



March 30, 2019

Re: Facts from the Current HOA Board

Over the past several weeks, many River Wilderness residents have received post cards in the mail from an unknown group with alarmist accusations about the HOA budget. These "Are You Aware" post cards and multiple postings on the NextDoor website accuse the HOA Board of a lack of transparency and secret overspending and cry "Where is the money?" We now learn (from the HOA ballot mailing) that the postcards and postings are created by several residents who are candidates in the April elections for the HOA Board. It is disappointing that they have chosen this negative tactic in an attempt to gain your vote.

The HOA Board is now compelled to respond to the false accusations with these simple statements of fact:

Your money is safe. No secret overspending has occurred. Annual budgets are mailed to residents. Detailed financial results are posted monthly. Reserves are being collected for future expenses.

Financial Safety: Each year the financial results of the HOA are audited by an outside auditor and all monies and expenditures have always been correct. No financial irregularities have ever been found. These annual audits are posted on the Argus website and are available for residents to view and download.

Communication: The annual HOA budget is communicated to all RW Residents. The 2019 budget letter that was mailed to each resident in October 2018 explained and itemized the budget increases for 2019. (Click here [to review the October 30, 2018](#) letter.) Monthly tracking reports of results against budget are posted on the Argus website and are available for residents to view and download. Board minutes highlight non-recurring expenses.

Sound Financial Planning: HOA Reserve accounts now have over \$1,000,000. By Florida Statute, these accounts, “our money in the bank,” are dedicated solely for repair and replacement of our aging infrastructure (e.g., roads, drainage pipes, culverts, computer systems, Gates, wells, irrigation systems, and other HOA structures). Twenty-one (21) percent of your annual assessment (\$378) goes to these Reserves each year so that the community is ready when major expenditures are required. Please note that banks giving mortgages on RW homes require statements of well-funded reserves.

As always, if you have any questions you may contact your Board members at the following email addresses:

- Jim Andries - arc@rwhoa.org
- Linda Baril - finance@rwhoa.org
- Syble DiGirolamo - info@rwhoa.org
- Jan Kaufman - rplot@rwhoa.org
- David Kelley - arc@rwhoa.org
- Bob Lindstrom - roads@rwhoa.org
- Gregor Mehaffey - access@rwhoa.org
- Dan Salisbury - lakes@rwhoa.org

The HOA Board sincerely hopes that the results of the April elections will allow all of us to settle back into peaceful enjoyment of our community. We volunteer to do this job because we want to contribute to the solid management and constant improvement of our beautiful community. The discord is hurtful both personally and to our community’s reputation. We ask for your on-going support.

The RWHOA Board