



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

January 2026

The President's Report

Larry Dobias



The new year will be one of transition as there will be significant changes to the Board for 2026. There are three positions open and as I write this note, there are four members running for the Board. In addition, Rich Bunce, was appointed to replace Chuck Pertile as the treasurer and will complete the one term left on Chuck's position. When the new Board is formed in February there will be four new Board members.

The financials for 2025 are projected to finish strong in both the Operating Income as well as the current balance in Reserve. It is important to vote yes for a rollover of the excess funds in the coming election to avoid any tax liability. In addition, there is nearly

\$20,000 of Capital Contribution income as the result of property sales and another \$16,000 of unallocated interest on the CD designated for Reserves. The new Board will be well positioned to meet the financial requirements for 2025.

Numerous projects were completed and much of the work was directed to retrofitting and replacement of the infrastructure. There is still work to be done and the new Board will have it's work cut out to insure the delayed projects are completed. I am leaving the Board in good hands with the qualified members taking their turn at managing the HOA.



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5 Reasons Why Alligators Are High Value Residents Of An HOA

1. Free Engineering & Erosion Control

Alligators are known as “**ecosystem engineers**.” In Florida’s heat, retention ponds can suffer from overgrown vegetation and muck buildup. Alligators create “gator holes” and clear paths through aquatic weeds. This movement helps circulate water and prevents the overgrowth of invasive plants that can clog drainage systems—saving the HOA money on professional pond clearing and bank stabilization.

2. The “Resident Gator” Security Guard

Alligators are highly territorial. An established, medium-sized “resident” alligator will naturally defend its pond from other alligators. If you remove a shy, 6-foot gator that has lived peacefully in your pond for years, you open up a “job vacancy” that might be filled by a much larger, more aggressive, or more mobile bull gator looking for a new home.

3. Natural Disease & Pest Management

Without alligators, the population of smaller mammals like **raccoons, opossums, and rats** would explode. These animals

are much more likely to enter your garage, tear up your shingles, or carry diseases like rabies and distemper. Alligators act as a natural barrier, keeping these smaller scavengers away from the homes surrounding the water.

4. Preservation of the “Florida Brand”

Many residents move to Florida specifically for the unique environment. A community that demonstrates a harmonious relationship with wildlife often feels more “premium” and established than one that feels like a concrete jungle. Highlighting your community as a “**Certified Wildlife Habitat**” can actually be a selling point for eco-conscious buyers.

5. Biodiversity Maintenance

Alligators are the “apex” of the local food chain. By keeping fish and turtle populations in check, they prevent any one species from overpopulating. This balance ensures that your community ponds remain clear and vibrant with a variety of birds (like herons and egrets) that people love to watch—birds that wouldn’t visit a pond with an unhealthy, unbalanced ecosystem.



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

(solution on page 12)

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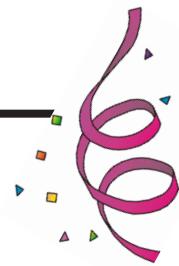
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Social Committee Activities for January 2026



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

- Monday, January 5th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, January 8th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, January 12th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Monday, January 12th, 7:30 pm. Rivendell Book Group. For more information, contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or Lesley Glick at (973) 219-5839.
- Tuesday, January 13th, 12:30 pm. Tuesday Ladies' Luncheon Group. To join, contact Helen McClure at mcclurenash@gmail.com.
- Monday, January 19th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, January 22nd, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Friday, January 23rd, 7:00 pm. Dining Out at Waterfront Too. To attend, contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com or (908) 464-7003 by January 16th.
- Monday, January 26th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).



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**Do you have any questions about Rivendell or
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Golfing with the Wild Things

By Nancy Dobias

As a New Year gets ready to begin, we're always told to be ready for changes that may come our way. Some like to get on top of those changes by making resolutions, while others like to develop rules.

As a former teacher, I used to rules, but I never saw so many rules and sub-sections for rules as what I have seen in golf. It seems a Rules Official would need a wheeled cart to carry around the rule book if league golfers really intended to follow all of the rules that have been developed to cover anything and everything that could possibly happen.

I didn't start playing golf until I could no longer comfortably play tennis so I was rather naive about a game that involved a ball that just sat there. It seemed as though it would be easy enough to hit, but oh how wrong that was! Not only has it been a difficult game to master but it certainly has had a lot of interesting experiences associated with it.

I remember when I first started playing golf and didn't know the rules, Larry was always kind enough to give me some tips. For example, one such tip was that CARTS WERE NOT ALLOWED ON THE GRASS ON A PAR 3. Now that seemed easy enough to remember BUT Larry didn't understand that I was going to take him at his word. If he said "no carts on the grass EVER on a par 3," then that was the rule in my world.

One day after we moved to Florida, we were playing at Calusa Lakes. We were on the 9th hole...a par 3...and up ahead of us was an alligator sunning himself on the cart path!

NOW WHAT?? How do I play this hole if I can't go off the cart path? Do I wait for the alligator to move? Do I go back to the cart to get my iPhone so I can play alligator attack or mating sounds to try to get the alligator to react so he'd move? (I had a really neat alligator app on my phone!)

So many questions were going through my mind as I silently stood on my tee box and debated my best option. Then Larry said, "What's the problem? Why aren't you hitting?"

I answered, "You told me that the cart had to stay on the cart path on a Par 3 and there's an alligator on our cart path."

Larry responded, "Just HIT the ball and we'll go around him."

NOW HE TELLS ME....GOLF RULES HAVE EXCEPTIONS....I'm mumbling to myself....

Yes, golf rules seem to cover everything. One day Larry hit a great drive and couldn't wait to get to the ball to see how far he had hit it when out of the blue, swooping down to the fairway, came a big black bird! Quickly that crow snatched Larry's ball and off he flew! Whether he intended to offer it on ebay, who knows, but Larry was annoyed that he did not know how far that ball had gone! (I guess the bird could have first given a distance reading and then Larry would have been fine with that....)

As it was, there needed to be a rule to cover this situation and there was: Larry incurred no penalty stroke for the "lost" ball and he incurred no penalty stroke for when he had to lay down a new ball!

I'm always glad that we never hit any wildlife on the golf course but there is a rule that covers this!

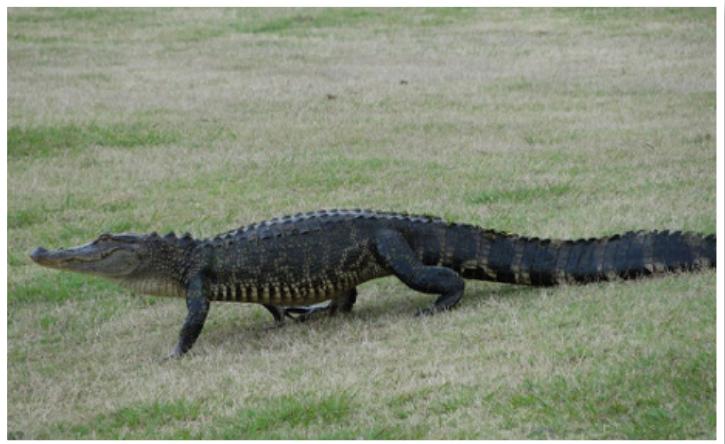
If the ball is deflected off course by striking an animal, bird, or person, RUN! (No, just kidding.) You play the ball wherever it ends up. There's no penalty involved for striking an animal or person.

Speaking of hitting a person...one time Larry accidentally hit a man who was going to the next tee box. He didn't anticipate the cart would make a turn into his line of hitting...but unfortunately the cart did. The ball hit the cart and then bounced off the cart and hit the man in the head! Luckily he wasn't hit directly with the ball! Larry hurried over to see if he was OK and when he was, he apologized and then paid for his next round of golf.

In golf, you never know where your ball will land. It could take a bad hop. You could have put spin on it. Any number of things could have happened that could have caused your ball to go towards TROUBLE.

If the ball happened to land near a dangerous animal, you do not have to play it where it lies. Move the ball a safe distance away (if possible) or if not possible, put down a new ball. There are no penalty strokes involved when you do this. You determine what the safe distance would be.

One time we were golfing with two men at Oakford and up ahead an alligator was crossing the fairway, so I grabbed my camera to get the picture....



We were parked right next to a pond waiting for the group in front of us to hit and when the men with whom we were golfing yelled over, "LOOK AT THAT ALLIGATOR..."

I'm thinking, "I have my camera POINTING at that alligator!"

When they saw we were not reacting, they shouted again, "NO, LOOK DOWN!"

I looked down and right below me...rising up out of the reeds...was the biggest and widest alligator I have ever seen and WE WERE PARKED RIGHT BESIDE HIM and didn't even know it!

Fortunately for us, that bull alligator saw that other alligator coming across the fairway and diving into HIS pond and off he flew in that alligator's direction! (It was mating season.)

(Continued on Pg.7)

(Golfing Continued)

Boy, my heart was going a mile a minute! We never knew that bull alligator was there....I'm not sure if this is the guy but it's the next picture after his "lady friend" picture was taken. If it is, I'm surprised I got a picture. I was stunned when I saw him right below me. It was the WIDTH of his back that was right beside and below where I was sitting. Sure was glad he was more interested in that other gal!!!



Obviously if our ball had landed near this guy, we would have gotten a free drop a LOOOONG way away from this guy...on the line of hitting...once I recovered, of course!!!

Now, here's a different scenario: What if a golfer were in the middle of putting and the ball was heading straight towards the cup when suddenly a fun-loving squirrel scampered up in front of the ball and knocked it off its path and prevented the golfer from sinking the 20 foot putt of a lifetime???

WHAT IS THE RULE???

Generally if an animal deflects a ball, you have to play the ball wherever it ends up. Is this true on the green as well????

EXCEPTION: **If you are on the green** when that fun-loving squirrel caused your ball to go off line and caused you to lose making that 20 foot putt-of-a-lifetime, then you get to calmly walk over to pick up your ball, and return to the spot where you first made that putt and then try, try again. NO PENALTY.

So, as the New Year unfolds and you think you have created all the resolutions and rules that will make your life a little more perfect or at least a little less hectic or worrisome, think again.

Life is full of a lot of unexpected surprises, many nuances, and lots of possibilities.

Hang on, enjoy the ride, and no refunds! HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The Neighbor in the Lake: Why HOA Residents Should Embrace Florida's Alligators

By Nancy Dobias and Gemini

Living in a Florida HOA often feels like living in a postcard—manicured lawns, shimmering retention ponds, and year-round sunshine. But for many residents, that postcard feels “ruined” the moment a dark snout breaks the surface of the local pond.

The instinctual reaction is often to call the hotline and have the “nuisance” removed. However, if we want to preserve the value of our properties and the health of our local ecosystem, it’s time for a shift in perspective. We shouldn’t just tolerate alligators; we should appreciate them as the ultimate community asset.

1. The Ultimate Natural Pest Control

Before you call a trapper, consider what the alligator is doing for you for free. Alligators are apex predators that keep the local population of “true” nuisances in check.

- Nutria and Muskrats:** These rodents can undermine canal banks and cause expensive erosion to your backyard. Alligators keep their numbers down.
- Raccoons and Opossums:** While cute, these animals are frequent carriers of rabies and notorious for tearing through trash and nesting in attics.
- Overpopulated Fish:** They help maintain a healthy balance in retention ponds, preventing “stunted” fish populations and keeping the water’s ecosystem from collapsing.

2. The “Vacuum” Effect: Why Removal Doesn’t Work

The most persuasive reason to live with an alligator is simple biology: **nature hates a vacuum.** When a “socialized” or established alligator is removed from a pond, it leaves behind a prime piece of real estate. Almost immediately, a new alligator—often a younger, more transient, and more unpredictable male—will move in to take its place. By “learning to live” with a resident alligator that keeps to itself, you are actually preventing a revolving door of new, unknown gators from entering your neighborhood.

3. Protecting Property Values through Biodiversity

Florida’s allure is its wild beauty. Homebuyers from out of state move here for the “Florida lifestyle,” which includes our unique flora and fauna. A sterile, lifeless pond is a sign of an unhealthy environment. Conversely, a managed ecosystem where wildlife thrives (safely) adds to the character and prestige of a community.

4. Coexistence is Easier Than You Think

Living with alligators doesn’t mean “befriending” them. It means following three simple, non-negotiable rules that ensure safety for everyone:

Never Feed Them: An alligator’s natural fear of humans is our greatest safety feature. Feeding them destroys that fear.

Keep Your Distance: Enjoy them from the bank, not the water’s edge.

Leash Your Pets: This is the most common cause of conflict. Keeping pets away from the water’s edge at dawn and dusk eliminates 99% of the risk.

Conclusion

We chose to build our homes in a subtropical wilderness. The alligator isn’t an “invader” in our HOA; it is the original developer of the land. By choosing coexistence over removal, we protect our property, our pets, and the very environment that makes Florida a beautiful place to live.



A quiet alligator in the pond is a sign of a healthy, stable neighborhood.

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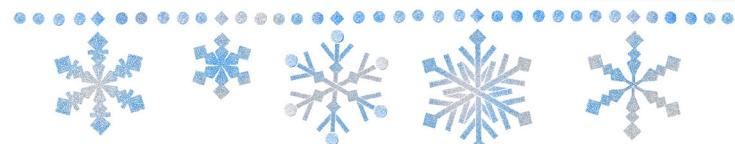
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Holiday Fun at The Cottages

by Marylin and Jim May

Every December at The Cottages we gather for our festive Holiday Party. It's always a friendly opportunity to rekindle acquaintances and meet new neighbors. On the menu this year was plenty of pizza to meet everyone's tastes. Dinner also included salad, dessert and drinks, but many people brought delicious cookies, candies, and treats to share. The Holiday Party was a mix of sharing stories, enjoying the food, and admiring the clubhouse Christmas tree. It was fabulous fun for all who participated. Special thanks to Debbie Craddock and Joe & Marilee Casale for planning such a wonderful evening! (Thanks to Deb Holton-Smith for providing these pictures!)



Ladies Luncheon on Second Tuesday of Each Month

For 2026, Helen McClure will be hosting a Ladies' Luncheon on the second Tuesdays of each month. In December, the group went to Bodrum to eat Turkish food, and on January 13th, 2026, at 12:30 pm the group will be trying a new restaurant in Venice, Unique Cuisine on 200 N. Tamiami Trail. Unique Cuisine has a large menu with items varying from poke bowls to crepes. To join the group, please contact Helen McClure at mcclureash@gmail.com by January 6th. Below is a photo of the group who gathered in December.



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Maintenance Committee Report

December 15, 2025

Mark Giordano, Chair

Committee Members: Chuck Pertile (Board Liaison), Dave Cook, Larry Dobias, Kevin Humbert, Carole Myles, Greg Volack, Cathy Bishop (Horticulture Consultant), Chris Miller, John Krebsach. Helpers: Peter Diagnault, Jonas Meyer, Jeff Young, Dennis Bowman.

At our meeting the following amenities were discussed. The **Facilities Management Plan (FMP)** format is used: The **FMP** continues to be updated.

Landscape Management:

1. Truscapes is performing the bi-weekly turf mowing and trimming.
2. Truscapes applied weed killer, turf and ornamental fertilization and weeded.
3. The MC continued to clean up debris and trimmed vines and brush along Rivendell Blvd entrance.
4. The MC continues to rake up and collect for disposal fallen limbs and palm fronds throughout the community.
5. Rogelio Landscaping performing monthly maintenance at the entrances and islands throughout the community.
6. The MC trimmed bushes and cleaned up debris on the north side of Rivendell Blvd and Old Venice Road.
7. Truscapes furnished and installed landscape mulch.
8. Rogelio planted flowers in various beds for the Garden Club.

Tree Trimming:

1. Green Topps removed the Ficus(Banyan) Tree at the Cottages Park, trimmed the oak tree at light pole 5 and cut 2 dead trees in the common/preserve area.

Irrigation System:

1. TruScapes made repairs listed on the September and October inspection report and conducted the November inspection. Repaired a break in the 3" line feeding Controller 1.

Community Pool and Clock Tower:

1. Wee Kleen will start twice per week service at the pool.

Community Pool Pump Room:

1. Southwest Pools performed the weekly pool servicing and troubleshooting low flow issues.
2. M&D Leak Seekers troubleshooted the "low flow" issues pointed out by the health department in the last inspection.

Roadways:

1. The balance of the roadways throughout are not scheduled to be resurfaced this summer, but in 2026 by the county. They will use Reclamite, instead of conventional asphalt.

Sidewalks:

1. The annual list of sidewalk slabs that need replacing by the county for 2025 was developed and submitted to the county for repair and they started repairs.
2. Cleaning of Common Area sidewalks is being evaluated. Low Bid: Gorilla Kleen \$7,320.
3. A new concrete sidewalk and possible relocation is needed from Rivendell Blvd to the Banyan Tree. Approved but project on hold for the removal of the Ficus Tree 3 addition slabs need replacement, for an additional \$ 2,750. Adam Case Concrete.

Street Light Poles:

1. Nostalgic Lamppost's conducted by monthly service and inspection.

Holiday Lighting: The MC installed holiday lights and made necessary repairs to the Electric grid.

Playground, Gazebo and Benches:

Pine View Path

1. MC waiting for the contractor to schedule repairs.

Drainage System:

1. The flowthrough drainage frame and grate at Golden Pond was replaced by Rick Richards.

Rivendell Gardening Club

1. The gardening club was formed to help care for flowers and small plants throughout the community's Common Areas, in addition, to creating different gardens and to provide some TLC to the new plantings. Although under the purview of the MC, the Gardening Club would work independently to enhance the community's landscaping. All those interested contact Cathy Bishop at Cbutton99@icloud.com

2. Current Members: Cathy Bishop, Lisa Gardner, Mary/Cao Le-coeuche, Carol McDonald, Helen McClure, Mike Nash, Lesley Sachs, Ellen Sagalov, Dana Schroeder, Margaret Williams, Mary Kay Barton, Charles and Jean Gayre, Long Nguyen.

Next MC Meeting is December 16

The Maintenance Committee is always looking to expand its membership to assist in overseeing the numerous amenities that require attention. The goal is to keep Rivendell the beautiful community that it is. The committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Cottages. Prospective members could familiarize themselves with the MC duties by reviewing the Facilities Management Plan (FMP) published on the website. Anyone with questions and/or wishing to join the committee, please contact Mark Giordano at (845) 656-6411 or email mjg283@gmail.com.

Candidate for the HOA Board of Directors

Antriece Muther



My name is Antriece Muther, and I have been a proud member of the Rivendell community since May 2021. My husband Paul and I have two adult children, Cameron and Jillian. I worked as an elementary school teacher for 26 years before retiring in 2021. During my career, I learned the value of communication, organization, and collaboration—skills that have served me well in my family life and in the organizations I've volunteered with over the years.

Community involvement has always been important to me. I spent 16 years volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, serving in leadership roles including Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout mentor. These roles not only impacted my own family but also our church parish and the surrounding community, strengthening my commitment to service and teamwork.

Originally from California, I'm thrilled to call Florida home. I love being outdoors—whether hiking, biking, or kayaking—and appreciate all the natural beauty our area offers. We are blessed to have such a beautiful neighborhood with its nature preserves and open spaces. I am running for the HOA board because I want to become more involved in my community and help maintain the beauty and welcoming environment that makes Rivendell so special.

Terry Siemsen

Hi, I'm Terry Siemsen and I'm a candidate for the Rivendell HOA Board.

My wife Kandy and I have been Rivendell residents since June 2022 (right before Hurricane Ian). We had been part-time FL and part-time KY residents for a number of years and made a decision in late 2021 to find our single “forever home”. We did just that and found our home that's on Clear Creek Drive.

My background is in emergency management and environmental protection, having worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for 37 years. I'm still involved in disaster recovery, being part of the retired USACE cadre that augments FEMA response in various events. Since moving to Rivendell, I was a member of the Maintenance Committee for one year and have since become a member of the Ponds and Preserves Committee and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Some of you may have read my articles that have been included in our Woodland Word.

If chosen to become a Board member, it would be my intent to represent all residents and work with other Board members to have a safe, efficient and beautiful community – essentially continuing the great work past Boards have accomplished.

Will Barton



I am writing to formally announce my candidacy for the Board of Directors of the Rivendell Community Homeowners Association.

I am interested in serving to help maintain our community's standards, support responsible decision-making, and ensure clear communication between the Board and homeowners.

Born and raised just outside of Buffalo NY - My wife and I moved down to Florida and bought our house in Rivendell 5 years ago to send our two boys to the Pineview School. Living in beautiful Rivendell and sending our kids to such an accredited school has been a dream come true, and now coaching youth ice and ball hockey as my boys grow up is next on my list of things to make happen - that and pulling an 8 pound largemouth bass out of the ponds here!

Professionally, I'm confident my background in Project Management and skills with client relations would help me to contribute positively and work collaboratively with fellow board members and residents towards our collective goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to earn your support and vote to serve on the board.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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November ARC Meeting - Tuesday, December 2, 2025

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

Members Present: Jim Duncan, Joe Casale, Bill Borgelt, Michelle Meyer (Board Liason)

Others Present:

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

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
1	1012 Oak Meadow Lane	Gregory & Sue Walsh	Install a so-called "Front portico lanai" (typically known as screening in main front entry portico) using extruded aluminum in white. 11th hr addition: Homeowner will pursue a claim that a denial constitutes unfair housing violation (discrimination based on Disability) under Fair Housing Act.	Board unilaterally permitted homeowners to preempt and bypass the ARC review process and granted approval before ARC's review & denial and without benefit of ARC's findings. See extensive note below.			X

The Board determined at its last meeting that one of its own Rules - the ARC Guidelines - did not apply to the proposal by Greg and Sue Walsh or to the board's own actions. Namely, that "any change to the exterior of your house or yard must be requested and approved by the Architectural Review Committee..." (underlining in the text of the Guidelines).

Neither the ARC's board liaison nor any other board member present at the board meeting, took note of the fact that such a determination was not on the board meeting agenda and no notice was provided beforehand to any Member, let alone to the ARC. The board is familiar with the level of detail the ARC provides on sensitive approvals and on 100% of its few denials. Nevertheless, no board member present even wondered aloud whether the ARC's findings might be relevant to the matter.

The board neither solicited nor received the findings of the ARC related to the matter before approving the Walsh's proposal. The ARC discovered this well after the board decision was taken; nonetheless, the ARC completed its review, recorded its detailed findings as part of the unanimous decision to DENY the proposal, and forwarded to the board liaison its findings, the benefit of which the board determined before receiving them were irrelevant to its decision. This review was particularly involved because the Walsh's made an 11th hour, unsupported threat that a denial would be unfair housing discrimination under the US and FL Fair Housing Act because Mrs. Walsh's was "Disabled" (as defined by the FHA) and that the proposal to screen in their entry portico was "Necessary" (as defined in the FHA) to alleviate the Disability.

The goal of the ARC is to act as a fiduciary, to protect not only the rights of a homeowner making a proposal but the rights of the 497 other Members who may be impacted by the decision. The ARC undertakes this fiduciary responsibility with seriousness and commitment; in the few instances (~ 2%) that it denies a proposal, it does so because the proposal will negate the sole rationale for the community's covenants and rules: "to preserve the values and amenities of the Total Lands" (all properties comprising the community, including but not limited to an individual homeowner's property) and it records detailed findings supporting its decisions.

The board action in this case belies a view of the current board that this ARC goal is not shared by the board or is not taken by the board with the requisite level of seriousness and commitment to all 498 Members that makes the ARC review of proposals worthwhile. Glib protestations by board members asserting the importance of the ARC process do not survive even casual scrutiny. Talk is cheap.

The collateral damage is that capable Members of the community willing to invest time and attention to develop domain expertise in reviewing proposals, understanding how the Rules and the laws apply to proposals, and understanding their impact on the community will recognize that the value of such personal investment is illusionary, and their undertaking perfunctory.

As a result, Jim Duncan has resigned as a member and chairman of the ARC effective 12/3/25, ending four years of service on the ARC. The board action in this matter aborts his enthusiasm and willingness to continue to serve the Members in this capacity. Bill Borgelt has resigned as well.

2	807 Placid Lake	Leon & Barbara Brown	replace entry walk with pavers. Edge driveway with same pavers. Add walkway of pavers across small garden bed adjacent to drive and corner of garage, approx 9" wide alongside edge of drive	Poured cement concrete foundation to support driveway edging and edge restraint. Agreement to remove edging if not maintained.		X	
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(Continued on Pg.14)

(ARC Meeting continued from Pg.13)

3	746 Shadow Bay Way	Ryan Mach	Temporary removal of portion of hedge to enable construction equipment to access rear of house for replacement of pool cage		X		
4	807 Shadow Bay Way	Dennis Bowman	Repaint: Body: SW7534 OuterBanks; Trim: SW 7567 Nat Tan; Entry Door: SW6186 Dried Thyma; Garage door, gutters and soffit: SW 7005 Pure White		X		
6	726 Fordingbridge Way	Lisa Nee	Install raised bed planter on ground along side of house under son's bedroom. Painted to match house. 1' Tall x 2' Wide x 8' long	to be painted to match color of house. Agreement to remove if not kept planted, weeded and maintained		X	
7	694 Clear Creek	Kevin Humbert	relandscape per plan by Troy Tropics dated 3-13-25		X		
8	819 Shadow Bay Way	Andy McMillan	Remove two diseased palms - one at front, the second at back of property which did not recover from hurricane damage.		X		
9	737 Crane Prairie	Kathleen Schneider	Replace sod with a ground cover - canissa emerald blanket, maintained at 2-3" height and separated from neighbors will narrow mulched area	ARC Guidelines require that all lawns be St Augustine sod. Homeowners' assertions that they cannot get sod to grow are unpersuasive.			X
10	1204 Mallard Marsh	George Hellyer & Ann Brozosky	relandscape per plan		X		
11	692 Shadow Bay Way	Brittany Decarlo	Replace tile roof with asphalt shingle GAF timberline HDZ in Weathered Wood	Home in Section 3-A. ARC strongly encouraged cement tile, but acknowledged that asphalt was "consistent with other homes in the Unit" (3-A) which alone among Units in Rivendell, is 50% tile and 50% asphalt shingle	X		
12	901 Eagle Isle	Tonya Eubank	Repaint new rear door SW 7030 Anew Gray		X		
13	811 Placid Lake	Dan & Jane Tavares	Repaint entry door (from red) to SW6811 Honorable Blue		X		
14	735 Shadow Bay Way	John & Jamie Barron	Repaint Body: BM OC-52 Gray Owl; Trim & Doors: BM OC-17 White Dove		X		
15	976 Scherer	Rochel & Arline Flournoy	A. Repaint - same as existing colors; B. Reroof - replacing with Barrel tile as close a match to existing as is available (Westlake Coconut white antique (1GOC50307BU)		X		

(Continued on Pg.15)

(ARC Meeting continued from Pg.14)

16	530 Meadow Sweet Circle	Shannan Wilson	Roof-mounted solar panel array, rear and rear portion of sides of house, not visible from the street.		X		
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Specific Conditions Applicable to Conditional Approvals only (as noted above)

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

General Conditions (applicable to all approvals)

1. Please complete the project within one year from the date above and in accordance with the general and specific conditions that apply.
2. If you use contractors, they should be licensed and insured; you are responsible for damage caused to the property of others or to the common areas.
3. You are responsible for any permits required and that the work complies with local zoning and building regulations.
4. When pressure washing is part of the scope of work, please use non-chlorine cleaners.
5. When windows are being replaced, those in the front of your house must have "grids" (aka muttins or grills).
6. When trees and bushes are to be removed, the stumps must be ground down to a min of 3" below grade.
7. The roof color & material and/or paint colors you submitted (and the only ones the ARC approved) are noted in the Description above.
8. You have read the RCA's Standing Rules and ARC Guidelines and will make sure the work done conforms with them.

Denials

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

Reviews, Appeals, Mediation, Litigation

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

Covenant & Rules Enforcement: Fines

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

Best of Venice 2024

Inherited Passion



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My mother, MaryEllen, and grandpa, Howard, were both hard-of-hearing. My Mom underwent ear surgery that left her with a profound hearing loss. My grandpa struggled to hear for as long as I remember. I still

recall talking into his pocket where he carried his body aid.

I started working with hearing aids in 1999 and I loved it from the beginning. I took all the classes and extra accreditations including Board Certification and designation from the American Conference of Audioprosthology.

Since I was raised in a hard of hearing household, I have firsthand experience with frustrations and misunderstandings. I watched my own father, Ed, get frustrated whenever he had to repeat himself. I watched my Mom, who loved social events, choose to avoid very noisy situations due to her hearing.

When Karen married into our family, I saw her get her feelings hurt since she thought my Mom wasn't listening. It was accurate but not on purpose. Both my Mom and Karen enjoy cooking, but a kitchen is an acoustical nightmare.

When they cooked together for our holiday meals, I would have to stand in the middle of the kitchen and translate what Karen was saying to my Mom. It is much easier to hear a deep male voice than Karen's higher pitched voice. Add in an exhaust fan, a clang of a pot and a clink of a dish and this is not an easy place for conversation.

A few years after I got into this industry, I was able to re-fit my Mom with appropriate technology for her very social life-style. I gave insight to Karen about her feelings of being ignored. I gave awareness to my Mom about her frustrations and feelings of isolation.

I thoroughly enjoy being able to share these personal experiences so you can see you aren't alone. I truly do understand the frustrations. These insights enable me to help you ease the strain that does exist when living with someone with a hearing loss.

I am so very grateful that I get to do what I love doing every day. I get to be of service to other families who struggle with hearing loss and improve their life and connections with their families. If you or a family member struggle to hear well, call for a free consultation.



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DINING OUT IN JANUARY

You are invited to join a Rivendell group for dinner at the Waterfront Too restaurant. The dinner will be held on Friday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm. If you would like to attend the dinner, please contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or adele.kellman@gmail.com by Friday, January 16th. If you are concerned about driving, let Adele know and she will ensure that you have a ride. This restaurant has been a popular choice for our group's dinner in the past. If you cannot attend but would like to join the mailing list for future such events, please send a note to Adele at the above email address.

Wednesday Ladies' Group needs a Volunteer

The Social Committee is looking for a volunteer to continue the long-standing luncheon schedule of eating on the fourth Wednesday of each month, or, alternatively, to organize a breakfast or luncheon on a different date. These events have been very popular, but without a hostess, they cannot continue. If you are interested in doing this, please contact either Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only) or Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or adele.kellman@gmail.com. We can explain what is involved, for those who might like some help with the process.

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The Ponds & Preserves Look Great!

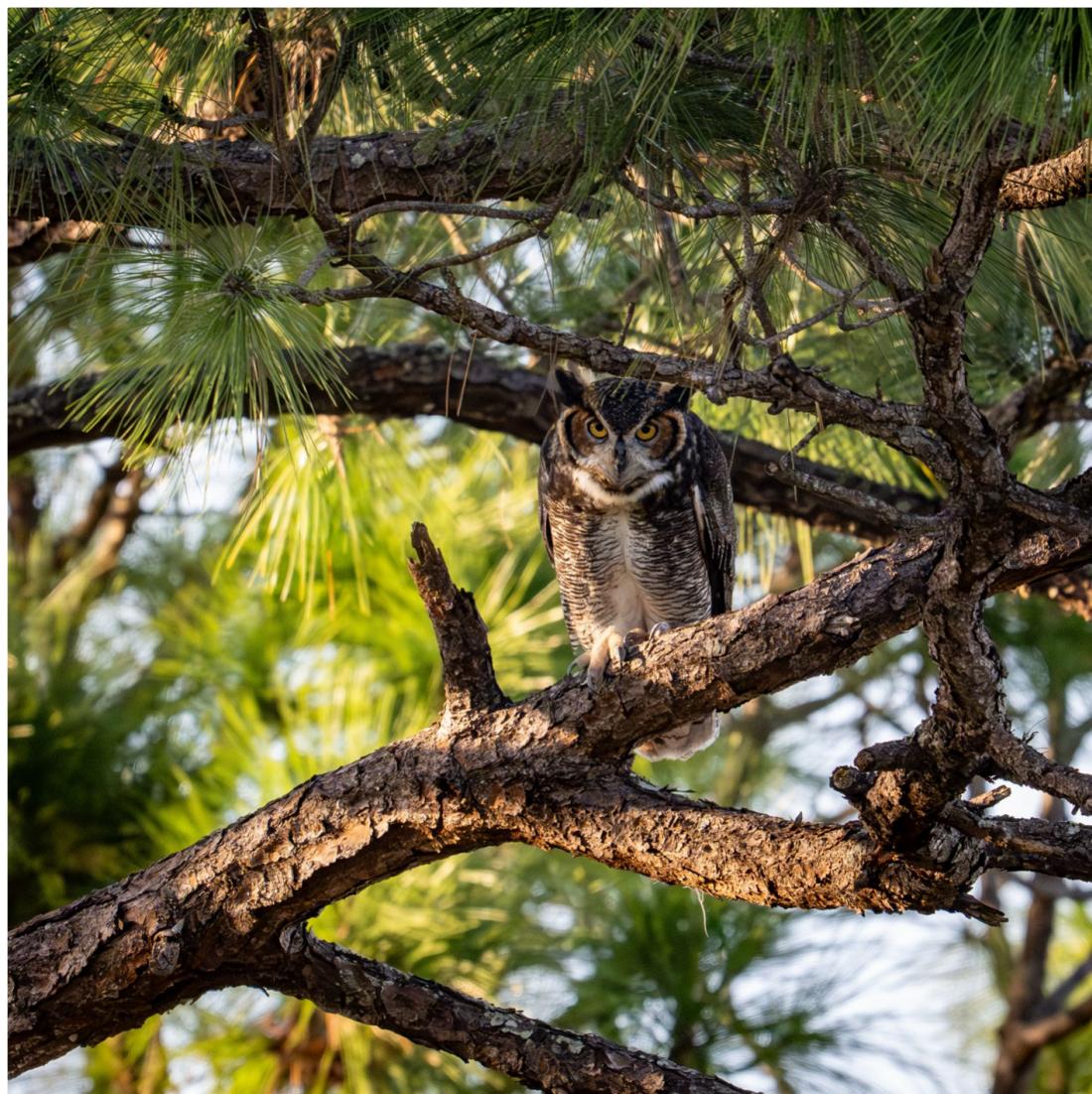
By Bob Frank

One of the main responsibilities of the Ponds and Preserves Committee is pond and preserve inspections. The inspections are done to monitor the work of our community's contractors and to confirm that Rivendell is meeting obligations to maintain our ponds and preserves as required by Sarasota County and the SW Florida Water Management District. The inspections are done in the fall and spring by members of the Ponds and Preserves Committee. We assess the state of the no mower zones around each pond, assess the state of our aquatic plants, look for invasives in ponds and preserves, determine if we have algae problems, evaluate pond erosion and note homeowner incursions into preserve areas. I am happy to share that our December 2025 inspections resulted in an A+ report for the ponds and preserves. We noted very few problems and nothing of major concern. **Truscapes**, the contractor that maintains the no mower zones, and **Beautiful Ponds**, our pond and preserve management company, are doing stellar work. It was especially satisfying to see everything in such good shape

given all the damage done by last year's hurricanes and this year's drought. In my judgment, this is the best the ponds and preserves have looked since I moved to Rivendell with one possible exception. The hurricanes did an enormous amount of damage to our aquatic plants, and they still have not fully recovered. That said, I am very optimistic that we will see very substantial new growth next Spring.

You can help us keep our ponds and preserves in tip-top shape.

- Minimize your use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides
- Never dump any kind of waste into the ponds or preserves or down the street-side storm drains
- Use Florida native plants in your landscaping
- Respect the no mower zones around the ponds
- If there is a preserve bordering your property, leave it alone



Great Horned Owl in Rivendell Preserve

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