



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

Your Community Resource

April 2022



Rivendell Rewarded For Our Pond Management Efforts.

Thank You! Your Actions Make a Difference.

By the Ponds & Preserves Committee

With the introduction of Rivendell's pond LMZs and aquatic planting program, our community is making good strides toward healthier ponds. While still a work-in-progress, Rivendell is being noticed for its good work and as a result has been awarded financial support to continue our pond management actions.



We appreciate homeowner support as we all work together to control erosion, strengthen our wildlife habitats and improve water quality. We also thank the many residents who participated in the Fall Wildlife Week during which we collected thousands of exciting wildlife sightings. The Spring Wildlife Week was held in mid-March. We hope you participated. We will recap our Spring Wildlife

Our Ponds Efforts Are Being Recognized



Rivendell has garnered grant funding from several agencies to help support our pond planting projects. We are grateful for this financial assistance – it enables us to continue with our pond program while reducing the program's cost to our community. We have earned grants from these generous organizations:

- **START - Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (\$1,000)**
- **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (\$4,000)**
- **Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative (\$10,000)**
- **Healthy Pond Collaborative (\$3,000)**

We are battling 1000 on our recent grant applications and will continue to apply for future grant funds that fit with our management plans.

Rivendell was also recognized by Sarasota County's NEST (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team) as a "Featured Project." We were also named a "Water Quality Champion" by the Science and Environment Council. ([Click here to learn more.](#)) Three Rivendell residents recently attended the County's "Healthy Ponds Workshop" (Bob Frank, Frank Freestone and Sue Remy). We also participated in a panel discussion at the Manasota Neighborhoods Summit (Sue Remy). Building and nurturing these relationships will continue to help us earn grant support as well as learn more about keeping our ponds healthy and vibrant.

Thank You for Your Support and Patience!

Week once we have tallied the results. Stay tuned!

The work of the Ponds and Preserves Committee relies on input from and the support of local experts. We are working with the County's water quality team to implement best practices. A Florida freshwater pond expert is consulting with us to review our pond management strategies and planting approaches to ensure the best possible success. Our pond shorelines continue to change and improve to maintain the value of our property, protect our natural assets and provide enjoyment for the entire community.

We are making strong headway. Let's keep it up! Our wildlife friends seem pleased with our progress as well. Recent sightings on our ponds have shown many shoreline birds among the LMZs and aquatic plants. In fact, during Wildlife Week, residents remarked the birds were spotted mainly in the grasses and plants for protection and feeding. While they are more difficult to spot, we suspect many other pond creatures also thrive in our shorelines. Enjoy the wonderful wildlife photos from our ponds. Thanks to our talented photographers! Keep those photos coming!



(Wildlife photos by Bob Frank)

AMENDMENTS PASS

by Larry Dobias, President, Rivendell Homeowners Board

About one year ago, members of the community approached the Board and asked what, if anything, could be done to control short term rentals. Although a previous Board had established rental stipulations in the Standing Rules, these guidelines were not enforceable because there was no legal foundation in the Covenants. This finding resulted in the initiative to bring two amendments to the community for consideration in July 2021. The corporate attorney wrote two proposed amendments - one provided stipulations for short-term vacation rentals and the other to lower the threshold for approving changes to the documents. These amendments were loaded onto the website and community members were asked to review and comment on the proposals. Few people commented but as a result of the concerns expressed, the amendment language was revised to be more acceptable to the membership. The final version of the amendments was established in October and loaded onto the website for review. The Board announced the amendments would be voted on at the Members' meeting on February 9, 2022.

The vote was held and 176 members cast a vote. The vote recorded was 146 in favor and 30 against the amendment to lower the voting threshold. The vote for rental stipulations was 131 in favor, and 37 against the proposed amendment. Passage of the amendments required 332 positive votes

The strategy to pass the amendments was to visit as many homes as possible to present the amendments to members who did not vote and to present a proxy for consideration. With the help of the leadership in the Cottages, the Patio homes and several volunteers, the canvassing of the Rivendell community began. Nearly every door in the community was knocked on and approximately 400 homes have voted. It has been a challenging 3 weeks of effort but when the vote was called at the March 16th Board meeting there were enough votes to pass both amendments.

The next steps are that the vote must be signed off by two Board members and notarized. It then goes to the Attorney to file the paperwork with the County. This process most likely will not be completed before the end of April. Stay tuned for more information.

A Very Large Undertaking

Our Board Vice President Board Greg Volack and I began knocking on doors immediately after the Members meeting in February. We were helped in a major way by many volunteers. The volunteers participating in the canvassing of the community were:

From the Cottages:

Dorie Burke
Marilee Casale
Carole Myles
Isabelle Murray

From the Patio Homes:

Dan Tavares
Bob Thierfelder
Randy Price

Volunteers from different areas within the community:

Bob Frank
Carole Heckert
Tom Hurban
Jonas and Michelle Meyer
Chuck Pertile
Fred Rhines
Judy Sokal

Finally, a special thanks to all the homeowners who answered their doors and agreed to vote. Everyone who canvassed agreed that it was amazing to meet so many of our wonderful neighbors in Rivendell.

Let's Go Paddling — Kayak Club to Put In Tuesday April 5, 10am at Blackburn Point Park.

For those with their own kayaks we will meet at the kayak launch at Blackburn Point Park (on the LEFT just BEFORE the Casey Key Bridge - 800 Blackburn Point Road). It's a very convenient, easy launch with ample parking. The Club will leave promptly at 10am. They request paddlers be at the launch no later than 9:30 am.

Kayak rentals are available at Island Jet Ski Tours and Rental. Call 941-474-1168 for more information. This rental is located on the west side of the bridge in the Casey Key Fish House parking lot. To use this rental call and make a reservation, then contact Maria Ilioff milioff85@gmail.com. Paddlers reserving from Island Rental will be met at the rental site by the rest of the Club. Launch time there will be at 10:10 am.

The plan is to paddle south along the intracoastal side of Casey Key and then head back north and into South Creek. It is one of our closest and most scenic paddles.

Prospective Paddlers Take Note

Please download the app TeamReach on your phone. This app is used as a mode of communication for your RSVP, paddle invites, posting photos from our outings, spontaneous kayak invites and cancellations due to weather.

Please contact Jane at Janie0441@gmail.com for TeamReach log in information, to RSVP and questions about our club. We welcome new and experienced paddlers.



Rivendell Calendar of Events - April 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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL! The Social Committee announces an Ice Cream Social to be held on APRIL 2 in Crescent Park. All Rivendell residents are invited. Let's all get back together! Watch for more information in an E-BLAST. And check the website for more information.

Rivendell Yoga and Meditation Class via zoom on Monday, APRIL 4 @ 9:00 am. Participants must have filled out survey and registered for class. Contact yogayely.com for more information.

Kayak Club Paddle. The Kayak Club will be shoving off at Blackburn Point at 10 am on APRIL 5. See preceding story for more information.

Rivendell Book Club I will be meeting on APRIL 11 at 7:30 pm, which is the second Monday of the month. 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. March's book is the THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY.

Rivendell Book Club II will be meeting on APRIL 19 at 7:00 pm which is the third Tuesday of the month. Contact Maria Ilioff at miLioff85@gmail.com or 607-427-4192 for more information. The book is THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY. The meeting will be hosted by Kristine Nickel.

The Maintenance Committee meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the month, APRIL 19. Please contact Greg Volack if you would like to attend. gregvolack@gmail.com.

Rivendell HOA monthly meeting will be held on APRIL 20 @ 6:00 in person at the Lutheran Church. Please check the website for more detail. A ZOOM connection may be in operation by April. Please check Rivendell website. Please note: The HOA meeting is now permanently changed to the third Wednesday of the month.

Eacher is back! The monthly euchre group is meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30. The group is planning to follow cards with an informal dinner at local restaurants. For APRIL that is 21st. Please check with Ann Francis. annfrancis915@gmail.com.

ARC meeting is the last Tuesday of the month, In APRIL that is the 29th at 4:30. Please contact Greg Warner if you would like to attend. Greg796@gmail.com.

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

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Out & About Sarasota - An Outdoor Art Center by Adele Kellman

As most of us know, there are a lot of sculptures in and around downtown Sarasota. But it is interesting to understand just how that collection of art continues to grow in the city. Not counting charitable donations, the collection is guaranteed to grow because of a set of requirements that affects property development within the city.

With a few exceptions, any property owner or developer who applies to the city for a building permit for new construction or improvements that exceed \$1 Million in construction value for a multi-family, mixed- use or commercial building, is required to make a public art contribution. There are several options for satisfying this requirement: the developer or owner may:

(a) make a contribution of a half of one percent of the total value of the construction covered by the building permit (or \$5,000 for each \$1 Million in value of the construction), or

(b) provide public art (subject to approval of the Public Art Committee) either on the development site, or on a public place offsite of at least the value of the otherwise required contribution.

Where public art is being provided, the property owner or developer may either purchase an existing art work, or commission a specific piece for the designated space. If you are wondering who has paid for the new sculptures in downtown roundabouts, the explanation lies in these regulations.

Does the Public Have a Say in the Art Selections?

There is a Sarasota Public Art Committee, which holds regular meetings, many of which are open to the public, as they work to create a Public Art Master Plan that will define community priorities and give a roadmap for fulfilling the priorities. Two of those goals are to "Position Sarasota as a premier city for public artists and public art" and to "Identify and secure permanent funding and support systems for public art". Sarasota City's website (sarasotafl.gov) offers a wealth of information on public art already in the City, the value of public art to its residents, and plans for the future, including plans to spread the artwork more broadly throughout the City.

John Martin Honored by The Cottages by Marylin May

At the February Cottages board meeting, John Martin, outgoing board member, was recognized for his dedication and years of service to our community. He served two terms on the board of directors, was the Cottages representative to the Rivendell Architectural Review Committee, participated in multiple projects including the Welcome Committee, placed flags on the circle on national holidays, and even delivered Costco chickens to newcomers. John loves to work in his yard so he willingly took on landscape projects around the clubhouse like cutting down large invasive plants at the pool and helping repair the clubhouse walkway.

As a former board president, John was a leader who fostered teamwork and brought a positive attitude to every situation, bringing out the best in people. The Cottages owners are grateful for his leadership and wish him all the best in the future. Current president Marilee Casale presented John with a beautiful desk clock to honor and thank him for his service. John was very touched and said he hopes to continue being active and contributing to the community in other ways.



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Rivendell Ice Cream Social - It's Party Time

Saturday April 2nd 2022 2pm

(Rain date Saturday April 9, 2022)

HOA Board President Larry Dobias addressed the Social Committee with a special request to put on an event prior to the end of the "season" when many residents head north. Snowbirds start migrating mid-April.

Larry also shared that in his recent travels around our community, some residents expressed that they are now ready, willing and able to resume pre-Covid activities at Rivendell.

In response, the Social Committee announces an **Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, April 2. The prior social in 2019 was a big success. We hope to have another great turnout, especially after the isolation caused by the pandemic. It's time to party and meet your neighbors.

More News From the Social Committee

The Social Committee is taking this opportunity to resume most of the preexisting social activities, to introduce some new offerings and to solicit ideas for others. All of these events will rely on volunteers. At this social our community members will have a chance to learn about those opportunities.

We look forward to seeing **everyone. More information will follow soon. See you there!**

The Social Committee



Ice Cream Social



Join us for this Family-Friendly Event!

Saturday, April 2, 2022*
From 3:00pm to 4:00pm
At Crescent Park Playground

Contact Ann Francis:
annfrancis915@gmail.com

*Rain date: April 9, from 3-4p



RIVENDELL
Social Activities Committee

Reflections of Rivendell

Photo by Nancy Dobias



Wood ducks swim happily in Rivendell pond.

Earth Day April 22



What is Earth Day?

Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated on April 22, on which day events worldwide are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and celebrated in more than 192 countries each year.

Earth Day began on April 22, 1970 and has been an important day ever since. It's a day to reflect on our planet, our environment and what we can do to help keep them healthy.

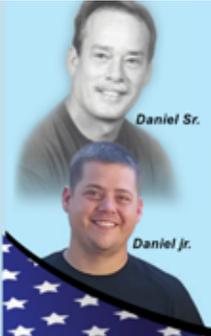
A month later a separate Earth Day was founded by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970. Nelson was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award in recognition of his work.



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Do you have any questions about Rivendell or other topics residents can help with?

Nextdoor is the world's largest social network for the neighborhood. Nextdoor enables truly local conversations that empower neighbors to build stronger and safer communities.

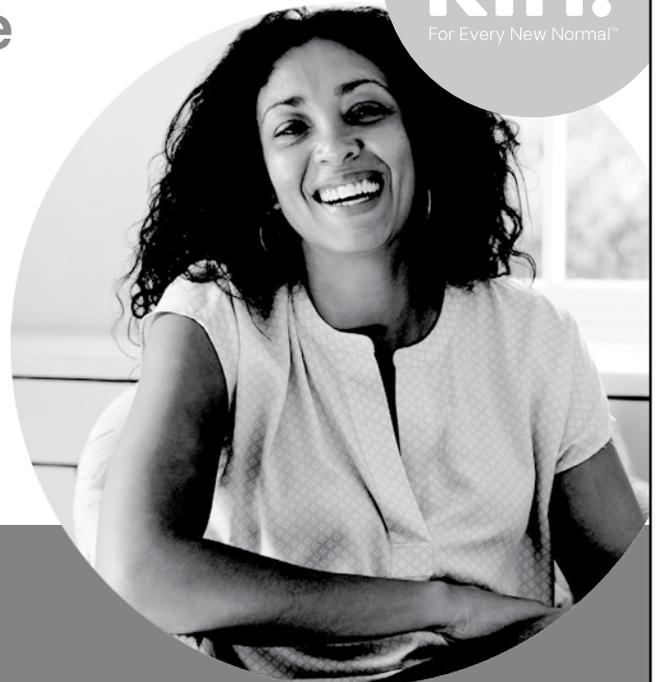
Rivendell

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REAL ESTATE CORNER

Saying "yes" to Rivendell by Kristine Nickel, guest columnist

During the past few months, it seemed that almost every other week my husband Jack and I would hear about so-and-so's house selling for XX amount of \$\$ per square foot. We read the real estate bulletins about all the sales in the neighborhood. We joined in "alley talk" about how crazy it all sounded. Then, in a casual conversation with our financial advisor, we told him just *how much* values had increased since we purchased our home in December of 1999 at what now seemed a ridiculously low price. He looked at us and said, "Sell it. Or, at least give it serious thought. The two of you don't need all that space."

So, we did. We thought about the alternatives. Living in a high-rise condo? No way. Anything over 3 stories causes high anxiety for this land-lover. I like to have my feet planted terra firma. A retirement village? Our church is affiliated with Bay Village and we have dear friends who are residents but it reminds me way too much of my college dorm. Memories of those MSU days just don't seem to gel with more refined retirement activities. Plus, even the largest apartment wouldn't accommodate all of the antiques and artwork we adore, which I'm sure our children will throw out before our eulogies are written. How about new construction, Jack queried? I answered: Would it have the comforting canopy of mature oak trees that greet the entry and egress to our development? How about charming little parks like my favorite at the end of Rainbow Point where just last week I watched a pair of Sand Hill's and their colt stroll through while a flock of Rosette Spoonbills flew overhead, perhaps on their way to Oscar Scherer State Park across the pond. Their pink feathers caught the morning sun in such a brilliant way that it almost brought tears. And new construction would not have our bushy Norfolk pines that crowd our pool cage, planted there in year 2000 after serving as our first mini-Christmas trees.

The answer turned out to be a very solid, "No". We're wishing the best to all who are making a killing in the real estate market. We're fine hanging out here in this unique neighborhood; however, I am contemplating some major renovating to keep up with our ever increasing home value. Shh — don't anyone tell Jack.

Note: Our regular **Real Estate Corner** columnist Barbara Gahry is taking a much-deserved break this month. She'll be back in May.



Home | OUR COMMUNITY | CONTACTS | DOCUMENTS | RESIDENTS | COMMITTEES | BOARD



WELCOME TO RIVENDELL
The many recreational offerings and country feel of the Woodlands at Rivendell make it a highly desirable community. Located in Orange Florida, just minutes from downtown Sarasota, this suburban-style neighborhood features many parks, lakes, nature trails and more to SAVOR the Florida lifestyle. The Woodlands at Rivendell offers residential choices from village, estate and executive homes to maintenance-free patio homes. Nestled among 400 acres of lakes, preserves and open spaces, the community was carefully planned to highlight and blend with its natural surroundings. The Woodlands at Rivendell is also directly adjacent to the popular New View School, a highly acclaimed educational facility for intellectually gifted students grades 2 through 12. Nature lovers will appreciate the proximity to Oscar Scherer State Park, located just south of the community and of viewable from many homes.

The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at

WWW.RIVENDELLCOMMUNITY.COM

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

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Neighbors Journey to the Journal

By Nancy Giordano

So, what does one do when a greater voice than hers lays out a challenge? *Please take care of my seniors who may be lonely, yet still full of life...pay them attention; listen to their stories.* If you are Deb Holton-Smith, you take that challenge and run with it.

She didn't have to run far...just down the street in the Cottages to the door of her friend Jan Martin. If you read last month's column, you know Deb is a retired nurse and health coach who dabbles in photography. Jan is a retired social worker and youth service counselor. Together they created Teacup Project, which has evolved from flowers in a teacup to a legacy book, *My Journey*.

Early plans for the Teacup Project envisioned vintage-style teacups filled with flowers for nursing home residents. When a friend required long term care, Deb and Jan thought a teacup would be just what the doctor ordered. They quickly realized it simply wasn't enough to overcome the loneliness and emotional inattention which often result when away from one's home, family and friends.

To stimulate personal interaction from staff and neighbors, they creatively provided a glimpse of who their friend was and placed that personal information on her door. Success - their friend's daily life became enriched again with meaningful conversation through simple questions generated through the information sheet placed on her door. That positive response seeded the next phase of the Teacup Project!

Deb and Jan recognized that even the closest of family and friends don't always remember or know things about those around them. And, "When an older person dies, so goes the

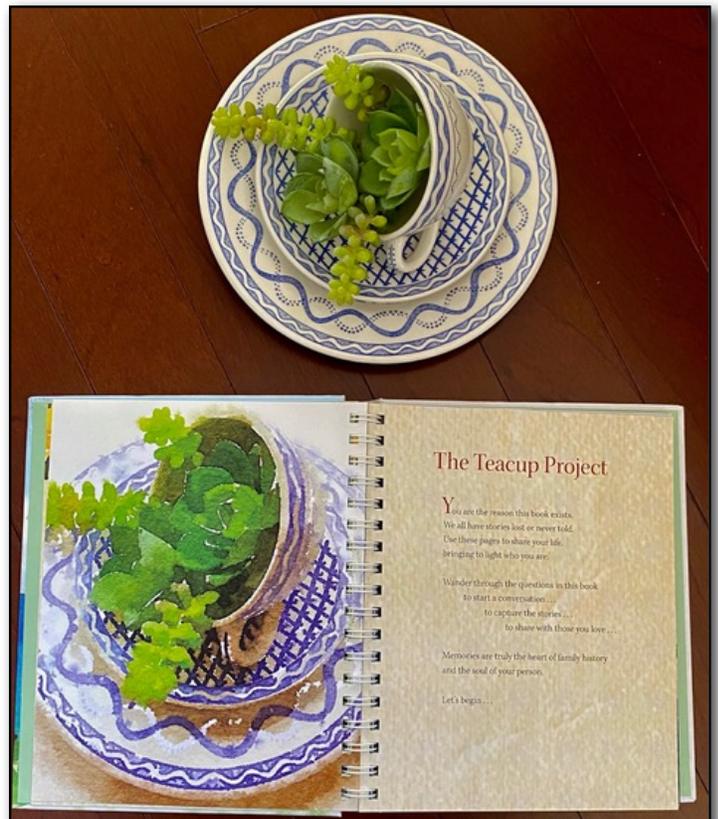
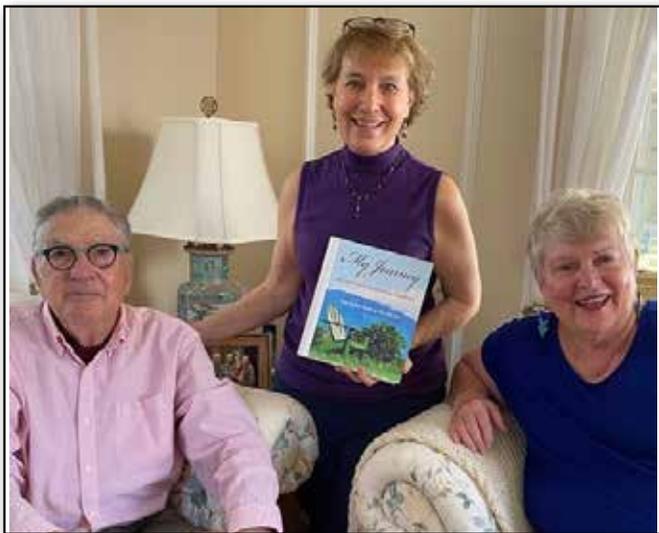
library," Jan gently paraphrased an old African proverb. A book could be created to record a history of loved ones' special moments that should be in a family's "library". Deb and Jan decided to add a forever book - a discovery journal - to help generate those moments and special information that create an individual's story.

My Journey covers seventeen categories i.e., Family Origins, Children/Grandchildren, Advice, Holidays/Vacations, each with related questions. It's an easy, fun map of questions to explore a life story that can be written or recorded - forever remembered. Imagine...will Grampa finally spill that family secret?

After many cups of tea, decisions were made about questions and photographs. But then what? Once again, divine intervention came into the project by way of Alex Castro, another Cottages neighbor with an impressive resume: Architect, Artist, Professor, and Book Designer. "Book Designer?" they said.

While Alex initially signed on as technical advisor, he became charmed by the project and ladies behind it and became an integral member of this small, powerhouse team, which also includes Deb's husband Chris. "There was so much heart. It was so satisfying to watch the project grow," added Alex. The book is punctuated and brought alive with Deb's photographs which, using the app Waterlogue, provided a warm and nostalgic design.

My Journey became available in 2021. Go to www.teacup-project.com for more information about the journey and the journal!





Book Nook

Here's What the Clubs Are Reading

In April both of Rivendell's book clubs will be reading the very popular and best selling book, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Book Club I will meet on April 11, hosted by Beryl Nord. Their discussion will be led by Marilyn Probert. Contact Marilyn at marilynprobert@gmail.com for more information.

Book Club II will meet on April 19, hosted by Kristine Nickel, who will also lead the discussion. Kristine can be reached at kristine@nickelcommunications.com.



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Unofficial Notes from Board of Director's Meeting March 16, 2022

Note: If you were unable to attend the March 16, 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 versions that will appear on the website. Mine could have errors or I could have misinterpreted what was said.

All Directors were present, 4 in person, 1 by phone. The meeting took place at the Lutheran Church in Nokomis and actually consisted of TWO meetings. The first meeting was a RECONVENED ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING that was held to close the vote on the 2 amendments up for consideration. The second meeting was a regular Board of Directors' meeting. Below is what I thought I heard/understood.

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Dobias

RECONVENED ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

President Larry Dobias announced that the door-to-door campaign to get people to vote had been quite successful. It was announced that it resulted in getting 391 members to cast a vote. (Originally only 30% of the community had participated on the proposed amendments but the proxy enabled the Board to continue collecting votes for 90 days.) They originally projected that there might be a 20% "no" vote cast but talking to people face-to-face about the proposals resulted in more people understanding and supporting the 2 changes.

Once the Board voted to close the vote and make the vote official, both proposed amendments passed. The "lowering the thresh-hold" amendment had 338 YES votes and 53 NO votes. The rental amendment had 339 YES votes and 46 NO votes. (332 was needed to pass a proposed amendment.) In order for these changes to become official, a Certificate of Amendment signed by the Board President and 2 witnesses must be filled out and notarized. This goes to the Rivendell attorney and he will file it with the county. Once that happens, the changes are official. Larry predicted this all might be accomplished by the end of the month.

Larry offered his thanks on behalf of the Board to those individuals who helped Larry Dobias and Greg Volack in the door-to-door campaign. These volunteers were: Dorie Burke, Carole Myles, Marilee Casale, Isabelle Murray, Dan Tavares, Bob Thierfelder, Randy Price, Bob Frank, Carole Heckert, Tom Hurban, Jonas & Michelle Myer, Chuck Pertile, Fred Rhines, and Judy Sokal. He also extended his appreciation and thanks to all of the Rivendell owners who participated in the election and who then cast their votes.

March 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

Larry reported that a side effect of the door-to-door campaign is that Rivendell needs to figure out how to improve communications with its owners. Email blasts and the articles in the Woodlands Word worked for about 30% of the community, but there was a bigger chunk of the community for which

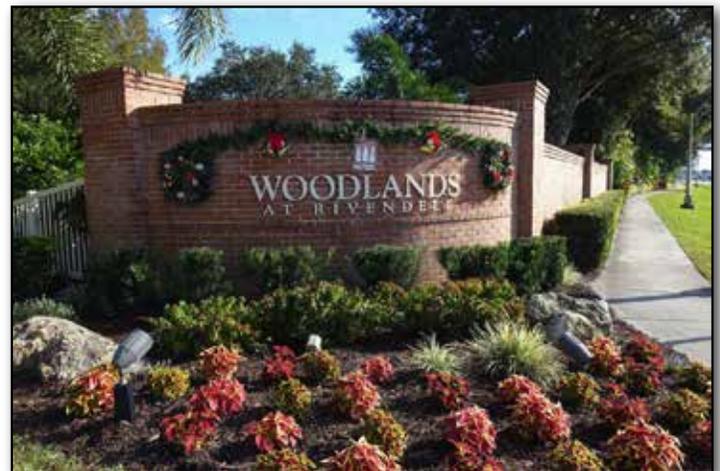
they don't work. However, it was noted that these same individuals were receptive to face-to-face information presented that was explained to them. Most wanted to help. Most were receptive to explanations given. Many seemed unaware that the proposed amendments were even on the radar but they did agree with the proposals. Some said they didn't vote because they feared change. They liked things as they were and didn't see the need. Once it was explained that a non-participation vote is actually a NO vote for whatever is being proposed, many were willing to cast a vote. The key is to figure out how to reach more people so that door-to-door campaigns are not needed. What that is will be something that will be discussed in future meetings.

Larry stated that even with the adoption of the amendment which lowers the thresh-hold for proposals to be adopted, you still will need people to turn out the vote. Larry found door-to-door campaigns to be effective but it is time-consuming. Is there a way to get people to vote on their own? Is there a way to keep owners better informed and participating in elections?

At least 200 MUST participate in an election. If typically only 30% vote, the Board will still need to reach 50-75 owners to get them to vote. (Passage of any change will require a 2/3 approval of those who cast a vote. Since there always will be owners who will not support something being proposed, it's mandatory to get more than enough votes to cover those who might vote "no.")

Larry also added that he personally met a lot of kind-hearted people in this process and was grateful for their hospitality and for their thoughtful consideration of the issues involved.

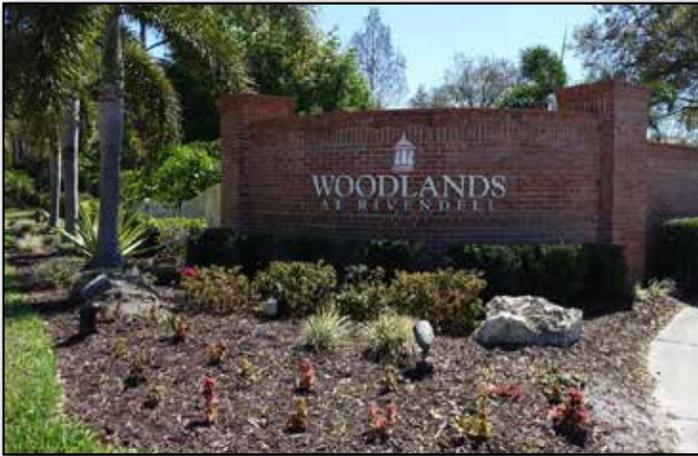
Another topic covered during this report dealt with the condition of the various plant beds in the community. Some of these were affected by the frost and others got a double whammy. The frost killed some plants and then an irrigation problem with Rivendell's main pump killed many others. This pump was out of service for 6 weeks and during this time, residents would have seen more and more plants dying.



(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 11)

Here's a December picture of how one bed used to look....

Here's what happened as a result of the frost and lack of irrigation. Some survived...others didn't.



It will cost \$8,000 to replace the pump and the electronics associated with this issue. The Board is checking with the insurance company to see if these costs would be covered and they also are contacting FPL to see if our losses would have been covered due to a power surge that could have caused the breakdown.

The pump has since been replaced but because they are still waiting on the electronics, the pump has to be manually turned off and on to allow the irrigation to happen. When the pump first broke down, they couldn't do this since the pump was not operational. (Should you be unaware, this pump controls irrigation in the Cottages as well as on all the plants up to and including Rainbow Point Way.) They're hoping that the necessary parts will soon arrive (April) and that the pump will function without manual assistance. Greg Volack added that a computer runs the whole thing and it cost about \$2,500 to get it up and running.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Steve DeHart)

Steve complimented the Board and community on getting the proposed amendments passed. It was not an easy task and many communities are unable to do this.

He also mentioned that future Board meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and that he's currently investigating other places in which to host the meetings. This is being done because the Lutheran church doesn't have a wi-fi available in the room we're using. Wi-fi is needed in order to allow a Zoom meeting to be offered as an option to those who cannot attend in-person meetings.

Steve has also been doing compliance runs through the community and the end result is that he's finding that many people are correcting their non-compliant issues. Many have sent Lighthouse pictures of what they have done to avoid getting the next notification.

There are 2 homes which did not resolve its issues. The issues involve landscape problems on one property and illegible numbers on a mailbox for another property.

Carole Myles of the Cottages asked if it would be possible to copy some of the Cottage leaders about the non-compliance issues in their neighborhood. It was agreed that Carole and Marilee Casale would be copied. Cottage residents could

then have a contact person within their group who might help explain or clarify any non-compliance issues which may be happening and to correct the record of those non-compliant issues that had since been addressed.

Larry mentioned how tough it is to do the non-compliance runs. What is apparent on one house one day might not be apparent on another day. Mistakes can happen and it's always good to double-check if residents are ever in doubt as to why their home is listed as non-compliant.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Larry Dobias read Cathy Daignault's report since she was participating via phone.)

Rivendell has \$594,819 in assets (not counting capital assets). \$304,685 of this money is in the operational side and \$286,134 is kept in the reserve funds. There is \$20,770 in the owner balances fund. This is because there are people who haven't paid the dues or who have short-paid the dues. Five have short-paid the dues. It's expected that most will be paying what is due.

We are \$4,285 under budget for the year-to-date. Grounds maintenance is under budget by \$7,122. Utilities are over budget by \$1,838. Maintenance is over budget by \$1,476.

There has been 1 disbursement from reserves...\$3,678 was spent from the Walls, Fences, Signs account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARC (Greg Volack)

ARC has granted 29 of the 30 requests considered. Kevin Boggess and Greg Volack both discussed a new policy being implemented. All owners making a request will be notified via email as to what happened with the request. This is done after each meeting. This means that owners will not be kept guessing as to whether their requests were approved or denied and what, if anything, must be done to get the approval. ARC is also looking at its rules and is currently in the process of revising/improving/clarifying those rules. Right now it's in the "work phase" and has not been officially adopted.

2. COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (Larry Dobias)

All of the information for the Directory has been finalized. They had additional people (50-60 more people) provide their phone/email info and so the Directory should be a more useful tool as a result. It's hoped that the Directory can be distributed to the homes by the end of April.

Thanks were extended to **Bob Frank** who took the wonderful wildlife pictures and to **Chris Smith** who spent time formatting the data and correcting it for accuracy.

3. POND & PRESERVE COMMITTEE (Bob Frank)

The committee has been investigating other methods by which to maintain our ponds. The current contractor Solitude manages our shorelines and sprays for problems. It was hoped that by talking with another contractor the committee might find a style of management that might work out better for Rivendell. They recently met with a representative from BEAUTIFUL PONDS who spoke of his style in managing a pond. He believes in an active surveying of the water to find out what is present, what needs to be added to control or augment what's there. His goal is to create a balanced eco-system within our ponds. The committee will be looking

(Continued on Pg.13)

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 12)

at the costs of what's proposed and determine whether it's something which they can support. It was added that this is a knowledgeable company and it was hoped that with this knowledge and expertise, the community would be able to create healthier ponds and habitats for our wildlife. Trying to get more plants to grow successfully and to better manage our shorelines and wildlife habitat are goals which the committee would like to foster if they are to be successful in managing our ponds/lakes for the long term.

One way they are doing this now is with the help of a pond consultant (Ron Hart) who will be working with Solitude (our pond management company). Together they will decide which plants work best in the various locations. Some plants work best in shallow waters while others prefer deeper depths to the water. Ron believes that the water level in each pond when it is at its highest level should be one of the determining factors used in the selection of a plant. He doesn't believe you plant the same plants in all the ponds since the water levels in those ponds are a factor in the success of those plants. Select the plant that works best in that particular location is his philosophy. It's hoped that through his expertise, Rivendell will achieve a higher survival rate for its pond plantings.

Eighteen thousand (18,000) plants at a cost of \$18,000 are due to be installed in May. Ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000) of grant money which the committee was awarded by the county will be used to cover a lot of the costs of these plants.

Other grant money (\$4,000) will cover the cost of hiring Ron Hart of SURFACE WATER PROFESSIONALS. The Board adopted a resolution that would allow Mr. Hart to consult with Solitude on the effective management of our ponds.

In addition, the Pond & Preserve Committee is currently applying for another \$10,000 from the county. If granted, the money will come in 2023.

HOMEOWNER QUESTION: Dave Gill requested that Larry review what Rick Richards Co is expected to do in the preserves. He also wanted to know whether they'd be wearing a uniform to identify them as their workers. Dave also wanted to know how owners might access the forestry roads being created by this company.

ANSWER: Because DBI (parent company of Aquagenics) went bankrupt, we needed another company to manage our preserves. The crew of Rick Richards will cost a little less than what we were previously paying. We were paying around \$50,000 but we now we will be paying \$41-42,000 a year. The new company will visit Rivendell 4 times a year and will work one week in the community during each visit. They will get rid of invasives, check for incursions, maintain the bubblers and keep them clear of vegetation, and check the flow-through structures so that we can better deal with potential problems. They probably won't be wearing a uniform but Greg Volack thought they might be wearing a company hat.

It's hoped that the company can do a good job for Rivendell and in so doing allow us to get clean report cards from the county. When we don't get the good reports filed, we stay on an active watched list and each year, we must pay someone to come in to inspect us and present their own report card to the county. This costs \$2,000-\$2,500 for each year we must do this. Therefore, it's good to stay on top of things and to do what the county requires that we do.

Whether this company is the right company for Rivendell remains to be seen. So far, Larry was impressed with the forestry mowing and with other tasks which the company has performed.

There's no easy way to access the forestry paths. Currently the ones done in the preserves require passing by someone's property. However, there was mowing done along the Pine View Nature Trail that could be accessed via the Trail. To get to a wetland could be accomplished if you went in through Oscar Scherer and if you knew the trail that would lead you back to Rivendell's property.

4. MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE (Chuck Pertile)

Chuck brought several spending proposals before the Board and all were adopted.

a) \$2,750 will be spent to upgrade the electricals in the service room at the pool. Because chemicals used to be stored in this room and because there's a lot of water in this room, it was determined that a weather-proof electrical panel be used that would be for outdoors. This would help to prevent the corrosive power of the chemicals or the impact of the water on the circuit breakers. Graham Electrical will do the work.

b) \$950 will be spent to put an emergency shut-off switch outside the service room at the pool. Whenever a problem happens at the pool that shuts off the pump, water from the pool flows for a short time into this room and can create two inches of standing water. Because it's not safe to be standing in water when dealing with electrical problems associated with the pool, the shut-off valve is a necessity. Graham Electrical will do the work.

c) \$3,150 is to be spent to replenish the engineered playground mulch that was first put there when the playground was installed. Much has been lost. Sixty (60) yards of mulch will arrive via a box truck and this mulch will be blown from the truck to the playground area. The truck will park on either Anna Hope or Shadow Bay Way. Had the committee chosen to buy the mulch in bags, it would have cost \$8,000, so having it bought in bulk is a cost savings for Rivendell.

d) \$1,040 will be spent to hire our gardener Rogelio and his crew to trim 28 palms in Crescent Park. They will be trimming the palms on the playground side of the park.

e) \$2,835 will be spent to hire GreenTopps to trim the palms along the lakes where the "islands" of palms are (Ibis, Crane, Placid, Eagle, Golden) and in a few of our parks (Rainbow Point and Butterfly) and near the wall at the Cottages. These weren't done on a regular basis in the past few years and MC says it should be done annually. There are 63 palms which will be trimmed in these locations.

Larry added that there are 225 palms by his last count on Rivendell common land. To trim palms annually, it would cost around \$10,000.

f) \$5,852 will be spent to refresh the traffic island plantings that were killed because of frost or in the case of the Rainbow islands, because of the irrigation system break-down. Rogelio and his crew will do the work and will replace "like for like." Greg said that this will done closer to the start of the rainy season so that if there are any more irrigation problems, the plants will still be fine. Rogelio will be using plants that are 2-3 feet tall already so the aesthetics of the islands will continue to look good.

(Continued on Pg.14)

(Unofficial Notes continued from Pg. 13)

Mark Giordano reported on the pier/cap project. Mark said the caps are finished and look great. Because the fabricator needs them out of his yard by April 1 to make room for other projects, they will be delivered to Rivendell earlier than when we need them. Four trailer loads of pier/wall caps will be coming and the caps will be off-loaded and stored on their pallets along where they will be used. I think that the ones for Old Venice will be stored inside the community along Rivendell Blvd. The installation for the caps is April 18, 2022. About a 1/2 inch of mortar will be put on the top of the wall (and maybe the piers?) to better seat the caps.

It was noted that it's good that the MC has undertaken this project. A close inspection of the wall already reveals cracking, a loss of mortar and also a loss of some bricks along the topline. Mark will be replacing these bricks. In the area where the mortar was lost, plants had been growing and doing more damage. Recently Greg and Larry sprayed the unwanted vegetation and then cleaned off the "dead materials."

If you look at the wall or piers from afar, you might not notice the cracking or the loss of mortar that has happened.



A closer inspection, however, does reveal the mortar loss.



...and also the color fading or degradation on some of the bricks.



Although this project is costing roughly \$25,000, it will bring a longer life as well as a brighter look and stability to the piers and wall, AND it'll also look much more attractive to our residents and visitors!

Before the caps are installed, the piers/wall will be power-washed and sealed. Stay tuned for the GREAT REVEAL....

5. SOCIAL COMMITTEE (Larry Dobias)

Several owners contacted Larry about once more hosting various activities in the community. About 11 women met at the pool to discuss what they would like to do. One activity being planned is an ICE CREAM SOCIAL. This is tentatively planned for April 2 at Crescent Park. They also would like to start the Mix and Mingle at the pool again. Other activities were discussed so stay tuned to find out what all they have in the works.

OWNER COMMENTS

1. Carole Myles asked if Lighthouse would check its records to determine where a \$4,500 refund check might be. The check was to have been returned to the Cottages but the company accidentally returned it to Lighthouse. Steve will check to see if accounting knows anything about this check and Larry was to check the financial records to see if it might have shown us a deposit.

2. Bob Frank asked if the Board is planning to get rid of some of the "crazy stuff" in the documents now that they have the one amendment passed. He felt there were some parts with which the community would have no objection and he hoped that the Board might be thinking along these lines. Larry said there are no immediate plans to change the document. The amendment first needs to be filed with the county and then residents would have to be noticed as to these changes. The Board doesn't meet for 2 months in the summer and when they come back in the fall, the budget would be next on their radar. Whether there's time to do anything remains to be seen.

Larry agreed that there are some changes which would guarantee people turning out to vote but there are others which might be tougher to generate an interest in them. Larry felt future Boards can decide how this is best pursued.

It was asked how much it would cost to send out mailings to owners to explain an amendment being proposed. Larry said that it cost around \$1 each. He reiterated that the door-to-door, face-to-face works well but that it IS time-consuming and who will want to do this is the question of the day. Larry and Greg and the other volunteers visited 400+ homes to have gotten these 2 proposals passed.

(If you have any questions about what I might have typed, please consult a Board member for a clarification or perhaps accuracy.) Feel free to circulate to your Rivendell friends and neighbors!

Nancy Dobias

Reader's Choice Winner for 2021



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 us for the Best of Venice awarded by Venice Gondolier.

I appreciate all my clients over the years who have supported me and took time to vote for all the various awards.

Your support and continued encouragement have resulted in us being awarded Best of Venice, multiple years as both winner and finalist, Reader's Choice multiple years, and Small Business of the Year.

I am proud to have consistently offered service that is recognized by you and honored to receive so many awards over the years that our wall of awards has expanded onto another wall. Thank you for entrusting me with your hearing, I am glad I earned your respect.

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.

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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.

Back then I was new to the industry and was not fully aware of how all the technology worked. As my ability grew, I noticed that the aids my mother was wearing were not the best for her needs. She was very social and would benefit from better technology. For her level of activities, she was not hearing her best.

If she was still with us today, I know she would also be celebrating all the people who have been able to engage in their own life with more ease and better understanding.

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Wildlife Window: The Red-shoulder Hawk & American Kestrel

Powerful and Beautiful Birds of Prey

By the Rivendell Ponds & Preserves Committee

We are so fortunate that Hawks and Kestrels are frequent visitors to Rivendell. Although both birds are considered "Raptors," **Red-shoulder Hawks** are members of the "Buteo" family, whereas Kestrels are "Falcons." Buteos are medium or large raptors with long, wide, rounded wings and relatively short fan-shaped tails. Hawks are high-soaring birds that like to perch on lonely snags. They are most often seen in open areas or forested habitats.

As the smallest member of the Falcon family, **American Kestrels** have long, pointed wings, long tails and squarer heads than other birds of prey. They are quick and agile flyers that are usually found in open areas. Let's learn more about these impressive birds of prey. (Bob Frank photos)

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)



This medium-sized hawk of the woodlands, is often heard before it is seen. No doubt you have heard the call of a Red-shouldered hawk, so loud it has earned the name of America's "most vocal hawks." Males are 15-23" long; Females slightly larger at 19-24". Their wingspan can range from 35-50". Adults have brownish heads, reddish chests, and pale bellies with reddish bars. Their long tails are marked with narrow white bars. Red "shoulders" are visible when the birds are perched.

These hawks' upper parts are dark with pale spots and they have long yellow legs. With good hearing and sight, Red-shouldered hawks search for prey while perched on a treetop or soaring over woodlands. When they

sight prey, they kill it by dropping directly onto it from the air. They are carnivores, feeding on small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds.



American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)



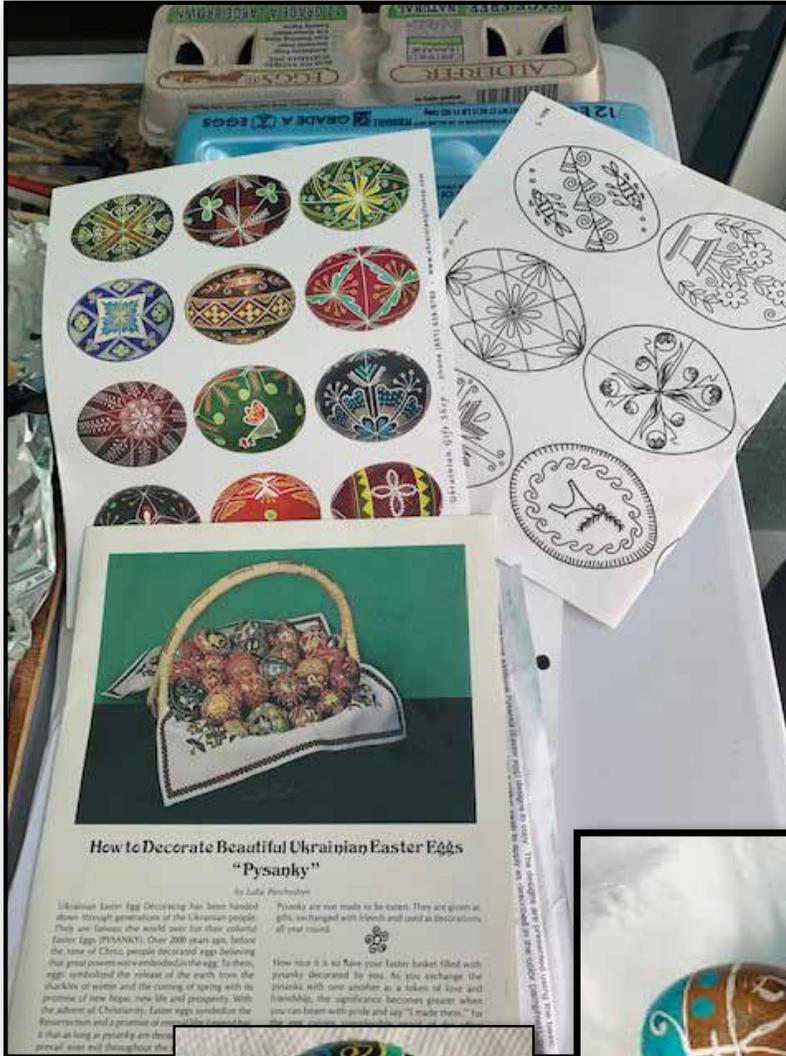
Kestrels are members of the falcon family (not a Hawk), and are most easily distinguished by their hunting behavior; hovering at a height of around 35-65 feet over open country and swooping down on prey, usually small mammals, lizards or large insects. (Other falcons often hunt in flight.) Kestrels are notable for usually having mostly brown in their plumage.

This Kestrel size ranges from 8-12" in length with a wingspan of 20-24". Roughly the size of a Mourning Dove, the Kestrel has a larger head, longer & narrow wings, and long, square-tipped tail. In flight, its wings are often bent and the wingtips swept back. They are pale when seen from below and warm, rusty brown spotted with black above, with a black band near the tip of the tail. They have pairs of black vertical slashes on the sides of their pale faces, sometimes called a "mustache" and a "sideburn."

While populations of these Hawks and Kestrels are currently quite strong, food shortages due to loss of vegetation, use of pesticides, and degradation of habitat from urban development continue to challenge all of our wildlife friends. Working together, implementing our ponds and preserves management strategies will help keep our favorite wildlife creatures visiting our community often. We love our wildlife friends!

Celebrating Ukraine in a Traditional Way

Leah Friends recently hosted a group of Rivendell residents to create traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs. Called Pysanka, which is derived from a verb meaning "to write" or "to inscribe" the designs are created using a wax resist method rather than painting. This traditional method of creating beautiful eggs celebrating Easter is used in other Central and European countries.



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: Ann Francis

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Lisa Boggess, Kathy Halaiko, Deb Jones,

Adele Kellman, Carolyn Kennedy, Kathy Lysak,

Jennifer Parker, Karen Price,

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