

## October 2023



Welcome to Fall. It's certainly a subtle shift in Southwest Florida, made even more so by our rising temperatures. Which brings me to my first subject: Social News. Many of our point people on social events are still enjoying cooler climates. Check out the Book Nook for news of start-ups

in those lively groups and stay tuned for more information of other ventures in the November issue.

On a sad note, our wonderful "all things having to do with nature" reporter Sue Remy is leaving Rivendell. These are her final two columns. Sue and her husband Paul are in the midst of contemplating their next steps and selling their house is the first. Sue, we will miss your insights into our wildlife (I've seen three deer and a fox just this week) and your educator's ability to teach us about why we need to care for as well as appreciate our very special surroundings in Rivendell. Good luck Sue and Paul. And suffice it to say, reach out to Bob Frank, Chair of the Ponds and Preserves Committee, if you have an urge to communicate about those subjects.

Finally, a word of thanks to all of you who reached out to me following the passing of my husband Jack Klingensmith. The 24 years we spent together here were magical. Rivendell attracts the very kindest people as I always suspected but now know first-hand.

Kristine



# Welcome Fall!

## October 2023 - The Woodlands Word

# Nextdoor

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

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

Nextdoor is the world's largest social network for the neighborhood. Nextdoor enables truly local conversations that empower neighbors to build stronger and safer communities.



The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at <u>WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM</u>







## Wildlife Window: The Red-winged Blackbird Often Heard Before Being Seen in Rivendell.

Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

Abundant across North America and commonly heard and seen in Rivendell with its distinctive call and bold colors, is the **Red-winged Blackbird**. This bird is a familiar sight atop cattails, perched high in trees, on telephone wires, and at your backyard bird feeder. Who hasn't heard the classic sound of a

Red-winged Blackbird? Their call is often heard before these birds are spotted. Let's learn more about the Red-winged Blackbird.



**Red-winged Blackbird** (Agelaius phoeniceus)

**Behavior & Feeding:** Male Red-winged Blackbirds do everything they can to get noticed, perching high and belting out their distinctive song. Females stay lower, skulking through vegetation for food and quietly weaving together their remarkable nests.

Red-winged Blackbirds often gather in huge flocks to eat grains along with other blackbird species and starlings. They eat mainly insects, grains and seeds. Sometimes they feed by probing at the bases of aquatic plants with their slender bills, prying them open to get at insects hidden deep inside.

**Breeding:** Red-winged Blackbird males are highly polygynous, mating with many females. Males also fiercely defend their territories during the breeding season, spending more than a quarter of daylight hours in territory defense. **Appearance:** Similar in size to a Robin, the stocky, broad-shouldered blackbird has a slender, conical bill and a medium-length tail. Red-winged Blackbirds often show a hump-backed silhouette while perched.

Male Red-winged Blackbirds are hard to mistake with their glossy black bodies and red-and-yellow shoulder badges. They often sit with their tail slightly flared. Females are crisply streaked and dark brownish overall, paler on the breast and often show a whitish eyebrow.

**Sound:** Where there is standing water and vegetation, such as our wetland preserves, Red-winged Blackbirds are likely to be one of the most common birds you see and hear. Listen for the male's *conk-la-lee!* song.



[Photos: Bob Frank. Source: AllAboutBirds.org





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## Our Watershed: What Is It? What's it's Function? Every Resident Affects the Health of Our Watershed. Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

As you may be aware, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the agency responsible for managing and protecting our water resources. Its mission is to manage water and related natural resources to ensure their continued availability while maximizing the benefits to the public. The Southwest District roughly starts north with Marion and Levy counties and south into Charlotte county. The **Southwest Florida** region is broken down into several watersheds, including the **Sarasota Bay-Peace-Myakka watershed basin**, which includes Sarasota County, and thus Rivendell.

## What is a watershed?

Most people have heard the term **watershed**, but do not understand what a watershed is nor its purpose. Based on the concept *"water runs downhill,"* a watershed is a land area whose runoff drains into any stream, river, lake, and ocean. In Rivendell, our interconnected ponds and preserves are an engineered system that collects runoff from both rain and irrigation. Water from the entire community flows and discharges through pipes and level-controlling inflow/outflow structures (weirs & grates) into South Creek, and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico.

#### How does a watershed function?

As water flows downhill from small to progressively larger streams and rivers, it moves over land and provides water for urban, agricultural, and environmental needs. The watershed community is made up of the humans, animals, and plants that live there. They all depend on the *watershed and influence it in some way.* 

Flowing water carries organic debris and dissolved organic matter that provide food and shelter for aquatic life. At the same time, water may also carry pollutants like motor oil, fertilizers, and pesticides. Numerous activities in a watershed have the potential to degrade water quality. There is no "pure" water in nature. All water is "polluted" to some extent. Even in pristine watersheds where water quality is not affected by humans, "natural" pollutant sources are abundant, such as sediment from stream bank erosion, bacteria and nutrients from wildlife, and chemicals deposited by rainfall.

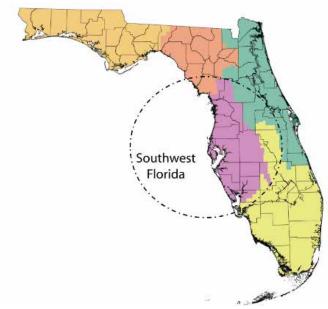
## Watersheds serve five important functions:

- 1. Watersheds collect water from rainfall to control flooding.
- 2. Watersheds store water in groundwater and surface water bodies.
- 3. Watersheds release water as runoff.
- 4 Watersheds provide vital habitats for flora and fauna.
- 5. Watersheds provide diverse sites for chemical reactions to take place.

#### How can we help?

Human activities affect all of the functions of a watershed. Every resident can help conserve and improve the quality of water to promote a healthier environment. Our community has hired professional teams to help keep inflow/outflow structures clear, remove excess and invasive vegetation, and maintain our LMZs and plantings. You can help too! Reduce chemical use on lawns. Follow fertilizer and irrigation rules. Keep sprinkler systems working properly. Plant Florida-friendly plantings. Pick up after pets. Dispose properly of lawn clippings and yard debris. We are all responsible for keeping Rivendell's ponds and preserves healthy and vibrant for ourselves, our wildlife, and to keep property values strong.

#### Source: ifas.ufl.edu



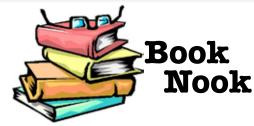
The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) region (shown in purple) contains several watersheds. The Sarasota Bay-Peace-Myakka watershed basin, includes Sarasota County, and thus Rivendell. (floridadep.gov)

## (Our Watershed continued)

In Rivendell, our interconnected ponds and preserves are an engineered system that collects runoff from rain and irrigation. Water from the entire community flows and discharges through pipes and level-controlling inflow/outflow structures (weirs & grates) into South Creek, and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico. *(Photos: S. Remy)* 







## October is a Great Month for . . . Reading

On October 9th Book Group I will discuss An Affair of Spies by Ronald Balson.

This summer's hit movie – not Barbie – Oppenheimer is coincidental to Book I's choice of this award-winning author's book about an intrigue around preventing the Nazi's from creating the atomic bomb.

On October 17, Book Group II will discuss Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America by Gilbert King.

This non-fiction is a history of attorney Thurgood Marshall's defense of four young black men in Lake County, Florida, who were accused of raping a white woman. This is one of the most horrific tales of the Jim Crow South. And it sheds new insight into a ground breaking civil rights activist who would become the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court.



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appointment to come in and get an updated value on your jewelry by one of our very experienced GIA gemologists. It's very important to update the valuable pieces in your jewelry collection especially since all precious metals, diamonds, and colored stones have gone up dramatically in the last few years. We aim at becoming your trusted go-to family jeweler.

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## RIVENDELL STANDING COMMITTEES

#### **BLOCK CAPTAIN COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Rachel North Zipay (<u>mobilerach@verizon.net</u>) BOARD LIAISON: Cathy Dignault

**MEMBERS:** Cindy Borland, Rachel North Zipay, Barbara Loe, Barbara Valdahl, Mirinda Roy, Fred Rhines, Judy Sokal, Paul Englert, Janet & Jerry Hall, Mitzi Bruck, Janet Romig, Silke Schinnen, Jackie Axsiom, Edith Norby, Douglas Burkard, Diane Tomer, Jonas Meyer, Mirinda Roy, Regina Bloom, Deborah Yohn, Dave Swanson, Mary Kennedy, Sheree & Chuck Pertile, Mary Kennedy, Cathy Daignault, David Gill, Margarete & Don Roser

## **COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Kristine Nickel (<u>kristine@nickelcommunications.com</u>) BOARD LIAISON: Bruce Lorie MEMBERS: Marylin May, Jim May, Barbara Gahry, Nancy Giordano, Chris Smith, Dana Schroeder Adjunct Members & Woodlands Word Reporters: Adele Kellman, Sue Remy

## **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

CHAIR: Janet Lorie ( ) BOARD LIAISON: Bruce Lorie QUESTIONS & SUBMISSIONS: <u>ARCRivendell@gmail.com</u> MEMBERS: Joseph Casale, Maureen Emmons, James Duncan, Janet Lorie

## COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Bob Thierfelder (<u>rcthierfelder@gmail.com</u>) BOARD LIAISON: Mary Angell MEMBERS: Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy, Ken Alarie, Gary Glick

## MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: TBA BOARD LIAISON: Greg Volack MEMBERS: Chuck Pertile, Carole Miles, Terry Siemsen, Keven Humbert, Alexis Spaulding, Peter Daignault

#### PONDS & PRESERVES COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Bob Frank (<u>frank@ohio.edu</u>) BOARD LIAISON: Keven Boggess MEMBERS: Larry Dobias, Sue Remy, Tom Hurban, Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Allie Sandow

#### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Maria Ilioff ( ) BOARD LIAISON: Mary Angell MEMBERS: Lisa Boggess, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak, Allie Sandow, Jane Stevens, Alexis Spaulding. Book Club I – Lesley Glick, Book Club II – Karen Morgan



## **Best of Venice Winner for 2022**



Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences American Conference of Audioprosthology

## Struggle to Hear?

While presenting at the recent Chamber Expo, a woman stopped by our booth and asked if her dad

should get his hearing tested.

I asked, "When does he struggle to hear well?"

She said, "He doesn't struggle. He hears well but I just thought since he is 86 years-old, he should have it checked."

I said, "It doesn't seem like he has a loss. I would encourage you to have his hearing checked if he strains to hear you or your family. If he struggles to hear then have his hearing checked."

If you wonder if you or a loved one should have your hearing checked here are four questions to ask:

\* Does your spouse complain that the TV is too loud?

- \* Does your spouse complain that you don't listen?
- \* Do you strain to hear in crowds?
- \* Do you strain to hear your grandkids or younger waitresses?

If you answer yes to TWO of these questions, you should get your hearing tested.

Does answering yes mean you have a hearing loss? No, these are just indicators. They suggest you should get a hearing test so know your baseline.

After the hearing test when I review your results with you, I will give you tips to hear better during these situations.

There is no fee to have the test.

If your loss could benefit from hearing aids, and you

want to, I will let you try a set of hearing aids for one week. There is no contract and no obligation. You can try the aids for one week in your everyday life.

If you wonder if you have a hearing loss, call for your hearing test, 941-244-9300.



ContemporaryHearing.com



Many Homeowner Associations in Florida charge a Capital Contribution fee to new owners. This is a ONE-TIME, non-refundable charge to a BUYER at the time of a closing. These fees are generally earmarked for a reserve account, or a special account used to fund capital improvements and repairs in the community. When Rivendell was being built, the builder charged new owners a onetime capital contribution fee to get the reserve fund started. The documents provided for this at the time of development but did not include it as an ongoing fee for new buyers as homes began to turn over. These funds CANNOT be used for day-to-day operating expenses .... that money comes from our regular dues. Capital funds help pay for future maintenance of buildings, shared common areas, amenities, and other costly improvements. The primary purpose of a capital contribution fee is to supplement the reserve fund and to OFFSET assessments to owners that may become necessary with a shortfall. All owners subsequently benefit from the HOAs reserves because it allows for repairs and/or replacement of such things as pool structure and equipment, and playground equipment, including the gazebo. In other words, it takes care of our community's assets. The reserve fund can also be useful in times of emergencies or disasters. Many communities in our area are charging this fee, range anywhere from \$500-\$5000, depending on the overall capital needs, for example, number of common structures, amenities, etc. to be maintained over time.

As mentioned, Rivendell's governing documents do not currently allow for this fee as part of the sale of a home. Given the ageing of our community and the increasing costs of maintaining our infrastructure and assets, it may be of benefit to amend our documents to include this. We ALL benefit.



The Woodlands Word - October 2023



I've fallen and I can't get up!"

\* Life Alert defines a life saved, where a subscr was home alone, was unable to get to the phone for help, and Life Aler

Call for a **FREE** brochure: 1-800-583-5683

# Rivendell Community Association, Inc Board of Directors Meeting Minutes August 16, 2023

A Board of Directors meeting was called on August 16, 2023, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 275 N. Tamiami Trail, Nokomis, FL 34276 as well as virtually via zoom

## Call to Order

Bruce Lorie called the meeting to order at 6:00

## Proof of Notice

Notice of the Board of Directors meeting was delivered to each director and posted on the property according to the requirements of the association documents and Florida State statue 720 including a sign posted out in front of the community.

## **Determination of a Quorum**

A quorum was established with board members, Bruce Lorie, Cathy Daignault, Mary Angell and Kevin Boggess all present at the meeting.

## <u>Minutes</u>

Bruce made a motion to accept the June minutes. Kevin seconded the motion, all voted yes, and the motion was passed 4-0

Bruce made a motion to accept the July minutes, Kevin seconded the motion, all voted yes, and the motion was passed 4-0

## Presidents Report

None

## Manager's Report

Fred Marks of Casey Management alerted the board that a fraudulent bill was paid to a landscaping company claiming they did work at Rivendell. The matter has been turned over to the bank and they are launching an investigation.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Cathy reported that she received a financial report from Real Manage however the numbers do not make any sense. Casey Management is working on a new financial report. Bruce reported that invoices for the current month total \$78,962 and the association has a total of \$98,750 for operating expenses for the balance of the year. Bruce alerted everyone that the board may have to consider a special assessment to pay expenses for the rest of 2023.

## Secretary Report / Compliance Committee

Mary Angel read off the violations from June and noted that they have all been resolved except 1081 Scherer. They will pay the violation fine at closing.

July violations were also discussed, and Cathy made a motion to accept the July violations, Bruce seconded the motion passed 4-0.

## Cathy made a motion to accept the August violations, Bruce seconded, and the motion passed 4-0

## **Committee Reports**

- 1. **Pool Committee Cathy** reported that a group of unruly teens were at the pool causing a disturbance. Pictures are available. When they came back a second time, they were confronted by a board member and left. They have not returned.
- Maintenance Committee Cathy made a motion to reapprove the April invoice due to the poor quality of the audio on the video. TruScapes \$6,012, Nostalgic Lamppost \$4050.00 Motion approved 4-0
- 3. Bruce made a motion to approve \$2879 to Merritt Pump. Motion passed 4-0
- 4. A motion was made to accept Green Tops bid for tree removal at multiple locations in the amount of \$22,975. Motion passed 4-0
- 5. Bruce made a motion to approve projects at multiple locations from Rich Richards in the amount of \$45,925. Motion passed 4-0

## **New Business**

There was a discussion concerning January assessments that have not yet been paid. The total amount is \$14,800. Casey Management has been asked to send out letters to these residents immediately.

## Adjournment

# With no further business Bruce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38. Cathy seconded. Motion passes 4-0

Respectfully Submitted By

Fred Marks - Casey Management



## August 2023 - ARC Meeting - September 26, 2023 - Approvals

Meeting held at: Cottages Meeting Room - 4:32 p.m. to 5:47 p.m.

No.	Address	Description	Approved	Denied
1	553 Meadow Sweet Circle	Plan Add/Replace some Plants around Property & Trim old Hedges. Sod Request for East Side of House	X	
2	556 Meadow Sweet Circle	New Shingle Roof - GAF - Timberline HD Shingles- Architectural Style - 1st Choice - Copper Canyon, 2nd Choice - Golden Amber. Approve Both Colors due to Availability.	X	
3	577 Meadow Sweet Circle (A)	Fence - Install 3 1/2 ft. White Vinyl Picket Fence around area continuing along alleyway & up to house along driveway. 2 Gates (One wide enough for Mower) will be installed at each end of the fencing.	x	
4	577 Meadow Sweet Circle (B)	Sod - Remove All Philodendron on North side of House - Leaving the Jacaranda by the Propane Tanks. Grade (slopping towards sidewalk) & Sod area with 9" Mulch Border alongside of house.	x	
5	818 Foothill Court	New Roof - Eagle Tile - Capistrano - Large Barrel Cement Tile - Color #39604 Maple Creek Blend (Blend of Lt. Brown, Taupe, Gray & Tan)	X	
6	1036 Oak Meadow Lane	Emergency Roof Request - Change of Roof Tile and Color due to Availability. Eagle Tile - Malibu - Cement Barrel Tile - Terracombra Range (Range of Terracotta Colors)	X	



## August 2023 - ARC Meeting - September 26, 2023 - Approvals

Meeting held at: Cottages Meeting Room - 4:32 p.m. to 5:47 p.m.

No.	Address	l	Description		Approved	Denied	
7	1077 Mallard Marsh Drive		Replace Current Lanai Tarping with Motorized System. 3 Electric Rolling Screen System with Hand Overrides Covering the Openings on the Back Side of the Ianai. Color Black (same color as current tarping). Aluminum Parts/Castings etc., will be in White (same as soffits, gutters, and Ianai cage frame).		X		
8	1084 Mallard Marsh Drive		Emergency Request. Remove Oak Tree & Stump on North Side of House. Mulch & Sod. The Roots of the Tree are interfering with the Water Service, Underground Electrical Service, Irrigation Well Casings & Cable Internet Service.		x		
9	1101 Mallard Marsh Drive		Install a Roll Down Shutter for the Front Door in the Color White.		X		
10	1132 Mallard Marsh Drive		Emergency Roof Request - Work started 08/08/2023 - Remove Roof Tiles & Dry In. Eagle Tile - Malibu - Cement Barrel Tile - Color # 2664 Terracombra Range (Range of Terracotta Colors)		X		
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## September 2023 - ARC Meeting - September 26, 2023 - Approvals

Meeting held at: Cottages Meeting Room - 4:32 p.m. to 5:47 p.m.

No.	Address	Description		Approved	Denied	
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1	547 Meadow Sweet Circle	Install Mini Split A/C unit in		X		
		garage. Compressor mounts on				
		outside wall of the garage.	_	<u></u>		
2	551 Meadow Sweet Circle	Install White Trellis behind		X		
		Bleeding Heart Bush on West				
		Side Yard of House. To keep the				
		vine growing vertically off				
		 neighbors Shrubs & Plants.				
3	700 Shadow Bay Way	Replace some existing		X		
		landscaping & add new in front				
		of house. Camouflage new				
		irrigation well pressure tank.				
		Existing Shrubs, Existing Dracena,	-			
		Existing Palms. New - Hibiscus				
		Red, Liriope, Pygmy Date Palm,				
		 Panama Rose - See site plan.				
4	706 Fordingbridge Way	Paint Exterior of House - Body -		X		
		SW-7030 Anew Gray, Trim -				
		SW-7008 Alabaster, Front Door -				
!.		BM - AF-560 Flint				
5	712 Anna Hope Lane	New Roof - Owens Corning		X		
		<b>TruDefinition Shingles</b> -				
		Architectural Style - 2 Color				
		Choices due to availabilty. 1st				
		Choice - Quarry Gray, 2nd Choice				
		- Antique Silver				
6	726 Shadow Bay Way	Add 5 Philips Hue low voltage		X		
		path lights in the front of				
		property along one side of front				
		walkway in front planter bed.				
		See sketch.				
7	808 Placid Lake Drive	Replace dead Foxtail Palm with		X		
		New Foxtail Palm. Located in				
		Front Yard in same location as				
		the old one.				
8	862 Placid Lake Drive	New Roof - Eagle Tile - Malibu -		X		
		Concrete Barrel Tiles - 2549				
		Santa Paula (Hues of Tan, Cream,				
	1	Brown Streaks)				

## <u>september 2023 - ARC Meeting - September 26, 2023 - Approvals</u>

Meeting held at: Cottages Meeting Room - 4:32 p.m. to 5:47 p.m.

No.	Address	Description	Approved	Denied
9	1027 Oak Meadow Lane	Remove 2 Trees & Stumps on North Side of House, near A/C Compressor. Palm & Hardwood Trees are in close proximity of house posing potential safety risk. One large broken limb hangs over roof.	x	
10	1081 Scherer Way (A)	Remove picket fence & Replace with Freedom Wellington 6-ft. H X 6 ft. W White Vinyl Lattice Top Standard Fence Panel.	X	
11	1081 Scherer Way (B)	Plant New Palm trees & Plants in Front Yard. (1)Royal Palm, (2)Sago Palms, (1) Bottle Palm, (6)Holly Plants. Using Black Mulch in all existing beds. See site plan.	x	
12	1088 Mallard Marsh Drive	Paint Exterior of House - Body - SW-7684 Concord Bluff, Trim - SW-6385 Dover White	X	
13	1095 Scherer Way	Connect 2 existing fences in the back of property & install gate to connect the existing fence to pool equipment fence. Fence - 6ft. White Vinyl Fence with lattice at top for Backyard. 4ft. White Vinyl Fence for the Right Side of House & Gate.	X	
14	1119 Mallard Marsh Drive	Removal of 2 Dangerous Large Leaning Slash Pine Trees & Stumps in the Rear of house.	x	
15	1352 New Forest Lane	Paint Exterior of House - Body - SW-7716 Croissant, Trim - SW-7012 Creamy	x	
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