

Office phone  
952-894-4368

Email  
river\_woods@comcast.net

Maintenance requests  
rgrgroundsmgr@gmail.com

# THE Villager



May 2025

[myriverwoods.org](http://myriverwoods.org)

## New Pool Tag Swaps Scheduled

The River Woods HOA periodically changes the color of pool tags to control access to the HOA's pools. In recent years a few homeowners have received several duplicate red tags to replace "lost" tags, and we've seen cases where non-residents are using those duplicate red tags to gain entry to the pool.

Therefore, new, green pool tags will be required for entry into the pool this summer, and only one duplicate will be provided owners for a lost tag (at a cost of \$5). Owners will be notified by email (or USPS for those few who don't have email) of the schedule of days and hours to swap out your old tags for the new green ones at the HOA office.

Homeowners must use the new green tags to access the pool this summer. All pool tags will be swapped/issued at the office, not at the pool. To make it as easy as possible for homeowners to get the new tags, specific days will be set aside in May for tag swaps or new tag issues, including one Saturday. Owners will be notified by email of appropriate days for swapping out their old tags for new ones.



### Old Tags Good on First Weekend Only

Because some homeowners may not realize new tags are needed, in spite of emails and notices in *The Villager* newsletter, for the first weekend the pool is open (which, weather permitting, will be Memorial Day weekend) homeowners may enter using the old red tags. But after that first weekend no one will be permitted entry to the pool without the new green pool tag, which are always available at the HOA office during regular office hours.

## Please Hold the Music Volume Down This Summer

Summer is almost here, and your neighbors will be sleeping with their windows open again. So, if you play music loudly, it is likely to disturb your neighbors' sleep. Please be a good neighbor and keep the music volume down, especially between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

It is a violation of Association rules to make excessive noise, especially in the nighttime hours, and repeated violations that result in complaints to the office may result in fines. Even in daytime hours, playing music excessively loud can ruin the time neighbors spend outside with friends or even just quietly sitting and reading. Your neighbors will appreciate your consideration.



### Why Are the Pole Lights on During the Day?

Occasionally you may see our pole lights on during the day. This is a mechanical malfunction, which we will correct as soon as we see it.

The pole lights are controlled by photo-electric cells

### May Dates to Remember

The **Board** meets on May 20 at 5:30 in the HOA office.

The **ACC** meets on May 27 at 5:30 in the HOA office. Deadline for ACC requests: May 5

The **HOA office** will be closed May 23 and May 26.

at the junction box of each series of lights. If the cell malfunctions or gets so dust-covered it doesn't recognize daylight, it won't turn the lights off and will have to be replaced or cleaned.

## For Home Sellers

**S**elling your home? Remember resale packets are required for buyers before a sale can be completed, so please put your listing agent in contact with the HOA to obtain the packet. It can take up to two weeks to prepare a packet, so don't wait until the last minute.

## Keeping River Woods Lit Up

**K**eeping River Woods safely lit at night is a challenge. Sometimes a series of pole lights will stop working because of wiring problems. Sometimes rodents will chew up the wires. Sometimes the 50-year-old wires simply deteriorate so much they stop working. It can often take a lot of time and work to locate and repair the source of the problem, so there can be some delay in getting the lights back on.

## Garage Lights on from Dusk to Dawn

Townhouses with garage lights should have them set to be constantly on from dusk-to-dawn, not just on motion-detect. Please check your garage light to be sure they are set to be on all night. If not, please adjust them so they are. If you don't know how to adjust them, please email the Grounds Manager, who will set them correctly for you.

In case your garage lights are not functioning, or if you are re-siding your house and want a new garage light, the Association has a supply of approved garage lighting fixtures, at a cost of about \$50.

## Reminder on Grill Placement

**W**ith summer looming, we are all looking forward to grilling out on our decks. This is a reminder that we are still prohibited by our Master Insurance Policy from locating our grills closer than five feet from any wall or window, on penalty of our insurance being canceled. You shouldn't be grilling with your grill any closer than five feet, either, as heat from grills placed closer than that while in use can partially melt or warp vinyl siding.

## Annual Meeting is June 17

**T**he annual meeting will be held June 17, 2025 in the Burnhaven Library at 6 p.m., same as last year. Every owner is invited to attend. You will be receiving an annual meeting packet in the next week or so contain-

ing your proxy ballot, a notice of the election and the annual report of the Association.

There will be an election of three Board members at the meeting, a short discussion of insurance by a Kraus-Anderson representative, and a talk on neighborhood safety by a representative of the Burnsville police department, followed by a general question and answer session for members attending.

The meeting will be adjourned at 7:15. Any questions that there isn't time to answer will be noted and responded to directly by email after the meeting (for questions relating to a particular homeowner) or in the next newsletter (for questions relating to the whole Association).

## Keeping the Pools Running

**T**he swimming pools in River Woods are the center of a lot of summer activity and enjoyment each year. Adults enjoy swimming and lounging around the pool, while the tinier residents enjoy splashing around in the nearby kiddie pool.

Keeping pools like these safe and fun places is a lot more involved than many residents might realize, so we thought we'd outline what's involved in keeping our pools safe places to spend your nice summer days.

## Spring

Pool maintenance starts about a month before the pools open for the summer (usually on Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting). The cover that protects the pools through the fall and winter months is removed and stored after being dried out. The pool at that time is about half full of what's called "dark water," made dark by accumulating dirt, leaves and even small dead animals and birds that worked their way under the cover during the winter.

After this debris is cleared out, the pump and its filters are prepped and run for at least a day to make sure they are functioning correctly, filtering the remaining water in the pool. When that water is clear, and enough additional water is added to reach the 90,000-gallon capacity of the main pool. Then required chemicals are added to the water.

The state of Minnesota has strict regulations about a pool's water condition, necessary to keep disease-causing substances away from users, and specifies exactly what chemical balance must be maintained. Most people know that chlorine is one of the main chemicals in any pool. But chlorine is just the start. We also have to add stain preventatives, cyanuric acid (which makes the chlorine work better and last longer) and a blue



clarifier, which makes the used chlorine particles more filterable. We also have to maintain the proper pH level of the pool, which can mean adding soda ash to make it less acidic or muriatic acid to make the water less alkaline, depending on the daily measurements.

### Daily Maintenance

The pools are checked daily for debris and twice a day for chemical balance. Many factors can change that chemical balance. Heavy use by many people will cause chlorine to be “used up,” requiring the addition of more chlorine, and the subsequent addition of other chemicals to maintain the required balance. A heavy storm can add enough rainwater to dilute the pool water and require re-balancing the chemicals. In the kiddie pool, children tend to splash water out of the pool – as well as polluting in ways adults generally don’t. Again, a re-balancing of chemicals is frequently needed.

How often is chemical re-balancing required? It

depends on the above factors, of course, but usually we do it at least once a week.

In addition, we have daily cleaning and maintenance of the restrooms and cleanup of the area around the pools.

### Closing the Pools

After the pools close, generally after Labor Day weekend, we drain the pool water about halfway, cover the pools, and then winterize the pump, filters, hoses and pipes to ensure no freezing happens during the winter. It’s a detailed process, because any water inadvertently left can freeze, expand and do serious damages to pool machinery.

And then next year, we do it all again.

But it’s an expense that pays off, and you’ll see why every time you drive past the pools and watch the grownups and the kids enjoying the wonderful days of a Minnesota summer.



