



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

Your Community Resource

March 2022

Community Update photos and copy by Nancy Dobias

At the Jan 2022 Rivendell HOA Board of Directors' meeting, a resolution was passed to hire Rick Richards Co to run a forestry mower through 2 common areas of Rivendell.



One was behind some homes near the Park Trace entrance to Rivendell and the other was near the Pine View trail tennis courts. The work is still in progress in both sections, but because I couldn't wait to see what changes might have occurred, I decided to take some pictures of the Park Trace section since it was the furthest along.

The reason why the work in this section could not be completed was because it was reported that there were cranes still on a nest in the nearby wetland area that was on the other side of the woods. Once the cranes leave the nest, the forestry mower will return and finish the work.



In the meantime, here's how this common land appears now the forestry mower has started to do its work. The woods is becoming more apparent and the excessive vegetation is no longer dominating the landscape.



Here's how this common area used to look.... The job of the forestry mower was to get rid of the under-story and excessive vegetation that could

fuel fires and to create a habitat that would be healthier for the trees and wildlife.



When people speak of how lucky we are to live in a community such as Rivendell, there are many reasons for why that might be said. I guess it differs from person to person, but one thing that we all should realize is that there will never be another community developed like Rivendell. It was not developed as a community of wall-to-wall homes. Instead, it was developed as Nature's Grace, a wondrous mix of woods, wetlands, lakes, ponds, preserves, and all the wildlife who called it home.

Although the work is not complete, here's how it looked after some of the work was accomplished....



May we always cherish the gift we've been given. Thanks go to the Board, the Maintenance Committee and the Pond and Preserve Committee for its oversight and involvement with all of Rivendell's natural resources. You sure made a difference here!





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WELCOME TO RIVENDELL

The many recreational offerings and country feel of The Woodlands at Rivendell make it a highly desirable community. Located in Osprey Florida, just minutes from downtown Sarasota, this suburban-style neighborhood features many parks, lakes, nature trail and more to fulfill the Florida lifestyle. The Woodlands at Rivendell offers residential choices from village, estate and executive homes to maintenance-free patio homes. Nestled among 400-acres of lakes, preserves and open spaces, the community was carefully planned to highlight and blend with its natural surroundings. The Woodlands at Rivendell is also directly adjacent to the popular Pine View School, a highly acclaimed educational facility for intellectually gifted students grades 2 through 12. Nature lovers will appreciate the proximity to Oscar Scherer State Park, located just south of the community and viewable from many homes.

**The Rivendell Community Web Site
is available at**

WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM

**Please contact Lighthouse Property
Management for the password to the
RESIDENTS / INFORMATION section.**

REAL ESTATE CORNER

By Barb Gahry

THE HOME INSPECTION

In today's extremely competitive real estate market, I have noticed more cash buyers writing offers that remove all contingencies, including the one for a home inspection. Sellers like the idea that their home will sell, no matter the condition and that they will not be held responsible for any defects. Here are some things to consider, both as a buyer and as a seller.

As a seller, one STILL has the obligation, under state law, to disclose any known defects or conditions that may affect the condition or value of the property. This obligation exists even if one sells the property in AS IS condition.

As a buyer, a home inspection can reveal major and minor issues with a home prior to closing. If a buyer is financing, most lenders will insist on a home inspection. Consider that an inspection can reveal the presence of health and safety issues, like the presence of mold or faulty electrical wiring that could potentially cause a fire. The Home Inspection contingency provides the buyer an opportunity to back out of a purchase, without penalty, if there are significant defects. This must be done in writing within the specified inspection period stated on the contract.

A good home inspection will consist of a complete review of the exterior, including roof, grading and structure, pool and screened areas as well as an interior inspection. Interior inspections include electrical, plumbing, HVAC, water heater, appliances that come with the home, and bathrooms. Inspectors check for leaks, especially where mildew or mold may be present. Under such circumstances, separate mold testing may be recommended. A home inspector can tell the buyer about routine maintenance that should be performed. In addition to a home inspection, a termite inspection is usually recommended, as wood destroying organisms, if present, can cause significant structural damage. As with mold inspections this is done separately and is completed by a certified technician.

There are 2 other types of inspections to consider: One is the 4 point inspection, often required by a lender and insurer on older properties. Each company seems to have their own definition of "older", but generally, applies to any structure older than 15 years. A 4 point examines the roof, electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems and must be done by a Florida licensed inspector. The 2nd type is the Wind Mitigation Inspection. This inspection looks for items or features that will reduce the amount of damage to the home in the event of a hurricane or strong windstorm. A homeowner may qualify for insurance discounts based on these features, which is usually good for a period of 5 years. When including the inspection contingency in the contract, the home inspector may also include the 4 point and the wind mitigation at a reduced fee. Separate forms can be completed for the lender (if required), as well as for the insurance provider.

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Rivendell Calendar of Events - March 2022

Note: If you wish to have your event listed, please submit to Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com) by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the calendar for the following month. We welcome your submissions.

For the most up-to-date information check the Rivendell website at www.rivendellcommunity.com

Rivendell Yoga and Meditation Class via zoom on Monday, March 7 @ 9:00 am. Participants must have filled out survey and registered for class. Contact yogayely.com for more information.

Rivendell Book Club I will be meeting on March 14 at 7:30 pm, which is the second Monday of the month. Contact Adele at adele.Kellman@gmail.com for an invitation. The book club will now meet in person with restrictions. Please contact Adele for more information. March's book is the Rose Code by Kate Quinn.

Rivendell Book Club II will be meeting on March 15 at 7:00 pm which is the third Tuesday of the month. Contact Maria Ilioff at miLioff85@gmail.com or 607-427-4192 for more information. The book is Born a Crime by Trevor Noah. The meeting will be hosted by Beryl Nord.

Euchre is back! The monthly euchre group is meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30. The group is planning to follow cards with an informal dinner at local restaurants. For March, please check with Ann Francis. Annfrancis915@gmail.com.

Rivendell HOA monthly meeting will be held on March 9 @ 6:00 in person. Please check the website for more detail.

The Maintenance Committee meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month, March 15. Please contact Greg Volack if you would like to attend. Gregvolack@gmail.com.

ARC meeting is the last Tuesday of the month, In March that is the 29th at 4:30. Please contact Greg Warner if you would like to attend. Greg796@gmail.com.

To make additions or corrections to the Calendar of Events, please contact Kristine Nickel at kristine@nickelcommunications.com.



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Neighbors by Nancy Giordano DIAD and Dyad



In a lovely, light-filled room Chris Smith and his wife Deb Holton-Smith start their busy days with coffee together. They are joined by their British Shorthair Cheshire cat, Nikki, who doesn't add much to the conversation but does pay serious attention, keeping it honest with a stern look that says, "Be kind to my family." Which of course is so easy to do.



Chris is from Brooklyn (he left his *cuppa cawfee* there long ago!) and Deb is from Vermont where the very definition of community and neighbors helping neighbors exists. They met at a wedding. Deb wanted to know more about the allegedly shy guy to whom everyone gravitated. She says it was a very good decision.

The Smiths lived in Connecticut and in New York's Hudson Valley before retiring to Florida. Deb says, "We fell in love with the Sarasota area. It has all the cultural activities we enjoy, but easier. It was like New York City on vacation!" They visited a friend in the Cottages for a long weekend, and unexpectedly became homeowners.

An electrical engineer for UPS, Chris was a key member of a team that developed the second generation DIAD. What is a DIAD, you ask...it's a delivery information acquisition device. Simply, it's a streamlined and functional version of the electronic clipboard used to register and track deliveries. "Engineers face problems with multiple, and often incompat-

ible constraints – our goal is to find a solution – to simplify with no more complexity than is necessary."

Chris shares his natural and learned skills in multiple capacities as a community volunteer. He has served on the Cottages Board with landscaping oversight, served on the Irrigation Committee, inventoried trees, and is responsible for the Cottage's directory. If that's not enough, he's on the Communications Committee for Rivendell where his work has proven invaluable. Oh, and if that's not enough, word is Chris is a phenomenal cook!

Retired from a highly recognized cancer nursing career, Deb continues her lifelong compassionate care through Health Coaching. On any given day she talks to people nationwide about "supporting their dreams, feeling better, and exploring what's possible to live their best lives." Deb's volunteer work includes the Cottage's Facebook page, email network, and numerous and fun social events geared for all 130+ Cottages' residents. In her spare time, Deb is a photographer and published author (watch for more on this with Deb and friends next month!).

The Smiths enjoy knowing and helping their neighbors and are the perfect example of a walking and talking dyad. What is a Dyad, you ask...it's a pair: two individuals (i.e. husband and wife) maintaining a significant relationship.





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Cottages Residents Enjoying Social Activities Again

The cold weather has not prevented us from getting together for a variety of social events this winter.



In December, a group of merry makers met at the Clubhouse for a pizza party and our annual tree trimming. It was a festive start to the holiday season.



Also in January, we celebrated National Pie Day in rousing fashion with a delicious assortment of pies, provided by our delightful hosts, Mary and Shannon. There's nothing like pie to get people to turn out, in force! There was even karaoke for those brave enough to take the mic!



In January, we kicked off our first monthly Sunday Coffee of 2022. There were plenty of breakfast treats and lots of great conversation!



Our February Sunday Coffee was well attended. Residents enjoyed a variety of homemade and bakery items, along with plenty of hot coffee and tea! We are looking forward to warmer temps at our next Sunday coffee!

***We have 12 more social events planned though the end of May!
The Cottages continues to be a "Happening Place"!***



**"Neighbors in Service to our
Community"**

An Opportunity to Serve

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Rivendell is now being organized. The CERT program is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately, you can make a difference by using CERT training to save lives and protect property.

In the recent past, Sarasota County has witnessed a hurricane (2017), a tropical storm (2012), and tornado activity (2016). Following any major disaster, our first responders who provide fire and medical services may not be able to immediately meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of survivors, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate lifesaving and life sustaining needs.

CERT is about readiness, neighbors helping neighbors, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where residents will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. With basic CERT training, Rivendell, Osprey residents can withstand power outages and put out small fires; treat the three life-threatening emergencies by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; safely search for and rescue victims; and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

Please consider our invitation to join your neighbors in Rivendell, Osprey preparedness program known as CERT. We are "*Neighbors in Service to our Community.*"

For more information contact: **Paul Englert**
paule253@hotmail.com
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Best quote from a first time wearer Karen has ever heard. I've told her about patients crying in my office who heard clearly and it overwhelmed them. After all these years, she had a guy just oozing with happiness over his new hearing aids.

First time wearer, Dennis, was referred to us. After being fitted and wearing his new hearing aids for a few weeks he came in for a follow-up visit.

Dennis walked in smiling and gushed to Karen how his new hearing aids have given him a whole new life. It wasn't just big things but the small moments also added to his enjoying life more.

The TV volume is softer so his wife can watch with him, that's an enjoyment. She doesn't constantly repeat herself, that's an enjoyment. He hears her from the other room so she isn't annoyed having to track him down, that's an enjoyment.

Even the small noises he had forgotten about were a blessing to have back. The first day he wore the new hearing aids, he could hear the beep of the coffee maker so he knew his cup was finished brewing. Dennis no longer had to wonder if it was done, he was confident.

Talking to friends at restaurants is so easy now that he is more relaxed and feels more connected.

The happiness that Dennis is feeling flows from him. While he was in my office he smiled the whole time.

Seeing another person's life transformed into happiness by wearing hearing aids gives me great joy for my purpose.

If you struggle to hear clearly and would like to find out if hearing aids can add to your happiness, call for a free demo, 941-244-9300.

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Wildlife Window: Florida Turtles
Often Overlooked. Vital To Their Environment.
 By the Rivendell Ponds & Preserves Committee

Aptly named, Rivendell’s Turtle Pond is home to many turtles, as are other community ponds. Turtles are ancient shelled reptiles that have existed for 220 million years. Florida is among the top states in turtle species numbers, with over 30 native turtle species, many of which are freshwater turtles. Turtles are very important to their environment: as a food source for predators, as consumers of worms, snails, insects, crustaceans, algae, seeds, and plants, plus their eggs are food for other animals. Let’s learn more about these wonderful turtle friends endemic (native) to Florida.

Florida Cooter Turtle (*Pseudemys floridana*)

Florida Cooters are one of the more commonly seen freshwater turtles. They are relatively large (9-13” long). Their carapace has a dark background with faint yellow markings on the shell and yellow markings on its head and feet. They can be seen in groups basking on logs, rocks, even aerator pipes, usually leaping into the water long before you reach them.

Cooters are opportunistic omnivores with females feeding mainly on aquatic vegetation, while males prey on a variety of aquatic invertebrates. Female Cooters are typically bigger than males. Males have long claws. Cooters may have gotten their name from the African word “*kuta*” which means “turtle” in their tribal dialects.



Florida Softshell Turtle (*Apalone ferox*)

The Florida softshell turtle is the largest species of softshell turtles found in North America. Males measure from 6-12”, while females can measure double that at 11-24”. It has a flattened, pancake-like body, a long neck, and an elongated head with a long, fleshy snorkel-like nose. It has large webbed feet, each with three claws, perfect for swimming.



While most turtles have hard shells composed of scutes, Florida softshells have cartilaginous carapaces covered in leathery skin. Their coloring ranges from olive green to dark brown; underside is white or cream-colored. This color pattern is a form of camouflage to conceal turtles from potential predators. Their diet primarily consists of snails and fish. Softshell turtles can be found in freshwater lakes, ponds, streams, canals, and roadside ditches. (Bob Frank photos)

Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*)

Gopher tortoises are dry-land turtles that usually live in well-drained, sandy soil habitats. Their carapaces are grayish-brown and unmarked in adults, while the plastron (underside), legs, head and neck are golden-yellow. Their strong elephant-like back legs and front feet help them dig their burrows, which provide protection from predators and from the elements by maintaining a fairly constant environment inside.

Primarily herbivores, they spread seeds of many plants in their droppings, filling another important role in the ecosystem. In the wild, they can live to 80 years.



Gopher tortoises are listed as Threatened in Florida. Both the tortoise and its burrow are protected under state law and must be relocated before any land clearing takes place.

Today’s threat to turtle populations include food shortages due to loss of vegetation & use of pesticides and degradation of habitat from urban development, plus invasive predators. Let’s keep our ponds and preserves healthy for these and all of our favorite wildlife creatures.



Regular Maintenance Protects Our Preserves Ongoing Actions Benefit Our Community and Wildlife

By the Ponds and Preserves Committee

Wildfire Mitigation Actions. Mowing Reduces Risk.

Rivendell has about 115 acres of wetland and upland Preserves areas. Lightning-caused wildfires are common in our area. Although there is no evidence of previous fire activity here, there has been a significant buildup of fuels within the preserves that would make future wildfires both difficult to control and damaging to the natural resources. An action plan has been implemented to address the accumulation of excessive vegetative litter to reduce wildfire risks.

Most of the upland vegetation in Rivendell can be classified as pine flatwoods and mesic hammocks. Mechanical fuel reduction (mowing vs prescribed burning) is the primary wildfire mitigation strategy for the uplands in Rivendell. This procedure involves mowing strips at the surface of the vegetation that are 6-12 feet wide to break up the continuity of the fuels. If a wildfire were to occur in these areas, the forward progress would slow down when it reaches one of these mowed lines, making control and access much easier and reducing the heat impact to the canopy trees.

Back in February 2021, the Florida Fire Service brought in specialized equipment (Mulch Mower) to cut needed firebreaks in selected preserve and buffer areas to reduce accumulated vegetation, improve access & lessen fire danger threat. Targeted areas were the uplands of Oscar Scherer State Park Buffer on the East and South borders of our property and between Placid and Eagle Lakes that are

inaccessible by municipal firefighting equipment. Mowing is also scheduled for upland areas adjacent to two of our larger preserves: adjacent to the Pine View path and adjacent to Park Trace. Going forward, ecological mowing will be maintained by Rivendell's HOA using mechanical equipment every 4-5 years, with any required wildlife pre-inspections. A gopher tortoise survey and bald eagle nest checks will be conducted by a certified consultant two weeks prior to any mechanical equipment use in the preserves.

Cattails Impede Outflow Structure. Removal Required.

At the January HOA meeting, Board President Larry Dobias identified a 20-foot section of cattails that had grown too dense in front of the outflow structure on Scherer Lake South. This dense and rapid growth of cattails had the potential to impede and block the outward flow of water from Rivendell's storm-water system. Because this structure is vital to flood control, the cattails had to be removed.

To control potential regrowth, the cattails were not only cut down, but the debris was removed from the site. (If cattails were killed in place and debris allowed to settle to the pond bottom, the increased layer of muck could lead to algae issues and possibly future dredging.) Ongoing maintenance will help keep the cattail growth from overwhelming the area in the future. *(Thanks to Nancy Dobias for contributing on this story.)*



Florida Forest Service's Mulch-Mower cuts down accumulated vegetation to reduce wildfire risk. This is one powerful machine!
(Paul Remy)



Bald Eagles are federally protected. It is illegal to get within 600 feet of an active nest.
(Nancy Dobias)



A dense and rapid growth of Cattails had taken over the end of Scherer Lake South. (Nancy Dobias)



Cattails and debris removed from the outflow structure area to improve flood control. Ongoing maintenance will control regrowth. (Nancy Dobias)



Ecological Mowing completed near Mill Pond to create a vital firebreak and access path for maintenance contractors and firefighters. (Bob Frank)

Rivendell Community Contacts

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|--|---|
| <p>Committees</p> <p>Block Captain Committee Chair: Rachel North Zipay (mobilerach@verizon.net) Board Liaison: George Smith</p> <p>CERT Committee Chair: Paul Englert (paule253@hotmail.com) Board Liaison: Cathy Daignault Members: Need Volunteers. Please contact Paul if interested.</p> <p>Communication Committee Chair: Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com) Board Liaison: Larry Dobias Newsletter: Kristine Nickel, Nancy Giordano, Barbara Gahry Directory: Christopher Smith and Kristine Nickel Webmaster: Gary Mruz At large: Marylin and Jim May</p> <p>Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Chair: Greg Warner Board Liaison: Greg Volack Questions or Submissions: rivendell@mgmt.tv Members: Joe Casale, Rich Bunce, Maria Ilioff, Joe Zwerling, Jim Duncan</p> <p>Fine Administration Committee (FAC) Chair: Robert Thierfelder (rcthierfelder@gmail.com) Board Liaison: George Smith Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy</p> <p>Maintenance Committee (MC) Chair: Chuck Pertile (noplans12@gmail.com) Board Liaison: Greg Volack (gregvolack@gmail.com) Members: Carole Myles, Mark Giordano, Dave Cook, Kevin Humbert</p> <p>Ponds & Preserves Committee Chair: Bob Frank (frank@ohio.edu) Board Liaison: Larry Dobias Members: Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Norma Lee Rhines, Allie Sandow, Melle Lee Warren</p> <p>Social Committee Chair: Carolyn Kenney (kenneycsr@gmail.com) Board Liaison: George Smith Members: Kristen Ellison, Kathy Halaiko, Maria Ilioff, Deb Jones, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak, Lenora McComas, Karen Price, Melle Lee Warren</p> | <p>Rivendell Board of Directors</p> <p>Larry Dobias, President, dobiasle@gmail.com</p> <p>Greg Volack, Vice President, gregvolack@gmail.com</p> <p>Cathy Daignault, Treasurer, catdaignault@yahoo.com</p> <p>Kevin Boggess, Secretary</p> <p>George Smith, Director at Large, georgeandnadia@gmail.com</p> <p>Sub-Association Boards of Directors</p> <p>The Cottages: Marilee Casale, President, (marileecasale@gmail.com); John Martin, 1st Vice President, (4johmartin@gmail.com); Carole Myles, 2nd Vice President, Bob Metelko, Treasurer (bob@csdsinc.net); Kathi Webber, Secretary, (kathi.travel@gmail.com).</p> <p>Patio Homes: Bob Thierfelder, President; Dan Tavares, Secretary; Randy Price, Treasurer.</p> <p>The Villas: Dianne Enger, President; Sherry Sholtis, Vice President and Secretary; Barbara Loe, Treasurer.</p> <p>Lighthouse Property Management: 941-460-5560 Ext. 225 Property Manager: Steven DeHart (SteveDeHart@mgmt.tv)</p> <p>Rivendell Website www.rivendellcommunity.com Contact Lighthouse Management for password to RESIDENTS section.</p> |
| <p>Woodlands Word Deadline: Submit articles and information to Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com) by the tenth of the month.</p> <p>Updates to the Contacts Page: Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com)</p> | <p>Nuisance Alligator Call Florida Fish & Wildlife - SNAP 866-392-4286 Do Not Call Lighthouse Property Management</p> <p>Sarasota County Sheriff Non-emergency Number: 941-316-1201 Please use this number for non-emergencies</p> |