



RIVERCHASE *living*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVERCHASE RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATION | DECEMBER - JANUARY 2019

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RIVERCHASE

A HERITAGE OF HARMONY

Riverchase means convenience, quality, family, and harmony.

Riverchase is the oldest planned community in the state of Alabama. Our community features well-made homes, lush natural scenery, the first-rate Riverchase Country Club and an ideal location for raising your family.

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Dear Residents,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone! The holiday season in Riverchase is always a special time in our neighborhood. The beautification committee has done an excellent shop of updating and refreshing our holiday decorations. Last year the new lighted tree at our Highway 31 entrance was a great success. This year we are glad to announce the addition of a second lighted tree at the Old Montgomery entrance to Riverchase.

Riverchase has so many great traditions, but one of my favorite is the wooden lighted Christmas trees. My first home in Riverchase was located on Lakemoor Drive off Lake Forest Circle. After I closed on the home, I was in the attic and noticed all these wooden trees covered in lights. I had no idea what they were and why they left them for me. When I reached out to the seller he informed me that if I looked in my front yard there are 5 metal stakes in trees. He said after Thanksgiving go and place the wooden trees on the stakes and light them up. I followed his direction unaware that all my neighbors on my street also had the same trees.



Wooden tree building instructions on page 8!

I will never forget the first evening all the trees came to life. My daughter was 7 at the time and she said, "Dad, this is so awesome we live on this street!" I have been told the tradition started on Lakemoor and has since spread to other parts of Riverchase. This is what I love about Riverchase people starting traditions to be passed on from neighbor to neighbor, and generation to generation.

I hope you all enjoyed the second annual Christmas Tree lighting on November 23rd, another great tradition started by the residents of Riverchase. Thank you to all who made this event possible! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Greg Mikos | RRA President

Riverchase Country Club | Community Connection

As 2018 comes to a close, it's a great time to reflect on what has truly been a landmark year at Riverchase Country Club. This year, we've seen several dozen new families choose to make Riverchase their club home, injecting a new spirit and vibrancy into the membership. We've also made tremendous strides in enhancing the membership experience, particularly as it relates to the social / dining aspect of the club. The new back porch has been a huge hit with the membership, and has quickly established itself as the preferred location for happy hours and casual dining. Our new program of social events, including: Pot o' Gold, Family Night Buffet, Wine Expo and 2 for \$40 have revitalized the dining experience, drawing younger families to the club on a weekly basis. We're excited to carry this momentum into 2019!



Proud to Support our Veterans

As part of our ongoing commitment to philanthropy, the club recently hosted a pair of events in support of Armed Forces Veterans.

On Sunday, November 18 the club hosted the first annual Salute to Veterans Patriot Dinner to benefit tournament to benefit the Vettes4 Vets foundation. The highlight of the event was a keynote address by Major General David Burford, US Army Special Forces Retired.

The following day, the club hosted the Vettes4Vets Salute to Veterans golf tournament. The event was a rousing success, raising several thousand dollars for the Vettes4Vets Foundation, a 501c3 founded in 2007 whose primary mission is veteran support.

Fitness Center Equipment Upgrades!

As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the membership experience, we're in the process of upgrading a significant portion of our cardiovascular equipment in the club's fitness center including new treadmills and elliptical machines. The installation of the new equipment is scheduled to be completed shortly after Thanksgiving. As a reminder, the center is open 7-days a week from early morning through early evening, and our training staff guides healthy lifestyle classes including, Yoga, Golf Flex and more! Personal training is available and can be scheduled with one of our certified professional trainers. Contact the club today for more information!



Enjoy Golf's "Secret Season"

Even though the holiday season is upon us, there's still plenty of time to get out and enjoy the golf course at Riverchase.

The mild winter temperatures in Alabama make the winter months a wonderful time to enjoy the fresh air and outdoor beauty golf provides. Generally, tee times for members are very easy to come by during both the week and on weekends, and we would love to see you out enjoying the course with your friends and family.

Does anyone in your household want to learn to play golf? Come on out and improve your golf swing with individual or group lessons from the club's PGA Golf Professional. Instruction programs are available for adults and kids of all ages. For more information, contact the golf pro-shop at 205-988-8111.

There's Never Been a Better Time to Join

Effective January 1, 2019, the club will be increasing its initiation fees for memberships across all categories, reflecting our recent surge in membership and the overall upward trajectory of the club. With that in mind, there's truly never been a better time to join. Take advantage of this limited window before initiation fees increase and start enjoying the club right away.

For more info, or to schedule a tour of the club, please contact Allison Stockton at 205-743-8301.



The Club is Your One-Stop Shop For Holiday Parties and Catering

The holiday season is here and now is the time to begin making your holiday party

preparations. If you're planning to host a holiday party this season for your company, or just a select group of friends and family, now is the time to secure dates at the club. You don't have to be a member to host an event at the club, and you'll enjoy the benefits of complimentary tables and chairs in a venue that will be decorated for the holiday season. Leave the stress of planning, prepping and clean-up to our Events team, and host a holiday celebration that won't soon be forgotten!

If you're planning to host an event in your home this holiday season, the club offers a number of in-home catering options that can be customized to suit your needs. For more information on holiday parties or catering, please contact Lexie at 205-988-4140 or events@riverchasecc.com.

2019-20 School Year Registration Begins Jan 30th

Riverchase Day School
1953 Old Montgomery Highway • Hoover, AL
rhs@riverchasedayschool.com • 205-989-8070
www.riverchasedayschool.com

Financial Comments Regarding RRA



The Riverchase Residential Association, comprised entirely of volunteers, is committed to protecting your residential investment and to using your dues in a careful and cost effective manner. We work closely with the Community Management Association team to ensure that Riverchase becomes an increasingly desirable place to reside and to raise your family.

To better understand these efforts, here is a brief summary of how your dues are spent to best achieve those above stated objectives. We meet monthly to make certain that we are operating at or under our budgetary guidelines and to help plan and oversee new activities, and to review emerging products and proposals.

Specifically, your dollars are obtained and directed in the following ways:

A. Revenue: our total annual assessments are set at a target of \$421,000.

B. Use Of Funds

1. Management: CMA provides comprehensive and highly regarded oversight of all matters pertaining to our community. Their \$118,000 allocation works out to less than \$66 per household in our 1800 member network.
2. Insurance: less than \$10,000.
3. Legal Fees: less than \$15,000.
4. Various Office & Administrative costs: \$22,300
5. Events: (*Holidays, Celebrations and related promotions*) \$10,500
6. Grounds & Landscaping: approaching \$80,000
7. Repairs, Maintenance & Depreciation: \$75,000
8. Utilities: (*Electric, Water, Sewer & Trash*) \$93,500
9. Miscellaneous: \$10,000

On a monthly basis, our Board Meetings include a line analysis of our performance vs. budget in an effort to quickly address and overcome any excesses or oversights. We are proud of our community and would warmly welcome your suggestions and ideas. Thanks for your trust.



Neighborhood Compliance Reminders

Community Management Association is focusing more attention on the community on compliance regulations which has not been done in the past. There are some common items that are occurring frequently in the community that we would like to remind and inform everyone of. A full list of the Riverchase polices can be located on the community website.

- I. **No boat, boat trailer, trailer, motor home** or any similar items shall be stored in the open on any Parcel for a period of time in excess of twenty-four (24) hours. No Commercial Vehicles shall be parked on any Residential Parcel at any time unless parked in the garage. Inoperable or covered vehicles are only permitted in the garage.
- II. **Garbage and recycling receptacles** shall be stored in such a manner so that they cannot be seen from adjacent and surrounding property or be seen from the road.
- III. **Hoses** when not in use shall be stored in a location that is not visible from the street or adjacent properties. Hose boxes of a subdued color may be used if located within 2 feet of the hose bib.
- IV. **Landscaping** regular maintenance includes:
 - a. Regular mowing of grass and removal of grass clippings.
 - b. Treatment to control weeds.
 - c. Pruning of trees and shrubbery.
 - d. Edging grass along curb or gutter, drives, walks and natural areas.
 - e. Regular removal of leaves from front lawn.
 - f. Regular refreshing of mulch in all natural areas.
 - g. All homes shall have evergreen shrubs planted along the front foundation.
 - h. All front and side yards are required to be solid sodded except where the RAC has approved Natural Areas.
 - i. All stumps should be ground out or cut flush to the ground where the stump is not visible from the street.
- V. **Mailboxes** shall remain in good repair.
- VI. **Woodpiles** shall not be visible from any street.
- VII. **No advertising, commercial or political signs** are permitted on any lot, property or road right-of-way within the Riverchase development.

MANAGING THEIR REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO FROM SOMEWHERE IN STEAMBOAT.



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Save The Date

Riverchase Loves Art

PREVIEW PARTY - FEBRUARY 1, 2019
ART SHOW - FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Riverchase Art Show

Riverchase Loves Art

2019 marks the 13th year for RIVERCHASE LOVES ART – an incredible art show held at Riverchase Country Club the first weekend in February. The show will feature some of the most talented artist from Alabama and adjoining states. Our community is proud to host such an extraordinary event. If you love art, you will love this!

Riverchase Women's Club Social Events

Below is the RWC Social Events Calendar for the coming year. We had a great 2018 and everyone is looking forward to all the events of 2019!

Thur, December 13 • 5:30 pm
CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR AND DINNER

Wed, January 17 • 11:30 am
RWC LUNCH WITH THE GIRLS

Fri, February 1 • 6 pm
RIVERCHASE LOVES ART, PREVIEW PARTY

Sat, February 2 • 9 am–4 pm
RIVERCHASE LOVES ART, ART SHOW

Thur, March 14 • 6 pm
WHAT'S UP IN RIVERCHASE

Thur, April 11 • 11:30 am
RWC LUNCH WITH THE GIRLS

Fri, May 3 • 11:30 am
YEAR END LUNCHEON

See you at these great events!

Riverchase Women's Club

October

Riverchase Women's Club enjoyed a cackling good time at the October Witches Lunch. The outfits and food were spooktacular!

November

November's "Lunch with the Girls" was a fun social event in the RCC grill.

December

The Christmas Home Tour and Dinner will take place on December 13th. Three beautiful homes in Riverchase will be shown decorated for Christmas. Following the tour, dinner will be held at Riverchase Country Club. During dinner an acapella group, Harmony Hills Chorus, will share Christmas songs.

Riverchase Women's Club is open to all women who are residents or former residents of Riverchase. It also includes

Chase Park Estates and members of Riverchase Country Club who do not reside in this area. Meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and spend quality time with old ones.

The annual dues are \$35 (does not include cost of meal for each event). Most of that money goes to community services and charities. This year we have already pledged or contributed to: Alzheimer's of Central Alabama, Spain Park High School (college scholarship to senior), Riverchase Elementary School (silver sponsorship), adopted three children through Hoover Helps for Back Pack Buddies Program, Wings of Hope (charity that supports families of terminally ill children with cancer) and Toys for Operation Santa Express. RWC will continue to give through contributions and gifts throughout the year. We hope you will join us.



Go to our Facebook page or www.liveinriverchase.com for more information. We are looking forward to seeing you.

The Riverchase Women's Club Scholarship



Dear 2019 Graduates,

The Riverchase Women's Club is pleased to offer an educational scholarship for \$1,000 paid to an accredited two-or four-year college or university for tuition or other expenses. The one-time scholarship furthers our mission of promoting charitable, civic and social activities in the Riverchase Community.

1. This collegiate scholarship is awarded to a deserving student (male or female) at Spain Park High School
2. This scholarship is limited to Spain Park students in the Riverchase Community (Riverchase Residential Homeowners Association Member)
3. The scholarship application has been provided to the High School Guidance Department
4. Selection is handled by the Scholarship Committee of the Riverchase Women's Club
5. All applications must be submitted to the Counselors office by the deadline, March 1, 2019
6. The criteria for selection are:
 - ➔ Minimum GPA 3.5
 - ➔ Copy of transcript
 - ➔ Letter of recommendation from anyone other than family member
 - ➔ Community service
 - ➔ One paragraph (300 words maximum) as to why you are deserving of this award.
 - ➔ Finalists may be required to have interview with the Scholarship Committee based on the number of applicants
7. The winner will be notified by April 15, 2019

Riverchase THEN AND NOW...

Longtime residents, Linda and Tom Carey graciously shared some historical insight and hopes for the future of Riverchase – the community they have called home since 1976.

The Careys are a delightful couple who moved from Birmingham to Little Rock, Arkansas in 1975. Due to a work related move for Tom, they then returned to Birmingham, found a house in Riverchase, and have called it home since December of 1976. They have lived in the same home all these years and were proud to share that they were the first residents to welcome a new baby in Riverchase.



TOP: Linda and Tom Carey, 1976
BOTTOM: Tom and Linda Carey, 2018

Of course they have seen many changes in the Riverchase area, and Hoover, in the past 42 years — the Galleria, the establishment of the Hoover school system, the development of the neighborhood and the Riverchase Country Club, just to name a few!

When the Carey's first moved here, Tom served on the volunteer fire department (yes-volunteer!) that served the neighborhood. Linda worked at Valley Elementary, where Riverchase elementary aged children

attended school. If groceries were needed, off to Western Supermarket in "old Hoover" they would go. Goats may have even been heard from a nearby farm.

When asked what the Careys would like to see change in Riverchase, they shared the desire to have sickly vegetation and trees removed to allow the beautiful hardwoods to flourish. Being residents who live on Riverchase Parkway, they would also like to see people respect the speed limits and be courteous when driving.

The Careys love Riverchase and cannot imagine living anywhere else. Being part of this community for over 40 years makes them a valuable asset to the community and a treasure trove of information. If you get the opportunity to speak with them in person, just ask them to tell you about their Riverchase experience. You are in for a treat!

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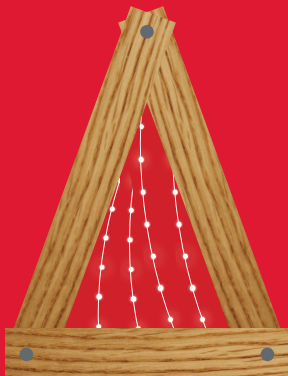
Christmas Decorations

The Christmas holidays are here. Each year the Riverchase Residential Association provides for Christmas decorations for the entrance. Last year, the RRA and the Riverchase Beautification Committee selected a new lighted tree for Riverchase main entrance that looked spectacular. This year, they have added another tree to the Old Montgomery entrance.

Here are some considerations for your home's holiday decorations:

- Red velvet bows on the mailbox give the most impact. Bows or wire-edged red velvet ribbon may be purchased at many local home accessories stores.
- Adding greenery and other holiday items with the bow on the mailbox looks even more festive.
- The triangular lighted trees seen around Riverchase are easy and inexpensive to make. The instructions for making a tree of your own can be found below.

Please remember to remove holiday decorations within two weeks after Christmas. Thank you for keeping Riverchase a premier community.



Let's Light up Riverchase! Tree Frames Available

Call Mal at 612-4939 if you would like a tree frame made and delivered to your home for \$30 each. You purchase the lights of your choice and string them. Most homes display 3-4 trees.

If you would like to make the trees yourself, here are the details.

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS TREE

2 - 6' 2x2 Boards

1 - 4' 2x2 Board

17 - Galvanized Nails

1 - 300 or 400 Strand of Lights

1 - Large Bike Hook

Take the two 6' boards and connect them at one end to make a triangle point. Next,

attach the 4' board to the bottom on the 6' boards to complete the triangle. Attach the large bike hook to the top point of the triangle. Evenly space 17 nails along the 4' board (on the same side as the bike hook). Then start at the bottom, string the strand of lights up and down the tree around every nail and the bike hook.



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Christmas Open House

December 12th 10-4pm
December 13th 2-7pm
3825 Lorna Rd. Suite 228
Hoover, AL 35244

PUT A ON **FREEZE** WINTER HOLIDAY FIRES

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Read manufacturer's instructions



for the number of light strands to connect.

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average,

1 of every **32**

reported home **Christmas tree fires resulted in death.**



More than

1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top **3** days for home candle fires are

Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes



1 in every **4** of the fires.

Make sure your tree is at least

3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Keep candles at least

12 inches away from anything that burns.



Get rid of your tree after **Christmas or when it is dry.**

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.





The Best Rolled SUGAR COOKIES

Recipe by Jill Saunders via allrecipes.com

Prep: 20 m | Cook: 8 m | Ready In: 3 h | 60 servings

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ c. butter, softened
2 ½ c. white sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract

5 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover, and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight).

about ¼ - ½" thick. If dough is too sticky to roll, sprinkle with additional confectioners sugar. Cut into shapes with any cookie cutter. Place cookies 1" apart on parchment paper lined cookie sheets.

Preheat oven to 400° F. Roll out dough on a surface sprinkled with confectioners sugar. Cookies should be

Bake until edges *just* begin to brown, about 5-8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.

Saltine Toffee Cookies

Recipe by Tracy via allrecipes.com

Prep: 3 m | Cook: 8 m | Ready In: 1 h | 35 servings

INGREDIENTS

4 oz. saltine crackers
1 c. butter
1 c. dark brown sugar

2 c. semisweet chocolate chips
¾ c. chopped pecans
non-stick tinfoil

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400° F.

Line cookie sheet (with edges) with non-stick tinfoil. Line bottom with saltine crackers in single layer.

In a saucepan combine the sugar and the butter. Bring to a boil and boil for 3 minutes. Immediately pour

over saltines and spread to cover crackers completely.

Bake for 5 to 6 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips over the top. Let sit for 5 minutes. Spread melted chocolate and top with chopped nuts. Cool completely and break into pieces.

CHOCOLATE Chip Cookies

Recipe by Melissa Jacob

Prep: 20 m | Cook: 10 m | Ready In: 45 m
16 cookies

INGREDIENTS

1 ⅛ c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
½ c. butter, softened
⅛ c. white sugar
1 egg

½ pkg. (3.4 oz) vanilla jello mix
⅓ c. packed brown sugar
½ tsp. vanilla
1 c. chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350° F. Sift flour and baking soda together. Set aside.

Cream butter and both sugars. Beat in dry pudding mix, then eggs and vanilla. Blend in flour mixture and stir in chocolate chips.

Bake 9-12 minutes on parchment paper. Let cool.



Enjoy The Gift of Club Membership This Holiday Season

This holiday season, give your family a gift they'll enjoy all year long with a membership to Riverchase Country Club. Offering Birmingham's top championship golf experience, a full-service fitness center, multiple dining venues and a full calendar of social events, we've got something for each member of your family.

For more information or to schedule a tour of the club, contact Allison at 205-743-8301.

CLUB INITIATION
FEES INCREASE
JANUARY 1.

*Join now
and save!*



Looking for a venue for your next party or gathering?

We host Christmas Parties, Corporate Events, Weddings, Receptions, Rehearsal Dinners, Birthday Parties, Bridal Showers, Bridal Teas, Baby Showers Graduation Parties & More!

For more information or to begin planning your next event, contact Lexie at 205-988-4140, ext 202.



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