



Your

Community Resource

# The Woodlands Word

March 2023



## Getting the Job Done Together



The Rivendell Community Association (RCA) has a new President. Bruce Lorie has been selected to serve in this capacity. Bruce and his wife Janet have lived in Rivendell since 2011 having relocated from Long Island in New York State. Janet was very familiar with the Sarasota area having visited frequently for both personal and professional reasons since the 1980s.

As heard from so many others, they found Rivendell quite by accident and have been happy they did. They enjoy a very private, tranquil marshland view beyond their lanai. It feels like their own sanctuary that keeps them busy identifying the wildlife du jour: deer; turtles; armadillos; coyotes; bob cats; a large variety of birds and more. In the evening after the sun goes down, the Lories enjoy being serenaded by these entertaining "neighbors".

Bruce is proud to have served his country in the United States Army. After his honorable discharge in 1970, he was an apprentice with The International Brotherhood Electrical Workers, beginning a career as a Master Electrician for 35 years. His final professional years were spent working for Michael Bloomberg in New York City. Yes...that Michael Bloomberg!

This is not Bruce's first time on Rivendell's Board nor is the Rivendell Board experience his first. He helped organize a community Board of Directors, as well as serving on it for eight years, in New York. Just prior to his first stint with Rivendell's Board, Bruce also served as Rivendell's Pool Committee Chairman and worked extensively on improvements needed there at that time. He is still very interested in maintaining this amenity for the residents of Rivendell. Additionally, he has served as liaison to Rivendell's Maintenance Committee and the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) while on the Board previously.



Despite the accomplishments of the immediate past Board, which Bruce feels have been largely positive, he believes there are always issues that come up needing the Board's thorough attention. He has his own thoughts on current and upcoming issues, but in order for him and the Board to plan and to prioritize the necessary resources, he definitely wants to hear from the community on issues of importance and/or concern. So, look for continued open communication and respectful homeowner comment time at monthly Board meetings.

Bruce would like to work on diversifying the Board and the makeup of the Committees, so they are fully representative of the community. "But overall, I plan to keep things running smoothly and not make any significant changes to the leadership direction from the immediate past."

For the past six years, Bruce has been a member and current Chairman of the Sarasota County Traffic Advisory Council. Citizens submit requests on stop signage, parking, and speed limits. An initial survey and review are done by the county's Department of Public Works (DPW) and then forwarded to the Advisory Council for further review by citizen and law enforcement members before a formal approval or disapproval is made. Bruce enjoys his work on the Traffic Advisory Council and notes he has built a good rapport with county staff. He pointed out this should also prove helpful with any involvement Rivendell must have with Sarasota County government.

Clearly proud of her husband's work ethic, Janet stated people go to Bruce because he "gets the job done!" Let's all work together to help Bruce and the RCA keep Rivendell on the move!



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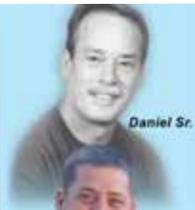
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### RIVENDELL Social Committee Calendar: March 2023

Thursday, March 2, 1:00 pm. Bridge Club.  
RSVP to Barb Loe at 651-398-2256.

Monday, March 6, 5:30pm. WOW (Women of Wine and Spirit) at the Rivendell pool deck.  
Sign up is not required. Contact Kathy Lysak at 941-539-6749 for more information.

Wednesday, March 8, 2:00 pm. Artists' Corner.  
RSVP to Allie Sandow to sign up at 513-403-7228, space is limited

Monday, March 13, 7:30pm. Book Group I.  
RSVP to Adele Kellman at [adele.kellman@gmail.com](mailto:adele.kellman@gmail.com) or Lesley Glick at [lesleymg8@gmail.com](mailto:lesleymg8@gmail.com).

Wednesday, March 15, 9:30 am. Kayaking.  
RSVP to Jane Stevens at 617-319-2653.

Thursday, March 16, 5:00 to 6:30pm. Mix and Mingle at the Rivendell pool deck.  
Sign up is not required. Contact Kathy Halaiko at 941-914-6895 for more information.

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm. Book Group II.  
RSVP to Karen Morgan at [k@gatortrax.net](mailto:k@gatortrax.net).

Thursday, March 23, 1:00 pm. Bridge Club.  
RSVP to Barb Loe at 651-398-2256

Friday, March 24, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
0 pm. Inquisitive Minds Discussion Group.  
RSVP to Mike Gruenfeld at 941-685-5166.

Saturday, March 25, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Ice Cream Social at Crescent Park  
Everyone is Welcome – free ice cream!

Please see the calendar page at the end of the newsletter



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## Cottages HOA Welcomes New Board Members

by Jim and Marylin May,

### The Cottages Communication Co-Chairs

At the Annual Meeting of the Cottages Homeowners, two new members were elected to two-year terms on the HOA Board of Directors: Steve Bragg and Tom Hickey. Coincidentally, both Steve and Tom bought their homes here in 2008. Steve's background is university administration and finance, Tom's is in the legal field, including Board operations and rules. Both will be strong assets to the Cottages Board.

At the Board's organizing meeting held after the Homeowners Meeting, the following Board assignments were agreed upon:

Marilee Casale, remains as President of the Board

Jim May, remains as Treasurer

Tom Hickey, joins the Board as Secretary

Bob Metelko, remains as 2nd Vice President

Steve Bragg, joins the Board as 1st Vice President

Carol Myles (1st VP, Landscaping) and Kathi Webber (Secretary) are leaving the Board after having served multiple terms in service of Meadow Sweet Circle. We welcome our new Board members and thank our departing Board members for their hard work.

## Cottages Corner The Cottages' Unsung Hero

By Jim and Marylin May



Everyone who sees Meadow Sweet Circle remarks how beautiful it is. The canopy of trees, the white picket fences and the well-manicured yards always elicit positive comments. Did you know that for the past several years, most of that landscape beauty has been primarily the result of one woman's hard work? Carole Myles, HOA Board Member and Landscape Chair, has been involved in directing the landscaping efforts around the Circle. In fact, her involvement with the Board goes back 10 years when she first became a member of the Cottages Landscaping Committee, as well as working closely with Greg Volack on the Rivendell Maintenance Committee. Carole's special gift to MSC is that she can visualize the broader perspective of how our neighborhood should look, along with managing the details: tree trimming, identifying desirable and nuisance plantings, and finishing it all with new sod and annual mulch.

Carole is a visible and hands-on gardener who can be seen riding around the neighborhood on her bike on a daily basis, overseeing work crews or inspecting yards. She has not only been a mainstay in maintaining Meadow Sweet Circle's unique look, but she has also been instrumental in dealing with the ongoing irrigation pump problems we have had during the past year or so. After Hurricane Ian roared through, Carole was one of the first residents out on the streets, leading a small army of volunteers in cleaning up all the debris and making our street passable.

Carole just recently decided to "pass the baton" on to others. She's retired from her Board responsibilities and plans to return to working out at the gym, socializing with friends and just plain relaxing – things she's had to forgo for the past several years. Carole's energy and leadership has certainly inspired us, and she leaves us in a great position to carry her legacy forward. While we all will miss her daily input and many talents, we know she will continue to contribute to our community. We thank her for her service and dedication to Meadow Sweet Circle.





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## Celebrate Rivendell Wildlife Week - March 18-25! Help Us! Be a Nature Watcher! Learn about Our Wildlife!

By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

We know you love our wildlife friends – that’s why you live here! The Ponds and Preserves Committee is hosting the next **Rivendell Wildlife Week** from **Saturday, March 18-25, 2023**. We had over 4,000 wildlife sightings during our previous Wildlife Weeks. ([Review most recent results here.](#)) **We need your help!**

Once again, we are asking residents to help us observe and document the diverse wildlife that calls Rivendell home. It’s easy to get involved. Participants from earlier Wildlife Weeks are volunteering again. You can too!

**Be a Rivendell Nature Watcher! Anywhere in Rivendell from Saturday March 18 to 25.**

**You can be a Rivendell Nature Watcher!** We ask residents to pay extra attention to the wildlife you see in Rivendell and record what you see. Dog walkers, joggers, walkers, bikers, parents with kids, or just sitting on your lanai – anyone & anywhere! Jot down any wildlife you observe - birds, turtles, frogs, deer, otters, bobcats, alligators – any wildlife. This does not take a lot of time or effort. Just enjoy Rivendell as you usually do. This week, record the wildlife you see as you wander around our community.

**Sign up to be a Nature Watcher today!** Contact **Bob Frank** at [frank@ohio.edu](mailto:frank@ohio.edu) so he can send you a simple **Wildlife Tracking Chart**. Please let him know as soon as possible. We encourage all residents to participate.

### Teaching Moments and Fun for the Whole Family!

**Wildlife Week** is a great way to teach your children to appreciate and respect our wildlife friends. Ask them to tell you what they see – together you can identify the type of wildlife and learn more about each one. Below are some photos of wildlife you might spot during Wildlife Week. How many will your family spot? Join the fun and please let us know what you see! (*Bob Frank photos.*)



Northern Cardinal



Florida Cooter



Great White Egret



Osprey



## Stay Alert. Coyotes are Present in Rivendell. Tips on How Best to Live in Harmony with Coyotes.

By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

Rivendell residents were recently sent an email alert about Coyotes. They have been reported in our community. Coyotes rarely pose a threat to people. However, homeowners need to be careful especially when walking small pets after dark and early morning. Small pets attract predators and everyone needs to be cautious when out after dark.

Coyotes, medium-sized canines, a close relative of the domestic dog, is extremely adaptable and can be found in rural, suburban and urban landscapes. They are typically shy and elusive but encounters between people and coyotes in Florida, including Rivendell, are occurring more often. Coyotes are here to stay and play a vital role in the food chain, as do most wildlife, to help maintain balanced ecosystems by controlling populations of other animals. We need to understand how best to live in harmony with coyotes in our community.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has some helpful tips to keep your family and pets safe. Coyotes rarely pose a threat to people, especially adults. They can be curious but are also timid and generally run away if challenged. If a coyote approaches too closely, there are methods you can use to deter it and frighten it away – known as “Hazing.” (Click <https://myfwc.com/conservation/you-conserve/wildlife/coyotes/> for detailed Hazing information.)

- Waving your arms and yelling will usually get a coyote to retreat (unless there is a den with pups nearby). Continue hazing efforts until the coyote has completely left the area.
- Noisemakers are often effective deterrents to coyotes, including air horns, banging pots and pans and homemade noisemakers. A “coyote shaker” made from placing pebbles or coins in an empty drink container can be an effective noisemaker. (Some noisemakers may also scare pets or small children.)
- Throwing small stones or sticks towards (but not at) a coyote will usually cause the animal to leave. Spraying water from a hose or using bear repellent can also be effective; but do not attempt to hurt the coyote.
- Vary your methods of hazing so that the coyote does not become desensitized.
- If a coyote approaches a child, an adult should first yell loudly to startle the coyote and then move towards the coyote. Lift the child as quickly as possible and back away. Do not run from a coyote, as this may cause the animal to chase.
- Teach children to recognize coyotes. If children are approached by a coyote, have them move slowly inside and yell loudly – teach them not to run, approach, or feed coyotes.
- Never feed coyotes either intentionally or unintentionally. This includes placing food outside to attract other wildlife, such as pet food, fallen fruit and seed around bird feeders.
- Keep cats indoors and dogs on a leash.



Coyotes rarely pose a threat to people. Review these helpful tips that you can use if a coyote approaches too closely to deter it and frighten it away; known as “Hazing.”  
(Source: myFWC.com)

## Meanwhile -- at the Villas Sub-Association

By Nancy Dobias

Recently the Villas owners received a letter indicating that the officers of the Villas Sub-Association within Rivendell would not continue because of various reasons. Following that, another letter to the homeowners informed the residents that an attorney would be at the scheduled Villas Members Meeting that is scheduled to happen on **Feb 22, 2023 at 5:30 PM** at the Lutheran Church in Nokomis. I imagine the attorney will be there to answer any questions which members might have considered around the possible dissolution of the Villas.

Should you not be a person who reads the documents, **ARTICLE 4.8 in the Covenants of both the Villas and in the Patio homes'** documents discusses when these sub-associations might be terminated.

You can go straight to the source and read your documents and then come to the meeting better prepared to understand what is happening and why the Villas has reached this cross-road.

**Is it the end of the world? It depends upon your perspective.**

Most of the lots in Rivendell arrange for their own landscaping needs and pay for those services on an as-needed basis. Some of those lots are owned by people who are here full-time, others are owned by people who are rarely here and some are owned by snowbirds. Roughly two-thirds of Rivendell arrange for their own landscaping services.

Should you worry whether you can find a reliable landscaper, just drive up and down Rivendell streets and you should see a variety of trucks advertising their services. Do you like what you see at those homes being serviced?

Nextdoor is another source that would give you names of people who Nextdoor users recommend. The former gardener of Rivendell (Rogelio) is another possibility. He and his crew were employed to do the Rainbow Point islands and the various beds in the community but they were no longer needed once we hired a different lawn-mowing company.

### The Impact of Florida 720

Some worry that Florida 720 that governs HOA's allows for receiverships to be declared if only ONE owner should say that he does not want to arrange for his own landscaping needs, that he wants someone else to do it.

Receiverships were more than likely created for when there is shared common area that must be maintained. The Cottages have a pool and clubhouse, and it would be very difficult for that group to dissolve without some type of accommodation made for those common areas.

**The Villas and the Patio homes do not have common areas to maintain.** We only have our own lots. Would it be logical for someone to say that he wanted to pay even more money than what we already are paying just to hire someone to do what our Villas Board used to do for free? Wouldn't it make more sense for someone to hire his own services as two-thirds of the community already do? For example, if my car needs fixed, I don't call Joe or Mary to call Mazda for me. I call Mazda myself. Why would I pay Joe or Mary to do this?

If you want a ballpark idea of what a receivership could cost, here's one link I found:

<https://www.hoatalk.com/Forum/tabid/55/forumid/1/postid/106041/view/topic/Default.aspx>

If you thought the current dues per quarter were high, what would the dues be if a receivership would be granted because one person perhaps feared the unknown?

### What I Do Know

I am thankful for all the years that our Villas Board did volunteer their time and oversight to ensuring that our lots met the standards that Rivendell expects in its properties. I'm sure our Villas Board has heard from us relative to our needs and wants and I can only hope that they also have heard from us when we took the time to just say THANKS! I think the Villas Board did a wonderful job and I personally do thank them for all that they've done!

So, the big question is: **Will it dissolve or won't it dissolve?**

### Stay Tuned . . .

The conclusion following the meeting, where approximately 50 percent of Villas homeowners attended, was that the sub-association will stand. This was accomplished by three homeowners volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors of the sub-association. They are John Barron, Ron Grinnell and Alex Elshimy. In addition, the vote was split between maintaining the association or dissolving it.



**Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour on Sunday, March 12**

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## Unofficial Board Report

**Should you have been unable to attend the ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING held on Feb 15, 2023, here are my UNOFFICIAL MINUTES of what I thought I heard or understood. There could be typos or errors in what I reported. Please consider that these are not the official minutes...just my understanding of what had happened. For the "official word," you should always consult the Rivendell website ([www.rivendellcommunity.com](http://www.rivendellcommunity.com)).**

All Board members were present. Since this was the meeting to fill 2 Board seats as well as to vote on some language change to our Covenants, current President Larry Dobias asked if anyone wished to nominate someone from the floor for the 2 expiring Board seats. No one did. At that point the balloting was closed. Only 9 paper ballots were presented. 215 people used e-voting to cast their ballots. Bob Frank was asked to count the paper ballots.

The results of the election were: **Mary Angell** and **Bruce Lorie** were elected as the new Directors for the Rivendell Board. They will replace Larry Dobias and George Smith whose terms expired this year.

**All 3 amendment issues passed.** In order to have passed, there needed to be at least 200 casting a vote YAY or NAY. The LMZ measure passed 190 to 25, the pickup truck passed 181 to 32, and the street parking passed 163 to 43.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

In Larry's report to the community, he stated that the Board and its committees had accomplished much. Because we were coming out of the Covid shutdown, the pool needed to be reopened and lots of trimming and landscaping had to be done. Two amendments were passed: one that lowered the thresh-hold for making future changes to our Covenants; the other providing stronger language to help deal with those using neighborhood homes as seasonal vacation rentals. There were 3 changes in contractors for Rivendell: a change in landscape provider, preserve maintenance provider and pond maintenance provider. All actions were taken in an effort to achieve better performance and also to lower the costs and in the case of ponds, to prolong the life.

Larry also added that there are committees that are putting together documents that will better help future Boards and committee members lead and understand the inner workings of Rivendell. For instance Mark Giordano of the MC has been working on a 150-200 page document detailing all the infrastructure of Rivendell, and the Pond and Preserve Committee has compiled a 40 page document listing all the permits Rivendell has with its ponds/preserves/surface water system within the community and filed with the county. Both documents provide facts that anyone would need if they were going to step into the role of volunteering on these committees and understand the various constraints under which the community operates. It's one thing to say, "But I really want to put my chairs in the preserve in order to enjoy the wildlife." It's quite another thing for the committee to teach

us why the county would say that is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Larry also stated that there was tremendous effort and coordination within Rivendell in dealing with the hurricane cleanup. No assessments were needed to deal with all the tree damage that resulted. Projects that were to happen in the latter part of 2022 were delayed so that money could be diverted to the clean-up. Mulching and the clock tower project were two projects that had been planned to be done but which were delayed so that their monies could be diverted to hurricane cleanup. Larry felt the Board had a handle on its finances and were aware of how to make the most of what they had.

One project that was extremely popular with the community involved holiday lighting. Many felt it added to the safety of the streets as well as to the aesthetics of the community.

### VICE-PRESIDENT (Greg Volack)

Greg mentioned that he had been given the Communication Report and that our Directory will be published in the fall rather than in the spring.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT (Kevin Boggess)

Kevin has indicated he had learned much in his first year on the Board and then thanked Larry for his tenure on the Board.

### TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Daignault)

Cathy was frustrated that she is not getting the Financial Report in time for the meeting and therefore did not have any treasurer's report to give.

An owner asked how does the Board make a decision without having up-to-date financial information?

Larry said that the Board DOES know how much money is budgeted. The budget for 2023 was done in 2022 and it determined how much would be spent in various categories. The Board is aware of how much they spend on a normal basis per month because they made out a budget plan. These normal expenses (necessities) would be for the lawn mowing, Lighthouse services, pond maintenance, etc.

For instance Rivendell normally spends about \$25,000 a month on necessities but \$40,000 is allotted to cover all the monthly expenses...normal expenses plus anything extra that is planned to be done.

Rivendell spent about \$10,000 in January for a tree-trimming project. This means that Rivendell has spent about \$35,000 of the \$40,000 planned that was allotted. They are under budget.

Larry added that Lighthouse is having difficulties in the

*(Continued on Pg. 9)*

*(Unofficial Board Report continued from Pg. 8)*

accounting dept with getting the financial reports done in a timely manner but he didn't expect that to be an ongoing problem. It's currently a problem because of staff shortages but it should be corrected soon.

#### **MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** (Greg Volack)

Greg listed the various projects/activities being planned or which had been fixed. Recently some new grates had been installed where some had deteriorated. There had been irrigation leaks involving 4" pipes along Rivendell Blvd near the pool that were repaired. It took over a year to finally replace the CPU on the irrigation system but it's now complete and they put in a suppressor to hopefully save it from another surge.

The pool clock is scheduled to be installed on March 9. This means that no one will have to climb a ladder every time there is a power outage or a time change. The clock will change electronically.

They have had some people slipping in the ladies restroom at the pool and the MC members are currently discussing ways to prevent this from happening. The pool bathroom already uses non-slip tile so other ideas need to be explored.

3 bids were gotten to replace the roof at the pool and the Board awarded the contract to Curry Roofing for \$24,700. The roof was insured for \$30,000 but with depreciation/deductible, our insurance covered \$23,000. The rest will come from the pool reserve account for the roof. The color of the tiles has not been determined yet.

The banyan tree that was damaged along Rivendell Blvd was removed and new sod/bushes were installed. The annuals for the various beds in the community are due to be installed March 1.

Larry reported that he has been speaking with the county people concerning the 3 trees that had severely damaged sidewalks on Anna Hope, Mallard Marsh, and on Stillwater Court. The reason why nothing has happened to the one on Anna Hope is because there's a 4 inch pipe involved in this uprooting and it conveys potable (drinking) water for Rivendell. This particular stump removal requires several crews to develop their own plans as to what they need to do before the next crew can begin their phase. Most of the work on Mallard Marsh/Stillwater has already been completed but there's a shortage in the availability of concrete and the sidewalks can't be poured until the concrete becomes available. They expect this to happen in March. Rivendell is supposed to be first on their list for when the concrete becomes available.

Greg reported that if you have a FIOS box that you think is damaged, the community cannot turn them all in as a group. The company said that each homeowner has to do it himself. Therefore, Greg suggested that if you need help submitting a form to get your FIOS box repaired, contact Greg and he'll come to your home to help you submit the

form. Some boxes lack the screws to keep flush with the ground, some are cracked or have other issues. If you're unsure, contact Greg Volack.

#### **POND AND PRESERVE COMMITTEE** (Bob Frank)

Bob reported that the committee recently met with Nathan Hoffman of Beautiful Ponds to discuss the condition of our various ponds. Nathan grew up in Rivendell and is very familiar with our lakes. Nathan thought the lakes for the most part looked pretty good but there were some invasive plants that would need to be addressed. He was to come back to the committee with his recommendations as to what he would like to do.

It was mentioned that they decided to go to this company because they wanted to use less toxic chemicals and hopefully have a healthier environment for wildlife. It was also thought that this method of maintaining the ponds better controls the muck that accumulates on the bottom of the pond and which contributes to the subsequent problems which the pond might have.

The committee's objective is to manage the shorelines, prevent erosion, and clean up the water flowing into and out of the ponds. They will be monitoring their objectives through the year and working with the company to better achieve what they envision for Rivendell. They're hoping that working with Beautiful Ponds will be a way that Rivendell will be able to extend the life of its various ponds and thus achieve a cost savings in the future.

Larry added that the committees do an excellent job of providing oversight. They make sure Rivendell is getting not only quality but also in some cases, a cost savings. They do their homework and are aware of the prices in the marketplace. For instance they used to pay \$40-45 to trim each palm. Now they pay \$22 a palm. Since a few hundred need trimmed each year, it becomes a cost savings for Rivendell.

#### **ARC** (Kevin Boggess)

Kevin reported that there were 12 requests and many were still involving hurricane issues. Some involved painting. All were initially approved but one needed to submit more information. I'm unclear whether it eventually was given approval. I think it was since the next part of the discussion centered upon a home wanting to put up a metal roof. The rationale was that it was across the street from another home with a metal roof and if that home had a metal roof, then why couldn't this other home have one too? It was also stated that there were 3 different types of roofs in this section of Rivendell: asphalt shingle, barrel tile, and metal roof.

Greg seemed to believe that in the 5 units of Rivendell, there is a hard and fast rule for each style of roof allowed in each unit. In the unit that had the request for the metal roof, there already was a metal roof home built by the developer.

*(Continued on Pg. 10)*

(Unofficial Board Report continued from Pg. 9)

Therefore the metal roof request could be granted.

Others in the audience argued that there is nothing in the Covenants section of the document that states what kind of roof is or is not allowed in the various units of Rivendell. It just states your roof can't have chalking, be stained, have mildew, etc. (See section 4.02 b in the Covenants)

One person was upset that on her street someone is installing an asphalt shingle roof and there are only barrel tile roofs. She didn't want to see the other types of roofs and worried that others might do the same when their roofs needed replaced. She felt that the Shadow Bay home that got the right to do the metal roof was establishing a precedence for other to ignore the rule. Others again argued there is no rule in the Covenants. It might be what the ARC has in its Guidelines but ARC has to base its rules on what is already stated in the Covenants. ARC can elaborate on what is in the Covenants but it can't come up with its own rules.

Another owner said it's tough to find tile, that it is not readily available, that in some cases it may take a year and a half to get the tile you need. Someone else said it took 8 months to get tile for his home. Another said it's based upon what kind of tile you're looking for. A certain kind of tile takes longer.

I said that it's not logical or reasonable to expect someone to wait for an excessive period of time on tile when they can get a different kind of roofing material that is already in use in Rivendell. I would want my home protected from rodents and protected from the elements. I would not want to own all the interior damages resulting from an unprotected home held hostage by supply chain problems or adherence to some kind of supposed ARC aesthetic. I also wondered who would own the liability should this person not be allowed to re-roof his home because of ARC aesthetics and then hurricane season comes and we're hit with another severe storm? All the blue tarps in the world are not going to keep that home dry!

Another person added that this person has had a lot of leaks since the hurricane and they are re-roofing to deal with all those leaks. Another homeowner asked that there be a return to the ARC column that used to list all the homes making requests and how they were being handled. Greg said that Kristine planned to add this column to the newsletter

#### ADDITIONAL HOMEOWNER COMMENTS

1. One person lamented the street parking issue even though he voted to allow it. I imagine he hoped that people would only use it as a last resort. He felt our streets were too narrow to handle everyone parking on the streets. He hoped that owners would continue to park in their garages and driveways and that they consider how much it would bring down the value of our community if we had too many people deciding to park on the streets instead. Larry reminded him that there are legal and illegal places to park, that if someone was parked illegally, that the police should be contacted. You can't block line of sight, be near fire hydrants, be too

close to intersections, be in bike lanes, prevent through traffic, prevent mail from being delivered, etc. Hopefully people will use common sense and consideration for their neighbors and their community.

2. Another person noticed that the LMZ amendment stated a minimum of 3 feet but it never had a maximum width expressed. She worried that future Boards might widen the LMZ and she felt this should be corrected. It was thought that this could be done by another Board since a new Board was being seated after this meeting was adjourned.

She also mentioned that she never received the material. (I don't know about this woman but others had the info go to their junk mail and others had the info go to an email address they used to use but didn't correct when they stopped using it.)

This same woman also requested that the back edge of Mallard Pond be mowed. She said that many years ago, it used to be maintained and the edge on the back side of the pond looked like a grassy berm. Today it has become overgrown and is no longer attractive.

Larry and Greg both indicated they had been looking at several ponds recently that had unmaintained back edges. Ponds mentioned were Otter, Pine, Mallard and Bobcat. They were discussing what could be done to clean up the back edges to these ponds. For instance, could a Forestry Mower be used to mulch up the debris that is along the edge? Once that happens, it could be mowed and be returned to a grassy back edge. It would not be planted with grass. It would just look like grass from afar. All of these ponds have bubblers and the bubblers need to be inspected for viability. The bubblers are the structures that duct the water out of the ponds into the wetlands once the ponds have reached maximum capacity. In order to maintain the surface water system, bubblers need to be in good working order and it's good to have access to all the bubblers within Rivendell. Maintaining the back edge of ponds would allow access and the side benefit would be that it would present a better view for those who live along ponds.

A resident thanked Larry and the Board for their leadership and once that happened, the Annual Members' Meeting was adjourned and an organizational meeting for the **new 2023 Board** was held.

I didn't attend this meeting but here's what I learned:

**BRUCE LORIE will serve as President and the Liaison for Communications Committee**

**GREG VOLACK will be Vice President and Liaison for the Maintenance Committee**

**CATHY DAIGNAULT will be Treasurer and Liaison for the Pool**

(Continued on Pg. 11)

(Unofficial Board Report continued from Pg. 10)

**MARY ANGELL will be Secretary**

**KEVIN BOGCESS will be Director-at-Large and Liaison for ARC and the Pond Committee**

Feel free to forward to your Rivendell friends and neighbors and please remember, these are my personal notes as to what I thought I heard. There might be errors. Talk to a Board member if in doubt or better yet, attend your meetings and determine for yourself what was said!

Nancy Dobias



**The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at**

**[WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM](http://WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM)**

**Please contact Lighthouse Property Management for the password to the RESIDENTS / INFORMATION section.**

# kin.

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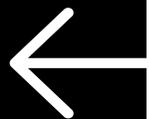


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## Keeping Our Ponds Attractive to Wildlife. Plants Make Ponds Look Natural & Invite Wildlife.

Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

### Low-Maintenance Zones (LMZs) and Native Plants Are Vital for Wildlife Friends.

Rivendell has learned from experts that having a mowed lawn around the pond not only does not help in controlling erosion but can exacerbate it. Per the University of Florida Extension Services: instead, installing a zone of no pesticides, no fertilization, and no mowing around ponds is best to control erosion damage and appeal to our wildlife friends. This is easily accomplished by installing grasses (LMZs) and native plants around pond shorelines. Vegetation attracts wildlife, including birds, fish, mammals, and invertebrates by providing shelter, food, and nesting sites. This will not only look better, but can also reduce runoff and flooding, and can help to catch sediments to reduce water contamination. A win-win for our community!

#### What Kind of Plants Are Best for Wildlife?

Native pond plants provide excellent habitat for wildlife and are of utmost importance in creating a healthy pond. Rivendell has both **Emergent** and **Submerged** aquatic plants in our ponds. Emergent plants are rooted in the pond bottom, but their leaves and stems extend out of the water. These plants provide vertical contrast and cover for birds, aquatic insects and other small creatures. Submerged plants have underwater leaves. Both provide cover and breeding habitat for fish, frogs and other wildlife. They help oxygenate the pond, releasing oxygen from their leaves as a by-product of photosynthesis. Oxygen passes directly into the water, enabling the water to support other life forms.

#### What About Algae Growth? Can Algae Be Better Controlled?

Algae are able to grow when they have enough food. Algae use sunlight and nutrients to grow, so reducing either the amount of light or nutrients is the key. Since the sun comes up every day, we are limited in ways to reduce sunlight. Some algae is good because it provides

oxygen to the water; too much is bad. Fertilizer used on your lawn is a major source of the nutrients responsible for algal blooms, so apply fertilizer sparingly. There are dyes that can be safely applied to ponds that reduce how much sunlight penetrates the water to reduce the level of algae. However, this is a band-aid approach. For a long-term solution to reduce algae, the nutrients in the pond need to be addressed. Aquatic plants can absorb nutrients that are dissolved in water thereby competing with algae. Algae is a fact of life for a water gardener and cannot be totally eliminated. But algae can be controlled through creating a **balanced ecosystem** which is Rivendell's core strategy for our pond management.

#### Who Helps Rivendell Manage the Health of Our Ponds?

Rivendell has contracted with **Beautiful Ponds** as our new pond management company. They will work closely with Rivendell's Ponds and Preserves Committee to help manage the health and vibrancy of our ponds.

**The mission of Beautiful Ponds** is to make aquatic environments a little healthier by creating a system to balance aesthetic beauty and environmental health through natural pond management strategies. Every lake and stormwater pond community is a complex ecosystem that requires regular management. Beautiful Ponds uses less invasive and more environmentally-friendly approaches to manage aquatic communities. By implementing aeration techniques, water quality management, erosion control, fish stocking and biological control methods, they provide a safer, more natural alternative. In 2020, Beautiful Ponds won the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast partner of the year. Rivendell is excited about this new relationship and working together for the benefit of our community, our ponds, and our wildlife friends.



**Our LMZs and aquatic plants are vital to attracting wildlife, including birds, fish, mammals, and invertebrates by providing shelter, food, and nesting sites. Vegetation not only looks better, but can also reduce runoff and flooding, and can absorb excess nutrients to improve water quality. A win-win for our community!**

*(N. Dobias & B. Frank photos)*



Native pond plants provide excellent habitat for wildlife and are of utmost importance in creating a healthy pond. Rivendell has Emergent and Submerged aquatic plants in our ponds that provide cover and breeding habitat for fish, frogs, birds, and many other wildlife.

Rivendell's Ponds and Preserves Committee is pleased to be working with Beautiful Ponds to assist with our pond management. Their mission is to make aquatic environments a little healthier by creating a system to balance aesthetic beauty and environmental health through natural pond management strategies. In 2020, Beautiful Ponds won the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast partner of the year.



## Best of Venice Winner for 2022



**Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA**

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences  
American Conference of Audioprosthology

### Best of Venice

I want to say thank you to everyone who voted for us in the Best of Venice Awards from Venice Gondolier.

I appreciate each of you. Thank you for taking time to vote for us.

Your support and continued encouragement has resulted in us being awarded Best of Venice year over year as both winner and finalist, Reader's Choice year over year, and Small Business of the Year. I have been honored and received so many awards that our wall of awards has expanded onto a second wall.

Twenty-two years ago, when I chose this profession, I was inspired by my mother MaryEllen. She was already wearing hearing aids due to an ear surgery. I focused on helping her hear her best and engage in life. Fifteen Years ago, I opened my office and chose to treat all my clients as if they are family. If she was still with us today, I know she would be celebrating all the people who have been able to engage in their own life with more ease and confidence when hearing.

Every day I hear stories about how hearing problems have interfered with enjoying life. I've always had one mission, to help everyone who comes to me to hear their best and engage in life.

Thank you for entrusting me with your hearing, I am glad I earned your respect.



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## One More Opinion

By Barb Gahry

### Roofs: Two Sides to a Coin= A Conundrum

When Rivendell was in the early stages of development by U.S. Home, potential homeowners were told they could have a shingle roof or, for an upcharge, a tile roof. So, some homes, excluding the Patio Homes and the Villa Homes, chose either shingle or tile. Having re- reviewed Rivendell's Covenants and Restrictions, I found nothing about roof replacements, only that the roofs must be maintained. With COVID and Hurricane Ian came damage, turmoil, and long queues for repairs. Several homes in Rivendell were hit hard with roof damage. We have seen tarps and underlayment placed on roofs, readying them for replacement. One major glitch: tiles are backordered, some out almost a year! This was due to supply chain issues, left over from COVID, as well as an astronomical number of homes and businesses affected by the hurricane.

### What To Do?

Now, if you have a roof that has leaked, has caused damage inside the home, and maybe has caused development of mold -- what to do? Do you wait almost a year without a roof in order to keep your tile? Or, do you get another type of roof material, more readily available, to stave off more damage? Tarps are temporary and generally good for a few months. Underlayment should be protective since many roofing companies are using polyester reinforced rubberized asphalt material for waterproofing but there are no guarantees, and they are not a great to look. This creates a conundrum for homeowners dealing with this reality but also for those who expect a more consistent appearance as a way of keeping up home values.

One problem with which we haven't come to terms: weather patterns are changing. This could mean more severe storms, more wind damage, more flooding, etc. How do we, as an HOA, deal with this over a longer period of time? The reality is we must wait much longer to get anything done to our damaged homes, and especially those with damaged roofs. And as we experience longer delays and shortages of materials, we can pretty much count on the cost going up and patience wearing thin!



# MARCH 2023

Information

See Woodland Word and/or  
Next Door Rivendell for more social event

**\*Rsvp REQUIRED**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 1 pm Bridge Club* Barb-651-398-2256	3	4
	5 6 5:30 pm WOW @ Rivendell Pool Deck Kathy -941-539-6749	7	8 2 pm Artists' Corner* Allie-513-403-7228	9 5-6:30pm Mix&Mingle @ Rivendell Pool Deck Kathy 941-914-6895	10	11
	12 13 7pm Book Group I* Adele.kellman@gmail.com lesleymg8@gmail.com)	14	15 9:30am Kayaking* Jane-617-319-2653 ?	16	17	18
19	20	21 7 pm Book Group II* k@gatortrax.net	22	23 1pm Bridge Club* Barb - 651-398-2256	24 11 am-1 pm Inquisitive Minds* Mike -941-685-5166	25 3-4:30 pm ICE CREAM SOCIAL At Crescent Park
26	27	28				

## Architectural Review Committee Report

Meeting Tues Jan 31, 2023 - 4:30PM

Meeting called to order 4:30 PM Adjourned: 4:45

Meeting held via Online Conference call.

Quorum present: Greg Warner, Rich Bonce, Joe Zwerling, Jim Duncan, Greg Volack

Board Member: Kevin Boggess

	<b>Request</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Assign</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Install Solar Panel Roof on South side facing	510 Meadow Sweet	GW		Approve
2	Replace Roof - Hurricane Damage - Metal Roof	774 Shadow Bay Way	GW		Approve
3	Roof - Hurricane Damage - Dark Grey Asphalt Shingle	812 Placid Lake Dr	GW		Approve
4	Paint House - similar to 862 Placid Lake - 757 California	812 Placid Lake Dr	GW		Approve remove Stumps
5	driveway - in Front - Stumps removed	827 Golden Pond	GW		Approve remove stumps
6	Landscapping - remove stomps	828 Placid Lake Dr	GW		Approve
7	Damage - Eagle Capistrano tile color - 3687 Brown Gray Range	832 Placid Lake Dr	GW		Approve remove stumps
8	Emergency Roof Repair - same color	835 Placid Lake Dr	GW		Approve
9	Removal of 2 palms - in Front Yard - Stumps removed	1040 Scherer Way	GW		Approve
10	Roof Replace - Bloomindale Blvd Tile	1081 Scherer Way	GW		Hold - Rich Follow up
11	Hurricane fabric Screen	1093 Mallard Marsh Dr	GW		Approve
12	Replace Outdoor Garage Light Fixture	1176 Mallard Marsh Dr	GW		Approve
13	Screen Enclosure with screen roof	1201 Lost Creek Ct	GW		Approve

## Rivendell Community Contacts

### Committees

#### Block Captain Committee

Chair: Rachel North Zipay ([mobilerach@verizon.net](mailto:mobilerach@verizon.net))

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

#### CERT Committee

Chair: **Paul Englert** ([paule253@hotmail.com](mailto:paule253@hotmail.com))

Board Liaison: **Cathy Daignault**

Members: Need Volunteers. Please contact Paul if interested.

#### Communication Committee

Chair: **Kristine Nickel**

([kristine@nickelcommunications.com](mailto:kristine@nickelcommunications.com))

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Newsletter: Kristine Nickel, Nancy Giordano, Barbara Gahry, Adele Kellman

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](mailto:rivendell@mgmt.tv)

Members: Greg Warner, Joe Casale, Rich Bunce,

Jim Duncan, Joe Zwerling Board Member: Greg Volack

#### Fine Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: **Robert Thierfelder** ([rcthierfelder@gmail.com](mailto:rcthierfelder@gmail.com))

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy

#### Maintenance Committee (MC)

Acting Chair: **Greg Volack** ([gregvolack@gmail.com](mailto:gregvolack@gmail.com))

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

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

#### Ponds & Preserves Committee

Chair: Bob Frank ([frank@ohio.edu](mailto:frank@ohio.edu))

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Members: Ray Elliston, Frank Freestone, Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Allie Sandow

#### Social Committee

Chair: Maria Ilioff

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

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

### Rivendell Board of Directors

**Bruce Lorie**, President, [blorierivendell@gmail.com](mailto:blorierivendell@gmail.com)

**Greg Volack**, Vice President, [gregvolack@gmail.com](mailto:gregvolack@gmail.com)

**Cathy Daignault**, Treasurer, [catdaignault@yahoo.com](mailto:catdaignault@yahoo.com)

**Mary Angell**, Secretary

**Kevin Boggess**, Director-At-Large, [kbogg@msn.com](mailto:kbogg@msn.com)

### Sub-Association Boards of Directors

The Cottages: **Marilee Casale**, President, ([marileecasale@gmail.com](mailto:marileecasale@gmail.com)); **Bob Metelko**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, ([bob@csdsinc.net](mailto:bob@csdsinc.net)); **Carole Myles**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, **Kathi Webber**, Secretary, ([kathi.travel@gmail.com](mailto:kathi.travel@gmail.com)); **Jim May**, Treasurer.

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

The Villas: **Sherry Sholtis**, Acting President and **Barbara Loe**, Treasurer.

### Lighthouse Property Management:

941-460-5560 Ext. 225

Property Manager: Steven DeHart

([SteveDeHart@mgmt.tv](mailto:SteveDeHart@mgmt.tv))

### Rivendell Website

[www.rivendellcommunity.com](http://www.rivendellcommunity.com)

Contact Lighthouse Management for password to RESIDENTS section.

### Woodlands Word Deadline:

Submit articles and information to Kristine Nickel ([kristine@nickelcommunications.com](mailto:kristine@nickelcommunications.com)) by the tenth of the month.

### Updates to the Contacts Page:

Kristine Nickel [kristine@nickelcommunications.com](mailto: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