Your Community Resource

OCTOBER 2011

# Highlights of September 8, 2011 Board Meeting By Mary Kennedy

At its September meeting, the Board:

- Agreed to seek legal advice on delinquent HOA fees:
- Addressed issues of consideration for vendors in upcoming contract renewals;
- Reviewed current, ineffective means of rectifying homeowners' lack of response to covenant transgressions;
- Accepted resignation of president, John Critser and reinstatement of John Greco as president.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Concerns were raised regarding the number of homeowners in arrears with HOA fees and nebulous, insufficient actions currently being implemented for their collection. John Greco will meet with Board's attorney to determine alternative courses of action to legally pursue collection of delinquent fees.

#### **Committee Reports**

<u>Communications</u>: Publication of Woodlands Word is working well and saving \$10.00/month with new publisher. New residents are asked to forward information for 2012 directory to Barb Gahry.

<u>Architectural Review</u>: Functions well addressing all applications in a timely way at monthly meetings.

<u>Pool</u>: Two contracts are paid for pool services: Southwest Pool Services: \$467/month for plumbing needs and BP Enterprise: \$375/month for general cleanliness of pool area, including bathrooms. A motion was passed to extend BP Enterprise's contract for another year. Residents are encouraged to contact Lighthouse if problems are noted.

Concerns raised included the rusted condition of bathroom doors and soiled smell permeating men's bathroom. Bruce Lorie volunteered to be the new chair of pool committee.

(Continued on page 3)

#### Message from the President October 2011

At the September 8th Board Meeting, John Critser offered his resignation from the office of President. He has recently accepted a new position that will require him to be out of State most of the time, and his home in Rivendell is on the market. He consequently feels that his availability would be too restricted to meet the demands of the office. The Board accepted his resignation and voted that I would be President, effective immediately.

It feels like déjà vu all over again since I was also elected President last summer when Mark Adler resigned the office due to medical reasons. The good news this time is that I won't have a very steep learning curve in assuming the President's duties. The additional good news is that John is remaining on the Board.

As I said at the meeting, I want to thank John sincerely for his outstanding service as President. He has devoted an enormous amount of time and talent to Rivendell and he has had a tremendously positive impact on our community.

Maintenance pruning of the oaks, palms, pines and viburnums on our commons is the next major activity you will notice in Rivendell. This work will be done by Valley Crest's Tree Care division and will be supervised by an ISA Certified Arborist to ensure that the trees are cared for properly. In the future pruning like this will be done on a regularly scheduled basis.

As always, homeowner participation is appreciated; please consider volunteering your services where you see a need. If you see me on my frequent bike rides around the neighborhood, please feel free to flag me down.

John Greco

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#### Rivendell Board Meeting NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE

December 8th, 2011

at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church of Osprey Address: 265 North Tamiami Trail, Osprey (just north of Bay Street traffic signal and on the west side of the street).

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM by Michele Swatek

Spend some of your free time volunteering at Historic Spanish Point, one of the most beautiful places in Sarasota County and right in your own Osprey neighborhood!

Historic Spanish Point is a 30-acre archaeological, historical, and environmental museum located on Little Sarasota Bay offering visitors and volunteers 5,000 years of history. Experience "A Window to the Past," a stunning exhibition built inside of a prehistoric shell mound called a midden. Pioneer era buildings connect guests to 19th and early 20th century pioneer living, while the colorful gardens of Mrs. Potter Palmer delight people of all ages. Historic Spanish Point is also home to the area's largest Butterfly Garden. The museum is a must-see destination for nature lovers; its trails wander through native coastal habitats, and a boardwalk affords beautiful bay views.

There are many types of volunteer posts available: admissions and guest relations; museum shop clerks; entrance cottage greeters; docents (tour guides); gardeners; and mariner volunteers in the boatyard. For more information and photos of Historic Spanish Point, please visit its website: www.historicspanishpoint.org.

Several of your Rivendell neighbors and friends are already volunteering, including Barry and Karen McClure, John Beatty, and Curtis Hood. If interested, please call Michele Swatek, Visitor Services Coordinator at Historic Spanish Point at 966.5214, x220. You can also send her an email at Michele@historicspanishpoint.org.

(Highlights, continued from page 1)

Landscape/Environmental: Aquagenix's monthly schedule of 3 or 4 consecutive days encompasses maintenance of wetlands, preserves, buffer zones and five impact areas being monitored by the County. Emphasis is being placed on exotic plant elimination. Adding a work order to address vine problems was discussed. Current contract of \$2,000/month is up for renewal December 31st.

Aquatic Systems Inc. is maintaining lakes and ponds by spraying to eliminate all cattails throughout community. Other filtering aquatic plants such as pickerelweed or bulrushes will replace cattails as needed. Plastic geese on ponds will be removed by October 1st. Aquatic Systems' current contract of \$2,060/month is up for renewal October 1st.

Valley Crest Landscaping has failed to address requests in a timely manner regarding proposals for the front entrance and turf grass repair. Members of the Board will meet with Valley Crest concerning contract inclusions and expectations prior to contract renewal this fall.

Next Landscaping Committee Meeting will be held September 21st at the Cottages Clubhouse at 7:00 pm.

#### Manager's Report

Report delivered by John Critser for Kyanne Merrill of Lighthouse consisted of entrance fence and pool shower repairs, compliance correspondence, and work contract estimates. Some discrepancies/concerns in report indicated a need for Board members to meet with Lighthouse Management to review procedural effectiveness.

(Highlights, continued on page 4)

(Highlights, continued from page 3)

#### **New Business**

**A**. Neighbors' concerns regarding abandoned/foreclosed property at 759 Fordingbridge Way were discussed. Situation is to be included in proposed meeting with our attorney.

- **B**. Tree and landscape maintenance is required for hundreds of oak and palm trees on boulevards and common grounds. County will never maintain these trees; therefore the community must. Through Valley Crest's arbor division, an estimate of \$35,000 was submitted to start with \$6400 ongoing monitoring and maintenance. A roadway liability exists for not trimming trees. County designates trees be trimmed up to 13.5 feet. Pruning maintenance on some trees in Rivendell has not been done for 12 years. Rollover monies of \$25,000 were approved for tree trimming expenditures. Ten tall palm trees and 19 oak trees on Old Venice Road were included in tree maintenance estimate.
- **C.** A deed restriction amendment related to Maintenance Provisions in Covenants would allow HOA to maintain the exterior appearance of foreclosed/ unoccupied homes. This amendment is currently awaiting our attorney's response which when received will be submitted for a two-thirds approval vote from homeowners.
- D. \$15,000 had been budgeted for a proposed second irrigation pump but inaction in this area prevails. Initially, Valley Crest negated the need for a second pump but now realizes its necessity for water pressure. A flow chart was requested for understanding mechanics and placement of the system. John Greco will assume responsibility for obtaining bids for an additional pump.

#### **Other Items**

John Critser has accepted a new job requiring submission of his resignation effective immediately as President of the Rivendell Community Association. Board approved John Critser's resignation and reappointed John Greco as president to complete John Critser's term in office.

**Next Board Meeting** will be held Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the First Baptist Church, 265 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey. All homeowners are encouraged to attend the meeting.

#### Many Thanks to John Critser

At the Rivendell Board Meeting on September 8, 2011, John Critser stepped down as president of the board. His new out-of-state job will preclude his spending so much time on community matters. The Board and all of Rivendell want to thank John for all his hard work this year, particularly as liaison to the Landscape and Environmental committee. His tireless efforts have brought our lakes, preserves and common areas into health and stability. He will continue as a board member until the end of his term.

#### ...and Thank you, Tom Faessler

After many years as pool chair, Tom Faessler said goodbye to Rivendell for a new home with his wife. The editors of the Woodlands Word, board, and all our residents want to thank Tom for his tireless efforts and years of service to our community. We wish you good luck and happy days in your new home.

### The Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

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





Cane Toad or Bufo Toad – go to our website to see this in color! http://www. lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\_login.

#### Pet Owners: Beware Bufo Toads Adapted from an article in The Lakeland Ledger by Judy Sokal

Bufo toads were brought to Florida from South America to help eliminate pests from sugar cane fields. But today it is the toads that are the dangerous pests. They are brown or green and reach 6-9 inches in size, and are almost always found in yards where pets roam freely. It is helpful not to leave any pet food that may attract these toads.

While coming in contact with a bufo toad can poison any animal, it is usually dogs that are poisoned when they play, lick, or eat the toads. Bufo toads are extremely poisonous and the toxin can cause serious side effects within 5 minutes of contact, including irregular heartbeat, and increase in body temperature causing tremors and seizures. If contact has been made, rinse your pet's mouth out with water immediately and then get to your vet for treatment as fast as possible.

There is no way to eradicate these toads, but if you see one, apply benzocaine ointment on the neck or back of the toad and it will die within 30 minutes. Then freeze it in a bag for 3 days to be certain. **Do not touch a bufo toad** — even though the toxin does not get through skin easily. If your skin then touches the inside of your mouth after contact, it can be deadly. Small children need to be kept safe by being told to call an adult if they see one.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cane toad

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A wood duck sitting pretty ~ photo by Kay Mruz

### Through The Lens By Kay Mruz

I think most photographers have a "bucket list" of images they would like to capture. The wood duck is number two on my list (behind the bobcat). As I mentioned in last month's article, ducks have a way of making you smile. I was certainly all smiles when two ducks landed in a pond I was walking past and I realized one of them was a wood duck!

The wood duck is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful waterfowl species found in North America. Its scientific name, Aix sponsa, translates to "waterfowl in bridal dress." The drake has distinctive iridescent plumage ranging in color from chestnut, green, blue, purple, white and black. He also has bright red eyes. The hen is also a standout when compared with hens of other species. Unfortunately I do not have an example of a wood duck hen to share with you.

Wood ducks are found mainly in forested areas with some type of water source near by. These areas provide plenty of plant and animal matter for the ducks to feed on. Adult wood ducks eat a variety of small invertebrates, nuts and fruits, aquatic plants, and insects. A duckling's diet largely consists of insects, small fish, and other high-protein animal matter.

Wood ducks are one of eight species of duck that roost and nest in trees. They have clawed feet that make it easy for them to grip tree branches. Wood ducks look for potential nest sites in very secluded areas. A natural cavity in a tree close to or directly

over water is the ideal place for them to build a nest. They will also use man-made nest boxes if placed in desirable locations. Hens will go in and inspect the nest site while the drake stands outside. Once a site has been selected, the hen will line the nest in down feathers. Seven to fifteen eggs are laid and are incubated for an average of 30 days. One day after hatching, the ducklings will use their clawed feet to climb up and out of the nest cavity and jump to the ground or water. Ducklings can jump from great heights without injury. Ducklings can swim and feed themselves. Hens will stay with the young for 5 to 6 weeks but will leave before the ducklings are able to fly.

I will finish the series on ducks with a species whose name alone will make you smile: the black-bellied whistling duck.



"I'm so handsome! Step aside, George Clooney" ~ photo by Kay Mruz



School is in Session Remember the 25mph Speed Limit



### Cottages Postings



#### UPDATES and ACTIONS

Grass plugs program – growing in phase now.

Please contact Mac S. regarding maintenance matters only. Otherwise, contact a board member on all other issues.

2012 Budget planning is ongoing. We are working toward another year of "no increases."

Mulch planning is ongoing. Special requests must be made to Board Member before October 15th.

#### **RU1NA BOARD ACTIONS**

Follow-up letters to specific homeowners regarding the appearance of homes will be sent mid-fall.

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Thursday, October 20th Tuesday, November 22nd

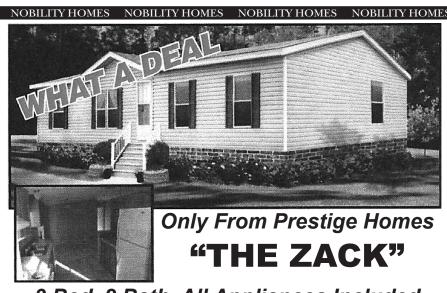
#### **SOCIALS**

Saturday, October 22nd October Fest at 6pm Coffees will resume when volunteers return. Look for sign in front of Clubhouse.

#### FLAG DAYS

Monday, October 19 - Columbus Day Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day Friday, November 11 - Veterans Day Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving





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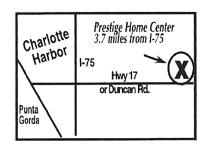
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11011.-111. 5.00-0.00 - 5at. 5.00-5.00 - 5ati. 12.00-5.00

#### Balance and Fall Prevention

Ociel Betancourt, PT
Doctors Choice Physical Therapy

To maintain upright posture we have to rely on our musculoskeletal system for strength and coordination to move through space, and we also depend on our visual and vestibular systems to process information from the environment.

While falling is not a normal part of aging, it is the second leading cause of accidents in the US (75% in older adults.) Seniors are at high risk of falling when they lose strength and flexibility or develop balance, vision or hearing deficits. They often take multiple medications, become less active, and have blood pressure problems or neurological disorders. Pre-existing medical conditions that limit mobility, such as Parkinson's disease, stroke or diabetes are risk factors as well. About one in three seniors above age 65, and nearly one in two seniors over age 80, will fall at least once this year. In 2001, more than 11,600 people ages 65 and older died from fall related injuries. Of those who fall, 20% to 30% suffer moderate to severe injuries such as hip fractures or head injuries.

Environmental hazards such as throw rugs and clutter in walkways are also risk factors. To make living areas safer, non-slip mats in the bathtub and on the shower floor should be used.

The ability to avoid falling is dependent on a person's ability to maintain balance in a variety of situations. It is a complex process that relies on multiple sensory systems working together. These sensory systems are foot and ankle, the eyes, and the inner ear.

Fall prevention includes exercises to improve balance and strength, removal of tripping hazards, vision and hearing checks, the use of nightlights, grab bars, sturdy, rubber-soled shoes, and take your time. Review medication side effects with your doctor or pharmacist, stay within your reach and don't try to reach for objects that are too far away, maintain your balance, and stay hydrated.

#### Test your balance

Do not attempt to do this test alone; make sure that you have someone next to you to decrease the potential risk factors:

- Stand tall, wearing flat, closed shoes, with your arms folded across your chest. Keep your eyes open, focus on an object in front of you, raise one leg, bending the knee about 45 degrees, and start a stopwatch.
- Remain on one leg, stopping the watch immediately if you uncross your arms, tilt sideways more than 45 degrees, move the leg you are standing on, or touch the raised leg to the floor.
- Repeat this test with the other leg.
- Compare your performance to normal results for various ages:

20 to 59 years old (28 to 29 seconds), 60 to 69 years old (27 seconds), 70 to 79 years old (15 seconds) 80 and older (6 seconds).

Education is the most important tool for preventing falls. If you or your loved ones are at risk of falling, or have a history of falling, you should arrange a physical therapy safety and fall assessment. Your physical therapist will educate you on physical therapy fall prevention strategies that are individually tailored to suit your particular circumstances and needs.



#### ARTS and EVENTS IN SARASOTA

### Ringling International Arts Festival October 11-16, 2011



A six-day cultural experience featuring world-class artists in dance, music, and theater.

For just \$5 for children and \$10 for adults, your admission includes daily entry to the Museum of Art, Circus Museum, Ca' d'Zan, plus lectures, tours and performances created especially for RIAF including **Zimoun, In the Galleries, Jazz Sunsets and Festival Forum.** 

941-360-7399

http://www.ringlingartsfestival.org/2011/



#### Selby Gardens GartenFest

Enjoy some of the area's performing artists in a biergarten atmosphere under Selby Gardens' banyan trees. A variety of themed food and beverages are available for purchase.

GartenFest is on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in front of the Selby House.

**Sunday, October 9**: Fuzión Dance Artists - Sarasota/Bradenton's Contemporary Company presents eclectic choreography with live music

**Sunday, October 16:** The Marc Mannino Jazz Quartet –smooth jazz in styles from Duke Ellington to Miles Davis

Sunday, October 23: The Key Chorale Chamber Chorus – "Music in Bloom".

**Sunday October 30:** Jennifer Leigh and Her New Digs – Tunes from jazz and blues to pop, rock & roll, R&B, motown, Latin, and more.

**GartenFest** attendance is free with paid admission to the Gardens; Selby Gardens Members attend at no charge, Members' guests pay only \$5. No guest passes, no reciprocals, and no coolers, please. 942-366-5731 http://www.selby.org/events/gartenfest-2011

### Van Wezel Performing Arts Center 2011-2012 Event Brochure

This link will allow you to page through the Van Wezel's Event Brochure. After you have gone to the link, just click the moving arrow in the upper right hand corner of the "brochure" page.

http://www.vanwezel.org/brochure.cfm?utm\_source=Van+Wezel&utm\_campaign=
122731ed5a-tix-onsale&utm\_medium=email
The event calendar:
http://www.vanwezel.org/index.cfm

# Adult & Community Enrichment at Sarasota County Technical Institute Register now.

Classes run throughout December in a wide variety of subjects: Arts, Travel, Technology, Writing, Foreign Language, Culinary, History, Home & Garden, and Do-It-Yourself.

http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/schools/ace/default.aspx 941-361-6590, 4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida 34233













### News from Pierian Spring Academy Register on-line now for Fall, Winter, and Spring Classes

88 classes available:

20 Fall classes starting October 24.

40 Winter classes starting January 9.

28 Spring classes starting February 27

Classes are two hours, except for film classes, and are offered in the morning, noon, and afternoon.

Four locations: Argosy, Eckerd, Friendship Center, Plymouth Harbor.

Sign up now (on-line or by mail) and don't miss out. Some classes have limited registration.

Pay with paypal, credit card or send a check. The website has descriptions of classes and teachers.

New website: http://www.pierianspringacademy.org/

Course Catalog: http://www.pierianspringacademy.org/include/pdfs/coursecatalogA.pdf

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### BOOK GROUP SCHEDULE By Marilyn Probert



The Book Group will meet on Monday, October 10, to dissect Isabel Allende's historical novel "Daughter of Fortune." Eliza Sommers is an orphan raised by a strict spinster and her stolid brother in a rather repressive household. Having fallen in love, Eliza impulsively follows her sweetheart to California during the Gold Rush and finds that she enjoys freedom and independence as she searches for her elusive lover. Sallie Hawkins will lead the discussion at Cindy Schmidl's home at 1100 Mallard Marsh Drive. Please call Cindy at 918-1570 if you'd like to attend.

On Monday, November 4, the subject will be "The Widow of the South" by Robert Hicks. This novel is based on real-life events that forever changed the life of Carrie McGavock, once a slave owner. The Battle of Franklin in Tennessee occurred on November 30, 1864 and resulted in more than 9,000 casualties. Carrie's house had been commandeered to serve as a hospital, and she helped care for the wounded and the dying who were then buried in a neighboring field. When the owner of the field threatened to plough it over, Carrie and her husband transferred over a thousand bodies to their own cemetery and this became the only private cemetery for Confederate soldiers. Due to her almost obsessive concern for the dead, Carrie became known far and wide as the Widow of the South. Deborah Berzins will be discussion leader at the home of Janet Berntsen on 710 Shadow Bay Way, phone 918-9240.

December's selection is "The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey" by Candice Millard. The author focuses on T.R.'s encounters with cannibals, ferocious piranhas, and man-eating catfish while exploring the Rio da Duvida, a tributary of the Amazon.

All Rivendell residents are welcome at Book Group gatherings. We meet on the second Monday of the month, at 7:30 p.m.; please call the month's hostess if you plan to come.

#### Recipe served at Book Group

#### Easy Magic Cookie Squares

#### Ingredients:

½ cup butter or margarine
1 and ½ cups graham cracker crumbs

1 - 14 oz. can Eagle Brand milk

1 - 6 oz. pkg semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 and 1/3 cups flaked coconut

1 cup chopped nuts (used macadamia nuts)

#### **Directions:**

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees (325 degrees for glass dish).

In a 13"x9" baking pan, melt margarine in oven. Sprinkle crumbs over margarine; pour milk evenly over crumbs. Top with remaining ingredients; press down. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned.

Cool. Chill if desired. Cut into squares. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

Makes 24-36 squares



### SERVICE PROVIDER RECOMMENDATIONS

Greenway Carpet Care, 941-228-1917, Dave Eschenbach. I have used Greenway Carpet Care multiple times over the past few years and each time I am more impressed with the quality and professionalism of this firm. The business is owned by Dave Eschenbach, who is the most knowledgeable and professional individual I have ever used to clean my carpets. His phone number is 941-228-1917 and his website is www.GreenwayCarpet.com. Dave Swanson

Painter Ready, 941-400-9992, George Rodriguez. We recently had our house painted by George Rodriguez and his sons, and were very pleased with the job they did. They power washed the house and lanai, caulked the whole house under the roof, and put on two coats of paint, all for a very reasonable price. They even helped us choose our colors. They clearly care about their work and aim to please. We have no hesitation recommending this company. George can be reached at 941-400-9992. Carol & Ken Heckert (also Barb Gahry and Mirinda Roy)

**Sparky.** We have found them prompt to respond to us, efficient and clean in their work. The electrician arrived on time and provided an estimate before any work was done. Contact Mister Sparky at 941-257-4200. Norma Lee and Fred Rhines

#### Send in your favorite Service Provider!

Please send us the name and phone number of your favorite plumber, electrician, hair stylist, landscaper, you name it- and we'll list it!

If you have a service provider you'd like to recommend, please email Norma Lee at nlrhines@verizon.net

#### CLASSIFIED ADS

**GOING ON VACATION?** I will look in on your house and take care of anything that needs to be done, such as watering plants, feeding a pet, etc. Call Steve Heckert at 918-9528.

#### **COMPUTER HELP AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**

Senior at Pine View, and experienced. Most work runs \$20 an hour, and I have a flexible schedule. Call Chris Dower, 941-504-7064.

**BABYSITTER Available:** Molly Benkaim, 941-961-3385. 11th grade Pine View female student available for babysitting. Former camp counselor and CPR certified. Please call Molly if you'd like references.

**PET SITTING:** Eve Day, 941-780-0821. Rivendell High School Senior who does pet sitting. Will follow all instructions; pricing is very reasonable.

#### Hurricane Shutter Regulations Summarized

Clear (Lexan) hurricane shutters may remain up on the front of a house or street side of a corner house throughout the hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 to November 30.

Clear shutters or those painted to match the house or trim may remain up on other parts of the house that are visible from a street, alley or other home.

Any other shutters that are visible from a street, alley or other home may go up within 10 days of the expected arrival of a hurricane, and must come down within 2 weeks following a hurricane.

Because the amended hurricane shutter restriction gives every homeowner the ability to protect his or her house whether here or away, the new deed restriction will be strictly enforced.

(For exact wording consult Rivendell Community Directory 2011, p.9, 4.09 Hurricane Shutters)

# DID YOU KNOW? Avoid Discharging Lithium Ion Batteries Needlessly by Ed Lin with Judy Sokal

**excerpted from** How to Prolong Lithium-based Batteries http://batteryuniversity.com/learn/article/how\_to\_prolong\_lithium\_based\_batteries

A PhD battery expert at the leading edge of battery power development confirmed to me that Lithium ion batteries (the best for notebook PCs and cell phones) can only be charged and discharged 200-300 times. After that, your battery's ability to undergo further cycles of chemical reaction is depleted and you will need a new battery to have the duration of battery power when it was new.

You should always run your notebook with AC power plugged in to prevent discharge of the battery. Run on battery only when you must to preserve your battery life. If you have used your notebook for a short while on battery and only 10 - 20% of power has been discharged, plug it to a wall power source as soon as possible.

AVOID letting your cell phone battery discharge completely before recharging. Plug it in to recharge daily during the evening when you'll no longer be moving about. That will reduce the DoD (Depth of Discharge), which shortens the life of the battery. The smaller the depth of discharge, the longer the battery will last. Avoid frequent full discharges and charge more often between uses.

#### Other helpful facts:

A partial discharge reduces stress and prolongs battery life. Elevated temperature and high currents also affect cycle life. High charge levels and elevated temperatures hasten permanent capacity loss. Batteries are exposed to elevated temperature when charging with wireless chargers. Placing a cellular phone on the heat generating charging mat stresses the battery more than if charged on a designated charger. Equally stressful is leaving a battery in a hot car, especially if exposed to the sun (such is the case with your GPS left in the car.) When not in use, store the battery in a cool, dry place.

Heat buildup is always a concern so running a laptop in bed or on a pillow may contribute to this by restricting airflow. Not only will heat stress electronic components, elevated temperature causes the electrodes in the battery to react with the electrolyte and this will permanently lower the capacity. Place something under the laptop to increase clearance and improve air circulation. Under normal circumstances it should not be necessary to disconnect a laptop from the power grid because once the lithium-ion battery is full, a correctly functioning charger will discontinue the charge and will only engage when the battery voltage drops to a low level.

<u>Want more info? BatteryUniversity.com</u> is an excellent source for information.

### JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER.....



Editors' Note: The following are the official minutes of the Rivendell Board of Directors. As such, they are published as they were received. The Woodlands Word is not responsible for any errors in spelling, grammar, or content. The official Board Minutes can also be viewed on-line through the Rivendell website at Lighthouse Management.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes of June 2nd, 2011 Meeting

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Directors was scheduled to be held at 6:00 P.M., at the 1st Baptist Church, located at 265 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M., by the President, John Critser.

Notice of the meeting was delivered to each Director and posted on the property prior meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Association Documents and Florida Statues.

A motion was made by Ms. Sokal and seconded by Mr. Greco to approve the agenda as presented.

The following Directors were present: John Critser, Judy Sokal, Bobby Merrill, Ken Heckert John Greco was absent

A quorum was declared to be present.

A motion was made to change the minutes, a motion was made by Ms. Sokal and seconded by Mr. Heckert to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of March 3rd, 2011 and Special Meeting of May 11, 2011. Motion passed.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**, Treasurer's report, Mr. Merrill reported the current financials indicate expenditures are under budget. This is mainly due to landscaping and legal fees; however, several landscaping projects have been approved or will be in the near future. There is approximately \$35,000 in past due accounts and \$21,000 has been budgeted. A motion was made by Ms. Sokal and seconded by Mr. Heckert to accept the treasurer's report as given.

#### **Committee Reports**

Communication, Woodlands Word came out today, Ms. Sokal, thanked Barb Gahry, the directory has been distributed. There are issues with the publishing company and the advertising is down, but Dave Gill has agreed to submit an article.

Architectural Review, no report.

Pool, Ms. Merrill reported the clock on the south end of the tower would be repaired. The vents on the restroom doors have been repainted.

Landscape/Environmental, Mr. Gill provided a report (see attachment #1).

Manager's report, (see attachment #2).

#### **Unfinished Business**

Documents Modernization and Simplification, Mr. Gill reported that he, Joe Sefack, and Gary Portugal met in March and provided a recommendation to the Board. The primary function was to address the articles relative to lot mowing, removing any reference to developer, and any restrictions that are obsolete. In addition, all the amendments would be incorporated into the main documents. After the attorney reviews the amendments town hall meetings could be scheduled with the membership to review and then put on the agenda for two-thirds vote at the Annual Membership meeting. The Board agreed to review the amendments and verify the cost with the association's attorney. Mr. Sefack suggested the Board in the future acknowledge receipt of recommendations given by a committee that was appointed by the Board.

#### **New Business**

Matters relating to Homeowner Encroachments into Common Preserve Areas, Mr. Gill explained that the company hired to work on the preserve areas is Aquagenix has recommended Creative Wetlands to conduct the monitoring report to submit to the County. The Board is currently awaiting the reports completion.

Matters relating to Park Trace Fence, Mr. Critser provided the history in obtaining approval for the permits for the fencing. A quote was submitted by Fontanyi Fence for a chain-link fence. A motion was made by Mr. Heckert and seconded by Ms. Sokal

MOTION 11-24: to approve the installation of a chain-link fence at a cost not to exceed \$2050 plus tax. Motion passed.

Matters relating to Removal and disposal or the Solar Equipment, Mr. Critser reported A-1 Electric has offered to dispose of the solar equipment including electrical components and housing units at no charge to the association. The pumps and lines will remain. A motion was made by Mr. Heckert and seconded by Ms. Sokal

**MOTION 11-25**: to approve the removal of the solar equipment in the five areas by A-1 Electric at no expense to the association. Motion passed.

Rainbow Point, Mr. Critser reported this area has been a work in progress. The irrigation has been assessed and only the median plantings need to be decided on. The Board requested the Landscape Committee research the best possible planting for the area with final approval from the Landscape Board liaison. A motion was made by Mr. Heckert and seconded by Mr. Merrill

MOTION 11-26: to approve up to \$6,000 for the landscaping of the median strips along Rainbow Point. Motion passed.

The next regular Board meeting was scheduled for September 8th, 2011.

#### Owner discussion

An owner in attendance inquired about the Alley Ways in the Woodland Villas. Mr. Critser explained that the Rivendell Master association does not have the legal authority to assess the Villa owners for the expense. There is an easement in certain areas in which, the master association is willing to contribute their share of the expense. Mr. Critser agreed to address the matter with Woodland Villas President once more.

An owner inquired if the fire hydrants within Rivendell are inspected on regular basis by the Fire Department. Management agreed to verify this.

With no further business before the Board, a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Kyanne Merrill, CAM

Dated: This 16th day of June, 2011.

#### **LANDSCAPE REPORT (Attachment #1)**

JUNE 2011 DAVE GILL

The committee met May 10, 2011 with ten Rivendell residents and discussed a variety of issues and activities concerning our common grounds, wetland, and lake areas. The tentative date for the next meeting is Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Check with Dave Gill for exact time and place. You are welcome to attend, either as an observer or as an active participating member.

We are working with Valley Crest Landscape to improve and upgrade the irrigation systems. New high tech heads are being installed to better balance the water pressure in each zone. The main pump is on a regular scheduled maintenance program and some zone valves and timers have been changed. Once the irrigation is complete, new sod turf and landscaping plantings will be added at the entry, medians, along Rivendell Boulevard and Rainbow Point Boulevard.

Despite good intentions and hard work by a few resident volunteers a couple of years ago, the solar power equipment next to five ponds (Osprey, Crane, Placid, Pine and Golden) is not working. Efforts to refurbish or replace the old equipment by a professional electrical contractor with solar experience were prohibitively expensive and came with no guarantees. The committee recommended removing the old solar power equipment, making decisions on what areas really required new irrigation and working with FPL to bring power to the pumps if needed.

We will ask Valley Crest for proposals to seed or plug new Bahia grass, which needs little irrigation, in selected areas around these ponds. We will also ask them to adjust their mowing height and schedules in the Bahia grass areas, and give us proposals for other low maintenance foliage. We discussed the pros and cons of mowing to the water's edge, both by Valley Crest on common ground and by residents behind their homes. We will work on clarifying that with Valley Crest and have the Board look into the resident maintenance issue.

Aquatic Systems Inc. is doing their best to control the algae on the lakes and ponds. Hot weather and nutrients from rain run-off can cause blooms in a single day. Treatments on three or four ponds are scheduled every week but the results are not immediate. They work on submerged algae and grasses, plus the floating scum. Some of what you see is dead algae that take a few days or a good rain to sink. It is an ongoing effort.

The board has awarded a contract to Aquagenix to do some initial clean up and monthly maintenance of our wetland preserves and buffers. Each area will be on a maintenance schedule and their ground crews will be working to contain exotic, invasive and nuisance vegetation to improve the looks and as required by our original master plan with the county.

Our committee is made up of Rivendell residents and owners who are concerned with the current and long term beauty of all our common area property. We are your neighbors and welcome your ideas and constructive criticisms. If you have issues or concerns with any of our on-site contractors please contact Kyanne at Lighthouse Property Management. They will log in your call or e-mail, advise the appropriate contractor if necessary and contact a board member for follow up.

### Manager's Report 6/2/11

#### On Site/Maintenance-

- Property inspections- 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24
- Property visit, post agenda- 5/31
- Property inspection, follow up on several compliance issues
- Clock by pool is being repaired

#### Administrative-

- Forwarded financials to Board for review
- Forwarded draft agenda to board for review
- Forwarded draft minutes for review
- Forwarded ARC requests to committee- weekly
- Approved minutes posted to website
- Forwarded approved minutes to Ms. Babbitt for publishing in the newsletter
- Continuing to follow up with proposals for landscaping and irrigation from Valley Crest

#### Correspondence-

Letters sent to homeowners regarding submitted ARC forms

#### Compliance-

Compliance letters mailed to homeowners. Total of 30

Roof/Fence	1
Dogs-barking	1
Yard Condition/Weeds	5
For Sale signs	
Garbage Cans	1
Mailbox	6
Trucks	
Basket ball hoop/play equip.	
Light out	16 (5/29/11)

Kyanne Merrill, CAM Managing Agent

#### The Sarasota Observer Delivery

The **Woodlands Word** is usually delivered inside **The Sarasota Observer** the first Thursday of each month.

#### Seasonal residents,

if you want to reinstate or suspend delivery of The Sarasota Observer, call Donna Condon at 366-3468.

Remember you can still read the Woodlands Word online by going to http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\_login.html and clicking on News Letters.

Be sure to visit the website to see the photos in color!

### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE Minutes of August 30, 2011 Meeting

Attendees: John Greco – Board Liaison, John Beatty, Allen Roeter

Guest: None

The ARC meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with a quorum of 3 Committee members present.

The minutes of the prior ARC meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

The following applications were reviewed and decided for action.

ITEM	ADDRESS	WORKPLAN	RESOLUTION
1.	1105 Millpond Court	Hurricane wind abatement system	Resolved: <b>Approved</b> Motion: Beatty 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Roeter Notes:
2.	922 Eagle Isle Court	Painting / updating front door     Hurricane wind abatement system	Resolved: <b>Approved</b> Motion: Greco 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Roeter Notes:

New business: none

ARC meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next Meeting September 27, 2011 6:00 p.m.

#### VISIT RIVENDELL'S WEB SITE

And view Woodlands Word photographs in color!

Rivendell Website Instructions

Access the Rivendell website at: <a href="http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\_login.html">http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\_login.html</a>

To begin, click on Association Members Login. Your new Login ID is your 6-digit Lighthouse **Management account number** (including leading zeros) followed by your last name, for example "001234Smith." Don't know your account number? Call Lighthouse at 966-6844.

Your temporary password is LHMTEMP123. Follow the prompts to create your own password.

#### Advertising in the Woodlands Word

The Woodlands Word offers two types of advertising:

- 1. Paid advertising for businesses and
- 2. Free classified ads for small personal items.

#### Publisher information for paid advertising:

For business ads, contact our newsletter's publisher, On Trac Publishing at 941-723-5003 or email joan@teledrex.com for more information.

Advertisers may obtain advertising rates online at www.teledrex.com or www.ontracnewsletters.

#### Classified Ads information for the Woodlands Word:

Small classified ads are for items such as garage sales, childcare opportunities, dog walking, etc. These ads usually run for just one month. However, young residents who are offering their services for babysitting, computer help, etc. can run an ad multiple times.

Please send your written ad to Pam at pbbabbitt@comcast.net by the 10th of the month in order to make the deadline for the next month's issue.

We have a new number!

941-723-5003

or Toll free 800-434-9879

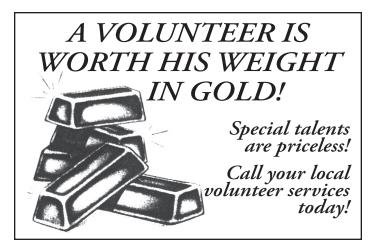
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### **Medicare Changes**

**OCTOBER** 

15

Every year, you get the opportunity to pick a Medicare plan that will work best for you. This year Open Enrollment is starting on October 15 and ending on December 7. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act,

there are lot of new beneftis to choose from. Every person with Medicare will have to choose a "Part D" plan to help them pay for medication. And those enrolled in a "Part C" Medicare Advantage plan for their basic health care services have the option of staying in that plan, choosing a different plan, or going back to the Original Medicare program.

#### Would you like to learn more?

Contact Cesar Chacon Licensed Insurance Agent, FL Lic# W034387 **Phone: (941) 302-9400** 

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#### WHO WE ARE

#### RCA Committees 10/2011

#### Communications

(nlrhines@verizon.net)

Board Liaison, Judy Sokal

Chair. Norma Lee Rhines

**Directory**, Barb Gahry

Block Captains, Cindy Schmidl

Newsletter, Norma Lee Rhines, Linda Pearlstein,

Editors; Marilyn Probert, Copy; Pam Babbitt,

Reporter Assignments; Mike Bergman, Reporter

Representative

Reporters: Barb Gahry, Carol Heckert,

Mary Kennedy, Charles Kiblinger,

Jane Lettich, Ed Lin, Kay Mruz, Anita Voth

#### Architectural Review (ARC)

(ARC.BMc@gmail.com)

Board Liaison, John Greco

Chair, Barry McClure

Frank Pafumi, Allen Roeter, John Beatty

#### Landscape/Environmental

(davidegill@verizon.net)

Board Liaison, John Critser

Chair, Dave Gill

Mike Bergman, Frank Freestone, Ken Heckert, Carol Heckert, Charles Kiblinger, Denny Pavlock, Walter Perkowski, Dieter Schmitt, Carl Schubert, Nancy Schubert, Jim Stepien

#### Swimming Pool

(Vacant)

Board Liaison, Ken Heckert

Chair, Vacant

Carol Heckert, Bo Potter, Lori Yohann

#### Access the Rivendell website at:

http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\_login.html

Your input and feedback are always encouraged and welcomed.

#### Rivendell Board of Directors

John Greco, president

(jgreco8054@aol.com)

Liaison to ARC

TBD, vice president

Bobby Merrill, treasurer

(bobbymerrill3@aol.com)

Judy Sokal, secretary

(judysokal@gmail.com)

Liaison to Communications

Ken Heckert, director

(<u>kenheckert@verizon.net</u>)

Liaison to Pool

John Critser, director

(jdc@mollycat.net)

Liaison to Landscape/Environmental

#### Subassociation Officers

#### The Cottages Board of Directors

Jane Lettich, President Dave Perez, 1st Vice President

Skip Kessel, 2nd Vice President

Carole Myles, Treasurer

Mike Georgopolis, Secretary

#### Patio Homes Board of Directors

Edward Diggs, President

Jayne Irene, Secretary

Bruce Whalen, Treasurer

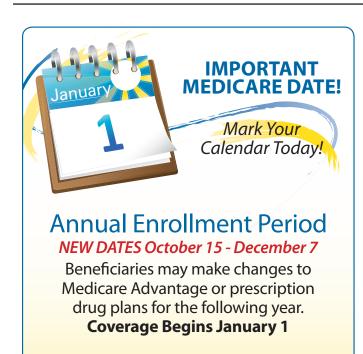
#### The Villas Board of Directors

Dianne Enger, President Sherry Sholtis, Vice President, Secretary Lory Turner, Treasurer

Published by On Trac Publishing, 723-5003
Delivered by Observer, 366-3468
Lighthouse Property Management, 966-6844

Kyanne Merrill: kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv

**Deadline** - Submit articles and information to <a href="mailto:pbbabbitt@comcast.net">pbbabbitt@comcast.net</a> by the tenth of the month.



To contact SHINE for assistance, please call:

**1-800-96-ELDER** (800- 963-5337)



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- Build a fair and peaceful world.
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