

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,274 Rotonda Residents

SEPTEMBER 2025



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

RWA ELECTION NEWS

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Submitted by the Election Committee

On August 14, 2025, the RWA Board of Directors certified four candidates for the two open seats on the RWA Board. The candidates are:

- Jerry Eldred
- Gwen Grace
- Deb Orchard
- Scott Schermerhorn

If you would like to learn more about the candidates, you can review their Candidate Information Sheets on the following pages.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

As a reminder, this year the RWA is pleased to announce that its members will be able to vote for their selected candidates via electronic ballot. For those of you who wish to vote electronically and haven't consented to do so yet, please visit the RWA website

CANDIDATES NIGHT **Thursday, October 16, 2025 from 7-9 pm**

As you review each candidate's information, don't forget to mark your calendar for Candidates Night on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Community Center. This is an opportunity for you to see and hear the candidates in person as they discuss their ideas and plans to enhance our community. You will also have an opportunity to submit questions online for one or all of the candidates. More information on Candidates Night and the question submission process will be provided in late September.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 9

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STAFF

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

Website address:
www.rotondawest.org

Jerry R Eldred

My wife Barbara, and I moved to Rotonda West 10 years ago. We picked this area for its attractiveness, limited traffic and very low crime rate. We are permanent year-round residents we love our place in paradise. Barb and I are blessed with a blended family of seven adult children and six grandchildren.

If elected this will be my final term, I have served one three year term and a vacated one year term, this will be my last term ,you can contact me at jreldred1449@gmail.com, 9376201865 or visit my website at Jerry Eldred RWA Board Member, I encourage you to sign up.

As for my background I grew up in a small rural town in Northcentral Pennsylvania. After high school graduation I attended Corning Community College in Corning NY and entered the United States Air force in 1970. Receiving an honorable discharge.

I decided to become active in our community when I began learning about taxes being levied on residents living in Rotonda West through the county **MSBU District**, I firmly believe that our tax dollars are to be spent wisely on projects that will benefit the entire community. I understood the need of improving our roads, drains and Our boulevard sidewalks are paid by Gas Tax funds. I promised to be open and work for the community and I will continue to do so. **I want to be pro active when it comes to fines in our community, reducing the types of fines and amounts. I have no hidden agenda; I want to help ensure the quality of life in our community. Sometimes as a board member you have to make difficult the community and I will continue to do so. I want to be pro active when it comes to fines in our community, reducing the types of fines and amounts. I have no hidden agenda; I want to help ensure the quality of life in our community. Sometimes as a board member you have to make difficult decisions and when I have to, I try to make ones that are best for the entire community.**

Education



Masters in Arts: Public Administration, Akron University

Bachelor of Arts in Parks and Natural Resources Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

EXPERIENCE

Executive Director Miami County Park District, Miami County Ohio, Retired (Jan. 1991-2012)

The position I retired from and loved the most was the Miami County Park District. I feel humbled that I was able to work for a governmental agency that was recognized nationwide as being unique. As a Park District in Ohio, we were created by the State Legislator in 1917, our Ohio residents may be familiar with Metro Parks found around the state. The Miami County Park District and all Metro parks are each governed by their own three-member Board of Park Commissioners **In order to be a successful Park District in Ohio you must gain voter approval by passing property tax mileage levies.** We successfully passed three **voter approved levies**, during my 20+ years. When I left the district had 13 parks and 2,500 acres, we started with 3 parks and 600 acres. The districts primary mission is **natural resource management.**

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City of Alliance, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public lands, 13 years

Candidate Information Statement

Name Gwen Grace
Email Address gweng1999@yahoo.com
Phone 201-317-2317



Born and raised on Long Island, NY, I was the only daughter with three brothers. Dennis and I have been married for over 50 years. We settled in beautiful Sussex County NJ. We owned an electrical contracting company for 41 years. I was also a Property Manager for a local developer and after achieving my college degree, I worked in International Sales for a small chemical company in Paterson NJ. In 2008 we bought a second home in South Gulf Cove and were snowbirds for eight years. After retiring in 2016 we sold our NJ house and decided to live in a mandatory HOA community. In 2017 we found our house in the Pinehurst section.

EDUCATION

Associate's degree in business administration from Sussex Community College
Bachelor's degree in business administration; major in Marketing/minor in International Marketing from Ramapo College

EXPERIENCE

Besides my work experience, I was a volunteer with Girl Scouts in NJ for 25 years from troop leader to the Board of Directors. I held the position of President for five years with one council and when three councils merged in 2007 to form the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, I held the President's position for another 5 years. The council had four camps, three administrative offices, a budget more than \$6 million and over 30,000 girl members.

In Rotonda West I was a member of the **RWA Budget and Finance Committee** from January 2021 to December 2022. Joined Activities Committee in 2019 which is now the **Community Outreach Committee** and co-chaired the 2021 **Christmas Parade**. While with the Community Outreach Committee I have chaired the **RWA Open House** and the **Shred Hunger Day** events. I also organized the "**Meet the Charlotte County Candidates**" night in July 2024. I am willing to lend a hand with whatever event the RWA presents including Bingo, ice cream socials and community events.

I am the Past President of GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club and author a monthly article for the club in "Westways." I am also a member of Neighborhood Watch.

SUMMARY

I am proud to be a Rotonda West resident. Working together we can continue to protect, maintain, and enhance our neighborhood. There are challenges that Rotonda West faces with continued growth and I want to be a director who listens to the members' concerns, makes well thought out decisions with short- and long-term goals and keeps Rotonda West financially strong.

Debra Orchard

deborchard16@gmail.com

419-222-8184



Background:

My husband, Tim and I both grew up in Ohio, moving here in 2017. We have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. For nearly 30-years I worked as an insurance adjuster in the auto, home and commercial liability sector, ending my career as a Litigation Specialist. In retirement, along with enjoying travel and spending time with and friends, I worked as a substitute classroom aide in an autism unit and also served as a church Trustee.

Recent Volunteer Experience:

2018 – current: member of Amvets 777 Ladies' Auxiliary, now 1st Vice President.

2019 – current: Big Brothers/Big Sisters reading buddy.

2021 – current: Chair of RWA Community Outreach Committee

2024 – current: RWA Board of Director (last fall, board members unanimously voted for me complete the term of Director Metz, following his death)

2024 - RWA Volunteer of the Year.

Why I want to Serve:

To “Pay It Forward” by making good, sound and logical decisions on behalf of all our residents. Decisions which not only affect our community right now, but also long-term. I enjoy working with our residents, volunteers, current board and our RWA staff. All of whom benefit from the decisions we make as your Board of Directors.

My Goals for Rotonda:

To help lead Rotonda into the future. Making those good sound decisions on behalf of all our residents. From decisions on updates and improvements to our infrastructure, to maintaining what is already here. All of this while keeping our HOA fees affordable. I'm very proud of our wonderful community and if elected will be proud to continue serving you.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Scott D. Schermerhorn BA, MS, MPS, RS, CAM

Name: Schermerhorn, Scott D.
Email: Scott.Schermerhorn@charlottecountyfl.gov
Phone: 740-503-4656



My fellow neighbors, It is my humble request that you consider my application to become a member of the board of directors for the RWA. I have previously served in this position providing leadership and success for our community. After taking some time to reflect on personal matters, and serve residents of Charlotte County, I am ready to focus again on serving Rotonda West. Please see a limited biography which demonstrates that public service has always been a focus of my life and that my work has been to benefit the community. As a resident of RWA for 17 + years I will continue to strive to improve our community.

Professional Objective: To succeed in a position that involves professional customer service and where my skills in analysis, application of law, problem solving, stakeholder service, organization, communication, and long-term policy implementation are utilized, improved, and refined.

Education:

Master of Arts in Political Science - Public Administration, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 2002

Master of Science in Biology, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, 1990

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, Alfred University, Alfred, New York, 1988

Ohio Police Officers Training Academy, Office of the Attorney General, London Ohio 1991

Employment Experience:

2015 - Pres - Director Charlotte County Division of Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control

2014 - 2014 - Rotonda West HOA – Administrative Assistant due to employee surgical recovery t

2013 – 2014 - Florida Department of Highway and Motorists Safety BAR Supervisor

2011 – 2011 - Florida Dept of Health Acting Environmental Health Administrator

2007 – 2011- Florida Dept. of Health, Environmental Supervisor

1994 - 2007 - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Investigator.

2004 - 2007 - Sugar Grove Police Department, Dep. Chief of Police, 2005- 2007 Chief of Police

1999 - 2008 - Vinton County Sheriffs Office Special Deputy

1991 - 1999 - Fairfield County Sheriffs Office Special Deputy

Additional Employment Related Experience:

2020 - Pres - Member Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control, FDACS

2010 – 2015 - Board of Directors Rotonda West Association Offices of Director,
- Secretary and Vice President

2008 - 2014 - Marine Advisory Committeeman to BCC Charlotte Co. Fl.

2008 - 2014 - Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU to BCC Charlotte Co. Fl

2008 - 2014 - Englewood West Streets & Drainage to BCC Charlotte Co. Fl

2009 - 2010 - Charlotte County Health Dept Safety Officer for H1N1 vaccination pgm.



RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK- MEETING SCHEDULE



ALL MEETINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	2 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	"AS NEEDED" BASIS	TBA (not on zoom)
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE	4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:30 A.M.
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:30 A.M.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE	1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:30 A.M.
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)	2 P.M.
DEED RESTRICTION COMMITTEE	4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9 A.M.
ELECTION COMMITTEE	SPECIFIC TO ELECTION SCHEDULE	CHECK CALENDAR
RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION COMMITTEE	2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9 A.M.
RW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10 A.M.



ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andy VanScyoc
President



David Kelly
Vice President



Sam Besase
Treasurer



Karen Harvey
Secretary



Peter Traverso
Director



Deb Orchard
Director



Jerry Eldred
Director

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2025 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Sam Besase, Jerry Eldred, David Kelly (Zoom), Deb Orchard, Peter Traverso, and Andy Van Scyoc (Chair)

ABSENT: Karen Harvey,

Management: Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

Members: Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Barb Peszko, Dale Jensen, Tom D'Abrosca, Bob Bonderson, Nadine Clough, Michelle Koch, Lance Petti, Paul Slovinski, Loni Kiedrowski, (via Zoom), Amanda Stuever, Cheryl Lateer, Karen Hoover, Leo Van Orden, Tammy Birdsong

The meeting was called to order by President Van Scyoc at 2:00 PM. The meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was said.

Director Orchard moved the Board to approve the BOD Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2025 and the BOD/Workshop Minutes for June 12, 2025. Motion 2nd by Director Traverso. Motion Unanimously Approved.

OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES & CONTRACTORS REPORT

President's Update: Andy Van Scyoc

President Van Scyoc announced that the seven-foot Statue of Liberty will be received by July 28, 2025, which is coming from Arkansas and has "tremendous history." The Board of Director would like to place it on the Island near the Gazabo. He explains that a request was made by the owner to have the statue in their front yard. It was denied by the Res Mod committee and the Board and President Van Scyoc joking said donate it to the RWA and we will find a place for it. The owner accepted and made arrangement to have it shipped to RWA. "I need to get an acceptance vote today."



Treasurer’s Report: Director Besase
Director Besase provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Manager’s Report: Derrick Hedges, Manager
Manager Hedges provided the board with an update on the projects that staff have been working on.

Deed Restrictions Violations: Nancy Schwechel, Administrator
Nancy Schwechel, Administrator, stated that there are violations listed in the Board Packet for approval. A motion to levy fines on members for violations listed numbers 1 through 91. If confirmed by the Compliance Committee, these fines shall be automatically imposed.
Director Orchard motioned to approve the Deed Restriction Violations and Director Traverso 2nd the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel – President Van Scyoc (Chair)
No Report.

Budget & Finance Committee – Tom D’Abrosca (Chair)
Mr. D’Abrosca provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Besase (Chair)
Director Besase provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Community Outreach – Deb Orchard (Chair)
Director Orchard provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Compliance – Barb Peszko (Chair)
Ms. Peszko provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Residential Modifications Committee – Barb Peszko (Chair)
Ms. Peszko provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Deed Restrictions – Dale Jensen (Chair)
No Report.

Election Committee Dale Jensen (Chair)
No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Statue of Liberty – After the President’s announcement of the Statue of Liberty the Board members discussed the generous donation to the RWA. A motion was made to accept the Statue of Liberty donated from a member of the community to be placed on Liberty Island formerly known as Gazabo Island. Director Orchard made a motion to accept Lady Liberty as a donation to the RWA, Director Besase second the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.



NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS – President Van Scyoc

1. Appeal – 943 Boundary Blvd. – Michelle Koch – Removable screen over garden area, Ms. Koch uses it to start vegetables and plants. She explained that she only used the screening to get the plants started and removes it and places it in other areas of her garden since the Florida sun is so hot, the direct sun burns out the starter plants. It is constructed of a 2 x 3 pressure-treated wood with screening held up with a piece of lattice. She asked the board to approve her request to be able to use the removable screening to get the plants started.

Director Orchard made a motion to uphold the denial from the committee and Director Besase 2nd the motion. The Board of Director discussed the situation of where it is and if it can be seen by their neighbor and a concern was made it should be taken down before hurricanes.

President Van Scyoc called for a vote, vote was as follow: President Van Scyoc: No, Director Eldred: No, Director Traverso: No, Director Kelly: Yes, Director Besase: Yes, Director Orchard: Yes. Vote is Tie, vote fails to pass so denial, appeal is granted.

MEMBERS INPUT (Non-Agenda Items)

Lance Petti – 70 Mark Twain Lane – Mr. Petti wanted to know how long it would be until the clearing of the overgrowth will start at 77 Mark Twain Lane which is an eyesore and has not been done since he last spoke at a Board meeting. Manager Hedges responded that they should be there the end of next week. They were in another area that took longer than expected. Mr. Petti thanked the board and President Van Scyoc told Mr. Petti that he could come to the office to discuss any matter, he does not have to wait till the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

RESPONSE TO MEMBER'S INPUT

None.

DIRECTOR INPUT

Director Kelly wanted to relook at the Res Mod motion that a tie vote should not be overturned for Res Mod Committee decision. "The committee decided and should not be overturned, I really think that it needs to be looked at more closely."

Director Traverso discussed the fining procedure which is done with a Board Resolution. The last Board Resolution was modified in November of 2015 where the different fines were listed. Unfortunately, new construction without approval or new construction fines were to be determined. At present the fine is \$50.00 per day. There is an issue with uncompleted homes so at the next meeting I will propose that new construction fines are \$100.00 per day. I want to get to the \$5000.00 as soon as we can and if they don't comply, we can take legal action and take over the unimproved houses. The Board of Directors has an obligation to uphold property values for the owners. We have a lot of unfinished homes that have stalled out. He has been working with Nancy to resolve these properties, which Nancy should be commended for her work. Raising the fine rate will get someone's attention. If not, there are other avenues, we still have open to resolve this situation. "The members want to maintain the pristine look that RWA neighborhoods are known for."

President Van Scyoc thanked everybody for coming out and will see them at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM

Next Board Meeting: 14 Aug 2025, 2:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Huffman Minutes Clerk

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

* EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SEPTEMBER

- 9/1 Monday LABOR DAY: Office, Community Center Closed
- 9/3 Wednesday, 5-8 pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park at Parade Circle
- 9/4 & 9/11 Thursday, 10 am-1:30pm: Christmas Indoor Decorating
- 9/4 Thursday, 6:30-8pm: MUSIC BINGO!
- 9/5, 9/12, 9/19 Friday, 10-11am: Tai Chi (9/26 at 9 am)
- 9/8, 9/15, 9/29 Monday, 10-11am: Pilates Mat Fitness
- 9/9 Tuesday, 3-4:30pm: Treasurer's Town Hall Meeting
- 9/17 Wednesday, 6:30-8:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim *Doors open at 6pm
- 9/21 Sunday, 1 pm: BINGO (starts promptly at 1pm)
- 9/24 Wednesday, 6:30-8pm: Music in the Park-OPEN MIC NIGHT! Indoors
- 9/25 Thursday, 2-3pm: Health & Wellness- *How Not to Age Via Nutrition with Diane Casey*

OCTOBER

- 10/1 Wednesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park
- 10/2 & 10/9: Thursday, 10 am- 1:30pm: Christmas Indoor Decorating
- 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31 Friday, 10 am: Tai Chi (10/24 at 9 am)
- 10/6, 10/13, 10/29, Monday, 10 am: Pilates Mat
- 10/13 Monday, 4:30-6 pm: Music in the Park: Classical Guitar from *Around the World with Edwin Culver* (indoors)
- 10/15 Wednesday, 11:30 am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (TBA)
- 10/15 Wednesday, 6:30 pm: Trivia Night with Tim
- 10/16 Thursday, 7-8:30 pm: Candidate's Night
- 10/19 Sunday, 1 pm: RWA Bingo (play begins at 1 pm)
- 10/22 Wednesday, 2 pm: All About Alligators (pending, watch for info)
- 10/23 Thursday, 12-3:30 pm: Christmas Indoor Decorating
- 10/28 Tuesday, 5 pm: Mix & Mingle Potluck in Community Center

ROTONDA RESIDENTS VOICE CONCERNS OVER PAVING ISSUES

Article and Photo by: Nadine Clough



L to R: James Layport (Project Supervisor)
and John Elias (Director of Public Works)

On August 6, 2025 Rotonda residents brought their questions and concerns to the Community Center to meet with Mr. John Elias, Director of Public Works and his panel. With about 110 in attendance and 65 on zoom, the residents were hoping to get satisfaction from the Charlotte County director, who ran the meeting, regarding their dissatisfaction with the Rotonda paving which had been begun in Pine Valley section of Rotonda.

After introducing himself and his panel, Mr. Elias explained that the purpose of the meeting was to allay concerns and address each speaker's question. He went on to state that Charlotte County is the 8th largest road system in Florida with 2100 miles of paved roads which are repaved every 20 years. The format of the meeting would be to open up the mic to residents and allow 5 minutes per speaker. Every concern would be written down along with speaker's name and address. After everyone spoke who wanted to, the panel would respond to each concern.

Over 50 residents took their turn at the podium and spoke during their 5 minute allotted time. Most all of the speakers were able to clearly state their concerns in under 2 minutes, but it still took over an hour to hear everyone. It was evident that residents had formulated their thoughts before speaking, raising solid issues and even in some cases providing photographs. The audience was polite throughout, supporting the speakers with applause.

The leading problems raised were:

- Paver Driveways (12)
- Milling Option (10)
- Communication (9)
- Punch List Repairs (6)
- Cost to Homeowners (5)
- Drainage Issues (4)
- Shoddy Work (4)

In response to the residents, John Elias was concise, validating the questions and concerns that were raised and even taking responsibility for the lack of adequate communication with residents. Due to the fact that the raised concerns often mirrored others concerns, Mr. Elias tackled the issues by grouping them.

RESPONSES TO THE TOP THREE CONCERNS:

PAVER DRIVEWAYS:

- Right of Way- The county has a legal right to use a specific piece of land, such as a driveway, for a construction project
- It is an accepted cost-risk by homeowner to have a paver driveway
- Most people do not have pavers in Rotonda West, so charging more for better asphalt application on said pavers would cost more for everyone

MILLING:

Milling is the process of grinding off the top layer of existing asphalt pavement, typically in preparation for resurfacing or other road repairs. Milling is only done in Charlotte County under these circumstances:

- For an approach to a bridge
- When working with curbing or gutters
- If there is a structural issue with the road

COMMUNICATION:

- Mr. Elias took responsibility for poor communication. He assured residents that improvements will be made.
- Encouraged residents to call with questions or concerns:

John Elias, Director of Public Works 941-575-3600 or 941-628-2662

James Layport, Project Supervisor 941-575-3672

**Please Note: This meeting was recorded and is posted on the RWA Website.
To watch the entire presentation follow these steps:**

RWA Website at rotondawest.org

Locate GOVERNANCE

RECORDED ZOOM MEETING

ROTONDA WEST PRESENTATIONS (August 6, 2025)

ROTONDA WEST OPEN MIC NIGHT

A MUSIC IN THE PARK EVENT

COMING THIS MONTH!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

6:30 PM

**ENJOY LOCAL TALENT INDOORS AT THE
RW COMMUNITY CENTER.**

**KARAOKE SINGING, DANCE,
COMEDY, POETRY, SHORT SKITS,
AND INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCES!
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PERFORM!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE, CONTACT:**

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

Or call: 630-956-8814

Community Outreach Committee Happenings

By Deb Orchard



Summer break is nearly over and it's that time of year when the Community Outreach Committee gets back into bringing you more opportunities for fun, knowledge and general entertainment. While Pilates (Monday at 10 am) and Tai Chi (Friday at 10 am) are year-round, most of what our committee does was put on summer hiatus.

Due to scheduling in the Community Center, please check the RWA calendar for any changes in the schedule of events and activities. Sometimes, we need to adjust the start time, or even cancel a regularly scheduled event.

Here's what is returning to their regularly scheduled time.

Returning in September:

Singo/Music Bingo with Tina & Jim – First Thursday of each month. Play begins at 6:30 pm.

Bingo – Third Sunday of each month. Play begins at 1 pm. You will need to purchase bingo cards and must be at least 18 years of age to participate.

Trivia with Tim – Third Wednesday of each month. Play begins at 6:30 pm. Play as an individual or as a team.

Returning in October:

Mix and Mingle Happy Hour – First Wednesday of each month at 5pm in the shelter house at the Rotonda Community Park (county park on Parade Circle).

Mix and Mingle Pot Luck – Fourth Tuesday of each month at 5pm. This one is in the Community Center.

To get the full list of events e-mailed to you, sign up for Constant Contact on the Rotonda West website, both our West Ways newsletter and At A Glance of upcoming events will be automatically sent to you. (Plus, you'll get that much loved weekly Manager's report). You may also review the calendar from the Rotonda West website, where flyers are attached to the individual events. Plus, join our Facebook page at Rotonda West Official Events Page where we also post flyers for upcoming events.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ANSWER MSBU BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS

Submitted by: Sam Besase

QUESTIONS IN BLACK, ANSWERS IN RED

MSBU Advisory Board Member, Sam Besase asked the following written questions to Charlotte County Commissioners; Charlotte County Public Works Staff provided the following answers (in RED below) related to the Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge #113-as of late August 2025 (35 months after Hurricane Ian):

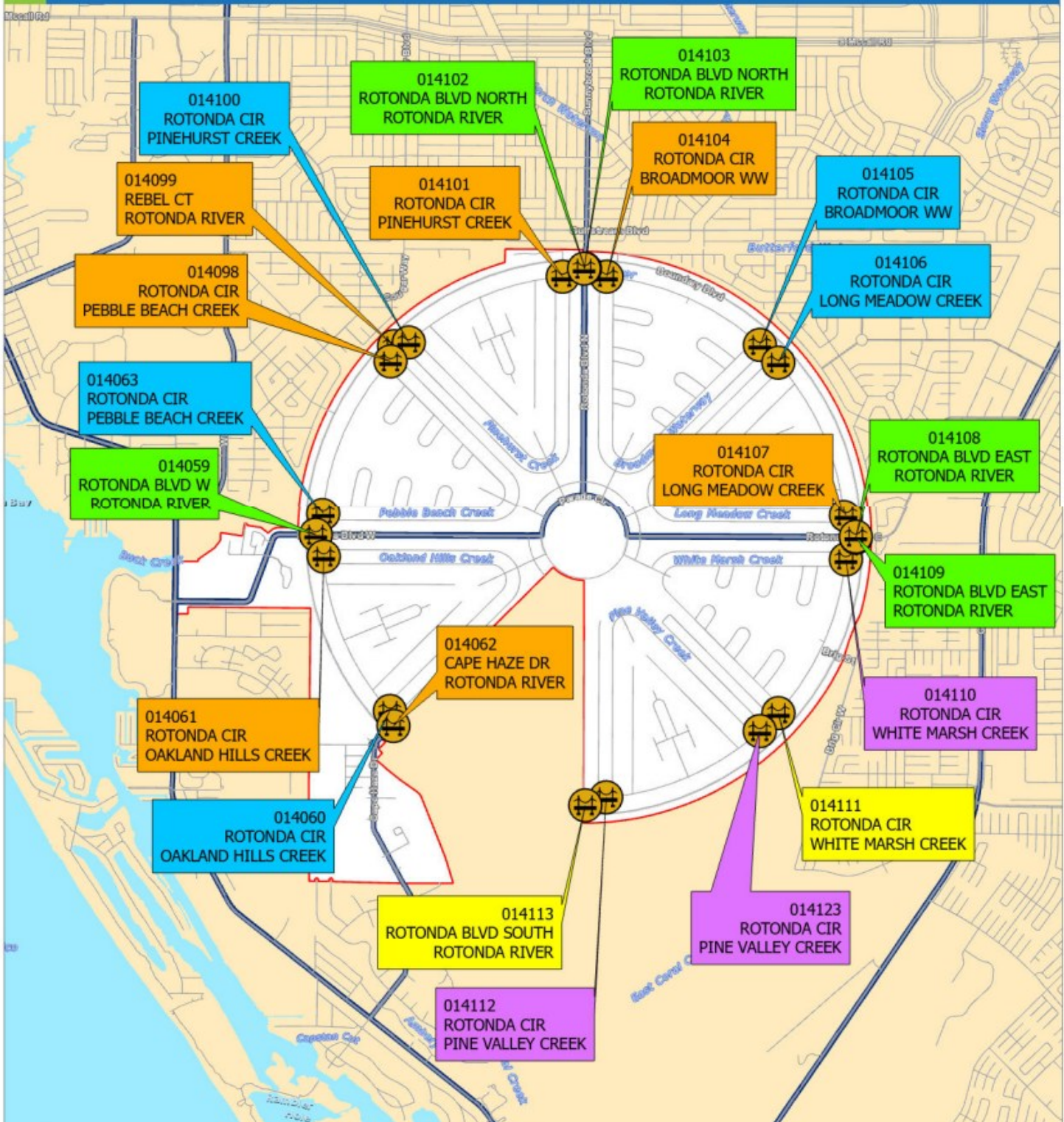
- (Since the BCA court ruled 2-1 in favor of Charlotte County in April 2025) Have there been any meetings with FEMA about the funding?
- Charlotte County staff has requested meetings several times. FEMA has changed Project Managers, so it has been a slow process.
- Has there been any movement by FEMA regarding funding?
- Staff is waiting for the meeting to be able to discuss with FEMA. County staff has been in communication with them and are working through the process.
- Were the FEMA meetings here in Charlotte County – or are they in DC?
- The meetings will most likely be virtual where documents can be shared and staff on either side does not have to spend needed funds on travel.
- Are there any new updates?
- The only updates are that staff is working with FEMA to catch the new project manager up to speed and try to set up a meeting as quickly as possible.
- Are the design specifications completed?
- Yes, they are completed
- Has Charlotte County received permitting clearance from the Army Corps of Engineering? (We were #20 on their priority list)
- The design consultant continues to reach out to the ACOE reviewer weekly. There has been no response from last week; therefore, no new information to provide at this time.
- What is the contractor bidding schedule?
- This is unknown at this time. It can be put out to bid as soon as we have the ACOE permit, and staff will keep you posted.
- What are the new estimated costs to REPLACE this bridge?
- Due to the times that we are in, cost estimates can change quickly; therefore, the design consultant is working on updating the cost estimate now to sue for our discussions with FEMA.
- The RWA would like to schedule a RIBBON CUTTING. Can we get an idea for a planning date?
- Once the ACOE permit has been secured and we have a more defined schedule, staff will let you know.

Rotonda West MSBU

Bridges

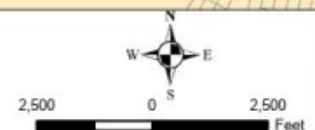


CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA
PUBLIC WORKS



Stateplane Projection
Datum: NAD83
Units: Feet
Source: Public Works
Metadata available upon request

This map is a representation of compiled public information. It is believed to be an accurate and true depiction for the stated purpose, but Charlotte County and its employees make no guarantees, implied or otherwise, to the accuracy, or completeness. We therefore do not accept any responsibilities as to its use. This is not a survey or is it to be used for design. Reflected dimensions are for informational purposes only and may have been rounded to the nearest tenth. For precise dimensions, please refer to recorded plats and related documents.



Updated: 8/1/2025 5:24 AM By: JorgeO
Path: M:\publicworks\ArcProjects\10\MSBU\RotondaWest\MSBU.aprx

GREEN = 5 BRIDGES COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION = 5 GAS TAX PAID)

ORANGE = 7 BRIDGES COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION = 7 MSBU PAID)

BLUE = 5 BRIDGES = MSBU PAID = ONGOING CONSTRUCTION, SCHEDULED
COMPLETION BY DEC 31, 2025

YELLOW = 2 BRIDGES = MSBU PAID AND CONSTRUCTION IN DESIGN (PERHAPS
CONSTRUCTION STARTING JAN-JUN 2026?)

PURPLE = 3 BRIDGES = MSBU PAID AND CONSTRUCTION NOT YET IN DESIGN (PERHAPS
CONSTRUCTION STARTING IN JULY-DEC 2026?)

22 total bridges

ROTONDA BRIDGES SUMMARY BY COLOR CODE:

5 BRIDGES = GREEN = COUNTY GAS TAX PAID AND CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN
COMPLETED

(102 ROTONDA BOULEVARD NORTH-ROTONDA RIVER)

(103 ROTONDA BOULEVARD NORTH-ROTONDA RIVER)

(108 ROTONDA BOULEVARD EAST-ROTONDA RIVER)

(109 ROTONDA BOULEVARD EAST-ROTONDA RIVER)

(059 ROTONDA BOULEVARD WEST-ROTONDA RIVER)

7 BRIDGES = ORANGE = MSBU PAID AND CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED

(061 ROTONDA CIRCLE-OAKLAND HILLS CREEK)

(062 CAPE HAZE DRIVE-ROTONDA RIVER)

(098 ROTONDA CIRCLE-PEBBLE BEACH CREEK)

(099 REBEL COURT-ROTONDA RIVER)

(101 ROTONDA CIRCLE-PINEHURST CREEK)

(104 ROTONDA CIRCLE-BROADMOOR WATERWAY)

(107 ROTONDA CIRCLE-LONG MEADOW CREEK)

5 BRIDGES = BLUE = MSBU PAID AND CONSTRUCTION ON GOING-SCHEDULED
COMPLETION BY LAST MONTH OF 2025 (DEC)

(060 ROTONDA CIRCLE-OAKLAND HILLS CREEK)

(063 ROTONDA CIRCLE-PEBBLE BEACH CREEK)

(100 ROTONDA CIRCLE-PINEHURST CREEK)

(105 ROTONDA CIRCLE-BROADMOOR WATERWAY)

(106 ROTONDA CIRCLE-LONG MEADOW CREEK)

2 BRIDGES = YELLOW = MSBU PAID AND CONSTRUCTION IN DESIGN (PERHAPS
CONSTRUCTION STARTING JAN-JUN 2026?)

(111 ROTONDA CIRCLE-WHITE MARSH CREEK)

(113 ROTONDA BOULEVARD SOUTH-ROTONDA RIVER)

3 BRIDGES = PURPLE = MSBU PAID AND CONSTRUCTION NOT YET IN DESIGN
(PERHAPS CONSTRUCTION STARTING IN JULY-DEC 2026?)

(110 ROTONDA CIRCLE-WHITE MARSH CREEK)

(112 ROTONDA CIRCLE-PINE VALLEY CREEK)

(123 ROTONDA CIRCLE-PINE VALLEY CREEK)

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS BITS



UPDATED PAVING SCHEDULE

Pinehurst: 10/06 – 10/27
Pebble Beach: 10/27 – 11/17
Pioneer Trail: 11/17 – 11/24
Oakland Hills: 11/17 – 12/22

Boundary and Rotonda Cir will be the last 2 streets to pave on their way out. There is no specific date at this time due to possible Hurricane season.

Paving Project Manager: James Layport Jr. – [941-628-8084](tel:941-628-8084)

James Layport, Jr.
Paving Project Manager, Engineering Division
Charlotte County Public Works
[941-575-3672](tel:941-575-3672)
CharlotteCountyFL.gov
Delivering Exceptional Service
Visit us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/charlottecountypublicworks/

PLEASE NOTE!

Charlotte County is aware of Halloween plans on Mark Twain, and they will skip that street due to the festivities.

PLEASE BE AWARE AND DRIVE CAREFULLY!



THERE ARE 2 NEW

4-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS

NEAR ROTONDA WEST AS OF

MONDAY AUGUST 25, 2025.

OCEANSPRAY & SPINNAKER

OCEANSPRAY & SUNNYBROOK



RWA DEED RESTRICTION VIOLATION PROCESS



WHAT EVERY ROTONDA RESIDENT SHOULD KNOW

As you know, we live in a deed restricted community. A deed-restricted community is a residential area where the properties have specific rules and limitations (deed restrictions) they must adhere to. In our case, violations of our deed restrictions are enforced by the Rotonda West Association (RWA). Violation enforcement generally includes a Notice of Violation or a Notice of Hearing which are sent to the violator and may include a monetary fine or fines as specified in the governing documents.

It's important to remember that the deed restrictions apply to the owner of the property. If you are an owner and you rent your property, either on a short or long term basis and your tenant commits a violation, you as the owner are responsible for that violation. Similarly, if you own a property and have contracted with a builder to build you a home, the condition of the property is your responsibility and not the builder's. In both instances, it doesn't matter if a tenant or a builder commits the violation, the responsibility for curing the violation resides with the owner of the property.

If you have any questions about the deed restrictions or you have a situation where you may have to infringe upon or violate one of the restrictions, please call the RWA office at (941) 696-6788. Derrick Hedges, the RWA manager, and his staff understand that there may be special circumstances or issues beyond your control and they are willing to work with you to avoid the imposition of a violation.

In regard to the administration of deed restriction violations, recent conversation on social media indicates there may be some confusion about how the RWA administers violations. The following discussion may provide some insight into the violation process and the options open to an RWA member who has received a violation notice.

If you receive a Notice of Violation or a Notice of Hearing, here are some important things you should know:

- If you receive a Notification of Violation letter, you have a specific amount of time (as provided in the Notice) to cure the violation. If you take action to cure the violation within that time frame, no further enforcement action will take place.
- However, if you repeat the same violation within one (1) calendar year from the date of your first violation, you will receive a Notice of Hearing AND you will be assessed a fine as described in the Notice. Since the fine is assessed on a daily basis for each day the violation remains uncured, immediate attention to this violation is required.

If you feel that the violation cited is incorrect or there are extenuating circumstances that required you to violate the deed restrictions then you are entitled to a hearing before a compliance committee. The time, date and location of the hearing will be specified in the Notice.



Mandatory attendance notification: If you plan to attend the hearing, you must notify the RWA office at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the hearing so that you can be included in the committee's meeting agenda.

- In the event you have been fined and choose to pay the fine, the matter is considered closed unless you commit the same violation within one (1) calendar year from the date of the first violation. If you attend the hearing and the compliance committee votes to disallow your fine, then you have no monetary obligation and the matter is closed unless you commit the same violation within one (1) calendar year from the date of the first violation. If you attend the hearing and the compliance committee votes to confirm your fine, then you must pay the fine immediately to avoid any recurring charges and the matter is closed unless you commit the same violation within one (1) calendar year from the date of the first violation.

So, to recap:

1. Unfortunately, in some cases, members are unaware of the Deed Restrictions or simply choose to ignore them until they receive either a Notice of Violation or a Notice of Hearing from the RWA. Accordingly, it is imperative that homeowners governed by the RWA read and understand the RWA Deed Restrictions in order to avoid any unpleasant surprises. As always, if you have a question or a concern, the manager and his staff are always ready to assist.
2. If you receive a Notice of Violation and cure the violation within the time frame specified in the Notice, the matter is considered closed. However, if you repeat the same violation within one (1) calendar year from the date of your first violation, you will receive a Notice of Hearing AND you will be assessed a fine as described in the Notice.

If you have been assessed a fine for a violation that you feel is incorrect you are entitled to a hearing. The time, date and location of the hearing will be specified in the Notice of Hearing.

Mandatory attendance notification: If you plan to attend the hearing, you must notify the RWA office at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the hearing so that you can be included in the committee's meeting agenda.

3. If you have an upcoming event or circumstance that could constitute a deed restriction violation, call the RWA office. The RWA staff understands that there may be events that require a waiver or easing of the restrictions and are happy to do so if appropriate.
4. Finally, the RWA manager, Derrick Hedges, and his staff are always available to discuss your specific circumstance. Don't hesitate to reach out to them.

Submitted by the Deed Restriction Committee



WHISTLING DUCK FAMILY SEEN ON THE BANKS OF THE ROTONDA RIVER

**Story By: Bob Winter
Canal Sub-Committee**



While the youngsters feed parents look for danger.



An alligator is seen swimming down the river



A hasty retreat to higher ground provides safety for the family

The Black-bellied whistling duck is a relative newcomer to Florida and the Southeastern United States.

They moved here from Mexico in the late 1990's and early 2000's, and have found Rotonda a great place to live and raise a family.

They are a very colorful duck and have adapted well to residential life. The "Whistling" in their name refers to the sound made from their wings when a flock is seen flying by.



GARDEN TIP FOR SEPTEMBER

Article & Photos by: Ann Weaver
Master Gardener

The blackberry lily (*Iris domestica*) is a plant I found while searching for a consistent bloom that would tolerate the heat in my east facing front yard. A member of the Iris family, with a stunning 'flattened fan' of leaves, the lily blooms all summer when receiving 4-6 hours of daily sunshine. It grows 4-6' tall and needs well drained soil. Like all iris, it spreads by horizontal rhizomes. The small orange flowers with red dots become a green capsule that splits open to reveal shiny black seeds that resemble blackberries.

The flowers, seed pods and seeds are toxic to humans, horses, dogs and cats. The seeds easily germinate, and the lily is drought tolerant once established. A native of Eastern Asia, it provides nectar and pollen for insects, butterflies and hummingbirds.

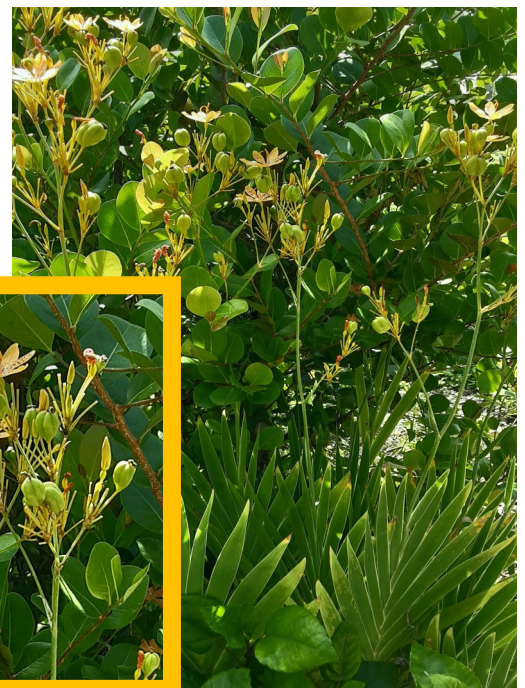
A WEED-FREE TREE CIRCLE

The important purpose of a grass free area around a tree is to prevent mower damage to the trunk. Covered in mulch or low plantings, it can be any shape, but eventually the surrounding lawn will creep in to take over. Keep the grass at bay in this way.



Above: Blackberry lily showing
"flattened fan" leaf structure

Right and Below:
Tiny lily flowers
and
seeds



Continued...

Dig out the grass around the perimeter, increasing the size of the circle and correcting the shape (this is not the fun part). The shape can also be an oval or a square. Dig shallow shov-

Cover the new outer circle with one layer of cardboard with tape and labels removed. See photo. Be sure the new circle edge extends beyond the tree canopy or the roots will not get water. Poke some holes in the cardboard to allow water to permeate. The cardboard will kill any returning weeds before it decomposes.

Spread a 3-5" layer of mulch over the cardboard. This is the fun part. Bring it to about 6" from the tree trunk. This circle took 2 cubic feet of mulch. The photo shows the finished job.

A word about mulch. I use a mulch called Florimulch made from melaleuca trees which are invasive in Florida. Mulch containing Cypress may be made by harvesting live trees, which are native here and should not be killed. Dyed mulch may contain toxins such as arsenic, and will fade over time. Therefore, natural color is a better choice.



Above: Weeds removed,
cardboard in place

Right: Finished tree circle



Nature News



HERE COMES MUSIC BINGO!

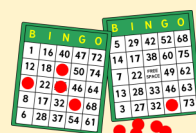
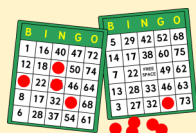
A NEW TWIST ON A FAVORITE GAME

DON'T MISS IT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

6:30-8 PM

IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER



SAVE THE DATE! RWA NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE GARAGE SALE

WHEN? FRIDAY 11/7/25 FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM

SATURDAY 11/8/25 FROM 9AM TO 5 PM

(RAIN DATE, SUNDAY 11/9/25 9AM TO 5 PM)

WHERE? ALL OVER ROTONDA WEST

WHAT? It's time to bargain hunt at the Rotonda West Association 3rd Fall Community-wide garage sale!

There will be a map for the event, including the addresses of all participating households.

QUESTIONS? Contact RWA Community Outreach at: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org or call Rita at 630-956-8814.

APPLICATIONS? Can be found online at rotondawest.org, or hard copies at the RWA Administration Office. Do not call the RWA office for information.



GUIDELINES:

1. The maximum sign size is 18 inches by 24 inches.
2. An application must be submitted and approved prior to the event.
3. Only one sign advertising the event shall be placed on the property. Two signs may be placed off the property advertising the event. Location of the signs must be provided to the RWA at the time of application.
4. The duration of any event may not exceed three (3) days.
5. Only two (2) events are allowed within any twelve (12) month period.



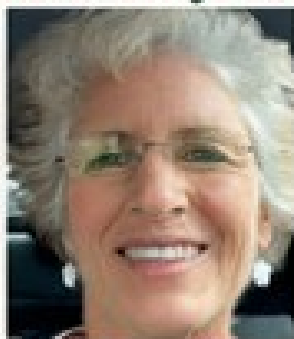
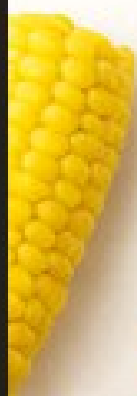
Eating for Longevity: How Not to Age Through Tweaking Nutritional & Lifestyle Habits

DIANE CASEY, MS, RD, LD

Licensed/Registered Dietitian/
Nutritionist and Health Coach

**September 25
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Rotonda West
Association
Community Center





RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

Community Outreach
Committee Presents
2025 - 2026 Season

September 21st
October 19th
November 16th
December 21st
January 18th
February 15th
March 15th
April 19th
May 17th

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Doors open at 12:15 pm

Welcome property owners, residents, renters, and their guests.
Please invite your vacationing neighbors.

Snacks & water
available,
or bring your own.
Covered beverage
container please.

Questions?
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
Please do not contact the
RWA Admin Office.
You will be referred to the
above e-mail.
No pets.

Play begins
promptly
at 1:00 pm

Must be 18 to
play.



Back to School Safety

A heads-up for Rotonda drivers:

Just like that, summer is over and our local schools are back in session. For many of us, this means more traffic on our roads, especially during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups. With five schools located just outside Rotonda, a large number of students from our community – about 1,600 kids in our zip code alone – are heading to class. This means parents are also driving in and around Rotonda, so expect heavier traffic on our streets just before and after school. Please drive carefully!

Important crosswalk reminders:

With the increase in foot traffic, it's a good time to remember the rules of the road, especially regarding crosswalks. Rotonda has many of them, and it's essential that we all know the law to keep our kids safe.

According to Florida law:

- You must stop and stay stopped for any pedestrian who is in or stepping into a crosswalk where signage indicates you should.
- You cannot pass a vehicle that has stopped at a crosswalk to let a pedestrian cross.

By keeping these rules in mind, we can help ensure a safe school year for everyone. Please be careful out there!

Yes, we are growing!!!



Currently there are 312 homes under construction within our circle and approximately a combination of 594 homes and vacant lots for sale. This means heavy traffic on our roads, unwanted eyes on unoccupied homes, and construction equipment/materials up for grab. There should not be anyone working overnight on a “new build”. If you see something – say something...Call the CCSO Non-emergency number at 941-639-0013. When CCSO responded to these calls, workers did not have permission to be on the property (at that time) OR CCSO walked into a crime being committed. This is why we need more volunteers to protect our assets and our community.



Why do we patrol?

*Basic Crime Prevention~ Work for a better and safer neighborhood through protecting and honoring the rights of others.

*Build a Stronger Community~ Get to know your neighbors. In our fast-paced world, we don't spend enough time learning about our neighbors. Watch groups give community members a reason to get together and talk about making their community a better place.



If you are looking to volunteer as a Patrol or be a Base Station, it just takes two hours a month; a small commitment to protecting our neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584 or by email president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

We are the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Department

"Rotonda is the safest community in Charlotte County" -Sherriff Prummell



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!

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

GWEN GRACE, PAST PRESIDENT



SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome September. The club has a busy schedule ahead. Here's a couple of items that Rotonda West members might be interested in.

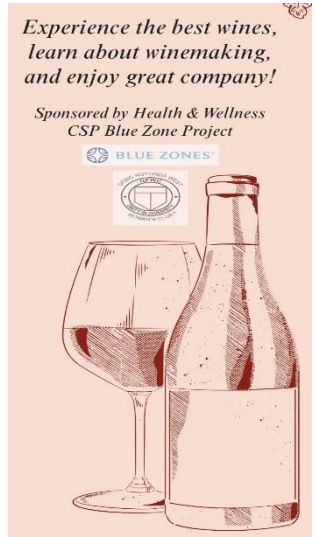
Walgreens Vaccination clinic



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is once again able to offer "free" flu shots at the General Meeting. Present your Medicare or personal health insurance card at the **September 18th** General Meeting and receive your 2025 Flu Season Shot, as well as the new Covid Shot if desired.

The Walgreen's Pharmacist will be available at the RWA from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Thursday, September 18th. Members, husbands and guests are welcome!

The Health & Wellness Community Service Program invites you to the second event in their series of Blue Zone Projects! Join us for Wine Tasting and light snacks at The Grape Winery (3796 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte) on Sunday, September 14th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Sample the most popular white, red and fruit wines, all made without added sulfites. Contact Ali at alit16@ymail.com for more information and to RSVP. \$20 per person.



Looking ahead: The **2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's** will once again take place at beautiful Broadmoor Park on **Saturday, November 15th**. Please put that date on your calendar.



Our next General Meeting is on Thursday, September 18th at RWA Community Center. The social meeting begins at 9:30 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10:30 am. 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. All are invited to our general meeting.

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Annette Casteel
Assistant Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator

Kelsey Stewart
Administrator

Denise Huffman
Minutes Clerk

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Travis Green
Aquatics

Amanda Stuever
Administrative Assistant

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Wayne Taylor

Dale Anderson

Craig Brown

Doug Smith

Jeremy Davenport

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

Andy VanScyoc, President

David Kelly, Vice President

Sam Besase, Treasurer

Karen Harvey, Secretary

Peter Traverso, Director

Deb Orchard, Director

Jerry Eldred, Director



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