



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

July 2026



What's in a Name?

The Magic Behind the Woodlands at Rivendell

By William Charles Barton – Woodlands at Rivendell HOA VP

As one of your HOA Vice Presidents, I spend a good amount of time looking at our neighborhood's rules, trees, and paths. We all know we live in the "Woodlands at Rivendell," but have you ever stopped to wonder where that name actually comes from? Did the developers just choose randomly...or was this an inspired choice?

Let us assume it is an inspired choice for entertainment's sake...If you are a fan of high fantasy books and movies, you already know the answer. "Rivendell" comes straight from the mind of J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the famed 'Lord of the Rings' books that inspired two movie trilogies. In the books, Rivendell is the legendary hidden valley of the Elves – a place of peace and healing...an absolute sanctuary. The literal etymology of the word 'Rivendell comes from Old English roots: riven (meaning split or cloven) and dell (meaning valley). So, a "split valley". Now, we might lack the sheer vertical cliffs of Middle-Earth here in sunny Osprey, but we certainly share that sense of a hidden, peaceful sanctuary surrounded by nature.

But here is the coolest part: Tolkien did not just invent Rivendell out of thin air. In 1911 as a 19-year-old student before he enlisted and

fought in WW1, he went on a rugged hiking trip through the Swiss Alps. He walked into the Lauterbrunnen Valley, and it completely blew his mind with its beauty. Lauterbrunnen is a deep, narrow valley hemmed in by towering limestone cliffs and famous for having 72 cascading waterfalls (including the massive Staubbach Falls). Decades after this hike and after authoring his books and creating this fantasy world, Tolkien wrote a letter to his son confirming that his hike through those mountains was the inspirational blueprint for the home of the elves – Rivendell.

So, the next time you are strolling past our lakes or preserves, channel your inner Elf. Seek out The Precious and enjoy the fact that the place we live in is rooted in magic. We are not just the crown jewel of Sarasota County communities, we are living in a slice of history with a name inspired by the most majestic valley in Switzerland, and subsequently the greatest movie trilogy of all time in the Lord of the Rings (sorry Star Wars). Just remember to keep your house and property in compliance with the ARC guidelines...or no second breakfast for you!





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Rivendell Residents on the NEXTDOOR
social network www.nextdoor.com

Are you seeking a service provider recommendation?

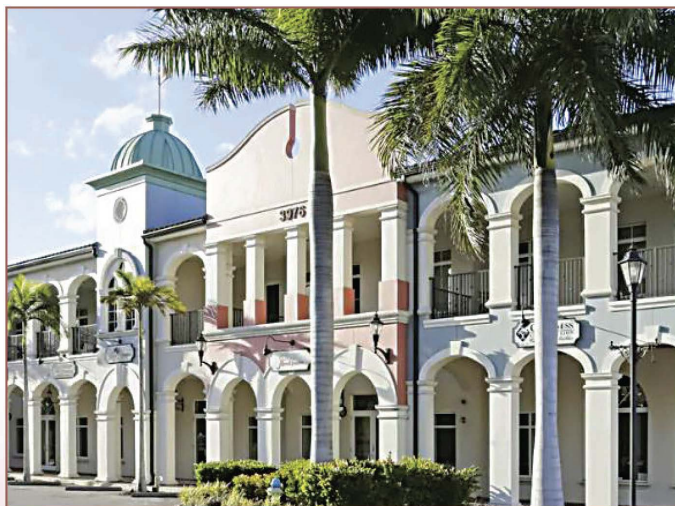
Do you have an item to sell?

Do you have any questions about Rivendell or
other topics residents can help with?

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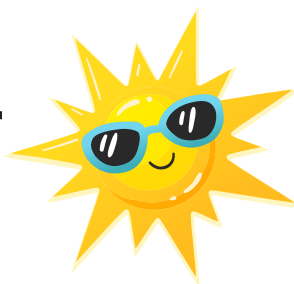
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Social Committee Activities for July 2026

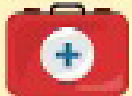


Offered WEEKLY: Ladies Walk 'n Talk. Meet at the Rivendell Pool. Contact Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com or (973) 219-5839 for more information and if you'd like to be added to the Facebook Walk 'n Talk. Walks are currently on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am, but times will change depending on the season.

- Monday, July 6th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, July 9th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, July 13th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Monday, July 20th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, July 23rd, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, July 27th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).



DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST

☒  NONPERISHABLE FOOD	☐  WATER	☐  FIRST AID KIT	☐  MEDICAL / SPECIAL NEEDS	☐  HAND CRANK RADIO	☐  FLASHLIGHT	☐  BATTERIES & CHARGERS
☐  IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS	☐  BABY / PET SUPPLIES	☐  CASH	☐  GAMES/BOOKS	☐  CLOTHES	☐  GLASSES / CONTACT LENSES	☐  UTENSILS

Find complete checklist at FloridaDisaster.org/Kit



Waiting The Big Reveal On Pine Pond

by Nancy Dobias

Rivendell is accustomed to seeing the fluctuation to water levels in ponds but the banks around ponds generally stay pretty consistent with how they present. However, there is a pond whose bank has gone through a few aesthetically-challenged transformations. In most cases, nature and/or wax myrtles were to blame.



Since the wax myrtles dominate the back edge, it's not uncommon to witness what happens when these trees are in play. Instead of leafy branches providing shade or habitat to the marine or wildlife, dead or dried up branches dangling over or down into the pond are in play.



Then when hurricane winds arrive, nature further assaults the bank and shoreline when broken branches end up in the pond or as a further eyesore to the pond.



A few Boards have tried to better manage the excessive vegetation, overgrowth and dominance of these wax myrtles...



...but the work done seemed to be just a temporary fix as it wasn't too long before the wax myrtles would once again be reigning supreme along this shoreline awaiting the next time when more branches would begin to die off and fall along the water's edge.



(Continued on Pg.5)

(Waiting The Big Reveal continued)



In recent years Rivendell decided it was time for a new tactic. The previous Board as well as the current Board decided that if the vegetation was to be controlled and managed effectively, another plan would be needed...forestry mowing! GreenTopps was hired and within a few days of mowing and mulching, a "new look" was created.



Pine Pond now had a more "managed" look to its back edge; however there was a downside. The "managed" look did reveal a back view into the community of Pine Ranch.



Because this was anticipated, several red cedar pine trees are slated to be installed along the back bank. The cedars will obscure the "peek" into Pine Ranch and they will also continue to provide habitat for any wildlife who might call Pine Pond home.



Installation of the new trees is tentatively planned for the beginning of July when our rainy season might be in full swing and its daily rains can be called upon to regularly "irrigate" the new trees.

If you live, walk, or drive by Pine Pond, stay tuned for the transformation that is yet to come....



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

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(Solution on page 12)

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Celebrate Safely: Protect Rivendell This July 4th

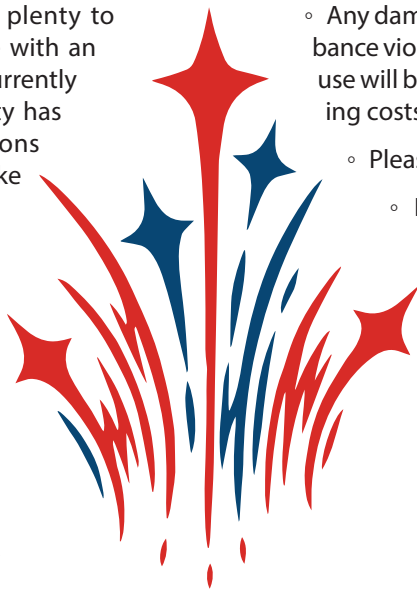
With July 4th just around the corner, there's plenty to celebrate — but this year, our festivities come with an important responsibility. Sarasota County is currently experiencing a serious drought, and the county has imposed both a burn ban and water restrictions that affect all of us. This is not the summer to take chances with fireworks.

Our Community's Commitment

Rivendell's Standing Rules are clear on this subject. As a reminder to all residents:

Fireworks and Explosives

- The use of fireworks of any kind within the Community is not permitted in Common Grounds without Board permission. Use of fireworks on homeowner's property is considered a nuisance in the community and a violation of the Association's declaration and applicable rules and regulations, subjecting the owner to enforcement action, fines and suspensions.
- However, in accordance with state law, owners are permitted to use fireworks on their property on the following three (3) days only:
 - July 4th, up to 12:00am midnight
 - December 31st – January 1st, up to 11:59 on January 1
 - See Section 791.08, Florida Statutes.
- On those dates of allowable use, these conditions apply, and violations of such rules may result in enforcement action, fines, and or suspensions:
 - Owners using fireworks on approved days assume the risk of such use, and the Association is not responsible for any damages, injury, or death as a result of such use. The user should only use legal fireworks, and the owner is responsible for complying with all necessary safety measures. The owner is responsible for any violation of the law for use of illegal explosives. The Association is not in a position to, nor has it assumed the obligation to, ensure anyone's safety if owners choose to use fireworks at any time in this community.
 - Fireworks may only be discharged on the homeowner's property and must not be ignited in common areas or property owned by the Association. Use of fireworks on association property at any time subjects the owner to enforcement proceedings.
 - While use of fireworks may be permitted on such days, owners must not ignite or use fireworks in a manner that can create a fire affecting the homeowner's property or adjacent properties or property within range of the homeowners' property. Ignition near vehicles, buildings, dry vegetation, or other flammable materials can result in serious injury, damages, or death.
 - Homeowners/occupants are responsible for ensuring the safety of their activities and for cleaning up all debris immediately after use.



- Any damage or injury to individuals or property, or disturbance violating any local ordinance resulting from fireworks use will be the responsibility of the property owner, including costs of repair or cleanup.
- Please be mindful of pets, neighbors, and quiet hours.
 - In addition to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board, please be advised that use of fireworks on the approved days described above may also be subject to local ordinances or additional state laws, enforced by the county and/or local law enforcement offices.
 - ***Additional local ordinances and restrictions may ban or limit use of fireworks during drought or local burn ban periods. Owners are responsible for knowing all applicable ordinance or restrictions, and are responsible for any violations of such local restrictions. Please check the Sarasota County website for further information*** - <https://www.scgov.net/>
- Owners that become aware of unlawful or unsafe use of fireworks at any time throughout the year are encouraged to contact local law enforcement and/or local fire departments to report such instances.

These rules exist for good reason, and conditions this summer make following them more critical than ever.

Why This Year Is Different

Drought conditions mean our lawns, landscaping, and natural areas are exceptionally dry and vulnerable. During normal conditions, a stray spark might fizzle out harmlessly. In a drought, that same spark can ignite dry grass in seconds and spread before anyone can respond. Sarasota County's burn ban reflects exactly this elevated risk — and our community sits in the middle of it.

It's also worth remembering that water restrictions limit our ability to fight a fire quickly. A garden hose that might have doused a small ground fire under normal conditions may not be a reliable first response right now.

What This Means for July 4th

Please do not use fireworks of any kind within Rivendell — including sparklers, ground-based novelties, or anything that produces a flame or spark. The risk to our homes, landscaping, and neighbors simply isn't worth it.

If you have guests visiting for the holiday, please take a moment to let them know about our Standing Rules and our drought conditions before they arrive. Visitors mean well but may not realize the hazards involved.

Great Ways to Celebrate

Keeping Rivendell safe doesn't mean missing out on the holiday spirit. Consider these alternatives:

- **Attend a public fireworks display.** Sarasota County hosts professionally managed, legal fireworks events where the

(Continued on page 8)

(Celebrate Safely continued from page 7)

fun and the safety precautions are handled for you.

- **Glow sticks and LED novelties** are a big hit with kids and completely fire-safe.
- **Deck out your home** with patriotic decorations, flags, and lights.
- **Host or join a cookout** — great food and good neighbors are the heart of any Fourth of July.
- **Watch the national celebrations on TV** — the Washington D.C. and Boston displays are spectacular and broadcast live.

We're All in This Together

A fire in Rivendell would not stay on one property. Our homes, trees, and shared spaces are all connected, and we depend on one another to keep this community safe. Respecting our Standing Rules this July 4th is one of the most neighborly things you can do.

Thank you for helping make this a holiday our whole community can enjoy — safely and together.

**Wishing everyone in Rivendell a wonderful
and fire-free Fourth of July!**

Paul Zak, Rivendell HOA Board of Directors


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How Low Can They Go?

By Bob Frank, Ponds and Preserves Committee

Rivendell residents may have noticed the very low water levels in some of our stormwater ponds and wondered why they are so low, what is the consequence of these low water levels and what can be done to address it. As you probably know, the primary function of the ponds is stormwater management. They can be an attractive community feature and great habitat for wildlife but the reason they were built is to prevent flooding. They are just big holes the developers dug in the ground to serve as reservoirs for rain. Our ponds do not receive any water from anything like a stream or spring- only rain. The water levels will go down when our rainfall is low, and we are in a drought. Rainfall for 2025 was down about 15 inches from normal and we are currently down about 7 inches so far this year. Long time residents are telling me that these are the lowest pond water levels they can remember. The low water levels can be unsightly, but in and of themselves are

not a significant problem. Some opportunistic plants will take root on the bare pond shorelines as they become dry, but these plants will be drowned out once the ponds refill. Our pond managers do have the short-term problem of making sure the invading plants do not crowd-out the aquatic plants we want in the ponds, but everything should recover once higher water levels return. All we can do at this point is wait for the summer rains. June, July, August and September account for most of our rainfall in a typical year. The ponds will fill up when that rainfall arrives. On the positive side we currently have enormous capacity for stormwater runoff. Even a 100-year rain-event would not stress our flood control system. That said, as for me, I say "let it rain, let it rain, let it rain" so this drought will end, our ponds will come back to their beautiful, normal appearance and we will not need to think about wildfires for a while.



Low water levels on Turtle Pond expose a conduit connection to an adjacent wetland



ARC Meeting · Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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

Members Present: John Greco, Don Roser, Joe Casale, John Barron

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	735 Shadow Bay Way	John Barron	Repaint front door and shutters Benjamin Moore Boreal Forest AF-480.. Body of house will remain Gray Owl with trim Super White		X		
2	851 Placid Lake Drive	Yi Lu	Replace existing red barrel tile roof with Eagle tile Kona Red Range Profile Capistrano.		X		
3	1116 Mallard Marsh	Michael and Janet Romig	Replace red barrel tile roof with Eagle flat tile gray Hillsborough Blend	"	X		
4	758 Shadow Bay Way	Albert Cartier	Replace tile roof with Westlake tile Gray Forrida Blend		X		
5	823 Golden pond Circle	Paul Englert	Repaint house: Body-SW Loggia (SW7506); trim - SW Canvas tan (SW7531); front door - White Ibis (SW7000); garage door - SW canvas tan (SW 7531)		X		
6	1133 Scherer Way	Richard and Barbara Lewis	Install new barrel tile roof - color is lght Gray Range		X		
7	1012 Oak Meadow Laane	Greg Walsh	Place five feet width of gravel along north side of home from edge of exterior wall to allow for adequate drainage.		X		
8	782 Placid Lake Drive	Brian Lane	Replace existing tile roof with Eagle barrel tile Terracabra Range.		X		
9	514 Meadow Sweet Circle	Stephen Bragg	Repaint Body of House the same color, SW7695 Mesa Tan.		X		
10	546 Meadow Sweet Circle	Conrad Olfier	Replace existing wooden fence with 6ft white vinyl along South property line. (Cottages)		X		
11	622 Rivendell Blvd.	Scott Custer	Remove dead date palm and replace with Orange Geiger tree. Remove surrounding Indian hwthorne and replce with crotons. Strump will be ground.		X		

(Continued on Pg 11)

(ARC Meeting continued)

12	1019 Scherer Way	Steve Tseckares and Pearson Marx	Reolace current windows and front door with impact glass with white trim without grids. Front facing windows are arched; one witll havve both a horizontal and verticlle element prsenting as three panes. The other arched window does not have glass in lower section		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.

Best of Venice 2025



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As a dedicated hearing specialist, some of my most rewarding experiences involve hearing about the positive impact I have had in people's lives. Here is what Mr. Bridle had to say about his experience:

"I have worn hearing aids for a number of years, on and off. I say on and off because it has been off more with my most recent pair purchased from another provider in Venice. I had an annoying problem with feed-back, which neither they nor another local provider were able to correct or alleviate. Both told me I should consider newer, more advanced models, which they would be happy to sell me. Since mine were similar, I felt they were more interested in making a sale than helping me. As a result, they wound up in my dresser drawer (not an uncommon situation.) I decided to give it one more go. A friend referred me to Blair Post at Contemporary Hearing.

What they said couldn't be done, was done by Blair.

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After testing my hearing, he patiently worked with me to make adjustments to the programming. He also refitted the aids with new leads and cones. The ones I had were not sized or fitted properly and caused much of the feedback.

I was given a follow up appointment the next week at which time Blair fine tuned the programming and changed out one of the cones for another size. These were simple, inexpensive solutions to a fixable problem. Although I was advised of charges ahead of time, no payment was collected until I was satisfied.

I found Blair to have an abundance of knowledge, patience and humor, and his greatest attribute is INTEGRITY. He honestly wants to help. I would recommend Blair Post and Contemporary Hearing to any person desiring to improve their hearing."

~ M.J. Bridle, Venice

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