



## Did You Know ... The Origin of Rivendell's Name? A Place of Peace and Sanctuary.

By The Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – October 2021]

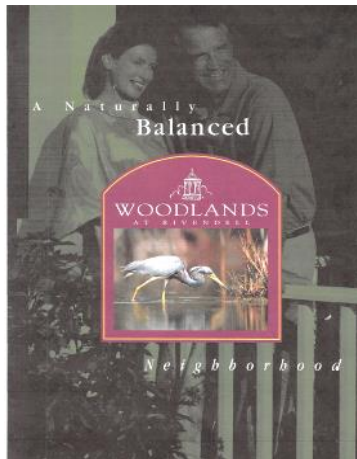


Those of you who are Tolkien fans have already guessed the answer. The developers named our community after the home of the elves in the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Rivendell, known for its feeling of peace, is a valley in J.R.R. Tolkien’s fictional world of Middle-earth, “representing both a homely place of sanctuary and a magical Elvish otherworld.”

The name **Rivendell** is formed by two English elements: “**riven**” (split, cloven) and “**dell**” (valley), making the whole word convey “deeply split valley.” Although Rivendell lacks the deep valley and flowing rivers of Tolkien’s creation or its Elf residents, the master-planned community does take advantage of its lush green foliage, lakes, and natural surroundings. Our Rivendell community has 498 homes, nestled among 400 acres of lakes, preserves and open spaces.



**“A Naturally Balanced Neighborhood.”** As initially



marketed by the developers and still why we live here -

Rivendell is “*A Naturally Balanced Neighborhood.*” The original developers designed the community, with a park-like setting, to be exemplary in its connection with its natural assets, including over 50% open space (unusual for a non-golf club community).

While not in Tolkien’s Middle-earth, Rivendell is located in the “middle” - just minutes from Sarasota and Venice, Pine View School, next door to Oscar Scherer State Park and the Legacy Trail. Rivendell, along with Palmer Ranch, was ahead of its time when designed over twenty some years ago. The community was carefully planned to highlight and blend in with its natural environment, in addition to controlling stormwater runoff and keeping ponds healthy.

Keeping true to its origin and heritage, the Rivendell Board, along with our dedicated committees, volunteers, and many residents, are working together to keep our community’s natural assets healthy and vibrant to attract wildlife, build community spirit, and keep property values strong. You can help too: volunteer in the community, fertilize and irrigate responsibly, don’t litter, keep preserve areas untouched, and celebrate the beauty of living in Rivendell every day.



**Rivendell’s recently updated north entrance.**

(Nancy Dobias photo.)