



Your

Community Resource

The Woodlands Word

December 2022

Editor's Note

Most of us were raised with the adage, "It's better to give than receive." Usually that was said when we were crying woefully because we didn't get that special Barbie or maybe the erector set we pined for from Aunt Patty or even Santa.

The saying is indeed an oldie but I've found it to be a goodie as well. As we approach this holiday season, here in Rivendell we are also approaching the season when we as residents elect new members to our governing Board. As the timeline goes, in this issue of the Word we would be introducing you to fellow residents who have stepped up to the plate and thrown their proverbial hat in the ring. Well, don't hold your breath or scroll down searching for those bios because there aren't any. To date, only one resident has indicated *any interest* in running for the two vacating seats.

I don't get it! It seems like everyone I meet or know here truly likes living in Rivendell. The past year has been phenomenal:

- Our Ponds & Preserves Committee has been able to garner over \$10,000 in grants because we have been stewards of these assets that not only bring us esthetic pleasure but actually work to purify not only our environment but that of this region.
- Our neighborhood was awarded a prestigious Beatification Award for our landscaping and ambiance.
- The increase in our home values surpassed the national average. Why do you think that is so? Much of the credit

goes to our Board of Directors -- doing diligence -- helping to keep the value of our community intact through the process of architectural review, prudent by-laws, and yes, fining. And it works. We are neighbors holding neighbors accountable through a non-confrontational process.

- Are we still burdened with piles of debris from Hurricane Ian like so many other neighborhood's eight weeks following the storm? No, our Board took the bold step of hiring contractors to clean up this neighborhood almost immediately. And during and following the storm, our residents took care of these neighborhoods: Going out in raging winds and stinging rain to clear out culverts so that streets did not flood and then days later gathering to rake up hundreds of thousands of leaves out of our streets and sidewalks.

This, fellow readers, is a neighborhood where people don't just move here so their kids can walk to one of the country's most prominent public schools. Rivendell is that, plus so much more. Our current Board has done its giving -- well done. And now it's time to augment their efforts with two additional individuals who feel their gifts will contribute to the community.

It's time to give so we all receive. If you are interested in joining the Board, please reach out to Larry Dobias, outgoing Board member and President. And Happy Holidays.





Year In Review: Ponds & Preserves Management Actions Thanks For Your Continued Commitment & Support!

By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

It has been another unusual year – this time capped off by a visit from Hurricane Ian. We hope you and your family are safe and well. Reflecting on our ponds and preserves actions, great strides continue. Keeping our community's natural assets healthy and property values strong takes everyone's commitment and support. Your actions do make a difference and we thank you. We encourage you to keep updated on all P&P activities with articles in the *Woodlands Word* and our P&P website.

RIVENDELL'S PRESERVES: Leave Them Alone. Enjoy The Wildlife.

For our Preserves, several important maintenance actions have helped keep our preserve areas healthy and vibrant. To reduce wildfire risk, ecological mowing keeps high-risk areas safer by removing accumulated vegetation litter and opening pathways. The mowing also keeps our wetlands healthy by preventing encroachment of trees and shrubs into these areas. Ongoing maintenance actions continue, such as removing invasive plants, clearing perimeter pathways, unblocking grates and weirs from debris, plus inspection and remediation of preserve incursions by homeowners. Leave wetland and upland preserves areas in their natural state. Let our wildlife friends thrive in these habitats.

Cattail overgrowth was also an issue addressed this year. Cattails can block outflow structures (part of our stormwater system) causing flooding. A large section of cattails in front of the outflow structure on Millpond Lake was removed and hauled away. Cattail growth will continue to be monitored and addressed as needed.

RIVENDELL'S PONDS & LAKES: More Shoreline Plantings to Control Erosion.

We continue to make good progress on our ponds to help control erosion. Our pond LMZs are well established and demonstrated their anti-erosion function during the hurricane. LMZs and aquatic plants work together to create our "**Rivendell Natural Shorelines**." This Spring, the P&P Committee

conducted a pond-by-pond inspection to evaluate LMZs and plantings - noting some plants thriving, some sparse and other areas bare. Along with our consultant and plant experts, individual pond-planting strategies were created to form our game plan for plantings this year.

In mid-June, crews were busy installing shoreline plants in a massive effort to install over 18,000 plants. Following our pond-specific plans, several plant species were installed, including a few new types that grow better in our unique conditions. Shoreline aquatic plants have deep roots that stabilize the banks, keep soil in place, reduce wind-driven wave damage, and adapt to changing water levels. LMZs and plantings also soak up excess nutrients to reduce algae growth, improve water quality, and provide habitat cover and food sources for our wildlife friends. Even after Hurricane Ian, new plants seem to be growing. We are also seeing wildlife enjoying the shoreline vegetation. In October, we inspected pond plantings with our team to identify warranty plant replacement areas.

Rivendell is also grateful to have earned several important grants from the county and local groups to help with funding for pond shoreline aquatic plantings. These grants help us continue our pond management strategies while reducing costs to our community. As part of the grant program, we created "**Rivendell Wildlife Week**" – a semi-annual event asking residents to observe and track wildlife in Rivendell. We hope you are participating! Let's continue to create healthy habitats to attract even more wildlife friends.

Your actions do make a difference! When you drive, bike, or walk around the community, take pride in our ponds and preserves. Leave preserve and buffer areas alone. Enjoy our ponds. By keeping them healthy and vibrant, we enjoy our wildlife friends, improve our water quality, reduce flooding risk, and keep property values strong. Here's to another great year for residents and wildlife to thrive in Rivendell.



We thank our residents for your commitment and support to keep our community's natural assets healthy and property values strong. Wildlife, like this adorable Whistling Duck family, frequently enjoy our ponds.

(B. Frank)



Cattails and debris were removed from the outflow structure area on Millpond Lake to improve flood control. Ongoing maintenance will help control regrowth.

(Continued on next page)

(Year In Review continued from Pg. 2)



More aquatic pond plants for Rivendell.
Native aquatic plants were selected for deep roots that stabilize the soil, absorb excess nutrients, improve water quality and reduce flooding.



Keeping our ponds and preserves healthy and vibrant provides food, shelter and nesting sites that benefit and attract wildlife.

(B. Frank)



Book Nook

Book Group I will be reading *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* the second Monday of the month, Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* is a work of historical fiction by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The 2017 novel follows Monique, a journalist struggling to make a name for herself, after receiving an offer to interview the mysterious and reclusive 1960s Hollywood starlet Evelyn Hugo about fame, scandal, and love. Marilyn Probert will lead the discussion and Beryl Nord host. Please email Adele Kellman – adele.kelleman@gmail.com for more information.

BOOK GROUP II

Book Group II will be meet December 13 at 7:00, hosted by Maria Illioff. Maria will also lead the discussion. The book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. One of 2022s most lauded books, goodreads writes, “Lessons In Chemistry is “Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.” For more information contact Deb Jones by emailing her at Debraljones@gmail.com.



**EDWARD ROSS
CONSTRUCTION
SERVICES, INC.**

SERVING SARASOTA & MANATEE COUNTIES AND CITY OF VENICE

941-408-8500

FREE Estimates
SIDING / ADDITIONS

• Composite Roofs • Screen Rooms • Windows & Doors

ACRYLIC / VINYL WINDOWS

• Rescreens • Glass Rooms • Concrete Slabs • Carports



Mobile Home Repair & Remodeling.
Specializing in Kitchens, Baths,
Room Additions & Flooring

****Laminate Floors****

References Available

Find your favorite laminate....I'll lay it beautifully.

Licensed & Insured • State Certified General Contractor • CGC1523858



Kayak Club

Note: Rivendell kayak group paddles from nearby launches on the third Wednesday of the month EXCEPT for the DECEMBER PADDLE which is on the SECOND WEDNESDAY, December 14, 2022.

Weather permitting, on the 14th of December, the Kayak Club will paddle from Evie's Tiki Bar at 131 Bayview Drive, Osprey. It is next to The Point restaurant just north of Walmart on the west side of Hwy. 41. We will meet at 9:30. Paddles in the water at 10 am. Kayaks can be rented from Marker 38 at the launch site. I highly recommend calling ahead for rentals and times their number is 941-770-3838

This is a friendly, non competitive group and welcomes all level of paddlers. We welcome all suggestions for future paddles and additional outings throughout the month.

Mark your calendars for 2023 outings: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19. More information will be posted in Woodlands Word closer to each paddle.

For more information and to RSVP please contact Jane Stevens at Janie0441@gmail.com

OTHER RENTALS:

Silent Sports Outfitters at 2301 Tamiami Trail N, Nokomis
Phone: 941-966-5477. They have been known to deliver kayaks and stand up paddle boards. Please call for more information and to secure your kayak.

WOW

The inaugural WOW (Women of Wine) was a resounding success. Twenty-five ladies attended the poolside event where lovely weather was only topped by the opportunities to make new acquaintances that -- with the help of the fruits of the vine -- may well blossom into friendships. Don't miss the next WOW. It will be held on Dec. 5 at the community pool. Look to the event boards at the entrances of Rivendell for more information or call Kathy Lysak 941 539-6749. It promises to be a "jolly ole time!"



PROFESSIONAL

PLUMBING DESIGN, INC.

A COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST

- ✓ Fully licensed, bonded & insured
- ✓ 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- ✓ Family owned and operated since 1985
- ✓ Better Business Bureau A+ rated

- ✓ Non-Commission Employees
- ✓ Non-Franchise Company
- ✓ Third party verification by:

Call The Professionals!
(941) 484-4444

www.ProPlumbingDesign.com

Lic. # CFC 057045

\$10.00 OFF Service

PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING

Cannot be used on minimum service charge and cannot be combined with any other discounts

PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING

Heating & Cooling Units

From \$4495 Installed

10yr. Warranty

★★★★★ Great job - super prompt, clean install and very professional. Would highly recommend. - D. Jones

★★★★★ Brandon is very sharp and professional. Fixed two problems that I had quickly and charges fairly. I highly recommend him/Integrity AC. - D. Babecki

★★★★★ Brandon is the absolute best! Responsive/punctual, polite, educated in AC repair, and 100% HONEST! - S. Coffaro

Integrity AC, LLC

941-704-9413

License#CAC1820225

1202 Gary Ave. Suite #101, Ellenton, FL 34222

Dining Out December Destination

By Adele Kellman

On Saturday, December 3rd, we will be dining at Mattison's Forty-One, 7275 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 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 December dinner will continue through November 30th.** For the December dinner, please RSVP to Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.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.

Artist's Corner Continues

The first Artist's Corner featured photographer Craig Sterling on November 9. Those in attendance enjoyed not only viewing a selection of Craig's photographs, but listening to his commentary on his art. The Artist's Corner is a new event on Rivendell's social calendar. An individual resident presents their art followed with a casual discussion to those of us in the community who share the same interests. It occurs on the second Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. In December, the featured artist is Natalie Elman who will display and discuss her art in the genre of Abstract/Collage. The location for the display and discussion is 1163 Mallard Marsh Dr. Please call Allie Sandow for more information 513-403-7228.



MedicareDavid.com Get The Facts!!!

Focusing exclusively on Medicare Coverage Options

- Medicare Supplements
- Part D Drug Coverage
- Medicare Advantage



I will present ALL of your coverage options.
Avoid the confusion and get the facts!!!

**Available for Medicare Information
Group Presentations**

**941-907-2879
813-417-2716**

MedicareDavidSilver@gmail.com

*We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.



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

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

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.



Wildlife Window: Florida White-Tailed Deer Native Herbivores Often Seen at Dawn and Dusk.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

The month of December might conjure up images of Santa and Rudolph the Reindeer. However, since we do not live at the North Pole, we will explore Florida's White-tailed Deer, often seen in Rivendell at dawn and dusk. The common name refers to the tail of the deer - it is black/brown above and white below. White-tailed deer have good eyesight and hearing. Only male deer grow antlers, which are shed each year. They are also good swimmers and will use large streams and lakes to escape predators.

Let's learn more about White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Appearance: White-tailed deer vary in size depending on their habitat. Adult male deer in southern Florida average 115 pounds. Females are smaller, averaging 90 pounds. This deer coloring is gray to russet brown with a white underside, and has large ears, a large tail, and long slender legs.

Throughout most of the year it is easy to tell males from females. The males, or bucks, have antlers, growing a new set every year. Antler growth begins in the spring. By summer, antlers are covered with a velvety tissue that dries up and peels off. The buck rubs the antlers against trees, which eventually removes the remaining velvet, leaving the antlers hard and smooth. Antlers are important features during the animal's breeding season when bucks will often fight to establish dominance. Antlers are shed in late winter or early spring after the breeding season ends.

Habitat & Feeding: White-tailed deer can be found throughout Florida from the panhandle to the keys. They prefer habitats with young, low-growing vegetation and edge that allow deer to easily feed and avoid predators. Deer are most active at dawn and dusk. They are primarily herbivore browsers, feeding on the leaves, shoots, flowers and fruits of trees, shrubs, and forbs. Occasionally, they may browse and damage planted shrubs, landscaping or cultivated crops.

Behavior: When deer are alarmed, the tails are held erect and waved back and forth like a white flag, signaling a warn-

ing to other deer. When they are nervous, deer will stomp a foot and snort, before running off.

Fawn Facts: It is important to avoid contact with fawns (a young deer). Although fawns are able to run and follow their mothers shortly after birth, they protect themselves from predators by hiding in tall vegetation. Fawns have no scent and during this time the female limits contact with her fawn, except to nurse, so that her scent will not attract predators and mark the fawn's hiding place. After a couple of weeks, the fawn begins to accompany the doe as she forages. The fawn's brown hair with white spots provides excellent camouflage. So, if you approach a fawn and it does not flee, please leave it alone – its mother is not far away. (www.myfwc.com)

Your Actions Make a Difference! Deer are also experiencing food shortages due to loss of vegetation, use of pesticides and degradation of habitat from urban development that challenge all of our wildlife friends. White-tailed deer are also common prey for panthers, bobcats and coyotes in the food chain. In Rivendell, deer are appreciated by hikers, wildlife photographers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. (White-tailed deer hunting is allowed & all state of Florida license, permits, rules and regulations do apply.) Working together to implement our healthy ponds and preserves management strategies will help keep our favorite wildlife habitats strong. Your continued support helps attract more of our wildlife friends!



The Male Deer, or Buck, has antlers, and grow a new set every year. Antler growth begins in the spring. By summer, antlers are covered with a velvety tissue that dries up and peels off, leaving the antlers hard and smooth. Antlers are important features during the animal's breeding season when bucks will often fight to establish dominance. Antlers are shed in late winter or early spring after the breeding season ends.



Mama Deer with her Fawn, whose brown hair with white spots provides excellent camouflage. Avoid contact with a Fawn; Mama is likely close by.



The White-tailed name refers to the tail of the deer. It is black/brown above and white below. This deer is gray to russet brown with a white underside, with large ears, a large tail, and long slender legs.

(Photos: Bob Frank)



HOME OUR COMMUNITY CONTACTS DOCUMENTS RESIDENTS COMMITTEES BOARD



WELCOME TO RIVENDELL

The many recreational offerings and country feel of the Woodlands at Rivendell make it a highly desirable community. Located in Orange 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 village, estate and executive homes to maintenance-free patio homes. Nestled 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 Osler Scherer 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.

Rivendell

Get Manufactured Home Insurance That Gets You

Save **\$300**

on Average When You Join Kin

kin.
For Every New Normal™



SCAN ME

Start Saving Today!

Visit **KIN.COM/FL-NL**
or Call **407.743.2111**

Terms: *Manufactured home customers who switched to Kin report annual savings of \$300 on average. Based on Kin Customer Savings Survey conducted January 2020 - January 2021. Coverage is underwritten by Kin Interinsurance Network, St. Petersburg, FL.

Neighbors Shadowed by Storms in Work and Play

By Nancy Giordano

A neighborly welcome to Terry and Kandace “Kandy” Siemsen who along with Aggie, their friendly rescue dog, arrived on the Rivendell scene June 1, 2022! No grass grows under their feet. Other than a few upgrades they want to make and a few medical professionals they want to find, they seem to be quite settled in their lovely home and in the community.

Prior to moving into their “forever home”, Kandy and Terry had split their time between Florida and Louisville, Kentucky for almost ten years. Terry’s plan to build a home in Sarasota were dashed when builders said it would take two years to complete. Not willing to wait that long, their real estate agent helped them find Rivendell. Kandy appreciates the “quiet” atmosphere here as well as the proximity to both Venice and Sarasota. Terry enjoys the open space while also very much respecting the established “environmental ethic” in Rivendell.

For many years in the 1980s and beyond while her children were young, Kandy managed the books for a local business entity in Louisville. Unbeknown to her, she was a trendsetter -- successfully working remotely at a time when few considered it a possibility. Kandy is a native “Louisvillian” who will always enjoy return visits to see her family and two young grandchildren and to enjoy the seasonality of her hometown.

As homebuyers (when it seemed everyone was!) submitting an offer with multiple offers on the table carried with it serendipitous parts skill, good timing, and plain ‘ole luck. The owner of the house Kandy and Terry now call home chose their offer because they were from Louisville – the special place the homeowner had met her husband years ago. Karma can go a long way!

Born in Illinois, Terry moved with his family to Wisconsin.



He attended the University of Wisconsin before settling in Indiana and Kentucky. A non-engineer in the Army Corps of Engineers for about 38 years, Terry worked in the environmental studies and emergency management units of the agency where he handled floods, tornadoes, and hurricane. Yes, hurricanes. He has also had several deployments to FEMA post-retirement. Of particular interest to Terry was a hurricane impacts forecasting program where computer modeling estimated debris from upcoming hurricanes starting about four days out and reevaluating constantly. That way

needs, costs, and the personnel required to begin immediate clean up and rebuilding could be determined for storm-impacted areas. Although variables are present always, the accuracy resulting from this modeling continues to improve with time and more data. Terry has already joined Rivendell’s Maintenance Committee where his knowledge and expertise will be valuable additions.

Hurricanes have had this way of being a part of the Siemsen’s life together. As Kandy tells it, back in Louisville in 1995, weather from Hurricane Erin showed up at a significant moment: when it was time to get married. A local jeweler was running a promotion for those who had rain on their wedding day - get your wedding rings for free. You guessed it; Terry first assessed Hurricane Erin’s status (very rainy!) and then off they went to get married! The free wedding rings followed.

Shortly after Terry and Kandy moved to Rivendell, Hurricanes Ian and Nicole happened to intrude upon their new-found quiet. Other than some landscaping damage, the Siemens are grateful they escaped Ian’s wrath and look forward to a respite from being shadowed by storms. Who doesn’t welcome that?

TARGET YOUR MARKET!

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

941-723-5003



www.teledrex.com

email: joan@teledrex.com

EXPERIENCED • PROFESSIONAL • COURTEOUS

Rivendell Board of Directors Meeting Unofficial Notes

If you were unable to attend the **November 16, 2022 Board of Directors meeting**, below are my UNOFFICIAL MINUTES. Please realize these are not Board-authorized official minutes. These minutes are my take on what I thought I heard and there's always a chance I might have misinterpreted something or typed something incorrectly. Please consult the official minutes (www.rivendellcommunity.com) for the sanctioned report of the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

Larry stated that the Board-hired storm-related contractors have finished what they were hired to do. He also mentioned that there will be 2 seats on the Board whose term is expiring...one is Larry's and the other is George Smith's. Larry indicated he will not be seeking a re-election and so far George has not expressed his intent. Larry asked that if anyone knows anyone who might be interested in running for the Board, to please let the Board know. If no one comes forth to run for the available seats, then the Board will have the option of appointing people to the Board.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

Steve DeHart has left Lighthouse and will no longer be our CAM. Instead, **Trisha Goldstein**, a current Lighthouse employee, will be serving as our temporary CAM until a replacement can be found. Larry stated that Trisha has already arranged a meeting with our insurance carrier to discuss whether our wind mitigation rider on our insurance policy will get us any reimbursement for the monies spent on the hurricane clean-up as well as for the tile damages to sections of the pool roof.

Larry also mentioned that there were possible damages to the pool light housings in the covered area of the pool deck by the pergola. We might need new cans in which the lights are seated or some kind of tweaking to better hold the lights in place. When light bulbs were replaced recently, some fell out of the housing since they weren't properly seated. Graham Electric will be called to deal with this issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Daignault)

According to the Nov 11, 2022 financial statement, Rivendell has \$445,818 in assets (not including capital assets). Out of this number, there is \$275,757 in reserves. There are still owners who are not paying their obligations. Two owe a total of \$2000 in violation assessments. There are 8 accounts which owe a total of \$4907 and these are now in the "intent to lien" category. Three accounts paid their assessments late but skipped paying the interest that was due. This amounted to a total of \$64.

Cathy stated that through the end of October, we are over budget in income by \$3478, and in expenses for the year, we are currently over budget by \$43,671. We're under budget in 3 categories: Ground Maintenance by \$57,486, Administrative Expenses by \$8866 in administrative expenses, and Pool Expenses by \$1750 and we're over

budget in Maintenance Expenses by \$15,769. Because of Hurricane Ian, we are over budget by \$95,098 in an "other expense" category since a significant amount of money was not set aside for events of this nature or magnitude.

Cathy also added that there have been no disbursements from our reserve accounts during the October time period. She added that for the year, \$42,746 has been spent from the reserves.

At the end of the report, Greg asked how we would deal with the \$43,000 over budget in our expenses.

Larry answered that currently we are tracking about \$10,000 each month under plan and since no projects are in the pipeline, this means we should be \$20,000 under plan by the end of December. This will offset the \$43,000 and will result in our being over budget by around \$20,000 instead.

Larry also discussed the hurricane clean up expenses and how they came to be \$95,000. He stated that \$40,000 of this amount was due to tree removal that had to be done due to all the hurricane damages we experienced on Board-controlled land. Because we did spend \$55,000 on debris removal, it's this amount that will be investigated when the meeting is held with our insurance provider to discuss possible reimbursement.

An owner then asked where the \$95,000 to deal with the hurricane comes from.

Larry answered that in the operation fund balances there always seem to be \$100,000 to \$125,000. This money has accrued over several years and it's from this money that these expenses will be covered. What it means is that this amount will not be as high as it had been in past years. It might become \$90,000 to \$110,000 instead.

Larry further stated that by the end of September, we had a \$33,000 surplus and if we track an additional \$10,000 savings per month for the remaining part of the year, we'll accrue more. He also said that the Board decided to skip the budgeted mulching in 2022 and this will provide an additional \$10,000. By managing the expenses/spending, we should then get to around \$65,000 saved, but this still leaves us \$25,000 in the hole. This is why Larry projects our operating expenses that had accrued over the years to decrease from \$100-125K to \$90-110K for 2023.

Since there were no more questions relevant to spending/budget issues, the Board adopted the 2023 Budget. (The Cottages will pay \$466 a half and the rest of Rivendell will pay \$517 a half.)

(Continued on Pg. 10)

(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 9)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **ARC** (Kevin Boggess)

Kevin stated that all requests were approved but that some needed minor modifications. Common requests mostly dealt with hurricane-related damages or hurricane issues. Some needed to do roofs, replace pool cages, install hurricane windows, do solar panels, etc.

2. **Maintenance Committee** (Greg Volack)

Greg said that the MC decided to table their 2022 projects until 2023. During the first quarter of 2023, they plan to deal with replacement of the pool clock mechanism with an electronic one. They also plan to have the community mulching done in the first quarter as well.

A new person has joined the MC...Terry Siemsen. Terry has had experience serving on a Board in another state and he also brings his experience working for FEMA. **(See NEIGHBORS column in this issue for more about Terry's professional experience.)**

Larry added that he will be going around with a tree service contractor (**Liberty Services FI**) on Thursday to get an estimate of what they would charge to grind down the stumps of the 15 hurricane-impacted trees that had been removed. He also is looking for a quote on what they would charge to deal with various problem banyan trees. One banyan tree discussed was the one along Rivendell Blvd whose limbs were shredded by the high winds. This tree is to be removed. It seems there are other banyan trees in Rivendell that suffered the same kind of damages. Some were uprooted while others had branches that were coming too close to lanai cages. Larry mentioned that a Cottage resident told him that the banyan tree in the Cottage Circle, when it was first planted, had a trunk width of 5 inches. This same tree now has a width of 5 feet. The tree will keep growing in width and it's not good to have a tree like this so close to homes. Although there are no immediate plans to get rid of the banyan tree at the Circle, there are plans to do heavy pruning on that tree due to limb breakage that had occurred during the hurricane.

Larry mentioned that a few years ago, the Board hired a contractor to deal with a banyan tree whose roots were reaching towards a resident's pool. The roots had gone out 40 feet from the tree and the resident was worried about pool structural damages that could result if this tree were not removed. The tree was removed. A trench had to be dug to remove many of the roots and poison was sprayed to prevent future regrowth.

The bottom line is that the banyan tree may be a pretty tree but it does not belong near homes. They splinter too easily during high wind events, they continually grow in width and height, and their roots will cause structural damages when they get too close to homes. The bigger the tree gets, the more cost is entailed when the tree finally does need to be removed.

Larry added that Rick Richards Co will be in the preserves dealing with invasives in the next few days. The company will also be bringing its forestry mower back into Rivendell in a few weeks to open the access roads in the preserves. Wax myrtles and dead pines will be targeted when the mowing occurs.

Cathy asked whether any pictures were being taken of properties bordering the preserves. In the past, some owners would claim they were not responsible for the incursions that happened behind their homes. It is hoped that by taking pictures of how the lots appear in current time, it will better identify who is responsible for the incursions that is happening.

Larry said that he and Greg have been walking behind the 150 or so homes bordering preserves to see how they currently look. They noticed one property had expanded 60 feet into the preserves. The county noticed another property having lights directed into the preserves and this is not allowed. Incursions seem to be a constant problem. Last year Rivendell had to spend \$7000 to deal with incursions. This is money that should never have had to be spent. Owners should know where their properties end and stop with the mowing and planting within the preserves. Education and/or communication seems to be the order of the day to stop preserve incursion.

3. **Pond & Preserve Committee** (Larry Dobias)

Larry mentioned that the Wildlife Week is currently in progress and that owners are keeping tally of what and how many wildlife are being spotted. Numbers will be turned in to Bob Frank, committee Chair.

Cathy said that on the way to the meeting she was surprised to encounter a deer coming out of the Pine View Nature Trail. She hadn't noticed any deer previously. Greg said that 2 deer have been hanging out in Rivendell Park eating a pumpkin that someone threw away in the park instead of leaving it out for trash pickup as they should have done.

4. **Social Committee** (Kevin Boggess)

Kevin stated that on Nov 17, Thursday evening (5:30-7:00 PM) there will be another Mix and Mingle at the pool. He also said that if you're interested in the Dine Out group, there is still time to sign up. So far around 12 have signed up and there's a limit of 25.

(Continued on Pg. 11)

(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 10)

OLD BUSINESS

1. Larry stated that on Friday, letters will be sent out explaining the proposed amendments. The letters will provide information as to what a YES or NO vote might mean on each of the proposed changes. By sending the letters, it's hoped that owners will be better informed as to what is happening should someone knock at their door asking them for their un-retained ballots. These amendments will be decided during the February Annual Meeting of Owners. The door-to-door would happen if not enough ballots were submitted to be considered a valid election. (At least 200 need to be submitted to be considered a valid election. To pass an issue, 2/3 of the total submitted are necessary.)

2. Also, the attorney has been consulted so that a legal collection process for Rivendell assessments can be written. He is to make this compliant with Florida 720. Larry said that the Board wants a policy that better addresses those who fail to pay their assessments on time. He doesn't think the community should be paying for owner negligence and that's what happens every time Lighthouse has to remind an owner to pay. All of these letters have a price tag attached and the community as a whole is paying for those costs. This amounts to about \$1000 a year. The new policy will pass on these charges to owners.

Once the policy is written, it will be put on the website for owners to review and to understand. Then at the January or February meeting, the policy will be implemented.

3. The ARC Revised Guidelines have been developed and written and will be posted to the website for owner review and comment. Once that happens, the Board will vote to adopt and implement the new ARC REVISED GUIDELINES.

Cathy Daignault stated that recently she went to Sherwin Williams to buy some paint for her lanai floor. While there, she filled out a form in which she said she was from the Woodlands at Rivendell. They told her that our community gets a 30% discount. Cathy recommended that if you're planning to buy paint, you might want to compare prices. Our paint palette is a Benjamin Moore one and paint bought in this store gives you a 10% discount. If you go to Sherwin Williams, they give a 30% discount to Rivendell. You just have to make sure you tell them you're a Rivendell customer.

Cathy and another owner suggested this information be written on the ARC form or in the ARC Revised Guidelines but it was decided that these percentages could change. Instead, the Board will put out a blast informing Rivendell owners of the 30% discount available at Sherwin Williams.

4. Greg wanted to know where the Board was in all of the past violations which Steve DeHart had been handling. Greg felt the process was not working efficiently and he wanted to know whether this would improve. Larry felt it was not possible to spot violations well as a drive-through. He felt non-compliant issues were more easily observed by

those who live in the community and who bike or walk in the community. Greg also wanted to know whether all of the current violations would be erased and Larry said no, that they would continue the process. If they were on the 2nd notice, they still would be on the 2nd notice. Larry seemed to think one problem he has noticed is that the list of violations is not being tracked or updated as owners deal with their non-compliance issues. They need a system that addresses this in a more consistent reliable manner. Once that can be developed and followed, then the Board should see a better system in place.

5. Larry asked the Board if they wanted to cancel the December meeting since the date for that meeting would fall on Dec 21. The Board voted to cancel the December meeting. If issues do come up, they can always hold a special meeting for those issues. **The next regular Board meeting will be Wednesday, Jan 18, 2023.**

HOMEOWNER COMMENTS

1. One owner was dissatisfied with the turn-out for Board meetings. He wanted to know why more people are not coming to these meetings. Larry said he did not know why meetings were not well-attended but he did think that there was a lot of owner satisfaction in the community. He felt Rivendell was being managed well by her committees, that the job of committees was to do the work and the job of the Board was to report on the work being done. Maybe people see what's being done or accomplished and see no point in attending the meetings.

The same owner asked if Rainbow Point Park might get some enhancement lighting. He said Rainbow Point Way had enhancement lighting and it would be nice if the park would have it at its entrance. Larry answered that no lights should be directed towards Oscar Scherer, that when someone had installed landscape lighting that shone into the preserve, these had to be removed. If trees were just being enhanced with upward kind of lighting, this is something that would need to be brought before the Maintenance Committee for their consideration as a future project, that currently there are no 2022 projects that will be undertaken.

Larry added that when the subject of the budget comes up, there are always 2 schools of thought that he hears. One says we're not paying enough to get all that owners see is happening. The other thought says that we need to cut back on our dues. The Board then has the choice of whether to manage for money, or whether to manage for appearance and the future of a community. Larry stated that Boards are obligated to manage for the future of a community and their decisions are based upon that commitment.

An owner added that it was good that the Board did not wait for FEMA to remove the debris since that could take months. The Board's decision to deal with the debris in a more timely manner resulted in a better appearing community and he praised the Board for its decision to be pro-active in their clean-up activities.

(Continued on Pg. 12)

(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 12)

The same owner wanted to know when his usual yard waste would be picked up by the county. Cathy and Greg both said that the county had been notified and it's hoped that it will be addressed in our next pickup by the county on Thursday.

Well, that was what I thought I heard or remembered. There may be mistakes so if you're in doubt, ask a Board member for clarification.

Don't forget...there's no meeting in December. The next Board meeting will be Jan 18, 2023.

Feel free to share with your Rivendell friends and neighbors!

Editors Note: Many thanks to Nancy for her excellent note taking. We appreciate your submissions!



AIR HEAT INC
AIR CONDITIONING/ HEATING

941-750-6313

25+ YEARS VETERAN OWNED
SALES * SERVICE * INSTALLS
24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE



**VETERAN OWNED
AND OPERATED**

ANNUAL A/C
MAINTENANCE
\$59.95

New Customer

**EMERGENCY
SERVICE**
(no fee with paid repair
normally \$95.00)
Expires 12/31/22

**NEW A/C SYSTEMS
STARTING AT
\$4,095.00**

**MOBILE HOME DUCT
WORK REPLACEMENT
STARTING AT
\$850.00**

Licensed and insured contractors #CAC056961

Reader's Choice Winner for 2021



Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

Over the Counter

In August the FDA issued a final rule for over-the-counter (otc) hearing aids. There is some good news here and some confusion on what it means.

The best way to think of these hearing aids is the same as 'cheater readers' eyeglasses. These glasses aren't for all losses. If you have severe or complex issues you still see your eye doctor.

Otc hearing aids are for people who only have a mild loss. In the 15 years we have been in business we have only met four people who would have been a good fit for these hearing aids. Their audiogram looks like a straight or slight dip in a line near the top. These aren't for anyone whose loss looks like a ski slope in the middle of the range.

Why are these otc hearing aids only good for so few people? The small range otc aids can fit.

Research shows that people are aware of their hearing loss for over seven years before they take action. By the time they seek help their loss has deteriorated into a moderate to severe loss range. This type of loss would not benefit from otc hearing aids.

The good news is with otc hearing aids people might seek help sooner. And doing so they may retain more comprehension. Waiting to get help reduces someone's ability to grasp the meanings of the words in the conversation.

Other great news is hearing aids no longer have the stigma they once had. A few decades ago, everyone wanted the smallest, most discreet in-the-canal hearing aid, so no-one would know they were wearing hearing aids. The tiny size limited who could wear them with quality results. These weren't a good fit if you hear low frequency well, they weren't a good fit if you spent time in crowds.

Again, the good news is wearing hearing aids no longer has the stigma it once did. And people might get something for their hearing loss sooner and retain more of their comprehension ability.

Will otc hearing aids replace us? No. Just as cheater readers have not replaced opticians.

If you struggle to hear well in crowds and want to hear with ease, call for a free demo, 941-244-9300.



(941) 244-9300

**Contemporary
HEARING**

Matching your lifestyle to new technology

242 Tamiami Trail So, Venice, FL 34285

ContemporaryHearing.com

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: Marylin and Jim May

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Chair: Greg Warner

Board Liaison: **Greg Volack**

Questions or Submissions: rivendell@mgmt.tv

Members: Greg Warner, Joe Casale, Rich Bunce,

Jim Duncan, Joe Zwerling Board Member: Greg Volack

Fine Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: Robert Thierfelder (rcthierfelder@gmail.com)

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy

Maintenance Committee (MC)

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

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

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

Ponds & Preserves Committee

Chair: Bob Frank (frank@ohio.edu)

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Members: Ray Ellison, Frank Freestone, Dave Gill

Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remv, Allie Sandow

Social Committee

Chair: Maria Ilioff

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Lisa Boggs, Annie Francis, Kathy Halaiko, Carolyn Kennedy, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak, Jennifer Parker, Allie Sandow, Jane Stevens

Rivendell Board of Directors

Larry Dobias, President, dobiasle@gmail.com

Greg Volack, Vice President, gregvolack@gmail.com

Cathy Daignault, Treasurer, catdaignault@yahoo.com

Kevin Boggess, Secretary, kbogg@msn.com

George Smith, Director at Large,

georgeandnadia@gmail.com

Sub-Association Boards of Directors

The Cottages: Marilee Casale, President,

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

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

President, Kathi Webber, Secretary,

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

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

The Villas: Sherry Sholtis, Acting President;

Barbara Loe, Treasurer.

Lighthouse Property Management:

941-460-5560 Ext. 225

Property Manager: Steven DeHart

(SteveDeHart@mgmt.tv)

Rivendell Website

www.rivendellcommunity.com

Contact Lighthouse Management for password to RESIDENTS section.

Woodlands Word Deadline:

Submit articles and information to Kristine Nickel

(kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

by the tenth of the month.

Updates to the Contacts Page:

Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

Nuisance Alligator

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

Do Not Call Lighthouse Property Management

Sarasota County Sheriff

Non-emergency Number: 941-316-1201

Please use this number for non-emergencies