



The Woodlands Word

Your Community Resource

February 2023

“Love Will Keep Us Together”

Captain & Tenille

Now that that song is reverberating through your brain, lets take a look at love. Afterall, it is February: Valentine’s Day, Heart Health Month, George Washington cutting down the cherry tree – he could not tell a lie.

The Oxford Dictionary defines love as “an intense feeling of deep affection” or secondarily, a great interest and pleasure in something.” As a verb, the synonyms are familiar: to “be in love with” or “besotted” or “smitten by” or “passionate about.”

Centuries before Oxford even existed, the Greeks defined this concept of love by separating it into seven different kinds:

- Eros – Romantic, Passionate Love . . .
- Philia – Affectionate, Friendly Love . . .
- Storge – Unconditional, Familial Love . . .
- Agape – Selfless, Universal Love . . .
- Ludus – Playful, Flirtatious Love . . .
- Pragma – Committed, Long-lasting Love . . .
- Philautia – Self Love.

Those ancient Greek philosophers were on to something. One form does not preclude another. They can all be present and complement each other. Plato believed that the best romantic relationship is a combination of Eros and Philia. The Agape form of love is certainly reflected when we appreciate our beautiful neighborhood and delight in the wildlife who share our space. And, who among us has not at one time or another thought of a family member – Storge love– as our best friend – Philia love.

Food for thought – did someone mention chocolate? We wish you all a loving February in all its many forms.



Happy Valentine’s Day!



Once a Leader, Always...

By Nancy Giordano

Whether as President of a \$50 million global chemical business or half a million-dollar local ‘community business’, Larry Dobias has successfully applied the overall leadership principles that work for him and likewise for the respective business. The Rivendell Community Association (RCA) has been the most recent beneficiary of Larry’s committed leadership.

After enjoying tennis vacations at *The Colony* in Long Boat Key and experiencing aspects of the “nice little city” of Sarasota, Larry and his wife Nancy, a retired teacher, found Rivendell and bought a home here in 2011. They permanently relocated from their Ohio home in 2012. While Nancy became involved in the community from the beginning, Larry’s work and travel schedule filled his time until he retired at the end of 2016.

As time did permit, Larry attended Maintenance Committee meetings, so he had familiarity with specific community needs when he first ran for Rivendell’s Board of Directors in February 2017. Rivendell was approaching its 20th year as a community. It was beginning to show some natural aging and the need for attention in areas visible and not so visible. As a candidate for the Board, Larry’s platform included landscape improvements; pool maintenance; review of and possible revisions to the governing covenants; review of agreements and relationships with major contractors; strengthen the Maintenance Committee; support member comments on Board

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issues; and improve transparency and communication within the Board and with the community.

During his first term on the Board, Larry was chosen by his fellow board members to serve as its Treasurer. He has learned much about the financial details of Rivendell and how they are managed. Emblematic of Larry's big thinking and long-term planning, he is a strong proponent of healthy reserve funds should the need for any major repairs, pond dredging, or infrastructure work emerge. A Reserve Study initiated by Larry was completed by an outside company supporting that belief and it provided guidelines for reserve fund amounts. All of which helps to place Rivendell in a strong financial position today.

Leading by Example

As President during his second and current term, Larry has championed the work of the committees and the volunteers who are a part of them. He is/has been board liaison to the Ponds and Preserves, Maintenance, and Communication Committees. He works closely with the committee volunteers as they recommend priorities and implement plans. Larry clearly admires and respects the skills and experiences residents bring to their respective committee work and he quickly credits them with the progress and growth made in Rivendell in recent years.

The professional efforts of the Ponds and Preserves Committee are highly regarded both inside and outside the community. The grants the committee has received saves the

RCA (you and me!) money today but will also save tens of thousands of dollars in the future. The large projects executed by the Maintenance Committee are not just aesthetically pleasing but are structural enhancements that extend their life for many years...again, saving thousands of dollars for the community over the project's life.

His 'sleeves up, hands on' and lead by example style make Larry very approachable, which in turn has inspired the Board and committee volunteers to raise the bar and deliver quality outcomes. The relationships built during Larry's tenure have helped bring impressive results for the community. While his presidency and time on the Board will end in February, Larry indicates he will be available for the new Board during transition. He also plans to remain active with both the Maintenance and Ponds and Preserves Committees for the foreseeable future.

In looking back over his service on the Board, Larry is satisfied with what has been accomplished under his leadership. "Rivendell is a nature-based, environmentally aware community and people are here for what it is. It's what they want. I have done the best I could with the knowledge, history, and background I have to continue to move Rivendell in that direction and I am confident, through the Board and strong committee structure, there are others who will continue to move us forward in the future."

Afterall, leaders develop leaders.

Thank you, Larry Dobias, for the immeasurable time and talent you have dedicated to Rivendell.

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RIVENDELL Social Committee Calendar: February 2023

Note: The Social Committee is working on a more visual "box" calendar appropriate for posting on the refrigerator so no social event would go unnoticed. Stay tuned.

February 2, 1pm. Bridge Club.

Contact Barb Loe for more information at 651-398-2256.

February 6, 5:30pm. WOW Women of Wine (and Spirit) at the Rivendell pool deck.

BYOB for drinks and snacks to share. Contact Kathy Lysak at 941-539-6749 for more information.

February 8, 2pm. Artist Corner. Jayne Irene will present on Quilting.

Contact Allie Sandow to sign up at 515-403-7228, space is limited

February 13, 7:30pm– Book Group I will discuss The Maid by Nita Prose

contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com for more information.

February 15 9:30/10am Kayaking. Contact Jane Stevens @ 617-319-2653 for more information.

February 16, 5:00 to 6:30pm. Mix and Mingle at Rivendell pool deck. Sign up is not required. Contact Kathy Halaiko at 941-914-6895 for more information.

February 21, 7:00 p.m. Book Group II will discuss The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller.

Contact Karen Morgan at k@gatortrax.net for more information.

February 23, 1pm. Bridge Club. Contact Barb Loe at 651-398-2256 for more information.

February 24, 1am to 12:30pm. Inquisitive Minds. Join a group to discuss topics of interest in philosophy and science, excluding topics involving politics and religion. Contact Mike Gruenfeld at 941-685-5166 for more information

February 25, 5:30pm. Dining Out @ Apollonia Restaurant

Space is limited to 25. Contact: Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com to sign up.

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Out and About: What's Happening at the Sarasota Museums?

By Adele Kellman

Sarasota boasts a variety of museums that are worth a visit from our guests, and provide year-round interest for all of us. There are beautiful gardens and art exhibits for the whole family at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, a spectrum of attractions from classic art works to circus exhibits at the Ringling Museum, a rotating series of exhibits at the Sarasota Art Museum and the Ringling College of Art and Design, to mention just a few. And the Art Ovation Hotel in downtown Sarasota always has something of interest, too. Exhibits from all these locales provide a delightful array of offerings.

Selby Gardens offers two locations: the original Downtown Sarasota Campus and the recently acquired Historic Spanish Point Campus very near our Osprey location. At the nearby Campus, visitors can enjoy the Butterfly House, and experience "Seeing the Invisible" an augmented reality exhibit of contemporary art. And, of course, there are beautiful walking paths, and visits to two homes on the site. The major exhibit of the season is at Downtown Selby. Entitled: Tiffany, The Pursuit of Beauty in Nature (February 12 – June 25), the exhibit will highlight the inspiration in Louis Comfort Tiffany's work as drawn from the natural world of flowers, foliage and light. In addition to flowers, it will feature the stained-glass lamps and windows for which his firm was justly famous. Those who are serious fans of Tiffany's work might consider a trip to The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park, a museum that features the largest collection of Tiffany work in the world.

In addition to its permanent collection of European, Asian, and Contemporary art, the Circus Museum and Ca d'Zan (John and Mable Ringling's home), and the Bayfront Gardens, the Ringling Museum has a significant set of temporary exhibitions this winter. Opened in December is June Clark: Harlem Quilt, a quilt with over 300 pieces of fabric, each with a photo of Harlem neighborhood life transferred to its surface. Other temporary exhibits include a selection of highlights from a collection of over 1000 photographs donated to the museum in 2019, including works by such notables as Berenice Abbott, Lewis W. Hine and Henri Cartier-Bresson, to name a few. In addition, there are temporary exhibits of painting and sculpture from India, and a special exhibit of work by a Japanese artist, and 100 contemporary works that have entered the museum's collection in the past ten years. Because of the variety of its offerings, the Ringling is a great destination from visitors of every age.

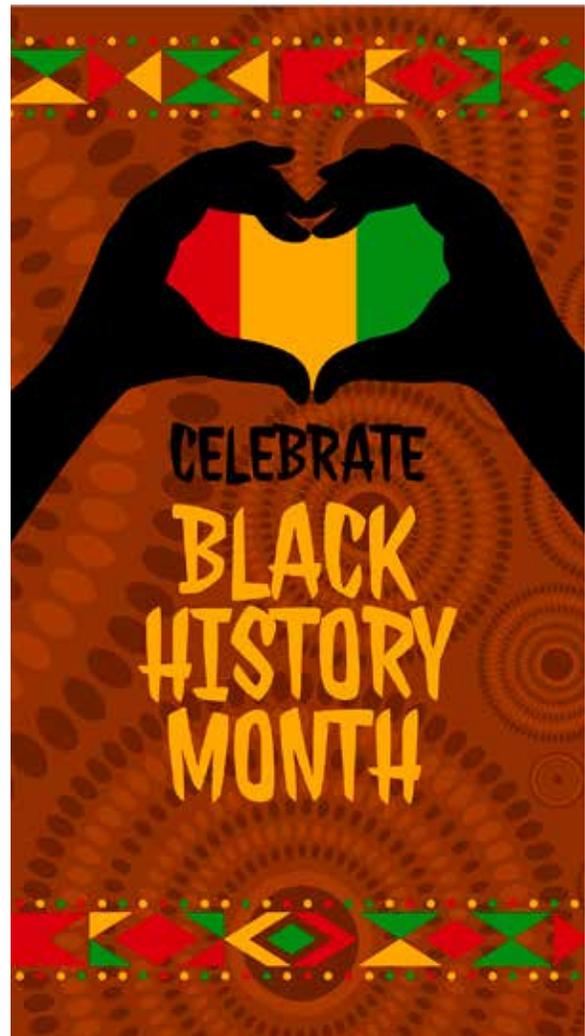
A visit to the Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College is always fun, if only to see what a beautiful job the architects have done in restoring what was a local high school near downtown Sarasota. The museum is conceived as a "kuns-thalle", a museum without a permanent collection that features rotating exhibits of interest to the community. This winter the museum features the work of Steven and William Ladd, contemporary art made of textiles and beads, a spectrum of works that vary in texture, color and form. Beginning February 5th is an exhibit of photographic work by Richard Benson, and "Sara Berman's Closet," an installation on life and belonging.

Members of the Sarasota community should not ignore the exhibits at the galleries on the campus of Ringling College of

Art and Design in north Sarasota on Dr. Martin Luther King Way. There are six galleries featuring a variety of art forms, including the annual Basch Glass exhibition, and Lost Summer, a collection of landscape paintings by Lee Mayer. The college website at ringling.edu typically lists showings at their galleries.

Finally, a visit to the main floor of the Art Ovation Hotel on North Palm Avenue always offers something new and typically features the work of local artists. The exterior, and the round-about in front of it, feature a number of lovely contemporary sculptures and sidewalk drawings.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the Sarasota's Friendship Knot Quilt Guild's quilt show on March 3 & 4 at Robart's Arena. There will be lots to see, purchase and appreciate about this art form. There will also be an appraiser on site, so if you have your grandmother's quilt stashed away, now will be the time to get more information about it. For more information, please reach out to Jean Freestone jeanfquilt1@verizon.com.



Reminder: Dining Out in February

On Saturday, February 25th, we will be dining at the Apollonia Grill at the Landings Shopping Center. The address is 4956 S. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. We will meet first with a BYOB drinks and snacks to socialize from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, and then go to the restaurant for a 6:30 pm reservation. Each person or couple will order and pay separately at the restaurant. The dinner is limited to the first 25 people who sign up. Sign-ups for the February dinner will continue through February 17th. For the February dinner, please RSVP to Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com

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Kayak Group Takes Off!

The Rivendell Kayak group paddles on the third Wednesday of the month during winter season from mostly local launch areas. All are welcome. Upcoming paddles are February 18, March 15 and April 26. The group uses their own equipment, or gets rentals when they are available. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please contact Jane Stevens at 627-319-2653 or janie0441@gmail.com.

Below is a photo of a recent event, with kayakers Tom Hickey, Greg Ilioff, Jane Stevens, Maria Ilioff, Kelly Castro, Lisa and Kevin Boggess.





NOTICE: Rivendell – Your Watering Day has Changed! New Sarasota County Watering Schedule for 2023.

By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

Unincorporated Sarasota County, including Rivendell, your watering day is changing! As of January 1, 2023, watering will now be spread out over six days instead of all customers watering on only Tuesday or Thursday. Customers may water once a week on your assigned day, with no watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Your watering day is based on your numeric street address.

These watering restrictions apply to all citizens who use water resources, whether from public or privately owned water utility system, private wells or private connections with surface water bodies.

Check to ensure your sprinkler system and heads are in good working condition. Rain sensor shut-off devices are required for automated irrigations. Remember to check timers for proper settings after daylight savings or power outages and that rain sensor shut-off devices are still intact and properly functioning after a storm event. Special watering allowances still pertain to new or replacement lawns.

See below for more details about your Watering Day. Learn more from Sarasota County at <https://loom.ly/H7jLanM>.

Your Numbered Address = Your Watering Day

- Ends in 0 or 1 = Monday
- Ends in 2 or 3 = Tuesday
- Ends in 4 or 5 = Wednesday
- Ends in 6 or 7 = Thursday
- Ends in 8 or 9 = Friday

NEW WATERING SCHEDULE

Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, this schedule for residents in unincorporated Sarasota County will take effect.

- Monday – addresses ending in 0/1
- Tuesday – addresses ending in 2/3
- Wednesday – addresses ending in 4/5
- Thursday – addresses ending in 6/7
- Friday – addresses ending in 8/9
- Saturday – addresses with no number or end with a letter
- Sunday – no watering

Learn more at sarasota.gov.net (key words water restrictions) or call 311 to learn more.

Click here to visit the Ponds & Preserves website at <https://www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds>.



FEBRUARY

American Heart Month

Unofficial January Board Report

If you were unable to attend the **January 18, 2023, Board of Directors meeting**, below are my UNOFFICIAL MINUTES. Please realize these are not Board-authorized official minutes. These minutes are my "take" on what I thought I heard and there's always a chance I might have misinterpreted something or typed something incorrectly. Please consult the official minutes (www.rivendellcommunity.com) for the sanctioned report of the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

Larry stated that the reason why Rivendell is looking good is because the community is fortunate to have committees made up of people who are practicing a hands-on approach to the management of our facilities. All of the committees have members who are constantly looking for ways to improve our campus and to more involve our owners in our community. This "management from within" philosophy has worked to ensure Rivendell has people who are committed to her future. It's the work of these people who have made Rivendell what she is today but it's also important to understand how easily things can change when there are no longer individuals willing to step up and make a commitment. To keep Rivendell current, Rivendell needs volunteers. It is a concern when very few people express interest in running for a vacant Board seat. Rivendell needs people who care about the community and who want to stay informed. It's a concern when many don't take the time to read the community newsletter. Larry also stressed how important it is that owners codify the LMZ when they are asked to approve the LMZ amendment. It's important that Rivendell owners stay educated. He hopes that all owners will vote YES on the LMZ amendment so that the LMZ is protected by our Covenants.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Tricia Goldstein)

Tricia said things were going well in the transition and she thanked everyone for their help.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Daignault)

Cathy was concerned that she's not getting her numbers in a timely fashion. Getting them on the day of the meeting is not enough time to determine whether the info is factually accurate. She did notice that Lighthouse reported the last reserve study was done in 2017 when in fact, it was done in 2022.

According to Cathy's December report, Rivendell has \$526,889 in assets (not counting capital assets) and of this number \$276,521 is in our reserves. There is \$3379 in Owner Balances. Two owners have violation balances totaling \$1483 and one account is in collection for \$333. Three accounts are in Intent to Lien status for a total of \$1495. Three accounts owe late fees totaling \$53 and one owner had a \$15 insufficient fund fee.

Through the end of December, our total income was over budget by \$3497 and our expenses were over budget for the year by \$24,997. Because Hurricane Ian put a dent on what had been planned, the money that would have spent for those maintenance activities was instead diverted to clean-up.

For the year, there was \$42,746 spent out of reserves but nothing was spent during December out of reserves.

Larry added that the Board has been adding money into the reserve accounts. Previously they added \$55,000 and this year, they added \$65,000.

Larry said that it can be costly to maintain the ponds, the bubblers and the flow-through structures but all are a necessary part of our flood control system. There is currently about \$85,000 in the Pond reserve fund

We have 18 bubblers and their job is to take water from the ponds and to duct the water into our wetlands. From there the water seeps into the soil. (I think he said our system runs about 150 million gallons of water through the system.)

We have 7-8 flow-through structures and their job is to interconnect our lakes and ponds. They too conduct water but they let water flow from one pond on to the next in the "route" that they follow. Eventually all the water then leaves our community and goes on its way to South Bay....

All of this requires maintenance and oversight. We spend about \$65,000 a year to manage our ponds for their health. This year, Larry added that they are trying to go a new route. The objective is to minimize the use of harsh chemicals and with that in mind, a new contractor was hired.

Beautiful Ponds, managed by Nathan Hoffman, will be the new contractor for Rivendell lakes and ponds. The Pond & Preserve Committee had visited many communities managed by this contractor and all the communities had many positive things to say about this company. The group also had listened to a presentation as to how the Rivendell ponds would be managed by Beautiful Ponds. They will receive reports detailing what is being done and why it's happening. The committee will be inspecting the work and will be ensuring that what they're getting is what they had anticipated would happen.

An owner expressed her concern that this company was hired in the past and it did not work out well. She was worried about plants taking over the pond. Larry went over everything that the Pond and Preserve Committee had done and will do to stay on top of things. He also stated that they want to get away from adding harsh chemicals to our waters that were not good for our wildlife or for our bottom line. Adding copper sulfate to solve our pond problems is just causing another problem on the bottom of the pond to occur. When our ponds need dredged, the bed of copper sulfate that has been accumulating over time will need special consideration when it is removed. It is a hazardous chemical and would need to be incinerated. This is a costly process. The Pond & Preserve Committee have chosen another route. Whether it's the right route, who knows, but it's the route they have chosen to follow. They have used science, they have researched to the nth degree and now they have made a recommendation which the Board supported.

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Larry is optimistic that this is the right way to go. He assured the owner that they are not "shooting blind." They have done their homework and will continue to monitor what's being done. He also asked that those who live on ponds let the Pond and Preserve Committee know if you see any problems. He also added that this is what you elect a Board to do...make decisions in the best interests of the community.

He also mentioned that he personally was unhappy that the former contractor had "allowed" so many cattails to take over the Lower Scherer and to impede the outflow structure at the end of this pond. He felt it never should have gotten to this point....

They will try Beautiful Ponds for a period to time to determine how well this contractor works out for Rivendell.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Social Committee (Maria Illioff)

Currently there are 11 clubs/activities offered in Rivendell and if you'd like to know if any are of interest to you, they are always listed in the Woodlands Word. Go to www.rivendell-community.com. On the right side of the HOME PAGE, you should see a section called BULLETIN/NEWS. There will also be a tab for the WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER. Just click it and you'll be brought to the newsletters. Open whichever one you want and look for the social calendar.

Maria also said that they are working on a block calendar that is listing social events and this should make a nice nut-shell version for your fridge. It should be ready in another month or so.

The popular **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** is scheduled for March 25, 2023 in Crescent Park. Lisa Boggess is in charge of this event and if you can help, please **call Lisa at 540-345-9019**.

Maria stated that there are sandwich boards at the 3 entrances into Rivendell and she is aware that some people think they are not easily read. Maria requested that if you have a talent for **making posters**, she would love to have you help create something that is easier for folks to read. Please **contact Maria at 607-427-4192**. The committee would love to have one person be in charge of creating and posting the events.

Maria also added that she is thankful for her committee members and of all their hard work and especially for their wide variety of activities that they have planned. They even have men requesting to have their own equivalent of a WOW group but so far no name has been determined. Names have been suggested....Beer and Bourbon...BNB!

She also mentioned that the Card & Game Night in January has been cancelled.

2. Maintenance Committee (Greg Volack)

The MC met to determine what projects it would work on for the first quarter of 2023. The pool clock will be getting a GPS so no one will be required to risk life and limb to reset it every

time the power goes off or there's a time change.

Also, we received an insurance settlement of about \$23,000 for the hurricane damage done to the pool tile roof so they will be seeking out bids for the roof to be done.

Bids will also be sought for mulch once they determine where they want to lay the mulch. Several signs need to be straightened and they plan to have the 2 damaged magnolia trees on the last island (closest to the blue park bench) removed. Street lights need cleaned and some streets lights on Rainbow Point need replaced. A surge protector is to be installed on the CPU for the main irrigation pump so it doesn't cost us another few thousand to replace it when a lightning strike decides to hit us.

They will be inspecting sidewalks to see if they need power-washed and if you see any sidewalks that are lifted, let the MC know so that they can be reported to the county. The county is going to be inspecting Placid Lake and Mallard Marsh to see if these streets meet the standard to be resurfaced in 2024.

Mark Giordano is continuing to work on the **Rivendell Facilities Managment Handbook**. He's already up to 300 pages. This handbook details everything future committees should ever want to know about Rivendell and its infrastructure, etc. If you're wondering why the trees are being tagged, it's because that is one thing that is being catalogued in this manual. When contractors are told to trim trees 1-30, they will know exactly which trees need to be trimmed, where those trees are located, when they were last trimmed, and when they will next need to be trimmed. As I said...everything anyone would ever need to know!

Greg also mentioned that if you have one of those FIOS covers on the ground in front of your home and it looks broken or not seated properly, he has arranged a meeting with FIOS to discuss fixing these. Let Greg know if you think you have one of these broken covers in your yard.

3. ARC (Kevin Boggess)

Kevin said that they had met in November and in December and all the requests were approved in November. Most had something to do with hurricane-related issues. In December, 19 of the 21 were approved. One was later approved and it dealt with someone wanting to switch from a tile roof to an asphalt shingle roof. The discussion centered on whether that should be allowed. The other one that was not approved was probably the one dealing with whether grids had to be in windows since that was later in the Board minutes.

4. Communication Committee (Larry Dobias)

Kristine had hosted a meeting to discuss how to best reach owners via the newsletter. Should it be printed again? Should it be mailed to owners? Should it be produced bi-monthly, quarterly....? Would a color printed and mailed or hand-de-

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(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 9)

livered newsletter be better read? What is it that would appeal to today's owners?

Larry said that he was amazed that when he went door-to-door to get the last amendments passed, he was surprised that so many people had no idea what he was doing. They were not informed. They were not reading the materials being sent electronically. They had no idea what the *Woodlands Word* was.

A member of the audience suggested that there is nothing like paper. She suggested that people will read it if it arrives on their door steps. People get too much junk mail and they don't want to take the time to read something online or to sort through what is and is not junk. Another said she was disappointed when she no longer received the newsletter via the *Observer*. She liked having a hard copy to read. Another owner suggested having newspaper boxes throughout the community and people could stop to pick up their newsletter from these locations.

Larry suggested owners let Kristine know what you prefer so she can get an idea of what the community prefers.

5. Pond & Preserve Committee

Since a lot of the Pond info was mentioned earlier, Larry said he wouldn't go over it again, BUT he once more reiterated the need to vote YES on the LMZ. He also said that this amendment also includes language that eliminates the developer language that required the installation of a sidewalk. There are 158 homes without sidewalks and they should be voting YES on this amendment to get rid of this wording that requires the sidewalk installation

OLD BUSINESS

1. The 2023 Budget that was earlier approved means an increase of \$47 for most of Rivendell. The Cottages was slightly less. The reason for the increase was because of two reasons: There was no roll-over from the previous year to offset any possible dues increase; the Board increased the amount of money it was putting into the reserves. It did NOT increase because of operating expenses since those stayed the same.

2. The Rivendell Collection Resolution was developed by an attorney and it was put on the website for 30 days for the community to review. The reason for the resolution was because our policy was outdated and it was costing us money every time an owner failed to pay his assessments or every time an owner short-paid his assessments. The Board didn't think the community as a whole should be paying the penalty. The Board felt the individuals who are responsible should be paying. For example, when Lighthouse has to send out its 3 different letters to inform an owner that the dues have not been paid or that the dues have not been paid in full, there is a charge that THE REST OF US have to pay. The first letter costs \$15, the second letter \$30, and the third letter \$45 for a grand total of \$90. This new policy is saying, "Wait a minute. That charge should be paid by the GUILTY party."

This resolution also says that instead of waiting 90 days to go to an attorney, it's only going to be 60 days before it goes to an attorney. The interest that is charged will be 18% annually. All of these fees are no longer going to be paid by all of us. Instead, they too will be paid by the GUILTY party.

Now, if someone decides to short their dues by \$1 to make a point or to be "cute," the rest of us are no longer holding the bag for their "cuteness." The owner can still make his point if it's worth it to him, BUT he will be paying all of the fees involved and hopefully it was worth it to him.

The resolution passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The ARC developed a new set of Guidelines which had been posted on the website for review and it too was adopted by the Board.

2. Greentopps was hired to remove the banyan tree that had been damaged during the hurricane. They also will be removing stumps, and some problem trees in the general area. No new trees will be planted in this section. Greg said that eventually the MC will fill in the area with a hedge row (viburnum) and some grasses. The resolution was for \$10,783

3. An owner requested that his ARC request to install front windows without grids be allowed. Earlier it was denied by ARC on the premise that front windows are supposed to have grids to continue the "same" look that most homes in Rivendell have. The owner felt that since some homes didn't have the grids, he should be allowed to skip the grids too. Since there was a discrepancy in what had been done in the past, it was decided that the Board should consult their attorney to decide how best to proceed. Does the ARC have the authority to deny this request based upon what most homes have? Does there have to be specific language in the Covenants that deal with window grids? The request was put on hold until the attorney provides some insight.

Greg worried that allowing owners to do their own thing hurts property values and he wanted ARC to have control but he was willing to wait for an attorney opinion to see if ARC was on solid ground.

4. An owner was given a possible citation for having a bird bath and feeder in the back yard and the Board had to decide if this was a violation. Since it was not viewable from the street and since no neighbors complained, no action was taken.

5. Another owner requested that the holiday lights stay up all year but since they had already been removed, it was a moot point. Some on the Board also said they would not have voted for it because there was a maintenance factor involved in these lights. Another person in the Cottages said that these holiday lights provided extra security along Rivendell Blvd for them, that the lights in the street lights were not sufficient towards lighting the streets. The holiday lights provided extra lighting for their residents. I don't know what might be planned for the future relative to lighting the streets

(Continued on Pg. 11)

(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 10)

and lakes but perhaps they might consider adding red/white/blue lights for the patriotic holidays!

6. A flower resolution was passed to buy pentas for the 3 front beds on Old Venice, the islands of Rainbow Point and Placid Lake, and the entrances of Eagle Isle and the Rivendell entrance at Park Trace. It will cost \$1,550 to buy/install the plants. TruScape will do the work. Our contract with TruScape required that they do 4 annual plantings but the MC decided if they only do 3 plantings, the density of plants will be better. The pentas are to be the March plantings.

7. Another owner wanted to know how the voting would be handled. Tricia answered that only 32 owners requested paper ballots, that the rest of Rivendell will be doing e-voting. The mailings are to go out Thursday.

8. A question was asked as to when hurricane shutters are to be removed. The answer was that they had be be removed by the end of November and could be sent a non-compliance letter.

9. **Mary Angell said that she is running for the Board of Directors. She loves living in Rivendell and that she now has the time to serve Rivendell. She would be appreciate it if you would support her candidacy.**

10. A person on Zoom had a complaint about Lighthouse not returning calls or not directing callers to the right department when they would call with a problem. There seem to be a difference of opinion as to whether this man had tried to reach Tricia as often as he stated he had. Larry asked if he would like to deal with the Board right now but he said it was not a Board-related problem. He just had a problem with Lighthouse.

This led to a discussion about some people having difficulty with the accounting department handling their payments. I'm not sure what was happening but it seemed as though some had double-paid and then were trying to correct it. It seemed as though people didn't understand how to make the transition when Lighthouse changed from one billing company to another and perhaps didn't let their bank know, but that is just my guess. Tricia says when she gets problems related to billing, she sends the email to accounting and then she lets the owner know that accounting will be dealing with these issues. Perhaps they need to send out info explaining how to deal with billing inquiries....

Well, that was my take on the meeting. FEEL FREE TO FORWARD TO YOUR RIVENDELL FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS and if there's a mistake, I'm sorry! Hope you did get the general idea of what transpired.

P.S. The two people who have declared their candidacy for the Board of Directors and whose names are to be on the ballot are Mary Angell and Bruce Lorie.

See your balloting info for details. It was not provided at the meeting.



The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at

WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM

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



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How Many Trees?

An Interview with Mark Giordano



Note: You may have seen a group of men in twos or threes going from tree to tree with small pieces of paper. Hmmm: WW decided this activity needed more explanation. We caught up with Mark Giordano, who is heading up this effort, to find out what this is all about.

Q. Mark, what is the tree numbering project all about?

The MC (maintenance committee) felt we needed to come up with a more formal way to document trimming of the trees that aren't covered

In the Landscape Maintenance Agreement (Trees over 15 ft in height). Nobody knew exactly how many trees we have. Larry (Dobias) said maybe 150-200, Greg (Volack) thought more. So I suggested that we conduct an in-house "tree survey" to determine how many and create a "Tree Inventory" which entails tagging every tree greater than 4" diameter and 15 feet in height; record the species, diameter, height, and location of each. Put it on spreadsheets and develop a "Tree Trimming Program" which will keep track of when each tree was trimmed, who trimmed it, when it must be trimmed again, and how much did it cost. This can then be integrated into the budget, so future boards can project costs years down the road. FYI so far, we have tagged over 400 trees and now project we may have 700-800. **This does not count the preserves since these can't be trimmed.** I hope to finish this by March 1st or so and is currently 80 pages long.

Q. This is quite a project. Is it part of a larger effort that would include other assets of the community?

Yes. When I first joined the MC a couple of years ago, Larry and Greg were the go-to guys when a problem needed to be solved. They still are! Their knowledge of the inner workings of the community are unparalleled, as is their devotion and work ethic. Chuck and I often talked about the need to have some sort of written operation and maintenance manual that we could follow in case these guys finally retire or get tired of listening to homeowners complaints. These discussions led up to the other project I'm currently working on "Rivendell Facilities Management Plan".

The goal is to put together a working document that would be adopted by the board to aid in the operation and maintenance of all the tangible assets of the community. It will include Landscape Management, Tree Trimming, Irrigation System, Community Pool, Lighting, Fountain, Roadways, Alleys, Sidewalks, Playground and Gazebo, Clock Tower and more. It will probably be another 100 or so pages completely indexed with descriptions, equipment lists, drawings, schematics, current contracts, a list of subcontractors and related contact info. This I hope to be completed by March 1st also. In addition, these items are correlated to the budget. For Example, the main community pool pump installed in 2021 runs 24/7 and has a life expectancy of 2 years, and costs \$1800 to replace. So, the 2023 budget should include pool pump replacement and the MC can look at the equipment list in the facilities management plan to find out what make, model number of pump to order and have on hand when the other one breaks down, limiting the time the pool is out of service, etc. We're hoping that once available it will entice more volunteers to join the MC. It won't be as intimidating for people who don't have extensive experience but want to volunteer. Let's Hope!

Q. Would you put a time frame on the project?

All total -- 3 - 4 months - Completion by March 1st.

Landscaping and irrigation, the 2 biggest components were started in March of last year. We worked over the summer; researching University of Florida Landscaping Guidelines and Florida Division of Forestry collecting data, updating maps, drawing new maps, troubleshooting the irrigation system. etc

Q. Obviously, you have had previous experience in putting together a "this is how everything works" manual. I see why this is important for our community. Is this something that could be adopted for your home or your boat for example.

Yes, this can be applied to your everyday living especially the house.

As far as my experience goes, early on in my career, in 1970, I spent 14 years as Water and Sewer Superintendent for a municipality of 15,000 residents in upstate New York on

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(How Many Trees continued from Pg. 12)

the Hudson River. I was responsible the water supply from 4 reservoirs, 2 deep wells, a water treatment plant, 60 miles of water and sewer distribution pipelines, 1500 fire hydrants and 2500 valves. In 1981, before I left in 1985 to go into the private sector, the state health dept required every municipality to create a Operation and Maintenance Manual of the Water system, to have on record for future use by other employees. So, I did. Following this, I spent an additional 30 years as a construction superintendent/project manager building everything from subdivisions, utilities, roads, water and sewer treatment plants to repair shops for Metro North Railroad. These projects ranged from \$1 million to \$400 million. I also consulted on design, construction, and operations and maintenance for other government agencies as well. In all of this work experience, it was clear that having a go-to manual is essential.



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Reader's Choice Winner for 2021



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Solutions Not a Sales Pitch

By Karen Post

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.

No sales pitch on newer models; just a willingness to listen to and work with me.

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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Artist's Corner Grows in December and January Meetings

At the December gathering of the Artist's Corner, Natalie Elman displayed her abstract collage work to an interested group who gathered in her home. Natalie explained the materials she used, what inspired her creations and showed how her work has evolved over time.

There were about 15 guests who had a delightful opportunity to meet and ask questions and share ideas. Natalie is truly a gifted artist and we appreciate her opening up her home to us.

At the January meeting, Leah Friends provided an introduction to cyanotypes for the Artist's Corner attendees. Around 16 guests came to her home, many from the prior event. Some of the artists were interested in incorporating what they learned into their own work. It was a lovely day for everyone to sit on Leah's lanai and learn about a new art form.

In February, the Artist's Corner will meet on Wednesday Feb. 8 at 2:00 pm. Jayne Irene will present her modern/contemporary quilts. Space is limited for this event. Please contact Allie Sandow @ 513-403-7228 for more information.



Natalie Elman showing some of her abstract collages.



Leah Friends explaining her cyanotype work at Artist's Corner.



February 20



Wildlife Window: Mourning Dove Soft “Cooing” Sounds Often Heard In Rivendell.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

Doves are a romantic Valentine’s Day staple of love. Doves mate for life, cuddle closely and preen each other. A common dove visitor and bird sound in Rivendell is the **Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*). This graceful, slender-tailed, small-headed dove is also common across the continent. Their soft, drawn-out calls sound like laments. Let’s learn more about these “cooing” birds.

Appearance

Plump-bodied and long-tailed, with short legs, small bill, and a head that looks particularly small in comparison to the body. Males typically are 9-13 inches in length with a wingspan of about 17”. The long, pointed tail is unique among North American doves.

Mourning Doves often match their open-country surroundings. They’re delicate brown to buffy-tan overall, with black spots on the wings and black-bordered white tips to the tail feathers.

Their flight is fast and bullet straight. Dove’s wings make an unusual whistling sound upon take-off and landing. This dove is also a strong flier, capable of speeds up to 55 mph.



Behavior and Habitat

Mourning Doves fly fast on powerful wingbeats, sometimes making sudden ascents, descents, and dodges, with their pointed tails stretching behind them.

Mourning Doves feed mostly on seeds and grains on the ground and in the open. They peck or push aside ground litter, but don’t scratch at the ground.

Males have favorite “cooing perches” they defend from other males. Members of a pair preen each other with gentle nibbles around the neck as a pair-bonding ritual. Eventually, the pair will progress to grasping beaks and bobbing their heads up and down in unison.

(www.allaboutbirds.org)



(Bob Frank photos)

Fun Facts

The Mourning Dove is monogamous, often pairing for life, and it nests in individual nesting sites, often in very unusual places.

The mourning dove is preyed upon by falcons, bobcats, and sportsmen. It is also the most heavily hunted game bird in Florida. However, it is in no imminent danger of extinction.

Your Actions Make a Difference! Our wildlife friends are experiencing food shortages due to loss of vegetation, use of pesticides and degradation of habitat from urban development that challenge all of our wildlife friends. Working together to implement our healthy ponds and preserves management strategies will help keep our favorite wildlife habitats strong. Your continued support helps attract more of our wildlife friends!

Click here to visit the Ponds & Preserves website at <https://www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds>.



Protecting Our Wetlands and Upland Preserves. Costly Homeowner Incursions Hurt Everyone.

By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

Rivendell is fortunate to have 115 acres with 14 Wetland and Uplands Preserves. These preserves, along with our ponds, are part of our stormwater management system designed to control flooding. Rivendell Community Association (RCA) is responsible for maintaining our preserve areas as required by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the County. One-third of our homes border designated preserves and residents should be aware of their special responsibilities.

What is a Wetland vs Upland vs Buffer? Wetland Preserve Areas typically have a dedicated upland buffer between the development (Rivendell) and the wetland. The SWFWMD (District) has specific criteria for upland buffers. They typically consist of existing or planted native vegetation. And like the preserve areas, the structural buffer requires perpetual maintenance.

Wetlands are typically wet for part of the year. Types of wetlands include forested swamps, marshes, river floodplains and wet prairies. Typical wetland plants include pickerelweed, water lilies, grasses, sedges and rushes. Typical wetland trees include cypress, maple, willow, bay, elm, laurel and water oak. An abundant variety of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals can be found in wetlands.

How Are Wetlands Beneficial? Wetlands provide storage of floodwaters. Wetlands provide vital water quality treatment by absorbing nutrients from urban runoff. They provide important habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife.

The RCA/HOA is responsible for maintaining our Preserves in accordance with the requirements of the permit. The RCA is required to hire a licensed and insured preserve maintenance company who regularly inspects these areas to remove invasive or exotic vegetation, and identify areas of encroachment or incursions by homeowners beyond their property line. Preserves are to be left untouched by residents – no planting, trimming, building, storing or mowing into the buffer or preserves areas, plus no dumping of yard waste or anything else.

Incursions and remediation are costly and affect everyone. The HOA's contractors regularly inspect the preserves for incursion violations to preempt County fines or penalties. Homeowners are notified of incursions for remediation. Some of these issues include: unauthorized removal or trimming within preserve areas or unauthorized planting of nuisance or exotic vegetation in preserve areas, extension of yards or garden areas into preserve areas and construction of structures in preserve areas.

Each year, the HOA spends valuable community resources to address incursions and ensure compliance with the permit. \$1000's of community dollars have been spent on remediation from homeowner incursions that otherwise could be earmarked for positive improvements for our natural resources, wildlife habitats, and keeping Rivendell vibrant. Incursions hurt everyone. Know your property line. Do not encroach beyond your yard. Let's work together to keep our wetland preserves and buffer areas healthy and in compliance.

Click here to visit the Ponds & Preserves website at <https://www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds>.



Preserve and buffer areas must be left alone, in accordance to our permit. Know your property line. Do not encroach beyond your yard with any vegetation, structures or deposit debris. (N. Dobias)



Preserve areas play a vital role as part of our Stormwater System to control flooding. They are critical habitats for our wildlife (N. Dobias)

Rivendell Community Contacts

Committees

Block Captain Committee

Chair: Rachel North Zipay (mobilrach@verizon.net)

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

CERT Committee

Chair: Paul Englert (paule253@hotmail.com)

Board Liaison: **Cathy Daignault**

Members: Need Volunteers. Please contact Paul if interested.

Communication Committee

Chair: Kristine Nickel

(kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Newsletter: Kristine Nickel, Nancy Giordano, Barbara Gahry, Adele Kellman

Directory: Christopher Smith and Kristine Nickel

Webmaster: Gary Mruz

At large: Marylin and Jim May

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Chair: Greg Warner

Board Liaison: **Greg Volack**

Questions or Submissions: rivendell@mgmt.tv

Members: Greg Warner, Joe Casale, Rich Bunce,

Jim Duncan, Joe Zwerling Board Member: Greg Volack

Fine Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: Robert Thierfelder (rcthierfelder@gmail.com)

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy

Maintenance Committee (MC)

Acting Chair: Greg Volack (gregvolack@gmail.com)

Board Liaison: **Greg Volack** (gregvolack@gmail.com)

Members: Carole Myles, Mark Giordano, Dave Cook,

Kevin Humbert, Chuck Pertile

Ponds & Preserves Committee

Chair: Bob Frank (frank@ohio.edu)

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Members: Ray Elliston, Frank Freestone, Dave Gill,

Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Allie Sandow

Social Committee

Chair: Maria Ilioff

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Lisa Boggs, Annie Francis, Kathy Halaiko,

Carolyn Kennedy, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak,

Jennifer Parker, Allie Sandow, Jane Stevens

Rivendell Board of Directors

Larry Dobias, President, dobiasle@gmail.com

Greg Volack, Vice President, gregvolack@gmail.com

Cathy Daignault, Treasurer, catdaignault@yahoo.com

Kevin Boggess, Secretary, kbogg@msn.com

George Smith, Director at Large,

georgeandnadia@gmail.com

Sub-Association Boards of Directors

The Cottages: Marilee Casale, President,

(marileecasale@gmail.com); Bob Metelko, 1st Vice

President, (bob@csdsinc.net); Carole Myles, 2nd Vice

President, Kathi Webber, Secretary,

(kathi.travel@gmail.com); **Jim May**, Treasurer.

Patio Homes: **Bob Thierfelder**, President; **Dan Tavares**, Secretary; **Dave Rollinson**, Treasurer.

The Villas: **Sherry Sholtis**, Acting President and **Barbara Loe**, Treasurer.

Lighthouse Property Management:

941-460-5560 Ext. 225

Property Manager: Steven DeHart

(SteveDeHart@mgmt.tv)

Rivendell Website

www.rivendellcommunity.com

Contact Lighthouse Management for password to RESIDENTS section.

Woodlands Word Deadline:

Submit articles and information to Kristine Nickel
(kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

by the tenth of the month.

Updates to the Contacts Page:

Kristine Nickel kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

Nuisance Alligator

Call Florida Fish & Wildlife - SNAP 866-392-4286

Do Not Call Lighthouse Property Management

Sarasota County Sheriff

Non-emergency Number: 941-316-1201

Please use this number for non-emergencies