



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

*Your
Community Resource*

September 2022

REVVED UP AND READY TO GO! RIVENDELL GREET'S AUTUMN

While the thermostat may not indicate we're anywhere near autumn, there is a certain vibe in the air: a cooler breeze in the mornings, an earlier sunset, and Rivendell's younger residents heading for the bus stops. In this issue, catch up with the Social Committee's agenda. They hope you'll find several activities to fill your calendar. And – speaking of calendars – mark October 8th for the community wide Ice Cream Social.

Our Neighbor's column introduces you to Sue and Paul Remy, a couple with a long standing Big Ten rivalry coming up in October. You'll find more from Sue in her monthly columns – never to be missed – reporting on her deep seeded passion for the environment, specifically, Rivendell's.

Nancy Dobias has retired from reporting on the Rivendell Board of Directors meeting, that task having been assumed by *moi*. (Looking for a volunteer, please.) Check out the highlights of August's Board meeting.

Speaking of retirement, Larry Dobias reports on the change of leadership on the Maintenance Committee.

And, Barbara Gahry is taking a hiatus on reporting Real Estate – it's been a hectic year on that front. Marilyn May is doing likewise on her coverage of The Cottages.

Finally, the community Directory is printed!!! Expect to find a copy of the Directory on your doorstep delivered by your Block Captain in the very near future.

That's just a few of what's in this issue. Please don't hesitate to pass along comments by emailing the editor – kristine@nickelcommunications.com



Ready to Fill Your 2022-23 Social Calendar?

The Social Committee has been busy fine tuning clubs, activities, and planning new events here in Rivendell. Most groups meet monthly; a few are one time events. Read below for a description of each club/event.

Book Group I	Dining Out Club	Mix and Mingle
Book Group II	Card/Game Night	Kayak Club
Ladies Night Out	Bridge Club	Artist Corner
Rivendell Travelers	Ice Cream Social	Sunset Beach Social

In addition to the above offerings, we hope to offer Pickleball, a Movie Night, Conversational Foreign Language, Dining In and a Sunset Cruise. More volunteers are needed. Some parents have asked about kids activities; unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to coordinate kids events. if you would like to be involved, please contact Maria Ilioff at 607-427-4192.

A special thank you to all the volunteers on the Social Committee. Your hard work and dedication to offering fun activities that facilitate conversations between neighbors is much appreciated.

*Maria Ilioff, Chair,
Social Committee*



Labor Day September 5

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Ready for a night out ladies? then we have the club for you:

WOW "Women of Wine (and Spirits) will meet on the deck of the Rivendell Pool the first Monday of the month beginning October 3rd, 5:30pm - ? BYO and have some fun with the ladies. Remember that the pool deck requires plastic. Cheers!

Contact Kathy Lysak for more information: 841-914-6895

MIX and MINGLE meets the 3rd Thursday of the month from 5 - 6:30pm at the pool deck. It's BYOB and if you'd like, feel free to bring an appetizer to share. Our next M&M is October 20th. Contact Kathy Halaiko at 941-914-6524 if you have any questions.

The **BRIDGE CLUB** is welcoming experienced players for contract bridge. The group meets the first and third Thursday of the Month from 1-4 pm. The meeting location varies, please contact Barb Loe for more information at 651-398-2256.

CARDS/GAME NIGHT will be held on the last Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30pm, see calendar for exact date. It's BYO and bring a snack to share. No experience needed, singles, couples welcome. We'll provide a variety of games to choose from and rotate between tables. The goal is to have fun and enjoy one another's company. Our first meet up will be Nov. 29 at the Ilioff's, 920 Scherer Way. Play will start promptly at 7:15pm. An rsvp would be nice but not required.

RIVENDELL TRAVELERS (a group in the formative stage)

Are you a person who is, or has been, bitten by the travel bug? Would you like to be part of a group to discuss traveling, both in the pre- and post-pandemic world? If so, please contact me to see about meeting with other folks (beginning in November or December) to share experiences and information about travel. At the first meeting we'll develop a list of topics to form the core of each meeting, with people volunteering to lead the meetings, sharing their perspectives and experiences. Ideas for topics might be: Cruising Then and Now, Favorite European trips, Favorite Asian trips, Travel and Overseas Health Insurance Tips for Travelers, Best Caribbean Destinations, Ideas for Traveling on a Smaller Budget, Favorite Travel Companies, etc. If you would like to attend an organizational meeting for this group in late November, please send me an email: Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com.



Did you know that the Rivendell community has some folks with unique artistic talent ?

The ARTIST CORNER invites you to come and get acquainted on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Starting in November, the "artist of the month" will present their skill in a casual setting, allowing time for questions and answers. The discussion is expected to last an hour or so.

Nov. 2022- Photography

Dec. 2022- Abstract and Collage on Paper

Jan. 2023- Cyanotypes

Feb. 2023- Quilts

March 2023- Oriental and Landscape Art Quilts

April 2023- Watercolors

Space is limited to 15 people, there will be a wait list in the hope we can find a larger space to gather. Exact location to be announced early November.

November 9th we'll kick off with photographer Craig Sterling.

Check out his wonderful website at: <http://www.craigsterling.com/>

For questions and to register contact Allie Sandow 513-403-7228

Calling all new and experienced paddlers to join the **KAY- AK CLUB**. The group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, times will vary according to the tides. We'll paddle the intra-coastal waterways to enjoying the scenery, get a little exercise and met our neighbors. We've even stopped for refreshments afterward. If you don't own a kayak, no worries, we can provide you with the name of a rental company. Next meet up will be Sept 14. Contact Jane Stevens at 617-319-2653 for more information.

YOGA/MEDITATION CLASS is currently offered via Zoom. Instructor (and Rivendell neighbor) Yely Rivas-Staley offers the 30 minute classes the first Monday of the month. Please contact Yely for Zoom sign in information at yogayely@gmail.com.

TARGET YOUR MARKET!

Call us today to get your ad in one of our community newsletters!

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The very popular **DINING OUT CLUB** resumes in October.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Rivendell Social Committee had sponsored two very popular activities: Dining Out and Dining in. These were occasions on which participants had drinks together and then went to dinner at a local restaurant, or, in the case of Dining In, prepared food to share at one of the group's homes.

Beginning in October, the Dining Out group will begin meeting again with just four (4) dinners occurring during the upcoming season. On October 15th, we will be dining at Café Venice in Venice. We will meet first with a BYOB drinks and snacks to socialize from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, and then go to the restaurant for a 7:00 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 October dinner will begin when the Woodlands Word is released and continue through October 12th. For the October dinner, please RSVP to lbogg@msn.com. Also, if you are willing to volunteer your home as a gathering place for the social hour, please let us know when you RSVP. If no one volunteers, we will gather at the pool before the dinner.

If you would like to be kept on a mailing list for information about upcoming dinners, please send your information to either Lisa Boggess at lbogg@msn.com, or Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com. If you are willing to volunteer your home as a gathering place for a future dinner, please let us know.

We welcome your comments on our plans for future dinners – do you like dining out on Saturday evenings or would you prefer a different time? Would you prefer that we avoid pricier restaurants? Please send your comments to Lisa or Adele.

Currently we do not have a volunteer to organize a **Dining In** group. If you are interested in volunteering to facilitate this activity, please contact Maria Ilioff, the chair of the Social Committee at Milioff85@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars: Our next **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** will be Saturday October 8 at 3 pm at Crescent Park. More details to follow. Please contact Annie Francis at 585-749-0430 if you can help with this event.

Volunteers Fill-Up 48 Bags During Yard Clean-Up

Eight hardy Rivendell Residents spent a good deal of August 25th cleaning up the dropped foliage along Old Venice Rd. and the Rivendell entrance caused by the recent storms. Many thank and hats off to:

Kevin Boggess
Peter Daignault
Larry Dobias
Shirley Fair

Carole Miles
Chuck Pertile
Debbie Volack
Greg Warner

The next scheduled clean-up is September 27 @ 9 a.m. Please email their fearless leader, Greg Volack and his canine companion, Grace. GregVolack@gmail.com.

This is a work-out you won't get at the gym and you're beatifying the neighborhood, too.



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Neighbors

By Nancy Giordano

A Spartan and A Wolverine

Seriously, did you know reading *The Woodlands Word* can be life altering? Oh, but I get ahead of myself...more later.

Just back from a busy vacation week in Seattle, Paul and Sue Remy were ready for some downtime which made perfect timing for a neighborly chat. The Remy's are original Rivendell owners, buying the only home on their street in 2003. With its "curvy streets and mix of greenery" as Paul described it, Rivendell was different. Fifty-one percent of its area is green space and there are 23 ponds adding to its aesthetic and character added Sue. After almost 20 years, it remains very appealing.

Paul and Sue, although not native Floridians, have connections to Sarasota. Paul, born in California, moved to the Detroit area when young. His grandparents came to Sarasota in the late 1950s. Sue, born in Canada, moved to Detroit (the 1st time!) when she was five. Her grandparents and mother also found their way to Sarasota from and through Canada, Detroit, Mexico City and Canada again.

Both families were rooted in the auto industry in the "Motor City", including Sue and Paul. Sue graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Environmental Science when there were few jobs and no hiring in her field. What to do? Take a job in the auto industry! Marketing was the name of the game at which Sue became adept. When she arrived in Florida, Sue brought these skills to the Herald Tribune where she created a direct marketing division concentrating on autos.

A Michigan State grad, Paul majored in Marketing, Advertising, and Photography. While working for a Detroit company, he was present for the advent of the Car Rebate Program in the early 80s. It's turned out to be a legacy program -- still a valuable marketing tool today. Paul served in

the 3rd US Infantry Regiment -- "The Old Guard" -- at Arlington National Cemetery during the Vietnam era. Thank you, Paul, for your service during that trying time.

Besides supporting Sue in her volunteer work, Paul committed ten years to a local not-for-profit as its treasurer. He is also responsible for digitizing the Rivendell logo and the Ponds and Preserves logo.

Back to *The Woodlands Word*. Paul read about the start of a Ponds and Preserves Committee and its need for volunteers. Right up Sue's retirement alley, he thought, and an opportunity for her to utilize her knowledge of all things environmental. She readily agreed and immediately got involved. Sue speaks passionately about the committee's invaluable work and is a consummate communicator on related topics.

Today, Sarasota County is so impressed with Rivendell's ground setting work with such things as the Low Maintenance Zones and completion of an Operations Handbook, which ensures a consistent understanding and application of adopted plans, that they showcase Rivendell to other communities dealing with similar issues. The committee's work also has enabled Rivendell to receive several grants.

While this column is unable to describe fully the important work of the committee, readers can keep up with details through articles, often written by Sue, in the *Word*. It's worthwhile reading!

The Remys are easy going and pleasant -- but once a year, October 29 this year -- sparks may fly when the Spartans of Michigan State play the Wolverines of the University of Michigan. We can only hope for the best. Can football games end in a tie?



Flood Control

Rivendell is blessed with a well-engineered flood control system designed to collect excess water due to heavy rains and take that water out of the community. According to a document that is part of the original community management plan, Rivendell has 65 acres of lakes and 94 acres of wetland to handle runoff. These areas were designed to hold 175 million gallons of water under normal circumstances and another 154 million gallons of water during periods of heavy rain. The systems of drains, culverts and outflow structures do a good job of keeping homeowners dry.

If there is one weak spot in the system, it can be found with the drain grates located along our roads and alleys. These grates are subject to collecting debris which then restricts water flow and can lead to street flooding. This was evidenced in a recent heavy rain of about two inches in a short period of time that resulted in a few streets flooding. The following day the MC collected over ten leaf bags of debris off a number of drains. Some of the impacted debris were more than 6 inches thick and served to dam up the flow of water through the drains.

To keep the flood control system in the best possible shape to manage excess rain, these drains need to be kept clean. If you live near a storm drain grate and are physically able, please inspect and clean the drain grate periodically. This means removing and bagging the debris for the landscape waste pickup on Thursday. Your attention to this detail is much appreciated and will help the stormwater system to perform as designed.



Join 665 of your fellow Rivendell Residents on the NEXTDOOR social network www.nextdoor.com

Are you seeking a service provider recommendation?
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Do you have any questions about Rivendell or other topics residents can help with?

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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 Orange County, just minutes from downtown Orlando, 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 village, estate and executive homes to maintenance-free patio homes. Handled among 400 acres of sales, 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 Osceola State Park, located just south of the community and viewable 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.



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WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

By Larry Dobias

Residents have been questioning the irrigation policies in the community over the past several months. A letter from a "concerned homeowner" suggesting that we get training from a skilled irrigation specialist due to the lack of understanding on how to run an irrigation system spurred this explanation.

The main irrigation for Rivendell is run with a 15 horsepower submersible pump located in Rivendell Lake West. The system takes water from the lake and irrigates everything from Old Venice Road, down Rivendell Blvd and down Rainbow Point Way to and including Rainbow Point Park and the Cottages neighborhood. The submersible pump is run using a computerized module (CPU) located near the community bridge. Several months ago, the CPU burned out by what we believe was a power surge. Unfortunately the availability of a new CPU has been negatively impacted by the computer chip shortages and the supply chain interruption. The irrigation system has been run manually for nearly six months and will continue to be run manually until we secure a new CPU.

Maintenance Gurus to the Rescue

This means that the Board of Directors Vice President and liaison to the Maintenance Committee, Greg Volack, has been coordinating the watering needs for the Master Association properties with that of the Cottage properties which is manually operated by Chris Smith. To do this, Greg has to physically go to each controller and turn water on and off for a specified period of time and run multiple controllers to adequately manage the pressure on the system to avoid major breakdowns and at the same time keep from overloading the pump. The issue is further complicated by the need to irrigate thousands of dollars of new landscape plantings that are watered everyday for two weeks.

This is a simplified explanation of a complicated irrigation problem. It is not possible to water at night due to the manual requirements to operate the system. The rains have not been consistent enough to rely on nature to take care of the irrigation. A work around system installed was marginally effective so the hands on manual adjustments continue to be necessary. Everything will get back to normal once a new CPU is available which is anticipated sometime this fall. Until then, please know we are doing the best we can under the current circumstances.

If you have any questions, please call me or Greg Volack. We will be happy to take your questions and provide you with an answer to the best of our ability.

And when you see Greg with his trusty side kick Grace the Chocolate Lab in their golf cart, or Chris wandering the Cottages, give them a thumbs up for their beyond the call of duty efforts to keep Rivendell and the Cottages green this summer.

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BOOK GROUP I

The Rivendell Book Group I skipped meeting over the summer months and will resume in September. We are currently meeting in person, meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm. Books are selected from suggestions from the group, normally when at least two people have read and recommended the book. Members of the group are expected to volunteer to lead book discussions, and, if convenient, to host group meetings in their homes.

The schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

Sept 12, 2022: ***The Girl with the Louding Voice*** by Abi Dare

Oct 10, 2022: ***Ordinary Grace*** by William Kent Kreuger

Nov 14, 2022: ***The Four Winds*** by Kristin Hannah

Dec 12, 2022: ***The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*** by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Lesley Glick is facilitating the meetings through November, and if you are interested in joining the group you should email her at lesleymg8@gmail.com or 973-219-5839.

BOOK GROUP II

Four years ago a second book group was formed in the Rivendell community which included two men and four women who were avid readers and wanted to get together once a month to discuss books. The range of books included non-fiction as well as fiction and covered a diversity of topics. Meeting monthly the group would gather at people's homes and even virtually during the pandemic. Many members are snowbirds thus the meetings are held October through May. The group now has a membership of twelve and is looking forward to another season of reading and active discussions. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

The first meeting of the season will discuss *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. A quick read, this thriller is sure to be engrossing. Join the group on Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Deb Jones at 517-515-4994 or email her at debraljones@gmail.com for more information.

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RIVENDELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
August 17, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS AS EDITED BY WOODLAND'S WORD EDITOR

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Directors was scheduled to be held on August 17, 2022, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2705 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis, FL 34275 as well as virtually via Zoom link.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mr. Larry Dobias, President.

PROOF OF NOTICE: Notice of the Board of Directors Meeting was delivered to each Director and posted on the property in accordance with the requirements of the Association Documents and Florida State Statute 720 including a sign posted out in front of community.

QUORUM:

Present: Mr. Larry Dobias-President, Mr. Greg Volack-VP, Mrs. Catherine Daignault-Treasurer, Mr. Kevin Boggess-Secretary, and Mr. George Smith-Director

Mr. Steve DeHart, CAM was present representing Lighthouse Property Management.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On matters relating to the minutes of the previous regular Board meeting held on May 18, 2022, Mr. Dobias made a **Motion 22-40** to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Volack 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Presidents Report - Report given by Mr. Dobias. He mentioned that the community has been looking good and the number of violations has also been decreasing. It was also reported that there is a possible incursion to the preserve area along a new development bordering the property. Sarasota County will be evaluating the area to determine if an incursion has taken place. Mr. Dobias also informed of a recent wind storm resulting in several trees falling and needing cleaned up.

Manager's Report – Report given by Mr. Steve DeHart. He reported that Lighthouse is starting on the initial budget draft for 2023. A timeline was provided on the 2023 Budget approval process. Updates were also provided on compliance related matters.

Treasurer's Report – Report given by Ms. Daignault. We received a copy of Rivendell Community Association's (RCA) July financial statement on 8/8/22. The statement shows the association with \$590,820 in assets (not counting capital assets). These assets consist of \$295,292 in operations and \$295,568 in reserves.

Accounts Receivable: Our accounts receivable account from owner balances as of 7/31/22 is \$21,403. Two owners have violation balances totaling \$2,000. Thirty-two owners still owe their July payments for a total of \$14,843.

Operations: Through the end of July our total income is over budget by \$3,298 and total expenses for the year are \$6,853 over budget. We have variances in several categories by more than \$1,000 each. Those accounts are *Ground Maintenance underbudget* by \$6,862, *Administrative expense underbudget* by \$3,640, *Utilities expenses overbudget* by \$2,203, and *Maintenance overbudget* by \$16,497.

Reserves: We have had one disbursement from our reserve accounts this past month for \$1,425 from the Landscape Plant Replacement Account. The total disbursements for the year from all Reserve accounts is \$22,493.

Secretary Report – No report was given.

ARC Committee – Report given by Mr. Boggess. He reported that 16 submissions were received for the month of June with all but one request being approved. He reported that 13 submissions were received for the month of July resulting in 11 approvals and 2 placed on hold needing more information.

Maintenance Committee – Report given by Greg Volack. He reported that the committee convened yesterday evening (8/16/22) to discuss possible 2023 projects.

It was also reported that since the Association's landscaping company, West-Bay, fully merged with Brightview, they have been running behind on service. Mr. Dobias added that Rivendell has been approached by a number of landscaping companies wanting to bid the contract and the committee will be looking further into that.

Communications Committee – Report given by Kristine Nickel. Directories have been received and copies were presented to members who were in attendance. Block captains will be distributing them to homeowners over the coming weeks.

The committee has lost their informal minutes person and Ms. Nickel noted that she will be assuming that role and drafting the meeting highlights for the newsletter.

(Continued on Pg. 9)

(Board of Directors continued from Pg. 8)

Ponds and Preserves Committee – Report given by Larry Dobias. A summary was provided on several grants the Association has received for maintenance of the wetlands and preserves. Mr. Dobias noted that they committee is still awaiting the pond invasive plant remediation to be completed. It was also noted that an pond inspection will be done in September to get a plan together for the next round of plantings.

Social Committee – Maria Illioff was not present however a report outlining the coming year's events was provided prior to the meeting and read by Mr. Dobias.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed CC&R amendments – The Board is planning to propose two amendments to the CC&R's to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting in February 2023. The amendment language and limited proxy was drafted by the Association's attorney and presented to the Board. The amendment passed and will continue to the February meeting with communications to the residents before that vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Budget meeting timeline – As previously discussed on the Manager's Report, the Board will vote to present the 2023 budget at the October 2022 Board meeting and subsequently adopt the budget at the November 2022 meeting.

Replacement of Pool Solar Panels (\$8,000) – The pool solar panels need to be replaced and the Board has received a proposal from Marisol to complete the work for \$8,000. All Board members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of storm cleanup costs – As mentioned previously in the President's report, there was a recent storm causing several trees to fall. A motion to approve an expense not to exceed \$6,000 for GreenTopps to clean up the storm damage was passed.

Levy fines for compliance related issues – Mr. DeHart presented a list of several Lots in violation of the documents. Fines for the following Lots were considered for making exterior changes without an approved request. (Please see official meeting minutes to review specific Lots.)

OWNER COMMENTS: Owners present were given the opportunity to comment on agenda items.

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Dobias adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

The Amendments which will be voted on in 2023

The Board is proposing two amendments to the Covenants of Rivendell which will be voted on at the Members Meeting in February of 2023. A copy of the amendments under consideration can be found on the Rivendell website.

The first proposed amendment makes changes to Article 4.02 (c) Lawns found under the Maintenance Provisions. The changes eliminate the requirement for all homes to have a sidewalk fronting their house and it codifies the Low Mow Zone (LMZ) established around the ponds for erosion control.

The second proposed amendment would make changes to the Third amendment to the Covenants for Article 4.01(i) Vehicle Parking. The vote will determine whether or not pick-up trucks and street parking would be acceptable in Rivendell.

Leadership Change

About 18 months ago, in the middle of the pandemic, Rivendell was in need of someone to lead the Maintenance Committee. Along came Chuck Pertile who agreed to accept the role of chairman for the committee. Chuck felt that his history of owning and running a company in the Chicago area would provide the experience and expertise to do a good job in managing the maintenance requirements in the community. As a manufacturer of injection molded parts and supplier to the automotive industry, Chuck had to stay on top of quality requirements and maintain costs to a minimum. Those skills would be invaluable when taking charge of the Rivendell maintenance.

Over the past 18 months, the relationships and oversight of our contractors has dramatically improved. The net result was a considerable amount of work was completed with minimal increase in cost to the members. I think most will agree the community has never looked better. In fact, Rivendell was recently awarded a Civic Beautification Landscaping Award for 2022 from the Sarasota Garden Club. The effort on the part of the Maintenance Committee led by Chuck with Board liaison Greg Volack has contributed to the improved appearance of the landscape as well as the increasing value of properties in the community.

Chuck has decided to step out of his role as chairman of the committee but will stay active in his support of the community landscape activities.

Thanks Chuck for your efforts in making Rivendell a great place to live.

... Larry Dobias



Wildlife Window - Gone Fishing!

Catch and Release. Don't Eat!

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

Driving through Rivendell, many residents have seen folks fishing on our ponds. If you are like me, you wonder: "Do they really catch anything? If so, what?" Several varieties of freshwater fish have been spotted in our ponds, including **Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Carp, Blue Tilapia, Mosquito Fish and Gar**. Fish provide a vital food source for larger fish, plus birds, reptiles, and other animals. Fish also eat mosquito larvae and other insects. Some feed on the bottom keeping ponds healthier and balancing the ecosystem. Keeping our ponds healthy and vibrant will encourage more fish to thrive, which attracts more wildlife to our community.

First, let's review a few simple rules about fishing in Rivendell ponds:

- **Yes, fishing is allowed** in our ponds, but only for residents and their guests. Fishing must be done from the shoreline. No boating or kayaks are allowed on our lakes or ponds.
- **We are a "Catch and Release"** community. Do not take or eat any fish from the ponds. The FWC suggests using barbless circle hooks which are easier to remove and cause less physical damage to the fish. Be aware that Herons, Egrets and other large birds found along the shoreline often get hooked by anglers.
- **Be sure to pick up any trash.** Do not leave discarded fishing line behind that can cause damage to birds and wildlife.
- **Alligator Alert!** When fishing, folks must remain observant and cautious with our gators. They have known to follow a fish that has been caught all the way into shore and up the bank. Gators will do whatever it takes to get a free lunch.
- If a homeowner sees someone fishing who they are convinced is not a resident, they should call the **Sheriff's office at 941-316-1201** to report an unknown individual trespassing in the community.

Below, we will learn more details about common fishes found in our ponds: (myFWC.com)

LARGEMOUTH BASS

Largemouth bass is the best known and most popular game fish in North America. Distinguished from other black bass because the upper jaw extends beyond the rear edge of the eye. Also, the first and second dorsal (back) fins are separated by an obvious deep dip. Black bass spawn in spring, when males fan out a bed and then protect the eggs and fry. Adults eat a variety of fish, crustaceans, and larger insects. (Native)



BLUEGILL

Bluegills have the deep-bodied look of "bream," with a long dorsal fin and slightly forked tail. A dark ear covering and a blotch at the dorsal fins back bottom edge set them apart. Bluegill eat mostly insects and their larvae, including mosquitos. Bluegill spawn throughout summer, congregating in large "beds." Anglers may find 30-40 shallow nests scooped out in sandy areas. (Native)



COMMON CARP

Large, heavy bodied minnow with arched back small triangular head tapering to blunt snout; first ray of the dorsal and anal fins stout, & serrated spine. Its small, subterminal and protrusible mouth contains no teeth; two pair of barbels on the upper jaw; body color brassy green on top grading to bronze or gold on sides with yellowish white belly. Typically they are covered with large, round scales. (Nonnative)



BLUE TILAPIA

Adult Blue Tilapia have blue-gray shading to white on the belly; borders of dorsal and caudal fins with red to pink borders; broken lateral line and the spiny dorsal fin is joined to the soft dorsal fin. In central Florida, anglers can assume most tilapia found in freshwater is a Blue. For spawning, males dig large circular nests with their mouths in shallow water over a sandy bottom. (Invasive)





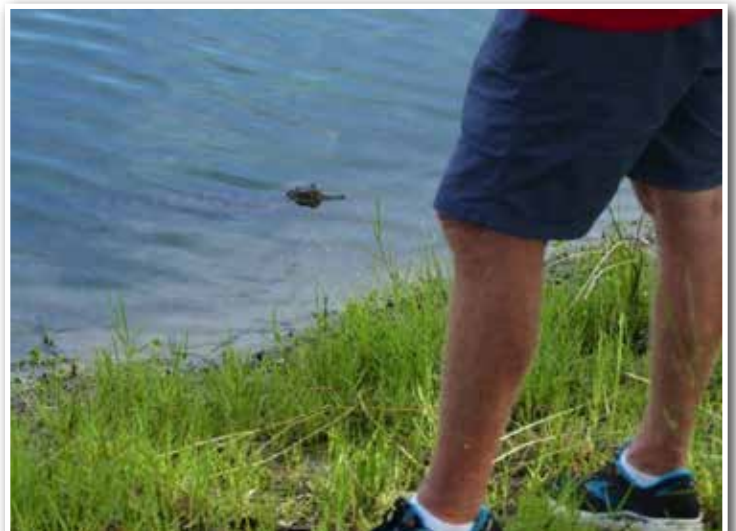
Larry & Nancy Dobias' grandson, Nate caught (& released) this Largemouth Bass beauty on Rivendell Lake. Well done, Nate!



Selfie time! And now for its close-up! (Nate)



Joining the fishing fun is Larry Dobias



Beware! Never feed Alligators (or any wildlife) so they remain afraid of people



Our Wetland Preserves Play a Vital Role in Rivendell. Safeguard Wildlife Habitats. Enjoy the Views.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

The protection of native habitat areas and wildlife has long since been a community priority for Sarasota County and is greatly appreciated by Rivendell homeowners. Sarasota County has adopted standards that protect specific types of native habitats to ensure that their values and functions are retained for future generations. The most common habitat in Sarasota County is freshwater wetlands, which typically have an upland buffer surrounding the wetland preserves.

Rivendell has 14 wetlands and upland preserves covering about 115 acres. We are so fortunate to live in this community with its beautiful greenspaces, lakes, ponds, and natural preserves. Our preserves, along with our ponds, are part of our stormwater management system designed to control flooding. Other important benefits of preserves include improved water quality, diverse wildlife habitats, aesthetics, privacy and screening by native vegetation, and strong property values.

- **"Nature's Kidneys."** Wetlands are a combination of water and land. Wetlands are often referred to as "nature's kidneys" because of their ability to remove pollutants from water via storage in the soil and vegetation, as well as through losses to the atmosphere. They are like a natural water-treatment plant, trapping much of the silt and sediment carried by rivers which flow through the wetlands. Most wetland areas have lush growths of plant life, both trees and grasses.
- **Wildlife Nursery.** A wetland is a unique hatching and breeding area for many aquatic animals. The eggs of many species of aquatic animals' drift into the wetlands. Here, the eggs hatch and the young grow up. The wetlands provide critical shelter and a food source for these small animals.
- **Habitat, Shelter, & Food.** Nutrients for plant growth are plentiful in wetlands from land runoff and from the grasses, providing abundant food for animals. Vegetation provides homes, protective cover and food for the many different animals that inhabit a wetland. Wetlands are collecting and dispersal areas for nutrients. Nutrients from the grasses and from land runoff make up the first (basic) link in the food chain of the wetlands.

What Can We Do to Keep Our Preserves Healthy and Attractive to Wildlife?

- **Leave Our Preserves Alone.** Together with our ponds, these preserves are also an integral part of our stormwater management system and also add significant aesthetic value to our community. With one-third of the homes in Rivendell bordering designated preserves, we share the County's commitment to protecting our preserve areas. Homeowners who live adjacent to a preserve need to be aware of their special responsibilities. Please leave our preserves and buffer areas alone.
- **Know Your Property Line.** Homeowners must know their property line so they are not encroaching on community-owned or preserve land. Consult the survey map of your property. You can also find the Plat for Rivendell and your lot on the County's website.
- **Regular Maintenance and Inspections.** The Rivendell Community Association (RCA) is responsible for maintaining our preserve areas as required by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the County. As part of our HOA contractor's preserve management contract, preserves are routinely inspected to remove invasive, nuisance plants that can negatively affect native plants in a habitat. Although preserve areas might look aesthetically unpleasant due to layers of fallen branches, palm fronds and vines, they generally do not need to be "cleaned" up. Instead, leaving these areas in their nature state encourages the decomposition cycle - an important biological process that creates microhabitats, food sources, nesting areas, and returns valuable nutrients to the soil.

Together, let's enjoy and protect the beauty of our wetland and upland preserves. After all, isn't that one of the main reasons we choose to live in Rivendell?

(Source: UF/IFAS)



Protection of native habitat areas and wildlife has long since been a community priority for Sarasota County and Rivendell.
(Gary Mruz video image.)



Know your property line. Protect our preserves – leave them alone!
Enjoy, but don't touch.



Wetland & Upland Preserves, along with our ponds, are an integral part of our stormwater management system to prevent flooding and absorb excess nutrients. Plus, they create valuable wildlife habitats and add significant aesthetic value to our community

Reader's Choice Winner for 2021



Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

A Bit Too Far

Hearing aid technology has been evolving as quickly as our cell phones. Every time a new model is launched by a manufacturer I have to determine how this technology can serve you.

The latest improvement is a geo-tagging program. What this means is your hearing aids can automatically adjust to a specific program based on your location. By using the gps ability of hearing aids, which has been around for years, and combining it with the unique program preference features a new benefit was born, geo-tagging programs.

I tried it out on a client who is a sales person. He visits different locations all with complex and overwhelming sound environments. We set his unique program and geo-tagged the offices of a few of his clients. When he visited his clients, his hearing aids automatically switched to his preferred program. Great. He didn't have to think about it, he didn't have to tap a button, he didn't have to open an app and switch a screen. His hearing aids knew his preference and gave him his best listening experience.

So when did it go a bit too far?

He was driving with his older daughter and they drove past one of his client's places. His hearing aids switched over to his unique preferred program. He described it as, my hearing aids kidnapped my listening. That was his experience. He was talking to his daughter in the car, his hearing aids switched to the unique program. Then he struggled to hear.

When I applied this same technology to my clients who are part of a bridge group, they fell in love with it. The location is out of the way. They go once a week. Their hearing aids switched over as they enter the building. They have enjoyed the ease of hearing clearly while with their friends.

Not every new feature works for everyone. Working with multiple manufacturers I can ensure your right fit.

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Rivendell Community Contacts

Committees

Block Captain Committee

Chair: Rachel North Zipay (mobilerach@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: 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: Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Norma Lee Rhines, Allie Sandow, Melle Lee Warren

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

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)

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@cstdsinc.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: Dianne Enger, President; Sherry Sholtis,
Vice President and Secretary; 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.

Coming Soon...
Your Rivendell Directory

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