



# The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

Your Community Resource

November 2021



Join Us For Rivendell Wildlife Week - November 13 - 20. Be a Nature Watcher!

Join the Audubon Bird Walk!

By the Ponds and Preserves Committee.

We love our wildlife friends – that’s why we live here! The Ponds and Preserves Committee is hosting a Rivendell Wildlife Week, November 13 - 20, 2021 and is seeking your help. We have received Grant funding to install aquatic plants in our ponds to control erosion. One of the conditions of the Grant is annual reports about Rivendell wildlife. We are asking residents to help us observe and document the diverse wildlife that calls Rivendell home. Two special opportunities are planned for you to get involved.

**1. Rivendell Nature Watcher – Anywhere in Rivendell – Nov. 13 – 20.**

**You can be a Rivendell Nature Watcher!** Dog walkers, joggers, bikers, parents with kids, folks taking a walk, or just sitting on your lanai – anyone! We ask residents to pay extra attention to the wildlife you see as you spend time in Rivendell.

During this Wildlife week, we are asking residents to note any wildlife they observe - birds, turtles, frogs, deer, otters, bobcats, alligators – any wildlife. If you like, take a picture – we can help identify the animal if you are not sure. This does not need to take a lot of time or effort. Just enjoy Rivendell as you usually do - but this week, record the wildlife you see as you wander around your area.

**Sign up to be a Nature Watcher today!** Contact **Bob Frank** at [frank@ohio.edu](mailto:frank@ohio.edu) for details, and to sign up. Please let us know as soon as possible, but in any case, before Nov.10. We encourage all residents to participate, and hope to have at least one Nature Watcher observing each pond. Bob will be entering all of your observations into a database.



(Continued on Pg. 2)

## Volunteers Perfect “Pick Up Sticks”

by Larry Dobias, President MCA

In preparation for the mulch that was brought into the community in the week of October 11, the Maintenance Committee wanted to clean up any sticks and debris along Rivendell Blvd. This included the area along the Cottages fence, the Magnolia islands and Rivendell Park. An email blast was sent to the community calling for anyone interested in helping on the clean-up project to show up at the bridge at 9:30 on October 6th. At the appointed time, 14 folks showed up and immediately began to fill leaf bags with sticks, dead palm fronds and assorted debris. In about two hours, the work was finished and looked great. Those who took time out of their day to complete this task were:

- Keven and Lisa Boggess
- Dennis and Jolane Bowman along with their helpers Erin and Owen
- Pete Daignault
- Larry Dobias
- Shirley Fair
- Chuck Pertile
- Silke Schinnen
- Greg and Debbie Volack
- Charlie Warren
- and the leader of the team
- Marjorie Wells

Thanks for everyone who worked through the heat and humidity. Another job well done.

## Trick or Treat

by Larry Dobias, President RCA

In recognition of the increasing number of children in Rivendell, Halloween "trick or treat night" will be held on Sunday evening, October 31st, from 6pm-8pm. If you are interested in participating, keep your porch lights on and have treats ready for any little ones who show up at your door.

Additionally, if you a member of the Next-door neighborhood website, there is a "treat map" showing homes in the community that will be participating in "shelling out. You can plan your "route" or, if you wish, register your address.



(Join us Rivendell wildlife week continued from Pg.1)



**2. Audubon Guided Bird Walk – Saturday, Nov. 20 from 8:00 – 10:00 am.**

The Grand Finale of Wildlife Week - join us for a very special Bird Walk! Sharing her bird knowledge, Alena Capek, Venice Audubon Society, will guide residents on a tour around Rivendell to observe birds in our habitat. On the last tour, participants observed over 30 species! Bring your binoculars and camera for an exciting morning of birding. You don't want to miss this tour!

Reserve a spot today! For information and to reserve a spot by Nov. 16, please email Melle Lee Warren at [melle\\_lee@hotmail.com](mailto:melle_lee@hotmail.com). (Adults only, please.)

Photos: River Otter (Bob Frank), Brown Thrasher (Melle Lee Warren)



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

Are you seeking a service provider recommendation?  
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Do you have any questions about Rivendell or other topics residents can help with?

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## Rivendell Calendar of Events - November 2021

Note: If you wish to have your event listed, please submit to Kristine Nickel ([kristine@nickelcommunications.com](mailto: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](http://www.rivendellcommunity.com)

Rivendell Yoga and Meditation Class via zoom on November 1 @ 9:00 am. Participants must have filled out survey and registered for class. Contact [yogavely.com](http://yogavely.com) for more information.

Rivendell Book Club I will be meeting on November 8, which is the second Monday of the month. The book under discussion is Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. Judy Sokal will lead the discussion. Contact Adele at [Adele.Kellman@gmail.com](mailto:Adele.Kellman@gmail.com)

Rivendell Book Club II will be meeting on November 16, 7pm which is the third Tuesday of the month. The book under discussion will be Brooklyn by Colm Toibin. Contact Maria llioff at [miLioff85@gmail.com](mailto:miLioff85@gmail.com) or 607-427-4192 for more information.

Rivendell HOA monthly meeting will be held on November 10 @ 6:00 via zoom. Please check the website for more detail.

To make additions or corrections to the Calendar of Events, please contact Kristine Nickel at [kristine@nickelcommunications.com](mailto:kristine@nickelcommunications.com).

### Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead Launches a Recycle-a-Bicycle Program

Have a bicycle you would like to donate?  
Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead (FOJT), in partnership with The Bicycle Factory, has announced a Recycle-A-Bicycle Program. The program will give away donated bicycles that have been collected by FOJT and refurbished by The Bicycle Factory volunteers.

The Bicycle Factory is an organization composed of volunteer bicycle mechanics and bicycle technicians. Their workshop is located on the premises of the Salvation Army in downtown Sarasota where they refurbish donated bicycles. The recycled bicycles will be given to people in need of alternative transportation, or to children who don't have a bicycle.

FOJT has developed a comprehensive outreach program that will solicit unused or malfunctioning bicycles from residents in the Sarasota, Manatee, and other neighboring county communities. The Recycle-A-Bicycle program will be an on-going initiative.



In addition to soliciting individual donations, we are also asking organizations and businesses to create bike donation campaigns with their staff and employees. FOJT will work with organization leaders in developing the bike donation campaigns.

Individual bike or bicycle parts donations can be arranged to be picked up by calling Ralph Monti, Bicycle Activities Coordinator for Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead. Contact Ralph by phone at 646-705-4148 or email at [ralphmonti@gmail.com](mailto:ralphmonti@gmail.com).

**About Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead**  
Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead is a Chapter of Friends of Sarasota County Parks, a 501c3 non-profit registered in Florida. It is a volunteer organization that supports, promotes, and enhances Osprey Junction Trailhead, a Sarasota County Park adjacent to The Legacy Trail. Visit their website at [ojtfriends.com](http://ojtfriends.com) or by email [friends@ojtfriends.com](mailto:friends@ojtfriends.com).

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## Attitude of Gratitude

Excepted from an earlier column in *The Observer's Lifestyle RX* authored by Kristine Nickel

Could the world get any crazier? A recent article in what I consider to be a very sane newspaper, *The Wall Street Journal*, struck me as not only unbelievable but insanely frightening.

A United States senator is followed into a restroom while a group of women harangue her while she is in a stall, film it and send it out on social media. Where is civility?

So, what I am suggesting in this column may strike you as somewhat counterintuitive. What we need — all of us — is more gratitude. Yes. The world is crazy and it doesn't seem that anyone is sorting out the insanity and putting us on a course that might achieve more world order. But here's what I think: if each of us lived with an attitude of gratitude, we would improve our world and the world around us — one interaction, one hour, one day at a time.

Before you call 1-800-POLLYANNA, review with me all of the benefits of being grateful. Let's start with the purely selfish, our personal well-being:

The guru of gratitude research Dr. Robert Emmons from the University of California at Davis says, "Clinical trials indicate that the practice of gratitude can have dramatic and lasting effects in a person's life. It can lower blood pressure, improve immune function and facilitate more efficient sleep." Emmons work has been mirrored in other studies. Researchers at the universities of Utah and Kentucky cited that stressed-out law students who characterized themselves as optimistic, which is an important component of feeling grateful, actually had more disease-fighting cells in their bodies, thus boosting their immunity. UC San Diego's School of Medicine did a study that showed people who are more grateful have better heart health, specifically less inflammation.

We also know that gratitude increases mental strength by reducing stress and overcoming trauma. *The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* published a study that found that gratitude was a major contributor to resilience following

the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Vietnam War veterans with higher levels of gratitude experienced lower rates of post-traumatic stress disorder according to a study published in *Behavior Research and Therapy*.

Not only has it been found that gratitude is a positive element for our physical and mental well-being, it also makes us more popular. Social capital is the scientific term for popularity and in two studies with over 200 participants, it was found that those who were ten percent more grateful were almost 20 percent more popular. Tell that to your teenager. Or your spouse. As we are expressing our gratitude, making us more appreciative and more trusting our marriages improve (along with other relationships), according to researchers.

### Going Global

Here's where my theory really gains some traction: In a 2012 study conducted by the University of Kentucky, it was found that grateful people are more likely to behave in less aggressive and more empathic ways, even when others behave badly. Study participants who ranked higher on gratitude scales were less likely to retaliate against others, even when given negative feedback. They experienced more sensitivity and empathy toward other people and a decreased desire to seek revenge. Don't we wish the Taliban could hear that.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, let's consider the root meaning of gratitude. It has nothing to do with roasted turkey, candied yams or pecan pie. It comes from the Latin word *gratia*, which is also the root for the words grace and gracious. Doesn't gratitude envelop all of those words. For me, acknowledging that the source of grace I feel comes from outside myself makes me very grateful. It keeps me connected to the rest of the world — as crazy as it may get and as beautiful and precious as we desire it to be.

Happy Thanksgiving. I wish you gratitude for all of your many blessings. Take the time — every day — to count them.





## Safe Bicycle Riding, Part 1

By Ralph Monti

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights on the road and must obey the same traffic laws as operators of other vehicles. In bicycle safety classes, the underlying axiom for being a safe bicyclist is "Ride Your Bike Like You Drive Your Car." Below are basic guidelines for safe bicycle riding.

### FOLLOW THE LAW

Your safety and the public's perception of bicyclists depends on you. You have the same rights and duties as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the right-most lane headed in the direction you are going.

### BE PREDICTABLE

Make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Ride in a straight line and don't swerve between parked cars, on a trail or in the roadway. Signal turns and check behind you well before making a turn or changing lanes.

### BE CONSPICUOUS

Ride where people can see you and wear bright clothing. Use a front white light, rear red light, and reflectors when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with motorists, other bicyclists, and pedestrians.

### THINK AHEAD

Anticipate what drivers, pedestrians and other people on bikes will do next. Watch for turning vehicles and ride outside the door zone of parked cars. Look out for debris, potholes, and other road hazards. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

### RIDE READY

Before you ride, make sure your tires have enough air, your brakes are working, chain runs smoothly, and quick release levers are closed. Carry tools and supplies that are appropriate for your ride. And wear a properly fitted helmet.

You can assess your knowledge of bicycle safety skills and Florida laws, by taking the interactive Florida Bicycle Association bicycle safety quiz. Visit <https://flbikesafetyquiz.com>.

Ralph Monti is the immediate past chair of the board of The League of American Bicyclists, America's foremost bicycle advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. He sits on Sarasota County's Bicycle Trail and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and is the Director of Bicycle Programs for the Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead.

See Part 2 next month.

## 2017 Small Business of the Year



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## Frustrated with Your Spouse?

During our covid quarantine, frustrated with your spouse, seems like a questions that could be answered positively by almost everyone. Yet for those living with someone who has a hearing loss this frustration is always present.

A while ago, Karen had one of our new clients, a first-time wearer, ask her one of those "Here's Your Sign" questions.

He stood in front of her holding his new hearing devices with dead batteries. Standing there in confidence he said, "I didn't even know they stopped working." She did not point out the obvious: then how did you know to bring them here? Instead, she asked him, "did your wife notice?" He seemed surprised that Karen knew what happened, "yes," he said.

We see it so often. We see it too often. Most first-time wearers don't fully appreciate or value how much hearing devices assist them. Yet, their spouse, family, and friends notice their ability to participate in conversations. Quite a few first-time wearers purchased their first set for a spouse's happiness. It follows the simple saying, Happy Wife, Happy Life.

Yes, quite a few husbands, more so than our female clients, purchase their first set to ease friction with their spouse. We know spouses want an easy, enjoyable, engaging life together.

A wife wants her husband to hear independently. When he hears on his own, she will feel like he is a partner. When he hears on his own, he won't be dependent on her to translate the punchline of the joke or repeat what the kids just said.

Ask your friends, family, and spouse if they notice an improvement, they want the best for you. Listen to their response when you are wearing new technology.

If you have you heard "HUH?" or "What?" too often, we can help you have a relaxed, happy environment in your home and with your family.

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## Wildlife Window: Common Frogs

By the Rivendell Ponds & Preserves Committee

If you are fortunate to live near a preserve, wooded area, or pond, you have been treated to the night song of hundreds of croaking frogs, along with other night creatures. The sound can start off as a slow, steady concert that ends up with a crescendo ... and then silence. You are not alone!

There are many wonderful native frogs found in Florida that have important benefits to our natural ecosystem. Frogs help control garden pests, such as insects and slugs. They also serve as a food source for many larger wildlife species. Plus, frogs have been essential to several medical advances that help humans. New painkillers and antibiotics have been created due to research on the substances frogs secrete through their skin. Let's learn about some common frogs you might see in your yard.

### **Green Treefrog** (*Hyla cinerea*)

As their name suggests, treefrogs are well adapted to life in an arboreal environment. Their toes have adhesive disks so they can climb on bark or twigs.

**Size:** Usually 1 to 2.5 in. – small

**Color:** A Green treefrog is usually bright green, but its color may vary to yellow, dull green, or slate grey when it is hidden or inactive. A yellow or white stripe may extend farther along the body on either side, or lacking entirely.



### **Florida Cricket Frog** (*Acris gryllus dorsalis*)

**Size:** Small, adults are 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches in length.

**Color:** This frog varies in color from dark brown to tan or green. Cricket Frogs are easily identifiable by a triangular mark just behind the head and between the eyes. A distinct stripe is often, but not always, present along its spine.

**Sound:** They sound like marbles clicking together – starting with two clicks and then speeding up.

### **Cuban Treefrog** (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)

Danger lurks in your yard - a large invasive exotic (non-native) species. **Cuban Treefrogs** are voracious eaters -- and unfortunately eat native frogs, toads, and lizards. They reproduce faster than Florida's native frogs, and can overwhelm & out-number other frogs in a pond or yard.

Perhaps you've been surprised by a large frog in the toilet – quite likely a Cuban Treefrog. They seem to visit when you have guests – it makes for a memorable visit. While Cuban Treefrogs are not known to be poisonous to humans or small animals, secretions from their skin can be very irritating to your skin and eyes, so wash your hands if you handle one.

**Size:** Cuban Treefrogs range are large – typically 2 to 5" in length (body only, not including legs).

**Color:** Their color can vary, but Cuban Treefrogs are often brownish-yellow, light greenish to beige. Often they do not have bold markings, yet sometimes subtle marks. The skin on their backs is usually bumpy, like that of a toad. They have very large toe pads for their size and relative to native species. They can resemble some of Florida's native species, especially when they are small, so it is easy to misidentify native species as Cuban Treefrogs. Be aware to be prepared.

[Learn more here: [https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/cuban\\_treefrog\\_inFL.shtml](https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/cuban_treefrog_inFL.shtml)

(Frog images: UF/IFAS)



## REAL ESTATE CORNER

### Homeowner Associations. Why do they exist?

by Barbara Gahry

Many folks who buy into a neighborhood in Florida will agree to become part of a Homeowners Association (HOA) without really understanding what that means. HOAs can be voluntary or mandatory. Voluntary HOAs do not require membership. Mandatory HOAs, such as Rivendell, do require membership and thus, have established fees to benefit the community as a whole. Before you bought your home in Rivendell, you were given a disclosure form to sign, indicating the home is in a mandatory HOA and that you would be responsible for paying periodic fees to cover all common expenses. You also would have been given the governing documents to read. HOAs are established by Chapter 720 of the Florida Statutes and THAT is what sets all these rules in motion. So, the next time you believe you are being unfairly targeted by the HOA, please remember that they only enforcing the rules as required by law.

What is the role of an HOA? Very simply, an HOA must govern the community and enforce its rules. The Board of Directors, elected by the members, are the vehicle to accomplishing both. The By-Laws is the document stating HOW the community is to be managed and the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, commonly known as C,C and Rs is the document that outlines the RULES and property limitations of a planned community, such as Rivendell. An HOA has the right to fine members who do not comply with payment of fees or who are in violation of the rules. If the fines are not paid by the owner, the Board may file a lien against the property and ultimately, have the right to foreclose on the property.

What are advantages to having an HOA?

1. The HOA is responsible for maintaining the upkeep of the common areas, thus helping to keep property values stable.
2. The HOA sets community standards in which all members must follow the same set of rules.
3. The HOA can hire another level of management, i.e. a property management company to oversee the day to day management of contracts, to deal with violations, to answer owner questions, to help with budgeting and a variety of other tasks. With large communities, this is necessary, as volunteers may come and go or may not be consistent or fair with oversight.
4. An HOA can help neighbors get to know each other by enabling volunteer opportunities, social activities, or specialized group activities, etc.
5. The HOA ensures that all community amenities are maintained and made available to their members..

What are some of the disadvantages?

1. You have fees to pay periodically. This may include an assessment for an expenditure not covered by the Reserve fund.
2. You have to follow the rules.

# BOO !

by The Cottages Communications Committee

It's Halloween on Meadow Sweet Circle! Witches, jack-o-lanterns and ghosts, oh my! The Cottages Clubhouse is a spooky place these days and we have some wonderful neighbors to thank for that. A big shout-out to Kathi Webber, Carole Myles, Debbie Craddock, and Ellen Lawlor for getting us in the Halloween spirit. Ellen's ghosts add a haunting touch to the rest of the decorations. Thanks to all of you for your time, effort, and creativity. In addition, many residents have decorated their homes with seasonal displays. If you haven't seen the decorations, walk or drive by soon. It's especially impressive at night!

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!





## Book Nook

### Here's What I'm reading

by Kristine Nickel

Here's what's been on my reading table lately.

I just finished *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Start-Up*. While I'm primarily a fiction reader, I love a good non-fiction, and this fits that bill perfectly. With the on-going trial of Elizabeth Holmes for various activities associated with her Silicon Valley start-up Theranos, I wanted to do a deep dive into that story. The book is based on author John Carreyrou's Wall Street Journal reporting, which broke the story six years ago. He presents chapter after gripping chapter of fraudulent activities that fooled some of the most prominent thought leaders and corporations in this country. I could hardly put it down. The insights about Silicon Valley alone makes it worth the read, but I think you'll find it a fascinating modern-day tale reminiscent of the Emperor Having No Clothes — in this case, the Empress.

For those of you who are fans of William Ken Krueger's Cork O'Connor series, you won't want to miss *Lightning Strikes*. This is a prequel to the 17 mysteries he has penned over the past decade or so. I loved it. It speaks to growing up in a small town during a much different time as well as the bonds formed and broken between fathers and sons. The book frames up many of the themes that resonate through-out the series. I finished the book, amazed at Krueger's ability to capture so many emotions while spinning a good mystery at the same time.

Have you read a good book lately? Tell us about it! Send your submissions to [frank@ditwebb.com](mailto:frank@ditwebb.com), with the subject line "Here's what I'm reading".

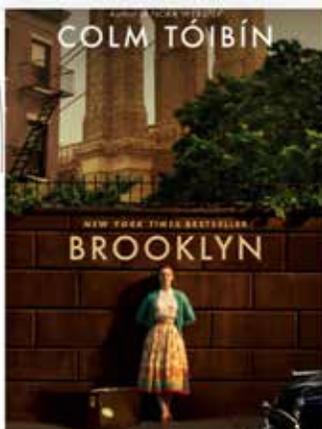
### Rivendell Book Group Continues with Zoom for November

The Rivendell Book Group meets at 7:30 pm on the second Monday evening of each month. The Group will continue meeting on Zoom for November. We are asking participants to log on 10-15 minutes early to avoid online glitches.

On Monday, November 8th, 2021, we will be discussing *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, a 1937 novel by Zora Neale Hurston. Our discussion will be led by Judy Sokal.

In December, we will be discussing *The Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende and in January we will be discussing *Intimacies* by Katie Kitamura.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Adele Kellman ([adele.kellman@gmail.com](mailto:adele.kellman@gmail.com) or on 908-464-7003) to receive an invitation. We welcome newcomers.



### BOOK GROUP II

Isn't it wonderful that we have two book clubs in our Rivendell Community!

November's book club read is the historical fiction "Brooklyn" the 6th novel by the Irish born author Colm Toibin. The book is set in Ireland and Brooklyn in the early 1950's when a young woman crosses the ocean to "make a new life for herself". She is caught between two worlds and struggles for independence, self-experimentation, and commitments to family vs. love choices. Toibin offers a restrained account of immigration in America and New York during this time period. GoodReads describes it as being "hauntingly beautiful...". It is an enjoyable, easy read.

We will meet live (outdoors, with social distancing) for the first time in over 1 1/2 years on November 16, 7pm. If you are interested in joining us or want more details about our group, please contact [milioff85@gmail.com](mailto:milioff85@gmail.com) or call/text Maria at 607-427-4192.



## Book Nook

### Suncoast Empire

#### Report of a Recent Book Discussion

In October, the Rivendell Book Group read a book we recommend for people in the Rivendell community interested in Sarasota history. The book is Suncoast Empire: Bertha Honoré Palmer, Her Family, and the Rise of Sarasota by Frank A. Castell. Castell, an academic historian who resides in Sarasota has written a well-researched book on the early history of Sarasota.

Some surprising information in this history is that the initial land development as conceived by Bertha Palmer was for 10–20-acre plots of farming land, initially in the Bee Ridge area, in a place named Bee Ridge farms. An important part of the development was getting the local railroad company to extend its line to Venice, with stops along the way, including the town of Bee Ridge. Land development was pursued in a professional manner: land was cleared, streets were paved every mile or so, drainage and canals were provided as well artisanal wells for irrigation. Expert agricultural advice was solicited to support the farmers, helping them to learn what crops were ideal, how to plant three seasons of crops, and how to fertilize. Packing plants and canneries were constructed to pack and can fruit and vegetables for shipment by rail to Northern states.

Castell gives detailed information on the Palmer lands, including Bertha Palmer's personal property utilized for cattle ranching which now comprise Myakka State Park. Cattle ranching was yet another endeavor professionalized by practices she introduced. The history of the introduction of the celery crop to Sarasota (which was once the third largest source in the country) alone makes for fascinating reading.

When Bertha Palmer arrived in Sarasota, it was a tiny place without even a hotel nice enough for wealthy Northerners to stay. As a result of her and her family's development of the lands that she purchased, the town, and many areas, both inland and along the coast (including the area which is now called "Spanish Point"), had paved roads, many more residents, and jobs. For many years, the Palmer companies were the largest employers in the area, and helped mitigate the impact of the Great Depression on Sarasota. Castell's book is worth reading for the many insights it offers into our local history.

## Comfort and Joy

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**WELCOME TO RIVENDELL**

The many recreational offerings and country feel of The Woodlands at Rivendell make it a highly desirable community. Located in Disney Florida, just minutes from downtown Sarasota, this suburban-style neighborhood features many parks, lakes, nature trails and more to fulfill 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 Pine 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 viewable from many homes.

The Rivendell Community Web Site is available at

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

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



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## Protection of Our Preserves is a Priority for Everyone.

By the Ponds & Preserves Committee

The protection of native habitat areas and wildlife has long been a community priority for Sarasota County. Along with our ponds, Rivendell’s preserves are an integral part of our stormwater management system and add significant aesthetic value to our community. With one-third of the homes in Rivendell bordering designated preserves, we share the County’s commitment to protecting our preserve areas.

Sarasota County has adopted standards to protect specific types of native habitats – ensuring their value and functions are retained for future generations. To help residents better understand the importance of protecting our preserves, the County created a **Preservation Areas Facts Sheet** [\[Click here to read\]](#)

**The most common habitat in Sarasota County is freshwater wetlands**, which typically have an upland buffer surrounding the wetland preserves. Important benefits of upland and wetland preserves include water quality, flood control, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, privacy-screening by native vegetation, and property value.

(Gary Mruz video image)



**Know Your Property Line?** Rivendell’s Preservation Areas are separate tracts of land not owned by any one person, but owned by the Homeowners Association (RCA) which is the responsible entity. It’s important to know your property line so it does not encroach on community-owned or preserve (buffer zone) land to minimize incursions. Consult the survey map of your property which you should have received when you purchased. Or, find the Plat for Rivendell and your lot on the County’s website. [Search by “Rivendell” at <https://secure.sarasotaclerk.com/subplatssearch.aspx>



**Buffers generally do not need to be “cleaned” up.** The buffer zone might look aesthetically unpleasant due to layers of fallen branches, palm fronds and vines. Leaving buffers in their natural state encourages the decomposition cycle - an important biological process that creates microhabitats, food sources, nesting areas, and returns valuable nutrients to the soil.

**No Incursions Allowed in Buffer or Preservation Areas!** The RCA is responsible for maintaining these preserve areas in accordance with requirements by SWFWMD and the County. Homeowners or renters are not allowed to plant, disturb, build, store, or remove anything from the preserve areas under strict guidelines. Do not cut or remove dead vegetation, deposit your yard waste, nor allow grass or invasive vegetation to encroach these areas. Violations are enforced and monitored regularly to ensure compliance with the community and County rules



**Together, let’s enjoy and protect the beauty of our wetland and upland preserves.** Preservation areas within our community, and the communities nearby, create corridors that wildlife utilize as their home range and habitat. Help us keep our community vibrant and healthy for all our wildlife and residents.



## Wildlife Window: The Osprey

### Beautiful Birds of Prey. Great Anglers. Our Hometown's Namesake.

By the Rivendell Ponds & Preserves Committee

The Osprey, (*Pandion haliaetus*) is a bird of prey or raptor, commonly seen along coastal habitats in Florida, and often in Rivendell. Ospreys are found on every continent except Antarctica. In North America, they nest along the coasts and large inland lakes. You have probably heard their call – their high-pitched whistling cry can carry easily over half a mile. Let's learn more about these beautiful raptors, and the namesake of our hometown.

**Appearance:** Ospreys are a species of raptor sometimes mistaken for the bald eagle. They are large, with a height of 23" tall and wingspan of 72". White undersides and a crook in the narrow wings identify this bird as it soars above the water.

Adults are dark brown above with brownish-black marks on the wings and brown speckling on the white breast. The head is white with a dark brown crown and brown streak down the cheek. The female is typically larger than the male.

(Bob Frank)



**Habitat and Nesting:** In Florida, nesting season usually begins in December and lasts until late February. Nests are commonly found atop large trees, channel markers, utility poles and urbanized areas with manmade nesting poles.

Ospreys make their nests out of sticks and reuse them year after year, returning not only to their same breeding area each year, but also to their same wintering grounds.

(Bob Frank)

**Feeding:** Ospreys, also known as "fish hawks," are expert anglers that like to hover above the water, locate their prey and then swoop down for the capture with their talons extended. They feed primarily on live fish they catch from the water by using their long, hooked talons. An osprey can plunge so forcefully into the water that it will completely submerge!

Like all raptors, they are believed to have the keenest eyesight in nature due to large eyeball size and eye muscles designed for rapid focus. They can see about eight times farther than humans.

(Allie Sandow)



**Fun Fact:** Ospreys have several amazing adaptations that set them apart from other birds of prey. They possess a reversible outer toe that can move at will to place a fish in a more aerodynamic position. Another adaptation is the short spines located on their feet that help to hold their slippery prey tightly as they fly over water.

**Protect their Habitats:** Overdevelopment, poor water quality, and toxic pesticides continue to threaten precious wildlife habitats. Let's keep our ponds and preserves healthy and attractive for these wonderful Osprey and other wildlife friends. We can enjoy their beauty and enhance our quality of life, plus keep our property values strong.

## Rivendell Community Contacts

<p><b>Committees</b>  <b>Block Captain Committee</b>  Chair: Rachel North Zipay (<a href="mailto:mobilrach@verizon.net">mobilerach@verizon.net</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>George Smith</b></p> <p><b>CERT Committee</b>  Chair: Paul Englert (<a href="mailto:paule253@hotmail.com">paule253@hotmail.com</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>Cathy Daignault</b>  Members: Need Volunteers. Please contact Paul if interested.</p> <p><b>Communication Committee</b>  Chair: Kristine Nickel (<a href="mailto:kristine@nickelcommunications.com">kristine@nickelcommunications.com</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>Larry Dobias</b>  Newsletter: Frank Diteljan, Carol Heckert  Directory: Open  Webmaster: Gary Mruz</p> <p><b>Architectural Review Committee (ARC)</b>  Chair: <b>Greg Warner</b>  Board Liaison: <b>Greg Volack</b>  Questions or Submissions: <a href="mailto:rivendell@mgmt.tv">rivendell@mgmt.tv</a>  Members: Joe Casale, Rich Bunce, Maria Ilioff, Joe Zwerling, Jim Duncan</p> <p><b>Fine Administration Committee (FAC)</b>  Chair: Robert Thierfelder (<a href="mailto:rcthierfelder@gmail.com">rcthierfelder@gmail.com</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>George Smith</b>  Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy</p> <p><b>Maintenance Committee (MC)</b>  Chair: <b>Chuck Pertile</b> (<a href="mailto:noplans12@gmail.com">noplans12@gmail.com</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>Greg Volack</b> (<a href="mailto:gregvolack@gmail.com">gregvolack@gmail.com</a>)  Members: Carole Myles, Mark Giordano, Dave Cook, Kevin Humbert</p> <p><b>Ponds &amp; Preserves Committee</b>  Chair: Bob Frank (<a href="mailto:frank@ohio.edu">frank@ohio.edu</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>Larry Dobias</b>  Members: Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Edith Norby, Sue Remy, Norma Lee Rhines, Allie Sandow, Melle Lee Warren</p> <p><b>Social Committee</b>  Chair: Carolyn Kenney (<a href="mailto:kenneycsrq@gmail.com">kenneycsrq@gmail.com</a>)  Board Liaison: <b>George Smith</b>  Members: Kristen Ellison, Kathy Halaiko, Sallie Hawkins, Maria Ilioff, Deb Jones, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak, Lenora McComas, Karen Price, Melle Lee Warren</p>	<p><b>Rivendell Board of Directors</b>  Larry Dobias, President, <a href="mailto:dobiasle@gmail.com">dobiasle@gmail.com</a>  Greg Volack, Vice President, <a href="mailto:gregvolack@gmail.com">gregvolack@gmail.com</a>  Cathy Daignault, Treasurer, <a href="mailto:catdaignault@yahoo.com">catdaignault@yahoo.com</a>  George Smith, Secretary, <a href="mailto:georgeandnadia@gmail.com">georgeandnadia@gmail.com</a>  John Fitzgibbon, Director, <a href="mailto:john.fitz48@gmail.com">john.fitz48@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Sub-Association Boards of Directors</b>  The Cottages: Marilee Casale, President, (<a href="mailto:marileecasale@gmail.com">marileecasale@gmail.com</a>); John Martin, 1st Vice President, (<a href="mailto:4johmartin@gmail.com">4johmartin@gmail.com</a>); Carole Myles, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Bob Metelko, Treasurer (<a href="mailto:bob@csdsinc.net">bob@csdsinc.net</a>); Kathi Webber, Secretary, (<a href="mailto:kathi.travel@gmail.com">kathi.travel@gmail.com</a>).</p> <p><b>Patio Homes: Bob Thierfelder</b>, President; <b>Dan Tavares</b>, Secretary; <b>Randy Price</b>, Treasurer.</p> <p><b>The Villas: Sherry Sholtis</b>, President; <b>Merdeith Pike</b>, Vice President and Secretary; <b>Barbara Loe</b>, Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Lighthouse Property Management:</b>  <b>941-460-5560 Ext. 225</b>  <b>Property Manager:</b> Crystal Mierow (<a href="mailto:crystalmierow@mgmt.tv">crystalmierow@mgmt.tv</a>)</p> <p><b>Rivendell Website</b>  <a href="http://www.rivendellcommunity.com">www.rivendellcommunity.com</a>  Contact Lighthouse Management for password to RESIDENTS section.</p>
<p><b>Woodlands Word Deadline:</b>  Submit articles and information to Frank Diteljan (<a href="mailto:frank@ditwebb.com">frank@ditwebb.com</a>) by the tenth of the month.</p> <p><b>Updates to the Contacts Page:</b>  Frank Diteljan (<a href="mailto:frank@ditwebb.com">frank@ditwebb.com</a>)</p>	<p><b>Nuisance Alligator</b>  Call Florida Fish &amp; Wildlife - SNAP 866-392-4286  Do Not Call Lighthouse Property Management</p> <p><b>Sarasota County Sheriff</b>  <b>Non-emergency Number: 941-316-1201</b>  Please use this number for non-emergencies</p>

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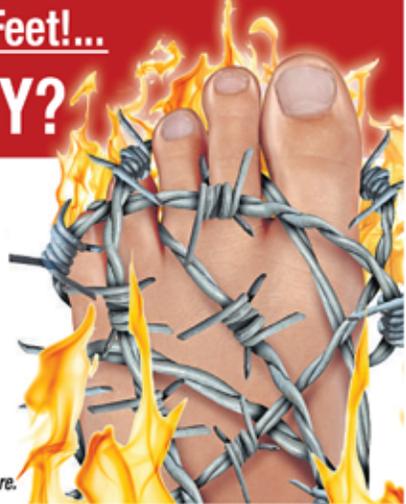
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