



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

August 2026



A Word From Your Board

By Paul Zak, Director- President, HOA Board Chair

Keeping Rivendell Beautiful - A Call To Action

One of the things that makes Rivendell such a wonderful place to live is that so much of what we enjoy is made possible by our some of our neighbors, those volunteers who thoughtfully donate their time and talents. Our volunteer committees help care for our landscaping, ponds and preserves, maintenance of the community, and many other aspects of our wonderful slice of paradise. Their work benefits every resident, benefit us all.

Like many communities, however, we've found it increasingly difficult to recruit new volunteers. A small group of dedicated residents continues to give generously of their time, but they can't do it alone. And if we can't maintain a volunteer corp, we'll have to hire and pay outside support.

If you've ever thought, "Someone else will volunteer," this may be the perfect time to say to yourself "I'll volunteer". Fresh ideas, different perspectives, and new energy are always welcome.

Serving on a committee doesn't require special expertise and not a lot of time. And it can be quite rewarding. Most committees meet just monthly or quarterly, and you'll work alongside experienced volunteers who are happy to help you learn.

What matters most is a willingness to contribute and a desire to keep Rivendell the exceptional community we all value.

Our Maintenance Committee, in particular, would greatly benefit from additional members. This committee helps identify maintenance priorities, manages vendors and contractors, reviews community needs, and provides valuable recommendations to the Board. It's an opportunity to have a direct and lasting impact on the appearance, safety, and long-term quality of our neighborhood.

Volunteering is one of the best ways to better understand how our community operates, and help shape Rivendell's future. Every committee member makes a difference. If you're interested in learning more or would like to explore serving on a committee, especially the Maintenance Committee, please contact the Board (via the Contact page of the website, <https://www.rivendellcommunity.com/contacts>) or our Community Manager, Kim, at kpayne@caseymanagement.com. We'd be happy to answer your questions and help you find a role that's a good fit.

Together, we can ensure that Rivendell remains the community we're all proud to call home, a premier community in Sarasota.



NATIONAL
**PURPLE
HEART DAY**
August 7th

Best of Venice 2025



Hearty Referral

Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

As a small business owner, the best compliment I receive is a referral. Identifying who needs a referral can be a bit tricky. I created a story to help my clients recognize who might need my services.

When you dine out with friends you may notice someone who keeps saying “huh” or “what”. This indicates they can’t hear well in a noisy setting and tends to be a first indicator of a hearing loss.

Research has indicated that on average people take seven years to seek help for their hearing loss. Maybe if enough people ask, they might get the help sooner.

Over the years I have had referrals of new clients who tell me they were out to dinner with friends who recommended they come see me. And now, I have my referral suggestion taken to a whole new level.

A lovely lady, with a great heart, was out to dinner with friends. She heard a gentleman sitting at another table saying “huh” and “what” a lot. After a while she turned around, interrupted him and suggested he come and see me.

The happy ending is he did come in. His wife had been begging him to get his hearing checked for years, but it took a stranger’s suggestion to convince him.

The gentleman’s visit to my office revealed that he had a more severe hearing loss than he initially thought. With the help of hearing aids, he can now hear better, and his wife is happier when they go out to dinner.

If you notice someone saying “Huh” or “What” often, suggest they might need to come see me. By taking this simple step, you can help them improve their quality of life and build a stronger relationship with their loved ones.



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The National Park Service Founders Day



Founders Day for the National Park Service is observed each year on August 25th. It commemorates the creation of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act into law.

Before 1916, famous places such as Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Sequoia National Park already existed, but they were managed individually by the U.S. Army, the Department of the Interior, or other agencies. There was no single organization responsible for protecting and managing the nation’s parks and historic sites.

The Organic Act established the National Park Service with a mission that remains unchanged today: to conserve the nation’s natural, historical, and cultural resources while making them available for public enjoyment. The law directs the agency to preserve these places “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations,” balancing public access with long-term conservation.

Today, the National Park Service oversees more than 430 sites across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. These include not only national parks but also national monuments, battlefields, historic sites, memorials, recreation areas, scenic trails, and seashores. Together, they preserve everything from towering mountains and ancient forests to Revolutionary War battlefields, civil rights landmarks, and presidential homes.

Founders Day is celebrated with ranger-led programs, historical presentations, volunteer events, educational activities, and special exhibits at many National Park Service sites. While it is not one of the National Park Service’s regular fee-free days, some parks or partner organizations may hold special events to mark the anniversary.

The observance also recognizes the dedication of thousands of park rangers, historians, scientists, maintenance workers, volunteers, and other employees who protect America’s most treasured landscapes and historic places.

Founders Day serves as a reminder that the National Park Service has spent more than a century preserving the nation’s natural beauty and historical heritage, ensuring these remarkable places can be experienced and appreciated by generations to come.

The Social Committee Is Looking for You!

After many years of building community through great food, good company, and fun events, our Social Committee Chair, Maria Ilioff, is retiring from the role — and we're looking for someone (or several someones!) to step into it, along with new members to join the committee. Good news: Maria isn't going anywhere! She'll continue volunteering with the committee, just not as chair.

If you've enjoyed a potluck dinner, laced up for the morning walking group, cracked open a book with the Rivendell Book Group, or grabbed a cone at our annual Ice Cream Social, you've already seen what this committee makes possible. Now we need fresh energy and new ideas to keep it going strong.

What the Social Committee Does

The Social Committee plans and runs many of the events that bring our neighborhood together throughout the year, including:

- Rivendell Book Group
- Potluck dinners
- Dinners and luncheons out at local restaurants
- Morning walking group, kayaking, and arts and crafts
- Annual Ice Cream Social

New and experimental events, like a community dog walk or neighborhood picnic



Why We Need You

We're especially hoping to hear from **men, young families and newcomers to Rivendell**, groups that are currently underrepresented on the committee. We'd love to develop new events geared toward these neighbors — and we need your voice and ideas to help make that happen.

Whether you want to jump in as a general committee member, or you're ready to take on a bigger leadership role as the new chair, there's a place for you here. No experience is necessary — just enthusiasm for bringing neighbors together.

Worried about the time commitment? Don't be — **we keep meetings to a minimum**, both in frequency and length. And both seasonal and year-round residents are welcome; we know not everyone is here all year, and we'd love to have you involved whenever you're around.

Interested? Let's Talk!

If you'd like to get involved, or just want to learn more about what's involved, please reach out to:

Maria Ilioff: milioff85@gmail.com or (607) 427-4192 (texts welcome)

Adele Kellman: adele.kellman@gmail.com or (908) 464-7003 (texts welcome)

We'd love to hear from you — and we can't wait to welcome new faces (and new ideas) to the team!



Social Committee Activities for August 2026

Offered WEEKLY: Ladies Walk 'n Talk. Meet at the Rivendell Pool. Contact Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com or (973) 219-5839 for more information and if you'd like to be added to the Facebook Walk 'n Talk. Walks are currently on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am, but times will change depending on the season.

- Monday, August 3rd, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, August 6th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, August 10th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Monday, August 17th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, August 20th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, August 24th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Monday, August 31st, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).

Ponds and Preserves Committee

by Bob Frank

Coyotes: What Rivendell Residents Should Know

If you've spotted a slender, gray-brown dog-like critter trotting across your backyard at dusk or heard a chorus of yips echo from a nearby preserve, you've likely met one of Florida's newest full-time residents: the coyote. Since arriving in the state in the 1970s, coyotes have settled into every one of Florida's 67 counties, from rural ranchland to suburban cul-de-sacs. For some, that news is unsettling. But understanding what coyotes do for our ecosystem — and by adopting a few simple habits — people and coyotes can comfortably coexist.



Coyotes visit a Rivendell Pond

That's the whole game when it comes to coexisting with coyotes.

Living With Coyotes: Practical Steps—Never feed them, intentionally or not. Secure garbage cans, bring pet food indoors at night, and clean up fallen fruit or birdseed, which can attract the rodents coyotes then follow.

Supervise small pets. Keep cats indoors and walk dogs on a short leash, especially around dawn and dusk. Small, unattended pets can be viewed by coyotes as prey.

Why Coyotes Matter

Coyotes are natural pest control. A single coyote can eat several thousand rodents a year, along with insects, snakes, and overabundant small mammals. In neighborhoods bordering wetlands and preserves, this keeps rat and mouse populations in check. Coyotes also scavenge carrion, helping clean up roadkill and other carcasses. There's also a less obvious but important ecological role: coyotes are considered "meso-predators," meaning their presence helps balance populations of smaller predators like raccoons and opossums, which prey heavily on ground-nesting seabirds and sea turtle nests — a genuine concern along the Florida coast.

What to Avoid

Coyotes are naturally wary of people. Genuine attacks on humans are extremely rare, and most negative encounters trace back to one root cause: coyotes that have learned people mean food.

Haze, don't ignore. If a coyote lingers too close or shows no fear of you, make yourself big and loud — wave your arms, shout, bang pots. This is called hazing, and it's the single most effective tool for keeping coyotes appropriately wary of humans. A coyote that reliably gets scared off learns to avoid people.

Report. If you see a coyote acting aggressively or appearing sick, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (MyFWC.com) rather than attempting to handle the situation yourself.

The Bottom Line

Coyotes are here to stay, and that's not necessarily bad news. With a little awareness — securing food sources, supervising pets, and hazing bold individuals — we can live safely with coyotes. A wary coyote is normal; a bold one is usually a sign someone has made the mistake of teaching the animal "people might have food!"

For more information or to report a coyote concern, visit MyFWC.com



Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Coyote Infographic

SUDOKU

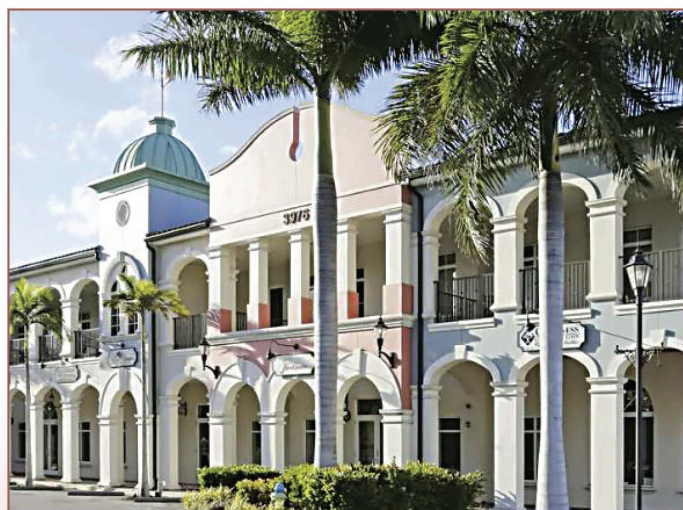
Puzzle from <https://www.printable-puzzles.com/>

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(Solution on page 11)

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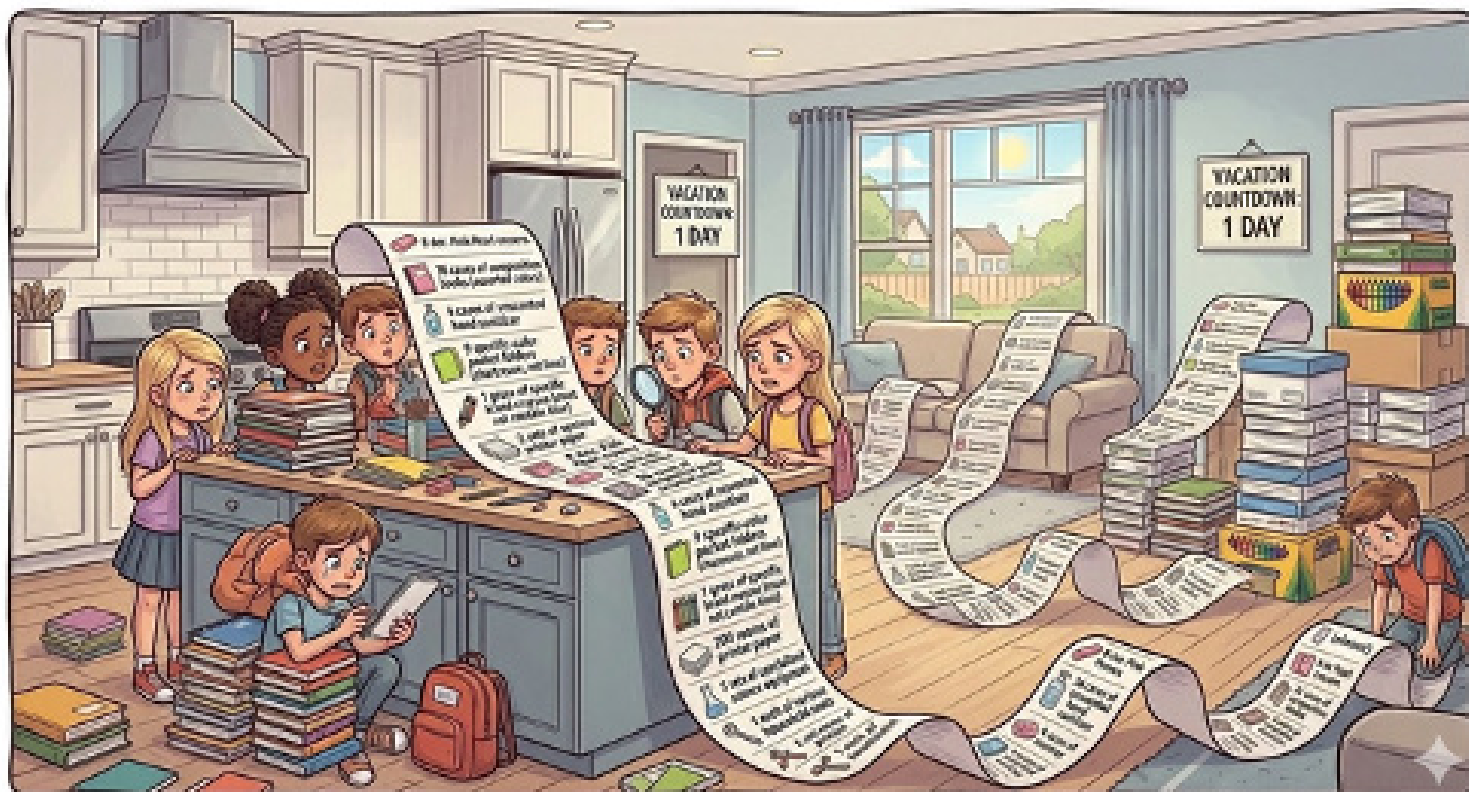
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by Nancy Dobias

*Back-to-school traditions around the world **celebrate the start of a new academic year in incredibly diverse and culturally rich ways.***

In Holland, many kids arrive at school in eco-friendly style, riding in a large wooden box attached to the front of a cargo bike, known as a bakfiets.



(First Day of School continued)

Soooo, if you're looking for something to add to your "new school year" beginnings, cast that height measurement tape aside and consider what other things you could be doing....

HOPE ALL OF THE RIVENDELL CHILDREN HAVE A WONDERFUL EXCITING, FUN-FILLED, AND SAFE SCHOOL YEAR AHEAD!



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The Dog Days of Summer



Carla and Waffles Ahlberg are enjoying the dog days of summer with Silke and Cookie Schinnen



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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.

Work Smart, Play Smart!

By Terry Siemsen, CERT

As the hottest summer days are fast approaching, it's important to keep in mind that heat will sap your energy and body fluids rapidly. So, if you're gardening or playing golf, pickleball or tennis or enjoying a bike ride, be smart about keeping safe!

It's best to slow down and reduce strenuous activities. Try to limit work or play to early morning or evening and avoid the hot midday. This is not always possible but a great rule to schedule your day.

Drink plenty of water and electrolyte replenishing liquids. I would not recommend hydrating with alcoholic beverages!

Eating light easy-to-digest foods makes it easier on your body to process nutrients and intake valuable protein.

Wear lighter colored clothing and less restrictive clothes too. Seek shade and take occasional breaks from the hot sun.

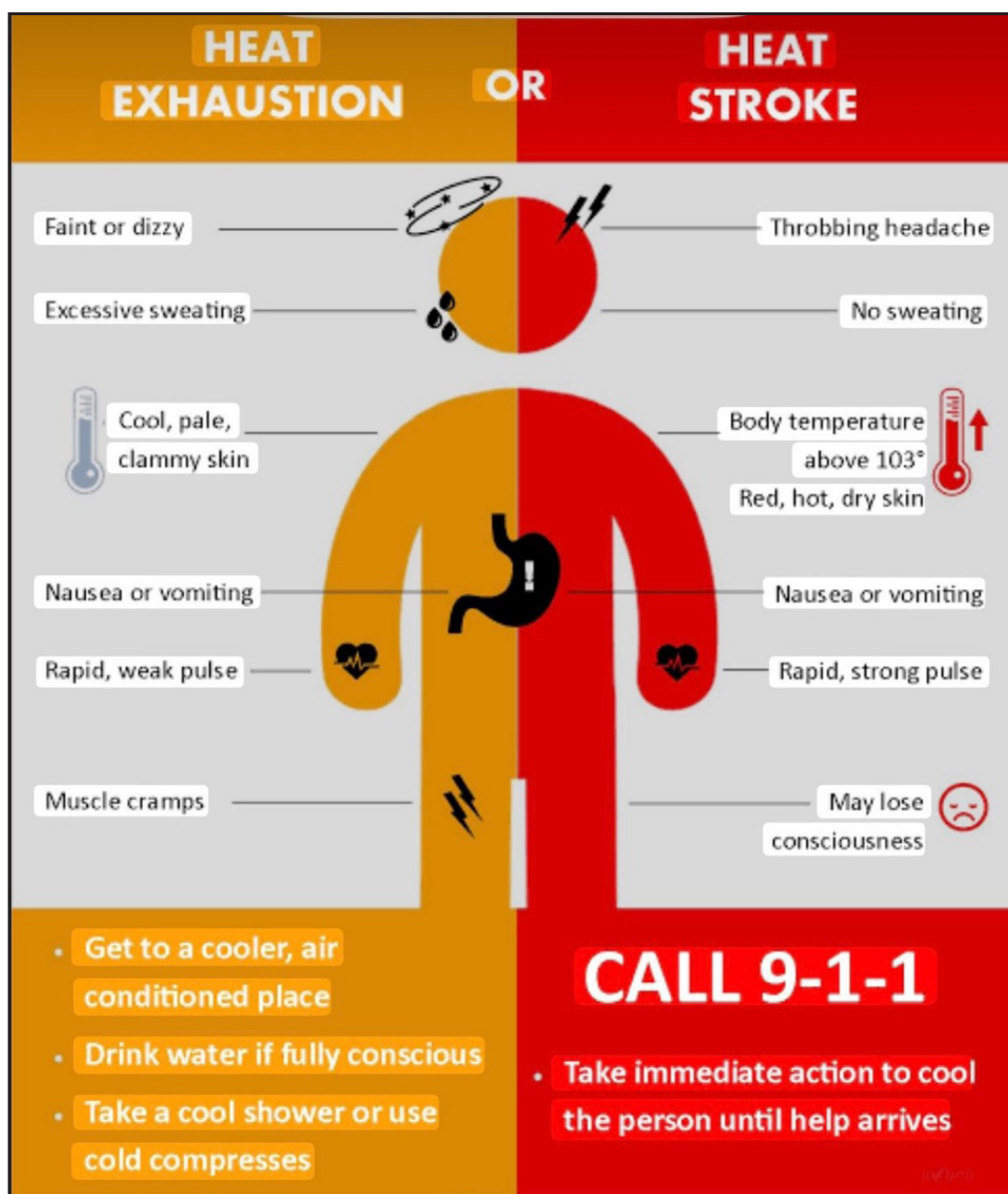
Always consider high-SPF sunscreen when outdoors. My dermatologist will tell you this helps protect from skin cancers and age spots.

If you cannot avoid working or playing in the heat, a cooling mist or a dunk in a pool will help lower your body core temperature.

Always know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke! Both are very harmful to your health and can be life threatening.

Heat exhaustion can leave a person faint or dizzy and typically sweating excessively. A person experiencing heat exhaustion may have cool clammy skin and feel nauseous. Muscle cramps and a rapid weak pulse are more signs of heat exhaustion and any person exhibiting these symptoms should be moved to a cooler, air-conditioned space and drink fluids if fully conscious.

Heat stroke is far more dangerous, and symptoms may often include headache, no sweating and skin may be red, hot and dry. A heat stroke victim may lose consciousness and have a rapid strong pulse. Emergency medical help is needed immediately – call 911 and get professional help!



HEAT EXHAUSTION OR HEAT STROKE?

HEAT EXHAUSTION SYMPTOMS

1. Faint or dizzy
2. Excessive sweating
3. Cool, pale, clammy skin
4. Nausea, vomiting
5. Rapid, weak pulse
6. Muscle cramps

HOW TO TREAT IT

1. Move to cooler location
2. Drink water
3. Take a cool shower or use cold compresses



HEAT STROKE SYMPTOMS

1. Throbbing headache
2. No sweating
3. Body temp above 103°
Red, hot, dry skin
4. Nausea, vomiting
5. Rapid, strong pulse
6. May lose consciousness

HOW TO TREAT IT

1. Get emergency help
2. Keep cool until treated

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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Maintenance Committee Report

by Chuck Pertile

This time of year is generally slow.

Maintenance Committee activity:

Extensive Crescent Park landscape clean-up by Greg and Debbie Volack, Peter Daignault and Mike Nash removing 200 trash bags/ barrels of landscape debris. Thanks to Anna Hope residents for use of their property for refuse pickup.

Major irrigation repairs at Crescent and Village Parks.

Pine View path bollard replacement.

Crates replaced at Cottages Right of Way.



ARC Meeting - Tuesday, June 23, 2026

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

Members Present: Joe Casale, John Greco, John Barron

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
1	746 Shadow Bay Way	Ryan Mach	Install removable black storm protection screens.	Only to be put in place during warnings of named storms. Brackets to be painted same color as the house. Track on top is white, matching the house trim color.	X		
2	531 Meadow sweet Circle	Danny and Linda Jones	Intall two impact glass sliding doors with white aluminum frames.	Cottages Board approved 6/16/26	X		
3	686 Clear Creek Drive	Fan Li	Resod front yard with St. Augustine	To wait for end of drought and/or cooler weather	X		
4	1143 Mallard Marsh	James L. Clark	Roof replacement. Crown Signature Series. AWSSC020 French Roasst. . Dark Gray-Brown		X		
5	1104 Mallard Marsh	Jean Doering	Repaint same colors as existing home except for front door: House body: Practical Beige (SW6100); house trim: Dover white (SW6385); front door: Black bean (SW6006); garage door: Practical beige (SW6100)		X		
6	1104 Mallard Marsh	Jean Doering	new roof: Eagle tile; Concord Blend color; Bel Aire Profile. Replacing Tequila Sunset barrel tile		X		
7	571 Meadow Sweet Circle	Nancy Langois	Replace existing windows and front door with hurricane resitant ones. Grids on Front windows.	Cottages Board approved 6/16/26	X		
8	827 Golden Pond Court	Jason and Rebecca Swartz	Paint. House body Useful Gray (SW7050); Trim - Site White (SW7070); front door and garage door - Functional Gray (SW7024)		X		
9	758 Shadow Bay Way	Albert Cartier	Repaint: House body Agreeable Gray (SW7029); trim, front door and garage door all Extra White (SW7006)		X		
10	758 Anna Hope Lane	Greg Volack	REplace all front windows and one side window, white frame and no grids		X		
11	1055 Scherer Way	Gregory Derron	Replace two Queen Plams, one triple Christmas Palm and one Pygmy Date Palm, replace with two Foxtail Palms, two Christmas Palms. Remove shrubs and replace with Jatropa, Blue Flame Agave, Podocarpus, Croton. Allamanda, Ixora, Carissa and Penta Shribs. Reshope beds, add curbing and sod on edge of beds. Removing plants that are currently screening the AC unit. Will install white vinyl fencing to a height 6" above the top of the equipment.		X		

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

1. If your project is marked "Approved with Specific Conditions", the specific conditions are described above.

(Continued on Pg 13)

(June ARC Meeting continued)

**ARC Meeting - Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

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

Members Present: Joe Casale, John Greco, John Barron

Others Present:

Please see the Notes at the end of this schedule which contain important information, not just "boilerplate"

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
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2. If there is any ambiguity regarding the specific conditions of approval, it is your responsibility to seek clarification before starting work.

3. If you need further information in order to comply with them, please let the ARC know (ARCRivendell@gmail.com) and it will do its best to be helpful.

General Conditions (applicable to all approvals)

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

2. If you use contractors, they should be licensed and insured; you are responsible for damage caused to the property of others or to the common areas.

3. You are responsible for any permits required and that the work complies with local zoning and building regulations.

4. When pressure washing is part of the scope of work, please use non-chlorine cleaners.

5. When windows are being replaced, those in the front of your house must have "grids" (aka muttins or grills).

6. When trees and bushes are to be removed, the stumps must be ground down to a min of 3" below grade.

7. The roof color & material and/or paint colors you submitted (and the only ones the ARC approved) are noted in the Description above.

8. You have read the RCA's Standing Rules and ARC Guidelines and will make sure the work done conforms with them.

Denials

If the ARC denied your request, the reasons are set forth under Comments.

Reviews, Appeals, Mediation, Litigation

If your proposal has been denied or you are unwilling to comply with the General or Specific Conditions of Approval, you should not start work until the matter is resolved. You may ask the ARC to review its decision based on any new information you can make available. You may also ask that the Board of Governors to review the ARC's decision (which it may or may not do) and/or avail yourself of the opportunity to have an independent third party mediate the dispute. You may also take such other legal action as is provided in Florida Statute 720.311. If the Board agrees to review the ARC's decision, it will ask you to state in writing in what ways the ARC's decision is unreasonable.

Covenant & Rules Enforcement; Fines

1. The ARC does not set, impose or waive fines.

2. If you failed to seek or obtain ARC approval before starting work, or proceeded with the work without complying with the conditions of approval, the ARC must recommend a fine to the Board once the failure comes to its attention, even if your project is subsequently approved and the work brought into compliance. The Board makes all decisions related to fines, subject to review and approval by the independent Fines Committee. You will be notified and have an opportunity to challenge the fine at a hearing with the Fines Committee at least 14 days before the fine is imposed.

3. If the work undertaken would not have been approved by the ARC or approved only with specific conditions, you may incur additional fines and be required to either restore the property or take other remedial action at your own expense to comply with the conditions. Aggrieved neighbors also can seek to have the covenants enforced against you if the RCA fails to do so on their behalf.

4. Please consult Florida Statutes 720.311 for the enforcement actions (and challenges to them) that are available.

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