

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,303 Rotonda Residents

JULY 2024



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

“ASK A MASTER GARDENER”

Story and Photo by: Nadine Clough

Sara Weber, education and training specialist with Charlotte County Extension led a team of Master Gardener volunteers at the “Ask the Master Gardener” forum on June 26th at the RWA Community Center.

Assisting Sara with the presentation were Bill Lawton, who has been a master gardener for eight years with a specialty area in vegetable gardening, and Nancy Palmer, who has been a master gardener for 20 years and whose interests lie mainly in the area of bromeliads and orchids.

The size of attendees allowed for a more up close, round table question and answer session. The presenters listened and offered suggestions and ideas to help with any gardening concerns that were raised. They shared booklets and flyers on various subjects that would be of interest to gardeners and nature lovers alike.

Thank you to the presenters for their time and dedication, thank you to host Grace Chetcuti, and to the Community Outreach Committee for sponsoring this event.



L to R: Sara Weber from Charlotte County Extension, Master Gardener Bill Lawton, and Master Gardener Nancy Palmer.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 7

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

“Ask a Master Gardener”

Board of Directors

Election Committee

Trivia Night

Charlotte County News

Hurricane Prep

The Noisy Limpkin

Music in the Park

Contact West Ways at:
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ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024



Sitting L to R: Director Sam Besase (Treasurer); Director Andy VanScyoc (President); Director Peter Traverso.
Standing L to R: Director David Kelly; Director Jack Metz; Director Les Goodman; Director Karen Harvey (Secretary).
Photo by: David Pulaski

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: PRESIDENT ANDY VANSYCOC (CHAIR) 2:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: ALL DIRECTORS PRESENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 9, 2024, BOD MEETING MINUTES & BOD FAQ WORKSHOP MINUTES

OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES & CONTRACTORS REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE: ANDY VAN SCYOC REPORTED THAT BOARD MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONCE A MONTH DURING THE SUMMER (SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH) UNLESS OTHERWISE NEEDED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: SAM BESASE REPORTED THAT THE HOA HAS FUNDS OF JUST UNDER 3 MILLION DOLLARS; THAT EXPENSES ARE UNDER BUDGET; 230 HOMES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN ROTONDA; ONLY 4% OF RESIDENTS ARE DELINQUENT IN PAYING THEIR YEARLY HOA FEES. BUDGET IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE.

MANAGER'S REPORT: DERRICK HEDGES REPORTED THAT CLEAN-UP CONTINUES IN THE CANALS AND THE GREENWAYS; MOWING & CUTTING IN NEIGHBORHOOD SECTIONS AND IN BROADMOOR CONTINUES. STAFF IS DOING A WONDERFUL JOB IN OFFICE MEETING MEMBERS NEEDS.

DEED RESTRICTION VIOLATION: NANCY SCHWECHEL (ADMINISTRATOR) REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 900 VIOLATIONS THIS PAST MONTH, WHICH RESULTED IN ABOUT 90 FINES.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: CHAIR DEB ORCHARD REPORTED THAT CONSTANT CONTACT HAD 5296 OPENS; FACEBOOK HAS 385 MEMBERS. MAUREEN LADERER WAS ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD AS A NEW MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE. BOARD MEMBERS HAD QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS REGARDING THE FITNESS PRESENTATIONS THAT ARE UPCOMING.

COMPLIANCE: CHAIR BARB PESZKO REPORTED THAT THE COMMITTEE HANDLED 4 VIOLATIONS (KAYAKS HANGING ON BUILDINGS, LANDSCAPE WORK, VEHICLES). \$400. IN FINES WERE SOUGHT.

RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATIONS: CHAIR BARB PESZKO REPORTED THAT THE COMMITTEE VIEWED 213 APPLICATIONS, WITH 6 BEING DISAPPROVED. COMMITTEE ADDED DALE JENSEN AS MEMBER.

ELECTION COMMITTEE: COMMITTEE ASKS FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR DALE JENSEN AS CHAIR.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

CONTINUED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. OFFICE HANDLING OF ROUTINE APPLICATIONS TO USE THE COMMUNITY CENTER:
-STAFF WILL NOW HANDLE THESE REQUESTS (MOTION PASSED)

NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS:

1. SUSPENSION OF MEMBER'S RIGHTS FOR THOSE 90 DAYS OR MORE IN ARREARS.
DISCUSSION AND VOTE. AFFECTS 147 MEMBERS. MOTION APPROVED.
2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION ON BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE RWA AUDITS AND THE 3-YEAR RESERVE STUDY.
3. MOTION TO APPROVE DALE JENSEN AS CHAIR FOR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE AND
APPROVE ROSEANNE WOODLIFF AS A MEMBER OF ELECTION COMMITTEE.
MOTION APPROVED.
4. APPLICATIONS FOR USE OF COMMON AREAS (4).

MEETING ADJORNED



NORMA

**NORMA LIKES THINGS
THAT ARE FREE!**

- ALL MODIFICATIONS TO THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME
NEED TO BE APPROVED. FOLLOW THE RULES AND
SUBMIT A RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION APPLICATION.
- THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR SUBMITTING A RESIDENTIAL
MODIFICATION APPLICATION. IT IS ABSOLUTELY,
POSITIVELY FREE!!
- DOWNLOAD AND PRINT OUT YOUR APPLICATION FROM
THE ROTONDA WEST WEBSITE: rotondawest.org
OR STOP IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE AND PICK ONE UP.

RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK

THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Article by: Nadine Clough



The first meeting of the 2024 Election Committee was held on June 14th. This committee is responsible for conducting the annual election of directors to the RWA board. They will guide the RWA members through the election process over the next several months, fulfilling their job responsibility when the votes are tabulated at the annual meeting in December.

The RWA website further explains the committee's work. In addition to conducting the annual election of RWA directors, the Election Committee reviews and updates as necessary the Election Guidelines which are used to oversee the annual election process. The committee hosts an annual Candidates' Night in October and oversees, along with the RWA accountant, the counting of votes cast at the annual meeting. The votes are tabulated by the RWA accountant, then certified and announced at the annual meeting in December.

At the June 14th meeting, the committee members welcomed Dale Jensen as this year's committee chair. Other members, Brian Armen, Nancy Ward-Snyder, Tom D'Abrosca, and RoseAnne Woodliff return to share their valuable experience serving on this important committee.

New business discussed at the meeting included reviewing the 2024 timeline of upcoming dates and events leading up to the annual meeting, a review of the candidates packet that will go to all potential candidates, and a discussion of the sample ballot.

The next meeting of the Election Committee will be the "Candidates Workshop", which will be held on Wednesday, July 10th @ 10 a.m. If you are considering running for the RWA Board of Directors, the Candidates Workshop meeting will help answers questions you may have.

As with the other RWA standing committees, the Election Committee fills a vital role in the well-being of our community and the HOA. Take the opportunity to learn more about what our committees do. Attend a meeting or drop in on zoom.

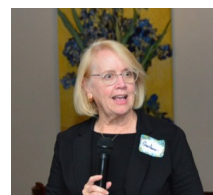
Meeting Time: Specific to the election schedule. Please check the RWA website calendar.



Election Committee Members

Above L to R: Nancy Ward-Snyder, Dale Jensen (Chair),
Tom D'Abrosca

Photo by: N. Clough



Above L to R: RoseAnne Woodliff, and Brian Armen
(Both members were on zoom)

File Photos

"CANDIDATES' WORKSHOP"

WEDNESDAY,

JULY 10TH

10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Email:

electioncommittee@rotondawest.org



CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR NEXT ELECTION CYCLE

Submitted by the RWA Election Committee

Do you have the desire to serve your community? Then now is the time for you to step up and become a candidate for the Rotonda West Board of Directors. Two Board seats are up for election in 2024 and Directors elected this year will serve a three-year term commencing in December of 2024 and continuing through December 2nd, 2027.

Interested, but you need some more information? We've got you covered. If you want to know more about the election process in general or what you must do to become a candidate specifically, log on to the Rotonda West website at rotondawest.org, choose "Governance" from the top menu and then select "RWA Elections". Once you're on that page you will see two documents you can read and download. The first is the *2024 Election Committee Rules, Procedures and Political Campaign Guidelines* which provides information on the whole election process. The second document is the *2024 Board of Directors Candidate Packet*, and that document provides specifics on how to declare your candidacy for a Director position.

Once you've read the documents and made your decision to become a candidate, there are several action items and dates to remember:

Candidate Workshop - Wednesday, July 10, 2024 - The election committee will hold a Candidate Workshop beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 10, 2024, to inform prospective candidates of what they must do to become a qualified board candidate. This workshop will be available via Zoom and the recorded Zoom video will be available online at [Election Committee on Vimeo](#).

Submittal Deadline for Candidate Documents - Friday, August 9, 2024 - All candidate documents must be deposited in the candidate information lockbox located at the RWA Office at 646 Rotonda Circle no later than 12:01 p.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024. These documents can be submitted by either the candidate or their proxy.

Election Committee Meeting to Review and Certify Candidate's Documents - Friday, August 9, 2024 - The election committee will review all submitted candidate documents at its meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024, and finalize its recommendation to the Board regarding which candidates should be qualified/disqualified. Candidates are invited to this meeting where they will have the opportunity to correct any issues with their documents.

**COUNTY ELECTION:
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
CANDIDATES FORUM**

**BEING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10TH**

The Rotonda West Homeowners Association and the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club invites all community members to a "Meet the Candidates" event for the upcoming local Charlotte County election. Candidates running have been asked to introduce themselves and share their positions on critical issues. There will be a "Question & Answer" session after their presentations .

This event is open to all residents in Rotonda West and the surrounding area.

**6:00 - 8:30 pm
Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

**Rotonda West Community Center (Bldg. D)
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947**



TRIVIA NIGHT EARNS PASSING GRADES FOR ROTONDA TEAMS

STORY & PICTURES BY: CONNIE SMITH



Tim Dowd, master mind of Tim's Trivia, talks to the crowd of 50 that formed nine highly competitive trivia teams.

Surely 50 of Rotonda's smartest residents convened for Trivia Night, June 5, at the Rotonda West Community Center, hosted by Timothy Dowd of Tim's Trivia.

The topic was School Days as nine teams balanced their two hours of Trivia between snacking and brainiac-ing – one's obviously got to stay loose, relaxed and full to spin the mental wheels in order to beat the clock!

The night's 18 questions were divided into grades one through senior year, with the additions of preschool, kindergarten, recess, driver's ed, prom and graduation. Pondering time was accompanied by a rock song with a school theme and usually there were bonus points for identifying the band singing the song (such as "ABC" by the Jackson Five or "My Old School" by Steely Dan). Here's a sampling of the questions and answers from the night:

Preschool: Language – What is the most common word for babies in the U.S. (**No**) And what part of speech is it? (**Interjection**).

First Grade: The Alphabet – Which three consonants in the alphabet are silent in more words than any other (**G, B, L**) and which consonant is never silent in any word (**V**)?

Second Grade: TV Math – Number of Simpson Kids (**3**) + Number of Brady Kids (**6**) + Number of Jetson's Kids (**2**) + Number of Cosby Kids (**5**) + Number of Scooby Doo Kids (**4**) + Number of Partridge Family Kids (**5**) = (**25**)

Third Grade: Health – What is the only food we eat that contains all five food groups? (**Pizza or Tacos**)

Sixth Grade: Social Studies – Jimmy Carter was one of six presidents named James. Name the other five. (**James Madison, James Monroe, James Garfield, James Buchanan, James Polk**)

Seventh Grade: Literature in Other Words – Rodentia and Homo Sapiens (**Of Mice and Men**); A Yogi Berra Sandwich (**Catcher in the Rye**); Murderous Rage of Wine's Origins (**Grapes of Wrath**)

Eighth Grade: Geography – What is the largest desert in the world? (**Antarctica**)

By the last question – **Graduation** – the nine teams were just five points apart. Diamond Circle was on top with 52 points. Pine Nuts and Tom's Trumpets were tied at the bottom with 47 points. Each team was given the opportunity to "bet" between 1 and 10 points on their ability to answer the final question and all teams bet the maximum 10 points.

So, while Alice Cooper sang "School's Out", the teams considered: **We have all heard of the valedictorian; it comes from the Latin "veil dicere" which means what?** The multiple-choice answer was **D. Say Farewell.**



Julie Ambrose, of *Tim's Trivia* grabs answers from team Nine Line early in the event.

As Tom's Trumpets was the only team to answer correctly, they earned 10 points, the other teams lost 10 points and Tom's Trumpets were declared the winners.

While a college professor for 30 years, Timothy Dowd's particular passion for trivia has been going on for nearly 20 years. So much, that most nights of the week he can be found in various locations nearby hosting some form of trivia, all created by him. He also creates music bingo, scavenger hunts and hosts various other events, as well as DJ-ing dances of all kinds. Tim's Trivia was recently named the number one T.R.I.V.I.A. (TIM'S RIDDLING INQUISITIVE VEXING INQUIRY ASSOCIATION) in Southwest Florida. He has degrees in English, philosophy, sociology, psychology, history and humanities. To join him wherever he is exercising area brain cells, go to his Facebook Page by searching for Tim's Trivia.



LEFT:

And the winners were:

TOM'S TRUMPETS

Left to right: Tom Fowles, Vivian Power, Cathy Fedonni, Kathy Dardis, and Francie Brown.

Far right is Trivia Master Tim Dowd

RIGHT:

Nine Line Team Members

Left to right: Elizabeth Lijewski, Rita Lopienski, and Francine Finucan demonstrate that good friends, snacks, and mind-bending questions make for a fun evening.



***TIM'S TRIVIA* WILL BE BACK IN THE ROTONDA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ANOTHER TRIVIA NIGHT ON JULY 17TH!**

FOLLOWED BY *NAME THAT TUNE* ON AUGUST 21ST

AND *MUSIC BINGO* ON SEPTEMBER 18TH

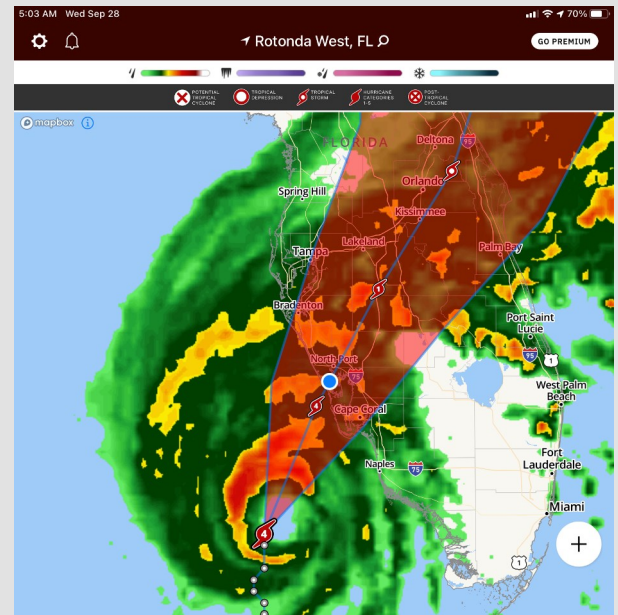
DON'T MISS THESE FUN EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HURRICANES WILL NOT BE IGNORED! BE READY FOR THEM

Submitted by Nadine Clough

Hurricane Ian's center roared ashore at 150 mph near Cayo Costa, a barrier island west of Fort Myers, shortly after 3 p.m. ET on September 28th, 2022.

No one that was here in Rotonda when Hurricane Ian hit will ever forget that day. Most residents had prepared their homes, their belongings, and themselves for that event, but Ian's strong winds and heavy rain still caused devastating damage.



Wednesday, September 28, 2022
Category 4 Hurricane Ian bears down
on Rotonda West (blue dot)

The Office of emergency management of Charlotte County releases a disaster guide for residents which outlines important information on preparing, surviving, and staying safe after a hurricane event. It contains tips, phone numbers, and checklists that are helpful when facing a storm. Call the Emergency Management office at 941-833-4000 to find out how to get your guide.

It is still early in the hurricane season, but there is much you can do now to prepare.

Here is a list provided by Charlotte County Emergency Management:

- Check your disaster supplies
- Refill prescriptions. Maintain at least a two-week supply of medication.
- Clear your yard of furniture, potted plants, bicycles, trash cans and other objects that can cause damage in heavy winds.
- Keep landscaping trimmed. Make sure yard waste will be picked up before storms.
- Protect windows and glass doors with plywood or storm shutters.
- If flooding could threaten your home, move important items such as electronics and antiques off the floor.
- Fill your car's gas tank, check oil, water and tires.
- Secure your boat early. Drawbridges will be closed to boat traffic after an evacuation order is issued.
- Get cash. Banks and ATM's don't work without electricity and few stores will be able to accept credit cards or checks.
- Never sweep or blow yard waste into the stormwater system or into the streets. This clogs up the stormwater pipes and prevents water from draining.

ROTONDA STRONG HEALTH & WELLNESS

Story & Photos by: Rita Lopienski



Dr. Francine Finucan leads 34 residents in Tai Chi group

 Rotonda West Association Community Outreach Committee Presents	TAI CHI For Beginners and the Experienced Instruction by Dr. Francine Finucan
July 1, 15, 22, 29 Monday 9:00am	RWA Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle
	• Classes are conducted on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Monday of each month. • Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring water in a covered container. • At this time, the Tai Chi fitness class will be for RWA members & renters only. • An RWA Fitness Liability Waiver must be filled out (only once). • Tip jar will be made available. • Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office, you will be referred to the above email. • No pets.
• Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for self-defense and health known for its slow, intentional movements. • Tai Chi is particularly popular as a form of gentle exercise and moving meditation, with benefits to mental and physical health. • Tai Chi is all standing, but may also be practiced in a sturdy chair. • Benefits of practicing Tai Chi: preventing falls in older adults, osteoarthritis, Parkinson disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and cognitive functioning. • This gentle form of exercise can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance, and could be the perfect activity for the rest of your life.	

In June a new fitness class for RWA members and renters began as part of the Community Outreach Committee's Health & Wellness initiative. It is on Mondays at 9 a.m. (except for the 2nd Monday of each month. It's held in the RWA Community Center.

Dr. Francine Finucan leads the group, and all participants must sign a one-time Fitness Waiver. A tip jar is available. At the kick-off class on June 3rd, there were 34 attendees! We look forward to the continuation of this class year-round.

For more information contact:

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

The Noisy Limpkin

Article and Photos by: Bob Winter



LIMPKIN

File photo

People who recently moved to Rotonda from the northern states ask, “What is that loud screaming, crying noise that wakes me up at night?” It is not a nightmare from the last horror movie you saw or an alligator attacking someone, rather it is a large wading bird called a limpkin. The male limpkin will make this call in mid-winter both day and night to establish his breeding territory.



Limpkin Family
at Pine Valley Memorial Park in Rotonda West

Limpkins are seen only in peninsular Florida and the Okefenokee Swamp in south Georgia. They nest in many places close to the water from dense cover on the ground to up in bushes and trees. This family was from a nest in the buffer zone plantings done by the Aquatics Committee in 2011 at the Pine Valley Memorial Park here in Rotonda West.



13 Years of Growth



6 Hungry Chicks

Clams and snails are their favorite food and are found in many sections of our canals.

<https://youtube>

This YouTube video link is to an 8 minute video that I recorded from our dock on the Rotonda River showing several of our canal birds and activity with their young.

Enjoy the birds of our canals



RAINBOW AT BROADMOOR PARK

PHOTOGRAPH BY: WAYNE MENGEL

RWA WEST WAYS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

By: Sam Besase



Charlotte County Commissioners have RESCINDED a ban on all outdoor burning effective Tuesday June 25, 2024.

Charlotte County Public Works Department has advised that the next 6 MSBU bridges to be worked on here in the Rotonda area are:

- 1. Rotonda Bridge #014101:
NEAR 517 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane**
- 2. Rotonda Bridge #014107:
NEAR 727 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Long Meadow Lane & Marker Road**
- 3. Rotonda Bridge #014104:
NEAR 563 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Broadmoor Lane & Sportsman Road**
- 4. Rotonda Bridge #014100:
NEAR 407 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane**
- 5. Rotonda Bridge #014063:
NEAR 211 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Bunker Road & Mark Twain Lane**
- 6. Rotonda Bridge #014060:
NEAR 45 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Caddy Rod & Annapolis Lane**

The next 6 bridges work should start in September of 2024 and be completed by the end of January of 2025. Thus, at that time there should be 10 of the 18 bridges completed. It takes approximately 6-8 weeks to complete repairs and maintenance per bridge. Traffic shall be maintained. Please observe posted construction/detour signs.

The first 4 bridges (of 18*) MSBU bridges here in Rotonda West needing repairs and maintenance and being brought up to date to current US Department of Transportation bridge standards have been completed on time and are now open for traffic.

- 4 completed – 14* more MSBU bridges to be completed.**

Continued...

The construction work schedule for the bridges over the Rotonda River at ROTONDA BLVD NORTH and ROTONDA BLVD EAST and ROTONDA BLVD WEST shall be provided by Charlotte County at the September 2024 MSBU meeting.

These 3 bridges are paid for by the Charlotte County GAS TAX fund, NOT paid for by the MSBU.

***The latest news on the Hurricane Ian damaged ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH BRIDGE is that in April of 2024, the Charlotte County Commissioners wrote a letter to the US FEMA Director in Washington DC, asking for her review and expedited resolution for this bridge. Also, Congressman Greg Steube is engaged in resolving this issue between FEMA and Charlotte County.**

The issue is money: \$312K – FEMA vs \$1.2M Charlotte County.

I am in continuous follow up in person and by phone and email on this topic with the Charlotte County Commissioners. There is no additional news yet.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES (CCU) – PROPOSED RATE INCREASES:

The Charlotte County Commissioners did not approve the proposed CCU water rate increases, instead the Commissioners sent the issue back to CCU and Administration for downward and stretched out revisions over the next 10 years. A Public Hearing might be scheduled perhaps in the fall of 2024 regarding this issue.

STREETLIGHTS: The streetlights on SR 776 (McCall Road) had been out since Hurricane Ian (21 Months).

I am happy to report that in the last 6 weeks, a large section of SR 776 now has operating streetlights (between Farlow's & Gillott-about 8 miles). More sections of SR 776 lighting will become operational in the coming months. This is a great start.

TRAFFIC LIGHT: The intersection of Gasparilla & Rotonda Blvd East is slated for a traffic light. There are supply chain issues, therefore, the traffic light (being paid for by the new high-end RV park), is about 6 to 9 months from installation (~spring 2025). Charlotte County has issued a purchase request to interested bidders.

Continued...

The last quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting was held on Thursday June 20, 2024. The next MSBU meeting is in **September of 2024**.

- **The Paving Schedule for the roads here in the Rotonda West MSBU, might be accelerated to perhaps Spring of 2025. GREAT NEWS!**
- **New Fish Barriers in the Rotonda River near Rotonda Blvd South have been installed, they were damaged during Hurricane Ian.**
- **The 14 streetlight poles on the 4 bridges over the Rotonda River should be repaired/replaced by fall of 2024. RBN & RBE & RBW & REBEL COURT**
- All Rotonda Bridges are currently structurally sound
- Rotonda West bridges (all are over 40 years old), they are rated at 80,000 lbs. GVW.
- Residents or their contractors are **MOWING** all the way down to the Ponds, this practice is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Also, Residents or their contractors are **FERTILIZING** all the way down to the Ponds, this practice is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Also, residents are leaving their **GRASS CLIPPINGS** in the roadway, this practice is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County
- Charlotte County Commissioners alerted residents that there is **TOO MUCH NITROGEN** in local waterways.
- The RWA canals are in great shape per water test samples.

The Charlotte County Commissioners met recently regarding Proposed MSBU Rates for 2025:

There are **2** MSBU's (Municipal Services Benefits Unit) that apply to RWA residents:

1. ROTONDA WEST STREETS & DRAINAGE MSBU:

2. WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY STORMWATER MSBU:

The MSBU rates for both of the above MSBU's here in the Rotonda area shall remain the same – NO INCREASE IN MSBU RATES.

Sam Besase (questions, please call 281-923-4041, I'll try to get you an answer)

Advisory Board Member - Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU





ANOTHER FUN TIME AT MUSIC IN THE PARK THE MUSIC OF PEG & EM

By: Pattie Mihalik



In the words of Forrest Gump, “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’ll get.” But when it comes to entertainment, Rotonda West residents know what they will get. At every Music in the Park event they know a good time is waiting. Even if they don’t know the musicians, residents know from past experiences they won’t be disappointed. Deb Orchard and her Community Outreach Committee do a commendable job giving residents one good event after another.

While Deb does a lot for RWA, one of her passions is serving as a talent scout for Music in the Park events. “I don’t go in bars and clubs to find worthwhile entertainment but I get plenty of good suggestions from RWA members,” she says. “People come up to me and say you really should book this group.” That’s exactly what happened when a resident recommended Deb book Peggy and Emery for Music in the Park. She did and once again, it proved to be audience pleasing entertainment. The husband/wife team had people smiling as they sang everything from folk music to classic oldies.



**EMERY (EM) & PEG ENTERTAIN AT
LATEST MUSIC IN THE PARK EVENT**

Peg’s specialty is telling stories through original songwriting. She also does justice to favorite classics like *Fever* where her wide vocal range serves her well. Em showed his musical competency with several instruments including guitar, ukelele, drums and harmonica. Together, the North Port entertainers seem to be having fun and their audience sure did. The surprising thing about the accomplished pair is that they never entertained an audience until retirement when they turned to music as something fun to do. Now they are popular performers in theatre productions, folk festivals and musical venues.

Just call it one more hit for Deb Orchard and the hard working Community Outreach Committee. In a three month period the seven committee members put together 29 different presentations for RWA residents and their guests.

Thanks to the air conditioned comfort of the community center, the presentations will continue during the summer months. To get in on the fun, watch the RWA newsletter *West Ways*, and check out constant contact e-mails for more Music in the Park entertainment.

Those who haven’t been there yet are missing the some fun happenings in our own Rotonda West community center.

NEXT MUSIC IN THE PARK:

August 15th @ 6:30 p.m. Cary Price from Fletcher’s Music (with ice cream)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- Tai Chi
Monday 7/1, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29 @ 9 a.m.
- **HAPPY HOUR**
(at Rotonda Community Park)
Wednesday, July 3rd @ 5 p.m.
- **Independence Day!**
Thursday, July 4th & Friday July 5th
RWA Offices Closed
- GFWC RWWC One Blood Drive
Sunday, July 7th @ 9 am-3 pm
- RWA Candidate Workshop
Wednesday, July 10th @ 10 am
- Emergency Preparedness–
AED & CPR Training
with Englewood Fire Dept.
Wednesday, July 10th @ 3:30-5 pm
- Charlotte County Candidate's Forum
Wednesday, July 10th @ 6-8:30 p.m.
- Trivia with Tim
Wednesday, July 17th @ 6:30-8:30
p.m. (doors open at 6)



AUGUST

- Tai Chi
Monday 8/5, 8/19, 8/26 @ 9 a.m.
- “Keep Moving in a Chair-Chair Yoga”
Presentation by Richard Conklin
Tuesday, August 6th @ 9-10 a.m.
- **HAPPY HOUR**
(at Rotonda Community Park)
Wednesday, August 7th @ 5 p.m.
- “Benefits of Yoga” Presentation
by Tobeia Obertlock
Thursday, August 8th @ 9-10 a.m.
- Music in the Park with Cary Price
(and ice cream)
Thursday August 15th @ 6:30 p.m.
- Trivia– *Name That Tune!*
Wednesday, August 21st @ 6:30 p.m.

MANATEE READY FOR RAINY SEASON

Submitted by Tammy Birdsong





Rotonda West
Association

Community Outreach Committee
Presents



EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AED/CPR

**Wednesday
July 10th
3:30–5:00 pm**

**Community
Center
646
Rotonda Circle**

Welcome RWA property
owners, residents, renters
and their guests.

Questions: Contact the
Community Outreach
Committee:

communityoutreach@
rotondawest.org

Please do not contact the
RWA Admin Office, you
will be referred to the
above email.

No pets.

**HANDS-ON COURSE OFFERED
ON USING **CPR**
AND**

ON HOW TO USE AN **AED**

**CPR: STANDS FOR
CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION
LEARN HOW TO POSSIBLY SAVE A LIFE!**

**AED: STANDS FOR
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
THE COMMUNITY CENTER HOUSES ONE
IN THE ENTRANCEWAY
LEARN HOW TO USE THIS DEVICE!**

**YOU WILL BE TRAINED IN BOTH
LIFE-SAVING
EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

Rotonda Game Nights



Summer Game Nights

By Deb Orchard

The Community Outreach Committee is continuing game night. By request, we will be moving to the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Doors open at 6pm, game begins at 6:30 and will end at approximately 8:30.

We have scheduled game night to be in the Community Center.

Tim Dowd is back with us for game night.

- **July 17th** all set for TRIVIA

Then, we are going to shake things up a bit!

- **August 21st** will be NAME THAT TUNE
- **September 18th** will be MUSIC BINGO

Form a team, or come as a solo player. Either way we hope you will have a lot of fun. As always, snacks and drinks (cups with lids, please) are welcome. Since we plan to be indoors, no pets are permitted.

Presented by the Community Outreach Committee

JOIN THE FUN



Music in the Park

8/15 @ 6:30 – Cary Price from Fletcher's Music (with ice cream)

9/5 @ 6:30 - Jonny Puma

10/3 @ 6:30 -Rotonda Ukulele Band

11/21 @ 4:00 – Lemon Bay H.S. Jazz Band

12/4 @ 5:00 – Jonny Puma
(Christmas Music)

12/18 @ 6:30 – Cary Price
(Christmas Music)



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
Gwen Grace, President



It's summer and GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club takes a bit of a breather. Our monthly general meetings will begin again in September. Meanwhile we are planning for the year ahead, updating our bylaws and beginning the transition to a new leadership team which will take the reins in December.

We still have our book clubs meeting and the Tonettes practicing. The Creative crafters and Knit 'n Chat groups are creating beautiful items for the Holiday Bazaar. And our members are getting together for summer luncheons while still volunteering in the community.

Coming up in October is the Fall Fashion show which will benefit Greater Englewood Kids Needs and Lemon Bay Scholarships.

Get your tickets now as they are going fast. We are also looking for sponsors and donations of raffle and silent auction items.

Please go to our website at
www.gfwcrotondawest.org

for information about upcoming events and who we are and what we do. You can also find us on Facebook at GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group.

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
Presents
Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon Fundraiser
Thursday 10th October
11 am - 2 pm
Heron Creek Golf & Country Club
5302 Heron Creek Blvd, North Port
Featuring Fashions By
Anthony's Ladies Apparel
\$50 per person
Includes three course lunch with choice of
Chicken Cordon Bleu or Salmon Doria
Cash Bar
For Tickets and Sponsor information,
contact Karen Lambert at 231-357-1167 or email
kmlambert168@outlook.com
Proceeds will benefit Englewood Kids' Needs
and Lemon Bay High School Scholarships



GFWC RWWC is a 501(c)3
non-profit organization.

www.gfwcrotondawest.org



JULY, 2024

Submitted by David Perry

There have been several vehicle break-ins within the Pinehurst, Long Meadow, and Broadmoor areas this past month. Some could have been prevented if vehicles were locked and valuables hidden or removed from vehicles. Most burglars won't smash your window to get inside as most car alarms would sound; so please lock your vehicles and remove or hide your valuables.

We need to have a greater presence in the neighborhood, so please consider joining Neighborhood Watch as we need you more than ever!

And, yes Snowbirds are welcome, in fact 28% of our volunteers are Snowbirds.

Do you walk your dog(s) at night or take a leisurely stroll when it's dark out and the weather is cooler? **Be Safe** and walk with a flashlight and/or reflective vest on. We have had several patrols become "alarmed" as some walkers are wearing dark clothing and walking far into the road and/or have their dog leashes extended out to where their dog(s) are almost on the other side of the road from the where they (walkers) are; not moving over at all.

As a fellow dog owner, **Be Safe** and use common sense.

We are working with the county to make the park at the end of Parade Circle safer and more visible from the road. This is a fantastic opportunity to give the county our input as you may or may not know, the land on the side of Rotonda Blvd. East will be developed with senior housing on one side of the road and low-income housing on the other. Please email me any suggestions you may have and I will compile a list and send it to the Parks/Recreation office. We are working on a meeting with Parks/Recreation with the RWA to discuss future plans. Again, any suggestions, please email me.

Please welcome our newest member:

Mike Morford (Car#4)

Interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584, scan QR code below OR go to our Facebook page @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



Scan Here For More Information

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

Update your Charlotte County Sheriff's Office NON-Emergency number to 941-639-2101 for the fastest service!

**ATTENTION
RWA
MEMBERS**

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Positions

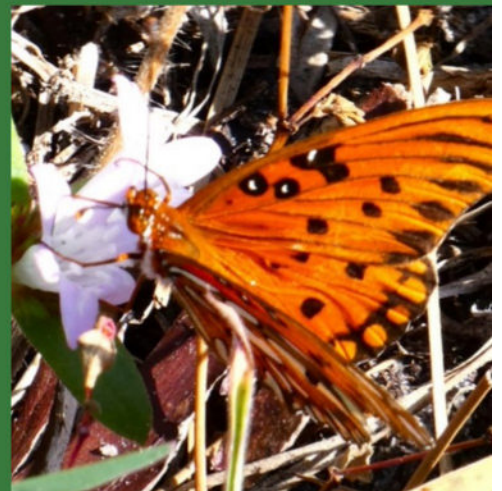
Christmas parade (variety of jobs), Holiday decorating, BINGO, Shred & Share Day, Butterfly garden, assisting with Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Meet & Greet, Celebrate the Circle, welcome tables at RWA events, participation in Open House event, scooping ice cream for special events, write-ups/ photos of events for West Ways, water sampling for Aquatics sub-committee, and many more...

How to Volunteer

Email:

communityoutreachcommittee@rotondawest.org

Give back to the community





NEW VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER GUIDELINES

Dear Members,

In an effort to reach a compromise on the often controversial topic of who is invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held each spring, and the confusion on whose dinner will be paid for, the BOD approved new guidelines at their May meeting.

These guidelines will begin this year, 2024, and will be implemented at the March, 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It is important that you read and understand these guidelines so that you can begin to keep track of your volunteering for 2024. The guidelines are on page 22, with the Job Log following on page 23.

The Rotonda West Association values its volunteers and wants to properly and fairly acknowledge them all.

Thank you.

RWA VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



WHO IS INVITED? ALL RWA MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR RWA EVENTS IN 2024 (JAN.-DEC)

WHOSE DINNER IS PAID FOR? DEPENDENT ON NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS (see below)

WHAT TYPE OF EVENT WILL IT BE? SIT-DOWN DINNER

WHERE WILL IT BE HELD? THE HILLS, ROTONDA WEST

WHEN WILL IT BE HELD? MARCH 16, 2025; Time: 5 pm Social Hour, 6 pm Dinner

There will be two categories that RWA volunteers would fall into:

RED GROUP

- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered in the year 2024 for an official RWA event will be invited to the RWA Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered for 1-4 RWA events will have their dinner paid for, BUT will be required to pay for their spouses/guests dinner.
- All RWA volunteers will be required to track their own volunteer jobs on a provided VOLUNTEER JOB LOG form.
- All RWA volunteers must turn in VOLUNTEER JOB LOG to the Community Outreach Committee or the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner event coordinator at the end of the calendar year.

BLUE GROUP

- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered in the year 2024 for an official RWA event will be invited to the RWA Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered for 5 or more RWA events will have their dinner AND their spouse/guest dinner paid for.
- All RWA volunteers will be required to track their volunteer jobs on a provided VOLUNTEER JOB LOG form.
- All RWA volunteers must turn in VOLUNTEER JOB LOG to the Community Outreach Committee or the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner event coordinator at the end of the calendar year.
- Any person serving on the one of the RWA standing committees will not be required to fill out the VOLUNTEER JOB LOG form.

Possible RWA volunteer opportunities: Committees, Christmas parade, holiday decorating, Aquatic sub-committee water sampling, butterfly garden weeding, event welcome tables, volunteer appreciation event, photography at RWA events, event write-ups for WEST WAYS, Shred Day assistance, Celebrate the Circle, RWA Open House, serving ice cream at special events, Meet & Greet help, BINGO help, and many more.

- Proposal accepted by BOD at May 9, 2024 meeting
- Proposal accepted by Community Outreach Committee at May 2024 meeting



RWA VOLUNTEER JOB LOG (Jan.-Dec. 2024)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

RWA EVENT/JOB	DATE	COMMITTEE NAME
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____

At the end of the calendar year, hand in this sheet
in to the Community Outreach Committee, or to
the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Coordinator.

THANK YOU!

RED GROUP

BLUE GROUP

☐
☐

Coordinator will check box

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

Nancy Schwechel
Administrator and
Deed Restrictions

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

Annette Casteel
Administrator and
Minutes Clerk

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Jack Lanar
Compliance Officer

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Wayne Taylor

Dale Anderson

Bill Simmons

Craig Brown

Doug Smith

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

Andy VanScyoc, President

David Kelly, 1st Vice President

Sam Besase, Treasurer

Karen Harvey, Secretary

Les Goodman, Director

Jack Metz, Director

Peter Traverso, Director



WEST WAYS STAFF

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