

Connect with your Clubhouse and Community

Read the latest & greatest from River Strand Golf and Country Club

SAVE THE DATE—KEY CHORALE CHAMBER CHORUS TO ENTERTAIN AT A RIVER STRAND LUNCHEON ON FEBRUARY 27TH.

Lunch at the Oscars

Celebrate the 88th Academy Awards a day early with a special red carpet luncheon. Artistic Director Joseph Caulkins leads the Chamber Chorus of Key Chorale, Sarasota's Symphonic Chorus, in a program of



music from Oscar nominated movies *The Wizard of Oz, West Side Story, Lord of the Rings, Amadeus, The Mission*, and more.

Tickets will go on sale soon, watch your email for details.

Complimentary Bridge Classes To Be Held in the Community Center

Free bridge lessons will be available from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm every Monday in the Community Center beginning January 11th. Advance sign up is necessary. New players should attend on the first session on January 11th at 1:00 pm and plan to make a commitment to attend most sessions (or arrange for makeup times in order to learn the game in a few months. Self study can help speed the learning process. Resource materials will be provided and recommended.

Men and women are welcome, as well as couples. You do not need to provide your own partner, even though bridge is played in pairs. There are many players at River Strand who are single or have a spouse who does not play bridge, plus the morning games on Mondays and Fridays are limited to women.

There will be two groups: beginner and intermediate. If you would like to receive more information, Please contact Vivienne at 941-251-7494 for beginner lessons or contact Vicki at 269-579-6127 for intermediate lessons.

Bridge is a lot of fun, a great way to meet more people and, while challenging, is not that difficult for people who like cards and want a terrific way to keep their minds exercised. Why not give it a try?

Complimentary Beginner Mahjongg Classes Held in the Community Center

Resident Kathy Martin has offered to host complimentary beginner Mahjongg classes again this season. Classes meet on Monday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Community Center. Mahjongg also is a great way to exercise your mind and socialize with your neighbors.

Please bring a personal beverage if you need one and if you wish, a snack to share. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Martin at 719-238-9964.

Please Note: Don't forget to bring your Member Access ID Card (which you will need to access the multi-purpose room and rest rooms), when visiting the Community Center.

NEW RIVER STRAND

EXECUTIVE CHEF



River Strand Golf and Country Club welcomes new Executive Chef, Radames Febles!

Be sure to stop in the restaurant to say hello (and have a meal).

Stay tuned for a photo and bio that will post in your February newsletter.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING A KNIT & CROCHET CLUB?

Bring your latest project to the River Strand Clubhouse Conference Room on Wednesday, January 27th from 3pm to 5pm. Group will chat to determine the best dates to gather going forward at that time.

Contact Shirley Goss at 941-251-6416 to sign up or for more information.

The Strand

COMMUNITY

Dan Arens, LCAM



The New Year is upon us and with that comes a need for increased awareness in our community. It is so important that everyone remembers that home security begins with you. Please lock your doors if you are going to be leaving your home unattended and remember to activate your security system if you have one. In many cases the police have found that in home break-ins alarms are not being set and doors are not being locked. Keep your window coverings closed so that your valuables aren't in plain view. Make sure you have someone to look out for your home when you are gone for an extended period of time. This also relates to your vehicle. There was a string of break-ins recently within Heritage Harbour. It was reported that all of the vehicles that were victimized were left unlocked. We urge you to please remember to always lock your car doors. If you see something suspicious please contact your local authority.

There have been a lot of changes going on around the community. You will notice we now have striping down Grand Estuary Trail and Heritage Preserve. By doing this project, we are hopeful more people will stay on the appropriate side of the road. Along with this project we have had additional parking spaces installed at the clubhouse. Golf cart parking has been relocated between the pool and tennis courts. Please be sure to register all personal golf carts with the Administrative office. Also, as a reminder, the speed limit is 25 MPH.

Many of you have noticed the new gate at the end of Grand Estuary Trail and Port Harbour Parkway. This gate should be operational in the first quarter of 2016. Once this gate becomes operational, ALL visitors and guests will be required to gain access to the community through the Main entrance. All auxiliary gates will be "Resident Only" entrances. Please notify Management if you observe someone tailgating into the community.

As always it is a pleasure to serve you and please let me know how I can help make your experience at River Strand everything you hoped it would be.

Important Reminders

Monday Dinner Service Added To Calendar

Beginning Monday, January 4th, we will serve dinner five evenings a week: Monday through Friday, to give our residents more opportunity to dine with us and socialize.

Social Groups To Move To Community Center

Please note that some of our River Strand social groups are moving to the Community Center. Be sure to check out the calendar on page 15 to see the status of those who have moved or will move..

Second Annual Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

Will take place on Saturday, February 20th beginning at 4:30 pm with a dinner buffet for players and guests. Tickets will go on sale between January 5th and February 9th in the clubhouse card room prior to play between 4:30 pm and 5:15 pm. See the advertisement on page 4 for more.



RIVER STRAND'S GIVING TREE SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER WHILE HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE



The elves, above, hard at work wrapping the gifts collected for this year's Giving Tree.

What an amazing community we have! Our River Strand Giving Tree hosted 175 tags, labeled with the wish of a local child, which were pulled very quickly. Through the generosity of our members, we were able to provide a Christmas after all to those underprivileged children gathered from Manatee County Emergency Foster Care Shelter and Group Homes, Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Manatee County Guardian ad Litem Program, The Family Partnership and local churches. The Community Connection elves had a wonderful time wrapping all of the gifts before distribution.

In addition to this wonderful campaign, we were also able to send approximately 40 books to the Bradenton Juvenile Detention Center for our book drive this year.

Those residents who were able to contribute to these special causes are very much appreciated..

JANUARY GOLF EVENTS

9 & Dine- 01/11 3pm

Couples 18 Holes "Jack & Jill"- 01/24 1pm

Ladies' Day- 8:30 Shotgun - Tuesday

Men's Day - 8:30 Shotgun - Wednesday

Saturday Clinics-Adults: Every Saturday at

10am (Please call pro shop to sign up)

Juniors: Every Saturday at 11:00 (Please call

pro shop to sign up)

Golf Course Reminders:

Range balls must be purchased before 4pm and the range closes at 5pm

Please remember the golf course is designated for registered golfers only. Please no jogging, walking, biking or your own personal golf carts, etc. This is for your safety.

No driving range balls or bags should ever leave the driving range area. Please do not take them home with you. If you see someone taking them please inform the golf shop.

Help us Keep River Strand beautiful. Please fill in divots with sand and repair your ball marks on the greens.



2nd Annual Texas Hold 'em Tournament At River Strand Country Club Saturday, February 20, 2016 4:30 PM 'til Finished (Buffet 4:30 till 5:30 PM)

\$75.00* per person Cash Only, No Refunds

Limited to 80 Players Maximum

Members only until Feb. 9th, 2016 – then extended to Member's Guests.

*Includes Buffet Dinner

Registration must be paid in full no later than Tuesday, February 9, 2016

(Additional dinners for non-tournament players friends and spouses \$25.00 each – includes taxes, tip and unlimited soft drinks)

Get your tickets beginning Tuesday Nights Jan., 5, 2016 thru Feb., 9, 2016 from 4:30 PM till 5:15 PM in the Clubhouse Card Room . . . or contact Blake Sanderson 941-345-4776, leave a message (Speak slowly and clearly) – with your Name and phone number repeated twice, and your call will be returned within the next few days. You are not registered until you pay!

GOLF UPDATE

PGA Head Golf Professional, Corey Pion



On behalf of myself and my entire golf staff, we would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful holiday treats that we received. I would also like to give a special thanks to Gerry Dolan, Mike Brinales and the others who help organize the annual collection for our River Strand Employee Christmas Party. We had a wonderful party this year thanks to all the members who donated. Thanks again for another great year at the club!

We have rescheduled the 9 & Dine that was on January 4th to the following Monday, January 11th at 3pm. Sign up now in the golf shop. Save the date for the Couples Jack and Jill tournament on January 24th, sign up in the golf shop now for this event as well.

I hope that all who came to this year's Christmas Sale on December 9th enjoyed the great specials and found nice presents to hide under the tree. Remember, throughout the year members receive 20% off of all tops, bottoms and headwear. I can also do special orders if you find something that you like and we don't have it in the size you need.



Come out and enjoy our Annual "Jack & Jill" Couples Golf Event on January 24th.

\$107 Per Couple Includes 18 Holes of Golf, Dinner for 2 and Prizes.

The format of this fun event will be 1 BB of 2 on the front and scramble on the back. Sign up will be in the pro shop and we will require you to pay at sign up. Hope to see you here!

GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

PGA Asst. Golf Professional, Jay Blackwell



The 2016 edition of the Rules of Golf have been released by the R&A and the USGA. The new rendition of the game's seemingly arcane rules takes effect on Jan. 1, 2016. Golfers who want to shave strokes should note some significant changes.

One is the withdrawal of Rule 18-2b (Ball Moving after Address). This means that if a ball at rest moves after you address it, you are no longer automatically deemed to have caused the movement and no longer earn an automatic one-stroke penalty. If you cause the ball to move, though, say by touching it or disturbing the grass on which it lays so that it wobbles, you're still going to get that penalty stroke.

The most well publicized rule change for the year is the implementation of Rule 14-1b, which prohibits anchoring the club while making a stroke. It will apply most often to those who use a long putter, either pressing it against their belly or otherwise anchoring it to some part of the body during the stroke. The penalty is loss of hole in match play or two strokes in medal play.

RIVER STRAND TENNIS PROGRAMS

Junior Clinics (sign up on www.makeclubreservations.com)

Pee Wee Clinic (3-4 yr old) - Friday, 4:30-5:00 p.m. \$10 per class

Stars Clinic (5-14 yr old) – Mon, Wed.& Fri. 5:00-6:30 p.m. \$20 per class

Adult Clinics (sign up on www.makeclubreservations.com)

Nate's 3.0-3.5 Clinic - Monday, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. \$20.00 per class

Abdul's 90 Minute Drill and Play - Tues. & Thurs. 8:00-9:30 a.m. \$20.00 per class

Tuesday's with Tiffany Clinic – Tuesday: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. \$15 per class

Gary's Beginner's 101Clinic- Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$15.00 per clinic

Tiffany's Mixed Doubles Clinic – Thursday: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. \$15 per class

Shot of the Week – Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. (Free)

Scott's 3.5-4.0 Clinic - Sunday, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. \$20.00 per class

Adult Social Play (sign up on www.makeclubreservations.com)

Morning Doubles: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.,\$2.00

Men's Night: Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. cost: \$2.00

Mixed Doubles Night: Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. cost: \$2.00 (sign up with partner)

8.5/9.0 Mixed Doubles Night: Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. \$2.00(sign up with partner)

JANUARY TENNIS EVENTS

January 15th - Kid's Night (Parent's Night Out) 5pm - 8pm Tennis clinic, movie, pizza, and refreshments. \$20 per child, ages 6-15. Sign up in the Tennis Pro Shop

January 30th - Australian Open Mixer and Lunch, 9am-1pm Tennis clinic, round robin, Pro Exhibition, refreshments, and lunch included) \$25 per player. up to participate on Sian www.makeclubreservations.com

TENNIS PRO SHOP HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Email: tennispro@riverstrandtennis.com

Pro Shop Phone: 941.932.8680

COURT HOURS

All days - 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

TENNIS STAFF/LESSON FEES

Director of Tennis - Nate Griffin, USPTA

1/2 Hour Private: \$40, 1 Hour Private: \$80

(buy 5, get 1 free)

Head Tennis Professional – Abdul Idi, USPTA

1/2 Hour Private: \$35, 1 Hour Private: \$70

(buy 5, get 1 free)

Assistant Tennis Professional – Scott Pothul

1/2 Hour Private: \$35, 1 Hour Private: \$70

(buy 5, get 1 free)

Asst. Tennis Professional-Tiffany Davis, PTR

1/2 Hour Private: \$35, 1 Hour Private: \$70

(buy 5, get 1 free)

<u>Assistant Tennis Professional – Gary Coulter</u>

1/2 Hour Private: \$30, 1 Hour Private: \$60

(buy 5, get 1 free)

RIVER STRAND PICKLEBALL INFORMATION

Adult Clinics (sign up on www.makeclubreservations.com)

Scott's Beginner Clinic: Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. cost (\$10.00 per player)

(This clinic will cover scoring, rules, match play strategy, fundamentals, positioning, and fun, fun, fun!)

Adult Social Play (sign up on www.makeclubreservations.com)

Morning Pickleball: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (all levels)

Afternoon Pickleball: Monday 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (all levels)

Evening Pickleball: Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (all levels)

Adult Competitive Play (sign up on www.makeclubreservations.com)

TBA – Adult Leagues

TBA – Adult Tournaments

Pro Shop Info (Pickleball equipment and information located in Tennis Shop)

Pro Shop Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 am- 3:00 p.m..

The Tennis Shop does have Pickleball paddles and balls for purchase.

Pickleball Court Reservation System Information

Go to www.makeclubreservations.com.

The facility code is "river1".

All residents please choose member type "annual".

This system is a great way to meet other Pickleball players

and get games.

Pickleball Court Hours and Information

The courts are open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



The lights are located next to the entrance gates and are four hour timers, please shut off after you leave. Players always welcome to play as "walk on's" but the online reservation system will guarantee you your court reservation.

Any questions regarding Pickleball can be answered by our Director of Tennis, Nate Griffin. Email: tennispro@riverstrandtennis.com

Phone: 941.932.8680

When signing up for the first time at www.makeclubreservations.com for Tennis or Pickleball use Facility Code: river1 - Member Type: annual



WHAT TENNIS CAN LEARN FROM **PICKLEBALL**

By Nate Griffin, USPTA Director of Tennis

Pickleball?? It's too noisy! The pickleball players are too loud!

They are having too much fun, laughing and carrying on! It's just for old people!

I have recently come to enjoy Pickleball! Industry news says while the golf industry struggles to stay flat with participation and the Tennis Industry is doing a little bit better with a 2% growth, Pickleball is off the charts in growth and is the fastest growing participation sport in the United States.

Rather than put our heads in the sand, I think we need to take a lesson from Pickleball and learn why it is so popular. I was attending the USTA (United States Tennis Association) conference in Orlando a few weeks ago and the CEO of the USTA made a statement saying "Pickleball is kicking our *****"! He went on to point out that Tennis is not doing a great job of bringing the recreational players in to the game. The USTA and the Tennis Industry in general has been too focused on the competitive players and are quickly changing strategy to try and bring the families and the new players to our sport.

I've learned that Pickleball is a very social, accepting, and fun game. It isn't so much about winning or losing, it's about having some fun, some laughs, and some exercise. Tennis can also be all of those same things, if the players and organizers let it be. While there will always be a competitive aspect to any sport, tennis players need to not take themselves so seriously.

Here are some tips for tennis players.

- 1. Don't complain about who you are playing with, if you are one of the better players on the court, take that chance to encourage the lesser players on the court.
- 2. Don't get so upset about missing a shot or losing a point, laugh it off and remember why you are playing tennis in the first place.
- 3. Invite a friend or a family member to the tennis courts.
- 4. Get down to the pickleball courts and check it out! It's a good cross training sport for tennis as it teaches you quickness and reflex volleys.
- 5. Don't argue about line calls, learn to play with distractions, learn to smile and laugh when you are on the court, and be a positive person to your fellow players.

See ya on the courts, whether it is the Pickleball or the Tennis courts!

River Strand Ladies Bridge

Bridge meets at 9:30am on Monday and Friday and ends around noon. To play contact Pauline Tasler: 941-405-4733 / ptasler@gmail.com or Vivienne Sivak at 941-251-7494 or viviennesivak@msn.com.

Bunco

Newcomers are welcome! This is a simple, game that anyone can play and is very easy to learn. The Bunco group meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 9:30am. To play contact Judi Aharon at 336-407-7625.

Texas Hold-Em Poker

Texas Hold-Em is held Thursday from 5:20pm to 8:00pm. Group is limited to 50 players. \$10 Buy-In. Winners will receive a gift certificate to River Strand, which can be used throughout the clubhouse. Visit the Golf Pro Shop to sign up each week.

River Strand Ladies Mahjong

Ladies Mahjong meets Wednesday at 9:00am. Group plays until about noon, followed by lunch (optional). This is a fun, friendly group and players of all skill levels welcome! Lynne Monnell: 941-201-4253 or gmonnell@tampabay.rr.com.

River Strand Mixed Bridge (Men and Women)

Experienced players. Singles are welcome as the group will rotate partners. Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm-8:00pm. Contact Larry Sivak lesivak@msn.com / 941-251-7494.

Golf Course Maintenance Report Jamie McCrosky, GCSA

"Many of you may know, but for those that don't after almost 7 years I am leaving River Strand as the golf course Superintendent. I am moving on to grow in the new Lakewood Ranch golf communities for Lennar and Icon Management."

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday season and safe travels to and from their destinations. Now we should see the membership in full swing on the golf courses. As always we have been working on attention to details on the courses getting ready for the full tee sheets. Everything has been pine strewn and we continually work on bunker consistency. I had mentioned last month the overseeding went well, we have been unseasonably warm and encountered disease on the ryegrass. We were able to eradicate and have re-seeded areas needed on the tees and fairways. By mid-January seed should be filling out and after full fertilization of golf courses should have fuller coverage. Very important to always fill your divots on the golf course!

We had an equipment lease turnover with one of our packages in December and we received new greens mowers. Our old mowers were part of a 48 month lease. We found this was too long for greens mowers as some of the components weren't up to full running efficiency. This new package we went to a 36 month lease to keep better running equipment on the greens moving forward. We will continue to keep greens running as smooth as possible with light grooming, topdressing, and rolling.

Many of you may know, but for those who don't, after almost 7 years I am leaving River Strand as the golf course Superintendent. I am moving on to grow in the new Lakewood Ranch golf communities for Lennar and Icon Management. River Strand will always be dear to me and it has been an honor to work for such a great membership and community. We have hired my replacement. His name is Renze Berg. As of January 1, Renze will be officially become your golf course Superintendent. He was formally the Superintendent at Bradenton Country Club for 12 years. He comes with a lot of great experience and a wealth of knowledge. He will be a great fit and I foresee a seamless transition. Renze's bio is shown below. Thanks again for all the kind support over the years and welcome Renze aboard your great course!!

Upcoming events:

Light grooming and topdressings to greens: no effect to play Full fertilization with Barricade weed prevention on all of golf courses: week of January 11th.

Please Join Us In Welcoming Our New River Strand Golf Course Superintendent, Renze Berg!

Renze Berg, an 18 year class A member of GCSAA, was born and raised in Bradenton. He graduated from Gateway College in Lake City, FL where he earned his AS Degree in Golf Course Management in



1996. He began his career at University Park Country Club for two years, then moved on to be the assistant at The Links at Greenfield Plantation during the new grow-in. Renze accepted the assistant golf course superintendent position at Bradenton Country Club in 1998, where he helped do a complete renovation. He then was promoted to Superintendent, and held the position from 2003-2015. While maintaining the historic private club, he hosted the Florida State Amateur Championship in 2013 and the Women's U.S. Open Qualifier in May 2015. Renze is excited to become a part of River Strand Golf and Country Club and looks forward to carrying on Jamie's tradition of maintaining a fabulous golf course.

Condo Corner

Matt Koratich, CMCA

Greetings Condo Owners,

Did you know that you can obtain certificates of insurance for your Condominium Association online? To better serve Condominium clients Brown and Brown of Sarasota, the Association's insurance agent, has created an online portal that allows owners to obtain copies of the Association's certificates of insurance. You may access this page at:

http://riverstrandgolf.com/-insurance

You will be required to login with your River Strand Website credentials to access this page. Once logged in you will find additional instructions to obtain the required certificate. If you require assistance with logging into the River Strand Website please feel free to contact me directly or stop by the Front Desk.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Mike Angers, Vice President of Brown and Brown Sarasota, will be holding an insurance presentation on Monday, January 18th in the new Community Center. This presentation will cover several topics including Owner versus Association insurance responsibility and how Florida law affects insurance claims. For additional information please see the event flyer below.



MONDAY, JANUARY 18TH AT 4:00PM

INSURANCE Q&A FOR HOMEOWNERS

Do you know what your insurance policy covers?

Who do you call if a pipe bursts? What if you have a leak from an upstairs neighbor, or worse your hot water heater fails and floods your home?

Join us for a presentation about how homeowners insurance and Florida law affects insurance claims. Mike Angers, of Brown & Brown Insurance of Sarasota, will also take any questions you have regarding your homeowners insurance. Join us in the Community Center located at 6835 Willowshire Way on January 18th at 4pm

This presentation is geared to multi-family buildings, but all homeowners are welcome to attend and ask questions.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Matt Koratich at:

941-932-8671 or mkoratich@theiconteam.com

Presented By:



ELICKS AND CHICKS



Wednesday, January 6th at Noon Meet at Truman's Tap and Grill Lakewood Ranch Blvd and State Road 70 By Publix

Visit with your River Strand friends at lunch and then pick your movie from those currently playing at Lakewood Ranch Cinemas, if you wish.

New faces are always welcome!

First Wednesday of every month, lunch locations will vary.

RSVP: tamip@riverstrandgolf.com.



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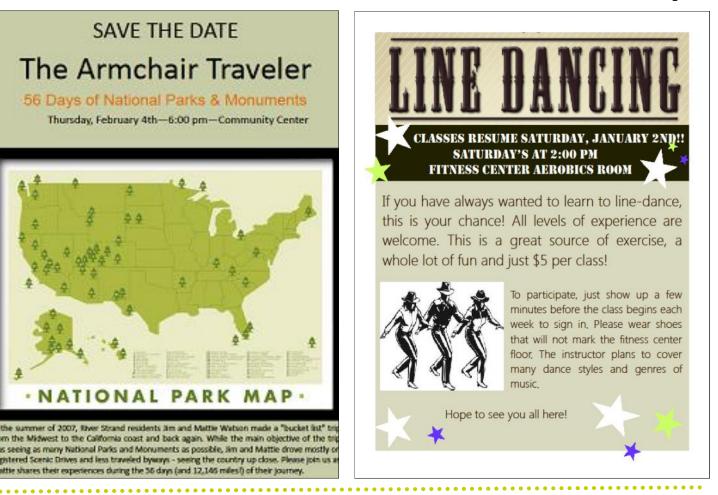
SAVE THE DATE The Armchair Traveler

56 Days of National Parks & Monuments

Thursday, February 4th-6:00 pm-Community Center



the summer of 2007, River Strand residents Jim and Mattle Watson made a "bucket list" ! rom the Midwest to the California coast and back again. While the main objective of the ti as seeing as many National Parks and Monuments as possible, Jim and Mattie drove mostly o egistered Scenic Drives and less traveled byways - seeing the country up close. Please join us Nattle shares their experiences during the 56 days (and 12,146 miles!) of their journey.



COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE UPDATE

We thank all of the homeowners who made 2015 a great year for our team. Our crews, who's main focus is providing lawn maintenance services in the River Strand community, very much appreciated the positive comments many residents shared with them throughout the year being something that was encouraging to many of them helping keep the focus and the level of service quality each resident has come to expect from us.

During the first quarter of 2016 our team will continue mowing every-other week as the growing habit of the vegetation normally slows down with the cooler and dryer weather patterns. We will also be pruning the entire community at least twice by the end of this first quarter to include raising of the Oak tree canopies and trimming those palms below the height of 15'.

Our irrigation team will be cleaning irrigation filters and testing your system among adjusting the settings to what is appropriate this timer of the year to help conserve the precious resource and help keep your vegetation as healthy as possible, many of us know that too much water can be as harmful as not enough water.

Our fertilization and pest control division will be making a lawn fertilization application just before the month of March to include the ornamental shrubs shortly thereafter. At least three times during this first quarter they will also keep an eye out for lawn weeds and spot treat as needed with selective herbicide, they will also spot treat as needed any insects we may see in the lawn and or shrubs during our inspections.

Last winter and so far this winter have been very mild, this can be conducive to larger than number lawn and ornamental weeds to include a more active insect season since the temps are warmer. Our team will be making adjustments to compensate for this climate change in an effort to keep providing a satisfactory level of service for the residents. If anyone notices any areas that may appear to be problematic, we encourage them to communicate this to the management company in case any of this may have accidently slipped the sights of the service techs and managers doing their inspections.

Vegetation growing habits are also slightly faster than normal for this time of the year, we thank everyone for their patience through this rather unusually warm record setting winter.

Once again we appreciate the kind support of the River Strand residents. Llomell Llorca, President & CEO, TruScapes Industries, Inc.



NEW YEAR TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Many **New Year customs** that we take for granted actually date from ancient times. This year, ring out the old and ring in the new with a New Year tradition—or two!

Make Some Noise

- In ancient Thailand, guns were fired to frighten off demons.
- In China, firecrackers routed the forces of darkness.
- In the early American colonies, the sounds of pistol shots rang through the air.
- Today, Italians let their church bells peal, the Swiss beat drums, and the North Americans sound sirens and party horns to bid the old year farewell.

Eat Lucky Food—Many New Year's traditions surround food. Here are a few:

- In the southern US, black-eyed peas and pork foretell good fortune.
- Eating any ring-shaped treat (such as a donut) symbolize "coming full circle" and leads to good fortune. In Dutch homes, fritters called *olie bollen* are served.
- The Irish enjoy pastries called bannocks.
- The tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight comes from Spain.
- In India and Pakistan, rice promises prosperity.
- Apples dipped in honey are a Rosh Hashanah tradition.

In Swiss homes, dollops of whipped cream, symbolizing the richness of the year to come, are dropped on the floors (and allowed to remain there!)

Drink a Beverage—Although the pop of a champagne cork signals the arrival of the New Year around the world, some countries have their own traditions.

- Wassail, the Gaelic term for "good health" is served in some parts of England.
- Spiced "hot pot" is the Scottish version of Wassail. It's customary to drink a glass or two at home before sharing with neighbors. In Holland, toasts are made with hot, spiced wine.

Give a Gift—New Year's Day was once the time to swap presents.

- Gifts of gilded nuts or coins marked the start of the new year in Rome.
- Eggs, the symbol of fertility, were exchanged by the Persians.
- Early Egyptians traded earthenware flasks.
- In Scotland, coal, shortbread and silverware are exchanged for good luck.

Put Your Best Foot Forward—In Scotland, the custom of first-footing is an important part of the celebration of Hogmanay, or New Year's Eve Day. This practice holds that the first foot to cross a threshold after midnight will predict the next year's fortune. Although the tradition varies, those deemed especially fortunate as "first footers" are new brides, new mothers, those who are tall and dark (and handsome?) or anyone born on January 1.

Turn Over a New Leaf—The dawn of a new year is an opportune time to take stock of your life.

- Jews who observe Rosh Hashanah make time for personal introspection and prayer, as well as visiting graves.
- Christian churches hold "watch-night" services, a custom that began in 1770 at Old St. Georges Methodist Church in Philadelphia.

The practice of making New Year's resolutions, said to have begun with the Babylonians as early as 2600 B.C., is another way to reflect on the past and plan ahead.

New Year's Folklore—Some customs and beliefs are simply passed down through the ages. Here is a favorite age-old saying:

On New Year's Eve, kiss the person you hope to keep kissing.

If New Year's Eve night wind blow south, It betokeneth warmth and growth.

For abundance in the new year, fill your pockets and cupboards today.

If the old year goes out like a lion, the new year will come in like a lamb.

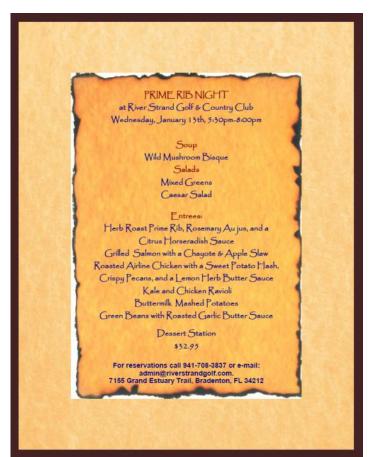
Begin the new year square with every man. (i.e., pay your debts!) -Robert B. Thomas, founder of The Old Farmer's Almanac.

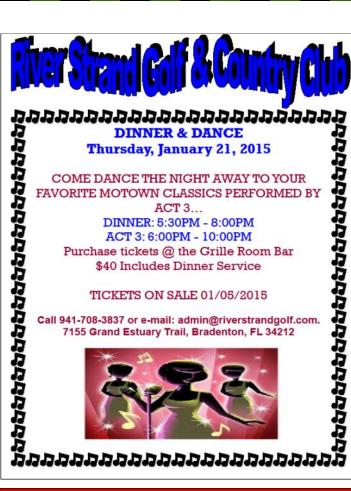
So, whether we resolve to return borrowed farm equipment (as did the Babylonians) or drop a few pounds, we're tapping into an ancient and powerful longing for a fresh start!



FOOD & BEVERAGE CALENDAR JANUARY 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| | HAPPE STATE OF THE PERSON OF T | PY NEW Y | EAR 6 | | 1 Lunch 11am-7pm No Dinner Service | 2 Lunch 11am-6pm Bar 11am-7pm |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| 11am-5pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-6pm |
| Bar | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | Friday Dining | Bar |
| 11am-6pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 11am-7pm |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | Lunch 11am-4:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-8pm PRIME RIB BUFFET | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| 11am-5pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-3pm |
| Bar | Dinner | Dinner | | Dinner | Friday Dining | PRIVATE |
| 11am-6pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | EVENT |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Lunch 11am-4:30pm Happy Hour Ends at 4:30pm MOTOWN NIGHT | 22 | 23 |
| Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | | Lunch | Lunch |
| 11am-5pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-4:30pm | | 11am-4:30pm | 11am-6pm |
| Bar | Dinner | Dinner | Dinner | | Dinner | Bar |
| 11am-6pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | 5:30pm-8pm | | 5:30pm-8pm | 11am-7pm |
| 24 Lunch 11am-5pm Bar 11am-6pm 31 Lunch 11am-5pm Bar 11am-6pm | 25 Lunch 11am-4:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-8pm | Lunch 11am-4:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-8pm | Lunch 11am-4:30pm UNDER THE SEA BUFFET | Lunch 11am-4:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-8pm | 29 Lunch 11am-4:30pm Dinner 5:30pm-8pm | Lunch 11am-5pm Bar 11am-5pm PRIVATE EVENT |







UNDER THE SEA

at River Strand Golf & Country Club Wednesday, January 27th, 5:30pm-8:00pm

Soup

Seafood Citrus Coconut Chowder

Salads & More

Heirloom Tomato and Cucumber Salad Seafood Salad Shrimp Cocktail with a Spicy Cocktail Sauce Ceviche

Herb Crusted Pork Loin with a Apple Bacon Chutney Blackened Grouper with a Creole Sauce Seafood Jambalaya Crab Legs

Shrimp & Anson Mills Grits with an Andouille Gravy Mussels and Clam in a Spicy Tomato Broth Roasted Yukon Potatoes Roasted Brussels Sprouts

> Dessert \$39.95++

For reservations call 941-708-3837 or e-mail: admin@riverstrandgolf.com. 7155 Grand Estuary Trail, Bradenton, FL 34212



KEEP CALM

AND

MAKE A RESERVATION

DON'T FORGET TO CALL IN ADVANCE FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY! 941-708-3837



FITNESS & SOCIAL CALENDAR JANUARY 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 H | APPY W Year | | | | 1 | 2 <u>RS Striders</u> <u>Walking Club</u> 9:00 am - Pavilion <u>Line Dancing</u> 2:00 pm |
| 3 | 4 Fit4Life 8:am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Bridge 9:30 am Sports Yoga 10am Zumba 11:30 FLOW Yoga 6 pm | 5 <u>Tai-Chi</u> 9:00 am <u>Walking Club</u> 9:00 am <u>Sports Yoga</u> 9am <u>Zumba Tone/Step</u> 11:30 am <u>Texas Hold-Em</u> 5:20 | 6 Fit4Life 8:00 am Mahjongg 9:00 am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Zumba Tone 11:30 am Chicks and Flicks 12pm Mixed Bridge 5:30 pm | 7 Walking Club 9:00 am Yoga 9:00 am Bunco 9:30 am Sports Yoga 5 pm Veterans 6:30pm | Yoga 9:00 am <u>Bridge</u> 9:30 am | 9 RS Striders Walking Club 9:00 am - Pavilion Line Dancing 2:00 pm |
| 10 | 11 Fit4Life 8am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Bridge 9:30 am Sports Yoga 10am Zumba 11:30 FLOW Yoga 6:00 pm | 12 Tai-Chi 9:00 am Walking Club 9:00 am Sports Yoga 9am Zumba Tone/Step 11:30 am Texas Hold-Em 5:20 pm | 13 Fit4Life 8:00 am Mahjongg 9:00 am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Zumba Tone 11:30 am Birds of River Strand 2pm Mixed Bridge 5:30 pm | 14 Walking Club 9:00 am Yoga 9:00 am Sports Yoga 5 pm | Yoga 9:00 am Bridge 9:30 am | RS Striders Walking Club 9:00 am - Pavilion Line Dancing 2:00 pm |
| 17 | 18 Fit4Life 8:am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Bridge 9:30 am Sports Yoga 10am Zumba 11:30 FLOW Yoga 6:00 pm | 19 <u>Tai-Chi</u> 9:00 am <u>Walking Club</u> 9:00 am <u>Sports Yoga</u> 9am <u>Zumba Tone/Step</u> 11:30 am <u>Texas Hold-Em</u> 5:20 pm | 20 Fit4Life 8:00 am Mahjongg 9:00 am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Zumba Toning 11:30 am Mixed Bridge 5:30 pm | Walking Club 9:00 am Yoga 9:00 am Bunco 9:30 am FITNESS 101 10am Sports Yoga 5 pm | Yoga 9:00 am <u>Bridge</u> 9:30 am | RS Striders Walking Club 9:00 am - Pavilion Line Dancing 2:00 pm |
| 31 | Fit4Life 8:am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Bridge 9:30 am Sports Yoga 10am Zumba 11:30 FLOW Yoga 6:00 pm | 26 Tai-Chi 9:00 am Walking Club 9:00 am Sports Yoga 9am Zumba Tone/Step 11:30 am Texas Hold-Em 5:20 pm | Fit4Life 8:00 am Mahjongg 9:00 am Aqua Fit 9:15 am Zumba Toning 11:30 am Mixed Bridge 5:30 pm | Walking Club 9:00 am Yoga 9:00 am Sports Yoga 5 pm | Yoga 9:00 am Bridge 9:30 am | RS Striders Walking Club 9:00 am - Pavilion Line Dancing 2:00 pm |

November Fitness and Social Activities

FITNESS

AQUA FIT: 9:15 am on Monday and Wednesday.

CARDIO TENNIS: 6:30 pm on Wednesday and Friday. \$15 members.

FIT 4 LIFE: 8:00 am on Monday and Wednesday.

FITNESS 101: Thursday, January 21st. 10 am Equipment, 10:30 am Weights.

FLOW YOGA: 6:00 pm Monday. Intermediate practice.

LINE DANCING: It's back! 2:00 pm on Saturday, beginning January 2nd. Clubhouse fitness room.

RIVER STRAND STRIDERS: 9:00 am on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Pavilion at Central Park.

SPORTS YOGA: 9:00 am on Tuesday, Thursday at 9 am, Thursday at 5 pm. Classes are \$15.

TAI-CHI: 9:00 am Tuesday. Pavilion at Central Park.

YOGA: 9:00 am on Thursday & Friday.

ZUMBA: 11:30 am on Monday.

ZUMBA TONING/STEP MIX: 11:30 am on Tuesday.

ZUMBA TONING: 11:30 am on Wednesday.

SOCIAL

*PLEASE NOTE SOME SOCIAL GROUPS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY MET AT THE RIVER STRAND CLUBHOUSE, WILL RELOCATE TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER. PLEASE REVIEW THOSE AND THEIR START DATE BELOW:

BIRDS OF RIVER STRAND: 2:00 pm on Wednesday, January 13th. Join Mattie for this world famous event!

See flyer on page 16 for details.

BRIDGE: 9:30 am on Monday and Friday. Group will move play to the Community Center

beginning January 4th.

BRIDGE LESSONS: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Complimentary. Community Center beginning January 11th.

See page 2.

BUNCO: 9:30 am the first and third Thursday of the month. River Strand Clubhouse.

CHICKS AND FLICKS: First Wednesday of every month. This month is Truman's Tap and Grill for lunch

at noon, followed by a movie if you choose at Lakewood Ranch Cinemas on Main

Street. Truman's is located on Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and State Road 70

near Publix.

MAHJONGG: 9:00 am on Wednesday. Currently playing at Community Center.

MAHJONGG LESSONS: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday. Complimentary. Community Center. See page 2.

MIXED BRIDGE: 5:30 pm on Wednesday. Group will play at Community Center.

TEXAS HOLD-'EM: 5:20 pm-8:00 pm on Tuesday. Group will continue play at the main clubhouse.

VETERANS NETWORK: 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month in the conference room. Will continue

to meet at the River Strand clubhouse.



The River Strand Transition Budget and Finance Committee will meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Community Center at 6:30 pm.

HAPPY

ClubConnections

Membership & Communications Director, Tami Prince

NEWYEAR

Happy New Year! A new year is on the way and the possibilities are endless! Make the most of every day this year.

Upcoming Events-Save The Date-More To Come

- Birds of River Strand. Mattie is back on Wednesday, January 13th. Don't miss this! See flyer below.
- An Oscar themed Key Chorale Luncheon will be held in the River Strand Clubhouse on February 27th at 1:00 pm. More info on page 2.
- Ruth Eckerd Hall Trip The Beach Boys in concert on February 29th at 7:30 pm.
- Tampa Bay Lightning against the New York Islanders on March 25th.
- Jimmy Mazz is back for a visit on April 7th for a Cruisin' through the Fifties dinner theatre event. Third time is a charm!

THE BIRDS OF RIVER STRAND

2:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016 THE SANCTUARY COMMUNITY CENTER

Back by popular demand for those who may have missed it last season!



Have you ever seen an unfamiliar bird here at River Strand and wondered, "What IS that?" If so, you are invited to attend this presentation on bird recognition.

Many of the birds we have in our community will be identified and some simple tips and a handout to help identify unfamiliar birds will be provided.





The presenter will be River Strand resident Mattie Watson, who has identified 64 bird species right here in Heritage Harbour. Hope to see you there, bring a friend!

Welcome to our newest members! Sign up in the Administrative Offices at the clubhouse for our New Member Orientation. These informative sessions take place in the clubhouse board room at 2 pm on the first Friday of every month.

Attending the Orientation is a greet way to meet other new members and get your River Strand bearings.

Donald & Myreen Schmidt
Sherry Skelton
Bill & Jane Rattray
Robert & Karolyn Glenn
Jeff & Sylvianne Forbes
Eric Stuedemann
Peter & Eleanor Walton
Allen & Deborah Domask
Chris Yekel

Alan & Patricia Sorofman

James Schneck & Martine Vande Weghe

James & Catherine Laurenzo

Jack & Susan Collett

Gary & Laurie Brenenstuhl

Danny & Maria Tocci

Ronald & Beth Cohen

Rod McKenney INC

Fredric Steven Jacobs

Michael & Sharon Bitzan

Benson & Linda Goldstein

Paul & Pamela Martin

Bruce & Gabriela Rapp

David & Gordana Picinich

Michael & Nancy Aiello

Charles & Melinda Swartling

Scott & Kelly Short

Steve & Samantha Veeder

Vanda Orosz

Richard & Joleen Verbonitz

Patrick Arnold & Jacalyn DiCello

Linda McDermott

Bob & Monica Guidotti

Thomas & Gail Lacertosa

River Strand Clubhouse, Community and World Views





The Chicks and Flicks group had a very lovely holiday luncheon and \$5 gift exchange. New faces are always welcome and movie is optional.

A preview of the Armchair Traveler photos lucky residents will view on Thursday, February 4th. Resident Mattie Watson snapped this photo of Lewis Falls in Yellowstone.







Participants and vendors alike had a wonderful time at our first annual Artists and Crafters Bazaar in December at the brand new Community Center.







Oh, what a night! All enjoyed the Studio of Classical Ballet production of "Excerpts From The Nutcracker" held during the Holiday Social & Buffet. 16 Ballet students performed and mingled with the attendees.

Email your photos to tamip@riverstrandgolf.com for possible inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

CONGRATULATE YOUR MEMBER-MEMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS!



Low Net: Flight 1 Winners: Mike Chandler & Alan Place



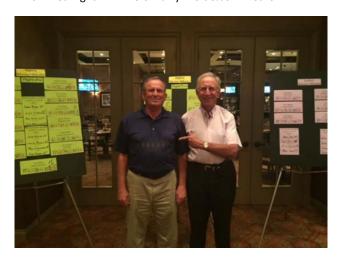
Low Gross Flight 1 Winners: Joe Tolbert & Rick Todd



Left to right are Low Gross winners: Monique Patenaude & Betty Cimarno and Low Net winners: Alice Kurtz & Susan Aucoin



Low Net Flight 2 Winners: Barry Woit & John Pedrow



Low Gross Flight 2 Winners: Hadley Kurtz & Chuck Glasser

Those who attended this two day event enjoyed amazing weather and a beautiful golf course, along with the camaraderie of long time known and newly made friends. We have many great golf events lined up for our members this year and we invite you to take advantage of these special days on the course.

Save the Date for a Ladies' League Charity Golf Event: Putt'n on the Ritz...Black and Bling!

The planning committee has begun to get things organized for our 4th Annual Charity Golf Event which will take place on February 22nd and 23rd. We will once again sponsor the Food Bank of Manatee but are very pleased to announce that we will also include Hope Family Services which aids domestic violence survivors in Bradenton and the surrounding area.

The event will be launched with a Silent Auction the evening of February 22nd in the clubhouse, open to the entire River Strand Community and will continue until about 1:00 p.m. the following day. It will feature a variety of items to bid on including Restaurant vouchers, Art Work by local artists, and articles from various merchants in the community, to name but a few.

Continuing on Tuesday February 23rd **all ladies** of River Strand, their friends and family members are welcomed to participate in the golf tournament. It will be an 18 hole Scramble with lots of fun games on the course. A prize will be awarded for the best dressed group, so put on your bling and come have some fun.

Last year we raised over \$14,000 and are looking forward to making it an even better event this year. In addition to raising money, we have a Wish List from the Shelter which includes blankets, personal hygiene products, diapers, and much more. Even if you don't golf, it's easy to make a contribution to this worthwhile cause by knitting or crocheting a blanket, picking up a case of paper towel or tissue when you are out shopping or dropping off a check so they can get what they need.





RIVER STRAND GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

7155 Grand Estuary Trail Bradenton, FL 34212 941-708-3837 Phone 941-708-3785 Fax www.riverstrandgolf.com

<u>Lennar Customer Care</u> 866-226-4057

Icon Management Services 941-747-7261 Phone 941-526-3283 After Hours

Clubhouse General Office Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm Phone: 941-708-3837

Golf Shop Every Day, 6:00am-6:00pm Phone: 941-708-3617

Tennis Shop Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-7:00 pm Saturday & Sunday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Grille Room
941-932-8667
Check calendar for seasonal hours of operation.

<u>Fitness Center</u>
24 Hours, every day
Member photo id card needed for access.

<u>Swimming Pools</u> Open from dawn until dusk.

Gate Attendant
Phone: 941-746-2167 (gatehouse)
E-Mail: gatehouse@riverstrandgolf.com
Envera (Gate Company): 941-556-0732 (24-hours)

Nightly Security Patrol: 941-549-9637

<u>Property Managers - River Strand/Heritage Harbour</u> <u>Dan Arens, LCAM,</u> Single Family Homes Phone: 941-932-8663

E-Mail: darens@theiconteam.com Matt Koratich, LCAM, Condominiums

Phone: 941-932-8671

E-Mail: mkoratich@theiconteam.com

General Manager
Pat Cattanach, PGA, LCAM
Phone: 941-708-3837

E-Mail: pcattanach@theiconteam.com

River Strand Master Association Board Member

Terry Lyons

Phone: 941-896-7525 Email: ternanlyons@aol.com

Golf Course Superintendent
Jamie McCrosky, GCSA
Phone: 941-748-8626

E-Mail: jamiem@riverstrandgolf.com

<u>Head Golf Professional</u> Corey Pion, PGA Phone: 941-708-3617

E-Mail: corey@riverstrandgolf.com

<u>Director of Tennis</u> Nate Griffin, USPTA Phone: 941-932-8680

E-Mail: tennispro@riverstrandtennis.com

Executive Chef
Radames Febles
Phone: 941-932-8665

<u>Food & Beverage Manager</u> Nicole Resner

Phone: 941-932-8664

E-Mail: nicoler@riverstrandgolf.com

Membership & Communications Director

Tami Prince Phone: 941-932-8669

E-Mail: tamip@riverstrandgolf.com

Administrative Assistant
Bianca Johnson: reception@riverstrandgolf.com

Phone: 941-708-3837

Concession Supervisor

Laura Kommick

Phone: 941-708-3837, ext. 110

