

FALL 2026

The Civic Association of River Falls

Neighborhood News

Photos by Nancy Holahan



River Falls homes ready to welcome Trick or Treaters!



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CARF ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 15th
7:30 PM
River Falls Clubhouse

CARF Board of Directors, 2026

President: Gene Ebner, 301.299.3176

Vice President: Ted Duncan, 301.785.7966

Secretary: Brian Lerman, 617.571.5709

Treasurer: Eamonn Moran, 202.258.3825

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Neighborhood Security: Richard Halton, 301.675.5164,
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Ad hoc Board Member: Anne Killeen, 301.706.0067

Email address for CARF Board Members: carfboard@gmail.com

Architectural Review Committee/Covenants: co-Chairs
Jianping Zhou and Gene Ebner, CARF.Architectural@gmail.com

Ad hoc Welcoming Committee: Chair, Liz Katsaros,
carf.membership@gmail.com

RFCCA Liaison: Tom Cross, 301.873.0029,
tccross86@gmail.com

What is CARF?

The Civic Association of River Falls

(CARF) is a voluntary, dues-supported association formed in 1975 to represent the interests of River Falls residents. Among CARF's responsibilities:



Gene Ebner,
CARF President

- act as a spokesperson for River Falls to the various governmental and corporate bodies whose decisions affect our community
- inform the community of developments affecting River Falls in particular and the Potomac area in general (e.g., PEPCO, school, zoning issues)
- oversee the architectural integrity of the neighborhood and adherence to community covenants
- The Architectural Review/Covenants Committee reviews homeowner renovation plans for conformity with legal covenants that apply to residents and ensures compliance with other homeowner covenants.
- provide a website and administer RiverFallsChat, the community listserv
- produce the annual resident River Falls Directory, both in print and digital formats
- publish a quarterly newsletter for the community, *Neighborhood News*
- maintain the appearance of the entrances to the neighborhood and the circles on Brickyard Road
- welcome new residents and help them transition into the community
- plan local projects and civic celebrations to enhance the enjoyment of residents, including the annual July 4th celebration, new resident welcome party, community clean-up day, and provide security patrol for Halloween night.

CARF is Looking for a few neighbors to help out!

CARF is always open to additional neighbors stepping in to play a role, whether a one-time, short involvement or longer commitment.

At present, we are looking for members to staff the **Activities Committee**, one additional member to join the **Architectural Review Committee**, and additional members for the **Welcome Committee**.

If you would like more information about these roles or are ready to get involved, please contact carfboard@gmail.com.



CONTACT INFORMATION for COMMON NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

Customer Service Center for Montgomery County

For all County-related matters: From within the County, **call 311** and be routed to the appropriate department. From outside the County, call 240.777.0311. You will be given a service request number and can check the status of your request. You can also go online at **mc311.com**.

Street Light Outages: Report online at **mc311.com** or **call 311**. Be sure to include the ID Number that is on the pole.

Road Repair: Call 311 to be routed to MCDOT, Division of Highway Services.

Storm Drain Problems: Call 311 or go online at mc311.com to report a problem and request service. The County does not inspect the storm drains on a regular basis but they will respond to service requests.

Issues with Trees in the River Falls Conservation Areas

The CARF website, **riverfallscarf.org**, includes a map that illustrates the different sections of green space and the corresponding contact persons for tree issues within each. Go to Docs, Forms, Contacts/Tree Problems Contact Info.

Areas between River Falls Drive and Bridle Lane and Bridle Court/between River Falls Drive and Hackamore Drive/behind Buckboard Court: Contact Forest Conservation Inspector for Montgomery Planning Department, Domenic.-Bello@montgomeryplanning.org, and copy carfboard@gmail.com. Previously, once a tree issue was inspected by Mr. Bello and determined to be a hazard, the next step would be to contact the owner of the conservation area where the tree was located and request a meeting to discuss trimming or removal of the tree. However, the previous owner of this conservation area (Lorax/Pleasants) has sold the property and the name of the new owner is not available to the public. CARF will provide an update when further information is known.

Areas between River Falls Drive and Stable Lane, including the space behind Hidden Meadow Terrace, Hidden Trail Court, and Gate Post Way: Contact Info@MontgomeryParks.org, Tel. 301.495.2595 and copy carfboard@gmail.com. For the common areas maintained by the RFHOA, contact The Nabo Group at hello@thenabogroup.com.

Weekly Recycling and Special Arrangements for Collection

Recycling pickup is Tuesday. **Call 311 or go to mc311.com** to request new recycle bins or to arrange Scrap Metal Pickup.

Food Scraps Collection: To be added to the County pilot program, contact **<https://tinyurl.com/mocofoodscraps>**.

A Word from the Beautification Committee: Pesticides

I have been noticing a lot of yellow flags on lawns in our neighborhood: "Caution. Pesticides have been applied. Keep children and pets off of this lawn."



I hope that pesticides have *not* been applied. If they have, then you are killing the bees and potentially hurting your children and pets. Maybe herbicides were applied to kill the broad leaf weeds in your lawn. Ask your lawn service provider what they are using. Make sure they are using the correct signage.



Ed Toussaint, standing on his healthy, pesticide-free lawn.

There are other alternatives. Talk to Edwin Toussaint at 7909 River Falls Drive. He maintains a beautiful lawn and is in the process of his Fall application **without pesticides**.



Linda Rieger
CARF Beautification
Committee Chair
lindarieger@verizon.net

In Our Neck of the Woods . . .

Big Impact Comes in Small Packages

By Farida M. Robinson

As adults, we sometimes pause before donating our time or money to charity. We weigh our financial capacity, consider the time it will take away from our other commitments, or even question the impact of our individual contributions. However, some of our youngest River Falls residents show us it's possible to make giving back a part of our day-to-day lives.

Brother and sister Vivaan Dua, age 11, and Meher Dua, age 8, as well as Henley Mast, age 12, all decided to help other children using the activities they already enjoy.

Vivaan and Meher Dua

Vivaan and Meher help support JUST TRYAN IT, a Bethesda-based nonprofit, by raising money and participating as part of a team in a triathlon. Proceeds from the event support families with a child in treatment for pediatric cancer in the Greater Washington DC area.

Vivaan and Meher participated in a triathlon that took place this September in Bethesda. To prepare physically, they and their team, Tikka Masala, practiced swimming, biking, and running throughout the summer, and even got their family involved.

River Falls residents may have seen Vivaan and Meher outside the River Falls pool on August 23, 2026, where they hosted a Books & Bakes event as part of their fundraising efforts. Vivaan and Meher gave away their own books and 60 homemade brownies, requesting only a voluntary donation from those who wanted to contribute. Their efforts helped them raise \$350.00 each to support JUST TRYAN IT, as well as additional donations from family members.

Vivaan and Meher and their family posted a note of appreciation for the community's support on the River Falls Chat after their day at the pool, reflecting, "We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Whether you stopped by for a brownie, picked up a book, made a donation, or offered words of encouragement, you helped make the day meaningful and successful."



Photo by Neha Nanda

Vivaan and Meher Dua outside the River Falls clubhouse with their Books & Bakes fundraiser for JUST TRYAN IT.

Both Vivaan and Meher described having fun as part of their efforts. Vivaan enjoys being with his friends who are also participants in the triathlon, and watching and supporting the other competitors. Meher enjoys being with friends, eating cupcakes, and face painting after the triathlon.

Meher and Vivaan are motivated to volunteer by the bravery of children they are helping. "It is hard to be in hospital and by doing this, we are helping take stress off of kids and the whole family," shares Vivaan. "If they smile, maybe other kids will smile too," observes Meher. She hopes that their efforts will, "help kids who are sick, and make them feel better and like someone cares for them."

The biggest reward for their work is the impact it has on the children they are supporting. Vivaan describes that, "by helping them it makes them feel better and you feel better, and knowing you are helping them is something to be proud of."

Vivaan and Meher also support each other. Meher says that Vivaan, "gives me claps" and "gives me hugs." She says, "It feels good to do it together." Vivaan, hugging his sister, agrees that, "it is not so often we do things like this together."



Photo by Farida Robinson

Vivaan and Meher at home.

To learn more about how to support JUST TRYAN IT, or how to participate in future triathlons, visit <https://justtryanit.org/bethesda/>.

Henley Mast

Henley Mast, age 12, founded Lucky4Love to help children in Honduras.

In 2022, when Henley was eight years old, she and her family went on a trip to Honduras and she was struck by children she saw, "with no school, water or shelter." Once Henley returned home, she said that she started trying to think about what she could do to help children like the ones she saw on her trip.

Henley researched charities that support children in Honduras, and found Save the Children Action Network, which let her choose where to send her donations.

Henley realized that she could turn a special talent for finding lucky four-leaf clovers into a vehicle to help these children. In the beginning, Henley and her mother found and pressed four-leaf clovers, then used them to make colorful bookmarks. That first year, Henley set up a stand at the River Falls pool and sold her bookmarks, along with lemonade and brownies, and donated the proceeds to Save the Children.



Photo by Ali Mast

Henley Mast with her collection of 4-leaf clovers at an early Lucky4Love fundraiser.

Henley's sisters, Meadow, 11, and Adair, 12, helped her from the very first stand at the pool, and have continued to help and support her ever since. In the five years since she started, Henley has collected over 340 four leaf clovers and expanded her products to include key chains and other items. In total, she has raised over \$11,500.00 to help the children who first inspired her efforts.



Photo by Ali Mast

Lucky4Love fundraising products



Photo by Ali Mast

Henley, flanked by her sisters Meadow and Adair at another Lucky4Love fundraiser.

Henley says her goal every year, "is to make more than the prior year and help more people."

Charity work is important," says Henley. She observes that there are countries where people are not as fortunate as those she knows here at home. "So, we should donate where we can."

Henley built the website Lucky4Love, which she was recently successful in registering as a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status in Maryland.

The most surprising thing she has learned through her efforts, Henley says, is that, "it is not that hard to make a change for good if you try."

To learn more about Lucky4Love, visit <https://www.lucky4love.org/>.

AROUND RIVER FALLS

Photo by Kathy Fleming



Two pairs of sisters selling lemonade outside the pool in August: Capri Fleming, Maddie Farrah, Kenley Fleming, and Izzy Farrah.

Photo by Lauren Obermeier



Having fun manning a Hackamore Drive lemonade stand this August: L to R, Logan and Blair McElhaney, Nellie Maynard, and Polly Obermeier.

Photo by Amanda McBride



McBride's Lemonade and Snack Stand on Masters Drive: Cal and Alexandra McBride were ready for sales in August and were even equipped with a QR code.

Photo by Ted Duncan



This crew took it up a notch and offered free delivery: Jaxon Duncan, Jake and Ryan Dent, and Andrew Hanfland.

Photo by Nancy Holahan



Photo by Nancy Holahan



CARF's Annual Shred & Junk Disposal event was popular once again this September!

Photo by Nancy Holahan



Photo by Nancy Holahan



AROUND RIVER FALLS

Photo by Julia Wong



Aaron Eidelman and Eric Rollinger shake hands after a competitive finals match. Eric earned the title of River Falls 2026 Tennis Singles Champion!

Photo by Nancy Holahan



Caitrin Coan and tennis pro Pat Coan, proud parents of the lovely Maeve Coan.

Photo by Julia Wong



Maeve Coan, appropriately attired to watch the tennis championship match.

Photo by Nancy Holahan



Doodle tennis fans.

Photo by Nancy Holahan



Scott Billings sets up for a shot in his semi-final match against Aaron Eidelman. The other semi-final was between Eric Rollinger and Hunter Anderson.

2026 Tennis Singles Championship

This year there were eighteen entrants, sixteen men and two women.

Advancing to the semi-finals were: Hunter Anderson, Scott Billings, Aaron Eidelman and Eric Rollinger.

Eric Rollinger triumphed over River Falls 2025 champion, Aaron Eidelman, to capture the title this year.

Eric won bragging rights and will soon be awarded the championship trophy.

PJ Hart won the "target board" challenge by scoring a 30 and was awarded a \$250 gift certificate to Tennis Topia as prize.



Photo by Pat Coan



Target Board: Competitors were fed 15 tennis balls from the ball machine and earned points by hitting balls through the various sized holes.

Guidelines for Safe, Fun-filled Halloween Trick or Treating Saturday, October 31, 6-8 PM

Participating in trick or treating is voluntary. If you are a neighbor giving out treats or a parent of a trick or treater, please keep these recommendations in mind.

CARF will sponsor an off-duty police officer to patrol the neighborhood on Halloween night.
Please remember to drive extra slowly during Trick or Treating hours.

CARF recommends the following guidelines for safe trick or treating:

Trick or Treaters



1. Trick or Treat in small groups (3-4), preferably with an adult.
2. Observe the hours designated for trick or treating (**6:00-8:00 PM**).
3. Trick or Treat only where outdoor lights are on or you see tables of participating neighbors.
4. Carry a flashlight or wear material that can be seen in the dark.

Those Giving out Treats

1. Consider providing prepackaged treats.
2. You can give out treats at a table at the base of your driveway or at your front door.
3. If you plan to give out treats at your front door, please leave on an outdoor light.



CARF Board