

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,105 Rotonda Residents

DECEMBER 2025



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ADDITION

Photo by: David Pulaski

Article by: Nadine Clough



L to R: BOD Director Deb Orchard, BOD Director Sam Besase, Paul Bigness from Synergy, BOD Director Peter Traverso, BOD President Andy Van Scyoc, BOD Director Karen Harvey, BOD Director David Kelly, Manager Derrick Hedges, Assistant Manager Annette Casteel

The ground was officially broken for the much-needed addition to the Administration Building at a ceremony on Thursday, November 13th.

A staffing increase was required to accommodate the needs of the growing Rotonda West community. This addition will help to alleviate the crowded working conditions that have been problematic for the staff.

A vote was held in 2024, and passed by a vote of 1300 to 309, to increase the staff office space by adding on to the current Administrative building. This will be accomplished with no increase to current HOA fees. Permits are pending and work should begin soon.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 12

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PARADE

RWA CHRISTMAS PARADE
ROUTE & JUDGES BIOS

GARAGE SALE RECAP

YIN YOGA CLASS

WOMAN'S CLUB

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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



RWA ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION RESULTS

The Rotonda West Association Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4th.

The annual meeting is split, at 5 and 7 pm on Thursday, December 4 and the only opportunity for in-person voting is at 5 pm that day. Election results will be announced after the annual meeting resumes at 7 pm on December 4.

This year, 2025, was the first year that electronic voting was offered in addition to mail-in voting, and in-person voting. Many residents signed up for this online voting opportunity through the RWA website page. Numbers show electronic voting has been successful.

As of December 1st, electronic voting is closed. In addition, mail-in ballots had to be received by the RWA's independent auditor, or at the RWA office by 4 pm on December 1st. Therefore, the only opportunity to still cast your ballot is in-person voting at the Annual Meeting between 5 and 5:15 pm on December 4th.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES



Jerry Eldred



Gwen Grace



Deb Orchard



Scott Schermerhorn

RESIDENTS WILL VOTE TO FILL TWO SEATS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THERE ARE FOUR CANDIDATES TO CHOSE FROM. ALSO, RESIDENTS WILL VOTE ON WHETHER TO ROLL OVER EXCESS RWA HOA FUNDS. THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S EXPLANATION FOR ROLLOVER OF FUNDS IS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

PLEASE EXPLAIN “ROLLOVER OF EXCESS RWA HOA FUNDS” WHICH APPEARS ON THE BALLOT EACH YEAR

Property owners are asked each year as a part of the RWA election process to VOTE either YES or NO to rollover excess funds.

BELOW IS THE EXPLANATION FROM THE INDEPENDENT CPA AUDITOR:

1. Common interest realty associations (primarily condominium and property owner / homeowner associations) are organized as not-for-profit corporations. For operating purposes, it is assumed the annual budgets for these associations will be prepared on a break-even basis, meaning expenditures will equal revenues. When an association has excess member revenue in any given year, there are three basic options available to the association regarding the treatment of the excess revenue:
 - A. Refund the excess revenue on a pro rata basis to the members of the association
 - B. Obtain member approval to “rollover” the excess revenue to the subsequent fiscal year
 - C. Retain the excess revenue and report this revenue as taxable income on the association’s Federal and/or State tax return
2. If the members do not approve the rollover of the excess revenue, an association has two options regarding the treatment of the excess revenue; either refund it to the members or report it as taxable income.

Please note: This is a general explanation. The rollover process is primarily based on the requirements of IRS Revenue Ruling 70-604



Jerry R Eldred

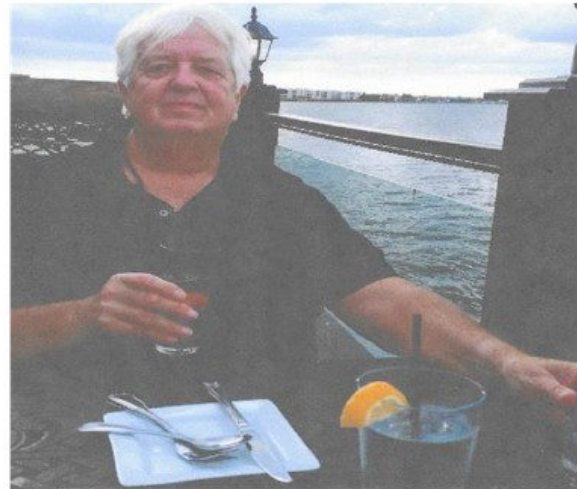
My wife Barbara, and I moved to Rotonda West 10 years ago. We picked this area for its attractiveness, limited traffic and very low crime rate. We are permanent year-round residents we love our place in paradise. Barb and I are blessed with a blended family of seven adult children and six grandchildren.

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 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 Van Scyoc
President



David Kelly
Vice President



Sam Besase
Treasurer



Karen Harvey
Secretary



Peter Traverso
Director



Deb Orchard
Director



Jerry Eldred
Director

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

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

ABSENT:

Management: Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

Members: Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Barb Peszko, Sue Taylor, Dale Jensen, Paul Slovinski, Janet Mamon, Bob Bondeson, Gwen Grace, Kathryn Cota, Grace Chetcuti, Karen Hoover, Lance Petty, Randy Keller. (Zoom) Amanda Stuever, Eugene Learner, Tammy Birdsong, Kevin Corrigan, Cheryl Lateer.

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.

MEMBERS INPUT (Agenda Items)

Janet Mamon – 42 Medalist Terrance addressed the Board representing the Rotonda West Christmas Parade and this year theme is rocking through the holidays a fifty and sixty Christmas. Last year there were forty-two floats in the parade. It is a great way to gather the community together to celebrate. Parades are fun but not free and the budget has not been increased and some of the monies have come out of the pocket of the Chairpersons. We would like to encourage other people to put entries into the parade and thought it might get people to participate more if there were monetary prizes. Secondly at the end of the parade there will be photos with Santa and Cert. comes out and does offer some free things. We have sponsors and contributions from the Board but there is still a deficit between \$1620.00 and \$2900.00 that is needed to be raised or would like to raise funds through sponsorships and would like to offer different levels of sponsorships. What am I asking if it would be OK to encourage sponsorships and fundraisers or is it possible to increase the funds in the budget? If we had extra funds money would go to an organization like Toys for Tots or needy children in our community to make their Holiday better.



BOD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

President's Update: Andy Van Scyoc

Treasurer's Report: Director Besase

Director Besase provided a written report attached to these minutes.

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

Deed Restrictions Violations: Kelsey Stewart, Administrator

Ms. Stewart 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 86. If confirmed by the Compliance Committee, these fines shall be automatically imposed.

- Director Harvey made a motion to approve the Deed Restriction Violations and Director Orchard 2nd the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel – President Van Scyoc (Chair)

No Report.

Budget & Finance Committee – Tom D'Abrosca (Chair)

No Report.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Besase (Chair)

Director Besase provided a written report attached to these minutes.

Community Outreach – Deb Orchard (Chair)

Director Orchard provided a written report attached to these minutes.

Director Orchard addressed the Board on behalf of Janet Mamon needs for the Parade Committee, and they would like to do a fund raiser this year and would like to get sponsorships if not for this year it will help for next year.

- Director Orchard made a motion to approve the Parade organizers to do a fundraisers Motion, Director Eldred second the motion.
Motion approved 5-2. Director Besase no: Director Eldred yes: Director Harvey no: Director Kelly yes:
Director Orchard yes: Director Traverso yes: President Van Scyoc yes.

Compliance – Barb Peszko (Chair)

Ms. Peszko provided a written report attached to these minutes.



Residential Modifications Committee – Barb Peszko (Chair)

Ms. Peszko provided a written report attached to these minutes.

Deed Restrictions – Dale Jensen (Chair)

No Report.

Election Committee Dale Jensen (Chair)

Mr. Jensen provided a written report attached to these minutes. He expressed that campaign signs should only be able to be posted in common areas with RWA approval and some exceptions. Rally event must be approved by the BOD, and each candidate can have campaign signs in common areas 1 sign per common area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS

1.) Kathryn Cota of 153 Annapolis Lane to appeal Residential Modification application decision. The Residential Modification committee denied the hooped house to cover raised bed plantings. Ms. Cota asked for the Board of Directors to overturn the Residential Modification Committee decision.

- President Van Scyoc made motion to sustain the opinion of the committee. Director Kelly second the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.
Appeal denied

2.) Review of 2026 assessment mailing packets reviewed by Board of Directors.

The assessment will be the same as last year. Director Havey suggested that we do something with the voting page with a link or code to enter to sign up for e-voting.

MEMBERS INPUT (Non-Agenda Items)

Sue Taylor – 12 Fairway Rd addressed the BOD stating her concern about rentals in Rotonda West. There is a house on the street -23 Fairway Rd. that is rented out for the next six weeks it has been loud parties with 10 cars on the front yard. She came to the office and asked what they can do, their response was that the homeowner is responsible, unless they have broken RWA rules there is nothing that can be done. President Van Scyoc response was nothing we could do we do not have control over members rentals. RWA can only fine the owner if RWA rules, restriction or guidelines have been violated. Ms. Taylor asked if a County Tourist Tax could be collected. She expressed she did not know that there were so many rental properties in RWA. President Van Scyoc responded that there is not a renter handbook or rule book, but they can fine the owner for the violation for parking in the yard, also could contact the police for the noise.

Gwen Grace – 50 Club House Rd. address the BOD about signs not election signs, signs for the RW women's club, we have several events coming up on October 26, for Scholarships. The other event is the Annual Holiday Bazaar on November 8, that we have every year, and the monies will go to local charities. I would like BOD



approval, the signs will be put up the week before the event, so they are not up long term. This will be the same time as putting up the signs for the RWA Open House event. President Van Scyoc expressed that the BOD does not have to approve of the signs this can be done through the office with Manager Hedges. Manager Hedges said that he would approve of the signs that can be posted for the events.

Lance Petti – 79 Mark Twain Lane addressed the BOD again about the concerns about the “dilapidated monster next door to his house.” Trying to come up with ideas on how to handle this situation. “I know and believe you are fining the owner; I wish the funds from the fines would be used to improve the properties.” Manager Hedges replies that RWA cannot spend good HOA money on these homes that do not belong to RWA and there is a set process that is followed to obtain the properties. RWA is doing what we can, they have put liens on these houses starting the foreclosure process. If you want to set up a meeting and can go through it with you. A new Attorney firm has been hired for these construction foreclosures.

RESPONSE TO MEMBER’S INPUT

None.

DIRECTOR INPUT

None.

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

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 3:17PM

Next Board Meeting: 13 November 2025, 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Huffman Minutes Clerk

Attachments: Agenda, Minutes, Reports

**RWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025
5-8 PM**

DECEMBER

12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22: Monday, 10 am: Pilates Mat Class

12/2: Tuesday, 6:30 pm : SINGO/MUSIC BINGO with Tina & Jim

**12/3: Wednesday, 5 pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at
Rotonda Community Park**

12/4: Thursday, 5-8 pm: Board of Directors Annual Meeting

**12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/26: Friday, 10 am: Tai Chi
(12/5 & 12/26 outdoors)**

12/6 Saturday, 10 am: Christmas Parade

**12/6 Saturday, 6:30 pm: Music in the Park with Cary Price &
The Tonettes**

**12/7 Sunday, 4-7 pm: Broadmoor Park Yuletide Festival Indoor/
Outdoor Event**

12/17 Wednesday, 11:30 am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (TBA)

12/18 Thursday, 6:30 pm: TRIVIA NIGHT WITH TIM

12/21 Sunday, 1 pm: RWA BINGO (play begins at 1 pm)

**12/24—12/26 , Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday RWA Office &
Community Center Closed for Holiday**

**12/31 Wednesday, RWA Office & Community Center Closed for
Holiday**

Yuletide Calendar

**EVENTS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

ROTONDA WEST GIVING TREE

From November 6th-December 7th there will be boxes by the tree in the lobby of the Community Center. TOYS FOR TOTS for new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food for HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY. There will also be a lock box and envelopes near the tree where you may donate cash, checks or gift card to the individual organizations; or drop off your donation at the office.

GAZEBO LIGHTING & BOAT PARADE

Saturday, November 29th at the marina on Rotonda Circle across from The Hills at 4-6:30 pm. Decorated boats, food, music, classic cars, kids' activities, lighting of the island and of course our special guests from up north.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 6th from Fellowship Church, Parade Circle to North Blvd, to Rotonda Circle, and on to the Community Center. Parade starts at 10 am. Want to be in the parade?, GO TO: rotondawest.org-RWA Happenings and fill out your registration form. Come to the Community Center to join the fun immediately following the parade. It's a Rocking 50's-60's Christmas!

YULETIDE FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 6th at 6:30 pm, Music in the Park Christmas Concert by Cary Price (Fletcher Music) and the Tonettes. This event will be in the Community Center.

Sunday, December 7th from 4 pm-6:30 pm, in and around the Community Center, several musical acts, snacks, kids' activities, clowns and of course our special guests from up north.

All Events are open to RWA residents and their guests.

Questions? Email: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

Do not contact the office, they do not have additional information.

JANUARY

1/1 & 1/2: RWA Office & Community Center Closed/Holiday

1/2, 1/16, 1/23: Friday, 10 am: Tai Chi

1/5, 1/12, 1/19: Monday, 10 am: Pilates Mat

1/7: Wednesday, 5 pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour

1/9, 1/30: Friday, 10 am: Yin Yoga Mat

**1/13: Tuesday, 2 pm: Child Exploitation & Human Trafficking by
Don Woelke, CCSO**

1/14: Wednesday, 2 pm: Gardening for Wildlife by Sarah Weber

1/15: Thursday, 6:30 pm: Trivia Night with Tim

1/18: Sunday, 1 pm: RWA Bingo (play begins at 1 pm)

1/19: Monday, RWA Office & Community Center Closed/Holiday

**1/20: Tuesday, 2 pm: Drowning in Stuff: An American Epidemic,
by Ali Tedeschi**

1/21: Wednesday, 11:30 am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (Rotonda Elks)

**1/22: Thursday, 6-8 pm: Charlotte County Community Meeting,
“Drainage in Rotonda West”**

1/27: Tuesday, 5 pm: Mix & Mingle Potluck in Community Center

**1/28: Wednesday 2 pm: Shorebirds Program by Photographer
Mary Lundeborg**

**1/31: Saturday, 9 am-12 pm: Shredding Hunger (RWA driveway)
Food Donation & Paper Shredding**



Gwen Grace, Open House
host & organizer.

Raffle Winner: Linda Engemann from
Broadmoor



RWA OPEN HOUSE

Pictures by: David Pulaski Submitted by: Nadine Clough



Over 100 people visited Rotonda West Association's Open House on Thursday, November 6th. With 35 tables representing service organizations, Rotonda clubs, Rotonda West committees, local non-profits, and community groups, it was an exciting and informative time for residents and exhibitors alike.

Residents enjoyed wine and cheese and entered a raffle while taking in all of what our area has to offer. Raffle winners were: Linda Engemann from Broadmoor; Tia Potts from Long Meadow; and Robbin Bull from Pinehurst.

The event was sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee and hosted by Gwen Grace.





CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS – DECEMBER 2025

By Sam Besase

- PAVING - Rotonda West PAVING began on **MONDAY July 21, 2025**. \$17 million
- PAVING started in the PINE VALLEY section and move counter-clockwise (White Marsh & Broadmoor, etc.); each section takes about 4-6 weeks.
- MSBU PAVING – BY RWA SECTIONS: AJAX PAVING – VENICE OFFICE
- PROJECTED PAVING SCHEDULE–Subject to weather & equipment & manpower delays/ issues
- PINEHURST SHOULD CONCLUDE BY LATE NOVEMBER
- PEBBLE BEACH SHOULD START BY LATE NOVEMBER
- OAKLAND HILLS SHOULD START BY LATE DECEMBER
- ROTONDA CIRCLE & BOUNDARY – 1Q 2026 FULL DEP RECLAMATION DOWN 10 INCHES
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS–SOD/MANHOLE COVERS, ETC ABOUT 6 WEEKS BEHIND PAVING
- Future issues of WEST WAYS shall include the projected start/finish for the remaining 2 RWA sections.
- Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is James Layport and his phone number is: 941-628-8084
- PERHAPS 30-DAY Paving schedule slips due to Weather & Equipment & Manpower issues.
- *ROTONDA BRIDGE #13 – ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH – UPDATE:
- I wrote all of the Charlotte County Commissioners as well as the County Administrator and the County Director of Public Works and I got the following reply from Mr. John Elias, the Charlotte County Director of Public Works:
 - Sam, I will try to answer your questions this way:
 - **Sam Question: Is there any NEW news related to the Rotonda bridge, namely, did Charlotte County ever receive the ACOE permit after the public comment period ended on October 24, 2025?**
 - John Elias Answer: The public comment period has ended as you indicated. We expected to have the ACOE permit in hand already, but the government shut down has slightly delayed the process. We do expect it any day now.
 - **Sam Question: Have any further discussions been held with FEMA regarding the dollar amount to be provided to Charlotte County in light of the BCA court ruling in favor of Charlotte County in April of 2025?**
 - John Elias Answer: This has been a real challenge that has only been exacerbated by the shutdown. Unfortunately, no new news to report here.
 - **Sam Question: Has the bridge build bid specification been submitted to potential construction bidders?**

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS CONTINUED...

- John Elias Answer: Sam, in light of not having the permit and the ambiguity surrounding the funding the bid specs and plans have not been advertised yet. It is our intent to discuss this with the Board for them to weigh in on moving forward. The risk is that we potentially lose any funding from FEMA if we proceed without that being completely agreed upon.
- **Sam Question: Also, has the RW S&D MSBU unanimous motion to MILL & GRIND Rotonda Circle been forwarded to the Charlotte County Commissioners for approval of the change order to the paving contractor?**
- John Elias Answer: The request of the RW S&D was forwarded to the BCC in the form of a point paper as I committed to do in our town hall. There has not been a lot of direction from the Board, so Administration has asked me to prepare an item to present to the BCC at an upcoming meeting. We are finalizing those numbers, which are significant (\$887,000), and in doing so, had to then do an analysis to confirm if there was enough funding in the MSBU to cover it. That has been confirmed so this will be added to a future agenda. It should be noted that some of the residents have already taken action to prepare their driveways for not milling and if we switch courses there will be frustration.
- If you have any other concerns or questions, please reach out. I
 - *Construction start perhaps 1Q-2Q 2026, completion expected 10-12 months later **Dec. 2026?**
 - Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Rotonda Boulevard East NOW scheduled for installation - 1Q 2026.
 - Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Ingram/Ingraham are also to be installed in the 1Q 2026.
 - Rotonda Bridges Rehabilitation Status: Bridge #106 – Long Meadow, completed ~10/06/2025; Bridge #060 – Oakland Hills, completed ~10/18/2025
 - Remaining 4 bridges, (#110-#111-#112-#123) are scheduled for summer/fall of 2026.
 - *US Government shutdown may affect completion of these items!!!

The next regular quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU meeting shall be held on Thursday December 11, 2025, at 9:30am at the San Casa Road (DMV) Charlotte County facility.

Respectfully, Sam Besase – Advisory Board Member–Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU.

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

The other MSBU members are: Laura Ingrassia-Nicholas Kotzalas-Carol DeLuca-Leo VanOrden

FUN & GAMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



**MUSIC
BINGO**

WITH TINA

We play 3 games on 1 card. No cost to play.
1st Thursday of each month 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Doors open at 6pm
Aug 7th, Sep 4th, Oct 2nd, Nov 6th, Dec 4th

646 ROTONDA CIRCLE
COMMUNITY CENTER

INVITATION TO RWA RESIDENTS, PROPERTY OWNERS, AND THEIR GUESTS.
BRING YOUR SNACKS AND COVERED DRINKS
NO PETS
QUESTIONS: COMMUNITYOUTREACH@ROTONDAWEST.ORG

Singo/Music Bingo with Tina & Jim (Temporary schedule)

Tuesday, 11/4 @ 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 12/2 @ 6:30 pm

NO Music Bingo in January, 2026.

Doors open at 6 pm. Play begins at 6:30 pm



**WELCOME
TO Fabulous
BINGO**

RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

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

*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

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.

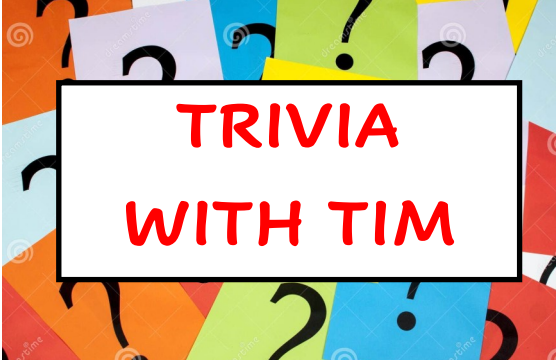
BINGO - 3rd Sunday of each month

Doors open at 12:15 pm

Play begins at 1pm (doors will close)

Snacks are available by donation

Must be at least 18 to play



**TRIVIA
WITH TIM**

Trivia with Tim (moving permanently)

3rd Thursday of each month.

Doors open at 6pm. Play begins at 6:30

Play by teams or individuals

NATURE NEWS

Community Outreach Nature Committee Presentation

How to Florida



November 12, 2025, Wednesday 2pm 646 Rotonda Circle
David Smith, Charlotte County Natural Resources Lands Manager

David Smith covered a range of nature related topics about what to expect in Florida's unique ecosystem, whether out in one of the Charlotte County preserves, at Broadmoor Park or in your own backyard. From wildlife encounters to Florida Friendly Landscaping, what you do can make a difference. It's natural to fear what we don't know so we need to learn to identify wildlife and their habits and give them space. For instance, most snakes are harmless and provide natural pest control. Alligators also need space, so use common sense and be aware of your surroundings. People and animals should keep away from the waters edge. Equally important is to not feed wildlife. It is a danger to animals and people. But to bring birds, butterflies and pollinators into the landscape, we should practice Florida Friendly Landscaping, minimizing turf and planting native plants. The attendees had many questions and learned how to best enjoy our diverse and beautiful Florida nature.



Article & Pictures by: Merrill Horswill

NATURE NEWS

Community Outreach Nature Committee BROADMOOR NATURE WALK, SATURDAY 11/29/25

Article and photos by Merrill Horswill



Over 30 people participated in the Broadmoor Nature Walk led by Dr. Bill Dunson of the Florida Nature Plant Society. He talked about the benefits of planting native and Florida Friendly plants for wildlife and how people can make their own yards wildlife friendly to attract pollinators and birds. He noted that Broadmoor has many native and Florida Friendly plants and would have more if we stopped mowing open areas. Dr. Dunson explained the several different habitats on the two hour walk. We saw 85 plants (30% non native), many birds and one small alligator sunning on the pond bank.

We toured the Broadmoor Butterfly and Native Plant Gardens, where Ann Weaver provided an overview of the plantings. The Cranberry hibiscus with red leaves in the Butterfly garden (bottom photo, on right) is currently very showy and is attracting both pollinators and people. These gardens are volunteer maintained and more volunteers are needed to keep them a centerpiece of the park.

Please watch for information about our upcoming Nature Programs including next month: January 14: Gardening for Wildlife, January 28: Shorebirds Wednesday at 2pm



NATURE NEWS

GARDEN TIP FOR DECEMBER

By: Ann Weaver

The Cranberry Hibiscus (*Hibiscus acetosella*) will bring a touch of fall color to your very green landscape. This is an annual, but will last a couple years in south Florida. Its bronze-purple leaves resemble a Japanese maple. Small deep burgundy flowers appear in late summer. It will grow to be a small tree in full sun with adequate moisture. It is a native to Africa.

After the flowers fade, the flower pod dries and can be collected for seeds. Plants will sprout next spring and transplant easily. There are two in the Broadmoor Park Butterfly Garden that are over 5 feet tall.

The Cranberry Hibiscus flowers and young leaves are edible and have a tart citrus flavor, a bit like cranberry. Add them to salads or use to brew tea. Leggy plants can be pruned to a leaf node. Pollinators love the flowers. Older plants should be replaced after 9-18 months.

Rain is needed

Will it ever rain again? The soil is very dry. There is little chance of rain in the forecast. Help your landscape plants by bringing out the hose. I use the “t” shaped watering device to get to the deep roots. Even if you have irrigation, the water only hits the surface few inches. Some trees like the live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) have a tap root that finds its way to the water table. Many trees and palms do not, and an extensive drought can be fatal. An interim watering can make all the difference.



Cranberry Hibiscus

Broadmoor Butterfly Garden

Photo by: Ann Weaver

GAZEBO LIGHTING & BOAT PARADE

A fabulous community event to kick off the holiday celebration in Rotonda West was held Saturday, 11/29. An enthusiastic crowd showed up to enjoy the lighting of the gazebo on the recently renovated Gazebo Island, and the beautifully decorated boats in the parade. Good food, great music, and the arrival of the special guy himself, Santa Claus, all contributed to making this a special evening.

(Pictures on next page)

Don't miss these upcoming holiday events:

- Saturday, 12/6 @ 10 am: The Rotonda Christmas Parade
- Saturday, 12/6 @ 6:30 pm: Yuletide Concert w/ Cary Price and The Tonettes
- Sunday, 12/7 4-7 pm: Broadmoor Park Yuletide Festival



THANKS
TO ALL
WHO CAME
OUT!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Karen Harvey, Event Organizer

Andy VanScyoc

All who decorated the island and boats

The Sounds of the Season, with Eric Stefanic

Blacken Blues BBQ Food Truck

Classic Cars & Trucks

Woman's Club

David Pulaski, photographer

Santa Claus

Community Outreach Committee

THE GAZEBO LIGHTING & BOAT PARADE

PHOTOS BY: DAVID PULASKI!





SEE PARADE ROUTE BELOW



MEET OUR PARADE JUDGES

Submitted by: **Tammy Birdsong**

MEGHAN HEDGES



Meghan is a local teacher who moved from Northern New Jersey to Florida over 20 years ago. She has taught in Florida for over 20 years and enjoys her students and learning with them. She has a strong partnership with her husband of 17 years. They enjoy outdoor adventures, exploring new places, spending time together, and with their dogs. In her free time, she enjoys reading, nature, and landscaping. She volunteers when possible and is committed to helping others.

CAROLYN POPE



Carolyn entered the insurance business when few women did. She established Pope Insurance in South Venice in 1977, later relocating to her hometown of Englewood. Throughout her career Carolyn has served on many boards of local organizations such as Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, Venice YMCA, South Sarasota County United Way, and Englewood Historical Society. She is the founding member of Lemon Bay Crew Club, as well as its president and a coach.

MARY JONES



Mary Jones is from Connecticut. She hosted a radio talk show there for many years. She is currently the host of WENG's "*All About Women*". Mary has also authored books, but humbly says, "I don't feel the need to mention any of that. The attendees want it short and sweet, I think."



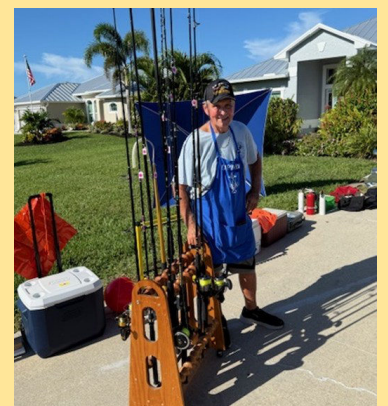
RWA HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GARAGE SALE!

120 homes participated in the RWA 3rd Annual Fall Garage Sale held on November 7th & 8th. It was a sunny weekend in the low 80's, many unique items were available for sale, and there was great community spirit with buyers and sellers!

Put March 13 & 14, 2026 in your calendar for the
3rd Annual Spring Community Garage Sale!

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski

Community Outreach Committee Member and Garage Sale Coordinator



"YIN YOGA"

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski



Dr. Francine Finucan presented "Yin Yoga" on October 29th.

This is a mat program that concentrates on prolonged stretching to strengthen the legs, hips, and spine. The 23 people in attendance expressed interest in having this low impact fitness program offered as part of the RWA Health & Wellness Initiative.





GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

GWEN GRACE, PAST PRESIDENT



DECEMBER, 2025



Thanks to all those who came out to support the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Holiday Bazaar this year. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces and it's an event the entire club enjoys working on throughout the year. The Cookies by the Pound is always a big hit and so is the Gingerbread Village for the children which includes the best

Santa this side of the North Pole! The funds we raised will go towards scholarships available to Lemon Bay High School students in the spring and to fund some of our other local charities and pay the bills that all 501(c)3 non-profit organizations are familiar with – insurances, website support, bank fees, supplies, etc. We are looking forward to having next year's Holiday Bazaar and have already started planning for it.

We are pleased to announce that tickets for our forthcoming Holiday Tea have been fully reserved. However, we are planning a Designer Bag Bingo on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at the RWA Community Center.



Our November General Meeting was a very "giving one". Linda Lutz from **The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies**

(C.A.R.E) spoke about their founding, mission and the future plans for this important organization that helps both female and male victims of domestic abuse. We were proud to donate \$500 towards their new childcare facility. Another check for \$500 was presented to CCSO Deputy Dominick Ierfino for the **Shop With A Cop** program. Our members also donated new toys for Santa's Closet at the Jubilee Center in Englewood.



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



For several years the Rotonda West Woman's Club, in collaboration with the RW Community Outreach Committee, has held an annual Walk for Alzheimer's at Broadmoor Park. This year, the Alzheimer's

Association has become one of several affiliate organizations of the General Federation of Woman's Club (GFWC) of which we are members. On behalf of the nearly 7 million American's living with Alzheimer's disease, we rallied around a cause that affects 1 in 3 people in the communities where we work and live. The General Federation of Women's Clubs formed teams and raised funds for Walks across the country. The funds raised will help fight Alzheimer's disease through vital research, advocacy efforts and essential support programs and services in our communities. On a beautiful Saturday morning, several hundred people came out to walk Broadmoor Park. The Rotonda West team led by Kathryn Gallagher raised \$9,399 making it the top GFWC Club in the nation.

GFWC clubs nationwide raised a total of over \$94,000. Our team donations will play an important role in improving the lives of people living with Alzheimer's, their families and caregivers. We were joined by members of AmVets and the Charlotte County Sheriff's office and several other organizations along with Sun News. Thanks to all who supported this worthwhile effort.

On behalf of the many members of the GFWC Woman's Club, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

Our next **General Meeting is on Thursday, December 18th** at RWA Community Center. The social meeting begins at 9:30 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10:00 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.



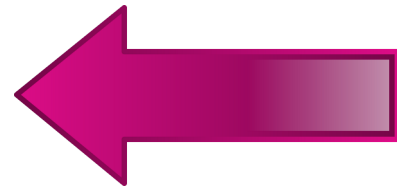
ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

**CHECK IN - STARTS AT
NOON**

12:30-3 PM

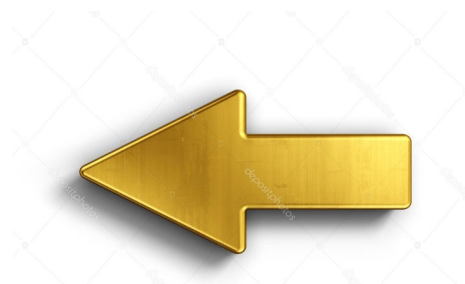
\$35. PER PERSON



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT!**

**DESIGNER
BAG BINGO**

**SUNDAY, MARCH
1ST, 2026**





We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed time with family and friends—along with plenty of turkey, football, and apple pie. As we head into the holiday season, we also enter a time when “porch pirates” become more active in our neighborhoods. Recent reports indicate that nearly 30% of customers have experienced package theft.



Porch pirate prevention starts with making your deliveries harder to steal and easier to track. Consider using secure delivery options such as package lockers, pickup locations, or rerouting shipments to your workplace or a trusted neighbor who is home during the day. Installing a doorbell camera or using well-lit entryways can also deter thieves. When possible, schedule deliveries for times you’ll be home, and keep an eye on tracking updates so packages aren’t left unattended for long. A few simple steps can go a long way in protecting your holiday deliveries.

However, there were cases where packages were delivered to similarly named streets—such as Bunker Rd. instead of Bunker Ct. and some never made it back to their intended owner. Whenever possible, please make sure your address is written clearly and/or typed properly, including Courts, Roads, Drives, etc., to help carriers deliver accurately.

To help prevent this, UPS and FedEx offer options to reroute deliveries to your workplace or a designated pickup location. Many carriers also allow packages to be delivered to nearby stores or to a trusted neighbor who is usually home. The good news is that last year we had very few incidents.



Protecting Rotonda West since 1981
www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com
Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

CONTINUED...

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTINUED...

UPS: Package Theft Prevention

Luckily there are ways to keeping packages safe from theft, including: UPS My Choice <https://bit.ly/3JYsl4q> and UPS Access Point <https://bit.ly/3XysFPP> I shortened the URL's.

FedEx: Package Theft Prevention

FedEx Delivery Manager Services help make sure your packages don't go missing: <https://bit.ly/3JY9YSD>

How to prevent stolen or missing packages: Visit <https://bit.ly/3X0VaFH>



We need volunteers to fill vacant spots in all sections of Rotonda West

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 scan the QR Code below, call David Perry at 941-828-1584, or email president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

If you don't want to drive at night, have you considered being a Base Station? The Base Station person stays at home and acts as a liaison between our patrols and the Sheriff's office on the night they are scheduled.

How to prevent stolen or missing packages: Visit <https://bit.ly/3X0VaFH>



We need volunteers to fill vacant spots in all sections of Rotonda West

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 scan the QR Code below, call David Perry at 941-828-1584, or email president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

If you don't want to drive at night, have you considered being a Base Station? The Base Station person stays at home and acts as a liaison between our patrols and the Sheriff's office on the night they are scheduled.

You're Part of the Answer. If we don't have a consist presence patrolling our streets crime could increase; remember is just two hours a month...A small commitment that makes a HUGE impact.



Scan Here For More Information

Our Mission is (and always has been) to be the "eyes and ears" of the Sheriff's department



Date: November 21, 2025

Contact: Lillian GaNun

Phone: 941-828-3626

E-Mail: lildsosr7@embarqmail.com

SUDDENLY IN COMMAND – Saturday, December 13, 2025 (US Coast Guard Approved Boating Safety Course Description)

Date: Sat, **December 13, 2025** – From 8:30 am to 12:30 pm (approximately 4 hours).

Location: The course will be offered in a classroom setting (size is limited) at Ingman Marine Showroom, 15001 Gasparilla Road, Placida, FL 33981

Attendance in person: The Ingman Marine Showroom is fully accessible.

Presented by: US Coast Guard Auxiliary Instructors who patrol and are familiar with Gasparilla Sound, Pine Island Sound, Boca Grande, South Charlotte Harbor, South Gulf Cove and surrounding waterways.

The Course: *Suddenly In Command*

This boating safety primer is designed for those who are not generally at the helm. It will help participants to be prepared with the basics of boating and boating safety in case of an emergency or situation that places you in command.

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT YOUR VESSEL:

- Boating vocabulary and operating principles.
- Starting and stopping an engine.
- Basic boat handling and how to get help.
- Familiarization with your on-board equipment.

The course also includes descriptions of what causes boating mishaps and how to minimize them.

“Suddenly In Command” is a must for family members in case something happens to the boat operator.”

Please plan on arriving by 8:00 am for registration so the class can begin promptly at 8:30 am. We will be serving coffee, bottled water and some muffins, donuts or snacks.

We plan on one short break mid-morning.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION OR REQUEST INFORMATION

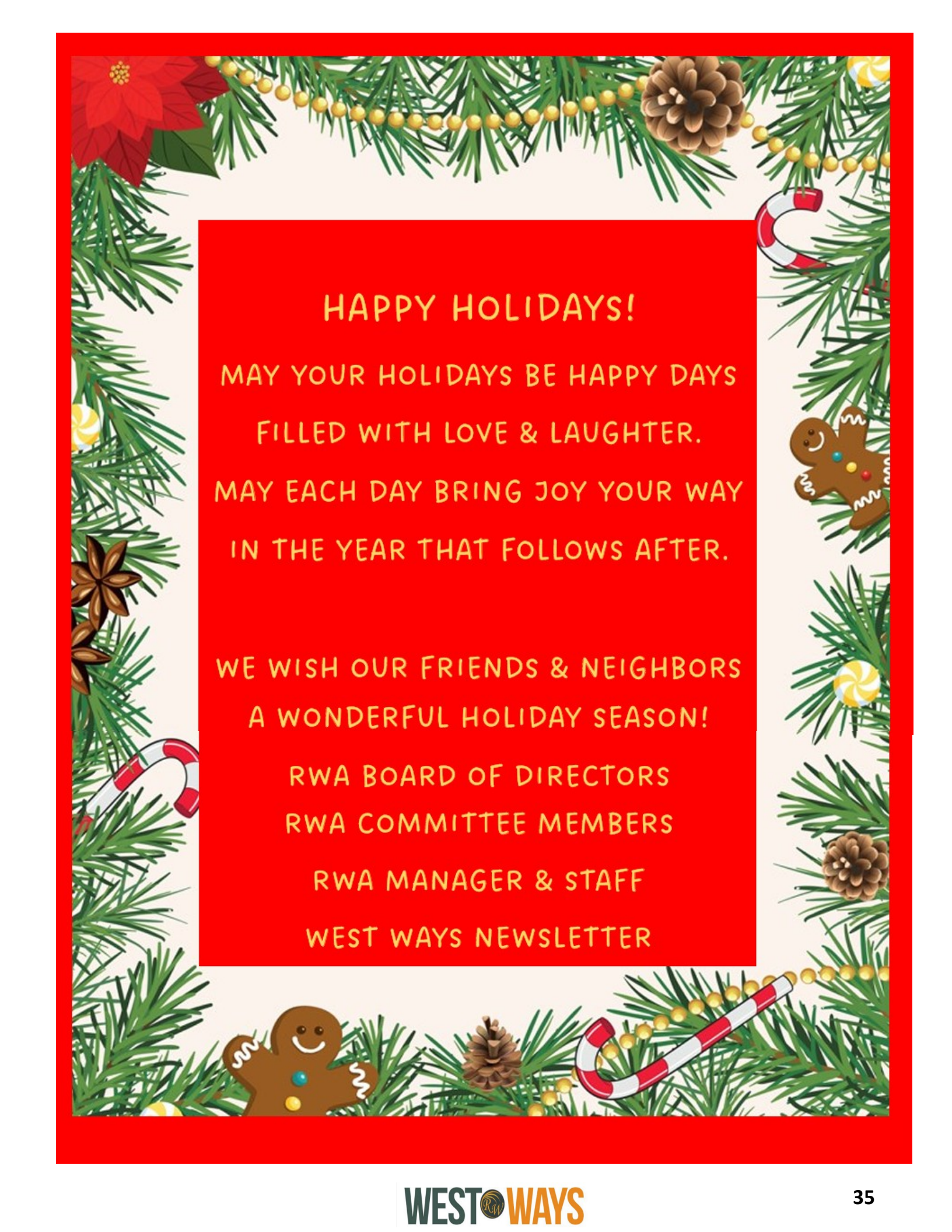
Please contact Anne Brengle, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education, email abrengle@aol.com or Cell phone 508-717-2613 (voice or text).

Remember, space is limited so let us know if, once you have signed up, your plans change and you cannot attend.

The cost for the course is \$25 per person, or \$10 per person, for middle or high school students. This includes all supplies and materials.

You may pay at the door by Check or Cash: Make checks payable to USCGAUX Flotilla 99 (Sorry, at this time we cannot accept credit cards).

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE HAPPY DAYS
FILLED WITH LOVE & LAUGHTER.
MAY EACH DAY BRING JOY YOUR WAY
IN THE YEAR THAT FOLLOWS AFTER.

WE WISH OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

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WONDERFUL STAFF**

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