



The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

*Your
Community Resource*

APRIL 2014

Maintenance Committee Report

March 5, 2014

Jim Stepien, Chair

Committee Members attending - **Bill Bloom, Dave Gill, Carol Heckert, Curt Kennedy, Joe Lucente, Carole Myles, Jim Stepien (Chair) and Walter Perkowski (Board liaison).**

At our meeting we discussed the following new items and ongoing projects:

- The MC has decided to change the date of all future meetings to the last Wednesday of each month at the Cottages Clubhouse beginning at 7:00pm.
- A committee member will gather information, names of certified arborists, and specification for a contract to analyze the condition of the community's slash pines trees. The MC will review and make a proposal to the Board.
- The Board approved replacing all lake/pond and park signs. Many of the previously installed signs have either been damaged or are missing. New signs will be smaller and in earth tones to blend in with our landscaping.
- For the past several months, the MC had been reviewing the need for irrigating the common areas abutting our roads and sidewalks that were not completed by the developers. Under previous Boards an attempt to use solar power for the required irrigation pumps had proved unsuccessful. Our proposal includes utilizing many of the pumps and irrigation lines already installed. The Board approved moving forward on our plan to install electric service to these common areas, and as an additional benefit, landscape lighting will also be installed.

(Continued on Pg. 11)

Highlights of Board of Directors Meeting

By Carol Heckert;

Reviewed by Bobby Merrill

Attending: **Gwen Stepien, Walter Perkowski, Joe Sefack, Bobby Merrill.**

A few highlights of this meeting:

- Up to \$49,000 was approved to install irrigation between the 5 ponds and streets not already irrigated, and to up-light several of these areas plus the bridge
- Pebble Pools will replace Southwest Pools as the vendor servicing the community pool
- Members were chosen for the Architectural Review Committee
- Rebuttals were given to a homeowner's email that was circulated throughout the community

Treasurer's Report:

We are under budget by \$6,600 for the first month of the year. Due to concerns circulated by email, that Rivendell was using out of state banks and keeping money in money market accounts rather than CDs, the treasurer explained that the Board has hired Lighthouse to manage our association funds and is satisfied with their performance. The out of state bank offers specialized services for homeowner associations so that dues can be sent directly to the bank and credited to homeowner accounts without Lighthouse having to handle the money. There is no charge for this service. In addition, the Board does not want to move money around in an attempt to get the highest interest rate, as there is not much difference between CDs and money market accounts. Money market accounts are preferred as they do not have a penalty for early withdrawal.

(Continued on Pg. 12)

Joseph Sefack, our newest Board member

By Mike Bergman



Joe Sefack is a recently elected member of our Board of Directors, along with newly-elected Gwen Stepien and Vinny Baron. They join returning Directors Bobby Merrill and Walter Perkowski. Joe isn't new to the job, having been a past Board President a few years back, as well as serving on the ARC. He brings lots of experience to his position. There are a few things Joe hopes to accomplish along with his outstanding group of co-directors. Among them are:

- **Speed up the oversight process:** Currently it can take 2 or 3 months to resolve such simple problems as mailbox lights out, or similar easily fixed violations. He'd like to see this type of issue resolved within the month it is noticed.
- **Expand the Maintenance Committee improvements as the community ages:** Continue to maintain and improve the aesthetics of our neighborhood to preserve our property values. (Recent examples are tree trimming and wide-spread mulching, long overdue.)
- **Clean up the Covenant rules:** Currently there are 51 pages of Covenants, 36 pages of Revisions, plus Standing Rules. These need to be put under one document and streamlined. Some rules pertain to the builder that are no longer needed (no more empty lots, etc.) And some rules are not enforceable.
- **Get more residents involved:** Encourage attendance at Board meetings and welcome community discussion during the meetings. Add Town Hall and discussion workshops for the residents' benefit. Welcome volunteers for our committees.

Joe Says, "With YOUR help, we can continue to make Rivendell a great place to live."

**Maintenance Committee
Meets the last Wednesday
of each month at 7pm
in the Cottages Clubhouse**

5K Run Through Rivendell April 12 By Kelly McClannahan, edited by Judy Sokal

Pine View School is holding its first annual 5K Run on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 7:30 AM. The race route runs through Rivendell so please be aware that some roads may be only partially accessible for a time that morning. The run is sanctioned by the Manasota Track Club and there will be police to help direct traffic and cones to mark off the race. Pine View is hoping for 400 racers to participate. The race will be an annual event to promote the 5-2-1-0 initiative that has been adopted by the Sarasota Schools. (5 fruits and vegetables per day, 2 hours or less of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and 0 sodas.)

We hope this will bring together our school community in a fun and healthy way. The event is open to the public, so residents of Rivendell are invited to participate, and can register by going to pvythonrun.com.

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**April Rivendell Board Meeting
April 7th, 2014 6PM at Historic
Spanish Point in Osprey
Any changes will be posted on the
Website www.rivendellcommunity.com**

*Dates, times, and locations of Board and
Committee meetings are based on the
information available at the time of publication.*

Through The Lens

By Kay Mruz

Rescue In Rivendell

One of our ponds' residents, a Great Blue Heron, is alive and well today thanks to some observant Rivendell residents and the dedicated efforts of Jessi and Peg from the Wildlife Center of Venice.



The heron was seen standing in the shallows and on the banks of Rivendell Lake East. A large amount of twine was caught on the bird's beak. Wrapped in the twine were sticks and other debris that hung down to the bird's feet. After learning of the heron's plight, the Wildlife

Center of Venice immediately sent out volunteers to catch the bird. Despite the volunteer's best efforts, and lots of fish, the heron could not be lured into



The heron is at the Wildlife Center of Venice in a large enclosure where it is eating well and gaining weight. When the bird has fully recovered, it will be re-released at Rivendell Lake East. If you ever come across injured wildlife, please call the Wildlife Center of Venice at 941-484-9657. To learn more about this wonderful facility visit their website at www.wildlifecenterofvenice.org.



Waste material left behind by humans has killed or maimed wildlife in astronomical numbers. Thankfully, this heron's story has a happy ending. Here in Rivendell, I am

the snare they had set. Determined to catch the heron, Jessi returned the next morning to try again and once more the heron stayed just out of reach. After learning the bird was still at the pond, Jessi returned with another volunteer, Peg. I was lucky enough to be present for this rescue attempt and was able to take pictures. Armed with red-herring, Jessi and Peg set the snare and began tossing the fish toward the heron. The bird soon started to show an interest in the red-herring and slowly moved closer and closer to the snare. After a few tense minutes they caught the bird. Once captured, Jessi and Peg moved quickly. Not wanting to stress the heron any more than it already was, they released the heron from the snare, did a quick assessment and put the bird in a quiet enclosure. They said the heron was a young bird. It was also underweight because the twine dangling from its beak to the ground scared away most prey.

proud to say we do a pretty good job of keeping our neighborhood clean. No matter where you are if you come across litter left behind by someone else, please pick it up and throw it away. Chances are you will be saving a life.



"Rivendell's newest arrivals"



Florida Snapping Turtle

By Kay Mruz

Most of my encounters with Rivendell's resident turtles have been when they need a little help getting out of the road. They have either been box turtles or one of the few types of Cooters that live in our ponds. These turtles seem quite happy to have someone lift them over the curb that they have been trying to scale for who knows how long and are very cooperative during the lifting process. One evening I saw a Florida snapping turtle making it's way into the street. I walked over to make sure its journey was a safe one and as I suspected it did not want my help. These are turtle's that you DO NOT want to pick up so I enlisted the help of my husband and a long handled broom to get it back to safety.



The adult Florida snapping turtle's carapace (top shell) is roughly twenty inches in length and brown, olive grey or black in color. The light-colored plastron (underside) is small resulting in a large amount of flesh exposed. The limbs are large, powerful and heavily clawed. The claws can inflict deep lacerations on your hands and arms and is reason number one you should not attempt to pick them up. The neck, which is half the length of its body and can strike out in many directions, is the second reason you should not attempt to pick up a snapping turtle. Attached to the neck is a massive head with powerful jaws that can cause quite a bit of damage. The turtle's tail is very long with rows of large, saw-toothed scales across the top. Never pick a snapping turtle up by its tail. While this may look like the safest way to grab a Florida snapping turtle it is actually the worst. The tail is an extension of the turtle's spine and can be irreparably damaged during lifting. Adult weight is around 35 lbs.

The Florida snapping turtle is native to the peninsula of Florida. These snapping turtles prefer to

live in slow moving water with a soft mud or sand bottom and lots of aquatic vegetation. Most of the turtle's day is spent eating, basking in the sun just under the water's surface, lying on the bottom of the pond or buried in the mud at the water's edge.

Florida snapping turtles eat pretty much anything they can overpower and swallow. Their diet consists of, but is not limited to, aquatic plants, fish, frogs, tadpoles, crayfish, salamanders, insects, snails, leeches, worms, snakes, small mammals, the young of some waterfowl, and carrion.



When it is time to lay their eggs, female snapping turtles dig a bottle-shaped hole about eight inches deep using their hind legs. Ten to thirty ping pong ball-shaped eggs are laid and then covered up with dirt. She then returns to the water and provides no further care for the nest or hatchlings. Depending on temperature, rainfall and moisture content of the nest eggs will hatch in 55 to 125 days during the night. Sometimes nests are raided by raccoons or skunks. Hatchlings are one inch long and have soft shells that will harden in a few days. After digging their way out of the nest, they set off in search of water. This is a dangerous trek as they must avoid snakes, birds, foxes, skunks and raccoons who are out in search of a meal.

Short tempered, highly aggressive, pugnacious, fierce disposition. These were some terms I came across while researching information on the Florida snapping turtle. I completely agree with these descriptions. We did manage to gently coax the snapping turtle back towards the water without sustaining any injuries. I cannot, however, say the same for our broom.

Birds, Bees, and Butterflies

Excerpted from article by Darla Cordonnier and Bonnie Holder,
Venice Audubon March/April 2014 Wings and Things newsletter

The winter months brought Florida some chilly weather. We now know what the Polar Vortex is! Most of us stayed in on cooler days. But what about our year-round butterflies, where did they go?

Butterflies are cold blooded. They must bask in the sun to raise their body temperatures. On cold days many hide among the leaves and don't fly out. Some species go into diapause, which is a period of suspended development, thus delaying maturity until conditions are more favorable. The warmer weather cues them to emerge. We are beginning to see some of the sulphur butterflies appear. They are colored in various shades of yellow. It is believed that long ago in Europe the word "butterfly" was probably inspired by this buttery yellow color.



**Cloudless Giant
Sulphur Butterfly**
~ *Wings & Things*
Newsletter

The Cloudless Giant Sulphur, Orange-Barred Sulphur, and others use the Senna (cassia) as their larval host plant. The bright yellow flowers help hide and protect them from predators. Check out the Venice Audubon garden cassia for caterpillars and you might even spy, a yellow butterfly!

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Places to Observe Birds - February and March are great months! Excerpted from Wings & Things, Venice Audubon Newsletters

Amberjack Environmental Park: The 225-acres of scrub, pine flatwoods, and marshes are havens for several species of wading birds, including Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill and Snowy Egret. Two boardwalks lead to observation platforms on Lemon Lake. 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Rotonda, FL.

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary: Walk the 2-mile boardwalk. Take a lunch. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is located northeast of Naples. It is located at 375 Sanctuary Road West, north of Immokalee Road (County Road 846), approximately 15 miles east of Exit 111 on I-75. Visible, brown informational signs along Immokalee Road assist in finding the Sanctuary. Phone: 239-348-9151
<http://www.corkscrewswampsanctuary.org>

Deer Prairie Creek Preserve South: Search for herons, egrets, warblers, woodpeckers and other birds. Deer Prairie Creek South has about two miles of walking paths and is located at the end of a one-mile road next to the pond, off of 10201 South Tamiami Trail, Venice.

Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge: Amazing quantities of wading birds can be seen in the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island. Go at low tide when the best birding is possible. You might see Reddish Egrets doing their dance while hunting, or giant White Pelicans.

Felts Preserve: Walk the fields, woods and pond, but if you have a chance, sit in the blind and wait for birds to come to the feeders. Felts Preserve, 4600 24th Ave E., Palmetto, at the corner of Experimental Farm Road.

Fort DeSoto: Great birding spot for spring migrants such as orioles and tanagers. Bring a picnic lunch. Fort De Soto Park is on Mullet Key, at the entrance to Tampa Bay. The island offers beaches, fishing, nature trails, camping, boating, and more. Directions: Take I-75 N to Tampa, and then Exit 228 to merge onto I-275 N towards St. Petersburg. Take Exit 17 on the left to merge onto US-19 N/34th Street South toward FL-682 with Pinellas Bayway/ St. Pete Beach. Turn left onto 54th Avenue South/ Pinellas Bayway, and turn left onto Pinellas Bayway. Follow to the end.

Myakka River State Park: Wonderful area to walk or take the air boat tour. Myakka River State Park, 13208 State Road 72, is about 10 miles east of I-75. Visit myakkariver.org or call 941-361-6511.

Palm Island: Plan a trip to Palm Island to view shorebirds. Then walk along the beach. Palm Island is located south of Englewood. *Palm Island Resort* has amenities and you can dine at the *Rum Bay Restaurant*. <http://www.rumbaypalmisland.com>

Directions: Take I-75 South to Exit 191 toward North Port/Englewood. Merge right onto River Road and continue for 12 miles. Turn left onto Pine Street that will become Placida Road. Approximately 7 miles turn right onto Panama Boulevard and proceed to the Palm Island Transit Car Ferry Landing. Enter the ferry-waiting zone on the right shoulder and wait for boarding instructions.

Another way to reach Palm Island is to take a water taxi that is located behind *Leverock's Seafood House*, 7092 Placida Road, Cape Haze. Call ahead for the water taxi: 1-941-697-0566.

Pinecraft Park: Look for spring migrants and the resident Barred Owl in this birding area. In the middle of Sarasota, just south of Bahia Vista Street, lies Pinecraft Park. Trails crisscross the woods along *Phillippi Creek*. 1420 Gilbert Avenue, Sarasota. Visit scgov.net or call 861-5000.

Pinebrook Park: Visit Pinebrook Park in Venice, an 80-acre wooded area bisected by Curry Creek with walking trails and habitat for birds and native animals including gopher tortoises, bobcats, and otters. The park is located just north of the Wellfield playing fields on Pinebrook Road but might be a hard to find since Venice has removed the signs marking the park's entrances, 1251 Pinebrook Road.

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Jury Duty Scam Reported in Sarasota Submitted by Sara Jones

Excerpted from Sarasota County Website 3/5/2014.

<http://www.sarasotaclerk.com/FileLib/ClerkCommunicationJuryDutyScam2014.pdf>

Clerk Communication

Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller Communications,
941-861-7400, www.SarasotaClerk.com

DATE: March 3, 2014

FROM: Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller

RE: Jury Duty Scam Reported In Sarasota

SARASOTA, FL— The Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller joins the Florida Federal Courts and the 12th Judicial Circuit Court in warning citizens to be alert for an increasingly common—and effective—telephone-based threat known as “the jury duty scam.” Sarasota citizens have recently contacted the Clerk to report scam phone calls, and the 12th Judicial Circuit Court, and Sheriff’s Office, have been alerted.

Typically, the scammer calls posing as a local court employee, and tells you that a warrant has been issued for your arrest due to failure to report for jury duty. The scammer may ask you for a payment to be delivered to the Clerk’s Office, or for personal information so that he or she can process a fine.

The Clerk of Circuit Court and County Comptroller’s office is responsible for issuing jury summons in Sarasota County, FL. **Clerk of Court employees never make requests of jurors for payment of fines over the telephone, and do not request personal financial information.** Variations of the jury duty scam and potential identity theft has been reported in Florida since 2005. Protecting yourself against telephone-based scams is simple: Unless you have initiated the call, and intend to do so, never give out your personal information over the telephone.



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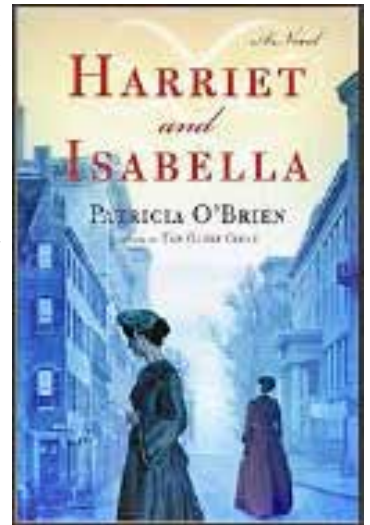


Book Group Schedule By Marilyn Probert

The Book Group will meet on **Monday, April 7**, to discuss *Harriet and Isabella*, *A Historical Novel* by Patricia O'Brien. Set in 1887 as Henry Ward Beecher lay dying, his home in Brooklyn Heights is surrounded by newspaper reporters eager to dredge up an old scandal and find new unsavory bits of gossip to spread about. Henry's famous sisters have been at odds over the scandal and have not spoken for years. Harriet Beecher Stowe, an Abolitionist and author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, staunchly stood by Henry while her younger sister, Isabella Beecher Hooker, a noted Suffragist, voiced her doubts about his innocence. Now, Isabella wishes to see Henry and try to make amends, but Harriet and Henry's wife, Eunice, are adamantly against their meeting. Of course the reporters are eagerly watching and waiting to see what, if anything transpires. Beryl Nord will lead the discussion at the home of Sallie Hawkins, 716 Anna Hope Lane; Sallie's phone number is 966-6916.

The Silver Star: A Novel by Jeannette Walls will be the topic on Monday, May 12. This is the story of two young girls, Bean age 12, and Liz, age 15 who run away to live with their Uncle Tinsley after their mother abandons them. (She, too, has run away because she needs to "find herself.") Uncle Tins-

ley, who lives alone in a dilapidated house that has seen better days, is quite surprised and unprepared to take them on, but he soon learns to love them. To earn their own spending money, the girls find jobs with Jerry Maddox, a foreman in the run-down local mill that is owned by Uncle Tinsley. Jerry takes advantage of the girls, Mom shows up, and lives are changed.



The June selection will be *Room: A Novel* by Emma Donoghue, the account of a mother and her five-year-old son, Jack, who are imprisoned in a small room. The story is told from Jack's point of view, and, because he has never known anything different, he is quite happy in the world that his mother has created for him. But Ma knows that as Jack grows older he will become restless, and what then?

Unless otherwise announced, we meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. (This month's meeting has been moved up to April 7.) All Rivendell residents are welcome; please notify the month's hostess if you'd like to attend.

Café Evergreen

By Catherine Middleton

Who says the economy is not improving? Café Evergreen has become an instant success! The restaurant, located at 801 South Tamiami Trail, is housed in the original Nokomis Post Office built in 1923. It is an historic site and the owners have restored it beautifully. There is a full restaurant, two outside seating areas as well as a produce store in the back. I have eaten lunch there twice – in January and February – and there was a wait each time. I would recommend arriving either quite early (11:30) or maybe after 1:00 for lunch. They do not take reservations for either lunch or dinner.

The food, as advertised, is totally fresh and organic and they offer a wide variety of dishes including salads, sandwiches and wraps, and full dinners. There is also a fresh fruit and vegetable "smoothie" bar. My friend had one of the fruit smoothies (I had a taste) and it was delicious. She had the avocado/vegetable wrap with a side of Napa cabbage slaw. I had grilled salmon on top of an arugula salad with sliced apple, almonds and a light herb dressing.

I would recommend perusing their website (<http://cafeevergreen.net/index.html>), which is nicely presented, to get the details on their hours of operation and, of course, to view the full menu. How convenient for us in Rivendell to have a nice new restaurant just "down the street!" Please send me an email if you have any questions.

Residents Helping Residents

CAT SITTER: **Kay Adams**, a longtime resident of Rivendell and a stay-at-home mom, offers cat sitting service to Rivendell residents. Kay is very responsible and loves cats. Reasonable rate. Call **941-966-2939** or email kayadamsart@gmail.com.

BABYSITTER: 13 year-old Rivendell Pine View student has certified American Red Cross Babysitter's Training with Pediatric First Aid and CPR. I absolutely love kids! Call **Zoe Gavette** at **941-918-8200**.

BABYSITTER: **Natasha Nielsen**, Pine View School sophomore, can watch your children while you go out. I can also help with homework. I am polite and responsible and am CPR certified through the American Red Cross. Call **941-966-1419**.

GUITAR LESSONS: **Daniel Yohann**, a Pine View senior, is offering private guitar lessons. Daniel is an accomplished guitarist and experienced teacher. One-half hour or one hour lessons are available. Reasonable rates. Call **941-375-1242**.

LAMPPOST REPAIR: Rivendell Resident Bill Bloom is offering lamppost repair services. Is your lamppost light staying on? Charge is \$40 for parts, labor and cleaning. Replacing a burned out bulb is \$15, and this includes new bulb and cleaning. Call **941-918-8386**.

MOTHER'S HELPER/BABYSITTER: **Sivan Yohann**, **941-966-7766**, a Pine View sophomore, would love to play with your toddlers after school while you're trying to get dinner ready, or babysit your kids so you can have a well-deserved evening out! I am extremely friendly and responsible!

BIKE REPAIRS, KAYAK AND BIKE RENTALS: **Mike and Sheila Lewis** offer free delivery and pick-up to Rivendell residents for bike and kayak rentals, bike repairs and maintenance. Call **941 346-1797** or email ssrentals@aol.com or visit their web site at www.siestasportsrentals.com

COMPUTER REPAIR AND INSTRUCTION PLUS ALL HOME ELECTRONICS (TABLETS, SMART PHONES, TV's, DVD's, NETFLIX and MORE): For Rivendell & Willowbend residents I charge a very reasonable \$20 an hour rate. I also offer flat charges such as \$40 max for any computer virus repair taking over one hour. I am a Rivendell resident with thirty years computer and home automation experience. Call **Gary Mruz 941-786-6019** or email gary.mruz@gmail.com

Rivendell Residents:

Please send your name, phone number, and a description of the service you can provide to other Rivendell residents.

Email your information to:
Marilyn at tpro38@yahoo.com

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Four Reasons Why Hospitals Can Be Very Dangerous Places To Be

Submitted by Ed Lin, edited by Judy Sokal.

Excerpted from Forbes.com, by Robert Pearl, physician & CEO, The Permanente Medical Group, 2/04/2014.

Hospitals are commonly thought of as the safest place to be for sick people. Patients have around-the-clock access to skilled care teams. Their vital signs are continuously monitored. A physician stops by every morning to check on them. While it all sounds safe, a hospital can be a very dangerous place to be. Here are four frightening risks hospitals pose, along with their causes and some easy-to-implement solutions that could save hundreds of thousands of lives each year:

1. Hospital stays may cause psychological harm. The ways hospitals are designed can severely disorient patients. Florescent lights, beeping machines and hallway conversations disrupt natural sleep patterns. Patients are awakened at night for status checks and early in the morning for blood draws. Food, often unappealing, is withheld while doctors await tests. These deviations can disrupt any patient's psyche, but can be particularly devastating for elderly patients. The combination of sleep deprivation, poor nourishment and sedative medications can produce progressive deterioration in a patient's mental status.

2. Hospital stays can lead to physical harm. The risk of physical harm exists in even the safest hospitals as patients are given powerful narcotics or sedatives, which cause confusion and make it difficult for them to walk safely. Meanwhile, individuals on bed rest face the risks of significant muscle weakness, even among the young and healthy. Lack of regular physical activity increases the risk of bone fractures, stiffened joints and, in some cases, contractures (where stiff joints become permanently bent). But not all physical risks are external. Germs that can cause serious infectious diseases are prevalent in hospital environments, and they often prove to be resistant to even the most potent antibiotics.

3. Hospital stays increase the risk of avoidable conditions. Over a decade ago, the Institute of Medicine reported that up to 98,000 people a year die in hospitals because of medical error. This alarming statistic did not include the patients who experienced other complications as a result of their hospital care like developing a pressure ulcer, falling, or acquiring a systemic infection through an IV

line. Yet one of the more common medical errors is also one of the most avoidable. Patients who transmit infections to others in a hospital may do so as a result of doctors, nurses and other hospital staff failing to wash their hands. This can result in the spreading of the bacterium *Clostridium difficile* or "C-diff," which can produce severe abdominal symptoms and diarrhea, damage the bowel itself, require surgery and even result in death. Alarming, C-diff can contaminate surfaces in hospitals and remain infectious for up to six months. This makes sterilization of hands, rooms and hospital surfaces an absolute necessity. Over the past decade, the incidence of this problem has doubled and 1 of 14 infected patients die as a result.

4. Hospital stays sometimes result in problems after discharge. Many patients suffer ongoing physical and mental ills after discharge with some unable to regain their prior mental acuity or muscle strength. This is most severe for those who stay in the hospital for prolonged periods, particularly with complex conditions. The elderly are at increased risk for falls, may no longer be able to care for their basic needs and may have difficulty managing the details of their treatment regimen.

And many patients face ongoing financial woes after hospital discharge. When hospital-acquired complications prolong in-patient stays by days or even weeks, patients may owe large amounts of money, experience lost income from missed work and face prolonged disability.

Small changes can bring about big improvements

While some facilities have taken major steps toward lowering or eliminating risks, the majority of hospitals are ripe for improvement. While many hospitals require complex overhauls to minimize error or change clinical practices, the following small steps could reduce patient complications, speed up their recovery and help them avoid readmission.

1-To reduce the risk of psychological harm, hospitals should reduce noise and illumination at night. Let patients sleep through the night unless awakening them is essential for their medical care.

2-Ambulate all patients every day, even the sick-

est. Physical movement reduces muscle wasting, improves breathing, and decreases the incidence of confusion and delirium.

3-Minimize the use of sedatives and powerful pain medications, particularly among elderly patients. Physicians should consider prescribing medications with less impact on cognition and ambulation.

4-To reduce medical error and the spread of germs and bacteria, hospitals should make sure all care providers wash their hands every time they enter and leave a patient's room.

5-Hospital leaders and clinicians should consider offering high quality alternatives to an in-patient stay like ambulatory, palliative and hospice care programs. When clinically appropriate, offer patients the option of going home earlier in their stay, even if only the evening before.

(Maintenance Committee continued from Pg.1)

Landscape Status:

1. Lake/pond bank mowing is almost completed.
2. MC members will be reviewing our common areas for dead or dying trees that will need replaced.
3. Our landscape company will be submitting a plan and recommendation for improving the landscaping behind the fence along Old Venice Rd.

Pool Status:

1. One of the pool filters failed and has been replaced.
2. The County Health inspection identified some cracked tiles and a discoloration of the pool ladder that need to be corrected. We are having the tiles replaced as soon as matching tiles are located. The discoloration of the pool ladder will also be repaired. Should be completed in March.
3. Bids from four pool service companies were obtained and a new company "Pebble Pools" will begin in April. The new company also maintains the Willow Bend community pool.

Lakes/Ponds Status:

1. The main well pump that replenishes Rivendell and Gator Lakes has been partially repaired. We are evaluating pump output and, if needed, further repairs will be authorized.

2. We are obtaining an estimate to replace plants removed for pump access as well as improved screening of the shed.
3. Littoral plantings are going to take place in March.

Preserve/Wetlands Status:

No issues

Other Status:

1. A faulty streetlight on Rainbow Point was repaired.
2. The County has agreed to reimburse the RCA for sewer charges incurred when we had the pool water leak.
3. Pressure washing of community fencing, brick pillars, Eagle Isle Ct entry signs, main entry and bridge signs will be completed in March.
4. We are assisting the Board in their discussions with the County; the goal is to obtain final sign-off on some old grants that were given to our community. A final sign off will remove any unclear Association responsibilities or County expectations for future Rivendell Boards and committees.

I would encourage all homeowners to attend our monthly meetings for accurate information on any of our ongoing projects. We would also welcome new members to help with the MC's volunteers' efforts to manage the many needs of our community.

Please report any problems you notice to Lighthouse Property Management.

Next MC meeting March 26, 2014 at 7pm in the Cottages Clubhouse. April meeting will be on Wednesday, the 30th.



**Please Support
The advertisers of the
Woodlands Word and the
Rivendell Directory by shopping
at or using their services!**

(Highlights of Board of Directors Meeting continued from Pg. 1)

Maintenance Committee Report:

1. Lake banks are being cleaned up.
2. Maintenance Committee will identify dead and dying trees in common areas for replacement.
3. Our landscape company will assess plantings along Old Venice Road for removal of some plants and the planting of areca palms behind the fence.
4. The pool filter was replaced.
5. Cracked tiles along pool edge will be replaced.
6. The county is reimbursing the Association approximately \$3,000 through offset to current billings that we incurred as a result of a water leak under the concrete slab near the pool restrooms.
7. We received bids from 4 pool maintenance companies. Beginning in April, we will contract with Pebble Pools, which maintains Willowbend's community pool and costs less than Southwest Pools.
8. The Maintenance Committee has been investigating the cause of low water levels in Rivendell and Gator Lakes. A well pump impeller has been replaced and pump efficiency will be evaluated. Landscaping removed during well pump repairs will be replaced.
9. Littoral replanting in Rivendell and Gator will take place this March.
10. The Board approved new signs for the parks and retention ponds.
11. The main entry, the bridge and Eagle Isle Court signs, along with fencing and brick pillars, are scheduled for pressure washing.

Communications Committee:

Service provider recommendations are now available in the Residents section of the website. Homeowners can enter items for sale, items wanted, or services available. The website is rivendellcommunity.com, and the password is osprey.

Old Business:

The Board is working with the County to determine the status of plants in and around several retention ponds that were purchased with

County grants from 2005 - 2007. Any discrepancy may be offset with plants and trees already planted or to be planted. The Board will produce a list of plantings for the County.

New Business:

1. Four members were appointed to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). They are: Mary Marryott, Jessica Fenton, Bruce Lorie, Jim Stepien.
2. Check signers will be Bobby Merrill, Gwen Stepien, and Joe Sefack

Homeowner Comments:

Eleven homeowners asked questions or made comments. Topics covered were:

- mediation with County about plantings at retention ponds
- statements made in an email circulated to homeowners
- midges at a house on Mallard Marsh Drive
- solicitation by Verizon and another company (call company or sheriff)
- possible shrubbery removal on land bridge between Eagle and Scherer Lakes
- investment of community funds
- resolution of water leak at pool
- request to hire arborist to assess loss of slash pine trees
- status of backyard trampoline issue (fine to be imposed if not removed)
- pickup trucks in driveways (legal opinion: not enforceable as worded in covenants)
- request for Lighthouse and/or Board to coordinate repaving of alleyways among homeowners, Villas, and community at large
- thanks to all volunteers for their hard work

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, April 7.



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**All Rivendell Classifieds are now on
the new community website**

www.rivendellcommunity.com

**For other information regarding the
Rivendell classifieds please contact
Gary Mruz gary.mruz@gmail.com**



Looking For Writers

The Woodlands Word needs your help!
Send us your local interest stories, area
restaurant reviews, travel highlights
and suggestions of interesting Rivendell
residents to feature. Without your help,
there won't be a Woodlands Word.

If you need help writing your article, or
have an article to submit, please send to:

Judy Sokal
judysokal@gmail.com.

Thank You!

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Architectural Review Committee Report March 6, 2014

Attendees: Committee Chair: Cindy Caria, Members: Mary Marryott, Jim Stepien, Jessica Fenton, Bruce Lorie. Board Liaison: Joe Sefack

The ARC meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with a quorum of five Committee members. The following applications were reviewed and decided upon for action.

ITEM	ADDRESS	WORKPLAN	RESOLUTION
1.	685 Clear Creek Dr.	Repaint lanai same color	Resolved: Approved Motion: Jim Stepien 2 nd : Mary Marryott Vote: Unanimous
2.	1010 Oak Preserve	Fixing cracks in exterior walls and painting house same color	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Jim Stepien Vote: Unanimous
3.	774 Shadow Bay	Paint house same color	Resolved: Approved Motion: Jessica Fenton 2 nd : Mary Marryott Vote: Unanimous
4.	570 Meadow Sweet	Paint house same color	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Mary Marryott Vote: Unanimous Cottages approved
5.	664 Clear Creek Dr.	Installation of hurricane storm protection on lanai	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Bruce Lorie Vote: Unanimous
6.	816 Placid Lake Dr.	Repaint house, stucco Diverse Beige & trim Toque White. Also cut down 4 pine trees replace with Pigmy Date Palms (roots from pines getting into pool equipment)	Resolved: Approved Motion: Jim Stepien 2 nd : Cindy Caria Vote: Unanimous
7.	1084 Mallard Marsh	Roof repairs – front by garage area.	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Jim Stepien Vote: Unanimous B. Lorie abstained
8.	806 Foothill Ct.	Install decorative curbing around front landscape beds	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Mary Marryott Vote: Unanimous J. Stepien abstained

9.	747 Fordingbridge	Plant trees on side of house. Install decorative curbing around front landscape beds	Resolved: Approved Motion: Jim Stepien 2 nd : Mary Marryott Vote: Unanimous C. Caria abstained
10.	1050 Scherer Way	Remove existing landscape around front of house and side; replace with new bushes. Add sod	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Jim Stepien Vote: Unanimous
11.	547 Meadow Sweet	Install gutters - white	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Bruce Lorie Vote: Unanimous Cottages approved
12.	807 Placid Lake	Paint house same color	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Jim Stepien Vote: Unanimous
13.	726 Shadow Bay	New pool, spa, pavers brick on pool deck. Screen enclosure in bronze color.	Resolved: Approved Motion: Mary Marriott 2 nd : Jessica Fenton Vote: Unanimous
14.	567 Meadow Sweet	Add new lanai structure to existing one	Resolved: Approved Motion: Cindy Caria 2 nd : Jessica Fenton Vote: Unanimous

ARC meeting adjourned at pm 6:45 pm.

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Meets the **last Tuesday** of each month at 6:00pm

Location: Cottages Clubhouse

Applications are due to Lighthouse Management by
the **third Tuesday** of each month.

NOTE: The ARC recommends that applications be received one week before the next meeting. Applications received after the monthly date will have to wait until following month.

REMINDER: If you are submitting an ARC Application Form for landscape changes, you must attach a copy of your Site Plan (also called a Survey of Lot or Plot Plan or Plat). Your application will NOT be reviewed without a copy and this would delay your work. The Site Plan should show names of specific plants and locations for proposed landscaping or fencing.

Dates, times, and locations of meetings are based on the information available at the time of publication.

RIVENDELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
A Corporation Not for Profit
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 13, 2014

A *REGULAR MEETING* of the Board of Directors was scheduled to be held at 6:00 P.M., at the Historic Spanish Point at 337 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M., by the Kyanne Merrill of Lighthouse Property Management.

Notice of the meeting was delivered to each Director and posted on the property prior meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Association Documents and Florida Statutes.

The following Directors were present:

Bobby Merrill Walter Perkowski
Gwen Stepien Curt Kennedy Vincent Barone was absent.

A quorum was declared to be present.

On matters relating to the minutes of the previous meeting a motion was made by Mr. Perkowski and seconded by Mr. Merrill to approve the November 4, 2013. The motion was passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS,

Manager's Report, Ms. Merrill provided a report (see attachment #1).

Treasurer's Report, Mr. Merrill provided a report of the most recent financials. Income is over budget due to fine and past due income. The expenses are mainly under budget.

Committee Reports,

ARC, Mr. Sefack reported one of the ARC Committee members has passed away and it is unfortunate to have lost such a great member. There were 8 applications and 7 were approved. Bruce Lorie has verbally requested to fill the vacancy. Mr. Merrill made a motion to appoint Mr. Lorie to the ARC Committee. There was no second, motion did not pass. The Board agreed the new Committees will be established at next month's Annual Members Meeting. Mr. Merrill made a motion to appoint Mr. Lorie to the ARC, there was no 2nd. The next meeting was scheduled for January 28th.

Maintenance Committee, Mr. Stepien reported the following:

Signs specifications are being determined for the storm water ponds.

- Lighting specifications are being researched.
- Additional plantings on Placid Lake Drive are being considered and estimates are being obtained.
- An owner suggested installing landscaping along the fence on the south entry way of Rivendell.
- The pool heat pump was replaced. There is one remaining one that is still functioning and they are keeping an eye on it.
- Pool Maintenance specifications are being established and various pool companies will be invited to bid and the Committee will provide recommendations at the next meeting.
- The water levels look dramatically lower at the front two ponds, the Lake Company has been contacted and it was determined it is due to lack of rain and possible an issue with well pipe. B&B Services will check into this.
- Communications, Ms. Heckert reported the new website is up and running and advised there a community password. The next newsletter will ask for submissions for the classified sections. The web administrator provided some statistics on the web usage. The Board requested that a request for Committee volunteers be available on the website and request the volunteer submit a letter of intent and provide it to Lighthouse Management or chair person of the committee.

Old Business, matters relating 1201 Lost Creek Court, trampoline violation and attorney opinion. The Board discussed the legal opinion provided by the attorney. Mr. Merrill made a motion and Mr. Perkowski and seconded:

MOTION 14-01: to proceed with attorney's recommendation to advise the owners to remove the trampoline, provide them with 14 days to do so or a fine will be imposed of \$100 per day up to 10 days. Motion passed.

New Business,

Matters relating to nomination committee, a motion was made by Mr. Perkowski and seconded by Ms. Stepien:

MOTION 14-02: to appoint Curt Kennedy as Chairperson to the Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

Mr. Perkowski and Mr. Merrill to appoint the members to the election Committee:

MOTION 14-03: Barbara Gahry, Joe Lacinti, Gary Mruz, Kay Mruz.
Motion passed.

Owner Comments,

An owner inquired as to why a "Meet the Candidates" meeting was not scheduled. Clarification was provided that it was announced in the Woodlands Word that there would be, however, the Nominating Committee did not make arrangements for this. The Board agreed each candidate will be allotted time prior to the election to speak about themselves and why they are running for the Board.

Mr. Sefack suggested it was too late to have a "Meet the Candidates" night.

With no further business before the Board, a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Kyanne Merrill, CAM

Dated: This 17th day of January, 2014.

Rivendell Community Association, Inc.

A Corporation Not-For-Profit
c/o LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.
16 Church Street
Osprey, FL 34229

941-966-6844 Phone 941-966-7158 Fax

Manager's ReportOn Site/Maintenance-

- Compliance drives through community (1.3.14)
- Requested street light repairs as needed.
- Contacted county in regards to sidewalk repairs (Done)

Administrative-

- Forwarded financials to Board for review.
- Forwarded draft agenda to board for review.
- Forwarded draft minutes for review.
- Forwarded ARC requests to committee.
- Approved minutes posted to website.
- Forwarded approved minutes to Ms. Babbit for publishing in the newsletter.
- Posted newsletter to website.
- Send out email blast in regards to BOD meeting.
- Annual/ Budget Meeting Preparations (2/3/13 @ 5:30-Bentley's)

Correspondence-

- Letters sent to homeowners regarding submitted ARC forms.
- Letters sent to homeowners with compliance violations.
- Email Correspondences.

- Compliance-

- Compliance letters mailed to homeowners since last meeting.
Letters mailed: 45

Roof/Fence/Structure	3
Yard Condition/Weeds	1
B. Ball Hoop	1
Hurricane Shutters	1
Nuisance	2
Vehicles	3
Mailbox Lighting	34

Kyanne Merrill, CAM
Managing Agent

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c/o LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.
16 Church Street
Osprey, FL 34229

941-966-6844 Phone 941-966-7158 Fax

Manager's ReportOn Site/Maintenance-

- Compliance drives through community monthly (10.24.13)
- Requested street light repairs as needed.
- Coordinated finish of pool shower push valve installation. (Done)
- Coordinated install of water fountain. (Pending)
- Contacted county in regards to painting crosswalks & medians (Pending County Budget Approval)

Administrative-

- Forwarded financials to Board for review.
- Forwarded draft agenda to board for review.
- Forwarded draft minutes for review.
- Forwarded ARC requests to committee.
- Approved minutes posted to website.
- Forwarded approved minutes to Ms. Babbit for publishing in the newsletter.
- Posted newsletter to website.
- Send out email blast in regards to BOD meeting.
- Annual/ Budget Meeting Preparations (2/3/13 @ 5:30-Bentley's)

Correspondence-

- Letters sent to homeowners regarding submitted ARC forms.
- Letters sent to homeowners with compliance violations.
- Email Correspondences.

Compliance-

- Compliance letters mailed to homeowners since last meeting.
Letters mailed: 22

Roof/Fence/Structure	7
Yard Condition/Weeds	14
B. Ball Hoop	1

Kyanne Merrill, CAM
Managing Agent



www.rivendellcommunity.com

Thank you for the many submissions into the Residents Helping Residents and the Service Provider Recommendations that are now posted on the new Website! Please continue to submit new items. The instructions for submissions are located on the classifieds page.

Within the past 30 days the new Rivendell website has seen 68 unique visitors who viewed 628 pages. We have also seen visitors over the past 30 days from Germany and India! Within the same 30 days a majority of the website visitors are from Florida but we also have seen visitors from New Jersey, Georgia, Michigan, New York, Tennessee and Virginia.

REMEMBER: The PASSWORD to access all resident sections on the website is osprey typed in lowercase!

RCA Committees 2014

Communications

Board Liaison: Bobby Merrill

Chair: Carol Heckert (carolheckert@verizon.net)

Directory: Barb Gahry

Block Captains: Cindy Schmidl

Newsletter: Linda Pearlstein, Judy Sokal, Kay Mruz, Marilyn Probert

Reporters: Mary Kennedy, Ed Lin, Pam Babbitt, Catherine Middleton, Norma Lee Rhines

Reporter Representative: Mike Bergman

Webmaster: Gary Mruz

Architectural Review (ARC)

Board Liaison: Joe Sefack

Chair: Cindy Caria (cindyarc14@gmail.com)

Committee Members: Mary Marryott, Jessica Fenton, Bruce Lorie, and Jim Stepien

Maintenance Committee (combining Landscape/Environmental & Pool)

Board Liaison: Walter Perkowski

Chair: Jim Stepien (jimstepien@gmail.com)

Committee Members: Bill Bloom, Dave Gill, Sallie Hawkins, Carol Heckert, Carole Myles, Curt Kennedy, Joe Lucente

Access the Rivendell website at:

<http://www.rivendellcommunity.com>

Your input and feedback are always encouraged and welcomed.

Deadline: Submit articles and information to **Judy Sokal** (judysokal@gmail.com) by the tenth of the month.

Sarasota County Sheriff

Non-emergency Contact number for our area is: 316-1201

Please use this number for non-emergencies

Rivendell Board of Directors

Gwen Stepien, president
(gweninthesun@msn.com)

Vinny Barone, first vice-president
(vabarone5@gmail.com)

Joe Sefack, second vice-president
(jdsefack@comcast.net)
Liaison to Architectural Review (ARC)

Walter Perkowski, secretary
(walter@SRQmoves.com)

Bobby Merrill, treasurer
(bobbymerrill3@aol.com)
Liaison to Communications

Sub-Association Officers

The Cottages Board of Directors

RU1NA = Rivendell Unit 1 Neighborhood Association

Ken Alarie, President
Steve Bragg, 1st Vice President
Bill Vanik, 2nd Vice President
Margery Arendt, Treasurer
Carol Costa, Secretary

Patio Homes Board of Directors

Edward Diggs, President
Jayne Irene, Secretary
Bruce Whalen, Treasurer

The Villas Board of Directors

Dianne Enger, President
Ruth Sellick, Vice-President
Fred Hawkins, Secretary-Treasurer

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Question? Complaint? Concern?

Lighthouse Property Management: 966-6844
Property Manager: Kyanne Merrill,
kyannemerrill@mgmt.tv
Assistant: Shannon Banks, shannonbanks@mgmt.tv



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