



## Let's Follow Sensible County Rules...

### To Keep My Ponds Healthy & Full of Good Eats

By the Rivendell Ponds and Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – June 2020]

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#### Hello from Ollie Osprey!

Thank you for sharing our Rivendell ponds with me and my friends! I'm delighted with the beautiful surroundings and fast-food options for me and my family. The fish is yummy!

However each summer there's a risk of unsightly and smelly algae blooms in the ponds. Yuck! I've heard that excess fertilizer from your landscaping can make algae even worse. Please don't fertilize during the summer months!

Let's follow Sarasota County's recommendations to keep our ponds healthy, beautiful and happy place for all. **Bon Appetite!**

#### On Turtle Pond, Ollie Osprey grabs take-out lunch for his family.

(Photo: Allie Sandow 4/20)

#### Sarasota County's Ordinance & Guidelines for Fertilizer and Irrigation Management

Rivendell ponds are interconnected and at risk for algae blooms which are exacerbated by excess fertilizer runoff from our own lawns and community common areas. Sarasota County has an Ordinance (No. 2007-062) to reduce fertilizer runoff into our waters. The County also issued guidelines to manage irrigation responsibly that saves water and reduces nutrient runoff from over-watered lawns. Please follow these recommendations to help minimize the presence of unsightly algae in our ponds, improve the health of our waters, and keep property values strong. [For more information, click here: "[Pond Algae, Fertilizer, Irrigation and Us.](#)"]

#### Here's What You Need to Know about FERTILIZING

- **June 1 to Sep. 30:** do not apply fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous to turf or landscape plants.
- No fertilizer should ever be applied within 10 feet of any pond, wetland preserve or impervious surface.
- No grass clippings and vegetative debris may be washed, blown, swept or deposited into water bodies, preserves or roadways.
- Sarasota County also recommends installing Low Maintenance Zones (LMZs) around ponds and wetlands to help absorb excess nutrients from runoff.



#### Here's What You Need to Know about IRRIGATING

- Irrigation is allowed only on Tuesdays for even-numbered addresses and Thursdays for odd. Irrigate only on your assigned day before 10:00 AM or after 4:00 PM.
- Inspect sprinkler heads & rain sensors regularly. Maintain them in good operating condition to ensure water is not sprayed onto streets and non-landscaped areas.