



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

September 2025

The President's Report

Larry Dobias



Rivendell is a residential community with narrow streets winding throughout that are designed to limit speeding. The curvature does slow down traffic, but it also creates blind spots and sections where more caution is advisable. The maximum speed limit in Rivendell is 25 mph and a vehicle can travel from one end of the community to the other in just a few minutes while obeying the limit. There is no reason to speed unless there is an emergency.

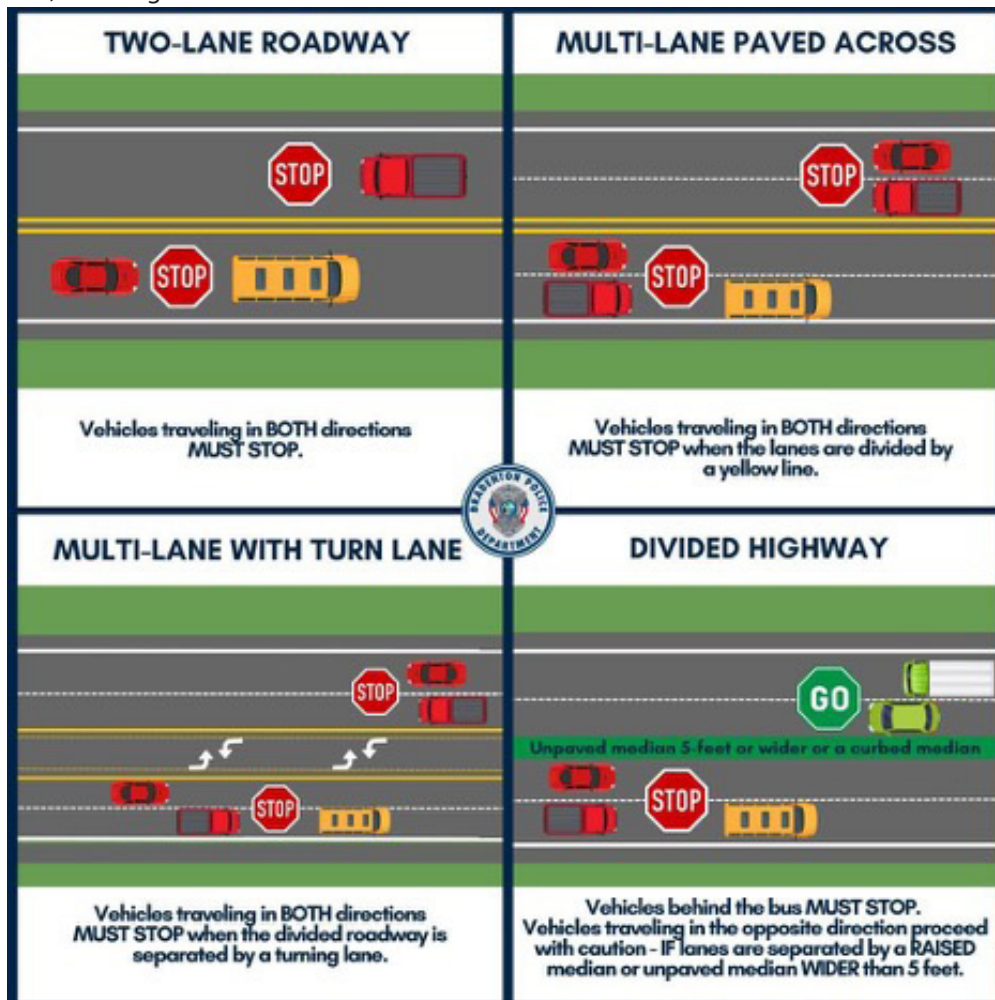
There are many reasons to drive carefully in the community. Many folks are out in the mornings and evenings getting in their walk or taking their pets out for a stroll. School has also started, meaning there will be children on



Photo by Nancy Dobias

their way to Pine View or the bus stop. Not every child or adult pays the attention needed to be safe when facing speeding traffic. Drivers need to maintain a slow speed and be looking for pedestrians at all times.

In addition, the wildlife needs the drivers to be especially diligent. Numerous sightings of several different deer families are being reported along with a pair of sandhill cranes that seem to have taken up residence near Rivendell Lake. Most of us have seen bobcats, turtles and a variety of birds who think nothing of crossing the street without looking. To keep everyone safe, please pay attention and drive within the speed limit.



Out and About at Rivendell

If you're wandering the grounds of Rivendell, and reach Rainbow Point Park, be sure to check out the new park benches.



Photos by Nancy Dobias

Rivendell Book Group Resumes

In September, the Rivendell Book Group will be reading Amanda Peters' novel, "The Berry Pickers". The group will be hosted by Mirinda Roy, and Vivien Cruz will lead the discussion. This group, which has been in existence for at least 20 years in Rivendell, meets on the second Monday evening of each month, except in July or August. Members nominate books to read, and volunteer to host and lead discussions. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or Lesley Glick at (973) 219-5839.



More Emergency Communications Ideas

by Terry Siemsen, CERT

In past articles, I have mentioned using short, almost cryptic messaging with friends and family following an event like a significant hurricane. Here's a few more ideas...

Use a trusted person as your "Point of Status". Determine who you might find to be a reliable person that can relate to others your post-disaster status and be certain that person is willing to accept this responsibility. This means you only need to contact one person, and that Point of Status person relates your situation to all concerned. This obviously needs a bit of prior coordination – with both the "point person" and with all those who may be concerned about you to know "check with this person first". This hopefully will minimize people who are concerned about you from

attempting to ask the same questions of you during an overloaded communication network.

Use social media like Facebook or Instagram to "Mark your Status". This is a bit simpler and is useful if there are Internet connections and people who may be concerned about you are also Facebook and/or Instagram users. This is better for very simple messages like "ok but damaged" or "ok and doing fine" but should not be filled with detail as anyone in the world (including those who prey on storm survivors) can see these comments.

Remember, post disaster communications lines will be jammed, and short text messages are most likely to be transmitted quickly.

KNOW YOUR ZONE - KNOW YOUR HOME



- Know if you live in an evacuation zone
Listen to all orders from local officials
- Plan evacuation routes
- Leave as soon as you're ordered to do so - every moment counts



- If you don't live in an evacuation zone, you may be able to shelter in place
- Know your home and its ability to withstand strong winds & heavy rain

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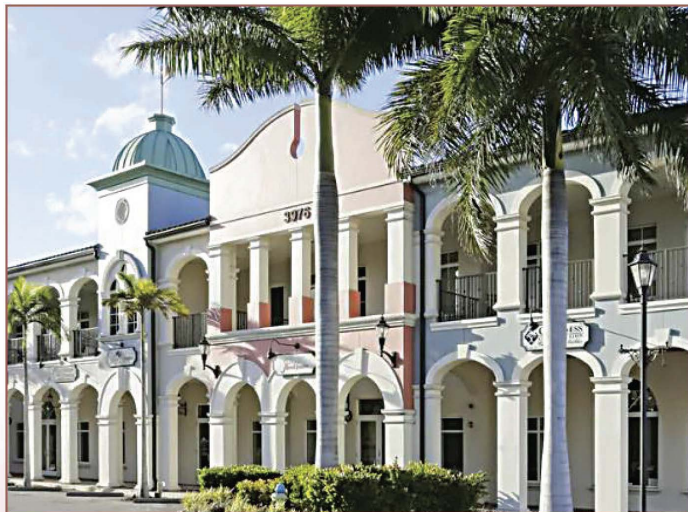
Social Committee Events for September 2025



- ☐ 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. Dates and times of walk will change depending on the season.
- ☐ • Monday, September 8th, 7:30 pm. Book Group. To join, contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or Lesley Glick at (973) 219-5839.
- ☐ • Thursday, September 4th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- ☐ • Thursday, September 18th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.

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

(solution on page 14)

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Love Thy Neighbor- Oscar Scherer State Park

By Bob Frank, Ponds and Preserves Committee

Rivendell residents are blessed in having a great next-door neighbor, Oscar Scherer State Park. This natural oasis of 1,400 acres includes a variety of Florida habitats including hardwood uplands, scrubland, marshes, lakes and an important local watershed, South Creek. The park's land was donated to the State by Oscar Scherer in 1956. What started out as a remote park on the fringes of Sarasota has become an island of wild Florida surrounded by residential development. It's a great spot for outdoor recreation and environmental education. The park is home to several bald eagle nests, gopher tortoises, and the rare Florida scrub jay, a threatened species protected within the park's scrub habitats. Visitors can enjoy

a range of activities, from hiking and biking along well-maintained trails to picnicking at Lake Osprey. Kayaks can be rented if you'd like to experience the serene surroundings along South Creek. Park manager Matt Kruse would like Rivendell residents to know that the park's habitats are dependent on prescribed fire for the survival of threatened and endangered species such as scrub jays and gopher tortoise. He notes that the park was set aside for the purpose of providing Florida's residents and visitors with high quality outdoor recreation and to provide a wildlife sanctuary in what has become a highly urbanized region of Florida. And he encourages Rivendell residents to come for a visit!



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?

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neighbors to build stronger and safer communities.

The Busy Time Of Hurricane Season!

By Terry Siemsen, CERT



Well, it's arrived again! Early to mid-September is the greatest potential for a hurricane to be present in the Atlantic Basin. If a date certain is of interest, September 10th is historically the most likely date that there will be a named storm somewhere in the Atlantic area. Now is the time to firm up your hurricane plans and hopefully we will not need them this year – we had our share of storms the last few years! I never want to wish bad things for others – hopefully all the storms will stay away from land this year.

- Get documents gathered that are critical to your life. Insurance policies, Wills, bank and investment documents, and similar items and have them in one "easy to grab" location.
- Stock up on water, non-perishable food for humans and pets, prescriptions for your family and pets, batteries (not candles unless absolutely necessary) and propane.
- Water for drinking is key. Water for flushing toilets can come from swimming pools. Gatorade or similar drinks are important to replenish electrolytes.

- Have some cash on hand. ATMs and banks may not be open right after a hurricane and stores may be operating without internet access (credit cards need communications to process). A bit of extra cash to 'thank' a helpful person can pay huge dividends.

- Gasoline. As always, a tank half full in your cars means fill it up. If you have a generator, locate your gas cans and have them ready to be filled (but not until it seems likely we may lose power). Safe storage of gasoline is critical – just as critical as safe generator operation and carbon monoxide considerations.
- Be aware we have both elderly residents and newcomers that may need assistance if we have a storm. I'd like to think we are all good neighbors and lending a hand to someone in need may just be repaid when you need help in the future. I like to consider it "paying forward"!
- Have tools for clean up after storms available. Saws, rakes, brooms, sturdy work gloves and boots are important. Remember most storm related injuries occur AFTER the storm passes, not prior to or during a storm. Be safe and work smart.

POST-STORM DEBRIS REMOVAL GUIDELINES

In an effort to expedite the debris removal process, please separate into the categories below.



DEBRIS SHOULD BE PLACED CURBSIDE



DEBRIS SHOULD NOT BLOCK ROADWAY



A Holiday for ALL

Labor Day, celebrated on the first Monday in September, is a national holiday in the United States honoring the contributions and achievements of American workers. Its roots lie in the labor movement of the late 19th century, a period marked by rapid industrialization, harsh working conditions, and a growing push for workers' rights.

In the late 1800s, factory employees often worked 12-hour days, six or seven days a week, in unsafe and unhealthy environments. Even children as young as five or six were part of the workforce, earning only a fraction of adult wages. Labor unions began to organize strikes and rallies to demand better pay, shorter hours, and safer workplaces. These efforts laid the groundwork for what would become Labor Day.

The first Labor Day celebration took place on September 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union. Thousands of workers took unpaid time off to participate in a parade advocating for labor reforms. The idea caught on quickly, and by 1885, Labor Day was being observed in many states.

The holiday's national recognition came after a period of significant labor unrest. In 1894, the Pullman Strike—a nationwide railroad strike—turned violent, leading to the deaths of workers and intervention by federal troops. In an effort to reconcile with the labor movement, President Grover Cleveland signed legislation making Labor Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1894.

Over time, Labor Day evolved from a purely labor-focused event into a broader celebration marking the end of summer. While parades and speeches are still part of the tradition, many Americans now observe the day with picnics, barbecues, and community events.

Despite its modern associations with leisure, Labor Day remains a tribute to the struggles and victories of American workers. It serves as a reminder that the rights many take for granted—like

the eight-hour workday, weekends off, and workplace safety laws—were hard-won through decades of advocacy and sacrifice.

Labor Day stands not only as a marker on the calendar but as a testament to the enduring importance of fairness, dignity, and respect in the workplace.

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ARC Meeting - Tuesday, July 29, 2025

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

Members Present: Jim Duncan, Joe Casale, Bill Borgelt

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	1193 Lost Creek	Candice McHugh	Remove Queen Palm, purportedly neither thriving nor salvageable, with purportedly threatening lean.	On hold awaiting Arborist assessment			
2	901 Scherer Way	Peter Strauss	Install three Bertha HV accordion hurricane shutters, including Entry Door. Color Beige		X		
3	1072 Mallard Marsh	Richard Jurik	Paint gutters and soffits (fascia?) Bronze; install hurricane windows with Bronze frames, no grids		X		
4	831 Placid Lake	Jolanta Budys	Replace windows. Black frames , no grids.	Bronze frames are approved, but Black are denied		X	
5	731 Fordingbridge Way	Jenifer Parker	Replace garage door; painted to match color of body of house.		X		
6	961 Scherer Way	Helena Sutherland	Reroof tile for tile with Crown Birchwood Tuscany		X		
7	1140 Mallard Marsh	Gary Casey	Re-approve 5-14-20 approval to replace pool cage destroyed in hurricane. Bronze		X		
8	762 Shadow Bay Way	Sheila Pies	Re-landscape front per plan		X		
9	691 Clear Creek	Robert Fair	replace pool cage - same dimensions and location; redo pool deck		X		
10	750 Anna Hope Lane	Van Salt	Install removable hurricane shutters and replace front door with hurricane-rated solid six panel wirt left sidelite. Color White		X		
11	922 Eagle Isle	Paul Zak	Plant 14/15 Sweet Viburnum along a 45' line to create a privacy hedge inside the property line shared with John Greco adjacent to side of our pool cage.		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.

(July ARC Meeting continued from Pg.10)

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.
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.



ARC Meeting - Thursday, August 21, 2025

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

Members Present: Jim Duncan, Joe Casale; Bill Borgelt's consent for the actions taken received separately

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)
3	727 Shadow Bay Way	Ina Krebsbach	Repaint Entry door white. Color changed 7-24-25 to SW Lakeshore SW6494		x		
6	1009 Oak Preserve Ln	William Durham	Remove dying Queen Palm - front left corner of House		x		
7	710 Shadow Bay Way	Elizabeth & James Farrell	Plant Sweet Viburnum hedge, east side rear of property parallel to pool cage.		x		
8	790 Shadow Bay Way	David Twiddy	Remove limb for each of two front deciduous trees		x		
9	1080 Mallard Marsh	Jeff & Elaine Densmore	reroof with Westlake Canyon Dust Blend barrel tile 1HBC50025		x		
10	1072 Mallard Marsh	Richard Jurik	repaint. Body: SW 9590 Taupe of the Morning; Trim SW 7035 Aesthetic White; Door SW 7048 Urbane Bronze		x		
11	839 Golden Pond	Robert & Maureen Stewart	Repaint. Body & Garage Doors: BM 1054 Sherwood Tan; Trim: BM 1052 Sea Urchin		x		
12	726 Shadow Bay Way	Antrice & Paul Muther	replace dead Palatka Holly in rear of property with 45 gal Pllatka Holly		x		
13	520 Meadow Sweet Circle	Robert & Jennifer Volk	Patio remodelling, including expansion to accommodate furniture, wheelchair access and eliminate trip hazard		x		
14	743 Shadow Bay Way	Cindy Thomas	Remove mature Oak tree in side yard between property and 747 Shadow Bay Way, Overgrown space; roots lifting and girdling utilities for both properties. 50' tall tree with 60' canopy in a 20' space.		x		
15	1115 Mallard Marsh	Maureen Emmons	replace ST Aug sod front of home		x		
16	782 Shadow Bay Way	Alan & Karen Craig	replace 3 damaged trees and hedge; remove one threatening pine tree; replant flowers around backflow valve		x		

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

(Continued on Pg.13)

(August ARC Meeting continued from Pg.12)

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.

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1. Please complete the project within one year from the date above and in accordance with the general and specific conditions that apply.
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