



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

*Your
Community Resource*

May 2022



Another Successful Wildlife Week - Over 4,500 Wildlife Sightings!

Special Thanks to All Who Participated!

Wildlife Window - By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

During the week of March 13-20, 2022, the Ponds and Preserves Committee hosted our **Rivendell Spring Wildlife Week**. The Rivendell Community agreed to conduct semi-annual community wildlife reports as one of the conditions of a grant received to install aquatic plants in our ponds. These plants help control erosion, improve water quality, and attract wildlife.

Rivendell residents became **Nature Watchers** to help us observe and record sightings of the diverse wildlife that calls Rivendell home. While these sightings do not provide a scientific count of each species, they do give us an indication of the diversity and numbers of animals in our community.

Many thanks to all 29 residents who participated in Wildlife Week. **Nature Watchers** captured sightings of **4,565 wildlife friends** covering over **95 different species**. We plan to have a Wildlife Week each spring and fall to compare the findings. Here's a brief breakdown of what residents saw this Spring, with a comparison to last Fall's sightings. (Thanks to Bob Frank for compiling the sighting counts.)

Wildlife Type	Examples of Species Observed	SPRING 2022 (95 species)	FALL 2021 (80 species)
Blackbirds, Crows, Grackles	Red-winged Blackbirds, Fish Crows, Common Grackles, Boat-tailed Grackles	605	1,144
Wetlands/Wading	Herons, Egrets, Ducks, Cranes, Ibis, Anhinga	2,067	1,530
Perching Birds	Warblers, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Woodpeckers	794	402
Birds of Prey	Eagles, Ospreys, Vultures, Owl, Hawks	199	218
Butterflies	Monarchs, Gulf Fritillary, White Peacocks	149	157
Amphibians	Green Frogs, Cuban Treefrogs	38	28
Reptiles	Alligators, Anoles, Turtles, Cooter, Snakes	360	467
Mammals	Deer, Bobcat, Rabbits, Squirrels, Opossums	353	347
TOTAL:		4,565	4,293

Fun Facts About Spring's Wildlife Sightings

Let's continue to keep our ponds healthy and vibrant for these beautiful creatures.

- **Perching Birds** showed the greatest increase in sightings. This is possibly due to nesting season during the Springtime. We love seeing (and hearing) these beautiful birds.
- **Wetlands/Wading Bird** sightings also increased from the Fall. Migration patterns and nesting time may have contributed to these additional sightings. Lucky us!
- **Glossy Ibis** had the highest of sightings – surpassing the Common Grackle in the Fall.
- **Florida Softshell Turtle & Gopher Tortoise** are two species protected by law and on the “endangered” list. In our community, how exciting that both species were spotted!
- **Birds of Prey (Raptors)**, including our city's namesake, the **Osprey**, were also well represented. While we saw fewer Raptors than in the Fall, there were several new species observed.

Many **Nature Watchers** commented on the positive experience of watching Rivendell's wildlife and how wonderful it is to live in such beautiful natural surroundings. Most of the Nature Watchers said they would participate in next Wildlife Week! Stay tuned! We hope more residents will join us for the Fall Wildlife Week. **Thanks again to all!**

[PHOTOS & CAPTIONS NEXT PAGE]

(Wildlife Week continued from page 1)



Birds of Prey, (or Raptors) are commonly sighted in our community, including our city's namesake, the Osprey.



The Roseate Spoonbill had a large increase in sightings this Spring! These colorful birds are a very welcome sight in our wetlands



Perching Birds, such as this Northern Cardinal, are always a favorite to see (and hear) in Rivendell.

Photos by Bob Frank

Rivendell Receives Landscaping Award

The Sarasota Garden Club recently recognized Rivendell with its 2022 Civic Beautification Award for our Outstanding Landscaping. High five to all of our residents who serve and volunteer in keeping Woodlands the beautiful environment that we all enjoy. The award reads, "In recognition of a significant contribution to the beauty of the Sarasota area through excellence in landscaping civic property."

Paddlers Wake

by Maria Ilioff

Rivendell Kayakers Enjoy Spring on the Water

The Rivendell Kayak group had a wonderful outing April 24th. We launched at Blackburn Point paddling south towards Oscar Scherer State Park. The next outing is Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 9:30 am, launching from Turtle Beach kayak launch on Siesta Key. Rentals are available on site; however, call ahead for rentals 941-799-1863. See kayakingsrq.com for more information. Word to the wise: the boats book up quickly.

Information is posted on TeamReach-Rivendell Kayak. Contact Jane Stevens at janie0441@gmail.com for more information. We hope to see you on the water.

Rivendell Entrance Gets a Facelift

If you haven't driven through the main entrance of our development, you're missing a major improvement. Kudos to these three — Mark Giordano, Larry Dobias and Chuck Pertile — for not only shepherding the project along but doing much of the labor themselves. Don't miss our extended coverage of the new caps on the piers in the June edition. And many thanks to all Rivendell volunteers who work so hard to maintain and improve our beautiful environment.



Photo by Nancy Dobias



Rivendell Calendar of Events - MAY 2022

Note: If you wish to have your event listed, please submit to Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com) by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the calendar for the following month. We welcome your submissions.

For the most up-to-date information check the Rivendell website at www.rivendellcommunity.com

Rivendell Yoga and Meditation Class via zoom on Monday, May 2 @ 9:00 am. Participants must have filled out survey and registered for class. Contact yogayely.com for more information.

Rivendell Book Club I will be meeting on MAY 9 at 7:30 pm, which is the second Monday of the month. Contact Adele at adele.Kellman@gmail.com for an invitation. The book club will now meet in person with restrictions. Please contact Adele for more information. May's book is the THE BOY WHO HARNASSED THE WIND.

Rivendell Book Club II will be meeting on MAY 17 at 7:00 pm which is the third Tuesday of the month. Contact Maria Ilioff at miIioff85@gmail.com or 607-427-4192 for more information. The book is CLOUD CUCKOO LAND. The meeting will be hosted by Deb Jones.

Euchre is not only back, but booming! The monthly euchre group is meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 4:30. The group is planning to follow cards with an informal dinner at local restaurants. For May 3rd, please check with Ann Francis. annfrancis915@gmail.com

Rivendell HOA monthly meeting will be held on MAY 18 @ 6:00 in person at the Lutheran Church. Please check the website for more detail. A ZOOM connection will be in operation.

The Maintenance Committee meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month, MAY 17. Please contact Greg Volack if you would like to attend. gregvolack@gmail.com

ARC meeting is the last Tuesday of the month, In MAY that is the 31st at 4:30. Please contact Greg Warner if you would like to attend. Greg796@gmail.com

To make additions or corrections to the Calendar of Events, please contact Kristine Nickel at kristine@nickelcommunications.com.



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What is a Healthy Pond?

How Rivendell's Pond Management Efforts Support Healthier Ponds. Wildlife Window - By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

Our ponds and preserves are vital assets of our community. In fact, our natural resources are why many of us moved to Rivendell. Stormwater is the biggest contributor to water pollution in Florida. Wet detention ponds, including Rivendell's, are the most common method for stormwater management to reduce flooding and trap pollution before water heads downstream.

Maintenance of stormwater pond systems is critical to maintaining their benefits to our community and downstream waterways. As owners of a stormwater pond system, the entire community plays an important role in successful pond management. Shoreline erosion is visible on many Rivendell ponds. The P&P Committee is working to help control erosion using well-established best practices for healthy pond management.

What is a Healthy Pond?

UF/IFAS says a healthy pond has five main features:

- A 3-to-10-foot-wide Buffer Zone (LMZ) with plants growing their maximum height and turfgrass trimmed to maintain 8-12 inches in height
- Florida native plants in and around the pond, covering 30-85% of the total pond area
- Diverse plants and animals supporting a balanced aquatic ecosystem
- Periphyton (microorganisms) allowed to grow for removal of harmful pollutants
- Limited stressors from surrounding roadways and yards

What are the Major Causes of Shoreline Erosion?

Most stormwater ponds surrounded by homes have at least four major sources of shoreline damage creating different types of erosion, each of which can be controlled with buffer zones and plants.

- Wind-driven wave action
- Water level fluctuations between wet and dry seasons
- Downspouts from surrounding homes and sprinklers
- Man-made damage from heavy mowers & machinery

What are Buffer Zones?

Buffer zones, (no-mow or **Low-Maintenance Zones** (LMZs), are vegetated lands that are either natural or created to separate a waterbody from negative human and natural impacts. Buffer zones are a key feature for securing shorelines from erosion.

Sarasota County - UF/IFAS have identified qualities of **Good, Better, and Best buffer zones**. While still a work-in-progress, Rivendell's ponds are mostly "Good" and "Better" with efforts in place to help more become "Best." Proper management of the buffer zone around stormwater ponds can improve water quality, protect property, save a substantial amount of money, and benefit Florida wildlife.

(Click here to read UF/IFAS' [Buffer Zones Fact Sheet](#).)

Healthy Ponds and You!

The P&P Committee is working to assess the health of each of our ponds to create management strategies to address unique needs. Following these recommendations, a healthy pond starts with You!

- **Reduce negative inputs.** Limit fertilizer and irrigation. Keep grass clippings & landscape debris, pet waste, and irrigation water out of our ponds.
- **Support your pond's natural food web.** Allow native plants to thrive.
- **Protect the vegetated buffer zone.** Separate your yard from the water's edge with native and Florida-Friendly plants.
- **Manage invasive species.** Have contractors use an integrated pest management approach to manage invasive species. Reduce use of toxic herbicide & pesticide chemicals.

(Continued on next page)

BENEFITS OF HEALTHY POND BANKS & BUFFER ZONES



All Rivendell residents can enjoy these benefits of a healthy pond.

(Courtesy of UF/IFAS.)



Erosion is visible on most ponds in Rivendell. Working to improve our ponds' health and vibrancy is a key focus of the P&P Committee. Installing LMZs (Buffer Zones) and plants help control erosion. Much progress has been made since this image from Dec. 2019. It's a work-in-progress with more work to be done.



A Healthy Pond has a LMZ Buffer Zone and plants that work together to control erosion, absorb excess nutrients and improve water quality, plus improve habitats for wildlife. (PS Remy photos.)

COTTAGES CORNER

By Marylin May

Celebration of Life for Cottages Original

On Saturday, April 2nd, we gathered to tell stories, share a meal, and celebrate the life of a wonderful neighbor and friend, Bob Axxiom, who passed away last year. He was an original homeowner on the Circle and gave tirelessly to the community over the years. He previously served on the Board, Annual Election Committee, Facilities Committee, Pool Committee, and as a Rivendell Block Captain. He and his wife, Jackie, famously walked the Circle every day looking after the homes of many snowbirds and delivering countless notices and annual directories to our doorsteps. They also took great care of our pool and were lovingly named our “pool checkers”. Bob’s caring heart and warm smile are missed by all of us.

A memorial bench was purchased by the many donations made by Bob’s MSC neighbors and friends. It’s located on the left side of the Clubhouse. We invite everyone to stop and sit awhile.



I Scream . . . You Scream . . . Rivendell Screamed for Ice Cream

Although the weather threatened, it turned out to be delightful afternoon for gathering in Crescent Park for the official “opening” of social activities in “Big Riv”. The Ice Cream Social had 100+ kids of all ages lined up at the gazebo, pondering the plethora of various ice cream confections available. The chair of the event, Ann Francis, handed out the various treats that fueled conversations across the park. Kids of appropriate ages funneled their energies on the playground and new and old adult friends caught up with the latest news from the neighborhoods.

The highlight may have been the drawing for door prizes — two gift cards from Lowes for adults and two inflatable pool toys for the kids — giant turtles that were Rivendell appropriate. All four recipients seemed amazed that they had each won a prize.

The real prize was the gathering of neighbors again after two years of isolation. The pleasure was palpable. Kudos to the social committee for an outstanding event.



Reader's Choice Winner for 2021



Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

Call Your Husband



Karen has created her own favorite joke and it goes like this. A woman says, "I can't get my husband to come in and get hearing aids."

Karen says, "No problem. I'll call and yell at him. I would talk to him but he isn't wearing hearing aids."

Everytime she gets to say this she cracks up. I am more amused by her laughing at her own joke.

Getting husbands to come in for hearing aids is the one talent I haven't mastered.

Recently a couple came in. As they were completing the new paperwork the husband said to his wife, "why aren't you filling out forms? You need a hearing test as well."

She looked at Karen, who was at the front desk, then said softly, "I have very sensitive hearing. I said that to trick him into coming in. He needs help but won't get it."

He didn't hear a word.

Karen walked them into my office and said under her breath, "He thinks they are both getting tested. I told them we might only have time for one. He has a big loss, he didn't understand me twice. She has sensitive hearing."

After the test it was obvious he could be helped with hearing aids. I had even said, "You may not realize how hard it is for you to hear your wife's voice. Your loss shows me that you will struggle to hear her without hearing aids. You married her and listening to her should be your priority and hearing aids will help with this."

As he was leaving he turned to Karen and asked, "How do I return demos?"

Karen mentioned to me later, he'll drop them off, he won't wear them. His wife tricked him to come in. He isn't ready to receive help.

I wasn't surprised when he walked in a couple of days later to return the demos and mentioned he didn't wear them much. I assured him, when he is ready we will be here to help. When you decide you want help, we are here for you.

I don't want your wife to trick you to come in. If you have noticed strain in talking to one another due to not hearing words clearly and want to know if hearing aids could ease tensions and eliminate miscommunications, call our office for a free demo. There is no obligation, no contract, just our commitment to help you hear with ease. Call, 941-244-9300, for an appointment.

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Neighbors

By Nancy Giordano

Energy Overflows

Michelle and Jonas Meyer “love where we live”. Since 2015, they have appreciated the wildlife, plant, and pond life of Florida right from their backyard in Rivendell. The view of both Rivendell Lake and Gator Creek ponds and the piers on the Boulevard is as peaceful and pleasant as it is to sit down for a visit with the Meyers.

Originally from Delaware, family brought Jonas to Florida. After backpacking across Central America and Costa Rica, it was time to take root. As outliers at a local Florida beach party, Jonas and Michelle were drawn together, beginning a long-distance relationship. Michelle left Virginia a decade ago and brought her job with her, continuing to manage an international training contract for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) until 2021.

House flipping, which requires both hard work and is risky, became their pursuit. They learned about the dos and don'ts of home improvement and, as reflected in a current bathroom redo, have perfected the art of DIY (Do It Yourself) projects. A recent and intriguing project, however, is not a DIY by any means.

Up On the Roof

Jonas has long harbored concerns about global impacts on energy needs, costs, and sustainability. So, he decided

to commit to a relatively new take on a technology that has been around a while (solar roof panels). Solar Roof tiles or shingles are marketed as durable, strong, and engineered for all weather protection, as well as “safe, reliable and outage ready.” The shingles are made of slim photovoltaic (PV) sheets that absorb sunlight and convert it into electricity. Cells within produce clean, renewable energy with 24/7 energy security. Unlike solar panels, they are a full cover roofing material with a clean aesthetic look; elegant and sleek.

Installing solar roof tiles are not for the faint of heart. While one can enjoy monthly energy savings, the initial investment can be \$20,000 to upwards of \$70,000. According to Forbes, the cost depends on factors including energy usage; size and age of roof; manufacturer (Tesla, Luma); and if the solar shingles will be integrated with regular shingles. Only a professional can offer a reliable cost estimate. The internet offers many sources for information - an easy Google search is just a click away!

Jonas is an avid golfer and both he and Michelle are active in the Rivendell community. Michelle, a dual U.S. and Peruvian citizen, enjoys traveling. And just to bring even more light into their lives, they found time in October to be married at the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Virginia.

Jonas's son Jonas, sixth in a long line of Jonas Meyers, lives with he and Michelle and is an active teen. He is a Junior at our neighboring, nationally ranked Pine View School and works at the local Publix. Who can live without the pleasant baggers and greeters at Publix? Thank you, Jonas!

Indeed, energy overflows from within and on top of the home Michelle and Jonas have created in Rivendell.



Solar Roof Tiles



Family Hiking trip in Peru a few years ago.



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WELCOME TO RIVENDELL

The many recreational offerings and country feel of the Woodlands at Rivendell make it a highly desirable community. Located in Osprey, Florida, just minutes from downtown Sarasota, this suburban-style neighborhood features many parks, lakes, nature trail and more to fulfill the Florida lifestyle. The Woodlands at Rivendell offers residential choices from villas, estates and executive homes to maintenance-free patio homes. Nestled among 400 acres of lakes, preserves and open spaces, the community was carefully planned to highlight and blend with its natural surroundings. The Woodlands at Rivendell is also directly adjacent to the popular Pine View School, a highly acclaimed educational facility for intellectually gifted students grades 2 through 12. Nature lovers will appreciate the proximity to Osprey State Park, located just south of the community and visible from many homes.

The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at

WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM

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

REAL ESTATE CORNER

By Barbara Gahry

New Construction Contracts and the Escalation Clause....

Buyer Beware!

In this hot real estate market, agents often advise buyers to use an escalation clause with their offer. This clause allows the buyer to match or exceed a higher offer on a property. It can be a valuable tool for the buyer to compete in the resale market. This is different, however, with new construction whereby such clauses are actually BAD for the buyer. Such clauses may affect the buyer's bottom line at closing.

In a recent communication from Berlin Patten Ebling Law Firm, they note that builders have been routinely inserting such clauses into the purchase agreement. Prior to COVID, the cost and availability of materials was not as volatile. Builders could accept the risk level without passing along the changes to the buyer. After COVID, however, a very different picture emerged, whereby the cost of building materials used in construction increased enormously and in very short periods of time. Supply chain issues have lengthened the time for build-outs and this has dramatically affected the builder's budget and profitability. Their solution? Shift most or all of the cost increases and construction delays onto the buyer through the use of an escalation clause. In other words, the price you agree upon today may not be *the price you pay at closing*. Depending on the clause used, the buyer may be contractually obligated to pay a substantially higher price. If the increase is more than the buyer can handle, the buyer risks losing a deposit, often a substantial amount of money. If the contract DOES allow buyers to back out, the reality is that they are often faced with a more expensive market than when the initial contract was signed with the builder.

There is no standard escalation clause used. Each builder uses their own language. Bottom line: before signing, have an attorney review the purchase agreement so you understand exactly what to expect from the beginning. With time-lines for build-outs reaching 18-24 months, on average, this may affect your decision to go forth with new construction.



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Unofficial Notes from Board of Director's Meeting April 20, 2022

Submitted by Nancy Dobias

If you didn't "attend" the April 20, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting and you'd like to know what might have happened, below is my UNOFFICIAL version or understanding of that meeting. Because my version is UNOFFICIAL, you should always consult the official version that will appear on the website. Mine could have errors or I could have misinterpreted what was said. All Board members were present for this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

In order to facilitate better communication of when the Board meetings occur, Larry asked that Steve put another sign at the Park Trace entrance to Rivendell and to explore whether larger font size could be used on the existing signs. It was also suggested that another be placed in the parkway at the Willowbend entrance to Rivendell since some owners use that entrance/exit. Later in the meeting, there was discussion as to whether the sandwich board signs purchased by the Social Committee to advertise its events could also be used for the Board meetings. Those signs are thought to be easily read and seen. The Social Committee is to order 2 additional signs for its events and whether those will also be used for the Board meetings will be considered.

Larry stated that Rivendell was awarded the Civic Beautification Award from the Sarasota Garden Club. At the time he was informed of this award, he was skeptical as to whether they had the right community since our community plants had been devastated by the frost and by the irrigation breakdown that had lasted 6 weeks and things did not look good in Rivendell. The club representative assured him that they had the right community and they later sent the award certificate. Larry said he will compose a letter apologizing to the club for his lack of "excited" reaction to the award and thanking them for their recognition of Rivendell, that they do value others recognizing what Rivendell is working to achieve.

It was mentioned that the Social Committee's Ice Cream Social went over well with the community, that over 100 people attended, that the addition of the raffle at the end of the event was popular and that it was good to be back together again.

Larry informed the Board that he will be meeting with the Grounds Supervisor for PineView School on Friday to discuss the unsightly condition of the vines in the pine woods across from the Cottages along Rivendell Blvd.

This area is school property but it has an impact on Rivendell aesthetics. Larry had already talked with Rick Richards (our preserve contractor) about what could be done in this section. What was mentioned was to use a forestry mower to remove the vines and saw palmettos but not to go back too far or it would give us a view into the parking lot of the school. This area encompasses about 3 acres and if 1.5 acres would be "groomed," then it would make the section safer against any lightning strike or unlawful fires that might happen in these woods. It was also stated that should an out-of-control fire develop, there is too much "fuel" in this section that could feed the fire and it was said that there could be a loss of 50+% of the woods. To safeguard the woods look by eliminating the vines, to protect against fires, and to prevent a view into the parking lot would govern the route chosen. It's about 200 feet back to the parking lot, so the plan is to try to just do just 80-100 feet back. It's hoped that Pine View will pay for this action.

(Continued on Pg. 12)

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 11)

A resident suggested that too much clearing of saw palmettos was being done and he was concerned. Larry said that all the forestry mowing being done was approved by the county since it was in the best interest of preserving habitat for wildlife. It was also stated that when a community chooses to do nothing and allows the vegetation to grow unchecked, in 20-30 years this lack of management within the preserves could lead to an end to wetland areas that wildlife need and that we all should value since the wetlands are nature's way of filtering the pollutants out of our waters.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Steve DeHart)

The 2 recently-adopted amendments were filed with the county and all owners should have received a copy in the mail.

There have been 25 ARC requests submitted and all were approved and sent notices of such. Some homes did work without ARC requests and these would be subject to the \$100 fine.

The Lutheran church added wi-fi to the meeting room and Board meetings can now be in-person as well as by Zoom. It was not known how well the Zoom function will be, whether the audio will be good, so Steve asked that owners let Lighthouse know how it worked out.

Some mailbox lights are out and these owners will be notified.

On April 26, the Fining Committee will be meeting to consider the fines that were enacted in March. There were 3 homes that have the option of presenting their case to this committee.

Currently there are 60 open violations on 56 lots in Rivendell, but there had been over 100. Owners are currently correcting the issues cited in either the first or second violation notice. 15 have received their 3rd notification and it's after this stage that these owners are faced with a possible fine.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Daignault)

As of March, Rivendell has \$520,869 in non-capital assets, \$277,501 of this amount is in the reserve accounts. There have been a few projects which involved spending from the reserves. These involved the pier/wall cap project and the irrigation pump repair on Rivendell Lake.

Cathy suggested that we do another reserve study prior to the next year's budget so that we can better know whether each account is being funded adequately and so that the "life" of that asset could be ascertained. (The "life" determines how much money needs to be added per year to each reserve fund to assure that that "asset" is protected should it become damaged or need replaced at the end of its "life.")

Larry indicated that currently the Board is putting \$50,000 a year into the reserve accounts and that when he first joined the Board a few years ago, only \$8000 a year was being done at that time. He asked Steve to get a few proposals for the reserve study and to bring them to the Board for consideration.

Cathy also indicated that Rivendell has \$12,864 in accounts receivables from owner balances. She stated that 5 owners have violation balances, 4 accounts are in short pay and 20 accounts still have not paid their January dues.

(Continued on Pg. 13)

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 12)

She also stated that in operations, our total income is over budget by \$2942 and our total expenses for the year are \$6028 under budget. She also listed various accounts that were either over or under the budgeted amount that was allotted for 2022. (My impression is that these go up or down through the course of the year to account for the projects that are becoming a reality.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Kevin Boggess)

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARC (Kevin Boggess)

All of the ARC requests submitted were approved but 5 were approved with conditions attached. They currently have 20 more requests to consider for their April meeting.

2. MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE (Chuck Pertile)

Chuck discussed the pool electrical upgrades that were approved at the last Board meeting and he said that they were scheduled to happen by the end of April or the beginning of May. Chuck had concerns as to whether the pool should still be open when this work is being performed. He is to talk with Graham Electric to get their recommendation as to what should happen.

Chuck said that the committee has been investigating using a professional decorating service for the Christmas holiday season. They offer various levels of service and the committee will be discussing which option best fits what they would like to do in Rivendell. They will bring the recommendation to the next Board meeting. Chuck added that because the MC has been so pro-active in its search for a contractor in this area, we will be ahead of others when the schedule for decorating is made.

MRT has been consulted to determine how to better meet the needs of the bridge plantings and those that are done at our 2 entrances of Old Venice and Park Trace. MRT will give recommendations as to what fertilizers should be used, which plants work best in these locations and whether the irrigation has adequate coverage for the plants selected. MRT said that the plantings on the Gator Creek side of the bridge (described as the "north" side) are not getting adequate water. It was determined that different irrigation heads would help so that water is watering the plants and not watering the street.

In addition, there has been some investigation into changing our landscape company but this is just in the investigation phase.

3. COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (Larry Dobias)

The Directory is near completion and Kristine told Larry that she thought the block captains might be able to deliver them to homes within a few weeks.

4. POND AND PRESERVE COMMITTEE (Bob Frank)

Another pond contractor is being considered but nothing will happen before Sept/Oct. The current contractor (Solitude) is scheduled to install pond plants in May for which we've paid a warranty and

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(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 13)

we wouldn't want to change contractors and not get the benefit of this warranty should some of these installed May plants not survive. It was mentioned that the new contractor would be more pro-active in solving the problems that can happen on our various lakes. His approach would not be the "cookie cutter" type of approach. Each pond has its own characteristics and these need to come into play in determining how to treat that pond. The goal of the committee is to try to extend the life of our ponds beyond the projected 25 years which Swiftmud said to expect. If we can be more pro-active in our mowing practices, planting practices and treatment practices, all could impact the health and longevity of a pond.

Greg Volack asked why there is so much of a difference between Eagle and Placid Lakes. He felt they only had a narrow landbridge between them but yet he sees different colors to the water and he tends to see algae developing on Placid Lake.

Bob answered that this is why there is a need for an individualized approach to how each pond is treated. He stated that Eagle does have a brownish color to how the sun reflects off of it. The water in Placid is clear and also reflects light differently. The green color to Placid may be reflecting the green algae that is on the bottom of the lake. The sunlight reflects differently upon each location. (From my point of view, I see this happen at the beach when I take pictures in opposite directions or at different times of the day. The water doesn't change but the sun's angle does and it's this reflection that gives up the color changes to whatever must be in the water. Check with Bob or a member of the PP to see if I understood this correctly.)

Whatever the case, it's important to understand the characteristics of each pond and it was felt that the new contractor being considered is the one who can do that the best. When the committee is ready to make its recommendation, it will be brought to the Board so that the Board can consider the higher costs involved so that the 2023 budget can cover these costs.

There has been some dumping of yard/kitchen waste into common areas across from Bobcat Pond. They're hoping to put a few small signs there to remind people NOT to do this. Greg Volack indicated that the MC is considering doing some trimming in this section and once the trim happens, not only will the aesthetics improve, but also it will be harder to conceal any of the illegal dumping. A small section of this land is classified as common land and that's why the elimination of the wax myrtles and other unwanted vegetation can occur. (If you're wondering where this is, it's along Mallard Marsh where the community lamp posts are located.)

Bob also stated that currently each pond is being inspected so that the committee can have a better handle on the kinds of plants needed in each pond. They're documenting what they see, the characteristics of each pond and its location, so as to better ascertain what works best where.

There is to be a meeting with Solitude on May 6 to determine which plants are to be used and where these plants are to be installed.

5. SOCIAL COMMITTEE (Maria ILioff)

Maria said that Ann Francis was in charge of our first post-Covid event...the IceCream Social. 82 adults and 22 kids attended the event and were treated to a variety of ice cream choices. The event was deemed a success but there was some discussion as to whether the Cottages were included. Owners in the Cottages weren't sure if they were invited and so did not attend. However, the

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(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 14)

Cottages WERE invited and are to be included in any event hosted by the Master Association. Owners from all sections of Rivendell showed up and it seemed that all enjoyed the opportunity to renew old acquaintances as well as to make new.

More get-togethers are planned. On April 21, the Mix and Mingle at the community pool is to be held and again, EVERYONE is invited. These events involve bringing an appetizer if you would like and bringing your own drink. The point is to meet all of your neighbors--near and far--within Rivendell. A sandwich board sign has been purchased by the committee and will announce when any of these events are to occur. Right now there is just one but Maria is planning to purchase an additional two so as to help get the word out to the entire community. Maria also added that these signs are available to be used by other committees if desired. Kathy Halaiko is in charge of this event.

Other groups are also meeting within Rivendell and if you'd like to know which ones there are and when they are meeting, check with Maria or else go to the Community Calendar on the website. If you have an idea for a club and would like to lead the charge on that activity, see Maria.

Maria asked whether the Cottage clubhouse was available for use by all of Rivendell. The answer was that this is a Cottage amenity paid for by Cottage dues. It's available when the Cottages decide it's available. They have activities in this clubhouse and should any non-Cottage group wish to use it, they need the permission of the Cottages for that to happen. The Cottages have always been very kind in sharing their facilities with the rest of Rivendell but again, since it's their facility, it's their decision. They have a calendar of events and if the clubhouse is open, it's likely that permission will be granted. Larry suggested that if the groups are going to start taking advantage of the Cottages' hospitality, perhaps some kind of compensation should be considered.

There's a Social Committee meeting planned for April 25 and Maria said that more volunteers would be welcomed. See Maria for details if interested.

Maria thanked Carolyn Kenney for her previous chairmanship of this committee and announced that she had retired and that Maria would now be the new Chair.

OLD BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

Now that the amendments have been officially registered, Larry asked the Board if they wanted to consider "cleaning" up some sections in the Covenants. Larry suggested that one possibility could be to codify the LMZ to better protect the integrity of our ponds. Another was to eliminate the language that requires sidewalks in front of each home since there are 158 homes in Rivendell without one. A 3rd possibility mentioned was to eliminate the requirement that trucks must be parked in garages. This set off a lively debate.

Most opinions expressed supported a pick-up truck being "legal" outside of a garage but one Board member was adamant against this. Cathy Daignault felt that when people bought in Rivendell, they accepted that trucks were not allowed to be parked on driveways or streets. Larry Dobias said that our documents were written when we were being considered as a private gated community, but that didn't happen. Our streets were turned over to the county and county rules prevail.

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(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 15)

Many argued our streets were public and as such could not be restricted. Cathy argued that the Cottages restricts them and that the Master Board has sent non-compliance letters to truck owners and that should justify the Board being able to restrict them. Larry reminded Cathy that none of these letters resulted in a fine being administered. The letters were sent in hopes that the owners of the vehicles would comply and the letters were sent because a possible condition affecting safety was in play.

Various owners in attendance gave opinions supporting trucks. One reiterated that our streets are public, that it doesn't make sense to have rules that you can't enforce. Rules should have meaning.

Another asked what are you hoping to accomplish with the rule? If the rule is there because someone just doesn't like trucks, it's not a valid reason. (For example, do you ban foreign-made vehicles because you happened to have worked in Detroit?) There should be logical and reasonable rationale for rules. Rules should not be based upon likes and dislikes.

Larry added that trucks are the number one best-selling vehicle in the U.S. They're no longer used as work vehicles. He also added that the Board recently got a legal opinion about enforcing the truck rule and the bottom line was that it was not enforceable on county streets UNLESS the Board issued a "blank slate" and informed the community that from this point on, ALL language in the Covenants WOULD BE ENFORCED. 158 homes would have to install sidewalks if the Board chose to enforce the language about trucks. Is that wanted???

There is other language in the Covenants that also would need to be enforced. The Board can't just pick and choose which rules it wants to enforce and which ones it wants to ignore. The blank slate means ALL must be enforced.

Another owner said this same topic was explored in another community that also had public streets but they were fortunate to have a parking lot available where the trucks could be parked and be out of the way of traffic.

Cathy added that she's not interested in spending community money to hire an attorney to write amendments that might not be passed. She and Greg both seemed to favor having a list of volunteers who were pledging to do the door-to-door needed to pass any amendment proposed. Larry said it wasn't much money to clean up the document. It might cost \$400 for one change or \$1600 for 4 changes. If owners wanted the changes, they could vote for those changes. He personally was not interested in going door-to-door to coax people to vote.

Various owners said that we need language that is enforceable and not to do anything is not an option. Our document is old and needs revised. Language should be meaningful, etc. Another suggested that most people will comply with whatever the rules are. Figure out the rules and then enforce them. It was suggested that maybe a steering committee could be formed that deals with changes that are less controversial but even with that, you still can't enforce one part and ignore another.

After much discussion, the Board is to come up with some ideas for the next meeting as to what changes they think would be good. At that time, the Board can evaluate the suggestions and determine the path forward.

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(Unnofficial Notes continued from Pg. 16)

2. UPDATE ON PIER/WALL CAPS

Chuck said that the installation of the pier caps was to begin April 21 and Mark Giordano, who heads the project, indicated the install would be complete by the middle of the following week.

The caps will still need to be painted/sealed. Although the bridge caps used a texture type of paint, it's not likely this will be used on these caps. The trees produce too much dirt and a textured surface would attract the dirt.

NEW BUSINESS

Several new projects were presented by the MC and approved by the Board.

1. Gorilla Clean will be cleaning community sidewalks after the cap project is completed. Cost is \$4890.

Cathy expressed concern that there was a home whose bushes were growing onto the sidewalk and she felt that the Steve needs to send a non-compliance letter to the Villas who are responsible for the landscape or else the cleaning here would be a waste of time.

2. Graham Electric will be doing upgrades to the landscape lighting behind the pool but because the quote was gotten early and prices have since risen, Chuck asked that the proposal adopted be no more than \$2750.

3. GreenTopps will get rid of 2 dead trees and a bottle-brush tree. These trees are located in Crescent Park, Clear Creek and behind the pool. Cost is \$1600.

4. Rick Richards will be remediating incursions by 14 homes into the preserves. He will remove what people had planted and instead plant sabal palms, palmetto palms, wax myrtles, beauty berries, and wire grass. Owners are not allowed to plant unwanted plants in preserves but because this happened, it will cost Rivendell \$3575 to correct. Owners who live in this area will be notified when the work is to begin.

5. Brightview (Westbay) will improve the irrigation on the Gator Creek side (north side) of the bridge. 42 feet of irrigation line is to have the existing heads replaced with a type of head that better irrigates the plants in this section. Greg said these are mister heads. Once the new heads are installed, plants at the north side of the bridge could be installed and irrigated. Cost is \$1034.

6. Rick Richards will also be working within the Cottages, but this work will be covered by the Cottages. There is a swale in the Cottages that traps water in places. It needs corrected to allow the water to flow better. The Cottages will be covering the costs of the swale proposal by Rick Richards since their document says they are responsible for maintaining what's within their boundaries. Cost is \$9885.

The rest of the NEW BUSINESS dealt with the levying of fines against owners. They were of two types.

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(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 17)

Some didn't get ARC approval before they began their home improvements and therefore they were fined \$100. The projects for which no request was submitted were for painting, roof replacement and the installation of a walkway.

Other fines dealt with maintenance issues on homes. Nine homes were mentioned and discussed. The Board noted that some had been corrected since the list was generated and therefore no fine would be levied. Others were in the process of being corrected and they too did not receive a fine. Some homes corrected a few violations but ignored other problems and some homes did absolutely nothing. For homes that failed to deal with all of their violations, the Board levied a \$100 fine per day per violation up to a maximum of \$1000 per violation. These owners can stop the clock ticking in this 10 day period by letting Lighthouse/Board know the problem/problems have been corrected.

One owner wanted to express his frustration with the lack of communication by Lighthouse on the issues for which he was cited. He contacted Lighthouse so he could find out what was wrong, what he needed to correct, etc, but there seemed to have been a communication breakdown with what he understood and how Lighthouse addressed these issues. Lighthouse must have informed him that he had to put in writing and sign it whatever he was intending to do to correct an issue. He couldn't understand why an email wouldn't have sufficed. No one on the Board seemed to know what he was talking about so I would assume he must have just gotten the first notice and he could have thought he was being fined right away. I'm not sure... Larry and Lighthouse will investigate what is happening. I think the owner was just frustrated and after the meeting, it seemed to have been reconciled or at least well on its way to being solved!

HOMEOWNER COMMENTS

1. Dave Gill complimented the Board and the MC for how well everything was looking but he did request that more trees be planted. He felt that we needed to plant for the future, that there should be money in the budget to replace all the trees being eliminated. Larry said that there was \$10,000 for tree replacement in the budget. Dave said he'd be happy if the Board would just spend \$2000 for some more trees. Larry reminded Dave that there were trees being planted in the preserves for the incursion remediation.

If you have any questions or concerns about what I wrote, please consult a Board member. My notes are my interpretation of what I understood or what I thought I heard, etc. Also, there could have been typos.

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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

Directory: Christopher Smith and Kristine Nickel

Webmaster: Gary Mruz

At large: Marilyn and Jim May

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Chair: **Greg Warner**

Board Liaison: **Greg Volack**

Questions or Submissions: rivendell@mgmt.tv

Members: Joe Casale, Rich Bunce, Maria Ilioff, Joe Zwerling, Jim Duncan

Fine Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: Robert Thierfelder (rcthierfelder@gmail.com)

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy

Maintenance Committee (MC)

Chair: **Chuck Pertile** (noplans12@gmail.com)

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

Members: Carole Myles, Mark Giordano, Dave Cook, Kevin Humbert

Ponds & Preserves Committee

Chair: Bob Frank (frank@ohio.edu)

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Members: Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Norma Lee Rhines, Allie Sandow, Melle Lee Warren

Social Committee

Chair: Ann Francis

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Lisa Boggess, Kathy Halaiko, Deb Jones, Adele Kellman, Carolyn Kennedy, Kathy Lysak, Jennifer Parker, Karen Price,

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@cstdinc.net); Carole Myles, 2nd Vice President, Kathi Webber, Secretary, (kathi.travel@gmail.com); **Jim May, Treasurer.**

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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

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