



*Your  
Community Resource*

# The Woodlands Word

June 2026



## A Word From Your Board

*Terry Siemsen, Director -Vice President*

June is the beginning of hurricane season!

I'll introduce myself first – I'm Terry Siemsen and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Rivendell Homeowners Association Board of Directors. My wife Kandy and I live on Clear Creek Drive and have been residents here since 2022. I'm a brand-new board member but I've been active previously on the Maintenance Committee and currently am the Board Liaison to the Ponds and Preserves Committee – which I've been a member of for several years. You may have seen articles here in the Woodland Word written by me as I am also the chairperson of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for Rivendell.



injuries. It's often said – and very true – that each individual is on their own for as long as the first 72 hours after a disaster. Everyone needs to take this seriously. After an initial assessment of "are we OK" and no injuries, it's important to check on neighbors. Elderly persons and persons living alone are particularly in need of being visited. Homes that are damaged should be secured best possible to limit additional damage and debris in streets and alleys may need to be tossed aside to reopen roadways. If this all sounds like volunteer neighbors helping neighbors, you get the picture. Never assume that 911 and EMS service will be readily available and opening roadways to allow minimal vehicle passage is a high priority.

It's fitting that my turn to author the opening Woodland Word article is for the month of June as we are entering hurricane season 2026.

My suggestion is preparation this for hurricane season be exactly what you would do every year. The phrase "prepare for the season, not the storm" is very applicable. There are many forecasts about number of storms, number of hurricanes and El Nino prospects but remember – all these are forecasts!

Readiness – I'd like to think our community is ready and resilient. We have ample time now to gather supplies that might be useful (non-perishable food, batteries, etc) and to check generators and propane for grills. Chat with neighbors if you have travel plans during hurricane season. Hurricane Milton provided valuable lessons on knowing (and in some cases not knowing) if families were still here or had evacuated and who needed help because Sarasota County 911 was overloaded. You will be hearing more about emergency communications – primarily email blasts – in the near future as we are working to be sure residents who are renting are included in our communications protocol. My May article in the Woodland Word had more specific preparation information.

After a disaster event – the absolute top priority is human life and

Hurricanes are likely our greatest threat for life and property damage. Our ongoing drought has increased fire danger in Florida. Our Board has completed a fire mitigation project along our border with Oscar Scherer State Park (see another article in this edition) to reduce the danger of fires spreading from the State Park. We are actively consolidating information about areas in our community that can be "managed" with mowing and which, by County rules, must be untouched preserve lands.

During Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton, our community members raised questions of flooding due to storm surge. Predictions during these events reached as much as twelve feet. For reference, the water elevation in the pond along Rivendell Boulevard where the fountain is located is approximately fourteen feet – or two feet higher than the forecasted storm surge. Most Rivendell homes are about three to four feet higher than that pond so surge from Helene and Milton was of minimal concern. Does that mean we can never be flooded? Rule number one in Emergency Management is "never say never" but the probability is very low.

It's my wish and that also of our Board for a safe and uneventful hurricane season.

## Best of Venice 2025



### From the Other Room

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

Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences  
American Conference of Audioprosthology

A couple months back Karen wrote an article about one of our long time clients and his experience with women's voices. Apparently she struck a nerve with a lot of our families. We had quite a few calls about people struggling to hear women's voices clearly.

One gentleman came into our office in response to the article, and yes, I am withholding his name to protect him. He came in and said he is doing well with his hearing aids but has trouble hearing his wife. I asked him some questions, where is she when you don't hear her, what are you doing, how does she get your attention.

His answers caused Karen to burst out laughing. I am sharing this just in case you recognize someone you love in this story.

He couldn't hear her when she yelled from the bedroom while he was in the living room. Yeah, the door was closed.

She would be in the bedroom since he played the TV so loud it hurt her ears. She didn't want to move to a villa for fear of offending the neighbor with a booming TV.

We addressed both issues. First, we installed a TV system so the sound was streamed to him. Now the sound was not coming from the TV so she could be in the room with him. Second, we programmed his aids to have a priority for her voice, since she was willing to come in and talk to him while I was adjusting the program settings.

If you are struggling to hear women's voices clearly or your spouse must leave the room when you watch TV, call me and let us fix this for you.



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## June 2026 Maintenance Committee -Woodlands

*by Chuck Pertile*

Changed MC mtg from 3rd Tues of the month to the 2nd Tues of the month. This allows MC to submit proposals to the board in a more timely fashion.

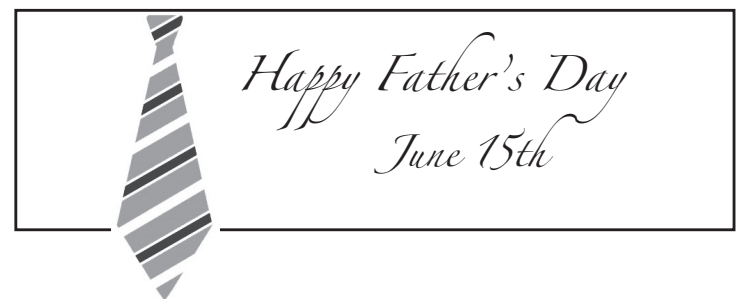
Over 200 Palm trees trimmed throughout the community

The pool filters and inlet covers were changed. The pool level control was adjusted and now working properly

Irrigation controller #2 GFI was repaired and now functioning properly

Turf and ornamental beds were fertilized and treated with pre-emergents.

The review of the community sidewalks for cracks and potential trip hazards has been submitted to Sarasota County.



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## Social Committee Activities for June 2026



Offered WEEKLY: Ladies Walk 'n Talk. Meet at the Rivendell Pool. Contact Lesley Glick at [Lesleymg8@gmail.com](mailto: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, June 1st, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, June 4th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, June 8th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Monday, June 8th, 7:00 pm. Rivendell Book Group. For more information, contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or Lesley Glick at (973) 219-5839.
- Monday, June 15th, from 2 to 4 pm. Mah Jongg. To attend, contact Maria Ilioff at (607) 427-4192 (texts only).
- Thursday, June 18th, from 1 to 4 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.



Join 665 of your fellow  
Rivendell Residents on the NEXTDOOR  
social network [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

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Do you have an item to sell?

Do you have any questions about Rivendell  
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# SUDOKU

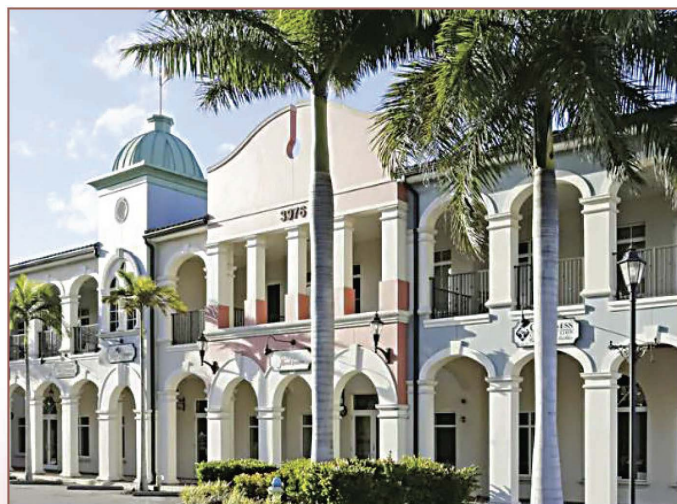
Puzzle from <https://www.printable-puzzles.com/>

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(Solution on page 9)

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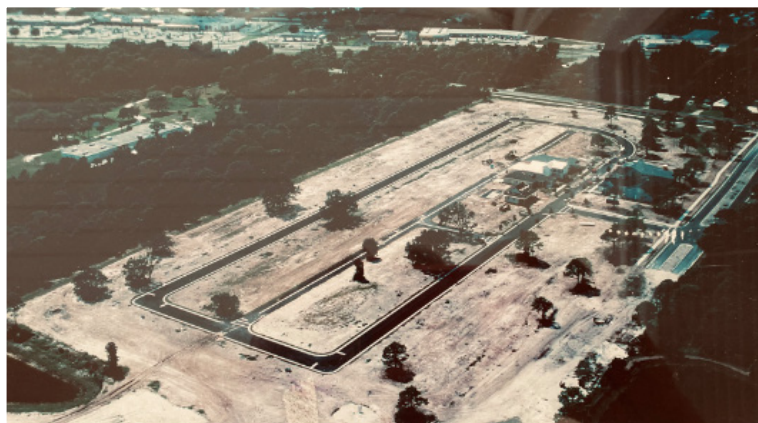
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## Cottages Clubhouse Gets Safety and Aesthetic Upgrade

*By Marilyn and Jim May*

Did you know that the Cottages Clubhouse used to be the sales office for Rivendell? When The Cottages were built in the mid-1990's as the first phase of the current Woodlands of Rivendell development, the builder's sales office was situated in the Cottages since the roads throughout Rivendell had not yet been constructed.

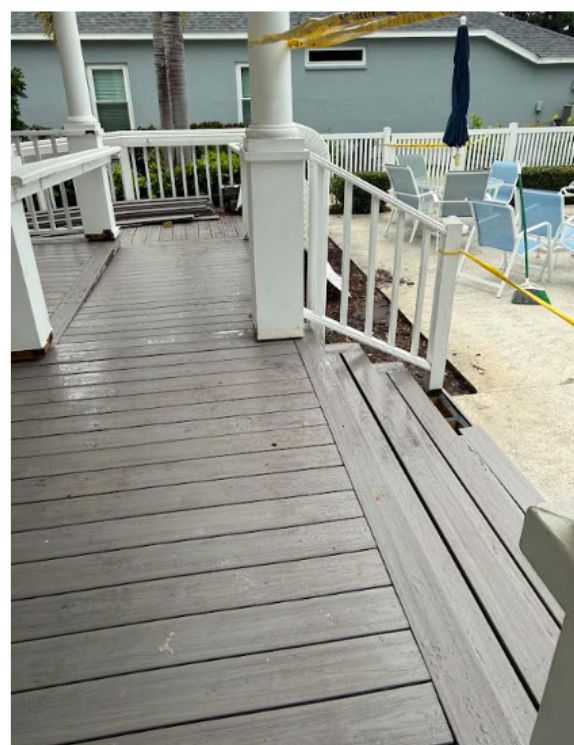
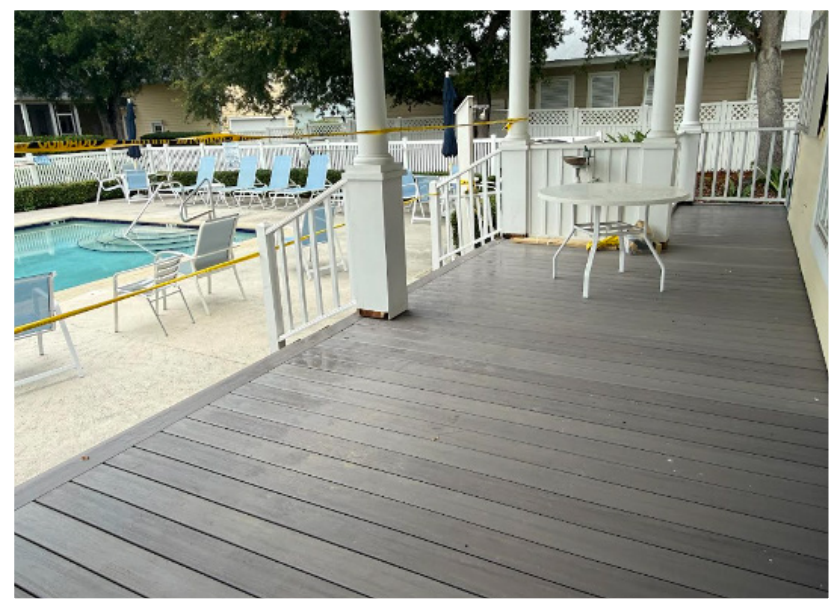
Unless you are the original owner of your home, you may not have visited that sales office to choose your homesite. Eventually, after construction of the remaining 400+ houses was well underway, the building was turned over to the Cottages HOA to use and maintain.



Last year, an HOA task force of residents was assembled to develop a list of Cottages infrastructure issues. One item at the top of the list was the repair or replacement of the original wood deck surface on the rear, poolside porch and side ramp. Residents and project managers, Joe Casale and Steve Bragg, recommended installing a new composite surface as a long-term investment.

New resident Barry Josephson, a former HOA president in another development, assisted us in identifying a reliable, experienced vendor. The contractor, A2Z Home Specialist LLC, has done a great job. Umberto, the owner, respects our space restrictions and has not left materials or a dumpster on site. His crew has done impeccable work.

Kudos to all the residents who provided time and effort in identifying the need for a change, ensuring the quality of the construction, and contributing to the success of this project. Despite a few setbacks, the results will be much safer for residents, look aesthetically pleasing, and should last for many years to come!



# Get Ready, Get Set

by Nancy Dobias

Since some ponds have gotten rather low, it's good to be reminded of why that can be a "good" thing. Do you remember when Hurricane Debby hit us on Aug. 5, 2024, and began unleashing her boatloads of rain?



Thankfully our ponds/wetlands/preserves could handle all the excess and hold that water until it could be absorbed into the soil or could be ducted out of Rivendell and onward to the Gulf.

Crescent Park and Koi Pond were so full that the bubblers were working overtime to duct some of that excess into the woods but not out onto Rivendell Blvd.



The land-bridges that separated both Rivendell Pond and Gator Creek temporarily disappeared as the waters got higher and higher, but again that water stayed managed and contained within our storm water system.



The woods and wetlands eagerly soaked up or held all the inundation of water and performed as the system was intended to function. Water freely flowed into the woods and into all the wetlands that Rivendell has. At no point did the ponds duct water out into our streets or sidewalks. Uncleared street drains may have been the culprit in a few cases, but not the surface water management system.



Pond water did get close though and this was because our outflow was dependent upon other systems to accept our excess. Water could not "travel" out of Rivendell until those below us could handle this flow but Rivendell was still "gold" since we were blessed to have a community that had so much geographical space that was undeveloped. We did have places where the system could hold some of that water.



(Continued on Pg.7)

Get Ready, Get Set continued)



The few Rivendell streets that did have temporary ponding of water didn't have standing water for long. Once street grates were cleared of debris blocking them and ponds were allowed to flow freely to their next destination in the system, the ponding did disappear.



BUT, more importantly, when you see ponds that are rather dry and perhaps not so picturesque, accept this as how the system is designed to work...a temporary "preparation" for what is to come.



As we get ready to move into the hurricane season and the resultant torrential rains, notice what's around you. It's not good to be depositing yard waste, doggy waste, etc. into those street drains. Don't move the debris away from the drains. Bag it and put it out for the trash/yard waste pickups so it doesn't blow back onto the drains.



Our ponds are ready. Are you?

When Board member and CERT chairman Terry Siemsen writes several informative articles for our newsletter to help prepare us for hurricane season, are you reading them? Terry didn't write those articles to just fill up space in the newsletter. They're there to help US manage our own preparation.

When the Pond & Preserve Committee, Maintenance Committee, and the Board manage the oversight/repair/health of our ponds, preserves, trees, land, infrastructure etc, this too is done to better handle what may be coming. Last minute is not the operative plan. Preparedness and Readiness dictate the path forward.

Are YOU ready???

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## Rivendell Community Fire Mitigation

*By Terry Siemsen, CERT*

Our community has ongoing projects that are conducted to the benefit of all homeowners. Some are very visible – like TruScapes mowing and trimming every week. Other projects are not quite as visible but also add value to our neighborhood. One of the latest projects was the forestry mowing and fire mitigation conducted along our community border with Oscar Scherer State Park.

As background, there are several “categories” of land that is open space and will never be developed. “Preserve lands” must be protected and cannot be actively managed – including wetlands. “Conservation lands” can be managed – some must have certain management actions periodically by covenants set by Sarasota County and the developers of Rivendell. “Common lands” are those that are actively managed, our parks for example. Other “common lands” that are managed are smaller strips that are occasional but not continuous between homeowner’s properties and preserves and are mowed almost weekly. Our ponds are a fourth category of community open space. If all this seems confusing, it was also to me but thanks to Larry Dobias for ‘demystifying’ these properties.

The lands that are the community border with Oscar Scherer State park are “conservation land” and we are allowed – for this particular area, required – to conduct mowing of the understory to reduce fire danger. The forestry mowers look like big skid steer machines with a business end of rotating teeth for grinding vegetation. The object of the project was to reduce understory plants (palmettos, weeds, vines, etc.) to a mulched forest floor covering that reduces the potential of any fire spreading to the forest canopy and creating a true community hazard. It’s a project that is required to be undertaken about every five years.

One note about this project. Our contractor worked to minimize damage to any existing trees. Even more, small pines and live oaks were protected as best possible to insure our forest border would continue and flourish for years to come.

Pictures are worth a thousand words so I’ve added some to illustrate the project progress.



**Forestry Mower**



**Cleared area, Oscar Scherer Park border.  
Park to the immediate right**



**A wetland avoided and a vegetation buffer maintained**

*(Continued on Pg. 9)*

(Rivendell Community continued)

*A before and after picture, same location*



*Before*



*After*

# SUDOKU

## SOLUTION

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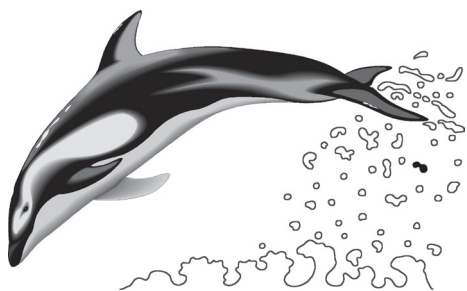
## **RIVENDELL RESIDENTS ENJOY SPECIAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES VISIT TO MOTE MARINE**

On April 23rd, a group of Rivendell residents enjoyed a fascinating guided visit to Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, arranged by fellow resident Lesley Glick.

The tour offered attendees a unique opportunity to experience the aquarium through the eyes of an insider. Our guide, Jerrilyn King, provided engaging and informative commentary throughout the visit. As an Education Specialist at Mote Science Education Aquarium, she shared new and interesting behind-the-scenes information about the aquarium's operations, conservation efforts, and the many fish and wildlife species that call Mote home.

Residents learned more about the care and rehabilitation of marine life, the educational mission of the aquarium, and some of the remarkable animals that inhabit local waters and beyond. Jerrilyn's enthusiasm and knowledge made the experience both educational and enjoyable, giving participants a deeper appreciation for the important work being done at Mote.

Below are photos of the Rivendell group with their guide, along with some of the fascinating marine life and exhibits they enjoyed.





## ARC Meeting - Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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

Members Present: John Barron, John Greco, Joe Casale, Don Roser

Others Present: Marilee Casale

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   | 934 Eagle Isle Ct.    | Barry McClure                 | New accordian style hurricane shutter on front entry stored in "boxes" permanently affixed on either side of the door. Color of boxes to match color of house body. Rear Lanai to have fabric system stored rolled in an overread box, deployed by electric motor. Rails and storage boxes to match lanai pool cage. | Shutters/shades will only be closed or rolled down in connection with a warning of a hurricane or named storm. | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 2   | 1005 Scherer Way      | Jaroslav and Anna Konarzewska | Replace windows on the sides of the house with impact windows. Replacements will look identical to existing                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 3   | 1188 Mallard Marsh    | Susan and Anthony Oliveri     | With the exception of the front door and rear Aquium window, all windows and doors will be replaced with impact glass. New side doors painted to match base color of house. Windows will match home next door.                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 4   | 701 Fordingbridge Way | Elizabeth and James Michel    | Repaint front door to Benjamin Moore Midnight Oil (dark gray).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 5   | 670 Clear Creek Drive | Dale Thorp and Marilou Soltis | Repaint Body - Mexican Sand (SW7519); Trim - Sand Dollar (SW6099); Front door - Bonfire (SW2321); Garage door - Mexican Sand (SW7519)                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 6   | 665 Clear Creek Drive | Terry Siemsen                 | Remove existing junipers in front planter bed and replace with low growing perennials (midget white vinca and blue labelia) and add new pine bark mulch                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 7   | 746 Anna Hope Lane    | Paul Connally                 | Remove two Queen Palms and surrounding shrubs, grind stumps, and replace with two Foxtail Palms, and plant nine Ixora around each Foxtail Palm                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 8   | 717 Crane Prairie Way | Marlene Vogt                  | Remove pine tree in backyard that is leaning precariously toward the house. Will grind stump.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 9   | 1045 Scherer Way      | John Lauren                   | Replace all windows with impact glass. Frames white vinyl very similar in appearance with current windows. Front facing windows will have grids                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 10  | 686 ClearCreek Drive  | Fan Li                        | Remove four Washingtonia palms from front yard due to concerns over potential damage to home in event of hurricane. Homeowner will grind stumps and plant new sod.                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 11  | 1004 Oak Meadow Lane  | David Tomer                   | Install electric motorized roll-down shutters/shades on lanai; tan in color to match the house.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Will only be rolled down during warnings of hurricanes or named storms                                         | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 12  | 1026 Scherer Way      | Simon Barnett                 | Repairing and repainting front columns. Color of front columns will match the existing trim color.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |

(Continued on Pg 12)

(April ARC Meeting continued from Pg.11)



## ARC Meeting - Tuesday, April 28, 2026

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

Members Present: John Barron, John Greco, Joe Casale, Don Roser

Others Present: Marilee Casale

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|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 13  | 1363 New Forest Lane    | Sonya Gray                    | Replacing all windows with white framed impact windows with same appearance as existing windows. All front windows will have grids. Also replace glass front door with solid door painted brown to match current door.. |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 14  | 786 Shadow Bay Way      | Ellen Sagalov                 | Repaint body of house Sherwin Williams - Naturel (SW 7542) and house trim Sherwin Williams Pacer White (SW 6098)                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 15  | 832 Placid Lake Drive   | Lorraine and Ron Kuperman     | Install TriCircle Mega Smooth pavers on driveway, walkway and front entry. Color will be mixture of beige, coconut, and charcoal. Existing footprint will not be changed. Adding stone border along front planter bed.  |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 16  | 726 Shadow Bay Way      | Antriece and Paul Muther      | In the area where plants were removed, plant five flowering perennials: 2 red Salvia Splendens, 3 like pink Pentas.                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 17  | 851 Placid Lake Drive   | Yi Lu                         | Replace all 22 windows with PGT (WinGuard) white aluminum frame impact glass. Front facing windows will not have grids.                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 18  | 552 Meadow Sweet Circle | Markel Revocable Trust        | Replace all windows with PGT Winguard white vinyl laminated insulating windows. Does not include front door, rear door and sliding doors. Front facing windows will all have grids                                      |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 19  | 588 Meadow Sweet Circle | Audrey Sweeney                | Repaint whole house same as existing color. May appear darker due to fading of existing paint                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 20  | 544 Meadow Sweet Circle | Amy Ernst                     | Install roll down shutters on three front facing bay windows; roll down screen over the front entrance; accordion shutter over rear entrance; and roll down screen on small lanai opening.                              | Shutters/shades will only be closed or rolled down in connection with a warning of a hurricane or named storm. | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 21  | 506 Meadow Sweet Circle | David Perez                   | Replace five sliding doors in lanai with impact sliding doors of same size as original                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 22  | 506 Meadow Sweet Circle | David Perez                   | Replace 1/2 circle transom window with impact glass. Replace double front doors with single impact door and two side light glass. Paint new front door Benjamin Moore Forest Green.                                     |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 23  | 551 Meadow Sweet Circle | Bonnie Marks                  | Repaint body of house SW Jovial (SW 6611); Trim SW Alabaster (SW 7008); and front door SW Indigo Black (SW 7602)                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |
| 24  | 1065 Malalard Marsh     | Patricia and Richard Hehmeyer | Replace existing tile roof with dark gray/charcoal large barrel tile manufactured by Crown. Glauser roofing is the installer and has done similar roofs at 1159, 1163, and 1167 Mallard Marsh.                          |                                                                                                                | X                                              |                                   |                    |

(Continued on Pg 13)

(April ARC Meeting continued from Pg.12)



**ARC Meeting - Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

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Others Present: Marilee Casale

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

1. If your project is marked "Approved with Specific Conditions", the specific conditions are described above.
2. If there is any ambiguity regarding the specific conditions of approval, it is your responsibility to seek clarification before starting work.
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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