

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,218 Rotonda Residents

MARCH 2026



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION



FOOD TRUCKS ARE A HIT!

Article by Nadine Clough Pictures by David Pulaski



How does *Casa de Uruguay*, *Ice Cream Emergency SWFL*, *Taste of Poland Polish Homemade Goodies*, *Eat Chucks*, *Street Harvest*, *3 Guys Pizza* (with built-in ovens in the Firetruck), *The Chew Chew Truck*, *The Hills Restaurant* (offering adult drinks), and more sound to you? Are you hungry yet?



Many of your Rotonda neighbors have decided to skip cooking dinner on the **4th Tuesday of the month** and enjoy the fare from the Food Truck's at the Rotonda West Community Center parking lot.

There is even musical entertainment! Scott Laderer who had performed at the Mix & Mingle Potluck Dinners is there from 5-7 pm.



Don't miss the next Food Truck event on Tuesday, March 24th at 4:30-7:30 pm.



VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER

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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 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



Karen Harvey
VICE PRESIDENT



Sam Besase
TREASURER



Deb Orchard
SECRETARY



David Kelly
DIRECTOR



Peter Traverso
DIRECTOR



Gwen Grace
DIRECTOR

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

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

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

ABSENT:

Management: Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

Members: Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Paul Slovinski, Karen Hoover, Dale Jensen, Barb Peszko, Maureen Laderer, Nancy Hanson Randy Keller Matt Brady. (Zoom) Les Goodman, Tammy Birdsong, Amanda Stuever, Steve Gray.

- Director Harvey moved the Board to approve the BOD Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2025, Annual RWA meeting and Director Orchard 2nd the motion. Motion approved.
- Director Harvey moved the Board to approve the BOD Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2025, RWA meeting and Director Grace 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

MEMBERS INPUT (Agenda Items)

President's Update: Andy Van Scyoc

Welcome back. RWA has already received over sixty percent of the assessment.

Treasurer's Report: Director Besase

Director Besase stated he just received the updated Treasury report which shows income is \$181,000.00 over and expense are \$160,000.00 under. RWA is in good shape it had taken in more money than was thought by this time.



BOD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

Manager's Report: Manager Hedges

Manager Hedges provided the Board with a written update on the projects that staff have been working on. He announced that the new construction has started on the addition and thanks to all the member who voted for it, it is going well. The maintenance crew at this time of year are getting to other projects such as painting and maintenance work on equipment adding some parking behind the maintenance building.

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 63. 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 Grace 2nd the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel – President Van Scyoc (Chair)

No Report.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Besase (Chair)

Director Besase presented the written report attached to these minutes. Director Besase stated that the Statue of Liberty was getting a facelift and soon will be mounted at Liberty Island. The purchase of a new tractor with articulating arm was added to ground maintenance equipment.

Director Grace questioned Director Besase about signs on RWA common grounds are not allowed without permission, she questioned if this was temporary. For example, the Women's Club has a bizarre and they put out their sign a week prior do we have to get approval for all of them. Director Besase replied yes, they will have to get approval. Director Grace thanked Director Besase for the clarification.

Community Outreach – Deb Orchard (Chair)

No report for packet COC meeting was less then forty-eight hours ago.

Election of Officers.

Director Orchard motioned Please approve the 2026 slate of officers for the Community Outreach Committee and Director Besase 2nd the motion.

As of the meeting on Wednesday, January 7th. Community Outreach Committee Officers for 2026: Motion Unanimously Approved:

Gwen Grace – Chair
Deb Orchard – Vice Chair
Annemarie D'Abrosca – Secretary
Karen Harvey – Board Liaison



BOD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

Director Grace wanted to extend kudos to Maureen for a fantastic food truck drive yesterday. President Van Scyoc committed he heard it was outstanding and will be communicate and make sure this continues. They will be very happy soon.

Compliance – Barb Peszko (Chair)

Ms. Peszko stated that there was no report because of the Holidays, but she had a question regarding something that was cancelled today, which has been going on for a couple of months. It's about the golf balls at 52 Marker which a notification was sent to all Board Members. Ms. Peszko asked the Board of Directors "how many times do you let somebody cancel an appeal?", they are not being fined during this process. President Van Scyoc stated that it "displays to us there is a loophole in the rules" and we need to come up with rules that covers that. There needs to be a time limit on it. Director Harvey stated that the member has fourteen days to make an appeal. There was no time limit set for how long member must address the issue during the appeal process. Manager Hedges stated that he will be looking into this matter and contacting the homeowner to resolve this matter.

Residential Modifications Committee – Barb Peszko (Chair)

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

Deed Restrictions –

No Report.

DIRECTOR INPUT

Director Kelly stated that he wanted to congratulate President Van Scyoc for a great meeting and a good way to start off the New Year.

Director Harvey states that when they talk about the staff by name and want to say kudos to Doug, he was here for all the events for December, and everything was done as requested, I wanted to thank him for all his help.

Also, as per President Van Scyoc Sam, Gwen and I are reviewing the Charters for each committee. We will be visiting each Chair and bring the review back to the Board of Directors in a couple of months.

Director Besase stated he wanted to congratulate Maureen for the food truck event. It was a great event; it was good to see so many members come.

Director Grace stated kudos to Maureen for such a successful event and looking forward to the next one.

Director Orchard stated she also wanted to thank Maureen, it was quite an event. It was almost a sellout for each of the food trucks. She stated that she wanted to thank Ms. Peszko for bringing to the Board attention the issues with the Residential Modification restriction and appeals because that is something that the Board needs to be made aware of, thank you.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 2:32PM

Next Board Meeting:

Regular Scheduled: 12 February 2026, 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Huffman Minutes Clerk

Attachments: Agenda, Minutes, Reports



MARCH



3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/30: Monday, 10am: Pilates Mat

3/5 Thursday, 9 am-12 Noon: Puzzle Making with Rotonda Puzzle Club

3/5: Thursday, 6:30pm: Music Bingo with Tina & Jim

3/6, 3/20: Friday, 10am: Tai Chi (3/20 outdoors)

3/7: Saturday, 1pm: Rotonda West Has Talent Show

3/11: Wednesday, 2pm: *Invasive Plants* by Mark Thurmond

3/12: Thursday, 10am: Handwriting Analysis

3/13: Friday, 9am – 5pm: RWA Spring Community Garage Sale

3/14: Saturday, 9am - 5pm: RWA Spring Community Garage Sale (3/15 Rain Date)

3/13, 3/27: Friday, 10am: Yin Yoga Mat

3/15: Sunday, 1pm: RWA BINGO (play begins at 1pm)

3/18: Wednesday, 9:30am: Qigong Session with Donna Kester Phillips

3/18: Wednesday, 2pm: CCSO Citizens Police Academy

3/19: Thursday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim

3/22: Sunday, 5pm: RWA Volunteer Banquet at The Hills

3/24: Tuesday, 2pm: Woman's History: Breast Cancer Story presentation by author Judith L Pearson

3/24: Tuesday, 4:30-7:30pm: Food Truck Tuesday (pending monthly approval)

3/25: Wednesday, 4pm: Peace River Wildlife, sponsored by GFWC RWWC

3/26: Thursday, 2:30pm: Adam Howard: My Career in Feature Film Visual Effects

3/27: Friday, 2 pm: CPR/AED (rescheduled from 2/20)

ANNOUNCEMENT

MIX & MINGLE LUNCH AT THE ELKS HAS ENDED

DUE TO LOW ATTENDANCE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Sheriff Bill Prummell
7474 Utilities Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
(941) 639-2101

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
Integrity, Professionalism, Trust

 **Rotonda West**
Association
Community Outreach Committee
Presents

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

March 18th @ 2pm

On March 18th @ 2 pm the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department will have a presentation about their Citizen's Police academy. It's a "behind the scenes look" at their agency, dedicated staff, policies and procedures, as well as numerous other services and programs they provide.

Have you ever thought about volunteering with the sheriff's department? Want to know more about what they do and take a tour of their facilities in Englewood? Well, here's your chance to hear more about CCSO's Citizen's Police academy. At the class, or online, you may also fill out an application should you wish to attend their 7-week course being conducted mornings at Englewood, District 1 building, May 1st—June 17th (lunch provided).

Senior Outreach Program

April 15th @ 2pm

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has an established program to assist in ensuring the safety and well-being of our senior citizens residing in Charlotte County, along with the Anti-Theft program.

Sex Trafficking and Exploitation (hopefully coming in May, more info later)

Charlotte County ranks in the top 5 counties of Florida for Sex Trafficking and Exploitation. What you should know. This is a teen appropriate presentation.

Community Center @ 646 Rotonda Circle
Open to all RWA residents, property owners and their guests.
Questions: Contact communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

RWA CLUB CALENDAR

*****ALL CLUB DAYS & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**
PLEASE DOUBLE-CHECK THE EVENT TIME ON RWA WEBSITE

SUN 1 March 1 @ 1:00 pm–4:00 pm GFWC RWWC Designer Bag Bingo Entire Community Center	TUE 10 March 10 @ 12:00 pm–4:00 pm Hand & Foot Card Group Activities West Game Room	SUN 22 March 22 @ 1:30 pm–5:00 pm GFWC RWWC "Show Me the Money" Activities Entire Community Center
MON 2 March 2 @ 2:00 pm–3:30 pm Rotonda Ukulele Band Clubs Rotonda Room	THU 12 March 12 @ 6:30 pm–8:30 pm Englewood Fishing Club Membership Meeting Clubs Rotonda Room	MON 23 March 23 @ 9:00 am–10:00 am Englewood Fishing Club Board Meeting Clubs West Piano Room
TUE 3 March 3 @ 12:00 pm–4:00 pm Hand & Foot Card Group Activities West Game Room	FRI 13 March 13 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano & West Game Room	MON 23 March 23 @ 2:00 pm–3:30 pm Rotonda Ukulele Band Clubs Rotonda Room
WED 4 March 4 @ 9:00 am–4:00 pm Embroidery Club Clubs West Piano Room	FRI 13 March 13 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano Room	TUE 24 March 24 @ 12:00 pm–4:00 pm Hand & Foot Card Group Activities West Game Room
THU 5 March 5 @ 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Cribbage Club Activities West Game Room	MON 16 March 16 @ 2:00 pm–3:30 pm Rotonda Ukulele Band Clubs Rotonda Room	WED 25 March 25 @ 10:00 am–11:30 am GFWC RWWC ESO Happy Bookers Book Club Clubs West Piano Room
FRI 6 March 6 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano & West Game Room	TUE 17 March 17 @ 12:00 pm–4:00 pm Hand & Foot Card Group Activities West Game Room	THU 26 March 26 @ 11:30 am–1:30 pm Garden Club Activities Rotonda Room
FRI 6 March 6 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano Room	THU 19 March 19 @ 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Cribbage Club Activities West Game Room	FRI 27 March 27 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano & West Game Room
FRI 6 March 6 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano Room	FRI 20 March 20 @ 12:00 pm–3:30 pm GFWC RWWC Rummage Sale Set-Up Entire Community Center	FRI 27 March 27 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm GFWC RWWC Creative Crafters Clubs West Piano Room
MON 9 March 9 @ 2:00 pm–3:30 pm Rotonda Ukulele Band Clubs Rotonda Room	SAT 21 March 21 @ 9:00 am–3:00 pm GFWC RWWC Rummage Sale Entire Community Center	MON 30 March 30 @ 2:00 pm–3:30 pm Rotonda Ukulele Band Clubs Rotonda Room
		TUE 31 March 31 @ 12:00 pm–4:00 pm Hand & Foot Card Group Activities West Game Room

THE ABC'S AND XYZ'S OF YOUR HANDWRITING

SUBMITTED BY: DEB ORCHARD

In this presentation we will look at the way we were taught to write in cursive or print and why that style may or may not differ today.

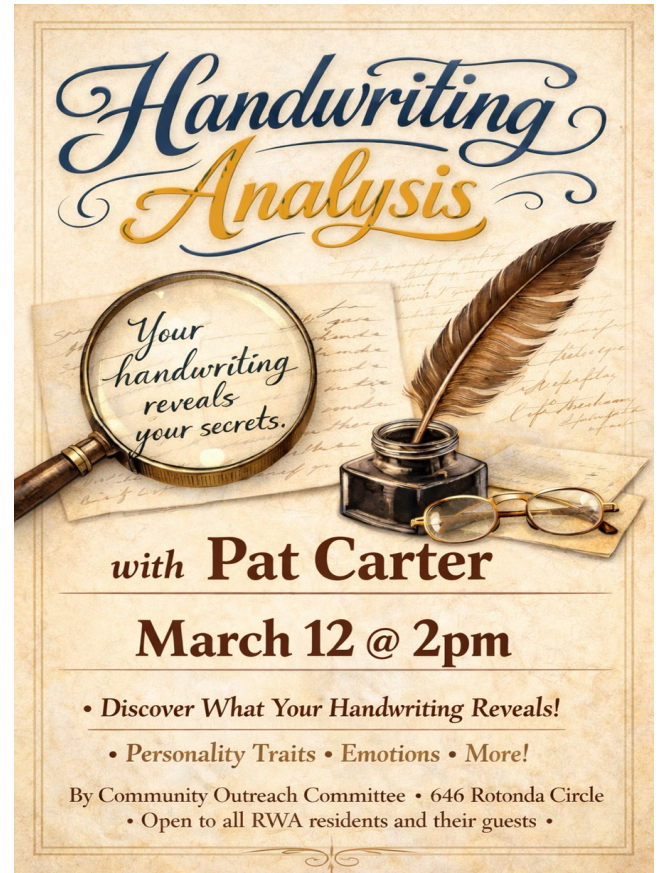
Handwriting Analysis examines everything we put on a page as if it were a blank slate. It includes where we begin to write on a page and our preference for lined or unlined paper and how we form the shape of our letters and the spaces between them. By measuring distances between our letters, words, and lines, we can learn conscious and unconscious patterns of behavior. All of these offer a deeper understanding of ourselves, family and others.

Patricia Carter Biography

As a consultant and trainer, Patricia Carter, CGA,CG has provided services to individuals and the business community since 1982. She designed an organizational development program, *Understanding And Working With People*, empowering individuals to succeed in the workplace. With greater understanding of personality, work and communication style, participants learn to recognize their strengths and apply them to achieve maximum job performance and interpersonal skills.

Patricia has served as guest lecturer for various organizations. She has traveled to many countries with the cruise industry as a special interest speaker presenting various lectures on Handwriting Analysis.

Patricia earned a BA from the University of Massachusetts. She received Certification as a Graphoanalyst from the International Graphoanalysis Analysis Foundation. She has held positions as President and Vice President of the New England Society of Handwriting Analysis.



Community Outreach Committee Presents

ROTONDA WEST

HAS TALENT 2026

Saturday, 3/7/2026 at 1 pm
at the Community Center,
646 Rotonda Circle

Starring

**RWA'S FINEST
TALENT**

Welcome RWA Property
Owners, residents, renters and
their guests.

Questions? Contact
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

*Please do not contact the RWA office,
they do not have information*



RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PROGRAM

Thursday March 26 at 2.30pm

RWA Community Center - 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL. 33947 Phone (941) 697-6788

ADAM HOWARD. NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

COME BEHIND THE SCENES OF MAJOR MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS WITH
4 TIME EMMY AWARD WINNER: ADAM HOWARD



DIVE DEEP INTO ADAM'S 45 YEARS OF CREATING HIGH END VISUAL EFFECTS FOR MOVIES AND TV SERIES INCLUDING TITANIC, STAR WARS, STAR TREK, MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, ARMAGEDDON, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, THE SIMPSONS, PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN, THE SANDLOT, BIRDMAN, MACGYVER, CLIFFHANGER, APOLLO 13 and so many more



For RWA Members, Owners, Renters and their Guests.

FUN & GAMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



MUSIC BINGO
WITH TINA

CHECK CALENDAR FOR DATES
We play 3 games on 1 card. No cost to play.
1st Thursday of each month 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Doors open at 6pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH

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

**THIS MONTH
ON MARCH 5TH**

Rotonda West Association



WELCOME TO Fabulous BINGO

RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

3/15
4/19
5/17
(3 dates left)

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.

BINGO! 3/15, 4/19, & 5/17
3rd Sunday of each month.
Doors open at 12:15 pm. Play begins at 1 pm (doors will close)
Must be 18 to play.



**TRIVIA
WITH TIM**

TRIVIA WITH TIM
3rd Thursday of each month.
March 19th
Doors open at 6 pm.
Play begins at 6:30 pm.
Play by teams or individuals.

FUN & GAMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Winning Trivia Team

TRIVIA WINNERS!

Article and photo by: Deb Orchard

**"Young Guns" -winner of February's
Trivia with Tim night!**

**Team members: Kim Anderson, Pam & Paul
Bialek, Sue & Craig Saurer, Karen & Jeff
Radomski, Van Dickerson and Lindsay
Radomski. Tonight's theme was "6/7".**

**Every question contained answers
referencing 6 or 7.**



BINGO

**On FEBRUARY 15th, 108 people enjoyed Bingo games
at the Community Center!**

Next Bingo game date is Sunday, MARCH 15th



ROTONDA PUZZLERS

Submitted by: Ellyn Nadeau



The Rotonda Puzzlers is a wonderful group of people sharing a common love of jigsaw puzzles. Two types of puzzle fun are offered. One is the Puzzle Swap and the other is Puzzle Making.

PUZZLE SWAP: Here's how it works:

Everyone meets at the Rotonda Community Park Parking lot, 100 Rotonda Blvd East, at 9:15 am the first Saturday of the month. Everyone displays all of their puzzles. At 9:30 sharp, we start the swap. Everyone grabs the puzzles they want!

Ellen takes the extra puzzles home. Some are donated to Fire Station 4 and 74, as well as to Brookdale Nursing Home, The Friendship Center, and to veterans. The remainder get recycled at the next puzzle swap. People have made friends attending the swap. Upcoming Puzzle Swap dates: March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, Sept. 5th, Oct. 3rd, Nov. 7th, Dec. 5th.

PUZZLE MAKING:

Join us on the 1st Thursday of each month at 9 am- 12 Noon in the Rotonda Community Center at 646 Rotonda Circle in the West Piano Room. Upcoming Puzzle Making dates are: March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th, Sept. 3rd, Oct. 1st, Nov. 5th, Dec. 3th.

We hope you join us at the next meeting.

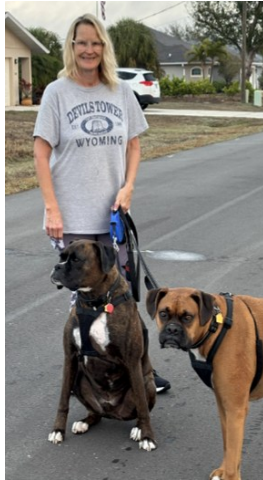
We also have a Facebook page that you may join. ROTONDA PUZZLERS

National Dog Walking Day



*Community Outreach
Committee*

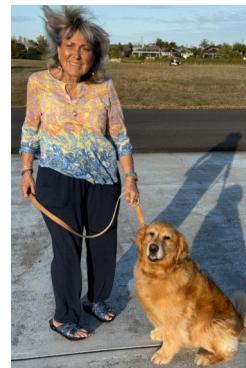
**HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE
CELEBRATES NATIONAL
DOG WALKING DAY**



Tammy with Wilshire



Lori Corrado with Louie. Bill Bertin walking Robbi and Gus. Nancy Ballard walking Speedy



SueEllen with Cozi blowing down Pinehurst Court



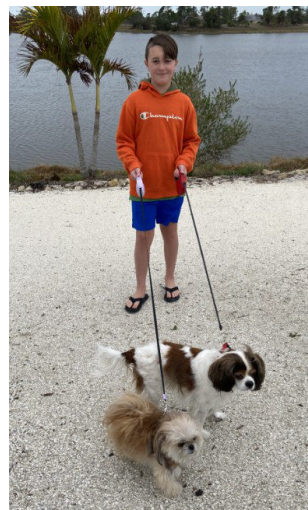
Francine Finucan and Sadie home doing Pilates



Paul Smith with Pinto getting ready for their daily walk.



This is Jasper (black standard poodle) that I rescued at 9 months old. Walking Sunday, 2/22 at Broadmoor Park where we walk each morning for the past 6 years. Thank you for keeping the park beautiful.



Silas walking Abbey and Lily at Broadmoor Park.



Pictured is Kathy Fitton of Rotonda Circle walking Buck

**3rd Annual Spring
RWA Neighborhood**

GARAGE SALE

**FRIDAY MARCH 13TH
SATURDAY MARCH 14TH**

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY MARCH 15TH

**9 AM-5
TO BUY AND TO SELL**

*INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGN APPROVAL FORMS ARE
POSTED ONLINE AT: rotondawest.org AND HARD
COPIES ARE AT THE RWA OFFICE RACK
FINAL ADDRESS LIST WILL BE POSTED
THE WEEK OF THE EVENT*

**DO NOT CONTACT ADMIN OFFICE
QUESTIONS CONTACT COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE AT:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org**

RWA SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

**Friday, March 13th
Saturday March 14th**

9 am-5 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, March 15th

The last Community Garage Sale
was a great success!



GET RID OF SOME “STUFF” AND MAKE SOME MONEY!

The 3rd Annual Spring Community Garage Sale sponsored by the RWA and
the Community Outreach Committee is coming up soon!

RWA members and renters are welcome to participate on both days
with a third day, Sunday, 3/15 as the rain date only.

A GARAGE SALE PARTICIPATION FORM IS POSTED ON THE RWA WEBSITE,
and a hard copy is on the information rack at the RWA office.

Flyers with instructions and contacts will be sent via Constant Contact and Facebook.

DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP: MARCH 5TH AT MIDNIGHT

Do not call the RWA Office with questions. Please contact the Community Outreach Committee at:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org or call [630-956-8814](tel:630-956-8814) w/questions

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski, Community Committee Garage Sale Lead

NATURE NEWS

SPRING 2026 PROGRAM LIST

PRESENTED BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH NATURE COMMITTEE

- MARCH 11, WEDNESDAY 2 PM: Invasive Plants, Mark Thurmond, retired USDA botanist
- MARCH 25, WEDNESDAY 2 PM: Peace River Wildlife Rescue, Sponsored by GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
- APRIL 4, SATURDAY 9-11 AM: Broadmoor Park Nature/Bird Walk, Kaitlin Causey, Charlotte County Lands Manager

PLEASE NOTE: All programs take place at the Rotonda West Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle. Saturday programs are outside. Meet in front of the Community Center unless otherwise specified.

Welcome to Rotonda West residents, renter, and their guests. Please do not contact the RWA Administrative Office.

Questions ?? Contact Community Outreach Committee:

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

PLEASE JOIN US

NATURE NEWS

GARDEN TIP FOR MARCH

Article Photo by: Ann Weaver

If a butterfly could design its own habitat, it would probably be a sunny meadow with some three foot high red flowers swaying above the grasses. Florida native tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*) would perfectly fill the bill. One self-sowing plant will become many with irresistible scarlet flowers, attracting bees and even hummingbirds.

Plant the white version of tropical sage nearby, and the plants sometimes produce pink flowers. The tubular 1 inch flowers appear pretty much year round. This perennial is drought tolerant once established, needing only deadheading after the seeds drop. A hardy member of the mint family, tropical sage is cold tolerant, but takes a winter break from blooming.

Lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*) would be a grand addition to that butterfly meadow. This native groundcover has oval shaped leaves with a decorative reddish pattern on the green rosette. In spring a 1 foot flower stalk produces pale blue or lavender flowers. The seeds are plentiful and will offer food for birds, as well as new plants. Not fussy about soil, lyreleaf sage is happy in sun or part shade, sand or even clay. It thrives in a wildflower lawn, tolerating foot traffic and even mowing. In my garden lyreleaf sage even grows in the beach pebble. Also in the mint family, lyreleaf sage is a nectar source for pollinators.

With this column, I will pass the trowel to Merrill Horswill, a Florida Master Naturalist with an extensive native plant garden. Merrill also helps manage the Broadmoor Park Butterfly and Native Plant gardens and she has arranged for many of the speakers we have enjoyed through the Community Outreach Committee.

**WEST WAYS AND ITS READERS WOULD LIKE TO
THANK ANN WEAVER FOR SHARING HER GARDENING
KNOWLEDGE WITH US THIS PAST YEAR.**



Tropical sage has a heart-shaped leaf and red, white or pink flowers (internet)



Lyreleaf sage planted itself in gravel.

Photo by: Ann Weaver



Blue flowers of the lyreleaf sage (internet)

NATURE NEWS



Community Outreach Nature Committee
Presents:

Invaders! Invasive Plants to Avoid and What to Grow Instead

March 11, 2pm

Mark Thurmond, Rotonda West resident, retired USDA Plant Protection Quarantine Officer (PPQO) and National Specialist Botanist for nearly 34 years



About 12 percent of nonnative plants in Florida are considered invasive or even prohibited. These invasive species spread aggressively, harm native ecosystems and resist eradication efforts. The Florida Invasive Species Council lists a staggering 166 invasive plants. Learn how to identify (some are sold in stores!) and remove the worst invasive plants and discover beautiful native plants to replace them.

Some of the worst are: Airpotato, Asparagus fern, Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, Carrotwood, Golden rain tree, Lantana camera (above), Mexican petunia (left), Orchid tree, Rosary pea, Wedelia. Learn steps to fight these aggressive weeds and nurture beautiful

native plants that support wildlife such as beach sunflower, beautyberry, cocoplum, fire bush (below), native lantana, oak, sabal palm, slash pine, tropical sage.

Rotonda West Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle
Welcome are Rotonda West residents, renters and their guests. Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office.
Questions? Contact Community Outreach Committee:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org



NATURE NEWS

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4pm
FOR ALL AGES!



Peace River Wildlife Center

Tammy Gerringer, Operations Manager

Their mission is to contribute to the survival of native Florida wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation and education. Learn about the Center and their work, meet their wildlife ambassador at this special event.

What can you do to help prevent harm to wildlife?

- Give wildlife space, they are part of our natural world
- Do not feed, it's dangerous to wildlife and humans
- Keep outside pets fenced or leashed
- Be careful with fishing supplies
- Dispose of litter and garbage responsibly
- Safely brake for wildlife and let them cross
- Don't relocate wildlife
- Don't use poison or glue traps, you'll kill more than rodents

<https://prwildlife.org/>

Rotonda West Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle

Welcome are Rotonda West residents, renters and their guests. Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office. Questions? Contact Community Outreach Committee:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

RECAP OF:

CELEBRATE THE GARDENS!

held on Saturday February 7, 2026 9-11am



Participants of all ages were able to:

- Meet the gardeners who make Broadmoor Park beautiful
- Tour the butterfly and native plant gardens with the gardeners
- Learn about the butterfly life cycle and plants they depend on
- See butterflies and caterpillars at stages of their lives
- Explore the gardens with magnifiers and see plants, insects
- Create a bee house and take it home to your own garden
- Take home seeds to grow your own pollinator plants
- Take home information about making your yard pollinator friendly
- Enjoy some refreshments in our beautiful park and meet new friends



What a fun day!

Interested in helping with the gardens and/or have ideas for programs? Contact:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

RECAP OF:

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LAND MANAGER

Kaitlin Causey Charlotte County Environmental Lands Specialist

Presented on Wednesday February 25, 2 pm

Submitted by: Merrill Horswill



Land managers are stewards of Charlotte County's natural areas, 12 properties purchased through Conservation Charlotte, environmental parks, mitigation sites and acquisition parcels. They manage these areas to protect and preserve native ecosystems, particularly keystone species such as gopher tortoises. They restore sensitive habitats by managing invasive species, conducting prescribed burns to clear undergrowth and monitoring listed species such as scrub jays. They also provide recreational, health and wellness opportunities for the public by maintaining trails, creating educational materials such as signs and booklets. A big part of the land manager's job is to educate the public about these properties and the flora and fauna that live there. We are fortunate to have so many natural areas in Charlotte County and the land managers who care for them.



To find out more about these beautiful properties and how you can enjoy them:



<https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/natural-resources/environmental-parks-preserves.shtml>





Qigong



(PRONOUNCED "CHEE-GUNG")
THE ANCIENT WELLNESS PRACTICE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 9:30 AM

At the RWA Community Center

**All invited. Must be RWA resident, owner, or renter
to join the experiential portion.**

A 1- time waiver must be signed.

Come as you are-no special dress or equipment needed

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO...

- Be strong yet flexible like a tree
- Flow like water
- Be grounded firmly on the earth
- Reach for the heavens
- Cultivate your own confidence, power and vitality
- Let go of worry and stress



Left: Instructor Donna Colleen Kester Phillips, PhD.

- Tier 2 (500 hour) Certified Advances Lee Holden Qigong Teacher
- Certified trauma-informed Yoga teacher
- Created & directs Center for Mindful Practice-Niagara University

Donna teaches Qigong, Mindfulness Meditation, and Wellness Walking through her Qi-Well Service which shares information and resources about the benefits of Qigong and other wellness practices.

**PRESENTED BY THE HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE
RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

RWA HEALTH & WELLNESS

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski



The new addition of Yin Yoga Mat Class, currently alternating Friday's at 10 am with Tai Chi, is a hit! The class has averaged 28 attendees, men women of varying levels and ages. Pilates Mat Class on Monday at 10 am (except 4th Monday & holidays) averages 30 participants.

All three classes are offered in the Community Center for RWA members, owners, renters, and are low impact stretching and meditative, help improve balance, posture, core strength, flexibility and provide stress reduction!

In addition to these classes, educational presentations are also offered. West Ways, RWA website, electronic submissions, flyers at the office, and Facebook posts are all ways to learn about them.

Let's keep Health and Wellness a priority at RWA!

For more information contact: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org.

**Rotonda West Association**
Held at RWA Community Center -
646 Rotonda Circle

Community Outreach Committee
Health & Wellness Initiative 2026
Presents

Instructor
Dr. Francine Finuco

These classes are for RWA members, owners & renters.
A one-time Fitness Waiver needs to be signed.

PILATES All Mondays EXCEPT 4th Monday 10-11 am  Pilates helps with posture as it helps to engage the deep core muscles in the abdominals, back and pelvic floor – which enables you to relax your shoulders and neck and alleviate pressure on your hips, legs and feet, in turn, improving your posture. PLEASE BRING A PILATES MAT	TAI CHI Alternating Fridays 10-11 AM  Experience meditation in motion. Tai Chi promotes flexibility, strength, and relaxation, while reducing stress. All skill levels are welcome.	YIN YOGA Alternating Fridays 10-11 AM  Yin Yoga is a slow-paced, passive style of yoga focusing on long-held floor poses (3-10 minutes) to target deep connective tissues like ligaments, joints, and fascia, rather than muscles. PLEASE BRING A PILATES MAT
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Please do not contact the RWA office, they do not have information

RWA Community Outreach presents a

Woman's History Month

Presentation on

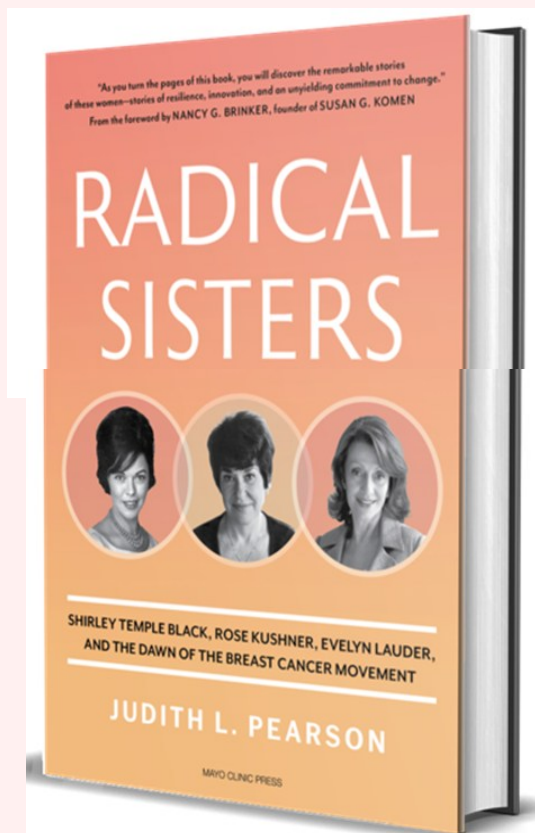
RADICAL SISTERS

A 2026 Florida Book Award Gold Medal Winner

Tuesday, March 24th at 2 pm

In the RWA Community Center

With Author, Judy Pearson



Read the prologue at:
JudithLPearson.com



Author Judy Pearson

“In this powerful history, biographer Judy Pearson spotlights three women who spearheaded the breast cancer awareness movement...it’s an inspiring account of the women who changed how breast cancer is understood and treated”.

-Publisher’s Weekly



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

GWEN GRACE, PAST PRESIDENT

MARCH, 2026



March was another eventful month for the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club. Our members were proud to once again host the Lemon Bay Historical Society Cracker Fair Lemon Dessert Baking Contest. All proceeds from this event directly benefited the Historic Society and support their important work. It was a busy occasion, and we are grateful for our wonderful judges, as well as the talented participants who submitted delicious entries for the contest.



Contest judges (L-R) Jeannie Joyce, Rotarian Arthur Current, Charlotte Technical College Chef Mucha and GFWC RWWC Past President Kathryn Gallagher.

An upcoming fundraiser "Show Me The Money" supports our Scholarship Program. It will be held at the RWA Community Center on Sunday, March 22nd. Door open at 1:30 pm and the games begin at 2 pm. Please consider joining us for a fun afternoon benefiting our local students as they move on to higher education. Each year we try to distribute at least \$8000 in scholarship money. Help us make this year even better.

Our February General Meeting was especially meaningful as we celebrated milestone anniversaries and welcomed new members. Danica Harris marked fifty years as a member of the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club. Since the club's founding in 1974, Danica has played a vital role in its development.



Danica Harris

50 year

Member

Doris Walker, who joined the club twenty-five years ago and served twice as President, was also recognized for her longstanding commitment. Both Danica and Doris are full-time residents of Rotonda West, and their dedication continues to inspire our organization.



Doris Walker

25 year

Member

New members were inducted into the club with a short and inspiring ceremony. President Gloria Rogoski gave each new member her signature star pin.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th at the RWA Community Center. We invite everyone to join us for social time beginning at 9:30 am, followed by the business meeting at 10 am. For further information about our club's events and activities, please visit our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org. You can also find us on Facebook under GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. All are welcome to attend our general meetings!



New Members are Inducted



Date: February 24, 2026

Contact: Lillian GaNun

Phone: 941-828-3626

E-Mail: lildsosl7@embarqmail.com

GPS/Navigation for Mariners – US Coast Guard Approved Boating Safety Course

PORT CHARLOTTE, FL – March 21, 2026 – The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a GPS/Navigation for Mariners course designed to enhance the navigational skills of local boaters. This comprehensive, one-day course will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the South Gulf Cove HOA Building, located at 14859 Ingraham Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33981.

Taught by experienced U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Instructors, this course will provide attendees with essential knowledge of traditional and modern navigational techniques. Instructors familiar with Gasparilla Sound, Pine Island Sound, Boca Grande, South Charlotte Harbor, South Gulf Cove, and surrounding waterways will guide participants through both fundamental and advanced navigation principles.

The first part of the course will focus on basic navigational skills, including:

- Reading and interpreting nautical charts
- Determining location and depth
- Identifying aids to navigation (ATONS)
- Recognizing hazards and features helpful to navigation
- Calculating compass bearings, distances, speed, and time for navigation.

The second portion will introduce modern Global Positioning Systems (GPS) as a navigational aid, covering:

- *Using GPS to determine location
- Storing and using waypoints, routes, and tracks
- Applying GPS for trip planning and execution.

While the course will provide a general understanding of GPS navigation, it will not be specific to any particular brand or model of equipment.

Course Logistics:

begins at 8:00 AM

bottled water, and light refreshments will be available

be provided (participants may bring their own meal or travel a short distance for take-out options)

- Check-in

- Complimentary coffee,

- A one-hour lunch break will

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To reserve your space, or if you have any questions, contact Wendy Breidel, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education, email wbreidel.uscgaux@yahoo.com or Cell phone 978-891-7490 (voice or text).

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. If plans change and you are unable to attend, please notify the organizers.

We are currently accepting cash or personal checks for payment at the door.

The cost for the course is \$45 per person, \$60 per couple, or \$15 per person, for middle or high school students.

Don't miss this opportunity to improve your navigation skills and enhance your boating safety.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

We had a wonderful time at the Neighborhood Watch Annual Appreciation Luncheon held at the American Legion Post #113. As always, the food and service were outstanding, and we are grateful to the Legion for their warm hospitality and support of our volunteers.



We are pleased to welcome our newest members

Jerry and Nancy Coutos

Special "Thanks" to David Pulaski who photographed the event and all our wonderful bakers who supplied numerous desserts for the event.. Thank You one and all....

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

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS-MARCH 2026

Submitted by: Sam Besase

- Charlotte County Commissioners unanimously voted on Wednesday February 25, 2026 to begin the work to REPLACE the Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge due to damage from Hurricane Ian (3 years and 5 months ago!). The latest offer from FEMA is \$769K, well short of the latest estimate of \$2.7 million. The additional \$2 million funds shall come from the MSBU. Meanwhile, Charlotte County shall continue to discuss with FEMA in an attempt to secure MORE funding, possibly thru another lawsuit. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers needs to provide a PERMIT. What happens now is that the engineering specification to REPLACE the bridge shall soon be sent to responsible bridge construction firms for their bids. Bid review should be in the next 60 days and perhaps actual groundbreaking and WORK might start in the May/June 2026 timeframe. The estimated construction time to REPLACE the bridge is approximately 9 months so the completion and opening of the bridge is estimated for the 2nd quarter of 2027. Information shall be updated monthly in this newsletter.

The RW S&D MSBU unanimous motion to MILL & GRIND Rotonda Circle was REJECTED by the Charlotte County Commissioners.

- PAVING - Rotonda West PAVING began on MONDAY July 21, 2025. \$17 million
- PAVING (except for punch list items) is completed for all sections except the remaining areas of Rotonda Circle and the remaining areas of Boundary.

- MSBU PAVING – BY RWA SECTIONS: AJAX
PAVING – VENICE OFFICE
- Multiple sewer & water breaks not to correct depth (36 inches vs 11 inches) causing delays
- ROTONDA CIRCLE FROM REBEL CT TO RB WEST RECLAMATION PAVING MARCH 2026
- ROTONDA CIRCLE FROM RB EAST TO RB SOUTH OVERLAY PAVING MARCH 2026
- PAVING IN ROTONDA SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE IN APRIL/MAY 2026
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS–SUCH AS REPLACE & WATER SOD/MANHOLE COVERS, DRIVEWAY ISSUES, ETC ABOUT 8 TO 10 WEEKS
- OVERLAY PAVING MARCH 2026
- PAVING IN ROTONDA SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE IN APRIL/MAY 2026
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS–SUCH AS REPLACE & WATER SOD/MANHOLE COVERS, DRIVEWAY ISSUES, ETC ABOUT 8 TO 10 WEEKS

- PERHAPS 45-DAY Paving schedule slips due to Weather & Equipment & Manpower issues.
- Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Rotonda Boulevard East NOW scheduled for installation - 2Q 2026.
- Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Ingram/Ingraham are also to be installed in the 2Q 2026.
- Remaining 4 bridges, (#110-#111-#112-#123) are scheduled for 3Q/4Q 2026 & 1Q of 2027.
- *US Government shutdown(43 days + 19 days) may affect completion of these items!!!
- Watering restrictions are in effect due to the severe drought conditions, check with CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES website for specific information. WATER 1 DAY A WEEK!

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

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

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

Future issues of WEST WAYS shall include the projected start/finish for the remaining RWA sections.

Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is James Layport. Phone 941-628-8084

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WONDERFUL STAFF**

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