



Rivers Run News

<August 22, 2007>

Volume 1, Number 1

"News of Residents, by Residents, for Residents - That's Fit to Print!"

Deadline for next issue: September 15, 2007

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Rivers Run Residents' Newsletter Now Available!

This issue is the first of hopefully a long run of Rivers Run newsletters. Community news, information on community members, what's happening, invitations for activities, useful area information – all will be available here. This newsletter is for you. Get involved by:


Send us news of your activities - Are you going for a trip? Have you found a new way to plant flowers? Have you gotten a new grandchild? Has your email address changed?

Send useful information. Have you taken an outstanding RIT course that the rest of us might also want to take? Write it up, and let us know. Have you found local resources in the Rochester area?

Submit photos. Do you have some great photos you would like to share? Send them in.

(See the more extended list of desirable newsletter articles in this issue below.) 

Contest to Name This Newsletter

We'll have to admit – "Rivers Run News" is a little boring. Help us come up with a better title. Whoever submits the most desirable title for this newsletter will win a new Toyota Hybrid Camry (just kidding)! Email your ideas to bethvanfossen@yahoo.com. 

Some Items for the Newsletter

Here are some of the possible items that could go into future newsletter. Let us know your thoughts about other subjects.

- **Resident travels.** Who's away, going/gone, when and where (including reports upon the return)?
- **Health Needs.** Who is sick, who might want help?
- **Library Resources.** What resources are available for loan by residents? A listing of CDs/DVDs, books and magazines.

RR Newsletter

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- **Material Possessions.** Who had things to get rid of (and how) or stuff they would like to have?
- **Resident Social “Ads.”** Who would like to have others to go with them on tours, games, movies, galleries, etc., as a group or as a pair?
- **Current Activities.** What are we doing now? Volunteer work, classes at the Athenaeum or RIT and other places, experiences we’ve had to recommend area shopping/visiting/eating. Essays or descriptions written by residents would be valuable here.
- **Interviews with Residents.** A reporter’s interview with residents, reporting on such things as where they are from, their former career, their children and pets, their interests and hobbies. Perhaps one interview per issue would be interesting.
- **Useful area information.** For example, the newsletter could contain RIT Advisory Committee reports, whom to contact to register for classes, Henrietta news, FISH (drives people to medical appointments), In-home pet sitters such as Creature Comfort 872-9190.
- **What we hear.** News of Rivers Run project plans and activities, in-between announcements from Kim’s reports.
- **Essays.** Creative essays about life, thoughts, and stories of Rivers Run residents.



Volunteer to Become a Reporter

Everyone can help

There is a need for news in our community. Would you like to help summarize that news? Please think about ways in which you could contribute to the vitality of this community newsletter. Ideas and submissions from residents will make it successful. If so, then volunteer for one of the many kinds of news reporting you could become involved in:

- Reporters
- Photographers
- Copy editors
- Data collectors
- News writers
- Interviewers
- A web master (to put the newsletter on the web, and to maintain a web site open only to Residents)



Staff Changes at Living Communities

There have been several important staff changes in the management of Living Communities, LLC. Julie Fenske left Living Communities in July to take a position in

Houston, Texas with Greystone, a senior housing developer. Attached is a photo of Julie (back row on right) at a goodbye party. We will miss her.



Patrick Tobin has taken over as President of Living Communities and is moving his office to Rivers Run 302. Claudia Blumenstock remains as Executive Vice President of Living Communities, and will deal with many matters pertinent to Rivers Run residents. Cindy Lowenguth and Gail Gaum have been added to the sales team, and are hosting some of the weekend open houses. Kim Kenna continues to focus on sales, and Diane Fields continues as Administrative Assistant.

Interview with Pat Tobin, President of Living Communities

By Beth Vanfossen on August 21, 2007

I met with Patrick Tobin, President of Living Communities, for an hour on Monday, and it was hardly enough time to cover all the exciting developments going on at Rivers Run. As we talked, the more animated he became – as he told in rapid-fire language about how much has been happening in the Rivers Run project. It was clear that he is quite involved in what is a very complicated task – creating a new retirement community. I asked him about the landscaping, model sales, and building plans. The answers were detailed and somewhat technical, and are related below. I came away with the impression that Living Communities and Christa are deeply committed to making Rivers Run a success. But first,

to sum it up, did you know that:

- Interest in cottages has been picking up?
- Even more cottages are slated for construction soon?
- The Town of Henrietta has finally signed the last paper, and construction on the apartment building will start after Labor Day?
- The ponds are in a middle stage of development, and filling according to schedule?
- More landscaping is planned for the fall, after rains and cooler weather have arrived?

Here are the technical details:

Housing Developments. Eleven months after the first residents moved into the cottages, ten cottage units are occupied. Another one is to close later this month. Two more units are being built in the northwest corner for Building #1100. This brings the total number of occupied or soon-to-be occupied units to 13. The original expectation was that by this time, there would be 15 occupied, so the development is close to target. The progress was slowed slightly during the February–April months as construction was halted due to frozen ground, and interest was dampened by an unusual month of rain. Interest in the cottages has really picked up recently, however. There are contracts on #1402 and #1203, a hold on #603, and four more people have put down \$500 deposits for Phase I and III units. And all this at a time when the national housing market is at a historic slow-down. It is a slow market but we are doing extremely well.

The Apartment Building. Many people have expressed the desire to move into the apartments. However, the starting of the apartment building has been delayed a little because of slowness in getting all the relevant papers signed by the Town of Henrietta. Jim Breese, Henrietta's Town Supervisor is very positive about the building of Rivers Run, and has been very helpful in facilitating the approval process. The last of the needed papers was signed last week. The next step is to obtain the letters of credit, and obtain reviews of the architectural plans, which have been under review for the past 5 weeks. These steps are in process at the current time. Pat said "we should start mobilizing the construction work immediately after Labor Day." We can expect to see serious activity going on in that area during September. As much of the apartment construction as possible is to be done by February, at which time the ground begins to freeze. Its completion date is anticipated to occur at the end of 2008. It will include the space for the OSHER Athenaeum, so OSHER will probably move its offices and equipment over here early in 2009.

Landscaping. Laurie Broccolo, of Broccolo Landscaping, is a very talented landscape architect, and has made several important improvements to the original landscaping plan. She has striven to create an environment that fits the original design of an Adirondack-like community surrounded by a natural habitat. She planned and planted the abundant, lovely wild flowers around the ponds, and intends soon to sow meadow grasses in the field area beyond the ponds – grasses that do not have to be mowed, and instead wave lightly in the winds, and reach about a half-foot in height.

The building of the ponds was a complex project, requiring approvals at each step by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Because the current half-acre of wetlands northeast of the apartment building site will have to be removed eventually, the DEC required that its volume be replaced by twice as much acreage of new wetlands. It was decided, "let's do aesthetic things" and thus the idea of the interconnected retention ponds that now lie behind our cottages was born.

Continued on Page 10 . . .

A Rivers Run Lending Library


By Lewis Neisner

This article is a follow-up to my email of July 7 regarding starting a kind of Rivers Run lending library. If any of you have any books, books on CD's/cassettes or anything else that you think other members of Rivers Run might be interested in reading/listening to and would be willing to share, please let me know. I would be happy to volunteer to list/catalog everything and sort of organize a Rivers Run lending library program.

Maybe we could put it online and people could borrow directly from the owners. Since there would be some commonality of interest, it could help Rivers Run people get to know each other better. You could also tell us your main interests (mine being the Revolutionary War period, the Civil War, present day American foreign policy, science and traditional American fiction writers). We could also put this online and people who have similar offerings could list them.

Please let me know if you have any interest in this and any ideas on how best to organize it. Listed below are some of the books on CD's that I have to offer:

- *The Looming Tower, Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* – Lawrence Wright
- *From Beirut to Jerusalem* – Thomas Friedman
- *Lincoln* – David Herbert Donald
- *His Excellency, George Washington* – Joseph Ellis
- *James Madison* – Richard Labunski
- *The Founding Brothers* – Joseph Ellis
- *Adams vs. Jefferson, The Tumultuous Election of 1800* – John Ferling
- *The American Revolution* – Gordon Wood
- *Patriots, The Brotherhood of the American Revolution* – Joseph Ellis
- *American Ideals, Founding a "Republic of Virtue"* – Daniel Robinson
- *The Greatest Story Ever Sold* – Frank Rich
- *The Very Best of the Feynman Lectures* – Richard Feynman
- *The Fabric of the Cosmos* – Brian Greene
- *The Origins of Life* – Richard Hazen
- *The Story of Philosophy, Vol. 1 and 2* – Will Durant
- *The Lessons of History* – Will and Ariel Durant
- *The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time*
- *The Study of Effective Reasoning* – David Zarefsky

I also have most of the books written by the following fiction writers: John Cheevers, John Updike, John LeCarre, Louis Auchincloss, Robertson Davies, Richard Ford, Phillip Roth, Saul Bellows, Joseph Heller, John O'Hara and selected books of many other authors. 

Are these your correct phone numbers and email addresses?

It is time to update the Resident data. Here are the data on hand. Please let us know of corrections. Are the data for all household members present and correct?

Rodrigo & Barbara **Alconero**. 315-536-8133; falconrb60s@hotmail.com. 1101 Rivers Run.

Gene & Sandy **Bailey**. 585-427-2959 (home); bailey_gene@yahoo.com. 604 Rivers Run.

Jack & Joannette **Edgar**. 585-292-972 (home); jedgar@rochester.rr.com. 304 Rivers Run.

Wanda **Fischer**. 585-319-4894; wandalsf@rochester.rr.com; 601 Rivers Run.

Howard & Carole **Maslich**. 585-413-3053 (home); 585-7390-9682 (Howard's cell); 585-739-5376 (Carole's cell); hmaslich@rochester.rr.com. 401 Rivers Run.


Barry & Susan **McVay**. 585-924-5298 (home); 585-733-6152 (Susan's cell); arrybae@frontiernet.net. 504 Rivers Run.

Richard & Martha **Miller**. 201 Rivers Run.

Paul & Audrey **Peterson**. 585-319-4608; pcpntm@rit.edu. 303 Rivers Run.

Lewis **Neisner** & Beth **Vanfossen**. 585-360-4715 (home); 443-569-1882 (Lewis' cell); 443-848-8305 (Beth's cell); lneisner@rhsmith.umd.edu (Lewis' email); bvanfossen@towson.edu (Beth's email). 501 Rivers Run.

John & Frances **Ratcliffe**, 585-273-0442 (home); 585-413-6521 (cell); 585-427-0681 (fax); senlak@rochester.rr.com. 202 Rivers Run.

Sherry **Wohlers**. 585-424-4341 (home); 585-727-2077 (cell); sherry@thewohlers.com. 503 Rivers Run. 

Unexpected Wildflowers!

By Beth Vanfossen

I expected to see Crown Vetch surrounding the ponds. That's what I thought the landscaping plan called for. Imagine my surprise when I saw what was coming up – wildflowers! Bachelor's Buttons, Coreopsis, Swamp Roses, and now Sunflowers -- blues, reds and pinks, yellows, golds. Lovely, lovely to behold. Just look at this photo, which does not do justice. The walking path goes right by it. Thanks, Laurie Broccolo, Landscape Designer and company.



RIT Wallace Library – A Gold Mine!! For ALL Rivers Run Residents

By Frances Ratcliffe

The best way to get to the library is to ride the RIT Shuttle Bus (wheel chair accessible), get it at the Racquet Club Apartments at the top of the hill. It will drop you close to the back of the library – no long walks in winter weather. You will go in on the basement floor through a cement block hallway. On the right will be a locked elevator which is ONLY for handicapped folks who cannot go up forty steps. A telephone will be on the wall just past the elevator. You call and ask to come up to the 1st floor and they will unlock the elevator. For others who can still do the stairs, the stairway is straight ahead of the elevator.


The main floor of the Library (up 40 steps) has many facets. There are rooms to one side called the “Idea Factory.” This is where the newest books, CDs, many newspapers (foreign and U.S.) are kept. There are many comfortable chairs in which to read and relax. The Library often has speakers and special programs in the Idea Factor Room. It also has audio books, DVDs and CDs. Just outside the main doors of the Library is Java Wally’s – all kinds of drinks, bagels and snacks are served. The background music in Java’s is 2007 College age music and it is loud! The four floors contain:

- Floor 1 – Idea Factory and reference, check out and returns.
- Floor 2 – Periodicals and Magazines.
- Floor 3-4 – Main Collections and Museum.


Weekends are the least busy times. Your Rivers Run Picture ID card is used to check out books, etc. – this will be renewed annually automatically as long as you are RR patrons. There is a RR Borrower Agreement and Information Document. Ask for a copy at Check-

out Desk. You can borrow a laptop from the Circulation Desk. Additional details:

- The RIT Library Home Page – <http://library.rit.edu>
- The RIT Library Events Page – <http://library.rit.edu/events>
- Hours – Monday to Thursday – 8:30 AM to 10 PM; Friday – 8:30 AM to 6 PM; Saturday – 11 AM to Midnight; Sunday – 11 AM to 3AM.
- Library hours change for finals, breaks, and summer.

The Cary Library is for graphic designs students and contains a printing press. 

Anyone for Cards or Games?

Jack and Joannette Edgar would like to play cards (anything but bridge), and Lewis Neisner and Beth Vanfossen would like to play bridge. Double dominoes is a lot of fun, too. Anyone else interested in setting up an evening or morning for card playing or games? Contact Beth if you are interested. 

Places to Visit: A Buddhist Temple

By Joannette Edgar

Have you seen the Buddhist monastery near us? Last week there was a festival on the grounds. Jack and I read in the *Henrietta Post* about the members of the Buddhist temple there requesting permits to hold three festivals this season; they were permitted to hold only one, the other two were denied because of a complaints by neighbors who said they had loud music. Jack and I were curious so we went the one festival held on a recent Saturday afternoon.

The festival was held in the cleared woods behind the residence. There was a stand for a band, a vocalist, and for festival participants to dance, and a play ground. We really enjoyed watching the people dance, sort of an Asian flavored line dance, slow and rhythmic with small hand motions. They danced to music with a definite beat, played on unusual string instruments. A vocalist dressed in lovely attire was from Thailand.

As we entered the grounds, we were met by a lady coming from a garden with a basket of beautiful celery stalks, which she delivered to one of the food stands. She welcomed us and when I asked a few questions, she said she'd walk along with us and explain things after delivering the celery to one of the food stands. She said that the County allowed only one festival this season because a neighbor complained that the music was too loud, breaking his upstairs window. I doubt that the music we heard could break any windows, and I saw no other neighbors' residences from the vast manicured Buddhist grounds and wondered who could have complained.



At the food stands, we bought some spicy noodles with shrimp, which were very good. We had a hard time choosing from the wide and unusual variety of ethnic foods. At the entrance past the temple was a walk way, leading to a tent with a carpeted floor. Several monks in orange robes were unpacking packages of orange robes. A few people were sitting on the floor. A monk smiled and spoke to us. Large statues of animals (monkeys, tigers, rabbits) lined the steps. On the heads and snouts of the animals were little clumps of rice. There were also statues of black bulls at the back entrance to the temple from the parking lot and they had a ball of rice on their snouts.

Finally we were given a tour of the inside of the temple. An Asian lady named Van escorted us. We entered after passing up the steps between two Asian dragons and removing our




shoes. Our escort knelt and put her forehead to the floor. All the exterior and interior carvings are hand done and most were painted red or gold. The interior consisted of a single carpeted room with an altar type wall at the far end with the familiar huge gilded Buddha figure. She showed us paintings on the wall depicting the birth and life of Buddha.



One showed him seated, looking very anorexic. I asked if he was fasting. Our guide explained that Buddha once did fast and after a time decided the ultimate fast was death,

so he stopped and never tried again. Another painting depicted Buddha on a canopy, above another scene of a woman with long hair flowing into the water, surrounded by people swimming. They appeared to be in agony, along with green faced men with horns and big teeth. We spent more time looking at the hand-carved wood painted gold. One wood carving depicted Buddha with a huge dragon below his waist and body. The story is that the dragon saved the Buddha once and raised him up. Attached are several photos of the grounds.

The entire day was very interesting, and may find it interesting to discover where the monastery is. Go south on E. River Rd., and turn right on Martin Rd. just after crossing the railroad tracks. The Temple is on your left. You'll get a side view from Martins and there is a long drive way to the back of the temple and to its right is the monks' residence. 

Not Feeling Well . . .

Gene Bailey. Gene visits the hospital for treatments. He can see visitors, but call first to see when the time is right. We are thinking of you, Gene!

Interview with Pat Tobin, **continued from** Page 1

The retention ponds contain approximately an acre of new wetland areas. They are interconnected, and water flows from one into the next. As the water flows, it is filtered by traveling through plant material, until by the end of the 4th pond it is clean enough for entering the Genesee River. The water must move in order not to be stagnant, but stay around long enough to go through the filtering process. When the ponds are fully developed, there will be ample water in each pond. The first pond (on the east side) has already become full, the others will eventually reach a similar state, including even the currently-dry pond area west of Building 600.


The ponds at this time have begun to develop the stand of cattails required by the Department of Environmental Conservation. The wildflower plants surrounding the ponds also contribute to fulfilling the wetland requirement. Bullfrogs are already abundant (have you noticed how few mosquitoes there were this summer?), and wetland insects appeared this summer. The week of August 19th, Laurie Broccolo's team will plant a variety of water plants such as water lilies in the ponds so watch for them in the water. However, the cattails will need to be prevented from filling in the ponds, so as needed there will be dredging of the ponds to increase their depth, thereby controlling the spreading of the cattails. (Cattails are shallow-water plants.)

The extremely dry summer we experienced was not good for the development of the grass around the units. Later in the year, after there has been plentiful rain and the climate has cooled a little, fertilizer and water will be applied to the grass areas to improve encourage the grass to green-up more.

Rivers Run land was originally located in a flood plain. In order to meet the requirements of

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the Army Corps of Engineers for raising the building areas above the flood plain, 30,000 yards of soil were brought in to raise the area on which the cottages are built. (Notice that the road by the boat house is higher than the boat house foundation.) It took two years to pass inspections and get approvals that certify that the community is not endangered, and to secure the permissions for starting the building. That groundwork (no pun intended) is why no resident needs to purchase flood insurance.

Other Miscellany. Soon the Model office will be moved to Unit 301, and Unit 302 will hold the offices of Living Communities. Very shortly, windows will be put into several dormers that currently do not hold windows. Screened-in porches may be developed as an optional addition that can be added to current units.

As we ended the interview, Pat invited anyone to contact him should they have additional questions. His current email address is ptobin@christa.com. 

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 19. Registration for courses at OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT (formerly called That Athenaeum) – “where curious minds gather” --- accepted following August 19th. For catalog, call 585-292-8989, or see www.Osher.RIT.edu.

August 25-26. “Arts at the Gardens,” a show and sale of fine art and fine crafts by artists from seven states. 10 am to 5 pm, on the grounds of historic Sonnenberg Mansion and Gardens, 151 Charlotte Street in Canandaigua, NY. See www.artsatthegardens.org or call 585-394-4922 for more information.

September 3. Classes at RIT begin. Contact Claudia Blumenstock, Executive Vice President of Living Communities (585-624-7650; cblumenstock@livingcomm.org) for information on how to enroll.

September 17. First day of classes at OSHER.

September 26. New Member orientation for OSHER

October 15. You are invited to a seminar on “Current Political Issues – Bush and the Democratic Congress,” presented by Bob Getz, October 15, 2007, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Henrietta Senior Center, 515 Calkins Road. 