.

It's still in the planning stages and further details will be coming out via our Rivers Run e-blast and in the January newsletter.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Before you put up your holiday lights, CHECK the guidelines in our Rivers Run Handbook.

Section 3-8 of the Cottage Community Members Handbook



7. Decorative Lights: A reasonable number of regular outdoor UL approved “white” and/or “color” miniature LED string lights are permitted on patios and on front doorways and foundation bushes only during the time period from November 1 to January 31.

- Light bulbs not to exceed ½” – 1” height and diameter.
- No flashing, blinking or color changing (including “animations,” “sequencers” type) lights.
- Nothing is to be attached in any way to the outside of the unit, including but not limited to the siding, door or window frames/trim, pillars, portico ceiling, gutter, soffit, eaves, private fences, etc.
- Nothing is to be attached to, hung from or strung on any type of tree(s)
- Nothing is to be placed in the common area
- Any damage done as a result of the use and placement of the decorative lighting will be the responsibility of the homeowner to repair at their expense.

Decorations or items placed on the patio(s) that are deemed not to be in keeping with the community’s best interest must be immediately removed upon written notice from the Board. Homeowners may identify objectionable decorations to the Board for their review.



I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way (s)he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

~ Maya Angelou

Recycling Tips

from
Suburban Disposal

FOR YOUR YELLOW BIN:

Flatten all boxes.

Place shredded paper in a **PAPER BAG**.

(Plastic bags damage the recycle machines.)

Place bottles and cans loose in yellow bin **NOT a plastic bag**.

(When this goes to the recycling center, the entire bag gets pulled as garbage.)

Styrofoam goes in blue garbage tote.

Return plastic bags, ie: clothing/bread bags to store for special recycling.



Have a wonderful holiday!

Dining Out

Our November dining group went to Agatina's in Gates, enjoying tasty food and generous portions—most had enough leftovers for another meal at home.

We invite all Rivers Run residents to participate. The presence of new attendees is consistently appreciated at our events. Our upcoming outing is scheduled for December at Rohrbach's.



Rivers Run is a vibrant community with regularly scheduled activities. To ensure the continuation of these events, we invite volunteers to participate. If you are interested in assisting with event planning, please consider joining our club by reaching out to any committee member listed in this newsletter.

Social Committee

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DECEMBER 2025 Cottage Calendar

- **12/6, SATURDAY, Peter's Open House:** 2-4:00 PM, 1003 Rivers Run
- **12/7, SUNDAY, Buffalo Bills vs Cincinnati Bengals:** 4:25 PM on FOX
- **12/9, TUESDAY, Craft and Chat Group:** 1:00-3:00 PM, at the Cove
- **12/10, WEDNESDAY, Men's Breakfast:** 8:30 AM, Peppermints Restaurant
- **12/12, FRIDAY, Ladies Lunch:** 1:00 PM at Phillips European; Contact Claire Gnazzo 585-287-6009
- **12/14, SUNDAY, Buffalo Bills @ New England Patriots:** 1:00 PM on CBS
- **12/15, MONDAY, Book Club:** 6:30 PM, Cottage 1303; Contact Jim Galvin 585-270-8145; *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore
- **12/18, THURSDAY, Dining Out @ Rohrbach Brewing Company:** 4:30 PM; Contact Barbara DeOca 813-892-1219 or bdeoca@aol.com
- **12/21, SUNDAY, Buffalo Bills @ Cleveland Browns:** 1:00 PM on CBS
- **12/22, MONDAY, Christmas Caroling:** 6:30 PM; 1301 Rivers Run
- **12/23, TUESDAY, Craft and Chat Group:** 1:00-3:00 PM, at the Cove
- **12/24, WEDNESDAY, Men's Breakfast:** 8:30 AM, Peppermints Restaurant
- **12/25, THURSDAY, Christmas**
- **12/28, SUNDAY, Buffalo Bills vs Philadelphia Eagles:** 4:25 PM on FOX
- **1/1, THURSDAY, RR Game Day:** 1-4 PM; the Cove

