



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

December 2024

The President's Report

Larry Dobias



The preliminary budget has been assembled and sent to the homeowners for review. The proposed increase of nearly \$100 every six months is primarily the cost of grounds maintenance which will be discussed and voted on at the Board meeting in November. Any changes resulting from the discussion will be made at that time and the final budget for 2025 will be approved.

Other financial issues that have been suggested include setting aside a specific amount of funds for cleanup in the aftermath of a hurricane or major tropical storm. Planning for the potential hiring of a property manager that would work with the Casey Management to maintain Rivendell at the level everyone has come to appreciate. As state regulations are ever increasing and putting more demands on the volunteer model, it seems more than likely this is the future for HOA's. Nothing in the current budget addresses these initiatives but represents the potential for higher costs in the coming days.

Rivendell has been through 2 significant storms in 2024 with minimal impact. Hurricane Helene dropped 13 inches or more

of rain and the stormwater system design demonstrated its effectiveness with limited and short street flooding. Hurricane Milton was a direct hit with winds of approximately 100 mph and again the damage was minimal. Much of that can be attributed to the level of tree maintenance which limited the effect of the storm.

The last note to the community reached out to members to volunteer for various committees. Seven people have volunteered their time and talent to participate. When somebody comes forward to take a leadership role, a team can be formed. Thanks to all those who are willing to help.





Kayaking in December

The kayaking group will be starting from the Vamos Drive Park in Vamos on Thursday, December 19th at 9:00 am (paddles in the water at 9:30 am). There are no rentals at this location, but if you are interested in renting, contact Jane Stevens, organizer of this event, at janie0441@gmail.com. It may be possible to get kayaks delivered if there is sufficient interest. As always, the event can cancel in rain or on higher than usual windy days.

There are several boating events of note in 2025: an ECO boating trip from Mote Marine (excellent for children, too) and a guided tour in Punta Gorda.

Reminder: Sign Up for a Venice Trolley Tour

On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 1:00 pm a Rivendell group will be taking a trolley tour with Discover Sarasota Trolley Tours. 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.

FRESH START with a
CART

Reminder:
Upcoming change to Sarasota County's garage collection program.
See link below for details.

<https://sarasota-county-fl.civilspace.io/en/projects/new-collection-services-begin-in-2025>



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Social Committee Events for December 2024



- Monday, December 2nd , 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.
- Monday, December 9th, 7:30 pm. Rivendell Book Group. The group will be discussing *For Dear Life* by Michael Biehl. For more information, contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com or Lesley Glick at Lesleymg8@gmail.com.
- Monday, December 9th, in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.
- Thursday, December 12th, 1 pm. Bridge Club. To join, contact Barb Loe at (651) 398-2256.
- Friday, December 13th, 7 pm. International Dining Out at Bodrum Restaurant (225 Miami Ave. W in Venice). For more information and to reserve a space at the dinner, contact Adele Kellman at adele.kellman@gmail.com .
- Monday, December 16th , in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.
- Thursday, December 19th. 9:00 am at Vamo Drive Park in Vamo, Kayaking Group will paddle (paddles in the water at 9:30 am). To join the group, contact Jane Stevens at janie0441@gmail.com.
- Monday, December 23rd , 9 am in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.
- Monday, December 30th , 9 am in the morning at Rivendell Pool. Ladies Walk 'n Talk.



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

(solution on page 13)

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Rudolph Won't Get Hung up on Anna Hope Lane Thanks To Sarasota County

It's interesting watching tree-cutters at work and to guess how they might "attack" the project at hand. When Hurricane Milton huffed and puffed and blew over 2 oak trees on Anna Hope and our roof was the landing zone for many of the branches, it was our job to first hire someone to get the branches off our home. Once the branches were cut off and piled in the street or along the curb, the county came with 3-4 dump trucks and hauled the debris away. Today, the county came with more equipment and began the task of removing the trunk and its off-shoots.

First they dealt with the oak tree on our left, the Van Smart home. There the weight of the oak's main branches were hung up in the bushes near the sidewalk. The men first had to study the situation to see how best to proceed. It was determined that they'd cut off portions of these branches and I think they used the bucket to keep the trunk from springing back up to the upright position unexpectedly. Slowly the man with the chain saw removed piece by piece as the bucket steadied the load of the tree. By the time the final piece was removed, the bucket slowly backed out of the way and lo and behold, the tree trunk moved to a somewhat upright position. Because a huge mound of sod had been taken out of the ground when the tree fell, it seemed as though the weight of the sod worked against the tree's being able to return totally back to its normal upright position. Obviously irrigation lines had been affected when the tree went down but at least the water to the 2 homes had not been affected. Another crew will deal with the stump of the tree and also with the sidewalk damages that have been incurred.

Next, they moved the trucks over to the playground side of our home to deal with the other fallen oak tree. When this tree fell, the palms in front of our home and the Volack home took the brunt of the weight of the oak tree.

When the branches of this tree were removed, the oak tree had somewhat righted itself. There wasn't as much sod taken out on this side of our home and so there wasn't as much resistance to returning back to a somewhat upright position. We did have irrigation lines that would need repaired, but the sewer lines for the 2 homes were not hit. Someone said they are buried deeper and would not have been affected when the sod and sidewalk were brought up.

When I watched how the men would proceed with this tree, I figured it would be cut off at the base and that would be it. Wrong! It was decided to choose various limbs and proceed around the top of the trunk in some manner that made sense to the tree guys. I would imagine they were looking for holes that would allow the limbs to readily fall through and not be caught on another limb.

Well, around and around the man with the saw went while the other men served as spotters to watch how the tree trunk would react to the balance that was being affected by the loss of weight that was happening.

At times a limb might require a V-cut to slice through it since the limb would be quite thick. A few required a nudge by the bucket when the slice was almost complete to keep the man with the chain saw from being in the way should the limb break away and take an unexpected swing backward.

Finally when it was time to get down to the base of the trunk, a bigger saw came out. I don't know if it was a 20" or 24" saw, but even with that, the saw man kept working that blade around the trunk until finally success was achieved! Good thing he had a good back and a sharp blade!

When we were talking to one of the men about the oak trees, he mentioned that the oak roots never grow to the street, that the curbing stops them from getting to the street. Instead, the roots were either go above the ground and run along the curbing or the roots will go under the sidewalk and travel toward the homes. He said

oak trees may look great, but they never should have been planted in the parkways where ours were planted.

If you'd like to see what happened when the Sarasota County tree group came to deal with our oak trees, below is a link to the pictures I took. (I take a lot of pictures so I am forewarning you!)

I think the Sarasota County men did a wonderful job. They are always so polite and friendly when they have work to do in Rivendell and they're never too busy to answer a question. I'm sure everyone at the county offices are quite busy dealing with all the hurricane-related issues so it's quite nice to know that Rivendell is having her tree-related issues dealt with well in advance of Santa's foray into Rivendell since NO ONE would want to be on Santa's "Naughty List" should a reindeer get hung up on a fallen oak tree!



Maintenance Committee Report November 10, 2024

Mark Giordano, Chair

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

There was no meeting in August. The **Facilities Management Plan (FMP)** format is used: The **FMP** continues to be updated.

Landscape Management:

- All extra work was put on hold to focus on cleanup efforts from hurricane Milton.
- A TOTAL OF 1,025 CUBIC YARDS OF STORM DEBRIS WERE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF FROM HURRICANE MILTON AT A COST OF \$50,600. 545 CUBIC YARDS FROM COMMON AREAS AND 480 CUBIC YARDS FROM INDIVIDUAL HOMES. PLUS, OVER 7 FALLEN TREES WERE REMOVED AT A COST OF \$10,400. BRINGING THE TOTAL STORM CLEANUP TO DATE AT \$61,000.**
- Treescapes' completed Ornamental Trim work for October.
- Rogelio Alvarado Landscaping performed ornamental trim, weeding and clean up at the entrances and islands from Milton.
- MC members Greg Volack, Larry Dobias cut up various downed trees and limbs in our ponds and preserves at numerous locations in the neighborhood.

Tree Trimming:

- Receiving quotes on trimming Oak Trees, 9 on Anna Hope La and 3 at end of Eagle Lake land bridge. \$6,100. delayed
- We expect more trim and take down work to show up as time goes on that will be related to Milton.

Irrigation System:

- New irrigation on Stillwater and Osprey Pond is on hold till money is available.
- Truescapes performed the monthly routine inspection.
- The need for additional irrigation at Rivendell Park and Crane Pond was discussed and estimates were \$1,500 RP and \$2,500 Crane Pond

Community Pool and Clock Tower:

- The solar pump remains shut off for the summer.
- The bike rack at the pool was installed.
- The clock on the pool side still is not synced with the outside one despite numerous times being reprogrammed. The manufacturer is being contacted.
- A new pool service contractor took over maintaining the pool. The previous one was terminated.

Community Pool Pump Room:

- A \$2,245.00 quote to replace the rusty HW heater in the pool pump room. This will come from the Pool House Mechanical Reserve Fund which has a \$25,000 balance. Plumber John and Graham electric will do the work.

Roadways:

- 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:

- The list of sidewalk slabs that need replacement by the county was completed and submitted to the county for repair. They started marking various locations for remediation and have begun replacement.
- Cleaning of Common Area sidewalks is being evaluated. Put it on hold.

Street Light Poles:

- Nostalgic Lamppost completed numbering light posts and were directed to replace broken lenses in various locations. Completed
- The MC identified several light poles that were either loose or rusted out.
- Rogelio Alvarado performed the quarterly cleaning of the light poles on Rivendell Blvd and Rainbow Point Way, Mallard Marsh, Pool and Crescent Park.
- Nostalgic provided an estimate to replace the 20 smaller light poles using the same heads and skirts which will be taken back to the shop cleaned and parts replaced as needed and using concrete as a base. \$16,868.25. The 18 larger poles on Rivendell Blvd. do not need replacing currently. This will come out of the Street Light Reserve Fund which has a balance of \$48,000.

Playground, Gazebo and Benches:

- 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.
- The MC approved a proposal by Austin Gardner to install 2 Bat houses as part of his Boy Scout Eagle Project.
- Caution, bats are inhabiting the gazebo again. No inclusions from 4/15 – 8/15.

The MC is currently working with Austin Gardner, a Rivendell resident and a Boy Scout in a quest to complete his Eagle Scout Project by building 2 Bat Houses and installing them near the Preserves.

- The board approved the installation of a new Gazebo at Crescent Park. Backyard Showcase was the low bid of \$18,800. To fabricate and install on our foundation. Additional Costs for demolition \$2,500, engineered stamped drawings and permits \$1,600 and miscellaneous expenses \$1,800. Concrete foundation prices will be obtained soon. Schedule completion late Jan, early Feb 2025.

Bridge Landscaping:

- Edging on the east side needs replacing either with metal or concrete curbing.
- 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. This will be a fall project.

Pine View Path:

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

(Continued on Pg.6)

(Maintenance Committee continued)

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 December 17th 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.



Some Holiday (golf) Cheer

- Golf balls are like eggs. They're white, sold by the dozen, and a week later you have to buy some more.
- Why do golfers always carry a spare pair of trousers with them? In case they get a hole in one.
- What is the difference between a golfer and a fisherman? When a golfer lies, he doesn't have to bring anything home to prove it.
- What should you do if your round of golf is interrupted by a lightning storm? Walk around holding your 1-iron above your head, because even Mother Nature can't hit a 1-iron.
- Where can you find 100 doctors all at the same place on any given day? A golf course!!



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.

EEK! Snakes!!!

Welcome to the wild and wonderful Rivendell community! We love our wildlife, snakes and all. Florida is home to about 50 species of native snakes. Snakes in Florida play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. They help control rodent and insect populations, serving as a natural pest control. Their presence can limit the need for chemical pesticides, promoting a more environmentally friendly approach to landscaping. The vast majority of snake species in Florida are non-venomous and pose minimal threats to people or pets, but some that you may encounter should be avoided. One of these species, the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, is frequently observed in our neighborhood and surrounding area. The largest rattlesnake in the United States, diamondbacks are brown, yellow or tan with a distinctive diamond pattern on their backs. Average adults are 3-6 feet long with large, heavy bodies. As snakes go, diamondback rattlers are fat! How can you avoid being bitten by a diamondback rattlesnake? Most importantly, do not approach them! Give them plenty of space and they will eventually move on. Keep your pets on a leash, and be vigilant when walking around landscaping plants or in brushy areas. Wear shoes and bring a flashlight if you walk around your property at night. A useful website for learning about our native snake population is <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW258>. Here you will learn the basics of identifying Florida snakes as well as useful tips regarding snake encounters. Florida snakes provide valuable ecological services, from pest control to biodiversity maintenance, making them an essential component of the state's natural ecosystems. It is in our best interest to learn to live in harmony with these Rivendell residents. -Bob Frank



5 ft. Eastern diamondback rattlesnake, a visitor to Scherer Way



Rattlesnake photographed by Nancy Dobias at Myakka State Forest.



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MSC Social Committee Off To A Great Start!

The MSC Social Committee met on November 9th to generate ideas and to plan our social activities for the coming year. Under the guidance of our dedicated chairperson, Debbie Craddock, suggestions were discussed and shared and the calendar began to take shape. Two November activities will kick off the season: a Welcome Back Happy Hour and a Welcome Back Saturday Coffee.

With many activities planned, it promises to be an exciting year for the Cottages residents. There will be opportunities to get to know new neighbors, get reacquainted with old friends, and for everyone to share some very enjoyable activities.



Jackie Axiom, MSC Outstanding Neighbor, Earns “Key Woman” Award! When identifying the qualities of an exceptional person, one needs to look no further than Jackie Axiom. This long-time Meadow Sweet Circle resident inspires her neighbors with her never-ending willingness to help others. She walks neighbors’ dogs, watches neighbors’ houses when they are away, distributes flyers for community events, sells tickets at social events, assists with set up and clean-up of events, literally helping wherever she’s needed.

It is not surprising that she was recently presented the “Key Woman” award at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church for her outstanding volunteer service and dedication. This is the top honor a church volunteer can earn. She’s spent countless hours at her church preparing meals for funerals and other church events, working at the church desk, and volunteering in many other ways.

Congratulations, Jackie for this well-deserved award! We are proud of you and are honored to be your neighbors!



Unofficial Impressions

Normally I do the UNOFFICIAL MINUTES but since I found it difficult to follow a lot of what was being said at the meeting, instead here are my UNOFFICIAL IMPRESSIONS of the **Nov 20, 2024** meeting. There could be mistakes or misinterpretations of the facts. Check with a Board member for an accurate portrayal of what was said or consult the OFFICIAL MINUTES once they are approved and appear on the website.



The most important detail for most owners would be the budget. Did it pass? Were there any changes? The answer to both questions is YES, the budget passed as presented and NO, there were no changes.

Unit 1 (Cottages) will pay \$602 a half and the rest of Rivendell will pay \$684 a half.

For those who inspected the budget, significant increases were evident in areas related to landscape/preserve maintenance. Hurricanes have played havoc with trees/shrubs within Rivendell and getting back to normal requires much restoration type of work if Rivendell wants to maintain “her look” and also keep the forestry paths open to our various pond and wetland structures.

While many communities had a more devastating blow than Rivendell, the ongoing pruning of trees and the regular maintenance of all of the pond culvert, outflow and bubbler structures that help to keep the surface water moving and our community dry were all items in the budget that prove that money well-spent, well-managed and monitored will save a community from the crippling blow that others experienced from the recent hurricanes.

My impression from listening to Chuck Pertile give his Treasurer’s Report and how he and Larry Dobias work together to determine where the budget can be tweaked to squeeze out all that they can to avoid a hurricane assessment is that these two men have a handle on the Rivendell finances. They’re both monitoring the “flow” of money in and out of Rivendell and they’re monitoring well whether the funds are being handled properly. Neither needed to look at notes to know their numbers. They seemed to have studied and analyzed the numbers so nothing would come as a surprise.

The MC Chair Mark Giordano is also involved in working to tweak the budget numbers to see how the MC projects can either be delayed or come in according to plan and not play havoc with unexpected hurricane expenses. Mark works closely with both Larry and Chuck to ensure that the money is there before projects go forward and that Rivendell has quality people working for her to make the most of her monies. Mark spends many hours seeking qualified people who can perform the job at a level that Rivendell expects and Mark too monitors those numbers to ensure that Rivendell is getting

professional work done by those who take pride in doing a job well.

In addition Mary Angell has been spending many months seeking to save Rivendell money on insurance costs by engaging in discussion after discussion with various agents. My impression was that the hurricanes, however, have diverted the agents’ attention and whether any cost savings can be realized by switching companies has

yet to be determined.

So, yes, the budget did pass and yes, the numbers did go up but one thing you can be assured is that Rivendell has volunteers who care about what they are doing and have taken ownership of their responsibilities.

One thing, you might be interested in is the Board and the MC are discussing the need for a hurricane type of fund in the budget. This will be something for a future Board to determine. Should one be added, it would need at least \$100,000 in the fund to cover the costs of hurricane repair/cleanup. Had Rivendell had a fund like this, then 2024 projects would not have had to be delayed. If a fund like this were added into the budget, it would increase assessments by another \$50 a half (I thought).

My impressions on the beautification of Rivendell is that homeowners are all using ARC to seek out approval for their changes to their properties and Michelle Meyer reported that all changes submitted were approved so things are looking good on that end.

On the other hand, Kay Mruz has been monitoring those few properties in Rivendell who don’t seem to want to “get with the program” to keep Rivendell on top of her game. Neighbors had complained about these properties being an eyesore. One resident was throwing trash out in the yard that neighbors would end up picking up and taking out to the curb for trash day; another owner stored unwanted empty boxes on the front porch; another resident didn’t seem to be bothered by dead shrubs or weeds adorning the property etc.

If the property had received the requisite number of warning letters, the owner was fined by the Board and the owner would have a right to appeal the fine to the Fining Committee. The job of the Fining Committee is to either say Yes or No to the fine. I think 3 properties received fines and now have the right to appeal the the fines.

Several spending resolutions were presented by Mark Giordano and approved by the Board.

1. Some of community lampposts were “beaten up” by the hurricanes and as a result, the MC decided that it was time to finally replace them with a stronger version of the same

(Continued on Pg, 13)

(Unofficial Impressions continued)

style. Nostalgic Lampposts will do the work and they'll do it in 2 phases over a two year period.

The first phase involves replacing the 6 lampposts at the pool. These poles will be set in concrete rather than in a hole dug in the dirt. Then the 6 on Rainbow Point Way will also be replaced and here too, the poles will be bolted onto a precast concrete base that is set in the ground. Cost for replacing these 11 lampposts will be **\$8725.90**.

The second phase involves replacing the remaining 9 poles at a cost of **\$8141.85**. In both phases, the existing lamp heads and the bases will be refurbished, painted, and reinstalled on new poles. Again, all poles are mounted in concrete. I assume these are the lampposts on Mallard Marsh and in Crescent Park.

2. There are several spending projects at the pool. Graham Electric will install a new hot water heater for **\$2245 plus \$450 labor**. There was some damage in the pool mechanical room due to the hurricane and no more than **\$2000** will be spent to replace the ceiling that had apparently come down, as well as the exhaust fan and light, and to repaint the walls to a lighter color for increased visibility. A 5 HP pump motor and installation of an additional flow gauge will be done by Southwest Pools at a cost of **\$2179.21**. All of these expenses will be deducted from the pool mechanical room reserve fund.

3. GreenTopps was hired to come into Rivendell during the week of Thanksgiving for one day to deal with all the hurricane-related broken branches that are overhanging streets/sidewalks and that currently pose a danger to pedestrians/vehicles. Cost was **\$5500**.

4. The gazebo has been contaminated by bat infestation and once the bat season is finished, the current gazebo is to be demolished and replaced with a better version that the bats will not be able to enter. The cost of the new version will be **\$24,000** and I think this includes the demo of the old as well as the purchase of the replacement gazebo. It's to be similar



in design but it'll have a metal roof instead. Money will come from the reserve fund for the gazebo.

If you think that the test of a great community is not only what it looks like, but whether there are opportunities for folks to get together, then Maria Ilioff talked about the Social Committee and its plans for the upcoming season. She recommended that you read the *Woodland Word* to stay informed of the group's activities. For those who enjoy the ice cream social, there is one planned in March.

Terry Siemsen said that the life-saving instructional classes that were offered through CERT or ERT are going well and that there are still openings if anyone is interested. He mentioned that the the class size was small enough that it affords better understanding of the points covered and that the person giving the instruction did an excellent job. There is to be a community blast to let you know when the class is to be held. Sorry the facts are just "sketchy." There is a meeting planned for December. It'll be **Dec 18**. Why not come and get your own impressions?!!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Nancy Dobias

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November Potluck Dinner

Lesley and Gary Glick hosted the first potluck dinner of this season on Saturday, November 16th. They had thirty-five guests, all of whom brought a dish to share and something to drink. The choice of appetizers, salads, main courses and desserts was a treat (people raved about the flan, tiramisu and pumpkin cake for dessert). The potluck was a great way to share food and connect with others in our Rivendell community. Stay tuned for the announcement of another potluck dinner later.

We were especially grateful to the Glick family who hosted last minute when our original volunteers needed to change. Some photos of the event are below.



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 lesleymg8@gmail.com. Lesley has taken this class and recommends that you try it.



Best of Venice Winner for 2023



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American Conference of Audioprosthology

Being a small business owner, it's important for us to know how new clients find us. So, whenever someone new comes in, we always ask, "How did you find us?"

During COVID-19, most people said they found us "on-line" since we couldn't meet in person. Now that we can be together again, many new clients are saying things like, "My neighbor told me I should see you because I wasn't hearing well."

One of my favorite stories came from a new client, Betty. When I asked her how she found us, she said, "I overheard my friend, Shirley, saying she loves her hearing aids." Betty said this because Shirley talked about her hearing aids in a positive way, which made Betty want to try them, too.

Betty explained that she often heard people complain about their hearing aids, especially when they had trouble understanding conversations in groups. But Shirley was at a line-dancing class and, while talking to someone else, said, "I love my hearing aids." This made Betty curious.

So, Betty walked over to Shirley and asked, "Who helps you with your hearing aids?"

When I heard this story, I felt so happy to know that Shirley's hearing aids worked well for her. Our goal is to help people hear clearly in groups. Knowing we helped Shirley hear well enough to enjoy a dance class and even tell others she loves her hearing aids is a huge success for us.

If you have trouble hearing conversations clearly in crowds, give us a call to try a free hearing aid demo. You might even find ones that you love.



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ARC Meeting - Tuesday, October 29, 2024

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

Members Present: Jim Duncan, Joe Casale, Bill Borgelt; Rebecca Rasmussen; 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	808 Shadow Bay Way	Rick & Linda Durham	Repaint. Body: BM OC-55 Paper White; Trim: BM 2121-10 Gray; Front door:Black		x		
2	730 Fordingbridge Way	Mike Ronzello	Replace diseased bushes with 3 plants: hibiscus, croton & Anna Maria Lantana; and around backflow to conceal it.		x		
3	1045 Scherer Way	Jack Lauren	Repaint; Body & Garage Door BM CSP-1060 From the Archives; Trim BM CSP-245 Stoneware; Front door BM AF-530 Lucerne		x		
4	1152 Mallard Marsh Dr	Renee Huntley & Philip Klotz	Re-roof tile for tile. Eagle Tile, Color # 3743 Cocoa Range. Handyman Roofing, Installer		x		
5	799 Shadow Bay Way	Joseph Giordano	Paint window shutters to match front door (Dark Blue)		x		
6	1147 Mallard Marsh	John Mills	Re-roof. Replace existing tile with Eagle Barrel Tile Brown/Gray range - Capistrano # 3687		x		
7	1069 Mallard Marsh	Susan Lanza	Re-roof with Barrel tile. Color: Palm Beach ; installed by Pro Roofing		x		
8	655 Rivendell Blvd	Ray & Kristin Ellison	Replace diseased Ligustrum Tree in front yard with Tibochina tree. Stump of tree being removed will be ground down.		x		
9	817 Placid Lake	Robert Sabatino	Extend existing pool cage approx 8' toward rear property line. Does not obstruct neighbor's view of any common areas. No new landscaping. Paver area to be extended under window sufficient to accommodate grill.		x		
10	817 Placid Lake	Robert Sabatino	Install shower at rear of house, enclosed with approx 4'x'4' privacy fence 5-6' tall adjacent to existing lanai cage. obstruct neighbor's view of any common areas.		x		
11	919 Eagle Isle CT	Don and Sheila Boucher	Re-roof tile with Westlake Royal Tile - Saxony® 900 Slate – Chestnut Burnt – Lake Wales.		x		
12	691 Clear Creek Dr	Robert & Shirley Fair	Re-roof tile with Eagle Tile Belair 4687 Brown Gray Range		x		

13	1073 Mallard Marsh	Mateusz Zagata	Extension of ARC Approval previously granted for re-roofing project		x		
14	1344 New Forest Lane	Manisha Rekus	Replace broken driveway with 4"x8" Stonehurst Beachside pavers set in herringbone pattern - in side to front entrance and back patio doors.		x		
15	743 Anna Hope Lane	Jeanne Kelly & Jorge Munoz	Install white vinyl privacy fence approx 6' high with gate around rear of property and around lanai (along alley). Also: replace landscaping that conceals AC unit with white vinyl fence in same location		x		
16	743 Anna Hope Lane	Jeanne Kelly & Jorge Munoz	Remove hedges in front and rear or property; replace hedge in front with dwarf Pitch Apple. Remove vines from palm tree trunks; replace with croton and tradescantia spathacea. Remove Magnolia in front yard and replace with Crepe Myrtle		x		
17	1192 Mallard Marsh	Aaron Graham	Re-roof tile with Westlake Royal Tile - Saxony® 900 Slate – 1FMCS11350 Dark Charcoal Blend by NewPoint		x		
18	1189 Lost Creek Ct	Roman & Ulana Rondiak	Re-roof tile with Novatik stone-coated metal roof - Roman Profile (Barrel) color: Brown Earth. See https://novatik.us/stone-coated-metal-roof/novatik-natura-roman/	Approval via waiver of existing guidelines prohibiting metal roofs provided that roof flashing at eaves at the front of the house (if it overlaps onto the fascia/trim), be concealed behind white rain gutters or otherwise be white in color to blend with the fascia/trim. This pertains to the eaves around the two-story entry foyer and across the garages. If possible, the trim piece at the eave under the roofing panels with the air vent holes would also be white. A more complete memo will be provided to the homeowner.		X	
19	711 Shadow Bay Way	John Sholtis	Re-roof Shingle roof with Timberline Asphalt shingle, color "Shakewood"		x		
20	655 Rivendell Blvd	Richard Girard	Remove badly damaged Queen Palm at rear of property; grind stump to 3-4' deep. Replace with suitable palm/tree.		x		

21	807 Golden Pond Ct	Chris & Betsie Shiparski	Remove tall/overgrown/unstable fishtale trees in berm between property and 803 Golden Pond. Replace hedges and plantings damaged during removal of fishtail trees, as appropriate.		x		
22	1019 Oak Meadow Lane	Hui Ying Zheng	Reroof shingle tile with shingle GAF HDZ Timberline; Color: Birchwood		x		
23	1016 Scherer Way	Emelia Bruno	Reroof; replace barrel tile (grey) with Newpoint Saxony 900 Slate by Monierlife tile; color: Sterling (grey) IFMC55759		x		
24	1108 Mallard Marsh Dr	Reid & Holly Harvey	Reroofing - replace tile with Eagle Tile; Belair #4620 Bloomingdale Blend and replace existing gutters with white gutters		x		
25	1100 Mallard Marsh Dr	Edward & Cindy Schmidl	Reroof. Replace cement tile with Crown tile # ATSSC035 Adobe Range Color barrel tile		x		
26	684 Shadow Bay Way	Patricia Martinovich	Re-roof tile for tile. Eagle Tile, Color: Walnut Creek Blend		x		
27	707 Shadow Bay Way	Donna Scully	Replace 9 windows with grids to match existing except they will be high-impact rated. White frame		X		
28	779 Fordingbridge Way	Anita Voth	replace cement tile with cement tile. Westlake Barrel tile - Villa 900 Espresso Blend (Brown)		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.
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.

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