



Your

Community Resource

The Woodlands Word

January 2025

The President's Report

Larry Dobias



Recent messages have been directed to the members asking everyone to consider participating in some aspect of the maintenance and or improvement of the community. At this point in time, the committees have a strong contingent of volunteers with the responsibility ranging from maintaining the ponds and preserves to providing social events. This level of activity has shown continuous improvements in nearly all aspects and has saved a significant amount of money. Having members participating in all facets of the community is a mechanism that gets things done in the fastest amount of time and with a very competitive cost. It is in Rivendell's best interest to maintain the current level of participation for as long as possible. The call for volunteers has resulted in a number of members stepping up and joining the teams that align with their interest. It has shown that those with the time

and ability to engage in taking care of Rivendell continue to get involved and participate. Thanks to everyone who has decided to help the community continue to be a great place to live. Most recently two Board members have agreed to take on the task of getting the 2025 directory together. This is important for many in Rivendell and our thanks go to Michelle and Mary. The members meeting is just two months away and we will be voting on a new Board. Two seats are set to expire in February and one Board member (Chuck Pertile) will be running to retain his place on the Board. There is a need for someone who has an interest in helping to run the community to submit their name for the upcoming election. Thanks to Mary for time on the Board and her participation over the past couple of years.

2025

Ladies' Luncheons Planned for 2025

Although there will be no Ladies' Luncheon in December, the coming year promises to be a great one for our midday diners. The Luncheons are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm, and the expected schedule is as follows:

- January 22nd: Deep Lagoon
- February 26th: Blu'Island Bistrot
- March 26th: Venice Arts Center Café
- April 23rd: Clever Monkey
- May 28th: Millie's

If you are interested in joining this group, contact Mirinda Roy at miriroy@aol.com. Reservations for lunch usually need to be made a week before the event.

International Dining Out Group - December Dinner

The international dining out group will be eating at Bodrum restaurant on Friday, December 13th, with reservations at the restaurant for 7 pm. We will have our own room and can mix and mingle at the beginning as we get to know each other. If you are interested in joining this group and eating Turkish food at Bodrum (we will be having more dinners on Friday evenings in 2025), please contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-5096 or adele.kellman@gmail.com. Space is limited, so you must reserve to join the dinner.



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Social Committee Events for January 2025



- Monday, January 6th, 9 am at the Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk. Contact Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com or (973) 219-5839 for more information and to request to be added to the Facebook page for weekly updates.
- Friday, January 10th, 7 pm at Miguel's French Restaurant. International Dining Group. Contact Adele Kellman at (908) 464-7003 or adele.kellman@gmail.com for more information and to reserve a place at the dinner.
- Monday, January 13th, 7:30 pm. Rivendell Book Group. The group will be discussing *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James Mc Bride. For more information, contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com or Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com.
- Monday, January 13th, in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.
- Thursday, January 16th, 1 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Monday, January 20th, in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.
- Wednesday, January 22nd, 12:30 at Deep Lagoon. Ladies' Luncheon. To reserve, contact Mirinda Roy at miriroy@aol.com by Wednesday, January 15th.
- Monday, January 27th, 9 am in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.
- Tuesday, January 28th, at 1 pm. Venice Trolley Tour. For more information, contact Leah Friends at Friendsleah@gmail.com.



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(solution on page 17)

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CPR and First Response classes

Our neighborhood now has about 30 either newly trained or refreshed trained individuals following our four sessions in November and December. Our training was offered by Sarasota County Fire Department and featured CPR, discussion on the use of AED equipment and also how to aid a choking victim. The sessions were both discussion and “hands-on” and all found two minutes of CPR on a training mannequin was a significant workout. It’s good to know we have more in our community with added lifesaving skills!

Ask a neighbor who attended one of these sessions to find out about skills either learned or sharpened. If there is interest in the community, more sessions can be arranged in 2025!



Maintenance Committee Report December 15, 2024

Mark Giordano, Chair

Committee Members: Chuck Pertile (Board Liaison), Dave Cook, Larry Dobias, Kevin Humbert, Carole Myles, Greg Volack, Cathy Bishop (Horticulture Consultant), Chris Miller, John Krebsach. Helpers: Peter Diagnault, Jonas Meyer, Jeff Young

At our meeting the following amenities were discussed. **The Facilities Management Plan (FMP)** format is used: The FMP continues to be updated.

There will be no MC meeting for December.

Landscape Management:

1. Truscapes performed the biweekly turf mowing and trimming.
2. Truscapes applied weed killer, turf and ornamental fertilization.
3. Received estimate from Truscapes to remove grindings, install topsoil and 5 pallets of sod behind 586 and 584 Meadow Sweet Circle. \$6,120. Tabled till 2025
4. Flowers at the entrances and islands need replacement, destroyed during Milton.
5. Shrubs at the Gazebo were transplanted by the MC to make room for the installation of the new Gazebo.

Tree Trimming:

1. Green Topps submitted, and the board approved, a daily rate of \$5,500 to remove and trim dead limbs hanging from the oak trees because of Hurricane Milton.

Irrigation System:

1. Merritt Well and Pump repaired damaged supply pumping at Crane Pond and Placid Lake.
2. Truescapes' completed various repairs found during November system inspection. They also repaired a leaking 4" PVC elbow at Crescent Park'

Community Pool and Clock Tower:

1. The MC currently in contact with the clock manufacturer to repair the inner clock.
2. The solar pump is now operational from 10am to 5pm to augment the electric heaters.

Community Pool Pump Room:

1. A \$ 2,245.00 quote to replace the rusted HW heater in the pool pump room was approved. Scheduled for December 18.

Roadways:

1. The balance of the roadways throughout are not scheduled to be resurfaced this summer, but in 2026 by the county. They will use Reclamite, instead of conventional asphalt.

Sidewalks:

1. The list of sidewalk slabs that need replacing by the county was completed and submitted to the county for repair. They started marking various locations for remediation.
2. Cleaning of Common Area sidewalks is being evaluated. Put it on hold.
3. A new concrete sidewalk and possible relocation is needed from Rivendell Blvd to the Banyan Tree. Project

on hold for further discussion.

4. The concrete curb project is on hold till 2025.

Street Light Poles:

1. Nostalgic Lamppost's replacement proposal was approved by the board at the November Meeting and was given the notice to proceed.

Holiday Lighting:

1. Special thanks to Michelle and Jonas Meyer, Larry Dobias, Chuck Pertile, Greg Volack, John Grebsbach and Peter Diagnault for installing the decorations this year.

Playground, Gazebo and Benches:

1. Discussed the need for more benches throughout the community. MC will identify areas and make recommendations to the board. The MC identified several existing benches that need repair.
2. Austin Gardner is proceeding with his Eagle Scout project and is waiting for final approval from the Regional Scout Board of Review. In the meantime, he is working on the plans and material lists for the installation of at least 2 bat houses to be located by the ponds and preserves adjacent to the Oscar Sherer State Park.
3. The old Gazebo was demolished at Crescent Park to make way for the installation of concrete footings for the new Gazebo.

Bridge Landscaping:

1. Edging on the east side needs replacing either with metal or concrete curbing.
2. Other areas of the community are being looked at for possible curbing to hold in mulch from spilling onto the sidewalk or grass areas. 677 ft was identified and estimates of \$9.00 per foot were received from 2 vendors. 2025

Pine View Path:

1. MC installed stationing and property line offsets on the walkway surface and mapped them.

Drainage System:

1. Notified county of the need to replace flowthrough drainage frame and grate at Golden Pond. The county and Rivendell are in dispute as to ownership.

The next Maintenance Committee meeting will be held at 7PM on January 17 in the Cottages Clubhouse.

The Maintenance Committee is always looking to expand its membership to assist in overseeing the numerous amenities that require attention. The goal is to keep Rivendell the beautiful community that it is. The committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Cottages. Prospective members could familiarize themselves with the MC duties by reviewing the Facilities Management Plan (FMP) published on the website. Anyone with questions and/or wishing to join the committee, please contact Mark Giordano at (845) 656-6411 or email mjg283@gmail.com.

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Light Pollution

by Bob Franks

When did you last see the Milky Way? I has been a while, I would guess. Light pollution, the excessive or misdirected use of artificial lighting, has become an increasing problem that impacts our environment and our health. While artificial light is often necessary, its overuse creates serious consequences—ones that we, as a community, can work together to mitigate. Light pollution occurs when outdoor light goes where it is not needed- or wanted! For example, it can take the form of sky-glow, the dome of light emitted from cities that obscures the night sky, or light trespass, when unwanted street light invades your bedroom at night.

All this extra light at night has consequences. Many plants and animals depend on natural darkness for survival. They cannot thrive in communities with eternal daylight. Excessive exposure to artificial light also has a negative impact on human health, contributing to a variety of maladies related to poor sleep patterns. Excessive outdoor lighting is wasteful. According to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), 30% of outdoor lighting is wasted due to poor design, costing billions of dollars globally each year. By using better fixtures and reducing excessive lighting, we can save energy, cut costs, and reduce carbon emissions. And finally, aren't we losing something important if staring into the wonder of a star-filled sky is only a memory from the past?

So, what can we do to reduce light pollution? We can install shielded light fixtures that direct light downward, where it is needed, and not sideways or up. We can choose amber or warm-colored, low intensity light bulbs instead of harsh white or blue LEDs. These have less impact on both humans and wildlife. Timers and motion detectors can be installed to shine light only when it is needed, and we can support community efforts to limit light pollution by encouraging responsible outdoor lighting practices.

The beauty of a starry night sky is something we all share, and protecting it benefits everyone. By being mindful of how we use artificial lighting, we can preserve our natural environment, improve our health, and connect with something far greater than ourselves. Let's work together to keep our nights dark, our stars bright, and our community healthy. After all, the night sky is a treasure that belongs to us all—let's make sure it's here for generations to come. For more information on light pollution and ways to reduce it, visit organizations like the International Dark-Sky Association (www.darksky.org).



BOOK GROUP INTERVIEWS RIVENDELL AUTHOR

For its December reading selection, the Rivendell Book Group picked Michael Biehl's most recent mystery, *For Dear Life* and invited him to join us for the discussion. Two members of the group prepared interview questions, and we had a lively session asking Mike everything we wanted to know about the book and the process behind its creation. In answering our questions, he explained some of the sources of his characters and settings, his writing methods and the challenges of working with editors and selecting book titles. Keitha Lackey kindly hosted the group this month, and Judy Sokal and Adele Kellman prepared discussion questions.

The Rivendell Book Group meets on the second Monday evening of each month, excluding July and August. To join the group, you must be willing to host the group or to lead a discussion each year. Books to be discussed in the coming months are *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, *Fraud* by Zadie Smith, *Open* by Andre Agassi, *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, and *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. For more information, please contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com.

Photo by Leah Friends, a neighbor of the guest author



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Snake bite??

A recent issue of the Woodland Word had a discussion about rattlesnakes being seen in our neighborhood. As always it's best to avoid them – they go one way and humans another way. We are living in their habitat too so encounters may be unavoidable.

If you encounter a rattlesnake and have the unfortunate experience of being bitten, here's the advice from the RN that recently taught our CPR and First Response classes:

"The antidote for rattlesnake (bite) is Crofab, it's not an anti-venom. The appropriate response is 911 and they will know where to transport the patient. I believe all hospitals carry it, but if not, they can stabilize the injury and transfer to a higher level of care if necessary."

There are a lot of urban legends about snakebites – do not cut the victim's wound! Call 911 and get their best advice!



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My mother, MaryEllen, and grandpa, Howard, were both hard-of-hearing. My Mom underwent ear surgery that left her with a profound hearing loss. My grandpa struggled to hear for as long as I remember. I still recall talking into his pocket where he carried his body aid.

I started working with hearing aids in 1999 and I loved it from the beginning. I took all the classes and extra accreditations including Board Certification and designation from the American Conference of Audioprosthology.

Since I was raised in a hard of hearing household, I have firsthand experience with frustrations and misunderstandings. I watched my own father, Ed, get frustrated whenever he had to repeat himself. I watched my Mom, who loved social events, choose to avoid very noisy situations due to her hearing.

When Karen married into our family, I saw her get her feelings hurt since she thought my Mom wasn't listening. It was accurate but not on purpose. Both my Mom and Karen enjoy cooking, but a kitchen is an acoustical nightmare.

When they cooked together for our holiday meals, I would have to stand in the middle of the kitchen and translate what Karen was saying to my Mom. It is much easier to hear a deep male voice than Karen's higher pitched voice. Add in an exhaust fan, a clang of a pot and a clink of a dish and this is not an easy place for conversation.

A few years after I got into this industry, I was able to re-fit my Mom with appropriate technology for her very social life-style. I gave insight to Karen about her feelings of being ignored. I gave awareness to my Mom about her frustrations and feelings of isolation.

I thoroughly enjoy being able to share these personal experiences so you can see you aren't alone. I truly do understand the frustrations. These insights enable me to help you ease the strain that does exist when living with someone with a hearing loss.

I am so very grateful that I get to do what I love doing every day. I get to be of service to other families who struggle with hearing loss and improve their life and connections with their families. If you or a family member struggle to hear well, call for a free consultation.



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International Dining Group Begins

On Friday, December 13th, twelve Rivendell residents met at Bodrum Restaurant in Venice for the first occasion of a series of International Dining dinners. We enjoyed delicious food and excellent service on what turned out to be a very busy night at Bodrum. On Friday, January 10th at 7 pm, we will try French food at Miguel's Restaurant on Siesta Key (6631 Midnight Pass Road), a restaurant that has been a favorite with locals for more than 40 years. Originally started by Chef Miguel, who hailed from Malaga, Spain, the restaurant is now run by his two sons, Chef Gabriel and Chef Dan. Another dinner is planned for February 21st. If you would like to join the group, please contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com.

Below is a photo of the group who gathered to eat at Bodrum.



UNOFFICIAL MINUTES Dec 18, 2024

*Should you have missed attending the **DECEMBER 18, 2024 Board of Directors' meeting**, below are my UNOFFICIAL MINUTES of what I thought I heard or understood from that meeting. Rick Durham was the only Board member absent from this meeting. Please consult the Official Minutes for the Board-sanctioned record if you are in doubt as to the accuracy of my recall.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

Larry reported that there have been people volunteering to perform various jobs for Rivendell and although some may not want to serve in a leadership role, they are willing to help out where needed.

For instance, several Rivendell residents wanted to help make Rivendell a little more festive by decorating her for the holiday season. When **Greg Volack** put out the word that he needed holiday elves, out came **Jonas and Michelle Meyer, Pete Daignault, Chuck Pertile, and John Kresbauch** to help Greg put up all the festive street and sign decorations. Should you like what you see, don't forget to let these elves know that you appreciate all the work that they did to brighten up Rivendell.

Larry also reported that the **John Kresbauch** is the newest member of the Maintenance Committee and he's willing to use his time and talent wherever Mark can use him.

One volunteer who has agreed to step up into a leadership position is **Paul Zak**. Paul agreed to run for the 2025 Board of Directors. When you get your information for the Annual Meeting, you'll learn more about him when you read his resume.

This means that Rivendell now has 2 people running for the 2 open Board seats: Chuck Pertile, the current Board Treasurer, and Paul Zak. Both men are hoping you will support them in their bid to be on the 2025 Rivendell Board of Directors.

Larry indicated that Board members **Michelle Meyer and Mary Angell** agreed to share in the responsibility of putting together the Directory for Rivendell and he was appreciative of the ladies taking on this responsibility.

He also stated that it was good to find out that in Rivendell all you have to do is ask and people WILL help.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Fred Marks)

Fred stated that it's been a bit difficult finding an open venue for the Annual Meeting. Most places are busy in February and he's been finding it difficult to find open dates. Saturdays are readily available but since he knows those don't go over well, he's still hoping to find a weekday that is acceptable. The tentative date for the Annual Meeting seems to be Feb. 19, but that's assuming that he can find a meeting place.

Fred also said that in January the management company will be sending out the various mailings that deal with the Annual Meeting. The two mailings will let us know that there are 2 openings on the Board and to let us know that further nominations are possible as well as write-in's to the ballot. The resumes of Chuck and Paul will be included with these mailings as well as the proxies that owners may use and the agenda for the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Chuck Pertile)

Chuck said that he's been watching the budget closely and because things are relatively tight, spending has been somewhat controlled. Rivendell seems to be about \$20,000 under budget and we are \$14,000 up on our net income.

The spending that has been happening is mostly out of the reserves but recently \$5000 was paid to GreenTopps and this was not from the Reserves. The spending was deemed necessary because there were several large broken tree limbs that were overhanging sidewalks and bike lanes that if they should break loose, would hurt someone. These were a safety issue for Rivendell and needed to be addressed.

GreenTopps was hired for one day to come in with 2 bucket trucks and one chipper and take out all of these large branches that were deemed dangerous. In addition, they were to pick up the piles of tree branches that the members of the Pond & Preserve Committee had pulled out of various ponds. These were to be put through the chipper as well.

Chuck stated that we're getting paid for our past due assessments and that those who were being threatened with foreclosure or the possibility of foreclosure all honored their obligations and have now paid what was owed. Larry indicated that this amounted to approximately \$20,000.

As far as the 2025 dues, Chuck is hoping that the screw-up with printing doesn't impact what owners are doing when they make payment on their 2025 dues. Much of what had been owed in the past has now been stabilized and Chuck doesn't want Rivendell to lose ground. All of what Rivendell does or can do is dependent upon what owners do relevant to the monies that they provide. If owners do their part, then the "to do" list of projects can proceed on time and Rivendell will not waste time chasing down people who failed to pay the correct amount of money.

SECRETARY REPORT (Mary Angell)

Mary has been frustrated trying to get info relevant to the various insurance policies which Rivendell has. She had been wanting to do a cost comparison. Because we're coming down to the wire on one of the policies, the liability one, it will need to be renewed and the \$1000 increase accepted since that policy comes due Jan 1. This is the Cincinnati liability policy for Rivendell.

(Continued on Pg, 13)

(Unofficial Minutes continued)

It was decided that as the renewal time for the other policies approach, the Board will determine whether to keep that company or renew with a different company at a possible cost savings. By that time, perhaps more info will be known.

Mary mentioned that she had been trying to get a “Dec Page” from the various companies so that the Board can better evaluate the plans and coverage being bought/covered by these other policies. (My understanding is the Dec Page is the summary of insurance coverage that is found on the **first page** of an auto policy, home policy, etc. I figured the reason why she’s unable to find these Dec Pages is because unless the other companies have our policies, those Declaration Pages aren’t there to be examined. The Dec Pages are probably only on the policies for which we are paying or at least, that is what I think.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARC (Michelle Meyer)

Michelle reported that there have been 20 proposals received and they’ve been on an expedited basis; however, one was from the Villas and had to do with taking down trees. Because it was a Villas’ home, ARC moved the request to the Villas Board for consideration.

Michelle also indicated that ARC has been working to streamline its process so that owners would experience a faster answer to all of their homeowner requests for approval.

2. Compliance Committee (Kay Mruz)

Kay reported that there were 23 violations and letters were sent out on Dec 13. Five of these were second notifications for a prior violation that had not been corrected.

Larry added that there will be changes forthcoming to the standing rules that will better define the expectations of what is meant by “neatly maintained” and “neatly manicured.” It is hoped that by defining the expectations of what “neatly” means, there will no longer be those owners who allow weeds to take up residence in their driveways or in their garden beds to the point where they’re even receiving their own mail there! □

Larry felt that owners need to understand that there is a certain expectation that comes with living in Rivendell and that all need to take ownership of this pride.

Larry added that once these changes are added to the Standing Rules, the changes to the Standing Rules will be put on the website for 30 days and owners will be notified so that they can examine these changes. Should owners wish to comment on the proposed changes, they can contact a Board member. Eventually the changes will be either modified and/or adopted and at that point, owners will be held accountable for having their properties “neatly” maintained and manicured per what was determined in the Standing Rule changes.

3. Maintenance Committee (Greg Volack)

Because the bat infestation was so severe, the MC recommended that the gazebo be demolished and replaced with another one.



Not only was the gazebo removed, but the irrigation and the plants were also taken out to ready the site for the installation of the new one. Greg stated that the gazebo shrubs were installed elsewhere in Rivendell. It was hoped the new gazebo will be here by March 2025.

Recently the rusty water heater at the pool was replaced with a tank-less water heater. New electricals had to be done to support it. The recent hurricane had done some damages to the pool service room and several repairs were being done to it as well.

Time, sun and hurricane winds destroyed many of the pool and pond signs and they were replaced and have yet to be installed.

Greg also mentioned that he had the help of several volunteers who helped decorate Rivendell for the holiday season.

4. Pond & Preserve Committee (Larry Dobias)

Larry reported that members of the committee spent 4 days inspecting the Rivendell ponds and their LMZ. Their conclusions were turned over to Beautiful Ponds and to TruScapes and each contractor will then determine how to best deal with the issues noted.

Larry mentioned that there have been issues dealing with the LMZ. In some sections it will be 4-5” tall and on other lakes it might get to be 2’ tall. The committee wants a more uniform look to the LMZ and to achieve this, there needs to be better oversight of the work being performed.

Larry also stated that these members who had been inspecting the ponds also spent time pulling branches and pool screen out of the ponds. In fact they filled 3 commercial garbage bags of pool screen. When they pulled out the

(Continued on Pg, 14)

(Unofficial Minutes continued from Pg.13)

tree branches, they put them in a pile and then later had GreenTopps put them through the chipper. No limbs were lost to angry alligators nor were recalcitrant alligators put through chippers....

Because drought and hurricanes were responsible for Rivendell losing many of its pond plantings that it had installed, Larry checked with its previous pond contractor to see what would be covered by our plant warranty. Solitude said they'd cover \$3000. Larry indicated that the 2025 budget is to have \$15,000-20,000 set aside for additional pond plantings. He also added that Nathan Hoffman of Beautiful Ponds said that he will get Rivendell a grant of \$3000 for additional pond plants. All in all, Larry expects Rivendell to be doing \$25-30,000 in pond plantings in the year to come.

5. CERT (Terry Siemsen)

Terry said that the 2nd round of CPR and 1st Response Training Class was held and it went well. There was no cost to Rivendell to offer this training. A nurse from the fire dept was here to offer the instruction. There were about 70 or so who initially expressed interest in the classes, but when it came time to actually decide, only about 25-30 people participated. Terry isn't sure whether to offer another series of classes in the spring, but people in the audience and on the Board felt that he should. Sometimes people want to come to the classes but then something comes up that prevents their attending.

Terry said that an idea for another class might be how to stop bleeding, what to do for falls, or rattlesnake bites, and of course CPR.

He indicated that for a rattlesnake bite, your first course of action is to always call 911, but he did mention that the nurse might talk about an antidote for rattlesnake bites that has FDA approval. It's called **CroFab**. It's an antivenom that is used for copperhead, rattlesnake, and cottonmouth bites. However, Terry did emphasize that 911 should always be the first course of action.

Larry asked Terry if it were possible for some of this information to be put on the website and Terry said that he could do that.

6. FINING COMMITTEE

It was announced that the Fining Committee will meet on Jan 8 to determine whether the fines levied against 6 properties in Rivendell stand. The committee will only decide whether to accept or reject these fines. They cannot change the fines.

(If the owners correct the issues before the committee meets, it's my understanding that the fines are forgiven.)

HOMEOWNER COMMENTS

An owner wanted to know if the sheriff said anything about

a professional Latin American gang doing any break-in's around us. He said that his daughter lives north of here and while she was at work, the gang broke a window in her bedroom and entered her unoccupied residence. Fortunately she had a security system and it notified her of the break-in. She called the police and within 8 minutes, the police were there with a helicopter and with drone overhead surveillance but they were unable to capture anyone. The professional thieves knew how to enter and leave quickly. They wore masks and they knew how to blend in to wherever they were.

Larry said that he had received no notification from the sheriff that this kind of activity was also happening around Rivendell but Larry did mention that "if you see something, say something."

THE NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 15, 2025. Don't forget...there might be mistakes in these minutes! These minutes are my interpretation of what I thought I heard or understood. Hope they made sense!

FEEL FREE TO SHARE WITH YOUR RIVENDELL FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. (This was a really short meeting and I loved it!)

Nancy Dobias

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A Time to Gather in The Cottages

The Fall is a time for gathering people together in the Cottages. So far this season we've enjoyed three events sponsored by our Social Committee.

The season kicked off on November 15th with *Happy Hour on the Porch*. This event is held one Friday each month. We share cocktails, delicious snacks, stories and friendships. How lucky we are to live in such a close-knit community!

In late November, we celebrated our first monthly *Saturday Coffee* of the new season. As always, the food was yummy, and the conversations were interesting. This year we added a monthly birthday recognition. Michelle Winnie baked a special birthday cake for the celebration. Happy November birthdays to [Marilee Casale](#) and Connie Alarie!

On December 7, the beautifully decorated Cottages Clubhouse provided the perfect space for our annual *Tree Lighting and Pizza Party*. We had lots of food, lots of laughs, and lots of fun! What a fabulous kickoff for this festive season!!



Rivendell Neighbor Runs for Board Seat

My wife, Carissa, and I moved to Rivendell three years ago and absolutely love living here. The large portion of the community set aside for green spaces, all the ponds and preserves, the beautiful tree-lined streets and common area landscaping, and being nestled up to Oscar Scherer State Park. There is no other community quite like it. We feel so very fortunate to be a part of Rivendell.

Over the first 20+ years of my professional career, I gained valuable and diverse business experience, in both large corporations and small businesses, spanning engineering, marketing, sales, customer service, finance, accounting, and strategic planning. That was put to good use in the second 20 years of my career as we nurtured, grew, and established our own company into an innovator and industry leader. I understand the importance of efficient operations, effective cost management, managing cash flow, and long-term planning, all with respect to achieving the organization's mission and goals.



It is with this experience and orientation I would be honored to serve the Rivendell community as a board member. My belief is Rivendell is one of the premier neighborhood communities in Sarasota. It started out that way over 20 years ago when it was built and continues to be that way today, in large part because of the excellent and hard work of the dedicated HOA board and committees. As such, my goal as a board member is to do my best to add value to the HOA board and the Rivendell community by working together with my fellow board members as a collaborative and thoughtful member of the team in ensuring Rivendell remains the premier and admired neighborhood it is today.

STAY SAFE!



Ladies' Luncheons Resume

Always a popular event, the Ladies' Luncheons are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm. In January, the group will be eating at Deep Lagoon on Wednesday, January 22nd. To join the group, contact Mirinda Roy at miriroy@aol.com by January 15th.



Reminder -

Dragon Boating in April

Although it is too soon to sign up, on Monday, April 14th (10:30 am – 12:00 pm) there will be a special event at Benderson Park: a hands-on introduction to paddling Dragon Boats. The fee will be \$40.00, for this class for first time paddlers, suitable for our Rivendell adults (men, we need you!), and, space permitting, other friends from outside the community. For more information, or to indicate your interest, contact Lesley Glick at leslymg8@gmail.com. Lesley has taken this class and recommends that you try it.



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Reminder: Circus Secrets of Venice Trolley Tour

On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 1:00 pm a Rivendell group will be taking the NEW "Circus Secrets of Venice" Trolley tour with Discover Sarasota Trolley Tours. The tour will be led by Circus Historian and Guide, Bob Collins. As he says, "We tend to forget that for more than three decades Venice took the spotlight from Sarasota as the winter home of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus." The charge is \$49.99 and proceeds from the tour go to support the Venice Area Historical Society.

Please sign up SOON because this tour is open to the public and will sell out quickly! Contact Discover Sarasota Tours directly at (941) 260-9818 or go to <https://www.discover SarasotaTours.com>. We have a promotional code (WEB) to be used for a 3% discount. Also, please contact the organizer of this event, Leah Friends at FriendsLeah@gmail.com, to let her know to expect you.

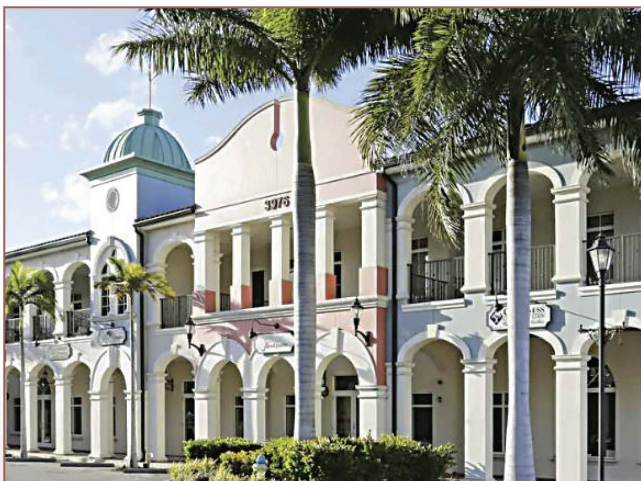
The tour leaves promptly at 1:00 pm from the Venice Chamber of Commerce (597 S. Tamiami Trail), and participants should plan to arrive at 12:30 pm to check in and have a brief meet-and-greet with other Rivendell residents and friends. Leah Friends will be at the adjacent Publix parking lot with a balloon and a sign.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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4	1	3	8	9	2	6	5	7
1	4	8	2	5	3	7	9	6
7	3	2	6	8	9	5	4	1
6	5	9	4	7	1	8	3	2
9	2	4	1	6	8	3	7	5
8	6	5	3	4	7	2	1	9
3	7	1	9	2	5	4	6	8

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ARC Meeting - Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Time/Place: **4:00 pm Conference Call 605-313-5721 code 655 3857**

Members Present: Jim Duncan, Joe Casale, Bill Borgelt; Michelle Myers (Board Liason)

Others Present:

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

No.	Address	Name	Description	Comments & Specific Conditions of Approval (See Notes below)	Approved as submitted (See General Conditions)	Approved with Specific Conditions	Denied (See Notes)
1	715 Shadow Bay Way	Sheila & Mary Stanton	remove three healthy trees along alley due to fear they are "unsafe" - that wind will blow down some branches, causing a dangerous condition and risk of bodily injury from "flying limbs." Would like to remove and grind out stumps."Emergency' due to hurricane damage".	Homeowner removed trees unilaterally before ARC could review and without communicating with the ARC. On reflection, the proposal should have been made to the Villa sub-association, not to the ARC	No action		
2	786 Shadow Bay Way	Ellen Sagalov	Remove mature oak in rear on left side of property (viewed from the street). "Roots are exposed above ground; It dangerously leans toward the house. Judging by the size of the tree, our house will be destroyed if the wind pushes it hard."		x		
3	750 Fording Bridge Way	Alexandra DeStefanis	Re-roof cement tile roof (barrel profile) with cement tile (barrel profile) Capistrano line; Color: Adobe Blend (#3723)		x		
4	1046 Scherer Way	James Bishop	replace tile roof with Newpoint Concrete Tile - Saxony 900 Slate - Sterling 1FMWS8010		x		
5	766 Shadow Bay Way	Edith Norby	Remove medium sized palm interfering with electrical box at front corner of property. Palm was a "volunteer" and needs to be removed		x		
6	674 Clear Creek	Vitalii Khodzhaiev	Reroof tile with Westlake Barcelona 900 Gold Dust Blend SKU 1HBCS7205		x		
7	1068 Mallard Marsh	Scott & Maggie Christie	Restain pavers: driveway, walkway, entryway with Water Shade Semi-transparent "Canyon Brown color		x		
8	1108 Mallard Marsh	Reid & Holly Harvey	Reroof tile with 4620 BLOOMINGDALE BLEND, Bel Air profile (flat) cement tile		x		
9	1020 Scherer Way	Karen Campbell	Existing tile roof to be replaced with flat profile tile - West Lake Dark Charcoal Blend 1FMCS1134		x		

10	1072 Mallard Marsh	Richard Jurik	replace damaged Palm. Remove pigmy palm and replace with younger pigmy palm.		x		
11	808 Shadow Bay Way	Linda Durham	remove and replace damaged Bouganvilla' replace two caggae palms in rear nadjacent to Lanai with smaller variety palms		x		
12	1192 Mallard Marsh	Aaron & Gretchen Graham	install 100# above ground propane tank on side of house, on concrete slab, concealed with		x		
13	878 Placid Lake	Joseph & Colleen Duffy	Repaint.Body & Garage: SW7558 Medici Ivory; Trim SW___white; Front Door SW6788 Capri (light blue)	White trim to be same color as current trim. Color number to be provided.		X	
14	824 Placid Lake Dr	Bill Bloom	Replace tile roof with Eagle tile, barrel profile, Capistrano, Palm Beach Blend 3725. Same tiles as on 669 Rivendell and 757 Placid Lake.		x		
15	572 Meadow Sweet	John Martin	Replace window with same style, color and grids as existing, but hurricane proof.		x		
16	855 Placid Lake	Rick Stein	Re-roof cement tile roof Eagle Roofing SRB 8828 Bridgeport Blend Copper.		x		
17	918 Scherer Way	Leah Friends & Chris Miller	Reroof using Newport concrete tile Saxony 900 slate Café Sand Blend		x		
18	1035 Scherer Way	Robert J. Revisky	Reroofing with Lifestyle West Lake Villa 900 Barrel Tile - Pinto Blend 1MPSS0689		x		
19	901 Scherer Way	Pater Strauss	Reroofing using Eagle tile Bel Air flat profile, Santa Paula 4549		X		
20	816 Golden Pond Ct	Terrell J Wilson	Remove dying pine tree in rear of house dangerously close to house and pool cage.		X		

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

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

(ARC Meeting continued from Pg. 19)

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 appeal the ARC's decision to the Board of Governors and/or avail yourself of the opportunity to have an independent third party mediate the dispute and take such other legal action as is provided in Florida Statute 720.311. If you appeal the ARC's decision to the Board, a member of the ARC will attend your appeal and make sure the ARC's understanding of your proposal and the ARC's reasoning are clear to you and to the Board.

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.

