

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,305 Rotonda Residents

JUNE 2024



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION



Alfred Gwynne
Vanderbilt
1912-1999

2-V Ranch Gives Rise to “City in the Round” Rotonda West

By: Connie Smith



William Henry
Vanderbilt III
1901-1981

A Community Outreach Committee presentation on the development of south Florida, including Rotonda West and its connection to the famous Vanderbilt family was heard by some 85 Rotonda residents, May 14.

Dr. Jennifer Zoebelein, Charlotte County historian, said that when Florida became a U.S. Territory in 1821 and a state in 1845, just a few thousand people resided south of Tampa. It wasn't until the railroads were finally constructed in the late 1880s and early 1900s that the natural resources of the Cape Haze Peninsula, such as timber, turpentine, land for cattle ranching and real estate were developed. At this time, the Englewood and Grove City settlements were extremely small.

Albert Gilchrist, who participated in the development of Punta Gorda and became a Florida governor, owned a part of the peninsula that included the Rotonda West property. At his death in 1926, Gilchrist's Cape Haze holdings became property of the Masonic Home of Florida.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 6

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Historical Talks

Committees At Work

Fitness Classes

Prepare for Hurricanes

Charlotte County News

LAKEWATCH

RWA Candidates

Volunteering

Contact West Ways at:
westways@rotondawest.org

Rotonda West Administrative
Office-Community Center
Broadmoor Park
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947
Office Hours: 8 am-4pm M-F

Tel: (941) 697-6788

Although Rotonda's previous real estate holders were William and Alfred Vanderbilt, it was William who was a fan of Florida, said Zoebelein. The wealthy brothers were grandsons of New York railroad and shipping magnate "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt and the sons of Alfred, who was lost after the torpedoing of the Lusitania during World War I.

In December, 1951, the two purchased 35,000 acres in the Cape Haze Peninsula at a cost of \$20 per acre for a total of \$700,000. Their intention was to ranch cattle and explore for oil and gas. The cattle panned out. The oil and gas did not. The brothers also platted the Cape Haze Subdivision which exists today.

After the Vanderbilt brothers' investment, Zoebelein said, development in Charlotte County began to move rapidly in the 1950s. The Mackle Brothers of Miami began to develop Port Charlotte and what was known as North Port Charlotte (later North Port). In 1958, the Vanderbilts sold 10,000 acres of their 2-V Ranch to the General Development Corporation for the escalated price of \$200 per acre, earning them \$4 million. It was heralded as the largest land deal in Charlotte County...and the largest ever on the Coast.

But 11 years later, in 1969, said Zoebelein, "the Vanderbilts, particularly William, saw we can make more money selling the land than by developing the land."

Enter fast talking Joe Klein of Cavanaugh Mercantile Corporation of Miami who purchased the Vanderbilt's remaining 25,000 acres for \$19 million. "That, in a nutshell, tells you the story of land development, not just in Charlotte County, but in Florida," Zoebelein said. News articles indicated that the plan was to develop a self-contained "city in the round".

To be called Rotonda West, Klein had already attempted the same development – Rotonda East - in St. Lucie County, but as Zoebelein said, officials there said, "we're not buying it!" He then moved "the exact, same ideas he pitched in Rotonda East" to the west side of the state.

Zoebelein went on to equate Rotonda's development with the worst of Florida's storied settlement picture, complete with the swamp land that Joe Klein was gleefully ready to build homes upon and sell to any unsuspecting Pittsburgh steelworker or American GI. She noted that neither Klein, nor any of the unscrupulous developers like him spent a day in jail. Neither did they really break any laws back then, despite making promises they couldn't keep – in the case of Rotonda West, marinas and gulf access.

Joe Klein's careless practices, such as house plans that located toilets in the middle of doorways did, however, give rise to the Rotonda West Association, today the largest, if not one of the largest homeowner's associations in Florida. "Within five years, the HOA was organized and held the developer's feet to the fire," Zoebelein, said.

And together, the HOA and Rotonda developers have made – for good or ill - what Zoebelein called "the Circle of Doom" what it is today."

In addition to the story of the development of this community in the round, "Rotonda the Vision and the Reality" by Jack Alexander, available on Amazon, Zoebelein recommended a book that tells the story of South Florida's freewheeling development that ran roughshod over the state's natural beauty and wildlife: "The Swamp Peddlers" by Jason Vuic.



Charlotte County
Historian Dr. Jennifer
Zoebelein

Photo by:
Connie Smith

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RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK

THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Article and Picture by: Nadine Clough



The fifth committee to be featured in West Way's *Committees At Work* series is the Compliance Committee. It is one of the seven standing committees of the RWA that is appointed by the Board.

This is a mandated committee under Florida State Statutes. It's job is to provide a review process for any fine or suspension relating to a violation of a Rotonda West deed restriction rules.

The Compliance Committee, along with the Deed Restrictions Committee and the Residential Modification Committee, are essential to the Rotonda's Home Owners Association's ability to function as a deed restricted community. The volunteer members on this committee perform a vital and often difficult service for the RWA. Committee members are fellow property owners in Rotonda. They are not officers, directors, or employees of the association.

When a resident is found to be in violation of a deed restriction rule, the resident will receive a warning letter. They will then have time to correct the violation. If no attempt is made to rectify the cause of the warning, then a fine will be levied against the homeowner.

At this point, the homeowner may wish to state their case to the Association. If the party being fined desires a hearing with the Compliance Committee, they must notify the office at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

This advance notice is needed due to the fact that the Compliance Committee must have ample time to review all the documentation relevant to the fine in order to make an informed decision. The committee listens to both the violator's and the RWA management's concerns. Both the committee and the RWA manager are willing to work with people to remedy any non-compliance issue.

Meeting time is 2 p.m., but the dates that the Compliance Committee meets vary in order to prepare paperwork regarding fines for approval at the next Board of Directors meeting. Check the website calendar, and watch for Constant Contact alerts for upcoming meetings. Committee hearings are open to association members, but Florida State Statutes do not allow audience participation. Meetings are also available on Zoom.

It is important as a member of a deed restricted community, that all homeowners and lot owners are familiar with the rules and stay in compliance with the rules. All deed restriction rules can be found in your new owner's packets, and on the Rotonda West website.

Email: compliancecommittee@rotondawest.org



Sitting:

Barb Peszko, chairperson

Standing L to R:

Jim Long, Henry MacConel,
Bob Bondeson, Eugene
Lerner, Cheryl Lateer

Not in Picture:

Loni Kiedrowski

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE

MOVES FORWARD WITH A NEW FITNESS CLASS IN JUNE!

Story and Photos by: Rita Lopienski

The May Pilates & Tai Chi Presentations by Dr Francine Finuco, a RWA member, were a big hit! 30 attendees came to each, which included an education component, and the majority actively participated during the demonstration, after filling out the mandatory RWA fitness liability waiver.

It is with great excitement that a Tai Chi Fitness Class, sponsored by the RWA Community Outreach Health & Wellness Initiative, has been approved by the RWA & Board, and will begin on June 3rd at 9:00am, on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Monday each month. Dress comfortably.



Residents enjoy Pilates program on May 6th

Dr. Francine, a retired chiropractor, became interested in Pilates & Tai Chi as a way to help her patients strengthen their backs. She quickly saw the benefits for the entire body, & leads regular classes for the YMCA & other orgs. Her professional degree is from Cleveland Chiropractic College, in Kansas City, MO. She has advanced training in Applied Kinesiology, Acupuncture and Nutritional analysis. Dr. Francine is certified and has been teaching for 16 years.

Tai chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for self-defense and health. Known for its slow, intentional movements, tai chi has practitioners worldwide and is particularly popular as a form of gentle exercise and moving meditation, with benefits to mental and physical health. Tai Chi is done all standing, but may also be practiced with a sturdy chair.

Some of the many benefits of practicing Tai Chi: preventing falls in older adults in the community, 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.

At this time, the Tai Chi fitness class will be for RWA members & renters only, & the RWA Fitness Liability Waiver must be filled out (only once). There will be a tip jar for each class taken.

For any questions, please email communityoutreach@rotondawest.org.



Above: participants listen to the educational component for Tai Chi



Above: participants get actively involved in Tai Chi

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE TIME TO PREPARE

By: Nadine Clough



On May 7th Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County Emergency Management Director, presented an informational talk on hurricane preparedness. Sponsored by the RWA Community Outreach Committee and hosted by Donna Stogsdill, the speaking event was attended by 48 residents.

Hurricane season, which runs from June 1st to November 30th, has NOAA releasing some dire predictions for this year. According to the NOAA forecast, they are calling for 17 to 25 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), 8 to 13 of those expected to become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), and 4 to 7 major hurricanes (category 3, 4, or 5 with winds of 111 mph or higher).

Fuller shared suggestions for what you can do now to prepare for hurricane season.

PUT TOGETHER A PLAN:

- Know your home. How well could it withstand a hurricane?
- Know your zone. Rotonda West is in zone orange.
- How will you receive alerts and warnings?
- What are the evacuation routes?
- How will you communicate with family?
- What is your plan for your pets?

CHECK SUPPLIES:

- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Food (Enough for at least seven days of nonperishable packaged or canned food)
- Clothing (Include seasonal or rain gear, and sturdy shoes or boots)
- First Aid items
- Pet food and water (at least two weeks worth)
- Flashlight & batteries
- Radio (battery or hand-cranked)
- Clear your yard of any objects that could cause damage in heavy winds



Presenter
Patrick Fuller

More helpful emergency preparedness information in next month's West Ways.

RWA WEST WAYS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

By: Sam Besase
MSBU Advisory Board Member



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.

They are:

- **Rotonda Circle bridge between Mark Twain & Bunker Road (Pictured above)**
- **Rotonda Circle bridge between Annapolis and Caddy (high street numbers), near Rotonda Blvd. West.**
- **Rebel Court BRIDGE over Rotonda River.**
- **Cape Haze Drive BRIDGE over Rotonda River.**
- **4 completed – 14* more MSBU bridges to be completed.**

The next 6 bridges here in Rotonda West to be worked on are all on Rotonda Circle at the following locations:

- **014101 Rotonda Circle @ Pinehurst Creek N**
- **014107 Rotonda Circle @ Long Meadow Creek S**
- **014104 Rotonda Circle @ Broadmoor Creek N**
- **014063 Rotonda Circle @ Pebble Creek S**
- **014100 Rotonda Circle @ Pinehurst Creek S**
- **014060 Rotonda Circle @ Oakland Hills Creek S**

***The latest news on the Hurricane Ian damaged ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH BRIDGE is that 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.

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 15 or more months from installation (~July 2025). Charlotte County has issued a purchase request to interested bidders.

STREET LIGHTS: The street lights on SR 776 (McCall Road) have been out since Hurricane Ian (20 Months). I met with the DOT head person in Tallahassee along with Charlotte County Commissioner Joseph Tiseo about 8 weeks ago and the DOT person said that he would look into it.

I am happy to report that a section of SR 776 now has operating street lights (between Sunnybrook and Gillott. More sections of SR 776 lighting will become operational in the coming months. This is a great start.

The next quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting is at 9:30am Thursday June 20, 2024, at the Charlotte County annex building on San Casa. Please consider attending the meeting.

- Road Paving Schedule pushed back to perhaps late 2025.
- All Rotonda Bridges are currently structurally sound
- Rotonda West bridges (all over 40 years old) are rated at 80,000 lbs. GVW.
- Residents or their contractors are MOWING all the way down to the Ponds, this 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 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 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:

ROTONDA WEST STREETS & DRAINAGE MSBU: The MSBU rate for the Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU shall remain the same - \$445.00 per ERU ([Equivalent Residential Unit](#)) – repeat

– NO INCREASE IN THIS MSBU RATE.

WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY STORMWATER MSBU: The MSBU rate for the West Charlotte County Stormwater MSBU shall remain the same - \$103.10 per ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) – repeat

– NO INCREASE IN THIS MSBU RATE.

Congressman Greg Steube advises that the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act relating to Hurricane Ian (3rd most costly storm in US history) has passed the House of Representatives, waiting passage by the US Senate.

Right: May 26th-Rotonda residents please be advised that the FISH BARRIER has been RESTORED. It was damaged during Hurricane Ian, almost 20 months ago. This new fish barrier is in top of the wier (low-head dam) located near the Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge # 13.

Tuesday, May 28th– The Charlotte County Board of Commissioners approved a temporary ban on outdoor fires amid signs of a dry summer.



ROTONDA SUPERSTARS

A SPECIAL PART OF ROTONDA'S HISTORY

By: Nadine Clough

On May 21st, a group of 84 Rotonda residents were treated to a presentation on Rotonda history hosted by the Community Outreach Committee. The talk was focused on a very colorful piece of Rotonda's backstory, namely the *Superstars* competitions which were held in Rotonda from 1973-1977. The games helped to promote the new community of Rotonda West.

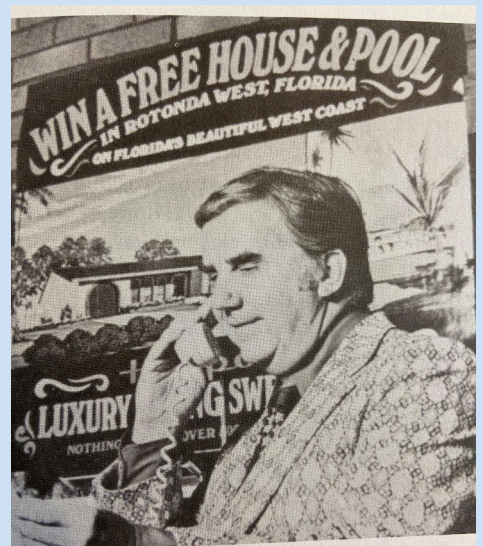
Charlotte County historian Neil Durrant gave the presentation on the *Superstars*. Durrant related the story of Joe Frazier struggling to finish the swimming competition in the first competition of the games, and went on to talk about the other competing stars.

The other events followed including the bike race, tennis, golf, bowling, weight lifting, baseball hitting, table tennis, the 100 yard dash, and the half mile run. The winners of these events were as follows:

Swimming:	Peter Revson
Bike Race:	Bob Seagren
Tennis:	Peter Revson
Golf:	Jim Stefanich
Bowling:	Johnny Bench
Weight Lifting:	Bob Seagren
Baseball Hitting:	Bob Seagren
Table Tennis:	Rod Laver
100 Yard Dash:	Elvin Hayes
Half Mile Run:	Bob Seagren



The *Superstars* broadcast was a hit for ABC, providing solid ratings for the network and a great way to promote the new development of Rotonda West. The show broadcast from Rotonda West from 1973-1977 putting Rotonda West, a small community of less than 100 residents, on the map.



Ed McMahon is shown plugging one of the early contests that drew nationwide interest in Rotonda.



Rotonda residents listen to *Superstars* presentation

Charlotte County Historian
Neil Durrant

LAKEWATCH REPORTS ON ROTONDA WATERWAYS

Submitted by: Sam Besase

Photos by: Sue Killion



The University of Florida LAKEWATCH presentation was held on Wednesday May 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the RWA Community Center. The RWA Building & Grounds Committee hosted the event which had 64 attendees plus people on ZOOM.

A barbecue dinner was provided to the many volunteers who help to monitor our waterways by collecting samples. These samples provide vital data which is used to determine the condition of our canals and waterways. After a thorough reporting of the data per water test samples, it was determined that our canals and waterways are in great shape.



Left to right: Dan Willis, (University of Florida), Elizabeth (Liz) Duermit Moreau Ph.D (University of Florida), Dr. John House (Aquatics member), Sam Besase (Buildings & Grounds Committee)



Above: Aquatics Group leader and long-time member, Dr. John House speaks at LAKEWATCH event



Center: Long-time Aquatics Group member, Bob Winters receives special recognition for his years of service

The Aquatics Group is always looking for volunteers to do water sampling.

Contact the Buildings & Grounds Committee:

buildingsandgrounds@rotondawest.org



NORMA

SHE IS HERE TO HELP YOU

The Residential Modification Application Process:

Did you know that you can go to Rotonda West Association website and complete an application to have your exterior home improvement project approved without leaving the comfort of your home? The process is simple and efficient. www.rotondawest.org Hard copies of the Residential Modification Application can be found in the administration office at 646 Rotonda Circle or on the website.

The RWA staff is ready to assist you with the Residential Modification Application process all you need to do is call or visit the office talk to one of the staff, email Tammy@rotondawest.org and we will get you the clarification or guidance you need. 941-697-6788.

Helpful Hints:

If it is alive... flower, grass, plant, or tree no application approval is required. *If you want to accent your landscape project with curbing, rock, shell, stone, or other material you will need an application approval.*

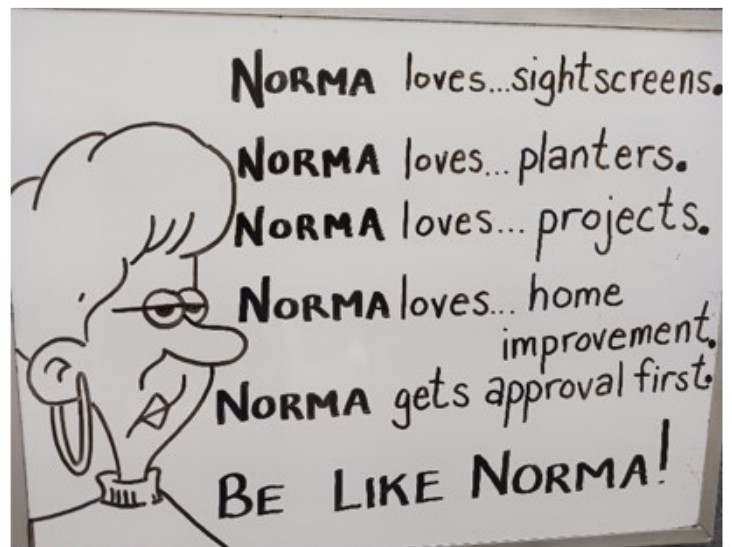
The RMA (Residential Modification Application) is not a permit – it is an application for approval from the Residential Modification Committee. Charlotte County issues permits.

Fascia, Gutters, Soffit and Windows installation no longer require approval from the RMC (Residential Modification Committee). If you are painting these areas, please submit the application and paint color.

Just because you do not see the project listed on the application does not mean you will not need approval for it – please contact the Association for guidance!

Please remember:

The Residential Modification Committee will not approve incomplete applications.



GOLF CARTS ARE FUN, BUT KNOW THE RULES

By: Nadine Clough



Anyone who has ridden in a golf cart understands how much fun they are. Cruising around with the warm sun and beautiful breezes of Florida can certainly make us feel young again. However, there are Charlotte County and state of Florida rules to follow to while operating a golf cart.

The community of Rotonda West follows all Charlotte County and state rules and regulations regarding the operation of golf carts. Most of the focus of these laws surrounds the operation of carts on roadways. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office states:

- Golf carts can be operated on designated public roadways that have a posted speed limit of 30 MPH or less. The operation of golf carts on roads must comply with any more restrictive ordinances enacted by local government and should be verified prior to operation of these vehicles. The minute a golf cart exceeds speeds of 20 mph, it becomes a Low Speed Vehicle and is subject to a totally different set of rules.
- Driving a golf cart on the sidewalk or a bike path is not legal in Florida unless the sidewalk is 5 feet or wider, or is specifically designated as a golf cart path. Carts are required to yield to pedestrians or bicyclists.
- NEW STATE LAW STARTED OCTOBER 1ST, 2023 now requires golf cart drivers to have either photo ID if they are adults or a valid driver's license or learning permit if they are under 18.
- Charlotte County has a limited number of locations where golf cart usage is permitted under the right circumstances. These being Bridgeless Barrier Islands, Mobile Gardens Subdivision, Holiday Mobile Estates Subdivision, Pirate Harbor Subdivision, Lemon Bay Isles Subdivision, and Babcock Ranch.
- Golf carts can only be operated from sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specified by the county. Any golf carts so specified must have brake lights, tail lights, turn signals, and a windshield, and other safety features.
- Golf carts cannot be operated by anyone under the age of 14.

Common sense does come into the picture when operating a golf cart. Golf carts are often allowed to use a sidewalk but only for a short stretch in order to connect with roads or paths that allow the carts. Many areas allow golf carts to cross the sidewalks and local roads to get back on the course or back into the residential community allowing the cart to take the straightest route across the road.

If there are any doubts about the rules, call the local police, or contact the Charlotte County Administration Office.

RW Potluck Meet & Greet

Not Just for New People!

Story & Photos by: Rita Lopienski

Tuesday 5/28 was a great night for the Rotonda West Potluck Meet & Greet thanks to the 50 people that came out on this night. Also, a big thanks to Scott Laderer for providing the musical entertainment.

The Potluck Meet & Greet event is taking the summer off, but will be back in the fall. Hope to see you then. And to clarify, this isn't just for new folks, everyone is welcome.

Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee for sponsoring the event, to Donna Stogsdill for hosting, and to all the volunteers who helped.



Scott Laderer provided the night's entertainment



RW Potluck Meet & Greet wraps up with the biggest crowd of the season



Sunday,
June 16th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- **World Bike Day,**
Monday, June 3rd @ 9 am
Bicycle Ride
Starts at Rotonda Community Park
- **Tai Chi Classes**
Monday, June 3, 17, & 24 @ 9 am
- **Trivia with Tim**
Wednesday, June 5th @ 6:30-8:30 pm
(doors open at 6)
- **Christmas Parade Meeting**
Tuesday, June 11 @ 10 am-Noon
Volunteers Needed!
- **Juneteenth**
Wednesday, June 19th
RWA Offices Closed
- **Music in the Park Event**
Thursday, June 20th @ 6:30-8:30 pm
Music of Peg & Em
- **Ask a Master Gardener**
Wednesday, June 26th @ 1-3 pm



JULY

- **Independence Day!**
Thursday, July 4th
RWA Offices Closed
- **GFWC RWWC One Blood Drive**
Sunday, July 7th @ 9 am-3 pm
- **RWA Candidate Workshop**
Wednesday, July 10th @ 10 am
- **Health & Wellness, “Mobility”**
Wednesday, July 10th @ 2 pm-3 pm
(pending approval)
- **Emergency Preparedness—**
AED & CPR Training with Englewood
Fire Dept.
Wednesday, July 10th @ 3:30-5 pm
- **Trivia with Tim**
Wednesday, July 17th @ 6:30-8:30
pm (doors open at 6)





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 November 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.

WORLD BIKE DAY RIDE



*Monday, June 3rd @ 9 am
Rotonda Community Park Pavilion,
100 Rotonda Blvd. E
Check-in at the Pavilion
for a group photo.
Unable to join us, bike
when you can!*



Presented by the Community Outreach Committee

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.

- **June 5th and July 17th** are 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

Community Outreach Committee Presents



Upcoming Music in the Park Events

By Deb Orchard

The Community Outreach Committee's Summer Music in the Park events will be held indoors at the Community Center. We have two events scheduled, each starting at 6:30 pm.

June 20th we welcome Peggy and Emery Williams. They are a singer-songwriting duo from North Port, Florida. Their music presents a way of telling stories. Those stories and their music are sometimes humorous, sometimes creepy and sometimes beautiful.

August 15th we welcome back Cary Price of Fletcher Music. Cary has been here before with his high energy show of organ music. We will once again have ice cream sundaes.

You are welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks (cups with lid, please). Since we are indoors, no pets are permitted.



"ASK A MASTER GARDENER"

JUNE 26, 2024 @ 1-3 P.M.

646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

Presented by Community Outreach Committee

Article by Merrill Hoswill

Sara Weber, education and training specialist with Charlotte County Extension will lead a team of Master Gardener volunteers at the Ask a Master Gardener forum. Whether you need information on lawns, trees, vegetable or ornamental plants, pest control or planting for wildlife, bring all your gardening questions on June 26 or send them before the program by June 20 so the Master Gardeners can do any research needed.

Send questions to: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

The Florida Master Gardener Program is an outreach program composed of UF/IFAS Extension certified volunteers who are trained to provide research-based horticultural education to Florida residents. Participants of the program must complete a 50-hour plus training course provided by the University of Florida and local county Extension office.

After certification, Master Gardeners work through their county Extension office, contributing 75 volunteer hours and 10 learning hours within the first year of certification, in accordance with statewide program bylaws. Certified Master Gardeners serve their communities by answering gardening questions from local residents, participating in community and school garden projects, supporting youth activities, and more.

This is your opportunity to get answers to all your gardening questions. Ask a Master Gardener is open to Rotonda residents, renters and their guests.

For more information see:

UF/IFAS Extension – Charlotte County

1120 Centennial Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33953 (941) 764-4351

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/charlotte/>

www.facebook.com/CharlotteFFL/

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/>

Florida-Friendly Landscaping website [Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.floridafriendlylandscaping.com/)

**ATTENTION
RWA
MEMBERS**

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Positions

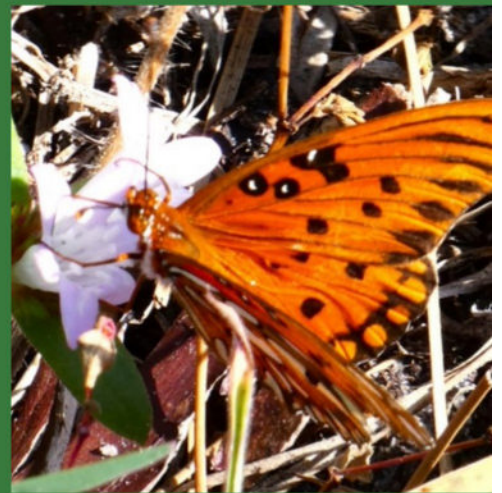
Christmas parade (variety of jobs), Holiday decorating, BINGO, Shred & Share Day, Butterfly garden, assisting with Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Meet & Greet, Celebrate the Circle, welcome tables at RWA events, participation in Open House event, scooping ice cream for special events, write-ups/ photos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



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



**Congratulations to GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club for
 50 Fabulous Years of Serving the Community!**



Dianne Foerster, Past-President, GFWC FL
 Presenting GFWC FL 50 Year Certificate to
 Gwen Grace, President, GFWC RWWC



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Presidents
 Left to Right: Gwen Grace 2022-2024; Kathryn Gallagher 2020-2022; Donna Krabbe 2016-2018;
 Laura Wine 2014-2016; Doris Walker 2010-2012 & 2018-2020; Margaret (Posey) Bauer 2008-2010;
 Seated: Charlotte Arcadia 2012-2014



**Right:
 GFWC
 ROTONDA
 WEST WOMAN'S
 CLUB, INC.**

***Correction from
 May issue:
 Pictures now have
 correct caption**



**Above: Members of the Englewood
 Chamber of Commerce made a vis-
 it to the RWA Community Center to
 learn more about the Rotonda West
 Woman's Club and about the
 Rotonda West community**



**Above: Our Environmental
 Community Service Program
 members participated in the
 Stump Pass Beach Clean-up.
 The club also donated to
 Keep Charlotte Beautiful.**



JUNE, 2024

Facebook is the world's most popular social media platform. Each month, **more than 2.8 billion users** log into catch up with friends, share information, get their news, and even shop. But, the site's popularity makes it **ripe for cybercriminals** and all sorts of Facebook scams. Cybercriminals are an innovative bunch. They are always coming up with new ways to steal from unsuspecting social media users. Fraudsters most often try to get their hands on your **account login credentials, personally identifying information, or bank and credit card information**.

So, how can you avoid becoming a victim of scams on Facebook? It starts by knowing what the most common scams are and the **steps you can take to avoid them**.

Top Ten Scams~~ 1. Phishing scams, 2. You've won/Giveaway Scams, 3. Fake charity scams, 4. Fake friend requests, 5. Fake apps, 6. Fake notifications, 7. Loan scams, 8. Facebook Live fraud, 9. Shopping scams, and 10. Fraudulent surveys

Things you can do within Facebook to protect yourself~~ Lock down your Facebook privacy settings, Enable two-factor authentication, Decline friend requests from those you do not know, Ignore messages asking for money or personal information, Don't click on suspicious links, Check your login history regularly, Use a strong Facebook password, Only shop from verified accounts, and Regularly search for accounts in your name.

Things to do outside of Facebook~~ Keep your devices OS updated, Report all suspicious emails, Install antivirus software, Use common sense, and Install VPN software.

If you become a victim of a Facebook Scam~~ Change your password, Report the scam to Facebook, Keep an eye on your financial accounts, Freeze your credit, and consider an identity theft monitoring service.

Please welcome our newest members:

Mike Morford (Car#4)

Lastly, Happy Father's Day to all the great Dads out there.

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!

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

**Nancy Schwechel and
Pablo Guardiola**
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



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