





Hi Neighbor!

Here's a quick note about a few things happening around the pond that you might find interesting. We have some new residents at the pond!

NEW THIS MORNING!

Thanks to the generosity of residents and the time donated by volunteers, young grass carp were reintroduced into the pond. Thank you to Stoney Jackson, David Mitchell, and Dan McCarthy for traveling to Raccoon Valley to find just the right size triploid grass carp for our pond.

If you'd like to see what juvenile and adult grass carp look like, visit:

<https://raccoonvalleyfisheries.com/pricing>

These fish are genetically sterilized and cannot reproduce, so they will not spread uncontrollably.

They've been added to help naturally control duckweed, grass, and algae in the pond. About ten years ago, roughly a dozen were introduced, and last spring we believe the last remaining carp met her end during a major storm. We estimate she weighed about 45 pounds, well beyond the typical 7–8 year lifespan, and was probably enjoying retirement and not eating much anymore.

OLD (OR PERHAPS RETURNING) RESIDENTS AT THE POND

Over the past couple of weeks, young muskrats have been spotted around the pond. One has obviously been gathering soft leaves for its den. They've even been seen WALKING across the spillway — not burrowing through it or through the side walls.

These furry creatures are protected under Missouri fur trade laws, so trapping them out of season is illegal. Trapping may only be done by a state-permitted trapper during the legal season of November 15, 2026 through February 28, 2027. The Board has decided to wait until then before hiring a licensed Missouri trapper.

Because of the recent spillway construction, they are unlikely to cause damage, and hopefully, as in past years, they will eventually move west toward Kensington or east toward Raintree Lake when raising their kits. Our pond probably offers them little more than quiet surroundings and peacefulness away from traffic.

The bridge has been stained, and the bank erosion-control grasses and stones have been installed. Please stay off landscaped areas and anywhere there is bare ground while things become established.

Thank you to David Mitchell for donating stain, and to David Bundrick, Karen Danner, Stoney Jackson, and Dan McCarthy for helping complete this work. Apologies to anyone whose help may have been unintentionally missed.

Thanks as well to additional volunteers who helped power wash the pond gazebo. The gazebo is now cleaned, and updated security lighting will be installed soon so residents can enjoy visiting, reading from the Little Library, or relaxing there without bugs and spiders dropping from above.

A GENTLE REMINDER

The Fountains is private property. Non-residents should not be fishing, riding motorized scooters on the walks, or canoodling and partying in the gazebo after dark. This includes residents from the main Raintree development, as The Fountains is a separate HOA with separate property.

There is, of course, a fine line between friendly walkers, photographers, and those creating problems, so please use common sense.

In the past, we've heard, "My aunt lives here and said I could." Going forward, if you have guests, grandchildren, or relatives visiting the property, please accompany them or provide them with your Raintree pass to show if asked. Otherwise, residents may request that unauthorized individuals leave the property. In cases involving nighttime disturbances or suspicious activity, police may be contacted.

The police department already includes two areas of The Fountains on its extra patrol logs and encourages residents to report suspicious activity as part of our neighborhood watch efforts.

There's more information to share next week, but we thought you'd want to hear these updates now.

Have a happy, sunny week!

Sharon Neuer