



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

March 2010



New Board

From left to right: John Greco, Mark Adler, Bob Gililand, Mary Marryott and Tom Shola.

FOUR MEMBERS ELECTED FEB. 1ST by Carol Heckert

Four new Board of Directors were elected at the Annual Meeting. The new Board members are:

Mark Adler	President
John Greco	1 st Vice-President
Tom Shola	Secretary
Bob Gililand	Treasurer
Mary Marryott	2 nd Vice-President.

Adler, Gililand, and Greco were elected to two-year terms, Shola was elected to a one-year term, and Marryott's term expires in one year.

The rollover of over \$79,000 in RCA funds not spent in 2009 passed by a vote of 179 to 4.

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Adler Board Tackles Ambitious Agenda, Schedules Town Hall Meeting at Feb. 17 Meeting of New Board by Nancy Wettlaufer

Board President Mark Adler, returning after a two-year absence, welcomed fifty or more residents to the Feb. 17th meeting. It was the first full length Board meeting after a hotly contested February election. Directors John Greco, Bob Gililand and Tom Shola, also elected February 1st, were present as was Director Mary Marryott, the one continuing member.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mark Adler

Greetings from your new Rivendell Board President! Thank you for your support and vote of confidence.

The results from this past election were decisive and our mandate is clear. The manner in which our community is run will be changing: I am taking this opportunity to share those changes with all of you.

The Board of Directors will operate as it did during my previous time in office. As always, our Board will strictly follow Florida statute 720, which

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Palma Paint

Gulf Coast
Carpet Cleaning

Gary Air

New Board Sets Goals

by Mike Bergman

The new Board of Directors for 2010 has set some common & individual goals and aspirations for the coming year:

- A common thread among the directors is an openness of communications in both directions between the Board and the residents.
- There is a desire to restart our committees, establish chairpersons to lead them, and recruit volunteers to help run the community.
- They recognize the need for community input in landscape and environmental issues.
- There will be a willingness to be open and transparent through the sharing of our financials with the community.

Here are the goals and aspirations in the Directors' own words:

**Mark Adler, President
(Communications Committee liaison)**

"The first time I came onto the Board of Directors, we had just come off a recall and emotions were running high. Our primary objective at that time was to restore harmony and stability to the community, and to open the entire governance process to our members. As I come onto the Board for a second tour of duty the similarities between then and now are striking. Therefore, my immediate objectives are much the same as last time. I want to restore harmony and stability to the community, and open the entire governance process to our members. I will run Board meetings as I did previously, including full interaction with the community. I will reinstate town hall meetings so our members have access to Board members in less formal settings, and in turn, the Board will have additional means of community input."

John Greco, First Vice President (ARC liaison)

"Here are my goals for my tenure on the Board.

- Complete transparency regarding the Board's deliberations and decisions.
- Improved communication to homeowners about Board actions under consideration.
- More pro-active solicitation of input and participation from homeowners on issues before the Board.
- ARC makeup formalized regarding the number of members, how they are selected, and length of term of office, openly recruit qualified ARC members from the community."

**Bob Gilliland,
Treasurer (Landscape Committee Liaison)**

"I would like to thank everyone in Rivendell for their support and trust. As Rivendell's new Treasurer for the next 2 years, I will be reviewing each and every line item on our financial statements to ensure that your money is spent wisely and within the budget you approved in December. I will ensure that every expense paid is categorized correctly so that the Income Statement accurately reflects Rivendell's financial picture. In conjunction with Lighthouse, we will make the monthly Balance Sheet and Income Statement available to residents on the website. This will be just another step in improving the lines of communication within the community. The Board will be discussing the best use of the rollover funds in 2010, as required by the IRS.

As the new Landscape liaison, I, as well as the rest of the Board, will conduct Town Hall meetings specifically to address the landscape issues within the community. We will take an inventory of the cold-damaged plants and set a plan in motion to mitigate and repair them.

We want to get the committees re-started and get residents involved again in the operation of this community. The Board needs resident involvement to know what the community wants and to help implement these projects. I want to encourage all residents to take ownership of the community by becoming involved. Let's make Rivendell a place we can all be proud of."

Tom Shola, Secretary

Anyone who has taken a walk around our community can appreciate the uniqueness of Rivendell; from its tree-lined streets to its warm and friendly people, it is easy to believe that Rivendell is an oasis, a paradise. It is important to realize that to achieve and maintain this feeling requires the work of many and not just a few. In that regard, I would encourage all our residents to participate in this vision with whatever time and capacity they can. Volunteering in our neighborhood projects and committees does benefit the community and can lead to meeting new fellow residents.

As some of our residents already know, I like walking our streets and thinking about how we can use some technology to solve some of our community's issues. Some of these issues are how can we use solar to do useful work like watering our common areas that otherwise would be dry and flowerless, as well as solar aeration of our lakes to improve water quality for both fauna and flora without using chemicals. Another issue that comes to mind is what we can do to prepare for either man-made or natural disasters. As a community we have many issues and we will need your help and input in solving them.

The challenge that I see is to encourage the flow and exchange of ideas. These ideas should have an end goal of positive actions which are both sustainable and carry ever improving benefits to all of our residents."

Mary Marryott, Second Vice-President

Mary Marryott is a returning board member; she did not provide comments for this article. ■

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The outgoing treasurer, Dave Gill, made the end-of-year Treasurer's Report. He reported that:

- 2009 budget was \$325,620
- 2009 expenditures were \$323,586
- Total legal fees in 2009 were \$39,000, with approximately \$12,000 of that spent for collections and other normal legal expenditures
- 2010 budget is \$311,815
- Total RCA assets are \$317,688
- Approximately \$20,278 is owed by homeowners for assessments, fines and interest payments

Homeowner comments included:

- A thank you to the outgoing Board,
- A suggestion that the new Board hire a mediator as recommended in a Letter to *The Woodlands Word*,
- A request to include a profile section in the Community Directory to list people's special interests,
- A plea to trim back the overgrown plants along the shoreline of Eagle Lake,
- An observation that the robins are here.

Lakes and Grounds

Russ Hoffman, Rivendell Lakes Manager, announced that he had brought environmental brochures and calendars to the meeting for homeowners. He also fielded questions while the vote was being counted. The questions and answers touched on a variety of subjects:

- Alligators: Usually not dangerous unless they have been fed by humans.
- Bobcats: Beneficial to the balance of community wildlife, bobcats have been seen in the community. There are no panthers in the area.
- Purpose of storm water ponds:
 - All of our ponds flow into the bay. Their purpose is to control floods and to prevent nutrients from entering the bay by means of littoral zone plants that act as filters.
 - Research has proven this system insufficient, thereby causing the County to advocate for no fertilizer or cut grass next to the lakes. Regulations concerning shorelines are loose, however, compared with regulations governing areas backing up to preserves.
 - Having plants surrounding the lakes makes the lakes healthier.
- Appearance of the lakes:
 - Russ wants input from homeowners about what they want the shorelines to look like. An informal vote was taken, with more than half those raising their hands preferring a natural look.

The challenge will be to make the lakes both healthy and attractive.

- Russ is in the process of replacing some unattractive grasses in the right-hand littoral zone (as you enter Rivendell) with pickerel weed, which has dark leaves and pretty purple flowers.
- Dave Gill suggested 3 different policies for shorelines that back up to 1) preserves, 2) backyards, and 3) streets
- The 2010 budget includes funding for an engineering study on the timeframe and cost of dredging. ■

NEXT RIVENDELL BOARD MEETING

MARCH 10, 2010 AT 6 PM

BENTLEY'S

(formerly known as The Osprey Inn)

TOWN HALL MEETING

MARCH 31, 2010

BENTLEY'S

(formerly known as The Osprey Inn)

Message from Pine View Student

Please remember to vote March 16 to continue funding Sarasota County Schools. Rivendell residents with school-age children need to be aware that this is an important referendum for education in Florida.

*Thank you,
Olivia Letts
Pine View School
Advisory Council Committee*

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covers homeowner associations. The statute says a Board meeting occurs whenever a quorum of the Board gathers to discuss community business, and all Board meetings (with the exception of confidential meetings with counsel) must be pre-announced and open to members. The statute also declares ARC to be subject to these very same rules. This doesn't prohibit Board members from attending a social event together, only from discussing community business as a group while there.

As they were during my previous term, Board meetings will be interactive affairs. Except for those times the Board is actively voting on a motion, community input will always be accepted, including input with opposing views. However, please do not confuse opposing input with disruptive behavior. Opposing input will always be acceptable and disruptive behavior will not.

Board decisions will be voted upon at official Board meetings. While e-mails between Board members are perfectly legal, the line is drawn at *polling for votes* via e-mail and this Board will follow that rule to the letter. It is absolutely illegal to come to a Board meeting with a *canned vote* that is then "ratified" in front of everybody. This won't occur while I am the president.

We will be reinstating our Town Hall meetings. They seemed to work well in the past and were an unbeatable source of community sentiment. If you'll recall, our previous town halls came in many sizes: from 10 or 15 people all the way to a hundred or more. We plan to have a large one as soon as possible. You will be notified when it is scheduled.

We plan to rebuild our Architectural Review Committee (ARC) using rules of operation that make sense. Members of the ARC will all be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Deed restrictions are the never-ending story around here, aren't they? A huge difference of opinion seems to exist around the concept of using reason when applying our deed restrictions. One school of thought says reason is required and the other contends no reason is necessary since it is all there in black and white. Which is it? Sarasota just suffered a series of frosts and freezes. Many of our lawns, plants and trees were damaged. At first glance, they seem dead. Experts, however, tell us that it may take a month or two for plant life to regenerate and they should be left alone during that period. Our deed restrictions don't mention frost and freeze damage.

Basically, "green is good" and "brown is bad." Shall we have letters sent to everyone with freeze damage? Or do we wait an appropriate period of time to see what the real damage is and then "encourage" corrective action where regeneration did not occur? In some instances, reason must be employed in the enforcement of deed restrictions.

Where have all our volunteers gone? Rivendell always depended on its army of volunteers to operate efficiently. A sense of community, which many of us desire, came about from volunteer activity. We saved money by having volunteers. Our service providers were held to an acceptable standard of performance when we had volunteers monitoring their activities. For whatever reason, the last year or two saw a vast diminishing of participation by all those volunteers. Your new Board of Directors is calling out to all its volunteers to come back. We need you. Let's replenish our committees – communications, landscaping, environmental, ARC, to what they once were. Let's bring a sense of community back to Rivendell. ■

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED A PAPER ROUTE?

**If your answer is yes,
then respond to this opportunity to
volunteer before someone else does!**

***The Woodlands Word* needs a volunteer to deliver the monthly newsletter. The newsletters will be delivered to your home and it takes about 5 hours to distribute them throughout the Rivendell neighborhood. If you can't do it every month, then let's find a buddy to share the joy.**

**If you are interested, please email
pbbabbitt@comcast.net
and label your message "newsletter delivery."**

continued from page 1 "Feb. 17 Meeting of New Board"

Emphasizing the need for "sunlight," and characterizing this meeting as "part State of the Union, part Town Hall," President Adler welcomed comments at any time. As concerns from the audience bubbled up nonstop for three hours, he assured them "I am listening to all of you. I am somebody who will dig into this, listen to everybody and figure out what is going on."

Former Board Member Dave Gill encouraged those assembled to volunteer for a committee. He also agreed to work with Director Marryott to resolve transitional problems with the community website.

Lakes Manager Russ Hoffman addressed our Wetlands Buffers citation by Sarasota County, a problem created by some homeowners' illegally removing trees behind their homes. In response to a request for a Restoration Plan from the County, Hoffman has ordered a survey, expected to be completed in the next 5-7 days, which will show how many trees we will be responsible for replanting. Rivendell HOA is to appear before a Sarasota Special Magistrate on April 9th with a completed plan.

The following motions were approved after much discussion:

- Keep Landscaping and Environmental two separate committees;
- Table a fence application until the next meeting, pending review;
- Get an estimate for advice by an outside attorney to finalize the mediated agreement with 638 Rivendell Blvd.
- Adopt new ARC guidelines, setting membership at 5; to include one voting Board member, plus two members appointed to two-year terms and two appointed for one year. (The ongoing ARC appointment process includes: Community-wide solicitation for applications, bios and a personal statement (by February 26th); review of credentials, interviews of potential members, and ultimately, appointment by the Board.)
- Allow the Board to act as the ARC until the next Board meeting, in order to process current applications;
- Establish a Procurement Committee to request engineering proposals in order to budget for future lake dredging requirements;

Before adjourning the meeting, the Board scheduled a Town Hall Meeting for March 24th to determine community sentiment on two issues:

- How do we want our community to look?
- How do we want to enforce our deed restrictions?

A large meeting place will be announced
The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 10th at 6:00 pm at The Osprey Inn. ■

Rivendell Directory Slated for April 2010 Publication

**Sundown Publishing will be producing the
Rivendell Directory for 2010.**

**If you wish to advertise, please call
Craig Tirgrath at 941-485-8800.
Rivendell residents will be given priority
for ads submitted.**

***Please contact Barb Gahry if you would like to
change or remove your phone number or email
address, or if you would like to make any
other changes to the Directory.***

**Barb Gahry can be reached at
941-586-3936
or bgahry@aol.com**

SPECIAL NOTE TO NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS:

***The Directory welcomes high quality, high
resolution photos (minimum 780 DPI)
of natural scenes in Rivendell.
Photos will be accepted
until the middle of March.***

Submit your photos to bgahry@aol.com.

TIPS ON LANDSCAPE CARE:

Emerging from the Cold

By Charles Kiblinger, Master Gardener

By the middle of March we can stop worrying about frost. The latest recorded frost for Sarasota is March 4. Generally speaking, the University horticulturalists recommend pruning and fertilizing the third or fourth week of February since by then the new shoots will not be vulnerable to freeze.

This past winter brought one of the longest cold spells on record. There are two types of freezes or frost: **radiational** and **advective**. The first occurs on those clear cold nights with little or no wind when the heat in and around the plant radiates out, lowering the plant temperature in concert with a dehydrating effect. The second comes with wind and a penetrating damp cold that is often visible in frost on the plants in the morning. This winter we had both, with an advective freeze lasting longer than usual. When these freezes happen there are several things you can do:

- Water your plants the evening before an anticipated freeze.
- Don't let your sprinkler come on the night or morning of the freeze.
- Cover plants when practical but remove the cover when the sun is up.
- Always have a 2-3" layer of mulch to keep the heat in the soil.

Unfortunately covering plants does not always work. If the cover touches the plants, especially in an advective freeze, then the plant may still get burned. A cover that is kept above the plants but shuts out the air is best. Or you can put a light under the cover -- that alone will prevent freezing.

So now winter is gone and a lot of plants have succumbed to the freeze all over Rivendell. So what do you do now?

- Nothing – at least, until the third week of February, no matter how ugly it looks. Cutting plants back before then only risks worse damage by exposing fresh new shoots to another frost.
- In the third week of February, if there is no prediction of a freeze in the 10-day forecast, inspect your plants.

- Some will only show dead leaves or branches around the edges. Just prune off the dead matter back to a node or another branch. Fertilize and water as needed.
- Some will look dead all the way to the ground. But are they? Before deciding, take a branch or two and peel the bark back. If there is green showing, then it is worth pruning the plant back and waiting to see if you get new growth. If it is a plant that is recommended for zone 8 and or 9 (check on the University web site: ifas.ufl.edu) such as a firebush, even if it looks dead you can cut it back and it will regenerate. Firebush looks even better when it revives within a few weeks. The same can be said for Crinum Lilies for example.
- If it is a zone 10 or 11 plant, such as Ixora or Alamanda, and no green is exposed when a branch is cut open, it may have to be replaced.

So what should you do when you replace plants that were killed by the frost? Isn't there something you can plant that would be more frost resistant? Yes, there are plants for zone 9 but often the colorful plants we like are zone 10 Sarasotans have been using these plants for years; they just accept that they will have to replace them after the occasional freeze. If, however, you lose a palm or other kind of tree, you would be wise to replace it with a tree rated for zone 9.

Before replacing a palm be sure it is gone. The way you know a palm is gone is that there is no new green growth coming from the top center of the plant (the apical meristem). If you see a *green*, spear-shaped growth coming out of the top, it is good news. Wait until the chance of another frost is past, cut off the dead fronds and see if the palm revives. If the spear is brown the tree is probably dead. If it is a large and expensive palm it is probably worth having a Certified Arborist look at it before having it removed.

Here are some favorite shrubs in our area with the cold hardiness zones listed. If it is a zone 10 or 11 plant, it will be vulnerable during a cold snap.

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ON MY MIND by Russ Hoffman

What makes Rivendell special?

Rivendell includes 500 homes spread between 14 wetlands, 23 lakes and ponds, and two eagle nest areas. Rivendell covers 400 acres or 5/8 of a square mile. This works out to 0.8 acres (35,000 SF) per home. We enjoy:

- 65 acres of lakes and ponds
- 91 acres of wetlands
- 7 acres of federally protected eagle nest zones
- 6 acres of lake easements

The levy or 'land bridge' alone is 860 feet long --- almost an acre of land. Rivendell has 11,300 feet of shoreline (not including wetlands). That's over two miles.

The buffer area to Oscar Scherer State Park is 7,800 feet long and includes 5.4 acres.

Our lakes and ponds are home to about 13 tons of fish. Hopefully those fish will be eating lots of midge larvae.

We provide homes to eagles, endangered Sandhill cranes, and over 40 other bird species. The most irritating bird is probably Chuck Will's Widow who seems to call over and over and over all night during the spring. We have always assumed that he is calling for a mate, but is so out of tune that no female ever returns his song. So our Chuck Will's Widow is an out of tune, frustrated (but persistent) bachelor.

Would you believe our community has 34,000 feet (over 6 miles) of roadways?

A critical measure of environmental health is the ratio of pervious vs. impervious area. Our impervious area includes our streets, sidewalks, parking lots, drive ways and homes. Even with all our paved areas, our impervious area is about 26% of Rivendell. This is an excellent ratio.

We have several parks and common areas. Our nature trail is 1,500 feet long and covers four acres.

We have acres and acres to plant native wildflowers, trees and other plants. We have acres to create and restore habitat for endangered species of butterflies and birds. We enjoy seeing and protecting American bald eagles and Sandhill cranes.

So what makes Rivendell special?

It's the people who value living in harmony with nature and enjoying her beauty every day.

Eagles

Our eagles are nesting in their "old" site again. As of February 2nd, I've seen the adult eagle on the nest multiple times, but I still haven't seen any babies. The adult is behaving like there is a baby in the nest. More information later.

Lake algae

Now that the water temperature is finally lower, algae growth has slowed. However we want to be sure that we keep nitrogen (fertilizer) out of the water. Let's prevent problems this spring and summer by keeping fertilizer five feet from any paved surface and 20 feet from any lake.

Florida friendly yards

We are working on correcting any problems with the existing six yards. Then we will look at the research budget to see if we can start the next six yards this summer. I should have more information in a couple of months. ■

Rivendell Lakes Management

Please contact Russ Hoffman,
Rivendell Lakes Manager,

if you have questions about:

- Rivendell lakes or shorelines,
- Florida Friendly Yards project, or
- FireWise Community practices.

Email: russ@beautifulponds.com

Phone: 488-1942

NATURE'S NOTEBOOK By Debbie McMurry



Woodstorks and nesting Sandhill Crane in Rivendell

Today Mac and I took one of our long walks through Rivendell. First we noticed a sandhill crane nesting in the littoral section of Lake Rivendell, almost hidden from view. In a few weeks those cute little chicks will be waddling behind their parents. Did you know that:

Sandhill cranes nest during late winter and spring on mats of vegetation about two feet in diameter and in shallow water. Two eggs are normally laid. Cranes are monogamous breeders. Within 24 hours of hatching, the young are capable of following their parents away from the nest. Together, they forage for seeds and roots, crop plants such as corn and peanuts, insects, snakes, frogs and occasionally young birds or small mammals. (<http://myfwc.com/>.) As Mac and I continued our walk, a smaller flock of the **swallows** Russ and Carol wrote about last month were doing their dance. I hope most of you have been able to watch them.

The **wood stork** also calls the front lake home; such a beautiful bird, large and white with black flight feathers, distinctive because of its dark, featherless head.

Did you know:

- The wood stork is the largest wading bird native to America with a wingspan of 5 1/2 feet.
- They forage in drying wetlands, which concentrate prey.

- It is estimated that the average stork family requires 443 pounds of fish during the breeding season.
- To set up a nest, they actually require flooded, woody vegetation, Two to five eggs usually hatch after 30 days, and nestlings are ready to fly in nine weeks.
- If food is scarce due to droughts or wetland drainage, and the site dries up, hatchling wood storks will not survive and the adults will abandon nesting.
- Because of declines in breeding populations, the wood stork was listed as an endangered species in 1984. [Info from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation]

The weather a few weeks ago was so cold I worried for the poor animals in the park. But last week we saw a large deer crossing the land bridge. Yeah! Creatures who didn't survive were the manatees in our waterways. I read that over 100 had been killed thru mid January. There were just over 50 killed in the entire year of 2009. The Everglades had severe cold weather also; the Burmese Python didn't do too well. But then, the state was trying to eradicate them.

I hope you enjoy the pictures. Please check them out on our web site where they are in color. ■

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Woodlands Word Residents,

The two competent, faithful **Woodlands Word** co-editors, Nancy Wettlaufer and Linda Pearlstein, submitted their resignations after more than 5 years of providing interesting articles and information-dense issues of *The Woodlands Word*. I have volunteered to help keep the newsletter going; however, after seeing how much work and effort Linda and Nancy have devoted to the newsletter, I am really in awe. I do believe, however, that with the continued help from all of the great columnists, contributors, photographers, and community members who have made the newsletter a success, we will continue to provide timely and useful information to our residents.

Since I will be the editor of *The Woodlands Word*, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Pam Babbitt and I live on Fordingbridge Way with my husband, Brian. We purchased our home in December 2001 when it was just a sandlot. After the house was built, we "vacationed" here until we both could retire from our careers in Missouri. We became permanent residents in May of 2004 - just in time for Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jean. I have worked in public education for over 35 years in several capacities: special education teacher, gifted high school education, elementary principal, and district curriculum and assessment coordinator. During our first year in Osprey, I taught full time at Riverview High School, and I continue part time work during state and national assessments. Brian and I also served as evaluators for a federally funded grant.

We love Florida, especially Rivendell and our neighbors. We think we are so lucky to live in such a wonderful community and environment. We enjoy the water, boating, walking, swimming, and traveling. I've been attending the Rivendell Book Club since 2005 - great group and good books.

Best regards,

Pam Babbitt

pbbabbitt@comcast.net

DID YOU KNOW?

CHANGE OF BANK -- Last summer Lighthouse Management changed Rivendell's bank account from *First America Bank* to *LandMark Bank*. This change was necessary because *First America* was no longer doing business with area homeowners associations. Lighthouse interviewed several banks and chose *LandMark Bank*. Lighthouse switched 14 communities over to *LandMark*.

If you had an automatic draft with *1st America Bank* to pay your association dues, you will need to contact *LandMark Bank* and reestablish your draft or to get other electronic banking information.

Rivendell's contact at LandMark is Linda Braithwaite at 954-5100.

If you have any other questions, you may call Lighthouse Management. Lighthouse, as well as *Landmark Bank*, will be sending letters of apology to all affected residents for any problems or inconvenience this may have caused them.

FLORIDA SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER LAW -- As you approach emergency vehicles you are required by law to move out of the lane closest to the emergency vehicle and slow down. The law was created because there are a lot of accidents and injuries on the side of Florida highways and roads.

The Move Over Law is designed to protect Florida police, fire, and other emergency workers when they are on roads and highways. As you approach emergency vehicles you must move out of the lane closest to them if the road has two or more lanes traveling in your direction. Not only must you move over but you must also slow down. **The law states that you must slow down 20 MPH less than the posted speed limit.** So if you are on the Florida Turnpike and the speed limit is 70 MPH you must slow down to 50 MPH as you approach and pass emergency vehicles. If you don't move over the penalty is about \$120 (depending on the Florida county) and 3 points on your driver's license.

Osprey Revitalization Committee by Peter Wilson

The Osprey Revitalization Committee was formed in 1999 by Sarasota County as part of the long range plan for Osprey, and was made up of 8 Osprey residents appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). It was planned to be a conduit for residents to express ideas and comments to the Commissioners about the redevelopment of Osprey and was planned to "sunset" in Dec, 2009, after 10 years. I have attended monthly meetings since 2003 and was appointed a Committee member in 2007.

We provided input on projects such as Wal-Mart store design, widening US 41 through Osprey, Bay St Village design, bus stops, closing medians on Bay Street and US 41, and the Waterfront Revitalization Project for the 14 acres west of US 41 and south of Bay Street. The latter was the single project we were charged with by the BCC for the past year, and the most time-consuming, as new development plans were proposed and shown at public meetings and charettes, then rejected by the ORC, then proposed again by different architects. ►

The Waterfront Revitalization Project is still not finalized. The ORC and many others in Osprey insisted that any development there must include public access to the waterfront in perpetuity, so if the present owners sell, public access would still be required from new owners. The present owners (approx. 10) have agreed in principle to sell to Dr. Patel who owns the Spanish Point Pub & Marina; the Marina needs a rezone from the County to Planned Mixed use Infill, a new infill zone by the County, so he can develop a hotel, offices and dwellings. Both the County Planning Commission and the BCC have agreed to the rezone, (despite the ORC voting against it), subject to receiving legal papers from owners that shows they accept the public access requirement. When the ORC was "sunsetting," these assurances had not been received and accepted by the County Attorneys Office, so it is now up to the County to finalize the rezone.

It has been most interesting to see how local Government works with residents, strictly within the Florida Sunshine Laws. ■

Rivendell dogs of all sizes who like to walk - even when it is cold outside! by Meredith Pike



Lola a seven year poodle, resides on Shadow Bay Way promenades around multiple times a day.



Princess Penelope, a schnauzer who lives on Mallard Marsh walks her owner about two miles



each day. Ten year old Quirky, the Yorkie is a newcomer to Rivendell just recently having moved onto Shadow



Bay Way. Ruby, a six year old labrador, lives on Anna Hope and has other canine company with him on his walks. ■

Rivendell Resident Volunteers at Spanish Point by Meredith Pike

Almost at the foot of our community is Historic Spanish Point. It is a living history museum covering 5,000 years of local Florida history. You can view prehistory, the pioneer period and the Bertha Palmer era with plants and period furnishings combined. Interspersed in the educational component of this museum, you will find numerous Rivendell residents who volunteer there.

Curtis Hood, of Craine Prairie Way, volunteers his time there. For the past year, he has worn several hats while volunteering at Spanish Point. He began by greeting guests at the entrance cottage. Over time, his carpentry skills came in handy in maintaining the historic boats that John Green Webb put in the river circa 1867 in order to transport their produce to ports north and south along the Florida coastline. Curtis also is a docent; one of his favorite duties is driving the 8-passenger tram as he explains 5,000 years of history over the 30-acre museum property.

When asked why he decided to volunteer he quipped, "You can only golf, read or do crossword puzzles so long." After talking with Curtis for a while I quickly realized that he was no stranger to volunteering. He served as a member of the first Villas Board, was on the first Response Committee and, when living in Michigan as Dr. Curtis Hood DMD, he was part of American Partners in Dentistry that provided dental health care to Mayan Indians in Central America. He became interested in volunteering at Historic Spanish Point at a friend's dinner party while sitting next to someone who volunteered there. The appeal of some history and how that intertwined with the concept of humanity intrigued Curtis Hood to the benefit of Historic Spanish Point and its visitors.

Where do you volunteer?

Please let us know how you like to spend your time!

The Woodlands Word would like to feature articles about Rivendell Residents and where they contribute their talents and expertise (i.e. museum docent, tour guide, hospital volunteer, tutoring, Selby Gardens, etc.).

Please send an email to merpike@mac.com or pbbabbitt@comcast.net labeled "Volunteer Interests."

FREE LEGAL SEMINAR

by Elder Law Attorney

Saturday, March 20, 2010, 10 a.m.

The Cottages Clubhouse

Limit 40 attendees

Please RSVP to liammarilaw@verizon.net

Susan Gregory Liammari, Esq. Tel: 923-7200, specializes in senior and family estate planning.

None of us plan to be in a medical calamity or to be in an impaired state unable to communicate our own wishes. **Did you know** that only a *Durable* Power of Attorney is valid once a person becomes incapacitated? A general Power of Attorney is not enough and terminates upon the grantor's death.

Did you know that Medicare and Medicaid benefits are *not* welfare programs? U.S. citizens of *all* income levels are entitled to these benefits? You should plan to legally structure your assets to qualify for Medicaid before exhausting your life savings unnecessarily. Florida's Long-Term Care Insurance Partnership Program assures asset protection for a solid estate plan.

Please Note: The Rivendell Homeowners' Association and the Rivendell Board of Directors are not endorsing this event.

CLASSIFIED ADS

GARAGE SALE to be held SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH, 9AM TO 1PM at **1084 Mallard Marsh Drive**. Home decorating accessories, bikes, electronics, books and more.

WANTED – Rivendell gentlemen with interest in a friendly subdivision card game. Call Charles Gayre at 320-8240 or email me at charles@Gayre.us and I will coordinate setting up the game.

COMPUTER SERVICES -- Do you need help with your computer? Problems you don't know how to fix? Or do you want to learn new skills? Then contact me, Michael Adler. I have been using computers my whole life, and have years of experience helping people. I have been working on the tech support team at Pine View for the last 2 years. I can make using your computer easy and headache-free. I have low rates, and am available every day of the week. I also work with cell phones, printers, cameras, etc. I live right here in Rivendell, on Shadow Bay Way. Cell: (941) 400-2455.

Email: Michael@adlermail.com

CONDOLENCES

Mary Ann Weldon of 828 Placid Lake Drive, formerly of New Hope, PA, died January 23, 2010. Mary Ann lived in Rivendell for almost eight years since her retirement from the telecom industry. She was a good neighbor and a very caring person. She leaves her daughter, Danielle, of Sarasota, and a son, Edward, of Bethesda, MD, along with a sister and brother in PA. The community of Rivendell extends its condolences to Mary Ann's family and friends.

Regina Bloom

SERVICE PROVIDER

RECOMMENDATION

Housecleaning: I highly recommend Jacek and Barbara Jarzecki. They have been cleaning our house for many years and have many other clients in Rivendell. They do a very good job, and are reliable, honest, and pleasant. In addition, because there are two of them, the job is done in half the time. Call them at 366-6552. *Cindy Schmidl*

KUDOS

Many thanks to **Donna Scully** for organizing her children and friends to deliver the *Woodlands Word* to Rivendell homes for more than 6 months. When the Osprey Observer canceled their contract with us, we had no place to turn for delivery -- we truly appreciate their service to the community.

Gratitude to the many **Block Captains** and **Volunteers** who helped distribute the February 2010 issue of *The Woodlands Word*. They worked on extremely short notice -- literally over night -- due to the unusually late delivery of the newsletter from our publisher.

Grateful thanks to **Ed Lin** and **Jeannette Munger** for initiating and organizing, respectively, the Feb. 13th H1N1 Vaccine Clinic held at The Cottages Clubhouse. Their efforts brought two Sarasota County nurses to our community, with the result that about 30 residents received free vaccines. We appreciate the hard work they both contributed in the interest of the community's health and wellbeing.

BOOK GROUP SCHEDULE

by **Marilyn Probert**

The Book Group meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. All Rivendell residents are welcome; just call the month's hostess if you'd like to attend any of the meetings. Here's what's in store for the next three months:

"In Sunlight, in a Beautiful Garden" by Kathleen Cambor will be the subject at the March 8th meeting. This novel describes the impact of the Johnstown Flood on the lives of those living nearby. It also draws a striking portrait of life in the late 19th century. Linda Pearlstein will lead the discussion at the home of Roz Bergman at 669 Rivendell Blvd. Please call Roz at 966-1489 if you'd like to attend.

On April 12th "American Wife" by Curtis Sittenfeld will be the topic. This is a novel inspired by the life of Laura Bush. Although the protagonists have dissimilar names and they live in Wisconsin, the parallels are obvious. However, the author wants us to remember that this is a book of fiction. When Charlie (as in Good Time Charlie) Blackwell meets Alice Lindgren she is a registered Democrat who disagrees with many of Charlie's political views. Because she fears hurting him politically, Alice struggles with the necessity of keeping her beliefs to herself throughout the early years of their marriage and especially during the White House years. Dori Davis will be discussion leader at Pam Babbitt's home at 743 Fordingbridge Way; Pam's phone number is 918-8781.

The selection for May is "Sarah's Key," a highly recommended novel by Tatiana de Rosnay, which describes the roundup and "relocation" of Jews living in Paris in 1942.

Lighthouse Property Management

Lighthouse Property Management
16 Church St.
Osprey, FL 34229

Phone: (941) 966-6844
Fax: (941) 966-7158

Office Hours: M-F 9 am – 4 pm
24 hour Telephone Coverage

Website: www.lhmrealty.com

Owner: Lloyd Keith

Rivendell's Property Manager:
Kyanne Merrill (kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv)

Rivendell's Assistant Property Manager:
Hope Korte (hopekorte@mgmt.tv)

Mills Brothers Coming to Sarasota by Mike Bergman

The **Magnificent Mills Brothers** are coming to Sarasota from **March 17 through April 4**. They will be performing some of their famous recordings that you may remember from the 1940's, 50's and 60's. Of course the original members are gone, but they are reincarnated by the fabulous singers that make up the West Coast Black Theatre Troup. Local actor, singer, director, and playwright, Nate Jacobs, founded the **WBTT** 10 years ago. It is considered the premier black theatre troupe in Florida.

The original Mills Brothers, **John, Jr.**, basso and guitarist, **Herbert**, tenor, **Harry**, baritone, and **Donald**, lead tenor, were actual brothers who got their start in Piqua, Ohio in the late 1920's. They were discovered by Duke Ellington, and then signed to a radio contract in 1930. During their 60-year career they produced over 2000 recordings with about three dozen becoming gold records. When John, Jr. died in 1936, the group's father, John, Sr. took over as the baritone. The group performed with Bing Crosby, Cab Calloway, Jack Benny, Perry Como, Dean Martin, and were frequent guests on the Tonight Show. Their wonderful harmonies and instrument impersonations garnered them such great hits as *Lazy River*, *Bye-Bye Blackbird*, *Lazy Bones*, *Caravan*, *South of the Border*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Their biggest hit was *Paper Doll*, which they recorded in 15 minutes and sold over 6 million copies.

The West Coast Black Theatre Troupe considers their mission to be the stewards of the history, culture, and experiences of the Afro-American community. This show is their expression of the legacy of the Mills Brothers and their contributions to the American and international music scene. The Mills Brothers were the most famous crossover act to bring the black music experience mainstream. Many of their hits predated Motown by decades.

Last season, our guests joined us for a Motown performance that was so incredibly fun and high-spirited that folks were dancing in the aisles. I would consider it the best musical show in Sarasota that we've seen. The venue is located at **707 North Tamiami Trail** in Sarasota, 34236, near the Van Wezel PAC. Box office is 941-365-2494 on Monday – Friday from noon-4PM, or at wbttroupe.org. It is an intimate setting (180-seat venue), so there is great seating for all. Don't miss this show -- these guys can really sing. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes of Jan. 4, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present: Mary Marryott, Dave Gill, and Jim Stepien were present.

Minutes from previous meeting were unanimously approved as read: David Gill makes motion, Jim Stepien seconds.

FINANCIAL Committee: David Gill reported that we were on the plus side for the year. Expenses exceeded monthly projections because of financial audit as well as legal costs pertaining to an Owner's law suit against the RCA.

ARC report given by Elizabeth Straw: Changes in fence guidelines given to Board in reference to allowing metal fencing. Changes made necessary due to mediation with a Homeowner allowing them to have black iron fencing on property line.

Ken Heckert of 808 Placid Lake raised a question about a conditional ARC approval for a fence at 806 Foothill Court that was being presented to the Board. The fence was approved to be 6" from the common property line. Mr. Heckert wanted to know how landscaping was going to be accomplished within those 6" without going onto his property. The Board deferred the issue to the new Board.

COMMUNICATION Committee: Woodland Word has six month extension on contract. Pam Babbitt is new editor for WWord.

ENVIRONMENTAL Committee: Russ Hoffman reported that the pepper and Melaleuca in preserves and common area were being addressed. The County meeting with Andrea is ongoing.

Jim Stepien discussed the hiring of SunState to replace West Bay as our Landscape Company.

OLD BUSINESS

RCA Attorney Dan Lobeck's letter to the Community was distributed at the meeting. It explained the aftermath of the mediation with the Jurczyks. Mary Marryott stated that the terms call for the Jurczyks to install the black wrought iron fence before January 31, 2010 per the Mediation Agreement. Several residents had questions regarding the eligibility for the black fence and the agreement to have only one (1) side black and leave the remaining other sides white vinyl. ►

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Gill explained the moving of the entrance signage as well as the lighting.

Dave Gill explained the reduction of dues for the 2010 year.

Dave Gill explained the survey of the back yards in relation to the preserve areas as the County requested. This project is not finished.

The eagles have returned to Placid Lake. The fence remains locked.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm

SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes for Feb. 1, 2010

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Board was scheduled to immediately follow the Membership meeting, at Osprey Inn located at 1660 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Notice of the meeting was sent to each Director and posted on the property prior to the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association and the requirements of the Florida Statutes.

The following Directors were present:

Mark Adler

A quorum was declared to be present.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Gililland, and it was voted:

VOTED 10-01: To motion, Mark Adler be elected as President, and it was voted 4-1. Ms. Marryott was opposed. Motion passed.

Upon a motion was made by Mr. Adler, and duly seconded by Mr. Gililland, and it was:

VOTED 10-02: To motion, John Greco be elected as Vice President and was voted 4-1. Ms. Marryott was opposed. Motion passed.

Upon a motion was made by Mr. Adler, and duly seconded by Mr. Greco, and it was unanimously:

VOTED 10-03: To motion, Bob Gililland be elected as Treasurer and was voted unanimously. Motion passed.

Upon a motion was made by Mr. Adler, and duly seconded by Mr. Greco, and it was unanimously:

VOTED 10-04: To motion, Mr. Shola be elected as Secretary. Motion passed.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Greco and it was:

VOTED 10-05: To motion, Ms. Marryott be elected as 2nd Vice President. Motion passed.

There was discussion of designation of board liaisons assignments to committees. Upon a motion made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Shola it was voted:

VOTED 10-06: To motion, we appoint and elect the following

- Finance Bob Gililland
- Landscape Bob Gililland
- ARC ..Mary.Marryott..... Bob Gililland John Greco
- Communications Mark Adler
- Environmental Tabled until next meeting.
- Management Oversight Mark Adler

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for February 17th, 2010.

With no further business before the Board, upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

*Kyanne Merrill
Managing Agent
Feb. 11, 2010*

continued from page 7

Common Name	Cold Hardiness Zone	Mature Size
American Beautyberry	8a-9b	6'
Barberry	8a-9b	4'
Bougainvillea	9a-11	3' dwarf 8' full size
Buddleja	9a-11	10'
Silver Buttonwood	10b-11a	35'
Bahama Cassia	10a	8'
Chenille Plant	9b-11	10'
Coontie	8b-11	2'
Croton	10a-11	4-8'
Dracena	9a-11	2-15'
Firebush	8a-11	3-10'
Firecracker Plant	9a-11	4'
Gardenia	8a-10a	6'
Glossy Abelia	8a-9b	6'
Golden Dewdrop	8a-11	15'
Indian Hawthorn	8a-11	4'
Hibiscus	8a-10b	7'
Japanese Holly	8a-9b	6'
Ixora	10b-11	3-5'
Jasmine (downy)	10b-11	5'
Jasmine (primrose)	8a-10a	8'
Juniper (Pftizer)	8a-10b	4-6'
Marlberry	10a-11	10'
Natal Plum	10b-11	10'
Oleander	8a-11	petit 6' large 15'
Philodenron (selloum)	9a	
Photinia	8a-9b	8'
Plumbago	8b-11	5'
Podocarpus (Yew)	8a-11	10-30'
Seagrape	9b-11	20'
Shrimp Plant	8b-10b	4'
Snow bush	10b-11	6'
Spanish Bayonet	8a-11	14'
Thryallis	8b-11	5'
Ti Plant	10b-11	5'
Turk's Cap	8a-11	7'
Viburnum (sandankwa)	8a-10b	6'
Viburnum (Sweet)	8a-10b	8'
Viburnum (Walter's)	8a-10b	20'
Wax Myrtle	8a-11	20'
Wild Coffee	9a-11	5'
Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow	9a-11	8'



Ellen and John Popp

Meet and Greet by Sara Jones

I was pleased last May to have such nice, new neighbors as **John and Ellen Popp** moving next door at 727 Fordingbridge Way. But the snowbirds barely moved in before they took off for North Yarmouth, Maine, about 20 miles NW of Portland, and some cooler summertime. They have lived there for 30 years and also had a condo in Boca Raton for 13 years. After visiting friends in our area, they decided to move to the west coast. While checking out neighborhoods here on each visit, they discovered Rivendell, as we did. They immediately liked the layout and feel of our area as soon as they drove in.

Originally, Ellen is from Massachusetts and John from New Jersey. They met at college in New Hampshire and will be married 40 years in July. They have 2 children and 2 grandsons and all live in Maine. A teacher by profession, Ellen also coached a youth cross-country running program for 6 years.

Both John and Ellen play golf and enjoy different area courses. John retired 3 years ago after 35 years in energy management with Siemens Corporation. Ellen likes fast walking, and you can find the lady in the white hat out almost every morning doing her 3 miles. She is an avid reader and enjoys books of international intrigue and espionage.

Did You Know?

Silver Alert Program -- Florida launched its "Silver Alert" program in October 2008 to offer public notice for missing seniors who have wandered off or driven away due to dementia.

It allows law enforcement to use media alerts, phone alerts, and even activate signs on major highways to alert folks when seniors with dementia and Alzheimers go missing.

The silver alert is for those age 60 or older with documented and irreversible dementia, which law enforcement must verify first. <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/content/getdoc/f7d5482a-571a-445a-84b2-f1a1a01f599d/Silver-Alerts.aspx>

Mission Valley
Country Club

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

meets the last Tuesday of each month;
applications are due to Lighthouse Management
by the third Tuesday of each month.

ARC REPORT

Editor's Note: At the Board of Directors' meeting following the Feb. 1st annual meeting, Mary Marryott informed the rest of the Board that the entire ARC had resigned. John Greco, liaison to the ARC, immediately sent a community-wide email announcing a search for new ARC members.

No reports of recent ARC actions are available. ARC's last report for its December 29, 2009 meeting can be found on page 23 of the February 2010 issue of this newsletter.

Rivendell residents who need ARC forms may obtain them from Kyanne Merrill at Lighthouse Management, 966-6844. The forms were also published on pages 14 and 15 of the December 2009 newsletter.

Patio
Repair

On Trac

Clean Cut

WHO WE ARE

Communications Committee

Newsletter, Pam Babbitt, editor
 Directory, Barb Gahry;
 Documents, Carol Heckert;
 Block Captains, Cindy Schmidl.
 Newsletter Columnists: Mark Adler,
 Mike Bergman, Barb Gahry, Carol
 Heckert, Russ Hoffman, Sara Jones,
 Mary Kennedy, Charles Kiblinger, Ed Lin,
 Debbie McMurry, Linda Pearstein, Mere-
 dith Pike, Marilyn Probert and Nancy
 Wettlaufer.

Rivendell Committee Chairs

Architectural Review: vacant

Communications: Judy Sokal

Emergency Response: vacant

Environmental: Ken Heckert

Finance/Procurement: vacant

Landscape: vacant

Management Oversight: vacant

Swimming Pool: Tom Faessler

Webmaster: vacant

Rivendell Board of Directors

Mark Adler, president
 Liaison to Communications
John Greco, first vice president
 Liaison to ARC
Mary Marryott, second vice president
 Liaison to Pool
Bob Gililand, treasurer
 Liaison to Landscape
Tom Shola, secretary

The Cottages Board of Directors

Jane Lettich, President
 Andrew Terry, 2nd Vice President

Patio Homes Board of Directors

Edward Diggs, President;
 patiohomes@rivendellassociation.com
 Rick Wheeler, Vice President
 Bruce Whalen, Secretary/Treasurer

The Villas Board of Directors

Lory Turner, President;
 villas@rivendellassociation.com
 Dianne Enger, Vice President/Treasurer
 Meredith Pike, Secretary

Deadline - Please submit articles and information for publication in the next issue to Pam at pbbabbitt@comcast.net by the tenth of the month.

Your input and feedback are always encouraged and welcomed.

Michael Saunders
Barbara Gary

Association Master Individual Record

Last Name

CIRCLE APPROPRIATE ITEM IN THE RIGHT COLUMN
IF YOU DO NOT WISH THE INFORMATION TO BE
PUBLISHED IN THE DIRECTORY

First Name

Home Phone 1:

Do Not Publish Home Phone 1

Home Phone 2:

Do Not Publish Home Phone 2

Address:

Fax:

Do Not Publish Fax

Work Phone:

Do Not Publish Work Phone

Cell Phone:

Do Not Publish Cell Phone

E-Mail 1:

Do Not Publish E-Mail 1

E-Mail 2:

Do Not Publish E-Mail 2

E-Mail 3:

Do Not Publish E-Mail 3

Children

Birth Year

CHECK ONE ONLY:

Resident Owner: _____

Non-Resident Owner: _____

Renter: _____

Please send completed form to:

Barb Gahry, 699 Rivendell Blvd.

or mail any additions, changes, etc to:

bgahry@aol.com

Osprey Dental

Flo Tech

The Heart Institute
of Venice

Hearind Aid & Speech

Wright
Insurance

Pro Plumbing

Global Laminate

Welbuilt

Greater Venice Fl
Dog Club

Michael Saunders
Linda Bastian

Chuck Rizzo
Quality Painting

Polar Bear
Heating & Cooling

Mr. Build

Moving Toward
Stillness

George Hagarty

Brenton
Gold Cabinets