



*Your
Community Resource*

The Woodlands Word

November 2022

HURRICANE

As the electricity went out around 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28, I recall thinking this is going to be a long haul. It was blowing and raining but nothing close to what I anticipated. Dutifully, I turned on the lanterns, lit some candles and fiddled with the emergency radio that we had unearthed in the very back of the "survival" closet. Jack informed me that it was a great radio, having seen him through Hurricane Andrew decades ago. He was right. We tuned into Florida Public Radio and were kept very well informed through-out the

following hours of increasing wind and pounding rain. Occasionally I text my neighbor Greg who was sitting on his lanai watching. He was our eyes on the storm since our hurricane shutters effectively turn the house into a cave.

At 6:00 pm I announced that I was taking the dogs out, only to have the emergency sirens from our cell phones broadcasting Immediate Extreme High Winds in the offing. So much for the evening walk. We managed to sleep out of a combination of fear and boredom only to be disrupted by all the lights glaring and the television blasting around 2 am. I thought, "this can't last." But, last it did. (And may I offer my many kudos to Florida Power and Light who have handled this event with excellence.) And it doesn't hurt that Rivendell is very close to a utility sub-station either.

At 6 am, I couldn't ignore the dogs any longer and donning an assortment of rain gear, I ventured out. Expecting lots of water everywhere, I was amazed that our alley was not in the least flooded. Little did I know that Greg and Company had been removing debris from the drains on a regular schedule during the entire storm. A block away, Yelly Staley and her mother Yelitza Leon had been doing the same along with neighbor Richard Pellicci. That activity was duplicated through-out Rivendell where fearless residents ran out into the elements to clear off the drain and let the well-engineered drainage

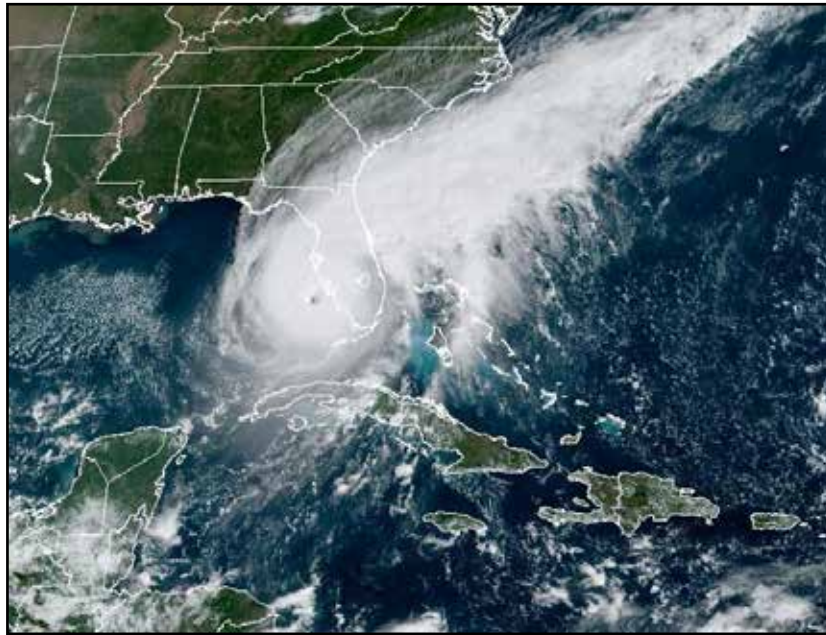


Photo courtesy of Sarasota Magazine

system this development was built with do its job.

With the morning light came the shock of the damage in the neighborhood. And, the process of clean-up began. As disappointing as the loss of so many beautiful trees, pool cages, roof tiles and many other things, as a community we fared so much better than many of our fellow Floridians only short distances away.

Pitching In as a Community

As a community, so many people were willing

to help in the days following the storm. Staci and Chris Murphy, new Rivendell residents posted on Next Door that they were available to help others. That certainly came in handy for me as Chris easily hoisted our very heavy Adirondack chairs that had taken temporary residence across the street in Edith Norby's garage and brought them home. Other neighbors shared the names of workmen and various professional services who were able to respond quickly to their needs.

The Maintenance Committee formed a work group to remove the leaves and debris that had covered the Old Venice Rd. entrance and on the Pine View path. Hats off to Kevin Boggess, Dennis and Julane Bowman, Peter Daignault, Jeannie and Jim Duncan, Ron Grinnell, Carol Myles, Jennifer Parker, the Zhang's and many more. In a matter of hours all the thousands of leaves and debris were in neat piles waiting to be picked up.

It was and continues to be a truly impressive and heart warming tribute to so many people in our community who truly define the meaning of good neighbors.

(See Neighbors on page 16)

A New Version of Pick-Up Sticks by Nancy Dobias

When I was a kid, PICK UP STICKS was a game that families and friends enjoyed playing but Greg Volack, a member of the Rivendell Board of Directors and Maintenance Committee came up with a new version.

Assembling a group of Rivendell volunteers, Greg and Co brought rakes, leaf blowers and a lot of energy to commit to playing a new version of the game. Greg's version involved picking up sticks and raking hurricane vegetative matter into various piles along Rivendell Blvd....



Sidewalks, streets, parks, trail had all been littered with debris until the Rivendell Rakers appeared on the scene to "play the game" and assemble the debris into various piles so that it could be more easily picked up by the landscape contractors hired by the Board.

AND what a lot of work they had...

...but such a difference it made to Rivendell Blvd....



Now all the puppy walkers no longer have to worry about using the debris-covered Pine View Trail...

...but instead can easily and painlessly take their walks in the morning.



(Continued on next page)

(Pick Up Sticks continued from Pg. 2)

Sidewalks that used to be littered with small branches and leaves...



...now afford an easier walk for those who are out for a stroll.



Bike lanes that would have forced our bicyclists out into the street due to the sticks and overhanging vines and branches...



...now allow for safer travel....



Yes, such a difference it can make when the Board, committees, and volunteers see a problem and then deal with the problem in such a timely manner.

Thanks go to all the volunteers who helped in this endeavor. I don't know all who were involved or I would list their names. All I saw was a HUGE group of people working on Rivendell Blvd and "playing" a much-needed "game" of "pick-up!" THANK YOU!!!

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Breaking the Ice

As In Our Fabulous Ice Cream Social by Annie Francis

If you couldn't attend the Rivendell Ice Cream Social on Saturday October 8, in Crescent Park, you missed a wonderful opportunity to connect with your fellow neighbors. It was especially fun to see all the eager smiles and looks of anticipation from the growing number of Rivendell's younger set. With Hurricane Ian impacting our community just over a week before our event, we initially weren't certain if the event could go on as planned. But thankfully we were back to "normal" and able to get together on that beautiful day. Our shared experience with Ian turned out to be a great ice breaker! It was delightful to chat with fellow residents, both old and new and to feel a part of the Rivendell "family".

A Family Community

In addition to all the chatter around the hurricane, watching the kids play increased the feeling that we are a family community. The innocence of kids sharing secrets in their hide-a-way at the top of the sliding board or their joy in racing after one another to prove dexterity in one athletic endeavor after another was certainly fun to watch.

The Ice Cream Social is a very popular event, and we plan on holding it twice yearly-one in the spring, before many folks head for cooler climates, and one in the fall, when most have returned for the winter.

Many thanks to the entire team for donating their time and effort to put on this event. If anyone is interested in helping with the next social, or to learn more about other Social Committee offerings contact Maria Ilioff.





Celebrate Rivendell Wildlife Week - November 12-19!
Be a Nature Watcher! Learn about Our Wildlife Friends!
 By Sue Remy, Ponds and Preserves Committee.

We know you love our wildlife friends – that’s why you live here! The Ponds and Preserves Committee is hosting the next **Rivendell Wildlife Week**, from **November 12-19, 2022**. **We need your help**. We have received Grant funding to install aquatic plants in our ponds to control erosion with a condition to report about Rivendell wildlife sightings. We had over 4,000 wildlife sightings during our previous Wildlife Weeks. ([Review previous results here.](#))

Once again, we are asking residents to help us observe and document the diverse wildlife that calls Rivendell home. It’s easy to get involved. Many of the participants from earlier Wildlife Weeks are volunteering again. You can too!

Be a Rivendell Nature Watcher! Anywhere in Rivendell from November 12-19, 2022.

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

During Wildlife week, we are asking residents to note any wildlife they observe - birds, turtles, frogs, deer, otters, bobcats, alligators – *any* wildlife. Then contact Bob Frank, who will enter the information into a database. If you wish, take a picture – we can help identify the animal if you are not sure. This does not take a lot of time or effort. Just enjoy Rivendell as you usually do - but this week, record the wildlife you see as you wander around our community.

Sign up to be a Nature Watcher today! Please contact **Bob Frank** at frank@ohio.edu for details and to sign up. Bob will send you an **easy-to-use Wildlife Tracking Chart**. Please let us know as soon as possible, but in any case, before November 5. We encourage all residents to participate, and hope to have at least one Nature Watcher observing each pond.

Teaching Moments and Fun for the Whole Family!

Wildlife Week is a great way to teach your children to appreciate and respect our wildlife friends. Ask them to tell you what they see – together you can identify the type of wildlife and learn more about each one. Below are some photos of wildlife you might spot during Wildlife Week. How many will your family spot? Join the fun and please let us know what you see! (Bob Frank photos.)



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Book Nook

RIVENDELL BOOK GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2022

The Rivendell Book Group, formerly called "Book Group I" meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm. Books are selected from suggestions from the group, normally when at least two people have read and recommended the book. Members of the group are expected to volunteer to lead book discussions, and, if convenient, to host group meetings in their homes.

'Nov 14, 2022: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

'Dec 12, 2022: *The Seven Husbands* of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Lesley Glick is facilitating the meetings through November, and if you are interested in joining the group you should email her at lesleymg8@gmail.com.

BOOK GROUP II

The Rivendell Book Group II will meet November 15 at 7:00 at Kristine Nickel's who will also lead the discussion. The book is *Lucy By the Sea* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Elizabeth Strout. For more information contact Deb Jones by emailing her at Debraljones@gmail.com.



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Sunday, Nov. 6th**



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Wildlife Window: The Wood Stork


Ungainly Up Close. Soars & Glides Effortlessly in Flight.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee.

Often observed along Rivendell's ponds and preserves are large, white Wood Storks wading through shoreline plants and wetlands. Although this stork doesn't bring babies, it is a good flier, soaring with neck and legs outstretched. The wood stork is the only species of stork that breeds in the U.S. Bald-headed, this ungainly looking wading bird stands just over 3 feet tall, towering above almost all other wetland birds. Often confused with white Herons and Egrets, the wood stork's distinctive bald head and massive beak help differentiate it from other shoreline birds, with whom they often forage.

In flight, adult wood storks create a unique appearance in the air: all-white with distinctive black wings. Easily visible is their extended neck, long beak in front, and long legs far beyond the tail.

Let's learn more about these Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*)

Appearance	The wood stork is a large, long-legged wading bird that reaches a length of 35-45 inches with a large wingspan of 60-65 inches. The primary and tail feathers are black. The head and upper neck of adult wood storks have no feathers, (bald) but have gray rough scaly skin. Its distinctive beak is long, dark, and conical shaped. Wood storks have long black legs with pink toes.
Feeding	Wood storks feed on small to medium-sized fish, crayfish, amphibians, and reptiles. Their hunting technique is unique as they will move their partially opened bill through water, snapping up prey when the prey comes in contact with the bill. Wood storks are very social in nesting habitats, and often seen nesting in large colonies of 100-500 nests. For protection against land predators, wood storks often nest in trees with flooded bases or lake islands surrounded by water.
On the Shoreline	Adult and young wood storks are often seen sitting on their elbows, in a squat position. This position may give the appearance of the birds being injured, but this is just a different way to rest.
In Flight	Wood storks usually take to the air 3 to 4 hours after sunrise, when thermals begin to form (like raptors). They soar effortlessly to gain altitude and glide in unorganized flocks that do not maintain any particular formation (unlike other birds that fly in a V formation).
Fun Fact 	"Hey Mom, where do babies come from?" Not from Storks! Newborn babies are often depicted with a long-legged, sharp-beaked bird known as a stork - usually with a cloth bundle dangling from its beak. A popular myth dates back to ancient Greece and the story of a vengeful goddess named Hera. According to this story, Hera grew jealous of a beautiful queen named Gerana and transformed her into a stork. The heartbroken Gerana then sought to retrieve her child from Hera's clutches, and the Greeks depicted the transformed bird with a baby dangling from its beak.

Your Actions Make a Difference! The wood stork is protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is also protected as a Threatened species by the Federal Endangered Species Act. Wildlife food shortages due to loss of vegetation, use of pesticides and degradation of habitat from urban development continue to challenge all of our wildlife friends. Working together implementing our healthy ponds and preserves management strategies will help keep our favorite wildlife creatures visiting our community often. Water birds, like the Wood Stork, thrive in ponds with shoreline plantings where they can forage and rest. Your continued support helps us attract more of our wildlife friends!

(Source: avaianreport.com)



Often confused with white Herons, Egrets, Pelicans and Ibises, the wood stork's distinctive bald head and massive beak help differentiate it from other shoreline birds, with whom they often forage. (Photos: Bob Frank)

Adult and young wood storks can often be seen sitting on their elbows, in a squat position.



Wood storks usually take to the air 3 to 4 hours after sunrise, when thermals begin to form (like raptors). They soar effortlessly to gain altitude and glide in unorganized flocks. (avianreport.com)

Kayak Outing Planned

The Rivendell November paddle is scheduled for November 16. The location for the outing is Nokomis Beach reach by taking a left after crossing the bridge on to Casey Key. The launch is on the intercoastal side of the island. Please arrive at 9 AM. Paddles in the water at 9:30. Tide will be going out and low tide is at 12:47 pm.

The address is 208 South Casey Key Rd Nokomis FL. If interested or questions please contact Jane Stevens. Janie0441@gmail.com

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Unofficial October Board Notes

Contributed by Nancy Dobias

Note from Nancy: If you were unable to attend the **October 19, 2022 Board of Directors meeting**, below are my UNOFFICIAL MINUTES. Please realize these are not Board-authorized official minutes. These minutes are my take on what I thought I heard and there's always a chance I might have misinterpreted something. Please consult the official minutes (www.rivendellcommunity.com) for the sanctioned record of the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Larry Dobias)

For several weeks, the Board has been handling debris clean-up/tree issues within the community. Two crews were at work in Rivendell. One was Eddie's Tree Service and the other was our new landscape company Tru Scape.

Eddie's Tree Service was hired to deal with the many downed/damaged trees within various parks as well as with those on common land that were impacting nearby homes. Two banyan trees along Rivendell Blvd were two of the trees which occupied much of their time and service but they also dealt with other banyan trees and live oaks. When the contracted tree work was finished, they then were hired to do chip removal of the various debris piles found along various streets within the community. The bill for services rendered was \$49,000

Because we had a huge amount of tree damages within Rivendell, Tru Scape also worked 3 days within Rivendell. They were contracted to get rid of the many many debris piles which Rivendell's volunteers had collected when they went about picking up sticks from the streets, sidewalks, parks, and the Pine View trail. Tru Scape also collected debris from streets that bordered the common land. For 3 days of work, we were charged \$21,000

More debris still needs to be picked up and Green Topps was hired to do this. They will be using a grapple truck to eliminate the street debris piles found along Placid Lake, Scherer Way, Clear Creek, etc. This could take 1-2 days. If it takes 2 days, we will be charged \$20,000.

Because no money is in the budget specifically for hurricane clean-up affecting our trees, the Board is looking at ways to fund all the work already performed or that still to be performed. Currently we're \$30,000 under budget in what had been planned for 2022 and they expect another \$30,000 to be there by the end of the year. We typically carry \$100,000 in operating expenses and it was thought that these services could be covered by what is not being spent for the remainder of the year. Usually we mulch in November, so this is one category that could be used if the Board chooses not to mulch. A problem they have to solve is where is the extra \$30,000 going to come from. They figure they will incur approximately \$90,000 in tree expenses. Should there be a special assessment or should they forego some of the planned projects for the remaining part of 2022? The consensus was to forego some maintenance activities and use those monies. An as-

essment should be the last resort. As a result, they passed a resolution to tap into the \$30,000 in the operating funds to pay for the remaining tree expenses.

There are still many tree issues which will need addressed but these will happen in the 2023 budget plan. Trees are compromised, broken branches hang within trees, stumps need to be removed, invasive and damaging banyan trees need to be addressed, etc.

Cathy wanted to know whether the homeowner would be held responsible for the huge pile of palm tree trunks and fronds that had been discarded on Rivendell common land near Egret Pond. She felt that if the owner's tree service dumped the debris, the owner should be held accountable. The problem is that no one can say definitively that they saw this particular tree service do it. They might think with 99.9% that it was this tree service but if they don't know with 100% certainty, it's not good to go that route. There was some discussion about whether at least a letter would be sent to the homeowners. Larry said that he had emailed it and he and Greg had both stopped on several occasions but no one responded to the email and no one answered the door. He reiterated that they needed to have 100% certainty in order to take a firm position on this issue and since the owners are ignoring requests for information as to whom they had hired, the Board's hands are tied.

They also discussed whether this particular owner should at least be fined for failing to fill out an ARC request for the removal of the palm trees. I mentioned that I thought I had read in the Emergency section of the ARC Guidelines that a request in advance is not needed if an owner is acting to protect his property, etc. He can do it after the fact. More discussion followed and I'm not sure what the Board decided to do about this failure to get an ARC request. If they decided to act, that would be a \$100 fine.

Larry next mentioned that the school district has been dealing with some pine trees along the Pine View Trail that could be a safety issue for those on the path. A carrotwood tree in their woods section across from the Cottages whose broken branches overhang the bike path on Rivendell Blvd is another problem tree which the school has yet to address. It is marked and the Board feels that the school has always been good about dealing with the problem trees and that the issues with this tree will be resolved. Currently the vines are keeping these branches from falling.

Larry thanked all the volunteers who went on the "PICK UP STICK" mission after the hurricane. Their work saved the community time and money and it was much appreciated. Bruce Lorie, a fellow resident, was also thanked for his taking on the job of straightening all of our street signs that had been affected by the high winds. In addition, the Rivendell

(Continued on Pg. 12)

(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 11)

residents were thanked for their involvement in the immediate clean-up to their properties.

Larry also put before the Board the question of whether they would reimburse an owner for expenses in dealing with a damaged banyan tree on common land that was now a threat to the owner's home. The owner paid \$4500 to deal with the tree. Larry said that in one of the tree clean-up quotes he had received, Castillo's Tree Service would have charged the Board \$2000 to do the removal and \$1000 to do the stump. He suggested that the Board reimburse the owner \$2000. Greg was concerned that this was a dangerous precedent. Other owners might take it upon themselves to do their own common land clean up or preserve clean up and he was concerned that this could be problem. After more discussion, the Board agreed to reimburse the \$2000.

MANAGER'S REPORT (Steve DeHart)

Steve said that he had been working on the 2023 PROPOSED budget that was being drafted and presented to the Board for approval at this meeting. Once the Board accepts the proposal, copies of the budget will be emailed to owners who had provided an email address. There were 130 owners who did not provide an email so their copies will be mailed. The Board will meet in November to officially adopt the budget and if owners have any concerns/questions, this is the meeting where they might express those concerns.

He also mentioned that the school requested that it be allowed to use Rivendell streets for their Pine View run. This is a rescheduling of an earlier one that had been cancelled.

As to open violations, Steve said there are 46 violations on 43 lots. 29 have been given their first notice, 12 have been given their second notice, and 5 have been noticed that they are at the fining level. The Fining Committee is to meet Oct 25 to deal with any fining appeals that may have resulted from past notifications.

Steve also stated that there were 2 ARC violations for which the Board needed to take action. Should they be fined was the question. One home was cited for erecting a trellis on the front of their home and another home was cited for tree replacement/removal without permission. Greg stated that the owner had put in 2 new trees and that they had not filled out an ARC request. Larry said that one had died and the owner was just replacing a tree that had died. Greg felt that all actions need ARC approval no matter what the reason. Greg also asked what was happening with the other trellis that had been erected without approval. This one was on the side of the home and was felt would be a safety issue for the occupants of that home should they have an emergency and need to get out of the window in the area of this first trellis. Steve said this issue is in the system and is going through the various stages of being notified.

Greg then brought up his concern that Lighthouse was not efficiently dealing with the non-compliance issues. Steve stated that he could address these concerns to Eric Mitchell at Lighthouse.

The Board then voted on the 2 homes that had not gotten the ARC requests to do what they had done. The Board voted 3-0 to fine the trellis person and 2-1 to fine the tree replacement/removal home. Larry did not support the issue relevant to the tree replacement since he felt this was not a change and therefore should not require ARC involvement. They had a foxtail, the foxtail died, they removed it and planted another foxtail. Where's the "change" that would necessitate an ARC request? Greg believed that all actions should go through the process since not everyone does what he says he will do and that ARC should provide the oversight.

Steve then said that he and his colleagues are investigating whether HOA's can be reimbursed for their expenses. They found that FEMA won't deal with HOA type of non-profits but that maybe our insurance has a clause that could be used. That is what he will be checking out.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Cathy Daignault)

Cathy stated that Rivendell has \$533,061 in assets (not capital assets) and of this amount \$275,568 is in reserves. As of the end of September, there was \$8233 in owner balances. Two owners have violation balances totaling \$2000, one account is in collection for \$333, three accounts have short paid their dues, 6 accounts haven't paid their July assessments and with interest these accounts total \$2881.

In expenses, through the end of August, Rivendell was \$24,705 under budget for the year. There have been 2 disbursements from the reserves: one was \$1430 from the Landscape Plant Replacement fund and the other was \$8100 from the Pool Solar Roof Heater Account.

In operations, Rivendell was \$33,969 under budget in Grounds Maintenance, \$7210 under budget in Admin expenses, and \$1470 under budget in pool expenses. Utility expenses and Maintenance expenses were both over budget. Utilities were \$1275 and Maintenance was \$16,856.

Cathy asked about a \$34 owed in one account but that was thought to be a mistake and will be corrected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ARC (Greg Volack reporting)

According to Greg, 8 out of 9 requests were approved and 1 is on hold. On one request ARC dropped the ball and will let this resident know what was decided. It seemed this happened because the owner was requesting to make several changes and some would require Villa Board input. After that was discussed and evaluated, the owner was given a go-ahead for

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(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 12)

everything except the outdoor kitchen island being proposed. I guess that is still being evaluated but that is just my guess.

Cathy asked how and when residents are notified of the ARC decisions. She was told that after the meeting, ARC sends an email to owners and that Lighthouse does an official notification via snail mail. Cathy mentioned that she didn't get anything when she put in a request and felt that there could be a problem with the notification process.

2. Maintenance Committee (Greg Volack reporting)

No meetings were held but Greg commented that because of all the hurricane damage-related expenses being incurred, that the line item or the reserve item in the budget that deals with trees should be renamed. Rather than call it TREE REPLACEMENT, a better name might be TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT. This would allow them to access these funds should a natural disaster occur.

3. Communications Committee (Greg Volack reporting)

Greg read off various statements/questions/concerns submitted by the committee. They wanted a more timely reporting of the minutes so that they can make the deadline for publishing in the *Woodland Word*. They felt an article or a statement about how long hurricane shutters can stay up should be submitted. They wanted better communication relevant to what the Board is doing about the tree debris pick-up expenses, whether it would be an assessment as the rumor mill in the community seems to believe. Cathy suggested that people attend the meetings if they wanted to know since this was being discussed at this particular meeting. It was also mentioned that there have been several auto break-ins on Shadow Bay Way and perhaps the community should be informed so that they can ensure their vehicles are locked when parked on their driveways or in the streets. Greg also read that the theme of the next WW will be photos/articles that are all related to the hurricane.

4. Pond and Preserve Committee (Bob Frank)

Bob reported that the pond plantings fared well during the hurricane. An inspection revealed very little loss and Bob was impressed not only with the fact that the hurricane winds spared our plants but that also the drought that we had been in did not hurt them as well. He felt that LMZ was working well to control any erosion that might have occurred during the heavy rains resulting from the hurricane. Greg added that a re-inspection of Bobcat Pond plantings should be done since he and Larry had recently retrieved a big branch that had landed in the pond and there probably was damage to any nearby plants.

In addition Bob mentioned that they had done Forestry Mowing and had dealt with owner incursions into the preserves. Larry stated these incursions seem to be ongoing in Rivendell and that it's important to figure out how to stop it. The recent

ones cost Rivendell \$6000 to remove/remediate and another \$2000 to do the required report. It'd would be nice if we didn't have to pay this \$8000 but that takes owner cooperation and awareness of what their obligations are. Bob suggested that when new owners buy into the community, committee members might visit them to explain what our obligations are within the preserves. For those who say they were unaware, this would eliminate that type of response. Larry suggested that members do quarterly inspections behind the 150 homes that border the preserves. Stop the action before it becomes acute. He said that he has seen banana plantations in the preserves and that they didn't get there overnight nor did any birds seed these trees in those locations. Two dump trucks of banana debris was removed and this is a cost factor. They also discovered more banyan trees that were planted in the preserves and these are costly to remove. Banyans are considered invasive and also owners should never be planting anything in the preserves. Only our contractor is allowed to do any planting/removing.

Greg added that unauthorized activity also is happening in the common area and that it should be stopped as well. When the banyan trees in the Cottage area were recently damaged by the hurricane, Rivendell incurred costs of between \$5000-6000 for each of these trees. They never should have been planted in close proximity to any home. They're too susceptible to winds when hurricane occur. Their roots do a number on fences, homes, irrigation lines, etc. In general, it was said that expenses were outrageous dealing with all of the banyan trees that Larry and Greg discovered were in Rivendell and which had been affected by the hurricane.

Bob informed the Board that another WILDLIFE WEEK will be held Nov 12-19th. This is done to fulfill our obligations relevant to earlier grant monies that we had received.

The last thing which Bob mentioned was that the committee had been discussing changing pond vendors for Rivendell and asked that the Board consider replacing Solitude with Beautiful Ponds. They feel the change in vendors will produce more attractive ponds and healthier ponds since the management plan of Beautiful Ponds doesn't require the heavy use of pesticides. It's hoped that their management practices will result in a more aesthetic appearance to our ponds. In addition, the pond consultant that had been hired will no longer be necessary since Rivendell would be totally relying on the expertise of Beautiful Ponds to create what is envisioned for Rivendell. The Board agreed with the logic and passed a resolution to replace Solitude with Beautiful Ponds beginning in 2023.

5. Social Committee (Larry Dobias reporting)

Larry reminded the Board that there is to be a Mix and Mingle at the pool Thursday late afternoon and he mentioned to the Board that the recent Ice Cream Social was a huge success. Residents enjoyed the chance to meet their fellow residents and appreciated the opportunity this type of event affords.

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(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 13)

A new owner in the audience then asked the Board what he would have to do to host a get-together for Rivendell residents. He asked whether it was possible to use a park. Larry said that private parties can be held there or at the pool. If held at the pool, a request needs to be filled out to make sure no other groups are using it at that time and that no glass can be brought into the pool complex. The owner stated that he wants to have a party for ALL of Rivendell and this event will offer live entertainment and catered food. He wants it to be a way for residents to meet and get to know one another. The Board thanked him for his generosity and said that it would be possible to host a party of this nature.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry said that to save on expenses, it would be good to send out the amendment proposals in one mailing rather than to do each in their own separate mailings. Larry will compose a letter explaining what each amendment is about and then owners can decide whether they support the proposed changes. The Board passed a resolution to allow for just one mailing.

An owner asked if the Board could state that the Board members were in favor of the changes but it was decided that no position should be taken by the Board. The letter will be there to explain the issues and the owners can decide whether they agree or disagree with the changes. Larry added that Rivendell manages 65 acres of ponds and best management practice dictates the use of an LMZ to better control erosion and to delay the inevitable dredging that one day will become necessary. To lose the LMZ is to speed up the time table for when that might become inevitable.

NEW BUSINESS

Larry explained that the current way Rivendell handles owners who fail to pay their dues, non-compliance fines, etc is to involve Lighthouse in the notification process. For every notice that is sent to owners, a charge results and current practice is that all of Rivendell is responsible for this charge. For example, it cost Rivendell \$15 for every first notification, \$30 for every second notification, and \$45 for the third (fining stage) notification. Larry said that he saw a 2014 document that said these charges would be passed on to the owners. He felt that was fair and right and wanted the Board to give him the OK to approach an attorney with this 2014 document to make sure it was legal and current with what is allowed today. Steve read a comment that said these Lighthouse charges were passed on to the owners but Larry said ONLY the delinquent ones were passed on. There are some owners who short pay and then pay the rest at the last minute or others who don't pay until the grace period expires. He felt owners should meet their monetary obligations on schedule and that we should not be paying for those who are milking the system. The Board agreed with the logic and Larry will contact an attorney to come up with a better way of dealing with the delinquent owners. I think they plan to pass on both the Lighthouse notification charges as well as any interest

that results from failing to pay on time. Interest for failing to pay on time is currently 18% for most institutions.

The 2023 PROPOSED budget was accepted. Dues will go from the current \$470 a half to \$517 a half. Larry mentioned that the \$47 increase did not happen because they were not controlling their operating expenses. Those they were able to keep constant. Instead the recent Stabler Report suggested that more be saved in the reserve account to handle any pond remediation that might become needed in the future. Stabler recommended there be \$3 million set aside for ponds and \$300,000-400,000 for shorelines. The Board decided to be more conservative in their approach and instead chose to save a total of \$840,000 in their pond reserve account. The increase also happened because a reserve account was created to handle future repaving of the Pine View Nature Trail and because it was decided to create a contingency account for unexpected expenses. This account is a \$10,000 one.

The proposed budgets will be emailed to most owners (mailed to those with no email address provided) and owners will have an opportunity to examine what is being proposed. The November 16, 2022 Board meeting is when the budget will be adopted so if owners have questions or concerns, they should deal with those before or at that meeting.

Cathy requested that the Master Board notify the Villas Board on what streets they have collected and disposed of debris because the Villas Board has contract language with their landscaper that Brightview will deal with ALL of the debris and the Villas Board is planning to assess Villas owners for this charge. Cathy stated that if the Master Board took care of some of this, the Villas Board should not be assessing for the total amount since they are not removing the total amount. There was discussion as to who had removed what on the various streets in the vicinity of the Villas. Some was handled by the Villas contractor Brightview but others were handled by Eddie's Tree Service, the one hired by the master Board. Greg asked how this could be determined? He wanted to know how did Brightview determine what their charges would be. Are they charging by the hour worked or are they charging by the number of bags they picked up? That is the unknown and I have no idea how this was or will be finally reconciled.

HOMEOWNER COMMENTS

1. A Villas owner wanted to know how the maintenance free aspect to a Villas home could be eliminated. He wanted to know what would have to happen to disband the Villas as a separate entity and just have each owner take care of his own landscape/irrigation checks needs. The Board said it would involve hiring an attorney and a 2/3 vote of the Villas owners to dissolve their sub-association. Apparently some will be looking into whether this is wanted by enough Villas owners to take this kind of action.

2. The owner who was given an ARC fine for the removal/ planting of the foxtail tree showed up at the meeting and

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(Unofficial Board Notes continued from Pg. 14)

was perplexed as to why she would be fined. She replaced a dead foxtail with a live foxtail. She did not plant additional foxtail palms. She felt she was being a good owner and did not understand why this was being punished. If she changed "like" for "like," how is that a violation? Greg said that he had been told that she had planted additional trees. The owner said she would be happy to present a receipt for what happened on her property. Cathy and Greg both took the position that anything done, no matter whether it was construed as a change or not, should require an ARC request. Cathy added she painted her home the same color and she got a request. Larry did not agree that a non change should require ARC involvement. He felt that the change should be substantial and replacing "like for like" did not rise to that occasion. George felt they might want to put a hold on this fine until more info was provided. After more discussion, it was decided to put this fine on hold in order to obtain more information.

3. An owner asked whether the debris pile by the pool parking lot would be removed. Larry said that he and Greg had piled these branches there and that came from clean-up in the section behind the pool. He said they will be removed when GreenTopps does their work, hopefully scheduled for this weekend.

4. I commented that I found it puzzling why an owner wanting an outdoor kitchen installed in his back yard should have even come before the ARC. I replace grills and chairs on my lanai and I do not get ARC approval. It's in his back yard and it seems as though it's just another "room" in his home. I stated that this is my opinion but it doesn't appear logical that what we create or buy/install within our fenced-in areas or pool cages should be a concern to the community and rise to the occasion of an ARC request being mandated.

Editor's Note: Please consult the website for "official" minutes of Rivendell's Board, typically posted 3-4 weeks following the meeting. Thank you to Nancy for recording and transcribing the minutes so that residents have a timely edition for their edification.
THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WED. NOVEMBER 16 @ 6:00 PM. PLEASE WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ZOOM ACCESS OR IN-PERSON ACCESS.



Board To Fill Two Seats in February

The term for two members of the Board will expire at the February members meeting. Anyone interested should begin preparing a resume with information on their background and qualifications. The resume will be used to inform the community of the candidate's fitness for office prior to the vote. The resumes should be submitted to Lighthouse in November and will be published in the Woodlands Word in the December and January editions.

Break-ins Continue

Several residents on Shadow Bay Way have had their autos entered and items stolen on multiple nights during October. The Sherriff's department has responded and encourages homeowners to lock cars left outside garages to discourage thieves.

Don't Forget to Remove Storm Shutters

Reminder to residents: Storm shutters should be removed by the end of the month *unless* the shutters are clear or the same color as the house.

Hurricane Repairs and ARC

In repairing residences, you do not need ARC approval if you are replacing parts of your house or roof in an identical or very similar fashion. When in doubt, contact Greg Volack, acting Maintenance Committee Chair.

Gregvolack@gmail.com

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Reader's Choice Winner for 2021



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Neighbors

By Nancy Giordano

Truly Humbling

It's fair to say different groups of people in our lives mean different things to us as we make our individual journeys through life. Our dependency on family gets us through the first couple of decades (more or less) before dependency turns more to a deeper love, trust, and respect for those family members who impart the wisdom and common sense we use throughout our days and in raising our own families.

Teachers play a role in our development - how we process what we learn and read - impacting who we become personally and what we become professionally. Members of our spiritual family, whether in person, virtual, or in our prayers, impact us in ways direct and indirect every day. Superstars from the entertainment and sports worlds influence many of us far more than what is deserved...yet they do.

Friends can move into and out of our lives for a variety of reasons. The most meaningful friendships both endure and support our life's best and most difficult circumstances - our partners, our children, our choices, our crankiness, and even our successes, or not. No matter the miles between friends or the time between visits, true friends are always a part of our lives.

And then there are our neighbors.

Just like family, we can't choose our neighbors. Neighbors can be our family, or we can feel like they are family. In the beginning, a smile, a wave, a "Hello" may be the neighborly way. Yet it takes effort and the willingness to engage to create good neighborly relations.

When reading about the importance of good neighbors, certain traits keep coming up. They are friendly; quiet; tidy; willing to help; caring; show respect; and are an active presence in the community. Every one of those boxes can be checked in my neighborhood and we are so grateful.

So why am I writing about good neighbors? It's because of the elephant in the room - Hurricane Ian. Even from afar in New York, we could feel the anxiety; sense the raw fear; see the destruction; hear the suffering; and worry about our neighbors. It was truly humbling to say the least. Person after person interviewed spoke of their amazing neighbors who helped them in one way or another.

There's no humor in this 'story of the day', and while we continue to pray for our fellow Floridians who were injured physically and emotionally and whose properties were damaged or destroyed there is still much for which to be thankful. In times of crises, along with police, fire, and rescue workers, neighbors go to work. It's when we realize how much richer life can be when we all engage. And Rivendell, we should be proud of our engagement.

In December, we'll return to our regular Neighbors Column. In the meantime, here's something to contemplate for next month... Rivendell's Odd Couple?

Rivendell Community Contacts

Committees

Block Captain Committee

Chair: Rachel North Zipay (mobilrach@verizon.net)

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

CERT Committee

Chair: Paul Englert (paule253@hotmail.com)

Board Liaison: **Cathy Daignault**

Members: Need Volunteers. Please contact Paul if interested.

Communication Committee

Chair: Kristine Nickel

(kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Newsletter: Kristine Nickel, Nancy Giordano, Barbara Gahry

Directory: Christopher Smith and Kristine Nickel

Webmaster: Gary Mruz

At large: Marylin and Jim May

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Chair: Greg Warner

Board Liaison: **Greg Volack**

Questions or Submissions: rivendell@mgmt.tv

Members: Greg Warner, Joe Casale, Rich Bunce,

Jim Duncan, Joe Zwerling Board Member: Greg Volack

Fine Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: Robert Thierfelder (rcthierfelder@gmail.com)

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Ken Alerie, Bill Bloom, Mary Kennedy

Maintenance Committee (MC)

Acting Chair: Greg Volack (gregvolack@gmail.com)

Board Liaison: **Greg Volack** (gregvolack@gmail.com)

Members: Carole Myles, Mark Giordano, Dave Cook, Kevin Humbert, Chuck Pertile

Ponds & Preserves Committee

Chair: Bob Frank (frank@ohio.edu)

Board Liaison: **Larry Dobias**

Members: Dave Gill, Ken Heckert, Tom Hurban, Sue Remy, Norma Lee Rhines, Allie Sandow, Melle Lee Warren

Social Committee

Chair: Maria Ilioff

Board Liaison: **George Smith**

Members: Lisa Boggs, Annie Francis, Kathy Halaiko, Carolyn Kennedy, Adele Kellman, Kathy Lysak, Jennifer Parker, Allie Sandow, Jane Stevens

Rivendell Board of Directors

Larry Dobias, President, dobiasle@gmail.com

Greg Volack, Vice President, gregvolack@gmail.com

Cathy Daignault, Treasurer, catdaignault@yahoo.com

Kevin Boggess, Secretary, kbogg@msn.com

George Smith, Director at Large,

georgeandnadia@gmail.com

Sub-Association Boards of Directors

The Cottages: Marilee Casale, President, (marileecasale@gmail.com); Bob Metelko, 1st Vice President, (bob@csdsinc.net); Carole Myles, 2nd Vice President, Kathi Webber, Secretary, (kathi.travel@gmail.com); Jim May, Treasurer.

Patio Homes: Bob Thierfelder, President; Dan Tavares, Secretary; Dave Rollinson, Treasurer.

The Villas: Dianne Enger, President; Sherry Sholtis, Vice President and Secretary; Barbara Loe, Treasurer.

Lighthouse Property Management:

941-460-5560 Ext. 225

Property Manager: Steven DeHart

(SteveDeHart@mgmt.tv)

Rivendell Website

www.rivendellcommunity.com

Contact Lighthouse Management for password to RESIDENTS section.

Woodlands Word Deadline:

Submit articles and information to Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com) by the tenth of the month.

Updates to the Contacts Page:

Kristine Nickel (kristine@nickelcommunications.com)

Nuisance Alligator

Call Florida Fish & Wildlife - SNAP 866-392-4286
Do Not Call Lighthouse Property Management

Sarasota County Sheriff

Non-emergency Number: 941-316-1201
Please use this number for non-emergencies