



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

October 2026



A Word From Your Board

By Antrice Muther, Director -Secretary

The Beauty of Rivendell Doesn't Happen by Accident

With the "Woodlands" moniker in our community's name, it is not difficult to imagine the original developer's vision for Rivendell. Of the 379 acres that make up our community, 115 acres are nature preserves, 65 acres of open water span 24 ponds, and residents enjoy six parks and the beloved Pine View Nature Trail. Within Rivendell's common areas alone, there are nearly 800 trees, including more than 250 oaks, 100 pines, and 350 palms.

What may surprise many residents is that the care and stewardship of these community assets is guided not by paid staff, but largely by volunteers.

The Rivendell Maintenance Committee plays a vital role in preserving the beauty, safety, and functionality of our community. From the trees that shade our streets to the entrances that welcome residents home, from the Pine View Nature Trail to our parks, pool, and community lighting, much of what makes Rivendell special is carefully monitored and maintained through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. Working with contractors, the committee helps identify maintenance needs, recommend improvements, and support long-term planning for the community's assets.

For many years, that effort was led by Mark Giordano. We remain grateful for Mark's many years of service, dedication, and stewardship of the community's facilities and natural beauty. When Mark retired from the committee, Chuck Pertile graciously stepped forward to serve as Interim Chair. Over the past seven months, Chuck has provided steady leadership and helped ensure that important projects and ongoing maintenance continued moving forward during this period of transition. His willingness to serve exemplifies the volunteer spirit that helps make Rivendell such a wonderful place to live. As he concludes his service as Chairperson, Chuck is looking forward to dedicating more time to traveling and enjoying retired life with his wife. We extend our heartfelt thanks for his commitment to Rivendell and wish them safe travels and many exciting adventures in the years ahead.

As Chuck's tenure comes to a close, we are now seeking a new volunteer to serve as Chairperson of the Maintenance Committee.

Before you dismiss the idea because you're "not a maintenance expert," it's important to understand that the Chairperson is not expected to do everything alone. In fact, the committee is most successful when responsibilities are shared among volunteers with different interests, knowledge, and talents.

The Chairperson serves as a coordinator and leader, helping recruit volunteers, organize projects, facilitate meetings, and ensure that important maintenance areas receive the attention they need.

Committee members may focus on specific areas or subcommittees such as landscaping, entrances and landscape islands, tree management, irrigation, the community pool, the Clock Tower, street and landscape lighting, or parks. By sharing responsibilities, volunteers can contribute in meaningful ways without any one person carrying the entire workload.

The ideal Chairperson is someone who cares about Rivendell, enjoys working with neighbors, and wants to help preserve the beauty and character of our community. Successful candidates bring strong organizational skills, sound judgment, and a practical approach to problem-solving. While the Chairperson is not expected to personally repair irrigation systems, trim trees, or maintain facilities, it is helpful to have a general understanding of maintenance-related issues and how the various community assets function. The Chairperson should be comfortable periodically evaluating the condition of community facilities, identifying potential concerns, and recognizing when additional investigation, contractor involvement, or professional expertise may be needed. The role is less about doing the work yourself and more about providing oversight, coordinating resources, evaluating options, and working with volunteers who may have more specialized knowledge of specific maintenance areas.

The Maintenance Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each

(Continued on page 2)

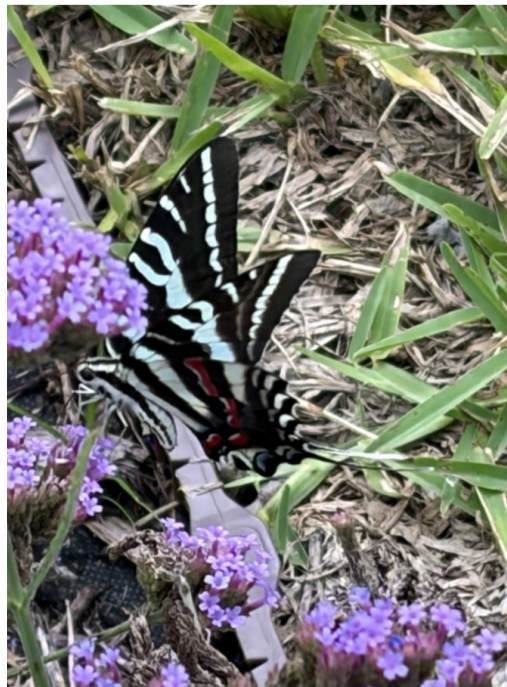


Photo of a Zebra Swallowtail found in a garden at Rivendell, Maureen Stewart

(A Word From your Board continued)

month at 7:00 p.m. at the Cottages Clubhouse. Attendance at Board meetings is encouraged but not required.

Rivendell is a special place. Its beautiful tree canopy, abundant wildlife, and well-maintained amenities are part of what attracted many of us here and continue to make this community feel like home. Preserving that beauty does not happen by accident. It happens because residents step forward, volunteer their time, and invest in the community they love.

If you have ever enjoyed a walk along Pine View Nature Trail, admired our landscaped entrances, appreciated the shade of our majestic oaks, or simply felt proud to call Rivendell home, we encourage you to consider becoming involved with the Maintenance Committee. Volunteer involvement has long been one of Rivendell's greatest strengths. Volunteer committees provide valuable oversight that might otherwise require additional professional management services. By sharing their time, knowledge, and expertise, committee members help the Association maintain the high standards residents expect while remaining mindful of community expenses.

Together, we can continue the tradition of stewardship that has helped make Rivendell one of the most beautiful communities in our area. Whether you are interested in serving as Chairperson or helping oversee a specific area of the Maintenance Committee, your involvement can make a meaningful difference. For more information about serving as Maintenance Committee Chairperson or participating as a maintenance subcommittee lead or volunteer, please contact the Rivendell Board. Your community needs you.



In Memorium



The Rivendell Board and residents will remember **Larry Dobias** as the heart of a community is built by those who served it without expecting anything in return. With many thanks and deep appreciation for many years of service, commitment, and love to our Rivendell community.



Join 665 of your fellow
Rivendell Residents on the NEXTDOOR
social network www.nextdoor.com

Are you seeking a service provider recommendation?

Do you have an item to sell?

Do you have any questions about Rivendell or
other topics residents can help with?

Nextdoor is the world's largest social network for the neighborhood.

Nextdoor enables truly local conversations that empower
neighbors to build stronger and safer communities.

Social Committee Activities for October 2026



Offered WEEKLY: Ladies Walk 'n Talk. Meet at the Rivendell Pool. Contact Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com or (973) 219-5839 for more information and if you'd like to be added to the Facebook Walk 'n Talk. Walks are currently on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am, but times will change depending on the season.

- Monday, October 5th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427 4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, October 8th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398 2256.
- Monday, October 12th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427 4192 (texts only).
- Monday, October 12th, at 7:00 pm. Rivendell Book Group. To join, contact Lesley Glick at (973) 219-5839 or Lesleymg8@gmail.com or Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or adele.kellman@gmail.com.
- Monday, October 19th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427 4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, October 22nd, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398 2256.
- Monday, October 26th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427 4192 (texts only).

The Maintenance Committee Report

by Chuck Pertile

- Replace pool pump
- Replace Pine Pond irrigation pump
- Service Crane Pond irrigation pump
- Plant 10 trees at Pine Pond
- Never ending irrigation repairs



Photo of Pine Pond, Nancy Dobias

SUDOKU

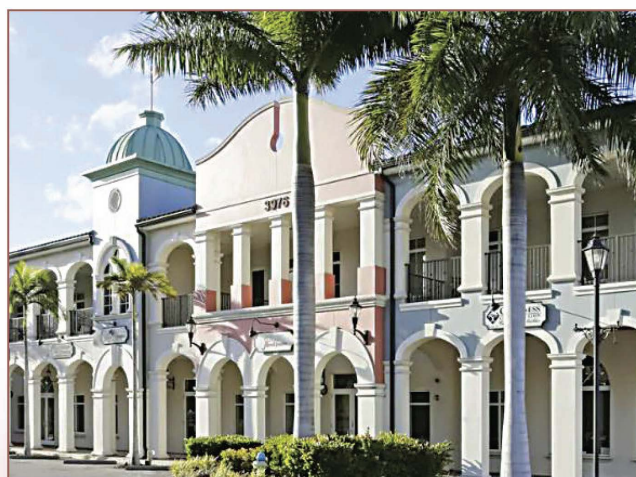
Puzzle from <https://www.printable-puzzles.com/>

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(Solution on page 9)

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What IS that cat?

By Bob Frank, Ponds and Preserves Committee

As residents of Rivendell we share our neighborhood with some remarkable native cats. Here's what you might spot—and how you can help them thrive.

Bobcats: Your Most Likely Sighting

The bobcat is by far the most common wild cat residents encounter. More than twice the size of a housecat, bobcats have short "bobbed" tails, tufted ears, and spotted coats. They're adaptable and comfortable living near people, often seen trotting through yards at dawn or dusk, crossing roads, or resting in the shade of a scrub habitat. Sarasota's mix of preserves, greenways, and undeveloped lots gives bobcats plenty of room to hunt rabbits, rodents, and birds.

Florida Panthers: Rare but Possible

Florida panthers are far less common visitors, but not impossible to encounter. Sarasota County sits north of the panther's core breeding range, which is concentrated in more southern counties. Occasionally, young male panthers roam north searching for new territory, and a handful have been documented passing through our area. A sighting here is a special, rare event rather than a sign of an established population. There have been several credible sightings of panthers in Rivendell in the past couple of years.

How Can We Best Share Our Space With Florida's Native Cats?

Drive cautiously at dawn and dusk. Vehicle strikes are a leading

cause of death for both bobcats and panthers. Slowing down on rural roads, especially near wooded areas, saves lives.

Help keep habitats connected. Native cats need corridors of natural land to move safely between preserves. Support local land conservation efforts and avoid fragmenting wooded lots when possible.

Secure small pets. Keep domestic cats indoors and small dogs supervised outside, particularly overnight. This protects your pets and reduces conflicts that can lead to problems for wild cats.

Never feed wildlife. Feeding bobcats or leaving food sources like unsecured trash can cause animals to lose their natural wariness of people, which often ends badly for the animal.

Report sightings. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) tracks panther and bobcat sightings. Reporting what you see helps biologists understand how these animals are using our area.

Support local conservation groups (such as Big Waters Land Conservancy). Organizations working to protect wildlife corridors and greenways in Sarasota County rely on community support and volunteers.

With a little awareness, we can be good neighbors to the wild cats that call Sarasota County home.

FLORIDA PANTHER	BOBCAT
 LONG TAIL	 SHORT TAIL
Uniformly tan. Adults are not spotted. Tail is nearly the length of its body. Weight: 60-160 lbs Total length: 7-8 ft Body length: 4.5 ft Tail length: 3 ft Shoulder height: 2.25 ft	Reddish brown. Spots are evident, but variable. Tail much shorter than length of body. Weight: 20-30 lbs Total length: 3 ft Body length: 2.5 ft Tail length: 6 inches Shoulder height: 1.5 ft

Steinklinkers Find Their Fun Offsite,

By Marilyn and Jim May



Most of the Cottages social activities we report on take place ON the Circle, often at the Clubhouse. The Steinklinkers, however, have proudly expanded that tradition to the surrounding area with joy.

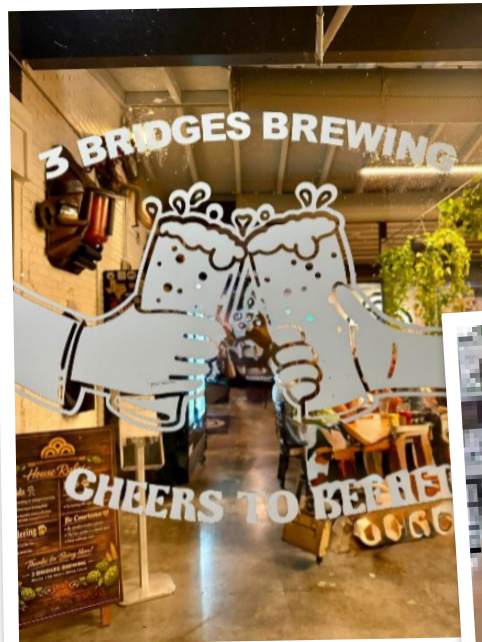
Steve Szirmai suggested the monthly meet ups and explains it this way: "When I lived in Seattle I belonged to a Rotary Club for many years. A tradition was started amongst the Rotarians to do a monthly

meet-up at a local brewery or brewpub. This group was called the Steinklinkers (i.e. Beer Steins, which we "klinked" in celebration of beer and good company). We rotated monthly to a new brewery or brewpub to sample them all."

Steve proposed starting a similar tradition in the MSC community. Like the original, he proposed meeting monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at a new brewery or brew pub in the local area. The intent was to rotate locations to attempt to sample as many local brews as possible. He extended his welcome to all Cottages residents. The first gathering this past April saw eleven thirsty neighbors meeting at Calusa Brewing in Sarasota.

In subsequent months the group revisited Calusa Brewing and also met at Three Bridges Brewing in Venice and Back Porch Brewing in North Venice. The number of neighbors attending has ranged from 8 to 13, but that number is expected to increase with the annual arrival of our snowbirds.

Thanks, Steve, for taking the initiative to try a new way to explore local breweries while promoting neighborhood camaraderie!



Steinklinkers continued



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Hurricanes – Are We Out Of The Woods Yet?

By Terry Siemsen, CERT

As I write this article, it's September 15th and we have yet to see a hurricane in the Atlantic Basin! Unusual?? Very and possibly record breaking since the current "satellite era" began about 1966.

So.....

Do we claim victory and assume we are safe from hurricanes for 2026?

Hold your horses! We have just passed the peak of hurricane season (September 10th) and there's still more days to watch and stay prepared. Late season hurricanes can be deadly and the Saharan Dust we have heard about is abating so the long-track Atlantic hurricanes are still possible. Even more of concern are the local storms that have their genesis in the Caribbean or the Gulf. True, the Super El Nino may inhibit the formation of hurricanes in the Caribbean but the Gulf (Recall Milton 2024??) is a serious hurricane breeding ground in the fall months. Gulf water temperatures are still very high and plenty of fuel for a late season storm.

Stay vigilant. Stay prepared. Extra water and non-perishable food need to be maintained. Auto gas tank half full means fill it back to full (and less sticker shock each fuel trip). Have a plan for getting your home ready if the winds start to blow. Nothing new – just a reminder that hurricane season can extend well into November!

SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	8	1	4	3	6	9	5	7
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ARC Meeting - August 25, 2026

Time/Place: 4:30pm Conference Call 605-313-5721 code 655 3857

Members Present: Don Roser, John Greco, Joe casale

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
1	1363 New Forest Lane	Sonya GRay	Repaint body of house and garage same as existing color. Sensational Sand - SW. Leaving front door and trim the same.		X		
2	1012 Oak Meadow Lane	Greg and Sue Walsh	New landscaping in front yard running from front entry walkway to north edge of home and to the sidewalk. Dragon Treee, Coonties, Mexican Bush Sage, Cape Lumbago, Beach Sunflower, Yellow Lantana, Hibiscus. Separate plan for north side of home from sidealk to rear of home to be submitted in the future and considered for compatilby with new plantings in front yard submitted in this request.		X		
3	659 Rivendell Blvd	Tom and Carol Scheidemantel	Leaving color of house body unchanged. Repainting hosue trim and garage door SW 6191 "Contented" and repainting front dfloor SW 6187 "Rosemary."		X		
4	656 Clear Creek Drive	Tammy Loss and David Detzel	Body of house and garage door Valspar Timber Dust (2007-10A). Trim and front door Valspar Ultra White (7006-24)		X		
5	803 Golden pond Ct	GReg O'Brien	New concrete tile roof. Crown - Sand Dollar (AWSSColl). Installation by South East Roofing Company.		X		
6	745 Placid Lake Drive	Michelle Roccia	Repaint house: Body - SW 7064 "Passive;" Trim - SW 7006 "Extra White;" Front Door and Garage Door - SW 6258 "Tricorn Black;"		X		

(Continued on Pg 11)

(August ARC Meeting continued)



ARC Meeting - August 25, 2026

Time/Place: 4:30pm Conference Call 605-313-5721 code 655 3857

Members Present: Don Roser, John Greco, Joe casale

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
7	1348 New Forest Lane	Robert Karaniewsky	Repaint house : Body SW 6108 - "Latte"; Trim SW 7537 - "Irish Cream;" Front Door SW 7537 - "Irish Cream;" Garage Door - SW6108 - "latte"		X		
8	835 Golden Pond Court	Kirk and Lorilyn Harding	Roof replacement - Crown roof tile - "American oak"		X		
9	823 Golden Point court	Paul Englert	Metal frame hurricane shutters on all windows including sliding doors. Permanent installation attached to structure. Shutters are accordion and/or rolldown activated electronically and will only be visible when closed. Colors of shutters and hardware match closely with body of house color or trim. HO selected factory colors that match as closely as possible.		X		
10							
11							
12							
13							
16							

(Continued on Pg 12)

(August ARC Meeting continued)

**ARC Meeting - August 25, 2026**

Time/Place: 4:30pm Conference Call 605-313-5721 code 655 3857

Members Present: Don Roser, John Greco, Joe casale

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
17							
18							
19							
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Specific Conditions Applicable to Conditional Approvals only (as noted above)

1. If your project is marked "Approved with Specific Conditions", the specific conditions are described above.
2. If there is any ambiguity regarding the specific conditions of approval, it is your responsibility to seek clarification before starting work.
3. If you need further information in order to comply with them, please let the ARC know (ARCRivendell@gmail.com) and it will do its best to be helpful.

General Conditions (applicable to all approvals)

(Continued on Pg 13)

(August ARC Meeting continued)

**ARC Meeting - August 25, 2026**

Time/Place: 4:30pm Conference Call 605-313-5721 code 655 3857

Members Present: Don Roser, John Greco, Joe casale

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
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1. Please complete the project within one year from the date above and in accordance with the general and specific conditions that apply.
2. If you use contractors, they should be licensed and insured; you are responsible for damage caused to the property of others or to the common areas.
3. You are responsible for any permits required and that the work complies with local zoning and building regulations.
4. When pressure washing is part of the scope of work, please use non-chlorine cleaners.
5. When windows are being replaced, those in the front of your house must have "grids" (aka muttins or grills).
6. When trees and bushes are to be removed, the stumps must be ground down to a min of 3" below grade.
7. The roof color & material and/or paint colors you submitted (and the only ones the ARC approved) are noted in the Description above.
8. You have read the RCA's Standing Rules and ARC Guidelines and will make sure the work done conforms with them.

Denials

If the ARC denied your request, the reasons are set forth under Comments.

Reviews, Appeals, Mediation, Litigation

If your proposal has been denied or you are unwilling to comply with the General or Specific Conditions of Approval, you should not start work until the matter is resolved. You may ask the ARC to review its decision based on any new information you can make available. You may also ask that the Board of Governors to review the ARC's decision (which it may or may not do) and/or avail yourself of the opportunity to have an independent third party mediate the dispute. You may also take such other legal action as is provided in Florida Statute 720.311. If the Board agrees to review the ARC's decision, it will ask you to state in writing in what ways the ARC's decision is unreasonable.

Covenant & Rules Enforcement; Fines

1. The ARC does not set, impose or waive fines.
2. If you failed to seek or obtain ARC approval before starting work, or proceeded with the work without complying with the conditions of approval, the ARC must recommend a fine to the Board once the failure comes to its attention, even if your project is subsequently approved and the work brought into compliance. The Board makes all decisions related to fines, subject to review and approval by the independent Fines Committee. You will be notified and have an opportunity to challenge the fine at a hearing with the Fines Committee at least 14 days before the fine is imposed.
3. If the work undertaken would not have been approved by the ARC or approved only with specific conditions, you may incur additional fines and be required to either restore the property or take other remedial action at your own expense to comply with the conditions. Aggrieved neighbors also can seek to have the covenants enforced against you if the RCA fails to do so on their behalf.
4. Please consult Florida Statutes 720.311 for the enforcement actions (and challenges to them) that are available.



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Military Life

By Cathy Daignault

I vividly remember how much I enjoyed many aspects of military life. When we first came to Pensacola for flight program life was difficult. I hadn't started teaching yet since we arrived in July so no income. I remember one week when I had \$2 to buy groceries for myself. Since Peter was in flight training, he was living on base and at least ate well. Lucky that I love baked potatoes- I lived on them that week. Then the day came when he was commissioned as an officer. I found out that when I drove on base I would get saluted. I drove in and out of different gates at least 5 times that day because even without Peter in the car I got saluted because of that little sticker on the car!!! Happy memories!



**Hurricane Season is
June 1st - November 30th**

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