



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

*Your
Community Resource*

June 2022

A VISION COMING TO REALITY... CAPS RAISED TO THE MC!



It's always good to know why a project is undertaken by the Board. Some projects are done for aesthetic purposes, others are done for safety, and still others are done to try to prolong the life or "health" of an asset.

Several months ago, the Maintenance Committee under the Chairmanship of Chuck Pertile, explored how to best maintain the integrity and beauty of the piers/wall along Rivendell Blvd and at the Old Venice entrance to Rivendell. In addition to being unsightly, the MC wished to figure out a way to better maintain the life of the structures.



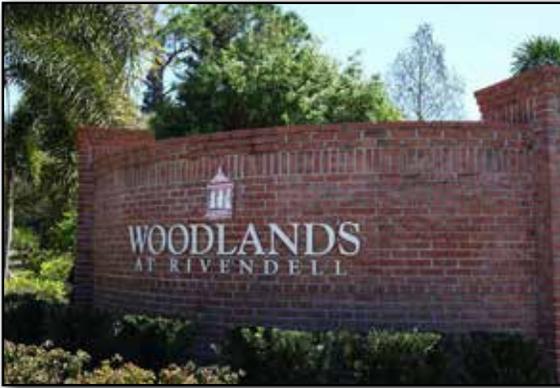
A close examination of the piers/wall showed that some bricks had loosened and had fallen to the ground. Mortar was either non-existent or crumbling in several places. Vines and grass were growing out of and on the structure. The constant seeding of these plants upon and within the structures threatened the integrity since further bricks/mortars would likely be loosened and lost.

To help prevent further damage to the wall/piers/mortar, Mark Giordano suggested a plan. This plan was brought to the Board and the Board approved the project. Money for the project was to come out of the reserve fund set up to manage/maintain this asset.

The first part of the plan called for the bricks being power-washed and sealed. Not only would the bricks look better, but the sealing process would be better for the maintenance of the bricks and it would also help to restore the color of the bricks.

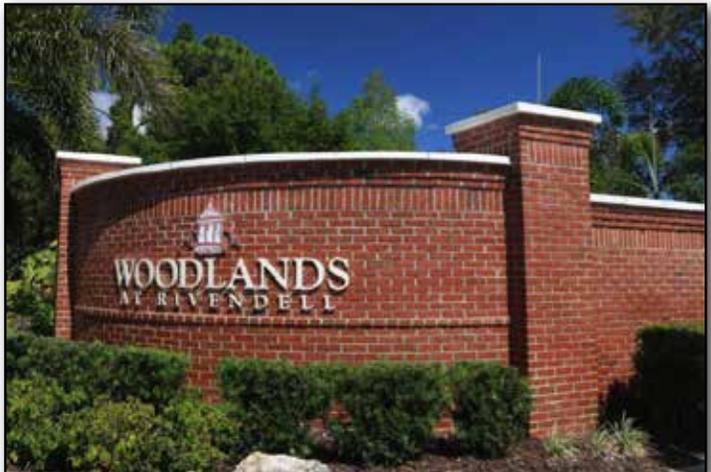
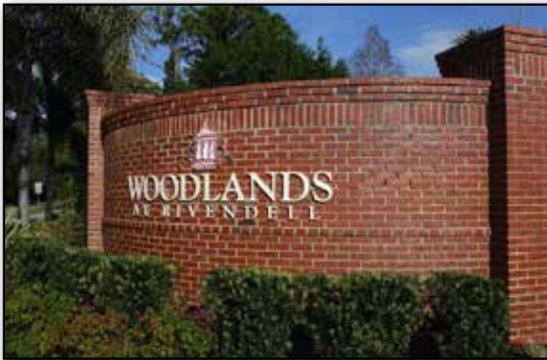
(Continued on Pg. 2)

(A Vision continued from page 1)



Once the power-washing and sealing had been completed, such a difference it had made to the face and appearance of the wall.

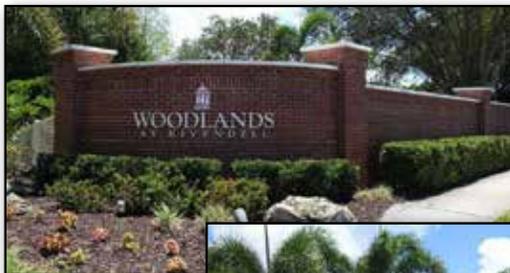
A brighter, more vivid look to our Old Venice entrance greeted all who passed by or used this entrance.



The next step was to add fabricated cement caps to the tops of all the piers/wall. The caps serve not only an aesthetic purpose but also have a functional purpose since once the caps were cemented into place, critters will no longer be able to readily drop their seeds into the interior of the structure and threaten its integrity.

It's hoped that Rivendell will achieve a longer life out of the piers/wall through the installation of the caps and the water-proofing (sealing) of the bricks.

Although the primer, water-proofing, and paint has been applied to the caps on the piers, the caps on the wall could not yet go through this process. Each cap was separated by a mortar joint and 2 weeks were needed for the joints to "set" before any work could begin on these caps.



The final stage involved several volunteers of the Maintenance Committee showing up to apply primer, water-proofing and 2 finishing coats of paint to the caps

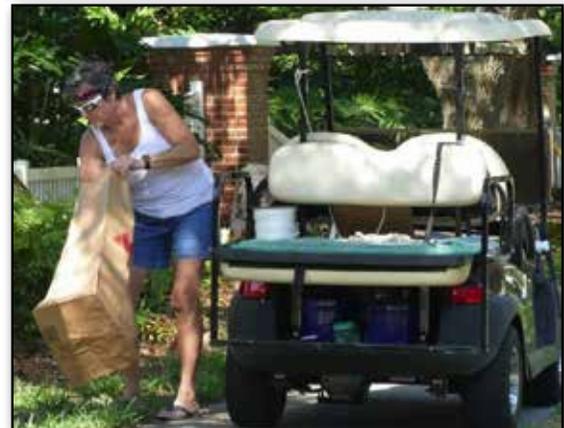
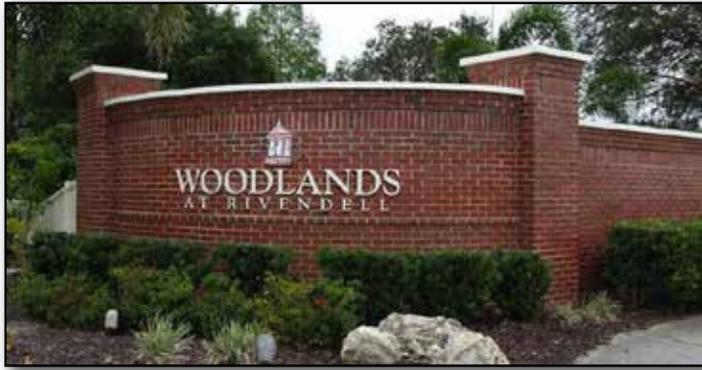


Once the 2 weeks have passed, the MC crew will once more return to deal with the caps along the wall. First the joints will be putted and finally, primer, water-proofing and paint will be applied to the caps that top the wall...
...and THEN the landscaping to replace the plants that were lost when the irrigation broke down will be next on the radar....

(Continued on next page)

(A Vision continued from page 2)

As with maintaining a home, it's a never-ending task and many thanks go to those who volunteered their time, energies or expertise on this project: **Mark Giordano, Chuck Pertile, Greg Volack, Jonah Meyers, Larry Dobias, and Debbie Volack.**



It's thought that Rivendell should seal the bricks and freshen the paint on the caps every 4-5 years. Of course, it should be power-washed before this work is performed.

Stay tuned for when everything is finally completed!



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REAL ESTATE CORNER

By Barbara Gahry

CLOSINGS: STEPS TO GETTING THERE

Well...you put your house up for sale, accepted an offer and now, you are waiting for the settlement date, also called the closing.

Generally, the closing process can take anywhere from 30–60 days after the acceptance of an offer, especially if the purchase is being financed. Financing involves more time and paperwork to get a loan approved. In the case of a cash transaction, it can take less time to settle, since the funds are readily available to close the transaction. The following are generally the steps to getting to the closing table

Home Inspection: One of the first things that will happen after an offer is accepted is the home inspection. At that time, the inspector will conduct a thorough review of the home's condition, including systems, appliances, finishes, and structural issues. If potential problems are identified, other specialists may be brought in for additional inspections. Generally, the inspection report is available within 24 hours. As we are in a low inventory, high demand market, some buyers have been choosing to waive the contingency for a home inspection. Others choose to have an inspection for information purposes only.

Appraisal: The appraisal is generally designed to reassure both the buyer and lender that the home is worth the purchase price. This protects the lender from loaning money that cannot be recouped in the event of a foreclosure. It's also meant to protect the buyer from overpaying for a property that will not retain its value. However, in a low inventory market with high demand, many buyers are opting to waive the appraisal contingency and add personal funds to make up any difference between the purchase price and the appraised price.

Closing Costs: Closing costs are the fees and expenses paid to transact the purchase. These can include:

- Origination fee, paid to the lender to start the loan application
- Underwriting fee, paid to the lender to process the application
- Appraisal fee, paid to the lender to get an estimate of the property's value
- Credit report fee, paid to the lender to check the buyer's credit
- Title search fee, paid to an agency to make sure the seller has the right to sell the property
- Title Insurance, paid to a company to protect the buyer and lender from any damages or losses caused by a defective title.
- Lien search paid to an agency to make sure the seller has paid off any liens on the property, such as utility bills or mechanics liens.
- Survey, paid to a surveyor to determine the property's legal boundaries.
- Recording fee, paid to the local municipality to make the transaction official
- Transfer taxes, called documentary stamps on the deed, paid to relevant government agencies.

Closing costs are typically around 2 to 5 percent of the loan amount. The closing agent usually charges a higher fee for a financed transaction since there is more time and paperwork involved. Cash closings take less time, involve far less paperwork and thus, usually have a lower fee.

Homeowner's Insurance: A homeowner's insurance policy is required before one can close on a financed purchase. The same is recommended for a cash purchase, but not required.

Clear to Close: The loan has received final approval and the closing can now be scheduled. Upon approval, the closing agent will let the buyer know the amount of money needed to bring to the closing table. Most closing agents require a wire transfer of funds and will provide very specific instructions. Unfortunately, hackers frequently access information about pending sales and send fraudulent wiring instructions. It then becomes essential for the buyer to exercise extreme caution during this process.

Final Walk-through: Either the day before closing or earlier on closing day, a walk through is scheduled. At that time, the buyer will check to ensure that the house is in the same condition as agreed upon in the sales contract and that any negotiated repairs have been properly completed. If there is damage to the home or negotiated repairs have not been completed, the buyer may request that funds be withheld from the seller at closing in order to complete these items. Alternatively, the sellers can pre-schedule and pre-pay for repairs after the closing. A walk through may be waived if the buyer is not present and a friend or relative is not available to do it.

Closing Day: Closing day is probably the most exciting part of the process. Although the closing is generally scheduled in the office of an attorney or title company, it could also be held remotely. Documents can be sent to the buyer and/or seller, if unable to attend in person. The documents must be signed in front of a notary public and then returned via overnight courier. Sellers and/or buyers, even if local, will sometimes sign documents ahead of the actual closing date. Disbursement of funds, however, is always on the day of closing.

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Exploring the Wonders of Our Magnificent Preserves.

Beautiful. Yet Seldom Seen or Walked by Most Residents.

By Dave Gill, Member, Ponds and Preserves Committee

Greg and Dave's Excellent Preserve Adventure

One day in mid-March this year, I had the rare opportunity to explore areas of our Rivendell owned preserves, seldom seen or walked by most Rivendell residents. I rode in Greg Volack's (current RCA Board member) converted golfcart/dune buggy through some very beautiful and interesting woods, along with Greg's Labrador, Grace.

The path we took started at the very southwest end of Scherer Lake at the end of Mill Pond Court. We then wound around east of Scherer Lake, along the Oscar Scherer State Park boundary, over the land bridge by Eagle Lake, along the shore of Eagle Lake and the big preserve then over the short bridge with Placid Lake and back to Scherer Way Street.

Rivendell's southeast corner has a unique preserve with several acres made up of a hardwood hammock of mostly tall slash pines, some with strangler figs binding their trunks.

There are thick patches of Saw Palmetto and an open, round, small or micro wetland. Slowly and silently wandering through this natural forest was very moving. It was beautiful, with the sunlight piercing through the canopy of trees, the slight smell of pine needles and the absolute silence, except for the occasional sound of a critter.

Our Preserve Habitats are Home to Abundant Wildlife

We could hear the distant call of a Bluejay, a caw of a crow, the splashes of an alligator and a couple of turtles disturbed by our approach, jumping from their sunny spot on the shore back into the water. Deer can often be seen in the open grassy areas. A bobcat makes this area home too. Several years ago, I saw wild pigs rooting near the lake. The water was clear. Over a bright sandy bottom, we could see some tilapia and bass. A wide path through the palmettos had been cut next to the park boundary fence as a fire break. Already, new bright green shoots poke up about two feet high, and multiple ferns now cover the forest floor.

A Little Historical Perspective

Originally all this area, including all of Rivendell, was **Calusa land**. The Calusa Indians made settlements locally on the high ground hammocks near the coast, eating fish and shellfish. They made their large houses out of our local hardwoods. In the 17th and 18th centuries, much of the southern pine forest was harvested for lumber. The resin was used to make tar to seal wooden ships and coat their standing rigging.

Much of what we see in the preserves was replanted. Many local pines were tapped to collect resin that was converted into turpentine. An abandoned turpentine factory is close by, in the woods just east of Old Venice Road, south of the Palms at Casey Key subdivision.

In 1911, the Barnum Circus had the Seaboard Railroad build the rail-line between Sarasota and Venice for their winter camp, using pine logs for rail ties. This line is now the **Legacy Trail**, running straight through the park just east of us. Then came the cattle farmers, clearing land for pastures.

Cattle fences can still be seen in the park and in the northern preserve next to Park Trace.

Saw Palmettos and Slash Pines

Slash pines are fast growing and can reach 75 to 100 feet tall. They slowly drop their lower branches, live to 70 or 80 years and can withstand burning around their trunks, if the fire stays low enough. In the past, lightning started natural fires. Today, prescribed burns in the park reduce the brush. In fact, fire can help the female pinecones on the ground pop open and spread their seeds. The smaller male cones stay longer in the trees and release their pollen in winter and early spring. Since the tree canopy is high, a thick understory of ferns and saw palmettos can develop.

Palmettos are fuel to a fire and can be a severe fire hazard. When cut or burned, the palmetto quickly come back with underground shoots. In some areas the slash pine has been replaced by the Loblolly and Longleaf Pine, which are hardier, grow taller and longer. Slash pines are prone to be infected with a *Fusarium Rust* fungus that will turn the needles yellow and weaken the tree enough for pine beetles to eventually kill it. Unfortunately, we have lost, and will lose, many slashpine trees in our parks, preserves and throughout Sarasota County to this deadly fungal disease.

Beneficial and Vibrant Wetlands

In the center of the southeast preserve we went through is a large (about 100 yards in diameter) open wetland with a perimeter of dry, dead grasses and a small center of water. In the water were several whistling ducks, with a great blue heron and two great egrets standing on the perimeter. We saw a Bald Eagle standing by the lakeshore and several Ibis flew by.

Come back through this area between June and October; the wetland should be filled with water. One of these round wetlands is in the center of all our eleven preserves and provide habitat for a multitude of wildlife, including deer, alligators, sand hill cranes and many of our wading birds.

Enjoy Our Preserves. Look, Listen, Smell, But Please Don't Touch.

The Rivendell Community Association manages our preserves under permits from Sarasota County. We are responsible for keeping them clean and natural. Nothing can be cut down, dumped or planted in a preserve. We must hire a contractor to help control exotic, non-native invasive plants such as melaleuca, and Brazilian pepper trees. They also control excess vines, reduce highly flammable plants and dead brush, keep fire lanes and paths open and correct incursions by homeowners.

All the paths are open for residents to walk. Be careful not to tread on private property at the access points. Enjoy seeing and hearing the wildlife, absorbing the intrinsic, natural

(Continued on next page)

ambiance of quiet woods with a verdant canopy above you. Enjoy the scenic value of open fields. Go in the morning, wear good walking shoes and long pants. Leave only footprints. Take a friend with you or have a cellphone. But turn it off. **Enjoy what is ours, so close to home.**

Editor's note: **Special thanks to Dave Gill for sharing this personal story and his unique perspective with our community and to Nancy Dobias for her accompanying preserves photos.**



Lightning can start natural fires. Today, prescribed burns in the park reduce the brush. In fact, fire can help the female pinecones on the ground pop open and spread their seeds. The smaller male cones stay longer in the trees and release their pollen in winter and early spring.



Many of our preserves are made up of a hardwood hammock - mostly tall Slash Pines with Saw Palmettos.



A wide path through the palmettos had been cut next to the park boundary fence as a fire break. Already, new bright green shoots poke up about two feet high, and multiple ferns now cover the forest floor.



Some of our preserves also feature an open, round, small or micro wetland.



Our preserve habitats are home to abundant wildlife. Working together, we can keep these areas healthy and vibrant to attract our wildlife friends.

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Our recent google review shares our client's experience learning how well Blair is thought of by clients and manufacturers. We strive to provide service that supports you in hearing your best, and this review shows off how well we have been doing that for years.

Google Review: J. Kostbar 1/8/2021

★★★★★ I have now gotten my 3rd pair of hearing aids from Blair Post. I wanted to share a story with you about how well thought of Blair is, literally nationally.

As part of the process of setting up my new hearing aids, Blair had asked me to bring in my Resound streamer boxes and he would link them up. Upon getting home, I was plugging them in and broke a little door piece on the back of one and thus the cord would not stay in the box.

I phoned Resound Customer Service and spoke with an Agent based out of Minnesota. He asked me who sold me my hearing aids.

When I told him Blair Post and Contemporary Hearing he knew right away who Blair was. I asked him how in the heck he could know Blair in our little town of Venice.

He told me that he deals with 3000 plus hearing aid providers on behalf of Resound and that he has had so many calls through the years from patients of Blair who just rave about him.

He told me that he fields so many calls every day, from people that are dissatisfied from their providers. Quite an amazing story, almost unique....so I just wanted to share it.

And PS, I would certainly recommend Blair and Contemporary Hearing to anyone.

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Bob Frank Named President of Friends of Myakka Rivendell Resident to Lead Park Supporters



Bob, a regular contributor in the Woodlands Word and Chair of Ponds and Preserves Committee, has been visiting Myakka River State Park for over 25 years. He has hiked and biked the park's many trails, but his first love is the park's wildlife. "This is my Serengeti. I can come here any day of the week and know I will see something special. This is one of the must-do places we bring friends and family when they visit."

During his working years, Bob was a professor and dean at several universities in Ohio. He is trained as a neuroscientist and conducted research in the areas of drug abuse and human taste and smell perception. He retired several years ago and moved to Rivendell, allowing more frequent visits to the park. In addition to serving on the Board of the Friends of Myakka River, Bob is a board member on the Friends of Oscar Scherer Park. In his spare time, he and his wife, Allison Sandow, enjoy wildlife photography, cycling and summer trips in their travel trailer.

Congratulations Bob and thanks for sharing your many talents with all of us.



NEIGHBORS BY NANCY Giordono LIFE SO FULL

Among the earliest of Rivendell residents, Kristine Nickel and Jack Klingensmith have never looked back on their decision to buy their lovely model home on Shadow Bay Way in December 1999. At the time, the streets of Rivendell were laid out but only a smattering of homes was built. They enjoyed watching the build out of the community and getting to know the residents who not only invested in real estate but invested in the growth and vitality of Rivendell.

Kristine reminisced about walking their Aussie Kayla, unleashed, on Mallard Marsh to the big mound of dirt - Butterfly Park, of course. Today, daily walks with Stan and Henry (dogs #4 and #5), leashed, are a joy on the sidewalks throughout the neighborhood and parks. They have many furry friends to play with while Kristine and, occasionally, Jack can catch up with 2-legged neighbors.

Jack's childhood was spent in Florida before moving to Chicago for high school. He graduated with high honors from both DePauw University and Northwestern University School of Law. Jack built a successful and distinguished career which included three-years in the elite Air Force JAG Corps on the West Coast, based at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Wa.. Later, his law practice concentrated in government and municipal issues across the state of Florida. Impressively, Jack litigated cases before the Florida and U.S. Supreme Courts. Now retired, he has "loved the practice of law".

Kristine's career, focusing on communication and public relations, has included corporate, nonprofit, journalism, and consulting. Whether she has worked on messaging or the branding of a product, an organization, or even a public campaign on the importance of civility (Because It Matters, and does now more than ever!), her insightful and discerning style works wonders. She wrote a wine column for *The Chicago Tribune*, travelling extensively in the wine regions of the world. In Florida, she critiqued restaurants for *The Herald Tribune* and was the Wine and Food Editor for *Style Magazine*. (Okay, so why do others get the best jobs... well-fed, choice of White or Red?)

Community involvement has been important to them. Sarasota's cultural activities and available venues "are so astonishing" Kristine said. One close to her heart is The Ringling College Library Association, where she has served on the Board and as its President, 2013-2014. She had the honor to serve as Chair of the Association's Town Hall (TH) Lecture Series in 2012, landing speakers Laura Bush, Bill O'Reilly, and Tina Brown, among others. She and Jack have met speakers



Kristine and Jack enjoying a Ringling College Library Association Event

George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and so many others. (see list of speakers: <https://www.rclasociation.org/speakers-list/>.)

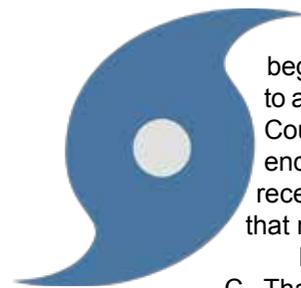
Jack's most memorable meet and speak was with Doris Kearns Goodwin, renowned Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning Author. He thought about what he might ask her. But then, both being #ExtremeBaseballFans, they simply and delightfully exchanged stats and memories of the Brooklyn Dodgers!

Rivendell has benefitted from Jack's and Kristine's talents. At a crucial time when strong, startup leadership was necessary, Jack spearheaded

the organization of the Board and executed the initial governing documents of Rivendell. Kristine serves as the Chair of the Communications Committee – she can be thanked for many things, including this newsletter.

Recently Kristine noted she and Jack still, after 23 years, say "Yes" to the Rivendell she described as a unique neighborhood so full of life and nature's beauty. She noted Sarasota has been a great place for them both where they each, and together, have been able to lead a life so full.

Hurricane Season



June 1 is the start of hurricane season. It is the best time to begin planning your personal approach to an impending storm. While Sarasota County has a myth about an Indian legend protecting this area from a storm, recent hurricane in the region have put that myth to rest.

Rivendell lies in an Evacuation Zone C. That means that we would evacuate in preparation for a predicted storm surge of 18 feet. While wind is a fearsome element in a hurricane, it is water that typically causes the most damage. So, paying attention to storm surge prediction is important.

For more information, visit Sarasota County's website www.SCgov.net. And remember, do not wait until the last minute to prepare. Follow one of the many guidelines online or published by local newspapers to create your personal plan to stay safe.



The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at
WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM
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Unofficial Board of Director's Meeting Notes - May 2022

Submitted by Nancy Dobias

If you didn't "attend" the May 18, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting and you'd like to know what might have happened, below is my UNOFFICIAL version or understanding of that meeting. Because my version is UNOFFICIAL, you should always consult the official version that will appear on the website. Mine could have errors or I could have misinterpreted what was said.

All Directors were present for the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

Larry stated that the committees do a tremendous amount of work within the community. The Pond & Preserve manages roughly 175 acres to ensure our ponds stay healthy and that our commitments with the county are met. The MC is completing the pier project that has enhanced the curb appeal of the Old Venice entrance. The Communications Committee provides us with informative articles via the *Woodlands Word* and through the development of our community *Directory*. The Social Committee organizes a variety of activities to give us an opportunity to get to know one another. Larry added that being a member of a committee is not a career choice, that if anyone would like to join a Rivendell committee, they would be welcomed.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Steve DeHart)

There have been 18 ARC requests received this month and all were approved but there are still owners who are not turning in an ARC request and are now subject to a \$100 fine for failure to do so. Steve reported that the Fining Committee met and approved the previous fines imposed by the Board. The next meeting for the Fining Committee is scheduled for May 31.

Steve is still looking into what companies might do a reserve study for Rivendell. He seemed to be leaning towards engineering groups that are popular in other communities, but Larry felt Rivendell only had a pool and playground and to hire an engineering firm to study the reserves would not justify the extra expense.

There was also some discussion about how the reserve study builds in the costs of inflation when it determines how much money should be set aside in each reserve fund. When the Stabler group did a study for Rivendell, they had an automatic 3% increase built into their formula to account for rising costs/inflation. No one had to look at any tables to see if the reserve funds were covered sufficiently. It was built into the formula. Other groups prefer a different method. They want the computation done each year and then have the rate adjusted accordingly. (I don't know if that involves hiring someone each year to determine those numbers or if this system relies upon the Board Treasurer knowing how to do this.)

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Daignault)

Cathy reported that the April financials show that Rivendell has \$480,694 in assets (not capital assets) and of this number, \$271,445 is in reserves. There is \$9321 owned by

various owners either by short paying what is due, not paying their entire January assessments, or by being in violation or in collections. (4 owners have short paid their assessments and 13 have not paid their total January assessments yet.) Through the end of March, we are \$3085 over budget in income and our expenses for the year are \$10,296 under budget. There has been one disbursement from the reserve fund during this period...\$6100...from the Walls, Fences, Signs account. For the year, we have spent \$18,459 from the reserves.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Kevin Boggess)

No report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARC (Kevin Boggess)

Kevin reported that the committee received and approved 18 requests. He also indicated that ARC is currently working on revising its Guidelines to make them more current and to also better match what they actually do within their committee. Rich Bunce has been working on the wording and revising and then bringing the changes back to the committee for discussion or further revision. The proposed Guidelines are almost complete but ARC would like to look at them one more time before they bring them to the Board for Board approval and adoption.

Cathy Daignault asked what types of changes/revisions were they dealing with. Kevin said that most were just in the wording but that there were some ARC Guidelines that were there from past revisions or practices that the current ARC feels do not belong there. Greg Volack gave the example of "street parking." It's not something that should have been put under the domain of ARC. Therefore, it should be taken out. Kevin also added that the paint palette needed to be adjusted, etc.

Kevin said they want to make the ARC Guidelines more appropriate and current with what matches their responsibilities and the committee hopes that these proposed revised guidelines will do that.

2. MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE (Chuck Pertile)

Chuck indicated that there have been many compliments concerning the pier/wall update. Chuck stated that this project was made possible because we had an owner, Mark Giordano, who had the necessary skill set and Mark was willing to share that skill set with the community.

Chuck added that there is still more work to be done on the wall. The mortar joints are being putted, and then primer, water-proofing and paint will be done before this job is considered complete. Chuck thanked all those who volunteered to work on these details. In addition to Mark and Chuck, they were Greg Volack, Jonas Meyer, and Larry Dobias.

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 11)

Electrical upgrades have been installed in and around the pool. A water-proof circuit box, an emergency stop to the electrical system were both installed within the pool complex. Outside the pool complex, an upgrade to the landscape lighting is being done. In the wooded section behind the pool deck, the 110 lighting is being replaced by LED lights. Graham Electric was hired to do these jobs.

Greg Volack asked Larry if all county requirements for the pool had now been met. Larry said that yes, the signs are installed and the drain cover in the pool has been OK'd.

Chuck added that Gorilla Clean completed the power-washing of community sidewalks Wednesday afternoon and that all were looking good.

3. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (Kristine Nickel)

Kristine reported that it's up in the air as to when the Directories will be received. All deadlines were met by her committee but there seems to be a hang-up on the publishing end. Since the publisher does not charge us to produce these Directories, perhaps more ads still need to be sold in order to cover the costs of production. Everything is there at the publisher. It's up to them when this *Directory* is produced. We have nothing to hold over them since this is a free service.

Because some people asked Kristine if there could be a revival of the NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS column that used to be printed in the old issues of the *Woodlands Word*, Kristine asked that this feature be revived for July only. (For you who might not know, this column is an ad service where people offer their services for a price...baby-sitting, pet-sitting, house-sitting, computer repair, math tutor, etc.) If this is to happen, there will be no July newsletter. Instead, there will be an entire issue devoted to people offering their services. In the June issue of the *Woodlands Word*, there will be an announcement of this July format and also a blast will be sent to owners.

The Board agreed it sounded like a good idea and they approved the plan.

Kristine also thanked Barb Gahry, Sue Remy, Nancy Giordano and Nancy Dobias for the work contributed to the WW. She also asked ARC if it would be possible to give her a list of the approved requests since owners like reading about these updates Kevin agreed to do so.

4. POND & PRESERVE COMMITTEE (Sue Remy)

Sue stated that there soon will be a large scale planting project along the shorelines of our various ponds. Some members have been walking pond perimeters to ascertain the needs of each pond. A binder was created that detailed their observations and they're hoping that these observations might guide them towards selecting the right plant for the right pond. In the binder, they've noted which ponds have too much shell along their shorelines, where the ponds are sunny or shady or what other conditions might be present that could affect how well a plant thrives. Typically Spikerush, Pickerelweed and Duck Potato were the plants that were installed in the past, but now they are talking with their consultant and with Solitude about other possible options that might work out better.

Sue also indicated that to date, the committee had earned \$13,000 in grant monies for Rivendell. She also said that they are continuing to monitor what is happening within the preserves of Rivendell.

Larry added that there have been 12 incursions into the preserves and in the week of June 2, Rick Richards Co will be here to remediate these incursions. Grass, banana trees and unwanted plants will be killed or removed. Wax myrtle and saw palmettos will be planted. He also stated that this same company recently completed its forestry mowing project we had hired them to do on 3 acres of common land that borders Park Trace. Cathy asked how it went and Larry indicated that all the experts brought in agreed that this was a good move, that Rivendell was taking a pro-active approach in "managing" its common land, that it's not good to allow forested areas to grow unchecked since it's not beneficial to wildlife or to the trees.

5. SOCIAL COMMITTEE (Larry Dobias)

The committee is looking for someone to coordinate the Dine-In group. This group generally meets every 4-6 weeks at someone's home and the home shifts from person to person. People bring a dish to share. It's also a BYOB. It's thought to be a great way to meet neighbors.

The Mix and Mingle that was held last month had about 25 people in attendance. There's another one scheduled for tonight, May 19, 5:00-6:30 PM at the pool. Bring your own drink and a snack to share if you'd like.

There are 3 sandwich boards that have been bought that will announce upcoming events. These are to be stored at Lighthouse offices.

NEW BUSINESS

1. TREE WORK

GreenTopps was hired to do tree work in 4 areas of the community. Cost will be \$14,900. They will be working in Rivendell Park, across the street from Rivendell Park, in the wooded section around the cul de sac of Rivendell Blvd, and across from Bobcat Pond on Mallard Marsh.

In Rivendell Park, GreenTopps will be getting rid of all the "starter" palms that keep popping up within the park. They will remove all the volunteer palms that are 1.5 feet to 5 feet tall, and they will get rid of the heavy under-story as well as the stumps that were left behind when a dead tree was removed. It's hoped that there will be a "cleaner" look to this park. All the saw palmettos are to be targeted.

Dave Gill felt that this was not a park in which kids played and so the saw palmettos should stay. Larry said that the saw palmettos never stop putting down volunteers, that it's a constant battle keeping up with their growth, that they don't belong in a park, that they only encourage rats and snakes, that if they're anywhere, they should be in the preserves.

The clean-up across from Rivendell Park or along Rivendell Blvd between Fordingbridge and the cul de sac is mostly about trees that overhang the street or sidewalk and threaten those who bike or walk along these sections. Cathy asked if the area around the cul de sac was Pine View property and Larry told her we would only be working on the section that belongs to Rivendell.

(Continued on Pg. 13)

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 12)

Across from Bobcat, the wooded section along Mallard Marsh is to get a little attention and it's hoped that this grooming might work to discourage any of the unwanted dumping that has occasionally happened in this wooded section. Perhaps with a little "tweaking," better results might be obtained....

2. HOLIDAY DECORATING

A professional service was hired to do the holiday decorating for Rivendell. There were 3 levels of service that were considered but the MC decided that the \$7000 level was the one that made sense since only that level included the section of our community that encompasses the non-park section of Rivendell. It was stated that most of the money seems to be spent trimming trees in the parks and that it's good to be able to decorate the "islands" of trees that anchor various ponds on Placid Lake, Scherer Way, etc. We can't keep doing everything on only one side of the community. It's good to do things everywhere within Rivendell.

The company will provide the decorations and will put everything up and take them down. Plans provide for the Rivendell Blvd lampposts to receive lights instead of swags. They will decorate the wall, the signs, the traffic islands, the bridge and 50 palms within the community.

There was some discussion as to whether this was a good use of money, why didn't the volunteers just continue to do it? It was thought that it was not good to be putting people on ladders and risking injuries, that people are unwilling to do this forever, that it took a lot of time and effort to keep those outside lights functioning, that a professional company could do it better.

Kristine Nickel stated that the MC has gone above and beyond our expectations in upgrading our facilities and beautifying our landscape, that through its hard work and vision, they have moved us up a notch in beauty and attractiveness. The MC members should not be putting their health at risk, and that going to a professional company to handle our decorating needs is just another way to further and augment the unique appeal which Rivendell has.

Cathy asked where the money would come from and Larry stated that we always have a surplus at the end of the year and it's this money that could be used for this project. He also stated that if Rivendell wants to decorate for the holidays, it does need to create a line item in the budget so that its future needs are covered.

There will be work done to address the electrical boxes around the islands of trees so that the holiday lights stay lit. These are the palm tree groupings along our various lakes on Placid Lake, and Scherer Way. (Maybe Crane Pond too???) A down-payment of \$3500 will be sent to this company to start the ball rolling and so that Rivendell gets put on the list of communities that are to be decorated in a timely manner.

3. OLD VENICE AND BRIDGE PLANTINGS

The MC had gotten a proposal from MRT to replace some of the dead plants at the bridge and at the Old Venice entrance but since they did not care for the plants selected, Chuck said he wasn't prepared to ask the Board for a resolution to do these 2 sections. Larry reminded Chuck that the Board would

not meet in June/July and that was the rainy season, that he should at least ask for a guesstimate of what MRT proposed. They didn't have to spend all that they requested and the Board could trust the judgment of the MC in the selection of the right plants. Since the MRT proposal was \$6000 in each section, it was suggested that Chuck ask for a resolution to spend no more than \$12,000 to do the landscaping needed in these 2 sections.

Currently they are looking at colorful shrubs in varying sizes that would present well in front of the front wall and at the bridge. They don't want anything that's too big to hide the bridgework or walls/piers. They don't want to rip everything out. They just want to work with what is already there and is still viable and attractive and see what could augment that. They're exploring having a theme to their plantings so they're looking at what could work in both locations. They also know that there is need for new sod.

After much discussion, Chuck went with the recommendation to ask for no more than \$12,000 to remediate the 2 locations. Nothing will be done until the irrigation repairs happen and this is still an ongoing problem in the area. Greg stated that they are still waiting on the CPU that controls the irrigation and that there are 17 other communities also waiting for the same thing. In the meantime he and Chris (from the Cottages) continue to work the system manually until this CPU can be installed.

Greg also announced that the Rainbow Point island plant replacements were to happen on June 15 and that the irrigation upgrade at the bridge has been approved and it's still waiting for things to happen....

4. MISC RESOLUTIONS ETC

a) FPL found some burnt out wires and we needed to hire someone to repair them. Graham Electric did the work for \$585.

b) Two rusted grates and parking stops at the pool needed to be purchased. Cost was \$2500.

c) Signs needed to be installed at the restroom doors warning people to be careful when going into the restrooms. Someone slipped and fell going into the bathroom. The MC will be inspecting the floor to decide what other things could be done to make the "step down" safer for those who don't know there is a difference in levels to the floor deck and the floor bathroom. Would a mat help? What else could be done?

5. NON-COMPLIANCE FINE

A homeowner had received the 3 notices warning of several landscape issues on the property. It was asked whether anyone was in residence and knew that the property was not in compliance. Greg stated that he had personally told the owner he had issues that needed his attention. Directors Kevin Boggess and George Smith wanted to know what would happen if the owner corrected the issues within the 10 day period leading up to the \$1000 fine. Larry said that the fine doesn't officially happen until the Fining Committee rules on it so if the changes were made, then the Fining Committee would have the option of not agreeing to the fine. Cathy asked

(Continued on Pg. 14)

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 13)

if the violations were all lumped together as one or counted separately. My understanding was that the owner had all of the landscape violations lumped together and counted as one.

The Board agreed to fine the owner \$100 a day up to a maximum of \$1000. Once officially notified, the clock starts ticking and the owner may appeal to the Fining Committee. At this point another owner interrupted and said that she was upset that she didn't like being fined for having a door that someone didn't like. After much back and forth, it was discovered that she was not fined for a door color, she was fined \$100 for not filling out an ARC request when she changed out her door. She said her door was falling apart and it was an emergency. Somehow a pathway beside the home got mentioned but I'm not sure of its relevance. My guess was that it seems to have been put there to make it easier for her to maneuver beside her home and no permission was granted for that to happen. It was mentioned that this woman had balance problems/vision problems and she couldn't maneuver well on muddy ground and this sidewalk was created to accommodate her needs but it also was mentioned that this sidewalk seemed to have been put on a drainage easement. After much discussion, Kevin Boggess suggested that she stay after the meeting and that they arrange a time when they could both get together at her home and at which time Kevin might explain further what was happening and why it was happening and to see what was happening with the walkway.

6. POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE COVENANT

Several people have asked the Board to consider making a few changes to the Covenant now that there is a chance that these changes might be supported.

Larry brought up 3 changes:

1. One is to codify the LMZ so it's no longer a standing rule, but instead is part of our Covenants.

2. The second is to strike out the words that require all lots to have a sidewalk installed at homeowner expense at the front of their lots. There are 158 homes who do not have sidewalks in front of their homes. Since this rule has not been enforced, it should be eliminated.

3. The third is to strike out the restrictions that deal with trucks and on-street parking.

Cathy felt that the trucks and parking should not be lumped together. They should be separated. An owner might support one, but not support the other. How would he vote if they were both lumped together? Larry said they are already in the same amendment. Why would we offer this same amendment with all those different variations? Yes on trucks, yes on street parking; Yes on trucks, no on street parking; No on trucks, no on street parking; No on trucks, Yes on street parking

Greg and George agreed with Cathy that it would be no problem to do it this way. Larry said that he'd write it up and he'd ask an attorney for guidance as to what would make sense but he again stated that if you change one part of the amendment dealing with trucks/on street parking and you don't change the other part of it as well, how did that help make your document enforceable? You're back to square one.

HOMEOWNER COMMENTS

1. Dave Gill requested more than one day's notice for meetings should be given. Steve DeHart said that he had posted the signs in the community on Monday but that the blast did go out a little later in the evening than normal.

Dave also said that each year the Directory comes out later and later. He suggested that work begin earlier. (He must not have caught the comment that Kristine made when she said the deadlines were met. She cannot control when the publisher decides to produce something that is done for free.) Dave's third comment dealt with his frustration with tree removal. Larry told him that they did discuss his email at the MC meeting but that currently there are no immediate plans to install trees. Greg told Dave they did just plant a tree in Rainbow Point Park.

2. Carole Myles asked how long Lighthouse keeps records on file. Steve said that there are things on computer going back to 2017-2018. Larry added that Florida 720 requires that records are kept for 7 years and then they can be destroyed. There was some discussion as to how she might get some old records that she had wanted.

THE BOARD WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE OR IN JULY. THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Rivendell Service Directory to be Published in July You Asked for It. You'll Get It



The July issue of the WW will be devoted to publishing a Directory of Services provided by Rivendell residents. We are revisiting a former feature in the Woodlands Word that has been missed. The only difference is that this will be published ONCE a year.

If you do "handyman" services, you belong here. Teach yoga? It's for you.

Dog walking? Yep. Tutoring? Absolutely.

There is NO COST involved. You simply have to submit your service; your name; your contact information and a description of what your services cover. For example, if you walk dogs, but don't house sit overnight with dogs, specify that. Or, if you walk and house sit dogs, but don't water plants, specify that. In other words, be as clear as possible of what your services cover. Since this is a once a year directory, make sure you specify if you are a snow bird.

Deadline is June 15. And, that's a hard stop. Please send all information to Kristine@nickelcommunications.com. Remember, this is a once a year shot, so don't miss out.



Rivendell Calendar of Events JUNE 2022

Note: If you wish to have your event listed, please submit to Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com) by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the calendar for the following month. We welcome your submissions.

For the most up-to-date information check the Rivendell website at www.rivendellcommunity.com

Rivendell Yoga and Meditation Class via zoom on Monday, June 6 @ 9:00 am. Participants must have filled out survey and registered for class. Contact yogayely.com for more information.

Rivendell Book Club I will be meeting on June 13 at 7:30 pm, which is the second Monday of the month. IN june, the group will be discussing Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Stout’s novel, My Name is Lucy Barton and its sequel, Oh! William. Contact Adele at adele.Kellman@gmail.com. for an invitation. The book club will now meet in person with restrictions. Please contact Adele for more information.

Rivendell Book Club II will not be meeting in June and July..

Eucler is not only back, but booming! The monthly eucler group is meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 4:30. Please check with Ann Francis annfrancis915@gmail.com for more information about eucler during the summer months.

Rivendell HOA monthly meeting will not be held during June and July.

ARC meeting is the last Tuesday of the month, In June, that is the 7th at 4:30. Please contact Greg Warner or Rich Bunce if you would like to attend. Greg796@gmail.com or rbunce@yahoo.com.

To make additions or corrections to the Calendar of Events, please contact Kristine Nickel at kristine@nickelcommunications.com.

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Wildlife Window - Is it an Anhinga or a Cormorant? The "Snakebirds" - How to Tell Them Apart

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

It's an age-old waterbird debate: Anhinga or Cormorant? Favorite pond visitors to Rivendell are commonly nicknamed the "Snake bird" because they swim completely submerged with only their head and long "snake-like" neck exposed. However, there are two different birds referred to as the Snake bird: the Anhinga and the Cormorant. From a distance, they can look pretty similar, yet there are some key differences.

The best way to tell if the waterbird is an Anhinga or Cormorant is to observe their beaks. Aningas has a long, straight, pointed beak to spear their prey. Cormorants, on the other hand, have a hooked bills to grab their prey. (Hint: think "c" curve for Cormorant – the shape of their beak.)

Both species hunt their prey by submerging themselves underwater. Both of these birds lack oils on their feathers, allowing them to submerge underwater. Unlike ducks and other waterbirds, Anhinga and Cormorant feathers don't have the same oil texture, making their feathers less waterproof and heavier to fly with when wet. Because of this, both Aningas and Cormorants have to air-dry between hunts by holding their wings out while perched. Let's learn more about these magnificent "snake birds."

The ANHINGA: Straight, Pointed Beak to Spear Prey

Aningas are large, dark water birds with long, thin necks. They have long tails and silver patches on their wings. Aningas' bills are long, thin, and pointed. When in the water, they submerge their entire body, and only their head remains above water. They will dive completely under water to hunt and spear prey. Aningas can be found near quiet, calm waters in places such as slow-moving rivers running through Cypress swamps, mangrove-lined inlets and lagoons, wooded ponds, and freshwater marshes.

Aningas are carnivores (piscivores), they mostly eat fish, but will also feed on aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, insects, and reptiles.

The CORMORANT: Hooked Bill to Grab Prey

Cormorants are large, brown-black water birds with short, blunt tails. They have small heads, with yellow-orange facial skin and long, kinked necks. Cormorants have heavy, hooked bills that are roughly the length of their heads. When in water, their bodies are not completely submerged (unless diving for prey), but they do sit low in the water. They are powerful swimmers and dive down to catch prey. Cormorants can be found living near bodies of water such as lakes, ponds and smaller lagoons.

Cormorants feed primarily on fish, but also eat insects, crustaceans and amphibians. They usually feed in shallow water and close to shore. They catch prey by diving underwater to chase it.

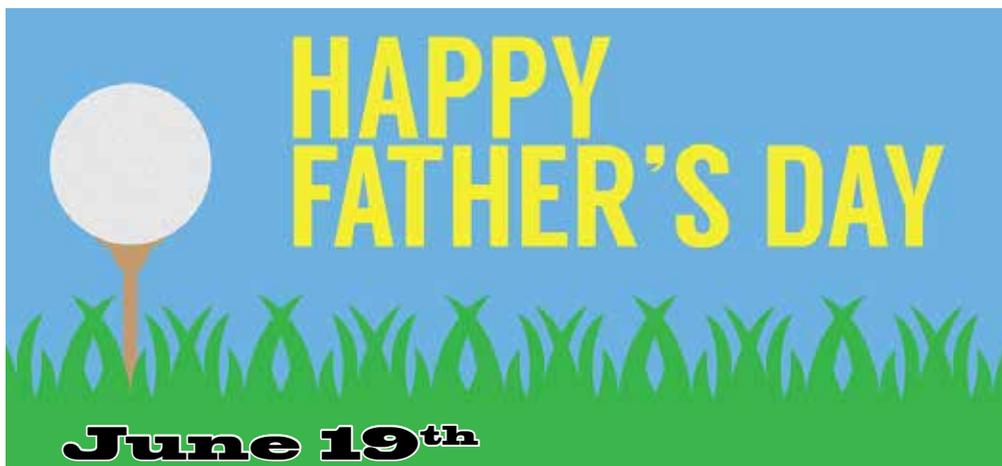
Differing Flight Habits

One last identifier in the battle of Anhinga vs. Cormorant is how the two vary in their flight capabilities. Aningas are able to soar through the sky, using a flapping motion in between soars to get where they want to fly. Whereas, Cormorants are unable to soar, so they flap throughout the entire flight. This helps the Cormorant more easily take flight from the ground vs. Aningas, which require a taller object to take off and soar through the sky.

Both birds are protected under the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Loss of vegetation, use of pesticides and degradation of habitat from urban development, continue to challenge all of our wildlife friends. Our current ponds and preserves management strategies help keep our favorite wildlife creatures visiting our community often.

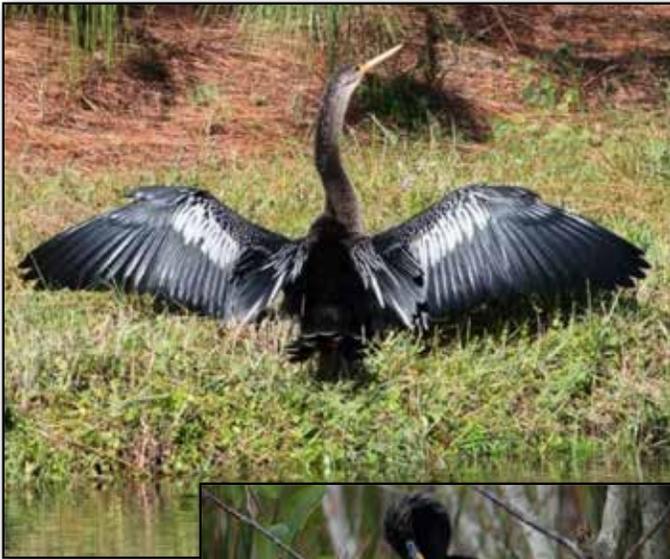
Bob Frank photos.

(Continued on next page)



(Wildlife Window continued from Pg. 16)

The Anhinga – Long snake-like neck, with long tails and silver patches on their wings. Often seen by the shoreline with wings spread to dry them before flying. They soar in the air using a flapping motion between soars.



The Cormorant – large, brown-black water birds with short, blunt tails with small heads, and yellow-orange facial skin and long, kinked necks. They are powerful swimmers and dive down to catch prey. Unable to soar, so you'll see Cormorants flapping throughout the entire flight.



Rivendell Community Contacts

Committees

Block Captain Committee

Chair: Rachel North Zipay (mobilerach@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: Joe Casale, Rich Bunce, Maria Ilioff, Joe Zwerling, Jim Duncan

Fine Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: Robert Thierfelder (rcthierfelder@gmail.com)
Board Liaison: **George Smith**
Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy

Maintenance Committee (MC)

Chair: **Chuck Pertile** (noplans12@gmail.com)
Board Liaison: **Greg Volack** (gregvolack@gmail.com)
Members: Carole Myles, Mark Giordano, Dave Cook, Kevin Humbert

Ponds & Preserves Committee

Chair: Bob Frank (frank@ohio.edu)
Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**
Members: Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Norma Lee Rhines, Allie Sandow, Melle Lee Warren

Social Committee

Chair: Maria Ilioff
Board Liaison: **George Smith**
Members: Lisa Boggs, Annie Francis, Kathy Halaiko, Carolyn Kenney, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak, Jenifer 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: Dianne Enger, President; Sherry Sholtis, Vice President and Secretary; 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