



# The Woodlands Word @ Rivendell

December 2010

## *Annual Membership Meeting - February 10, 2011*

### Highlights of November 3rd Board of Directors Budget

#### Meeting by Mary Kennedy

An annual budget of \$327,577 for 2011 was approved by the Board at its annual budget meeting Nov 3. The budget represents an increase of five percent, and contains \$30,000 for legal expenses, which are expected to double in the coming year over the amount budgeted in 2010 (\$15,000).

In other matters, the Board:

- Learned that an unknown person broke the central valve of the irrigation system, leaving it in the closed position and depriving several common areas of any watering for several weeks;
- Heard extensive discussion of lake and landscape management as well as the competence of current contractors in these areas;
- Appointed a nominating committee to propose candidates for two positions for the Board of Directors;
- Created a Document Review Committee to streamline and update existing Association documents.

*Continues on page 3*

### Message from the President December 2010

I have been asked by homeowners to explain why we have doubled our budget for legal fees in 2011. Our attorneys have strongly advised me not to speak publicly about the details of the case which has caused this. What follows are the facts that I can communicate.

As a result of the dispute in 2009 with the owners of 638 Rivendell Boulevard, a complaint of housing discrimination has been filed against The Rivendell Community Association, Inc. with both the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Florida Commission on Human Relations (FCHR). Two former Board members and three other homeowners have also been named as respondents in the complaint.

This complaint is currently being investigated by the FCHR. Its investigation has required the services of attorneys to submit our response. We have also had to produce hundreds of pages of documents that were demanded by the FCHR.

*Continues on page 4*

## CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS By Barb Gahry

The Nominating Committee is, once again, seeking nominees for the Board of Directors. Two people will be elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting on February 10, 2011. **Interested candidates should submit a biography and a photograph to the Nominating Committee by Dec 10.** The biography should contain two paragraphs. The first paragraph should summarize your background and any experience that qualifies you as a candidate. The second paragraph should describe what you want to accomplish for the community as a member of the Board of Directors. The biographies will appear in the January 2011 issue of the newsletter.

Members of the **Nominating Committee** are **Mark Adler** mark@adlermail.com (Board Liaison), **Mike Bergman** (MBBergman@aol.com), **Barbara Gahry** (BGahry@aol.com) and **David Tomer** (dtomer64@comcast.net).

If there are more than two candidates for the Board, there will be a "Meet the Candidates Night" in January 2011 (date to be determined) at which time you will have the opportunity to meet the candidates and ask them questions. We hope you will take the time to get to know who they are and what each candidate's vision is for Rivendell. ■



Cavities, Dry Mouth, Diabetic, overweight?

# Eat More Candy!

Dr. Greenspan has been a proponent of a naturally occurring sugar substitute Xylitol and has found that using Xylitol gum and candies helps to keep the mouth moist, sugar levels down, reduces appetite and has an anti microbial effect.

Xylitol has very low glycolic index so it's diabetic friendly and tolerated very well by almost everyone.

Richard J. Greenspan, a Sarasota dentist for over 18 years, knows the importance of good nutrition and true mind body awareness. For years he has been informing and educating patients about the importance of a healthy life style and good oral hygiene practices.

We welcome you to visit us at Palmer Ranch Dental for free samples of Xylitol gum and candy.

**Palmer Ranch Dental**  
8800 South Tamiami Trail,  
Sarasota, FL 34238  
941•966•5603

[sarasotadental.blogspot.com](http://sarasotadental.blogspot.com)  
[www.palmerranchdental.com](http://www.palmerranchdental.com)  
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Sarasota, FL 34238

*Rivendell*  
**RESIDENT & AGENT**

## NEW COMMITTEE APPROVED TO STREAMLINE RCA DOCUMENTS

At the November Board of Directors' meeting, the Board voted to appoint a committee to update and streamline our governing community documents -- including our Covenants and By-Laws.

The **RCA Documents Modernization & Simplification Committee** will work with the Board and our attorney to complete this project. The completed document will require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of all members of the Association.

The Board is seeking volunteers who would like to serve on this committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit your contact information and a brief statement highlighting your interest in and/or qualifications for serving on the committee to:

Hope Korte  
Lighthouse Property Management  
16 Church Street  
Osprey, FL 34229

### Hurricane Season ended November 30th

Hurricane Shutters must be  
down starting December 1st.

For summary of hurricane shutter regulations,  
refer to the *2010 Rivendell Directory*, page 9.

### Rivendell Directory Slated for April 2011 Publication

Sundown Publishing will be producing  
The Rivendell Directory for 2011.  
If you wish to advertise, please call  
Craig Tirgrath at 941-485-8800.  
Rivendell residents will be given priority  
for ads submitted.

*Please contact Barb Gahry if you would like  
to change or remove your phone number or  
email address, or if you would like to  
make any other changes to the Directory.*

Barb Gahry can be reached at  
941-586-3936 or bgahry@aol.com

*continued from page 1 "Message From The President"*

So far, our defense in this investigation has been paid for by our insurance company. But due to issues with the dispute last year, our insurance company has notified us that it intends to deny coverage and believes that it has no obligation to defend or indemnify Rivendell in this matter. It has informed us that it will withdraw from the defense of this case on November 13, 2010. Our association attorney is contesting this denial of coverage, but we cannot predict the outcome. There is a significant chance that we will be without insurance coverage in any legal proceedings with the owners of 638 Rivendell Boulevard.

This matter is currently causing us to incur ongoing legal expenses. At this time, we have no way of knowing how long it will continue, how it will end, or how much it will eventually cost. ■

*Sincerely,  
John Greco*

### Seeking Nominees for two openings on the Rivendell Board of Directors.

Turn in a short biographical  
sketch and photo  
to Barb Gahry (bgahry@aol.com)  
By December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Treasure's Report / 2011 Budget Approval:** John Critser opened up discussion on the 2011 budget summary that was available to all. He acknowledged that funds could be made available for Joe Sefack's proposal to allot \$5,000 to legally update and simplify Rivendell's Protective Covenants and Standing Rules. The Board unanimously supported this course of action and agreed to request volunteers to serve on a Document Review Committee in the December issue of the Woodland Word. The budget was adopted as proposed.

**Appoint Nominating Committee:** The Board appointed Mark Adler as chair of the Nominating Committee to fill two upcoming open Board positions. Mark **proposed and the Board approved** Barbara Gahry, Mike Bergman and Dave Tomer as committee members. Mary Marryott felt that a more neutral representation of the community could have been selected for the committee.

**SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2011 is the next annual meeting; **it will be held at Bentley's. The next regular Board meeting will be in the first week of January.** The meeting location will be in one of the local churches since Bentley's is raising room rental fees. The location is being researched. **[Editor's Note:** The meeting has since been scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church.]

**HOMEOWNERS' OPEN DISCUSSION:** Vic McMurry questioned the delivery of services by Nanak, citing the time lapse in noticing the sprinkling system breakdown in Butterfly Park, the robotic cutting of dead grass and exposed earth and the lack of monitoring work crews. Dave Gill expressed concern that the irrigation inspection takes place once a month by a firm based in Ft. Lauderdale, and the crew that addresses cinch bug issues comes from Orlando. Carl Schubert remarked that there is weekly mowing of Bahia grass around Loon Lake, which does not require frequent cutting. Ken Heckert requested an inspection ride around the community with the Nanak supervisor, but the inspection was conducted without informing him. John Critser spoke of the overall shabby appearance of areas within the community and questioned Nanak's staff supervision. Mary Marryott pointed out Nanak's segmented approach to services had been noted before being hired. Their contract also lacks a comprehensive inclusion of tasks, requiring additional payment for many items. The general feeling expressed by homeowners present and Board members was unhappiness with Nanak's work performance. Kyanne will send a letter from Lighthouse Management Company to Nanak addressing the major concerns of the community. If Nanak is unable to perform effectively, there could be a bidding process for a new landscaping contractor.

**Manager's Report:** Kyanne's report centered on property compliance, a budget workshop, procuring streetlights for abandoned homes and forwarding data for new bank signatures. Correspondence included 76 letters, 46 of which concerned streetlights being out. Discussion with Board included the next course of action for a Stillwater property where three notices, along with a request for a hearing, were ignored. The county was contacted regarding the overgrown vegetation on this property. It was agreed to begin the fining procedure of \$100/day up to 10 days. Legal advice will be obtained if not resolved. **An offer of mediation was approved** to resolve an impasse with 936 Scherer Way.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Landscape/Environmental:** Ken Heckert, chair, reported that Aquatic Systems, Rivendell's new lake management company, has worked on every lake and pond once during its first month of service. Ken encouraged "patience" from residents as Aquatic Systems works to renew our lakes.

The irrigation system servicing several of our common areas was broken for 3 weeks, resulting in large areas of withered grass. John Greco reported that the central valve for the irrigation system had been **broken in the closed position by an unknown person.** In an attempt to revive this area, Nanak, Rivendell's landscape company, has been watering it daily. The irrigation system was also broken in Butterfly Park, where the control unit was rusted out and the circuit breaker overrun with ants. Nanak and Smith Electric repaired this unit. A comprehensive map of the entire community's irrigation system is needed. A request was made to Nanak to replace dead plants on Rainbow Point Way and cut back overgrown vegetation in Butterfly Park. TreesRUs cut and sprayed 25 wax myrtles that were blocking views of ponds. Denny Pavlov is obtaining estimates from FPL to hardwire irrigation for ponds currently using solar power.

A suggestion was made to formalize procedures for homeowners' to express their concerns. This could be a tracking system in which Lighthouse would assign a tracking number to the homeowner's concern, having it traceable as action is taken. Kyanne and Hope will work on coordinating a response to this suggestion. Kyanne noted that the Rivendell website is being revised, with the addition of a form which will trigger an immediate email response to the homeowner. Ken requested that all homeowners contact Lighthouse Management, rather than committees, with their concerns.

*Continues on page 6*



# Letter to the Editor

## Lake Levels

As we enter the second week of November, I am beginning to hear rumblings again about how bad the Rivendell lakes and ponds look. They are the same complaints we heard back in May and June. Unfortunately, we did not get the usual summer storms and it has been especially dry since September. Lake levels are way down and we are entering the winter dry season. To make matters worse, NOAA has looked at the currents in the Pacific, El Nino effects, future jet streams and is now predicting an especially hot and dry winter and 2011 spring. Lake levels are going to get worse. Our new Lakes Management Contractor, Aquatic Systems, Inc has applied algaecides and selective herbicides to reduce algae blooms and some aquatic plants along the shores. However, they cannot do much about the decomposing dead grass and expanding mud banks along the shores. Despite our best efforts, I am afraid they are not going to look pretty for a while.

In addition, much of our sprinkler irrigation water for the common areas comes from our lakes. As water levels go down, the board may have to decide to cut back on lawn watering in the parks and along the boulevards so that our fish populations are not decimated. I urge you to help the board make decisions between dead fish and allowing some grasses to go dormant and turn brown.

Finally, in setting up the RCA 2011 budget the board decided to eliminate the Lakes Systems Reserve. \$13,446 was put into the reserve this year. Since our 23 lakes and 14 wetlands are such a major appearance asset for all of Rivendell and the value of our homes, previous boards have approved building up this reserve. A good size reserve is needed for future erosion control, possible dredging and inevitable structural work. The original Lake Reserve Plan was to budget \$23,406 for 2011. Again, I urge you to ask the new 2011 board to reconsider allocating these funds and especially get it back into the 2012 budget. ■

David Gill

Member, Landscape/Environmental Committee

## Tips on Landscape Care

### What if we have another cold winter?

By Charles Kiblinger

Last winter was one of the coldest on record; it caused serious plant damage throughout Sarasota County. Technically speaking, an arctic oscillation and an El Nino winter combined to create unusual conditions. We experienced both *radiational freezes* on still, clear nights, and *advective freezes* when the jet stream moved frigid air farther south than normal. The resulting cold windy nights made it very difficult to protect plants.

There have been only a half dozen such winters here in the last thirty years. Will we have another one this year? Is the climate changing enough that we won't be able to grow tropical plants here anymore? Or was this just an unusual occurrence? Whatever the case, here are some ways we can mitigate frost damage to our gardens.

**Plan ahead.** Accept the inconvenience of a six-to-twelve week recovery period for certain flowering plants, or replace them with those rated for zone nine or below. These will probably make it through most winters. The disadvantage is that your garden will be less colorful and feel less tropical. If you decide to keep your more vulnerable flowering plants, you can protect them from north winds by planting them next to walls, fences or taller more cold tolerant plants. Also make sure the soil is well drained, and avoid the low, colder areas of the yard. Remember a healthy plant is more resistant to cold, disease and pests so plan to fertilize your plants in mid February, late May and October. Avoid fertilizing between mid November and mid February to prevent tender new shoots from sprouting. Shade tolerant plants are protected by overhanging tree canopies, but take care not to over or under water them. Plants that have been too dry or whose roots are damaged by too much water are more likely to be killed in a cold snap.

**When a freeze is forecast take action.** Most plants do not tolerate temperatures of less than 28 degrees for more than four hours without some kind of protection. First water the plants while it is still daylight; then cover them with freeze cloth tightened down around them. Freeze cloth is readily available at garden stores, but shop ahead because they can run out. It is lightweight, dries quickly and is reusable. Even though it allows some sunlight to reach the plants, it's best to remove it during the day. If the freeze is *advective* and lasts too long, freeze cloth may not even be enough. Putting a light under the cloth may increase their chances of survival.

**After a freeze, chill out.** Wait until at least the third week of February before replanting. This is the time to assess damages and do some pruning. Remove branches that show no green when the outer bark is stripped away. If branches have some green inside, prune them back to the nearest node and then fertilize and water them. Be patient! It may take a couple of months for the soil to warm up enough to produce new growth. Eventually healthy new Ixoras and Bougainvilleas will reappear in your garden and around our neighborhood the way they did last year. If you get impatient and decide to replace your frost-damaged plants, you still may have to wait awhile for growers to restock; they lose plants in a freeze too. With a little luck and some TLC, our gardens will continue to survive most winter conditions in Osprey for years to come. ■

continued from page 4 ".....Highlights from Budget Meeting"

**Communication:** Judy Sokal, chair, reported the Rivendell Website was working. There is to be a complete Directory overhaul for 2011, which will update email addresses and phone numbers. Block captains will be assisting in this endeavor. Interesting information such as restaurant reviews is welcome.

**Architectural Review:** John Greco, board liaison, reported that six applications were submitted and approved. He reiterated that all ARC applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the ARC meeting, which is held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. It has been noted that some work requiring ARC approval has been completed prior to receiving approval. It was suggested that the documents governing procedures in Rivendell be given to new homeowners at the time of closing. Perhaps this could be coordinated with the realtor and Lighthouse.

**Pool:** Tom Faessler, chair, reported the pool heater has been set at 83 degrees. There is a slight leak in the heat exchanger even though it was repaired several times under a manufacturer's warranty. Kyanne reported that Lighthouse had paid an invoice to Dart Services, the company that installed and serviced the heat exchanger. She will follow-up with Dart Services.

**Directors present:** John Greco, John Critser, Bobby Merrill, Mary Marryott, and Mark Adler. ■

## Safe Bicycling by Mark Adler

After the Legacy Trail opened, bicycle traffic around Rivendell increased dramatically. The bridges over Dona and Roberts Bays were also completed that extended the trail another 7 miles to the south. With those completions, the Legacy Trail became a *player* in the system of paved bike paths in Florida and started drawing larger crowds of riders. We see more bicycle traffic in and around Rivendell because of our proximity to the middle of the Trail and where we are in relation to Casey Key. Riders from all over are using the new trail and many go through Rivendell to get there.

With that increased traffic it has become more important than ever to ride safely, protecting yourself and those around you. I have logged more than 6,000 miles on Legacy and it is remarkable how many riders I have seen that were unaware of safe biking practices whether on trails or streets.

**One basic rule is to alert people you are about to pass.** This includes other cyclists, pedestrians, runners, rollerbladers, people walking dogs, cars and children. Always announce yourself when overtaking somebody. It is as simple as "on your left" or "passing!" You especially need to be vigilant with dogs and children since you never know what they're going to do. When someone is walking a dog on a long leash, announce as early as possible so the dog can be reined in (maybe). When passing a child, especially a small one, never take your eyes off them until you have passed.

**Another rule is to ride single file when passing or being passed.** On an 8 or 10-foot bike trail, it is important to leave as wide a cushion as possible when passing or being passed or passing oncoming traffic. It's fine to ride side-by-side when nobody is around, but you must fall into single file at the appropriate moments until traffic clears. When I ride with a partner, we decide at the beginning who will take the lead and who will fall behind when we need to go single file so that it can be accomplished quickly and safely.

**Perhaps the most important safety advice is to remain in control of potential problems and don't be the one that causes a collision.** This usually occurs when there are multiple people or groups of people you want to pass, probably moving in different directions. Countless times I have seen experienced riders going 15 to 20 mph who want to overtake slower riders and pass them while oncoming traffic is closing in at the same time. Within a trail that is perhaps 10 feet wide, they weave their way through other riders and pedestrians, missing some of them by 1 or 2 feet at most, choosing to endanger everybody including themselves. **The rule is to slow down when necessary and wait for potential problems to clear before passing.** I never force the issue and always wait for traffic to clear, erring to the side of safety.

**Finally, be careful when dealing with cars.** This applies more to street riding than trails, but even on trails there are streets to be crossed. Whether a car is coming towards me or from behind me, I get as far to the right as possible. Never assume they see you. The single file rule is imperative. Always signal your turns, just in case you don't see the car that is in your blind spot. ■

## NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

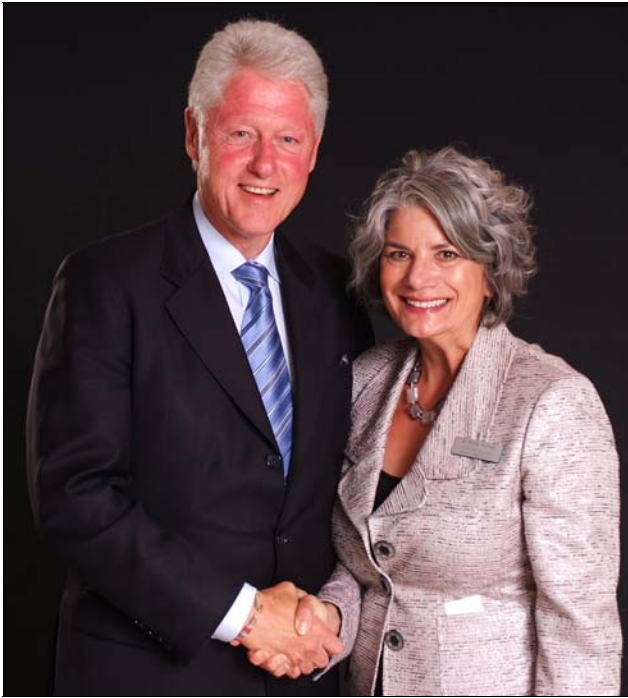
February 10, 2011

Mark Your Calendars Now

And Consider Running for one of two Board Seats up for Election

## Volunteer Spotlight: Kristine Nickel

By Meredith Pike



*President Bill Clinton and Kristine Nickel, September 2009  
photo by Barbara Banks*

The Ringling College Library Association offers the **Town Hall Lecture Series**, a nonprofit program that began in 1981. The subscription-based lecture series features great thinkers, entertainers, scientists, and a whole array of experts. One of our neighbors, Kristine Nickel, has served on the board of directors for this program for the last three years. Beginning in 2012, Kristine will become chairperson.

Kristine is well suited for this upcoming role, which will require her to form a strong team to aid with producing the budget necessary to support the lecture series and maximize revenues for Ringling College's Library. Her background and experience includes skills acquired during 20 years in public relations where she held jobs on both client and agency sides of the field. Her feature writing has appeared in such publications as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Sarasota Magazine*, the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* weekday and *Style Magazine*. These days, running her own boutique public relations agency has strengthened her ability to represent a client well by making a great story come alive.

Selecting speakers for the Series is a balancing act of different viewpoints and topics. The lectures are set up through speakers' bureaus, recommendations from other lecture series, and direct pitches via letter writing. As an example, Tony Blair was asked to speak and initially said no. Last year's marquee speaker, Condoleezza Rice intervened on Town Hall's behalf. He then accepted the offer and the series will feature Tony Blair and his wife in February 2011.

A prerequisite for speakers who come to Sarasota at the expense of the foundation is that they do no fundraising. Guest lecturers are, however, encouraged to bring and sell their books. Some of the more recent lecturers have included Pervez Musharraf, the past president of Pakistan; Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State; President Bill Clinton; and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Mikhail Gorbachev (former head of the former Soviet Union) brought the largest entourage. In addition to world political leaders, people like Robert Ballard, the famous oceanographer, history author Doris Kearns Goodwin, and columnist Liz Smith have lectured.

The lecturers adopt varying styles. The 90-minute program includes a lecture followed by a question and answer period. A Ringling College of Art student is chosen to produce a portrait of the lecturer, which is presented at the end of the program. Local schools are also integrated into the experience; Town Hall Scholars has 22 seats reserved for students from the county high schools. They have a chance to meet the speaker and have their photos taken with them. Students who serve on their school newspapers are included in a round table press conference in a very informal way.

The **Town Hall Lecture Series** is the Ringling College Library's primary fundraising event, so the majority of the tickets are sold as a package of seven speakers, but if the series does not sell out, individual tickets will be available.

The 2011 Lecture series begins on January 19, 2011 with Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*. For the full schedule and ticket information please call 941-925-1343 or email [RCLATownHall@comcast.net](mailto:RCLATownHall@comcast.net) or visit the website [http://www.rclassociation.org/town\\_hall\\_lecture.php](http://www.rclassociation.org/town_hall_lecture.php) ■



## ARTS and EVENTS IN SARASOTA

### *Gloria Musicae*

Join *Gloria Musicae* for A Glorious Christmas, their annual Christmas concert at St. Boniface Church on Siesta Key, on December 6, 2010 at 7:30 PM. Call 941-360-7399 for tickets or just buy them at the door, and hear Rivendell resident Judy Sokal sing along with the 33 other voices of this all-professional chorus in a holiday musical celebration including carols you know and love plus much more.

**Where:** St. Boniface Church,  
5615 Midnight Pass Rd., Siesta Key

**Web site:** <http://www.gloriamusicae.org/>

## **The Ringling Library Association Town Hall Lecture Series for 2011**

- **January 19, 2011** - Greg Mortenson, co-author of *Three Cups of Tea*, is the first lecturer for the Series.
- **February 2, 2011** - features George Will, syndicated newspaper columnist for *The Washington Post*.
- **February 22, 2011** - Cherie Blair, a human rights lawyer, campaigner for women's equality, and the wife of former Prime Minister Tony Blair will speak.
- **February 23, 2011** - Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for ten years will present.
- **March 8, 2011** - Nobel Peace Prize winner and Auschwitz survivor, Elie Wiesel will speak.
- **March 21, 2011** - Malcolm Gladwell, author of three New York Times bestsellers, will be questioned by Adam Gopnik, award winning journalist and author, in the final Town Hall Lecture.

For the full schedule and ticket information please call 941-925-1343 or email:

[RCLATownHall@comcast.net](mailto:RCLATownHall@comcast.net) or visit the website

## VISIT RIVENDELL'S WEB SITE

Stay informed about community activities.

Access and submit ARC and other forms electronically.

Read current and back issues of the Woodlands Word.

Look at Woodlands Word photos in color.

Find service provider recommendations.

### Rivendell Website Instructions

Access the Rivendell website through the Lighthouse website at:  
[http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\\_login.html](http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal_login.html)

It is password protected. To begin, click on *Association Members Login*. Your new Login ID is your 6-digit Lighthouse Management account number (including leading zeros) followed by your last name, for example "001234Smith." Your account number can be found on past statements from Lighthouse, or by calling Lighthouse at 966-6844.

Your temporary password is LHMTEMP123. Follow the prompts to create your own password.

Large documents may take up to 30 seconds to appear on your screen. Please be patient.



## The Interlopers

By Norma Lee Rhines



*Baby Albatross*



*Nazca Boobies*

Here we are in the Galapagos - fifteen fellow tourists hiking on Espanola Island. It's July on the equator, but the temperature is in the 60's and a low canvas of clouds hides the sun. I had expected much warmer weather before I discovered that the Humboldt Current, which cools the Galapagos Islands, would make our visit so comfortable.

Our zodiac drops us off on a quiet sandy beach where our journey begins. We start our trek, carefully working our way over rough lava stones that form the narrow trail ahead. We catch fleeting glimpses of Darwin's warblers and finches hidden in the thick four foot high salt bushes that surround us.

We zigzag around Marine Iguanas sprawled out ahead on the trail. I expect them to scatter, but other than an occasional snort to expel excess salt, these prehistoric looking lizards remain motionless.

Balancing carefully, we move over boulders that bring us to a basalt cliff overlooking a rock-strewn beach. The only sound we hear is the wind pounding the cliff base and water blasting in and out of a blowhole. A pair of Nazca Boobies is courting on a rocky shelf within arm's reach. The female is clearly impressed with her potential mate's offering of rocks that she accepts directly from his beak. There's a deep sigh and a whisper of "how sweet" from someone in the back of our group.

As we climb back up to the main trail, the lava path leads us to an entertaining Albatross colony, where we can observe these birds, which mate for life, in various stages of raising a family. Some already have chicks while others are still courting.

One pair, off to our right, is engaging in a noisy mating ritual of clicking bills, bowing, swaying and whistling. Takeoffs are tricky for these fearless fliers. They wobble toward the cliff's edge, open their eight-foot wingspan and drop head first into the wind. Landings are no picnic either. Earlier, we watched an Albatross drop from the sky and clumsily land between boulders using his wings as air brakes. I half expected him to do a cartwheel, but somehow he managed to skid to a stop.

Twenty feet away from us, we spot a pair of Blue-footed boobies engrossed in their mating dance. What a spectacle. The male begins to wobble back and forth, raising one blue foot after another, and making high-pitched calls as he points his beak skyward. Then the female joins in the dance, taking large, slow steps toward him. It's easy to see how they got their name from "bobo", the Spanish word for clown. But while they may be clown-like on land, they are superb fliers.

A funny feeling comes over me as we watch these trusting animals up close – iguanas, albatross, and boobies. It is such a privilege to visit the Galapagos, a life long dream fulfilled. Yet to be permitted to get so close to animals that have never learned to fear humans or other predators, makes me feel uncomfortably like an interloper in their amazing but very strange land.

*Editors Note: To view the photographs by Norma Lee in color, visit the Rivendell website at [http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal\\_login.html](http://www.lighthousepropertymanagement.net/portal_login.html) ■*

## SERVICE PROVIDER RECOMMENDATIONS

**Nokomis Auto Shop, 941-484-8763.** I would like to recommend Nokomis Auto Shop for all your car repairs. I have used them for my Toyota Highlander since 2002 and they are reasonable, do good work, and are caring professionals. You can reach the owner Bob at 941-484-8763. *Judy Sokal*

**Gloria DeFrancisco, Hair Stylist. Cell Phone 941-724-3948.** 5774 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota (just south of Constitution Boulevard on the west side of the street). Gloria is at **Salon Michelle** (941-312-6441). She is friendly and competent. *Pam Babbitt*

### Send in your Favorites!

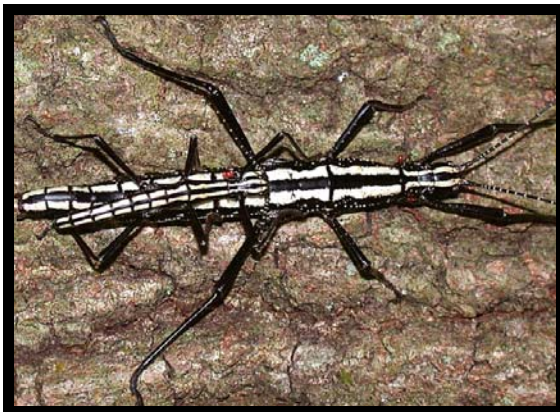
Send us the name and phone number of your favorite plumber, electrician, hair stylist, landscaper, you name it- and we'll list it!

If you have a service provider you'd like to recommend, please email Judy at [judysokal@gmail.com](mailto:judysokal@gmail.com)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BABYSITTER Available: Molly Benkaim, 941-961-3385,** 10th grade Pine View female student available for babysitting. Former camp counselor and CPR certified. Please call Molly if you'd like references.

**PET SITTING: Steve, 267-702-9644,** Friendly, animal-loving Rivendell resident will care for your pets and/or walk your dog. Call Steve at (267) 702-9644.



## BOOK GROUP SCHEDULE

by Marilyn Probert

The Book Group will meet on Monday, **December 13**, to discuss *Devil in the White City*, a nonfiction account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. This book by Eric Larson details the activities of two charming, handsome, intelligent men who led widely divergent lives. Daniel Burnham was the architect who oversaw the construction of the Fair and who was credited with its success; H. H. Holmes was a serial killer who found his victims in the hordes of people who came to the Fair. Pat Sobczak will lead the discussion at Sallie Hawkins home at 716 Anna Hope Lane. Sallie's phone number is 966-6916.

*Every Last One*, a novel by Anna Quindlen, deals with the life of Mary Beth Latham, a seemingly typical housewife and mother of three. After her family is horrifically attacked, Mary Beth has to deal with guilt, loss, and despair. Her struggles to come to terms with a life she had never imagined makes for a very absorbing read. Discussion leader is Elaine Roeter; Barb Gahry will host the group on **January 10** at 699 Rivendell Boulevard, phone 966-5828.

On **February 14** the selection will be *Bridge of Sighs*, a novel by Richard Russo, which deals with the small-town lives of three families in central New York state.

The Book Group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month and all Rivendell residents are welcome. Please call the month's hostess if you plan to attend. ■

### Two striped Walkingstick (Stick bug) Alert

Information and photo obtained from Florida  
Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services,  
Entomology Circular No. 408, Sept/Oct 2001.  
[http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/  
pi/enpp/ento/entcirc/ent408.pdf](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/entcirc/ent408.pdf)

Stick bugs spray a caustic secretion from 10"-12" that can severely burn the area of contact, particularly eyes. So, please watch your pets and keep children at a safe distance.

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING September 1, 2010

**Editors' Note:** *The following are the official minutes of the Rivendell Board of Directors. As such, they are published as they were received. The Woodlands Word is not responsible for any errors in spelling, grammar, or content. The official Board Minutes can also be viewed on-line through the Rivendell website at Lighthouse Management.*

A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Directors was scheduled at 6:00 P.M. at Bentley's 1660 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL.

The meeting was called to order by President John Greco at 6:04 P.M.

Notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association and the requirements of Florida statutes.

The following Directors were present: Mark Adler John Greco Mary Marryott John Critser Bobby Merrill

A quorum was declared to be present.

Mr. Greco made a motion and Mr. Adler seconded  
MOTION 10-61: to adopt the agenda of the September 1, 2010 Board of Director's Meeting as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

On matters relating to the Minutes of the previous August 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting, The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report,** Mr. Greco reported the preliminary budget has been drafted and a workshop will be held in October and a Budget meeting will be held in November. Mr. Greco reported the effort to collect past dues results in a substantial expense to the association. The rate for an attorney to send 2 collection letters is \$400. The Board agreed to authorize the newly appointed Treasurer to review the past due accounts and proceed with a collection procedure to determine what produces the most results.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Communication,** Judy Sokal reported that notice was given to residents advising that the new website is available. The upcoming Woodlands Word will include instructions. The service provider vendor list will be updated and available to residents.

**Architectural Review,** Mr. Greco reported on the chairs behalf that eight applications were reviewed and approved.

**Pool,** Ms Marryott reported on the recent upgrades to the pool area which are outlined in the manager's report.

**Landscape,** Mr. Greco reported new plantings were installed in the common areas in July. The rain has helped with the establishment of the plants.

**Environmental,** Ken Heckert reported the committee created a specification for Lake Management, which defines the role and functions. The committee met last week and a recommendation will be made to the Board under New Business.

Manager's Report, Kyanne Merrill provided a report (see attachment #1). A motion was made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Greco

MOTION 10-62: to apply a fine to 688 Stillwater Court regarding the condition of yard. Motion passed.

## **Under the Heading of New Business,**

Election of Officers, a motion was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Alder to appoint

MOTION 10-63: to appoint Bobby Merrill as Secretary. Motion passed.

Mr. Adler made a motion and Ms. Marryott seconded

MOTION 10-64: to appoint Mr. Critser as Treasurer. Motion passed.

Combine Landscape and Environmental Committees, Mr. Greco made a motion to combine the two committees and solely call it the Environmental Committee. There was no second.

Ms. Marryott made a motion and Mr. Merrill seconded

MOTION 10-65: to combine the two committees and name it Landscape/Environmental Committee as suggested at a previous meeting. Motion passed.

Select Board Liaison, Mr. Greco made a motion and Ms. Marryott seconded

MOTION 10-66: to appoint John Critser as the Board liaison to the Landscape/Environmental Committee. Motion passed.

Select Lakes Maintenance contractor, Mr. Heckert reported the committee reviewed the proposals and agreed to recommend the Board select Aquatic Systems as the lake service provider. A motion was made by Mr. Adler and seconded by Mr. Merrill

MOTION 10-67: to accept the recommendation to contract with Aquatic Systems contingent on there being nothing prohibitive in the contract language with a start date within 30 days of signing of the contract and notification to existing vendor. Motion passed.

Classic irrigation systems, Mr. Greco reported there is an upgrade required for the pop up irrigation heads. An itemized estimate has been provided by Nanak's which included rain sensors.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Adler

MOTION 10-68: To authorize the expenditure on irrigation for upgrade to the current system for an amount not to exceed \$6200. The Landscape/Environmental Committee will review current bids from Nanak's and obtain a comparative bid and provide recommendations. Motion passed.

Acquiring a second pump, there is currently one pump that covers the Cottages and all of Rivendell. Both sides are run in coordination with each other there is enough pressure. Because it is very difficult to coordinate both sides, a second pump is necessary and could cost up to \$15,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Critser

*Continues on page 12*



continued from page 11

MOTION 10-69: To have the Landscape/Environmental committee get bids for a second pump with the cost to be shared by all Rivendell homeowners and provide a recommendation to the Board. Motion passed.

Solar Irrigation systems, a contractor should be hired to either remove them or routinely maintain them. The Board requested the Landscape/Environmental Committee check the areas that are currently served by the irrigation system and provide a recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco and seconded by Mr. Adler

MOTION 10-70: to have the committee obtain bids on a maintenance contract and make a recommendation to the Board. Motion passed.

Mary Marryott exited the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Conservation signs for placement behind homes on preserves: approve design and quality; there have been issues previously with owners entering into the preserve area. Signs would alert owners as to where the lot lines are. The cost is \$30 per sign. The community will not absorb costs for future encroachments. After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to table the matter.

Pond bank landscaping, Mr. Greco reported an owner who resides on a pond has requested the bank across the pond from their home be restored to the condition it was in in 2004 and maintained in that state.

A motion was made by Mr. Kritser and seconded by Mr. Merrill

MOTION 10-71: to defer the matter to the Landscape/Environmental Committee to:

- Review several of the lake banks that abut preserve and common areas that may not currently be maintained
- Provide a recommendation of how it would affect the entire community
- Determine which actions should be taken and what costs are involved.

Motion passed.

The next regular meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Kyanne Merrill

Managing Agent

Dated: This 15<sup>th</sup> day of September

## Rivendell Board Meeting

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

**WILL BE Tuesday, JANUARY 4, 2011  
at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church**

## LIGHTHOUSE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.

### Manager's Report 9.1.10

#### On Site/Maintenance-

- Pool parking lot restriped, handicap stencil repainted
- New pool furniture delivered
- Pot hole in road on Shadow Bay repaired by County
- Pool deck and trellises repainted by Artistry Painting
- New gate installed by Absolute Aluminum
- Several areas of raised sidewalks repaired by County
- Area around pool pump re-graded by Nanak's for proper drainage
- Oak tree on common area near 901 Scherer Way trimmed by Nanak's
- Items in additional storage unit moved, storage unit cancelled.
- Electrical wiring for pool equipment relocated to wall by Smith Electric
- Streetlights cleaned by Lighthouse maintenance
- Urinal in men's room repaired by Daniel's Plumbing
- New pool filter system installed by Southwest Pools

#### Administrative-

- Forwarded financials to Board for review
- Forwarded draft agenda to board for review
- Forwarded draft minutes for review
- Forwarded ARC requests to committee- weekly
- Forwarded approved minutes to Ms. Babbit for publishing in the newsletter
- Rivendell Website set up on lighthousepropertymanagement.net
- Obtained bids for reserve study
- Obtained new bank signature cards
- Forwarded candidate information to Board for review
- Requested information forwarded to committee regarding lake management

#### Correspondence-

- Letters sent to homeowners regarding submitted ARC forms
- Lake management RFP sent to 4 companies
- Letter sent to Park Trace management company regarding trimming of trees on Rivendell property.

#### Compliance-

- 565 Meadow Sweet- condition of wooden fence – Board needs to vote on fining. Letters sent to this owner on 4/16/10, 5/3/10, 5/19/10, 7/15/10, and 7/30/10
- 688 Stillwater- Dead grass- Board needs to vote on fining. Letters sent to owner on 4/6/10, 4/20/10, 5/19/10, 7/15/10. No response from owner.
- Compliance letters mailed to homeowners. 87 Total.

Roof/Fence	5
Dogs-barking	
Yard Condition/Weeds/Palm Fronds	45
For Sale signs	
Garbage Cans	
Mailbox	2
Trucks	3
Basket ball hoop/play equip.	
Light out	32

Kyanne Merrill, CAM  
Managing Agent



## MINUTES OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE October 28, 2010

Attendees: Frank Pafumi, Allen Roeter, Gwen Stepien, John Greco - Board Liaison

Residents: Carl Schubert, Bill Straw, John Critser

The Arc meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with a quorum of Committee members present.  
The chairman, Barry McClure, being absent, the meeting was chaired by John Greco.

The minutes of the prior ARC meeting were unanimously approved as written.

The following applications were reviewed and decided for action.

**1151 Mallard Marsh Drive:** Solar Heating Panels for Pool on South side of roof.

**Unanimously approved** – Motion to Approve Gwen Stepien, seconded Allen Roeter

**558 Meadow Sweet Circle:** Paint double French doors Heritage Red.

**Unanimously approved** – Motion to Approve Frank Pafumi, seconded Allen Roeter

**1121 Millpond Court:** Paint front door and trim bands Windsor Haze.

**Unanimously approved** – Motion to Approve Gwen Stepien, seconded Allen Roeter

**1034 Oak Preserve Lane:** Brick pavers for driveway and front path area.

**Unanimously approved** – Motion to Approve Frank Pafumi, seconded Gwen Stepien

**930 Scherer Way:** Install white rain gutter and down spout on back of house.

**Unanimously approved** – Motion to Approve Allen Roeter, seconded Gwen Stepien

**930 Scherer Way:** Remove Crepe Myrtle tree from the south east corner of the pool cage and plant it on the north side of house. Plant 2 rose bushes at the southeast corner of pool cage. Replace dead Ixora bush with new one. (Ixora planted before approval of ARC application.)

**Approved 3 to 1** - Motion to approve Allen Roeter, seconded Frank Pafumi

Yes – Allen Roeter, Frank Pafumi, John Greco

No – Gwen Stepien

**New Business:** In order to dissuade homeowners from beginning and/or completing projects around their homes before obtaining ARC approval, the ARC recommends that the board establish a procedure to fine homeowners that begin work on any project that requires an ARC application prior to receiving approval from the ARC.

In order for the ARC to have sufficient time to give due consideration to each homeowner's request, the committee emphasizes that all ARC applications must reach Lighthouse by Tuesday the week before the scheduled ARC meeting.

ARC meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

**Next Meeting November 30, 2010 at 6:00 pm**

### Protect Your Home From Theft

Please be aware that there have been recent break-ins and robberies in Rivendell.  
Police recommend keeping all doors, windows and sliders locked,  
even when at home. Keep your garage doors closed. Lock you car if it is kept outside.

If you have a security company, test your alarm system monthly.

If you are traveling, please make sure that a neighbor knows how to contact you.

Please alert the authorities if you see any suspicious behavior. Notice if a car seems to  
be staking out the neighborhood and call in the license plate number.

If you are robbed, also notify Lighthouse Management, 966-6844.



## WHO WE ARE

### **RCA Committee Membership 12/2010**

#### **Communications Committee**

([judysokal@gmail.com](mailto:judysokal@gmail.com))

**Board Liaison**, Mark Adler

**Chair**, Judy Sokal

**Website**, Light House Management

**Directory**, Barb Gahry

**Block Captains**, Cindy Schmidl

**Newsletter**, Judy Sokal, Linda Pearlstein,

Editors in Chief; Norma Lee Rhines, Copy Editor;

Pam Babbitt, Reporter Assignments; Mike

Bergman, Reporter Representative; and Nancy

Wettlaufer, Editorial Advisor.

**Reporters**: Anna Beatty, Barb Gahry, Carol

Heckert, Ed Lin, Mary Kennedy, Charles

Kiblinger, Vic McMurry, Debbie McMurry,

Kay Mruz, Meredith Pike, and Marilyn Probert.

#### **Architectural Review (ARC)**

([ARC.BMc@gmail.com](mailto:ARC.BMc@gmail.com))

**Board Liaison**, John Greco

**Chair**, Barry McClure

Frank Pafumi, Allen Roeter, Gwen Stepien

#### **Landscape/Environmental**

([Kenheckert@verizon.net](mailto:Kenheckert@verizon.net))

**Board Liaison**, John Critser

**Chair**, Ken Heckert

Mike Bergman, Frank Freestone, Dave Gill,

Mike Gruenfeld, Sara Jones, Carl Schubert.

Carol Heckert, Charles Kiblinger, Denny Pavlock,  
and Alexis Spalding

#### **Swimming Pool**

([Tom.Faessler@nielsen.com](mailto:Tom.Faessler@nielsen.com))

**Board Liaison**, Mary Marryott

**Chair**, Tom Faessler

Carol Heckert, Bo Potter, Lori Yohann

**Deadline** - Submit articles and information to  
[pbbabbitt@comcast.net](mailto:pbbabbitt@comcast.net) by the tenth of the  
month.

### **Rivendell Board of Directors**

**John Greco**, president

([jgreco8054@aol.com](mailto:jgreco8054@aol.com))

Liaison to ARC

**Mark Adler**, first vice president

([mark@adlermail.com](mailto:mark@adlermail.com))

Liaison to Communications Committee

**Mary Marryott**, second vice president

([mlmarryott@aol.com](mailto:mlmarryott@aol.com))

Liaison to Pool Committee

**John Critser**, Treasurer

([jdc@mollycat.net](mailto:jdc@mollycat.net))

Liaison to Landscape/Environmental Committee

**Bobby Merrill**, Secretary

([bobbymerrill3@aol.com](mailto:bobbymerrill3@aol.com))

Liaison TBA

### **Subassociation Officers**

#### **The Cottages Board of Directors**

Jane Lettich, President

Mike Georgopolis, 1st Vice President

Andrew Terry, 2nd Vice President

Carole Myles, Treasurer

Margery Arendt, Secretary

#### **Patio Homes Board of Directors**

Edward Diggs, President;

Rick Wheeler, Vice President

Jayne Irene, Secretary

Bruce Whalen, Treasurer

#### **The Villas Board of Directors**

Dianne Enger, President;

Sherry Sholtis, Vice President, Secretary

Meredith Pike, Treasurer

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**Lighthouse Property Management, 966-6844**

Your input and feedback are always  
encouraged and welcomed.

## The Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

meets the **last Tuesday** of each month at the Cottages Clubhouse.

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

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

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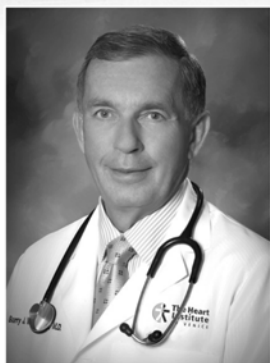
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