



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

September 2026



A Word From Your Board

by Rich Bunce, Director - Treasurer

Here we are at the end of summer, and I find myself once again at the top of the rotation for having to write the Board letter for the month. As I ask myself, "What would people want to hear from their HOA Treasurer?", I keep coming back to the same answer..... absolutely nothing! That's most likely because when Finance professionals express their thoughts it's often bad news.....you owe \$\$\$\$ in taxes or we're overspending and going to be over budget. However, in the case of our Rivendell budget I'm happy to be able to say that our HOA is well within budget for the first half of the year. If things progress as expected, we'll finish the year within budget as well. Your Board Members and Committee Members are doing an excellent job of ensuring that we stay within budget and getting the most out of every dollar spent. Our HOA monthly financials are posted on the website should you wish to view and analyze the financial statements.

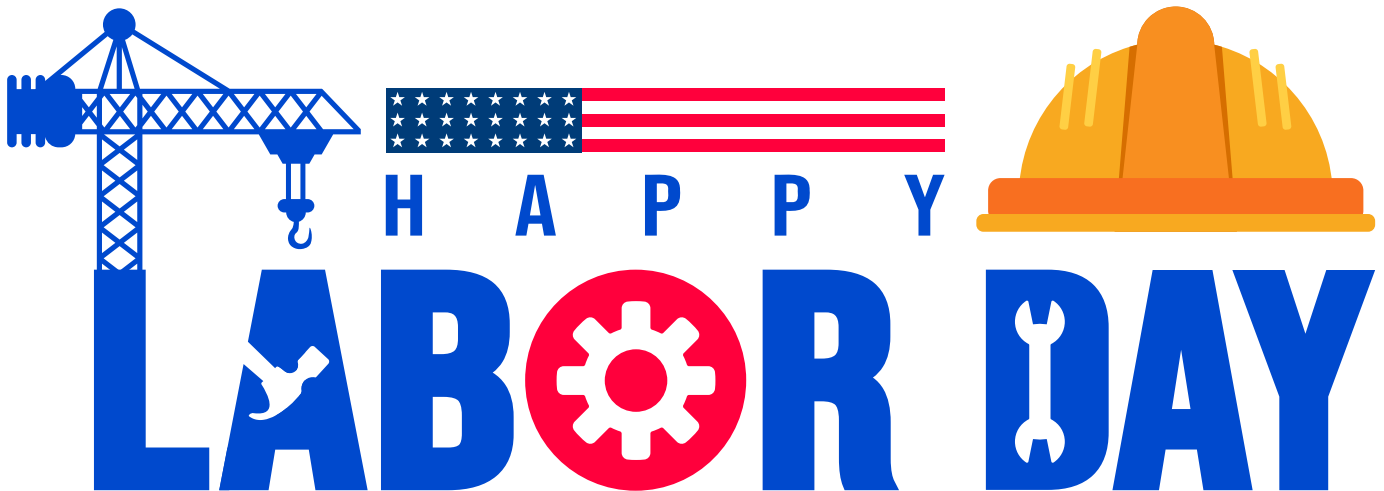
With summer coming to an end, I would like to remind everyone that school is starting up again. Being creatures of habit, we're often caught up in our own routines and forget to be vigilant

when school begins. Being aware of our surroundings, especially during pickup and drop-off times will go a long way in ensuring that every child is safe as they go back and forth to school. After all, what could possibly be more important in this world than the health and safety of a child?

As many are aware, the end of Rivendell Blvd. near the back exit of Pine View School becomes congested and somewhat dangerous when school is back in session. Drivers, many not residents of Rivendell, are dropping off or picking up children there. Please be aware that the Board several months ago passed a motion to have a Sheriff periodically stationed in that area during pick up and drop off times to address those ignoring the no stopping or no parking signs. Our hope is that it will help reduce the congestion and keep everyone safe.

Hope everyone enjoys Fall..... cooler temperatures are on the way.

Rich



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th



Best of Venice 2025

Repairs, Service and Sales

How do I know if I need to have my hearing aids serviced? The honest answer is you may not know. The signs that your hearing aids are not working well include:

- Loud TV
- Asking everyone to repeat what they said
- You can hear start up chimes or phone calls but speech is muffled
- Sounds aren't as crisp as when you first got hearing aids

If you are experiencing any of these items, you need to get your hearing aids serviced and possibly repaired.

We service the following major brands:



We will assess your issues and let you know what needs to be done so you can hear your best. This will ensure you are able to stay connected and hear your family and friends.

If you can't hear as well as you want to with your current aids, we can identify issues and explain how it could be better. Or, if you or a friend have hearing aids that are not working properly, you can call for a repair appointment.



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What's in Season

September in Florida is a transition month. The hot, humid summer is winding down, and some summer crops are still available while early fall produce begins appearing. Availability can vary by region and weather, but these are some of the fruits and vegetables you may find fresh and in season in Florida during September.

FRUITS

Avocados
Bananas
Carambola
Figs
Guava
Key limes
Mangoes
Muscadine grapes
Papayas
Passion fruit
Pineapples
Watermelons

VEGETABLES

Bell peppers
Cucumbers
Eggplant
Green beans
Okra
Southern peas
Sweet corn
Sweet potatoes
Tomatoes
Yellow squash
Zucchini

HERBS AND OTHER FRESH PRODUCE

Basil
Cilantro
Mint
Rosemary
Sage
Peppers
Fresh greens

What to Look for at Florida Farmers Markets

September is a particularly good month to look for Florida-grown tomatoes, peppers, okra, squash, sweet potatoes, tropical fruits, and muscadine grapes. Local farmers markets and roadside stands can be excellent places to find produce picked close to the time you buy it.

Because Florida has several growing regions and a warm climate, the exact availability can vary. South Florida may have tropical fruits available that are less common in northern parts of the state, while North and Central Florida may begin transitioning toward fall crops sooner.





Social Committee Activities for September 2026

Offered WEEKLY: Ladies Walk 'n Talk. Meet at the Rivendell Pool. Contact Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com or (973) 219-5839 for more information and if you'd like to be added to the Facebook Walk 'n Talk. Walks are currently on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am, but times will change depending on the season.

- Monday, September 7th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, September 10th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, September 14th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Monday, September 14th, at 7:00 pm. Rivendell Book Group. To join, contact Lesley Glick at (973) 219-5839 or lesleymg8@gmail.com or Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or adele.kellman@gmail.com.
- Monday, September 21st, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, September 24th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, September 28th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).

Chuck Pertile from the Maintenance Committee Reports

Besides monitoring the landscaping, the MC has authorized the Maintenance and repair of the aging irrigation system. Hopefully the recent rain will give us less reliance on this aging system.



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.

SUDOKU

Puzzle from <https://www.printable-puzzles.com/>

6				4				1
8				1				
7		2			5			
			8		2			7
	8							6
	6					3		9
			9			4		
	5	4	6	3		1		2
	2	8	5			9		3

(Solution on page 9)



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PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING

Rivendell Ladies Walk 'n Talk: Two Years and Still Going Strong

Every Thursday morning, weather permitting, a friendly group of neighbors gathers at the Community Pool for the Rivendell Ladies' Walk 'n Talk. For more than two years now, this group has been lacing up their sneakers, stepping out together, and turning a simple hour-long walk through the neighborhood into one of the well-loved traditions in our community.

The concept is simple: meet at the Community Pool on Thursday mornings, walk together through Rivendell for about an hour, and enjoy the conversation along the way. It's part exercise, part social hour, and part standing appointment with good company. Rain, extreme heat, or other rough weather can occasionally cancel a walk, but otherwise, you can count on the group to be out and moving every week.

To keep everyone in the loop, a text chain goes out the night before each walk. It's how members sign up to join and how everyone finds out if a walk needs to be cancelled due to weather. It's an easy, low-pressure way to stay connected to the group week to week.

One of the best parts of Walk 'n Talk is that it's always open to new faces. Whether you're a longtime Rivendell resident who's never joined before or a new neighbor looking for an easy way to meet people, you're welcome to come out and walk with the group. No pace requirements, no pressure — just good exercise and better company.

A Detour Worth Taking

Recently, the group took a small detour during one of their walks to visit our neighbors at Pineview School, right next door to Rivendell. Students there recently completed a stunning mural — 12 feet tall and 60 feet long — depicting scenes of Florida's native plants and wildlife. The walkers stopped to admire the students' work and snap a few photos in front of it, a nice reminder of the talented young artists growing up right in our own backyard. Photos of some of the walkers in front of the mural are shown below.



Want to Join?

New members are always welcome! If you'd like more information about the Rivendell Walk 'n Talk group, or want to be added to the Thursday night email chain, contact: Lesley Glick Email: lesleymg8@gmail.com Phone: 973-219-5839

See you Thursday morning at the Community Pool!



Up the Creek Without a Rudder

by Nancy Dobias

Have you ever wondered why some people get lost on hikes while others don't? Do they have an internal compass that shows them the way?

A former colleague told me that she never gets lost. She intuitively knows direction. Because she was a math teacher, I thought maybe there is this internal "bearing" but I WAS a bit skeptical of her claim. At least I was until I realized what she does. We were on a road trip and I managed to get her lost. I was ready to get out a map to find out which roads we needed, etc. She said, "Don't bother, she'd figure it out." What did she do? Since it was daytime, she merely stuck up her finger towards the sun and used that to determine her north/south bearing and used that to determine whether she wanted north/south or east/west roads.

Although I've never tried her system to avoid getting lost on hikes through the woods down here, I did try another way to compensate for my lack of a sense of direction. I bought brightly-colored trail markers to keep in my car for those times when I go off by myself to wander through the woods. Of course, since I sometimes forget to put them in my pocket, I also wanted a backup plan--google.

Google offered various ideas or systems to keep from getting "lost."

One thing I learned was to NOT LOOK DOWN when I'm walking through the woods. Instead, I am to be looking around at the scenery to get a bearing on where I am should I get lost. I have to note what's around me. Was there some unique tree? Was the creek or river on my right or left? Was I near a fence line?

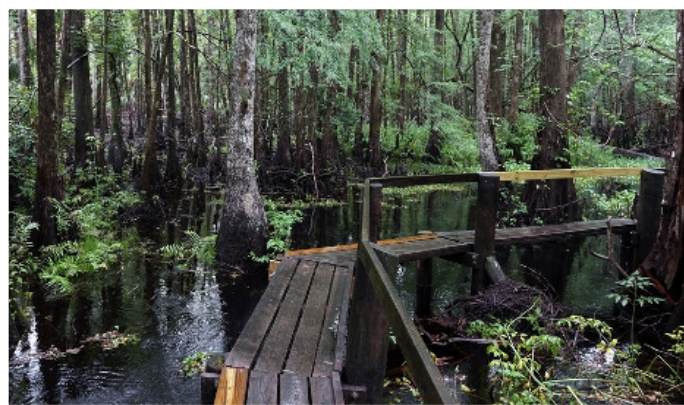
Not looking down but instead looking around seemed like good advice, but too often where I have walked, there have been trip hazards along the trail. Did I want to stumble over an exposed root...a downed branch, or to have my foot caught in some vines as one foot stepped forward while the other one remained "trapped?"

Another advice was to be AWARE of your immediate vicinity for directional bearing as well as for possible dangers. Now this may sound obvious, and easy-to-follow, but I think there are other factors that could come into play.

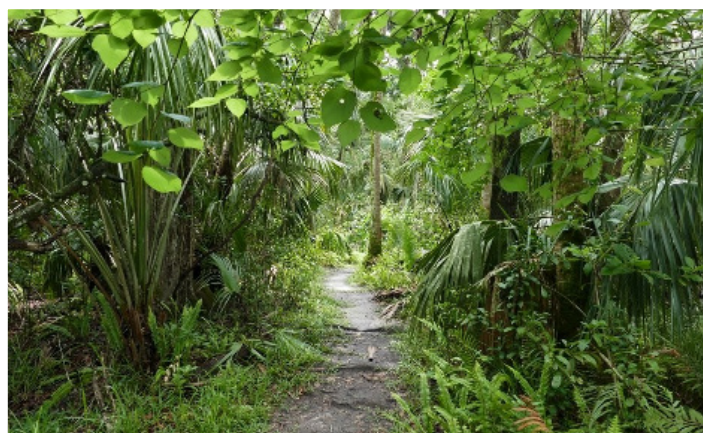
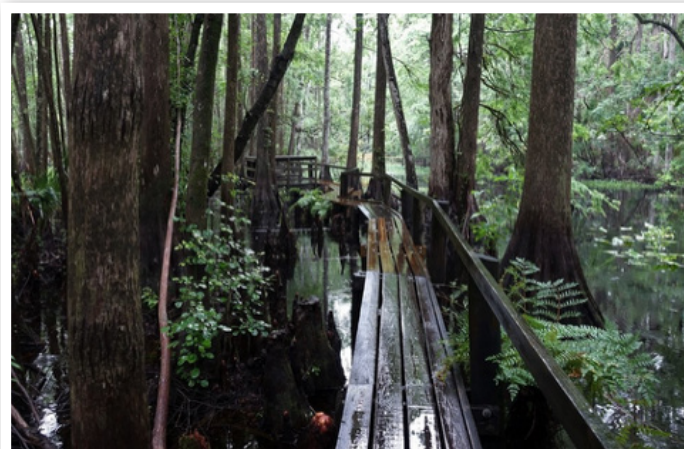
For instance, one time Larry and I were in a state park that was new for us and as we were walking the trail to head back, we both heard deep-chested heavy breathing off the path in the thick nearby vegetation, but neither one of us said anything to the other. If I was to have read that as a possible danger, I didn't. Why? We had

had several Newfoundlands over the course of our marriage and the sound of deep-chested breathing wasn't dangerous; it was "normal." Fortunately whatever it was stayed hidden.

At this same park, part of our trail involved walking on a very narrow boardwalk over the swamp/wetland. There was a railing on only one side of it.



There was nothing to prevent you from going over the other side. I don't know if the park ran out of money or if this was part of the "drama" associated with this boardwalk. The boardwalk was not wide enough for two people and should anyone come in the opposite direction, I was not sure what was to happen.



(Continued on Pg.7)

There also was a sign at the beginning of this boardwalk that cautioned you as to what you should do if a Florida bear should be coming at you on this same boardwalk. Really??? Would I give the bear the right-of-way and jump off the boardwalk? Hmmmmmm.... Did I want to end up in that swampy wetland...sinking down to the bowels of the earth never to be seen or heard from again??? Hmmmmmm.....

On another occasion, I was at Myakka, in the woods that I knew, playing around with Freida the Fabulous Fish and a few of her plush bunny friends. I planned to write a story about rabbits and I needed to take my own fake rabbits to the woods since I never seemed to see rabbits at the park.



"Whoa...." I quickly stepped back. I looked at my cute little bunny peeking out of that stump, and weighed whether it was worth it to go for a retrieval. IT WAS! Oh so quietly I approached the stump... stepping gingerly over the various downed branches in my way. As I got closer, I once more weighed my options. I looked at the cute little bunny...he benignly returned my gaze. Cautiously I continued...closer...closer...a calming breath...and then like lightning, I SNATCHED him back! That was the last hollow stump I ever used for a prop! I was now aware!

Another interesting tidbit was DON'T FOLLOW GAME TRAILS. Since I take cameras with me, I wasn't sure if that made sense since I might like to get THE picture. The author of the article, however, did get my attention when he cautioned that it's easy to become lost/disoriented when following game trails. Animals veer off trails when they choose to jump something and if your leaping days are a thing of the past, you're toast.

A few days later, I asked Larry to go back with me to this same spot so that he could show me what went wrong. I pointed out the animal track that was still there.



Maybe I just need to buy a whistle...or stick to stories about Freida the Fabulous Fish....



Seeing Red Can Be A Good Thing

by Nancy Dobias

It's amazing how quickly a pondscape/landscape can change once the rains arrive. Back in May the back edge of the Pine Pond had gone through some serious mowing to get rid of a lot of unwanted vegetation and to prepare the area for the planting of red cedar trees but...

Even Vera Mae Vulture flew in to check it out....



Although the new vegetation is not enough to hide the view into Pine Ranch, it sure looks as though it will provide an interesting backdrop for that time when the trees are finally planted.

...because the pond was in serious need of some water, the trees that were to be planted were put on hold until the pond could better handle the needs of the trees' irrigation.



If you drive by this pond, check out that red vegetation on the left side of the pond and then imagine how pretty the new trees will look in this setting if some of that vegetation is kept.

Now it's August, just a short 2 months later, and not only have the rains replenished much of the water that had been lost, but the same rains have nourished re-growth on the back edge of the pond.



(Continued on Pg.9)

(Seeing Red continued)

Vera Mae Vulture can imagine and she's already sending out invitations to all of her closest family and friends to check out this pond. She envisions making an "island" out of that red grouping of plants and then perhaps having a few green "islands" as well.



SUDOKU

SOLUTION

6	3	5	7	4	9	8	2	1
8	4	9	2	1	6	7	3	5
7	1	2	3	8	5	6	9	4
4	9	3	8	6	2	5	1	7
5	8	7	1	9	3	2	4	6
2	6	1	4	5	7	3	8	9
3	7	6	9	2	1	4	5	8
9	5	4	6	3	8	1	7	2
1	2	8	5	7	4	9	6	3

PATRIOT DAY

== 9/11 ==

WE WILL NEVER FORGET



ARC Meeting · July 28, 2026

Time/Place: 4:30pm Conference Call 605-313-5721 code 655 3857

Members Present: Joe Casale, John Greco, John Barron

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
1	694 Clear Creek Drive	Kevin Humbert	Replace damaged plants and sod based on submitted landscape plan		X		
2	1092 Mallard Marsh Drive	Mitzi and Mark Bruck	Replace roof with Eagle Palm Beach Blend - shades of browns and grays	Expedited as materials arrived early and delay would have pushed owner back into a 30 day queue.	X		
3	1092 Mallard Marsh Drive	Mitzi and Mark Bruck	Remove overgrown Pygmy Date Palm from the courtyard, grind the stump and replace with dwarf Jatropha		X		
4	1200 Mallard marsh	Diane and Kenneth Berry	Replace all front windows with PGT impact glass with white vinyl frames and grids. Replace one rear window with PGT impact glass with white vinyl frames	New windows will look the same as existing windows.	X		
5	1019 Scherer Way	Steve Tseckares and Mary Pearson	Replace small garage door with hurricane resistant door to match the existing door. Paint new door to match color of existing door.		X		
6	734 Shadow Bay Way	Joe Bernstein	Resubmission of previously approved fence installation (2025). The drawing that was approved showed the front of the fence ending a few feet back from front corner of the home. The fence was installed at the front corner, a few feet closer than drawing submitted.	The difference in placement is not deemed significant as the appearance is not adversely impacted by the actual location.	X		
7	1103 Scherer Way	Maria Helena Garcia	Replace tile roof with Westlake Royal Roofing Saxony 900 Slate - Chestnut Brown - Lake Wales. To be installed by Anthony C. Leonard Roofing	Expedited approval due to active leak	X		
8	1093 Mallard Marsh	Patti and Richard Bunce	Replace rear entrance door with glass paneled hurricane rated door. White frame to match windows. Under pool cage not visible to others.		X		
9	1124 Mallard Marsh	Cindy and Erik Portman	Replace existing tile roof with new Crown tile roof -color Mission Terracota Range installer Yoder roofing	Proposed roof tile is relatively neutral and will go well with body and trim color of house	X		

(Continued on Pg 11)

(July ARC Meeting continued)

10	730 Shadow Bay Way	Earl and Laurie Engleman	Install 1" thick pavers on top of pool deck to be located within existing popo cage area. Appian Stone- Rio color	New pavers will go well with hosue color.	X		
11	1144 Mallard Marsh Drive	Ping Qiu	Replace tile roof with Eagle brand concrete tile; #4679 Light Gray Range	Medium gray roof tile will go well with body of house color (blue)	X		
12	1192 Mallard Marsh	Aaron Graham	Install pavers in driveway and front entryway - Belgrade - Titanium color		X		

Specific Conditions Applicable to Conditional Approvals only (as noted above)

1. If your project is marked "Approved with Specific Conditions", the specific conditions are described above.
2. If there is any ambiguity regarding the specific conditions of approval, it is your responsibility to seek clarification before starting work.
3. If you need further information in order to comply with them, please let the ARC know (ARCRivendell@gmail.com) and it will do its best to be helpful.

General Conditions (applicable to all approvals)

1. Please complete the project within one year from the date above and in accordance with the general and specific conditions that apply.
2. If you use contractors, they should be licensed and insured; you are responsible for damage caused to the property of others or to the common areas.
3. You are responsible for any permits required and that the work complies with local zoning and building regulations.
4. When pressure washing is part of the scope of work, please use non-chlorine cleaners.
5. When windows are being replaced, those in the front of your house must have "grids" (aka muttins or grills).
6. When trees and bushes are to be removed, the stumps must be ground down to a min of 3" below grade.
7. The roof color & material and/or paint colors you submitted (and the only ones the ARC approved) are noted in the Description above.
8. You have read the RCA's Standing Rules and ARC Guidelines and will make sure the work done conforms with them.

Denials

If the ARC denied your request, the reasons are set forth under Comments.

Reviews, Appeals, Mediation, Litigation

If your proposal has been denied or you are unwilling to comply with the General or Specific Conditions of Approval, you should not start work until the matter is resolved. You may ask the ARC to review its decision based on any new information you can make available. You may also ask that the Board of Governors to review the ARC's decision (which it may or may not do) and/or avail yourself of the opportunity to have an independent third party mediate the dispute. You may also take such other legal action as is provided in Florida Statute 720.311. If the Board agrees to review the ARC's decision, it will ask you to state in writing in what ways the ARC's decision is unreasonable.

Covenant & Rules Enforcement; Fines

1. The ARC does not set, impose or waive fines.
2. If you failed to seek or obtain ARC approval before starting work, or proceeded with the work without complying with the conditions of approval, the ARC must recommend a fine to the Board once the failure comes to its attention, even if your project is subsequently approved and the work brought into compliance. The Board makes all decisions related to fines, subject to review and approval by the independent Fines Committee. You will be notified and have an opportunity to challenge the fine at a hearing with the Fines Committee at least 14 days before the fine is imposed.

(Continued on Pg 12)

(July ARC Meeting continued)

3. If the work undertaken would not have been approved by the ARC or approved only with specific conditions, you may incur additional fines and be required to either restore the property or take other remedial action at your own expense to comply with the conditions. Aggrieved neighbors also can seek to have the covenants enforced against you if the RCA fails to do so on their behalf.

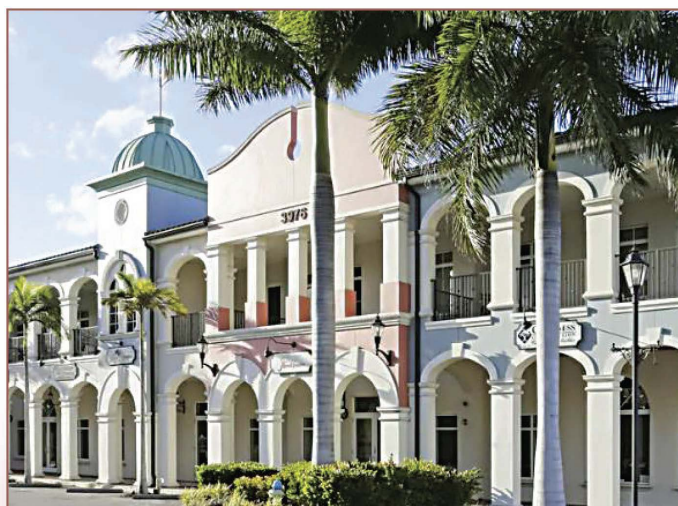
4. Please consult Florida Statutes 720.311 for the enforcement actions (and challenges to them) that are available.

HAPPY Grandparents' Day

Sunday, September 13th

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