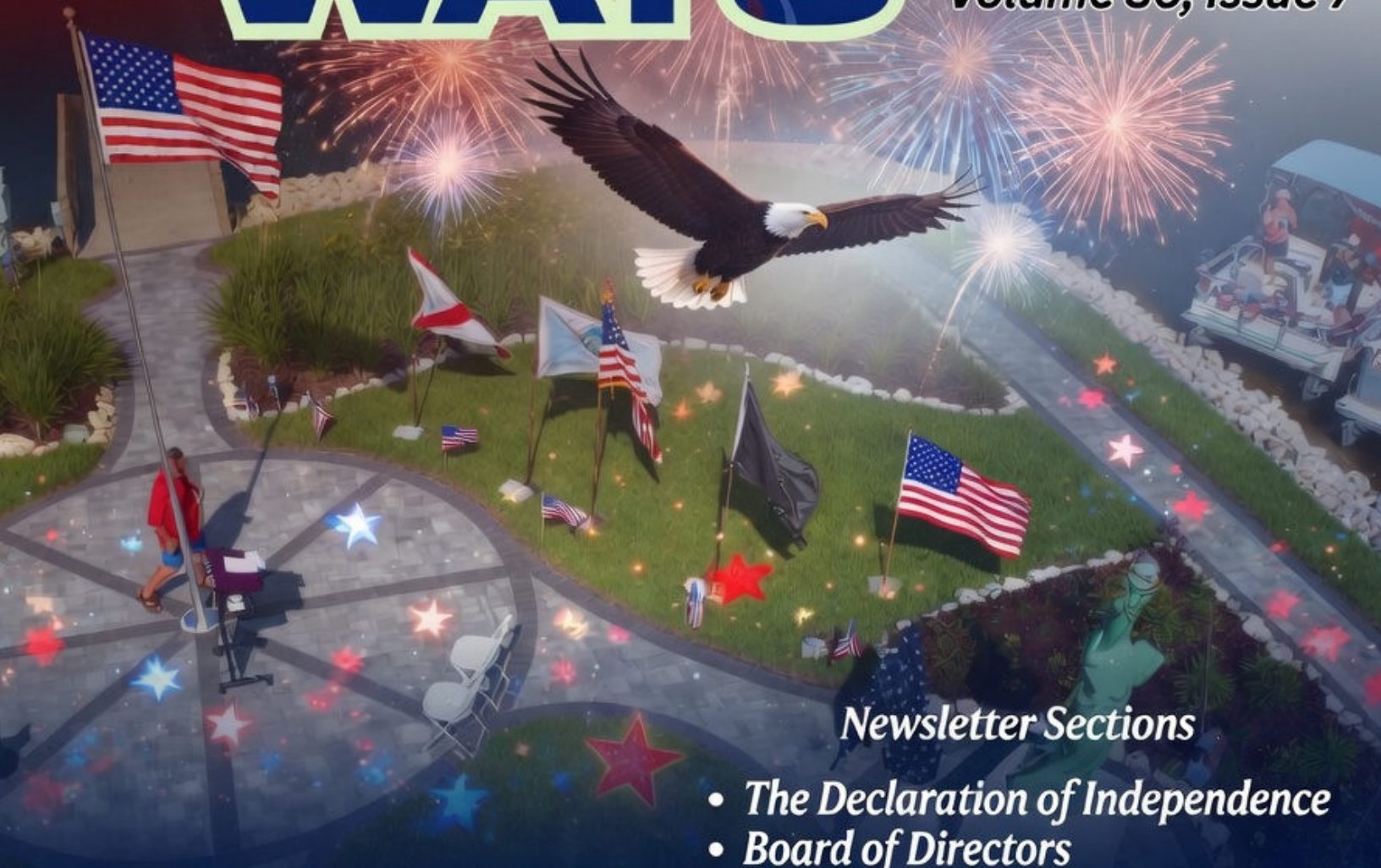


WEST WAYS



JULY 2026

Volume 30, Issue 7



*America
celebrates its
250th
Anniversary!*

Newsletter Sections

- The Declaration of Independence
- Board of Directors
- Food Trucks
- Fun & Games
- Health & Wellness
- July Calendar
- MSBU Information
- Nature News
- Neighborhood Watch
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- *WANTED* Volunteers
- Woman's Club

The Declaration of Independence: What Does It Say?

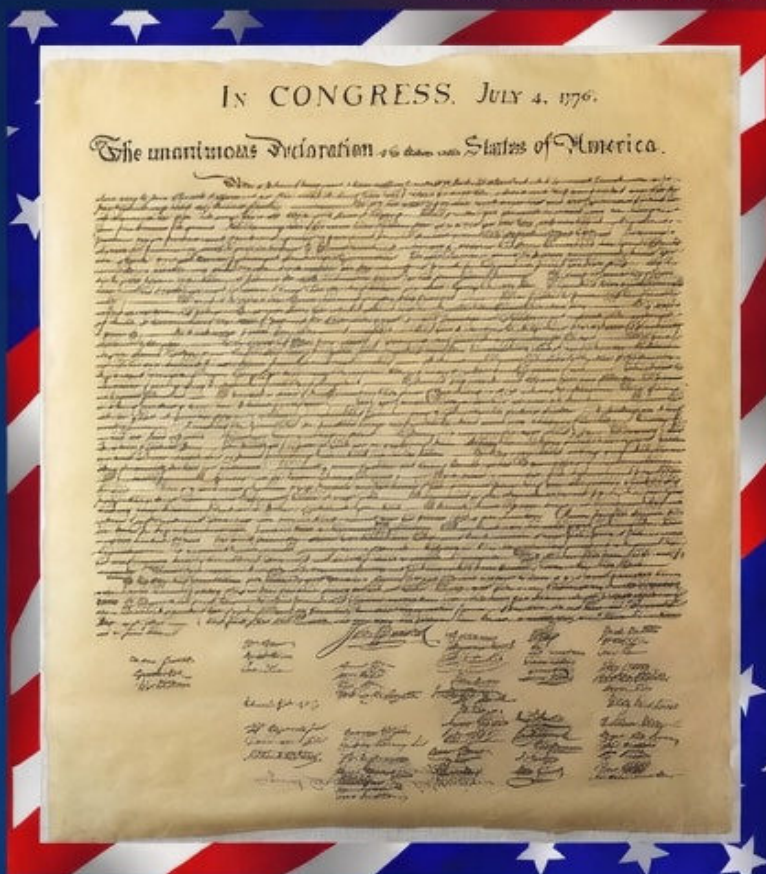
Article from: [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)

Introduction

The Declaration of Independence was designed for multiple audiences: the King, the colonists, and the world. It was also designed to multitask. Its goals were to rally the troops, win foreign allies, and to announce the creation of a new country. The introductory sentence states the Declaration's main purpose, to explain the colonists' right to revolution. In other words, "to declare the causes which impel them to the separation." Congress had to prove the legitimacy of its cause. It had just defied the most powerful nation on Earth. It needed to motivate foreign allies to join the fight.

Preamble

These are the lines contemporary Americans know best: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness." These stirring words were designed to convince Americans to put their lives on the line for the cause. Separation from the mother country threatened their sense of security, economic stability, and identity. The preamble sought to inspire and unite them through the vision of a better life.



List of Grievances

The list of 27 complaints against King George III constitute the proof of the right to rebellion. Congress cast "the causes which impel them to separation" in universal terms for an international audience. Join our fight, reads the subtext, and you join humankind's fight against tyranny.

Resolution of Independence

The most important and dramatic statement comes near the end: "That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States." It declares a complete break with Britain and its King and claims the powers of an independent country.



Visit: www.whitehouse.gov/freedom250/
for more American History



ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION *Board of Directors*



ANDY VAN SCYOC
President



KAREN HARVEY
Vice President



SAM BESASE
Treasurer



DEB ORCHARD
Secretary



GWEN GRACE
Director



DAVID KELLY
Director



PETER TRAVERSO
Director

SUMMARY OF MAY 14, 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(To view full minutes, please visit rotondawest.org/meeting-minutes/)

Meeting Overview:

Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM with quorum present. Minutes from April 9, 2026, approved unanimously. Members and management attended in person and via Zoom.

Members' Input:

- Collen Koppenhaver proposed amendments to the bylaws affecting financial thresholds and bidding processes, with discussions on increasing bid thresholds and member voting requirements.
- Jodi Patterson raised concerns about vehicle parking on golf course property, safety issues, and plans to meet with management.
- Sue Taylor questioned process for bylaws on rentals, dog limits, and swale signage, noting ongoing issues with excessive dogs and signage removal.
- Rita Lopienski requested scheduling for Pilates classes, citing underutilization of community room during certain times.

Financial and Management Reports:

Treasurer Besase reported \$2.5 million in cash, a strong budget, and low delinquency. Manager Hedges provided written updates on association operations and violations. Deed restrictions violations were approved for fines, with enforcement managed by the Compliance Committee.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds submitted a written report. Community Outreach highlighted upcoming Statue of Liberty dedication and ongoing health programs. Deed Restrictions and Residential Modifications committees discussed new member appointments and ongoing enforcement.

Policy and Bylaw Discussions:

Reviewed proposed amendments to bylaws, focusing on bid thresholds and member voting. Emphasis on maintaining Board authority within legal guidelines. Agreement to incorporate language into the Charter for project restrictions, with input from legal counsel.

Member and Director Input:

Members expressed concerns about parking, rentals, and animal control. Management and the Board acknowledged issues, with plans to investigate and address them.



RWA COMMITTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

**All meetings are available on Zoom
(link provided in Constant Contact)**

COMMITTEE	DAY	TIME
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	12:00 P.M.
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)	10:00 A.M.
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:30 A.M.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE	1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:00 A.M.
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)	2:00 P.M.
ELECTION COMMITTEE	SPECIFIC TO ELECTION	TBD
RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION COMMITTEE	2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:00 A.M.
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:00 A.M.

Now Available!

Enhance your home's security and pride!

Official RWA-approved
Perfect for Rotonda West residents

\$7 each



The official RWA approved signs for residents to place on their property are now available for purchase in the RWA Office.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN?

Rotonda West offers a vibrant community life with a variety of events and activities to engage residents and visitors alike. Whether you're interested in attending social gatherings, participating in club meetings, or enjoying **recreational** activities, the Community Center serves as a hub for all things happening around town.



To stay updated on the latest events, simply scan the QR code provided to access the comprehensive calendar of events. This digital tool ensures you won't miss out on exciting opportunities to connect with others and make the most of your time in Rotonda West.



Rotonda West
Association
PRESENTS...



TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

— 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM —

FOOD TRUCK

TUESDAY



**ROTONDA WEST
COMMUNITY CENTER**
646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

FOOD TRUCKS

**TRUCKS TO BE
ANNOUNCED AT
A LATER DATE.**



**LIVE MUSIC
INSIDE**



**TABLES & CHAIRS
INSIDE THE
COMMUNITY CENTER**



**PLUS AIR
CONDITIONING**



**JOIN US
MONTHLY ON
THE 4TH TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH.**

**TRUCKS WILL
BE ROTATED!**



Good Food • Great Company • Strong Community



Please do not contact
the RWA office. They do
not have information.



For questions email:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

TRIVIA

with Tim



Open to all RWA owners, residents and their guests



Play as an individual or form a team



3rd Thursday of each month



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



RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle



You may bring
your drinks
(lidded cups)
and snacks



No Pets



Questions? email: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org



Presented by the RWA Community Outreach Committee



By: Rita Lopienski

On June 18, Trivia With Tim was a non-themed evening with 38 attendees. Winners receive a large candy bar and the team name engraved on the 2026 Trivia trophy. Everyone had a great time.

The next date will be July 16th at 6:30pm.



The winning team was "Girls Rule", with members (left to right) Pauline VanScyoc, Cleo Olson, Maureen Laderer, Marilyn Wise and Sue DeWane



Health & Wellness

RWA 4th Annual World Bike Day Ride!

By: Rita Lopienski

Four people met June 3rd at Rotonda Community Park at 9am for a group bike ride, while others rode on their own throughout the day.



Rita Lopienski clocked 3.5 miles in the afternoon as part of her daily bike ride



Right to left: Kathy Maas, Karen Estlea & Lord David Estlea enjoyed a meetup at the Community Park



Local retired Health Educator Diane Swinney discusses how to prevent falls that can avert a cascading array of negative events in a senior citizen's life.

Stay Out of the Nursing Home: Invest in Strength and Balance

By Connie Smith

Have you ever considered that someday, your ability to get up out of a chair might be the

difference whether you can live independently or in a nursing home? Local retired Health Educator Diane Swinney told a large group of Rotonda residents June 16, that preventing falls can avert a cascading array of negative events in a senior's life, simply by maintaining strength and balance.

Just by aging, adults 65 and older, are more at-risk for falls. After retirement, seniors tend to be more sedentary, so everyone should find something active they can enjoy several days a week, especially activities that help with agility, strength, balance and coordination. Walking (walk the dog!), gardening, group classes, strength training (find a certified instructor or online videos) – find an exercise buddy. It is recommended that we get at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week.

Falls are often caused when we get in a hurry, said Swinney, “we’re retired, we should not be in a hurry!”

The leading cause of injury-related death among seniors and more than 95% of hip fractures are caused by falls. Unfortunately, the majority of hip fracture patients will not make a full recovery and may require admission to a care facility or become dependent on a cane or walker.

She suggested strong legs are the most helpful for balance and during commercials of your favorite show is a good time to practice standing up and sitting down. “One of the most basic things that sends people to the nursing home is when people can’t get on and off the toilet,” she said.

It’s important to note that healthy lifestyle choices and safety modifications in the home can prevent falls. Rugs – especially the kind that move easily – are tripping and fall hazards. Unless a rug has slip-resistant backing or is down with double-sided tape, it should go. Seating that is too low is not good, but armrests are helpful. Clutter of all kinds, particularly on the floor and pathways, needs to go. Don’t store often-used items up high and clean spills immediately. Use night lights and keep all your spaces well lit. Choose a bed that is easy to get in and out of.

Swinney discussed light-headedness, especially when first getting out of a chair or out of bed. She said, first sit on the edge of the bed (or chair) and get your bearings. Then, stand up, pause for a few seconds and “let your equilibrium catch up” before

taking a step. Then move in the direction you want to go. That often helps avoid falls.

If you have pets, a bell on their collar may help you know when they are nearby, so you don't fall over them. Also, train them to walk beside you, not in front. In the bathroom, install grab bars in the shower/tub and by the toilet. A rubber mat or non-skid strips in the shower/tub will also prevent falls on slippery wet floors.

Keep your phone on your body at all times in case you do fall, but do not panic! If you are hurt or can't get up, call for help. Consider buying a fall alert device, if you live alone or are at high risk for falling. If you do live alone, make it a habit to check in with someone once a day – call them with a greeting, joke of the day, a fun photo, or a positive thought so if you don't get in contact, you'll be missed and they will check on you. A walking stick, cane or a walker is better than a fall!

Swinney ended her talk with a set of balance of exercises that took seven minutes that she went through with the group. She urged them to practice the exercises three to five times a week and build up to two sets, tightening one's core while performing the exercise. They included, heel raises, toe lifts, tandem stance, heel/toe walk, standing on one leg, side lunges and squats.

"Invest your time in your health; keep your independence and out of the nursing home," she counseled.



Diane Swinney performs the heel/toe walk with Rotonda residents, a movement that assists with balance and strength.



The Community Outreach Committee Health & Wellness Initiative in Action!

By: Rita Lopienski

One of the year-round programs that remains popular with RWA members, owners and renters is the Health & Wellness Initiative and the Fitness programs!

In addition to presentations on balance, nutrition and promoted activities like walking and biking, we offer regular Pilates, Tai Chi and Yin Yoga.

Certified instructor Francine Finucan, also a RWA resident, leads the participants of all fitness levels on Monday's and Friday's at 10-11am, through various standing and floor mat routines that improve balance, flexibility, core strength, meditation, stress release and many more benefits. We encourage you to take your wellness seriously and give some of these programs a try!



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



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

JULY

7/3 - Office and Community Center Closed

7/4 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!
250TH ANNIVERSARY



7/4 @ 9:15am - Puzzle Swap (Rotonda Park off Parade Circle)

7/6, 7/13, & 7/20 @ 10am - Pilates Mat Fitness

7/9 @ 9am - OneBlood Drive (Rotonda Marina)

7/10 & 7/24 @ 10am - Yin Yoga

7/16 @ 6:30pm - Trivia with Tim

7/17, & 7/31 @ 10am - Tai Chi

7/28 @ 4:30pm - Food Truck Tuesdays

All events are held in the RWA Community Center unless otherwise noted

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS – JULY 2026

By Sam Besase

Here is the latest information from Charlotte County on the **Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge Replacement**:

"Staff is working with the consultant who helps us through FEMA processes on when we can start the bridge, while making sure we get the FEMA funds that they have said we could obtain. Public Works' staff is ready to put the project out to bid as soon as we get the go-ahead from them and our fiscal team."

"Once we can put it out, the bidding process typically takes around 4 months from the time it is sent to purchasing until it is approved by the board. The bids include a section for the contractor to specify the timeframe for when they can start the project. Staff and the contractor choose a start date based on this timeframe once it is approved by the board."

- Joanne Vernon, P.E., County Engineer Charlotte County Public Works Phone: 941-575-3661
- Joanne.Vernon@charlottecountyfl.gov
- ESTIMATED: Oct 2026 Bid Award - Sep 2027 Completion
- *US Government shutdown (43 days + 49 days) affected the completion of these items!!!
- Also, here is the latest information from Charlotte County on the Gasparilla Road Traffic Lights:
- "The traffic signals are currently in design. We expect the final plans and bid specs to be completed in **August of 2026**. The project will be put out for bid this fall. Included the link to the project status updates page for this project. It is updated every two weeks."
- Gasparilla Road Intersections - <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects/gasparilla-road-intersections-signalization.stml>
- Joanne Vernon, P.E., County Engineer Charlotte County Public Works Phone: 941-575-3661
- Joanne.Vernon@charlottecountyfl.gov
- 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 8 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. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers **PERMIT** finally arrived.
- Information shall be updated monthly in this newsletter.
- **PAVING** - Rotonda West PAVING began on **MONDAY, July 21, 2025**. Estimated MSBU costs: \$18.5 million
- **PAVING (except for punch list items)** is completed for all sections in the RWA.
- MSBU PAVING – BY RWA SECTIONS: AJAX PAVING – VENICE OFFICE
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS—SUCH AS MANHOLE COVERS, DRIVEWAY ISSUES, REPLACE & WATER SOD, REPAIR STAGING LOT AREAS, ETC are ongoing. The paving project is not completed until all punch list issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the Charlotte County Project Manager. The 3-year warranty doesn't start until completion is signed off by Charlotte County. Approximately 50% (~\$9.5 million) has been paid to Ajax.
- Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is **James Layport, and his phone number is: 941-628-8084**
- Remaining 4 bridges, (#110-#111-#112-#123) are scheduled to be bid and start **4Q 2026 & 1Q of 2027**. Completion probably 2Q-3Q-4Q 2027.
- Charlotte County BURN BAN remains in effect, including the use and discharge of personal fireworks, due to the ongoing DROUGHT conditions and increased FIRE risks.
- Charlotte County Utilities - WATERING restrictions are also in effect through **OCTOBER 1, 2026**, due to the severe drought conditions. Please check with the CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES website for specific information.

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. Next MSBU meeting is September 2026 at 9:30 am – San Casa

The other MSBU members are Laura Ingrassia, Nicholas Kotzalas, Leo Van Orden, and Derrick Hedges.

County Mosquito Control Fights Nature's Virulent Pest

By Connie Smith

Mosquitoes were synonymous with Florida from its very beginning, when Virginia Congressman John Randolph opposed its statehood due to its being the "land of swamps, of quagmires, of frogs and alligators and mosquitoes."

But in spite of Randolph's negative opinion, Charlotte County's Mosquito and Weed Control officials are combining technology with proven strategies, to protect residents from nature's most virulent pest. That was the message delivered to residents at a meeting June 17 at the Community Center and available on Zoom.

Dr. Laura Kraft, Charlotte County Mosquito and Weed Control Manager, told the gathered residents that the county's own mosquito counts, combined with calls from residents, determine when spraying – that is most effective against mature mosquitoes - will occur. Spraying will either be via a truck or helicopter.

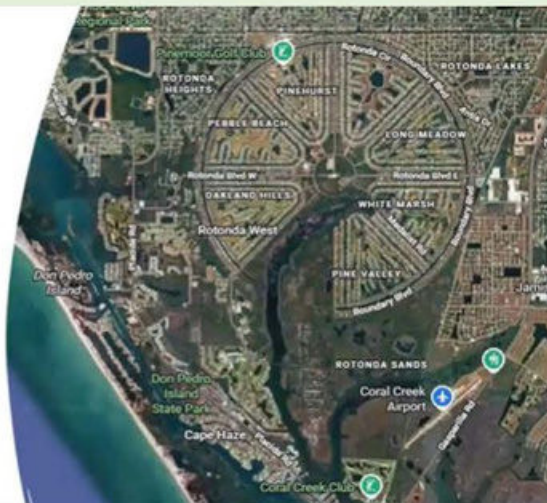
Multiple times a week, counts are conducted by the most time-honored strategy of all: an individual will go to a specific neighborhood in the county – such as Rotonda West – stand for 60 seconds and count the number of mosquitoes that land on the lower half of their body. Basic but effective! On June 12 at 9:50 a.m., after 60 seconds, the employee counted 11 mosquitoes. A less miserable day for residents was the day of the meeting (June 17) when 0 mosquitoes were counted on the employee after 60 seconds!



Dr. Laura Kraft of the Charlotte County Office of Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control, discusses the steps she and others take to control the virulent pests in Rotonda West.

Salt marsh mosquitoes

- Very aggressive biters, can bite during daytime
- Small black and white mosquito
- Eggs deposited in salt marsh areas
- Can yield up to 100 million eggs per acre



Nearby salt marshes cause Rotonda West residents to suffer from the Salt Marsh Mosquito that bites any time of day! When it rains, up to 100 million eggs that may have been laid per day can hatch.

Mosquito traps throughout the county also determine the species of mosquitoes flying about. Mosquitoes carry serious diseases, such as West Nile virus, dengue, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Malaria, so it's important to control their numbers. They lay rafts of eggs in still water, so if you have a pond or rain barrel that you believe has no fish, contact the Mosquito and Aquatic

Weed Control Office – they may be able to assist in providing fish to eat the mosquito larvae.

A program called Sentinel Chickens places a few chickens to live outdoors throughout the county where they may be bitten by mosquitoes, only to be tested for certain mosquito-borne diseases by county officials. The chickens do not get sick, but if they show evidence of disease, officials immediately know to start spraying for that particular mosquito carrier, thereby protecting citizens.

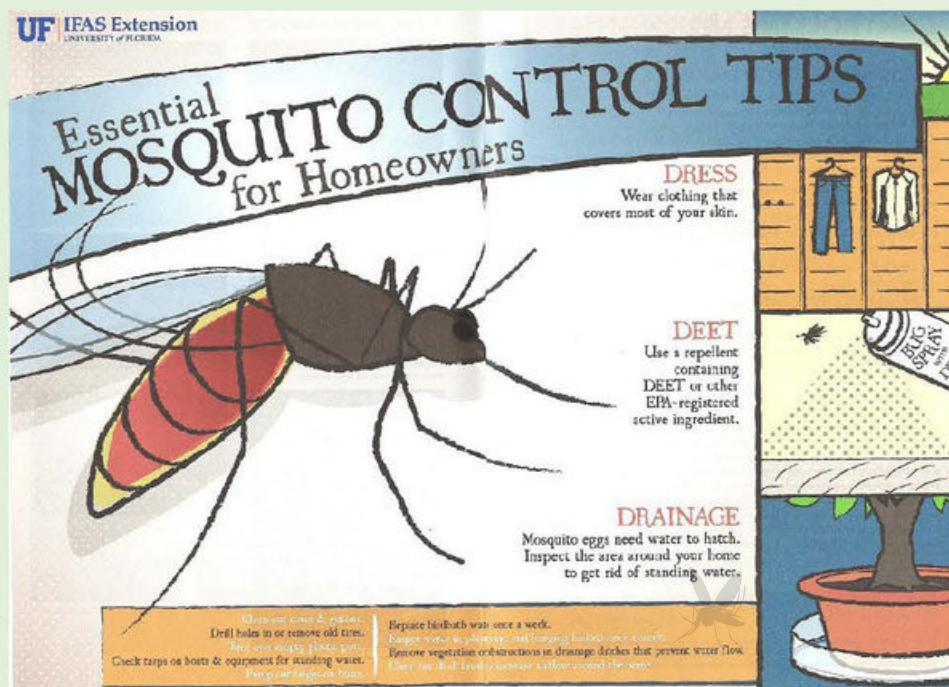
The Cape Haze Peninsula, where Rotonda West is located, is geographically “blessed” with abundant salt marshes, so officials know they must be particularly vigilant against the salt marsh mosquito that is such a vicious biter, it doesn’t care what time of day it is. It can also lay up to 100 million eggs per acre, so a nice rain can yield a bumper crop of new biting pests.

During a question-and-answer session, citizens were mostly concerned about the safety of the chemicals sprayed by trucks and helicopters. Dr. Kraft said the EPA-approved chemicals are considered safe for both the environment and humans, although residents may want to step inside if they see spraying occurring. The droplets in the spray are 40-50 microns – about half the size of a human hair (100 microns). As a courtesy, if the driver of a truck sees someone walking an animal, they will turn off their sprayer while in range of the walker, she said.

Another question was about bromeliads (plants) that might hold water after a rain wherein mosquitoes might breed. It was suggested the resident take a garden hose and rinse out such plants periodically.

Swimming pools, with their chlorinated water, will not attract egg-laying mosquitoes; however, abandoned pools are a concern.

Charlotte County has a program called Alert Charlotte that will let residents know when mosquito spraying will be conducted in Rotonda West. To sign up, go to <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085613772/login>



Dress appropriately, use repellent and get rid of standing water are the top steps homeowners can take for controlling mosquitoes.

Monarchs and Mimics

by Merrill Horswill, Florida Master Naturalist

The Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is one of the most recognizable butterfly species. But observers are occasionally fooled by mimics. Monarch butterfly mimicry is a survival strategy since Monarch caterpillars feed on milkweed, which contains cardiac glycosides. These toxins stay in the butterfly, making them toxic to predators so other butterflies have evolved to resemble Monarchs.

The Viceroy butterfly (*Limenitis archippus*) is the most well-known example. It was believed the Viceroy used Batesian mimicry to benefit from resembling the toxic Monarch. However, recent research shows that Viceroy's are also unpalatable to predators because caterpillars feed on willow and poplar trees, which contain salicylic acid (a natural form of aspirin). Their mimicry is now considered Müllerian mimicry which occurs when unpalatable species resemble each other. This benefits both species because predators learn to avoid the warning pattern. While Viceroy's resemble Monarchs, there are a few key differences. Viceroy's are slightly smaller and have a black line across the hindwings. Monarchs have gliding flight while Viceroy's fly faster, more erratically.

Other butterfly species also mimic Monarchs, sharing enough similarities to confuse predators. The Queen (*Danaus gilippus*) and Soldier butterflies (*Danaus eresimus*) are also members of the milkweed butterfly family and are also toxic. They are slightly smaller than Monarchs and lack the black veins on their wings.

Plant a butterfly garden and enjoy them all!





Happy Fourth of July!

Cheers to freedom, family, and cookouts. Wishing you a fantastic Independence Day.
Enjoy the festivities and stay safe.

Neighborhood Watch is undoubtedly one of history's oldest and most well-known crime prevention programs. The aim of our group is to promote education for residents and have a safe and secure neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch strives to promote awareness and efficiency when acting on suspicious activity. With such large investments and resources from the community, it is important to ask: are community watch programs effective in reducing crime?

The answer is **"YES"**. Charlotte County Sheriff's Department consistently states that Rotonda West is one of the safest places to live in the county.

FYI's of Neighborhood Watch

*We are a voluntary organization (operating since 1981) that works with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office by patrolling our neighborhoods each and every night. We Do Not work for the RWA-therefore, We Do Not Report any Deed Violations.

* There are 120 members of our organization (some who have 15 or more years of service) and we are always looking to grow.

* We meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at the RWA and post the recording on our website. Our next meeting is on July 21st.

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

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

There are obvious benefits Neighborhood Watch volunteers and their communities have experienced throughout the years such as: • a reduction in crime • a better quality of life • a greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control • building community pride and unity • preparing for helping others and ourselves in our community • becoming the extra "eyes and ears" of law enforcement personnel and therefore reduce law enforcement's burden.



Beware of Skimmers at Gas Pumps

With gas prices at an all-time high, theft of credit card numbers are on the rise. A few tips to avoid a skimmer scam; (1) make sure the gas pump panel is closed, (2) wiggle the card reader to check if it is loose, and (3) THEN insert your card.

-If you are concerned about being scammed at the pumps, you can always pay inside.

-Monitor your credit card statements regularly for unwanted charges and report those immediately. Don't forget to request a new credit card.



If you are looking to volunteer as a Patrol or be a Base Operator it just takes two hours a month; a small commitment to protecting our neighborhoods.

David W Perry -President- 941-828-1584

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



25 June 2026

Contact: Lillian GaNun

Public Affairs Officer

941-626-9632

Email: lildsosl7@embarqmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

OPERATION DRY WATER weekend will take place July 3-5, 2026.

As a reminder to the boating community, Law Enforcement Officers will be on heightened alert for violations of boating under the Influence (BUI) laws, promoting safety for all boaters. They will be focusing on reducing the number of alcohol-and-drug related incidents and fatalities.

EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary was created on June 23, 1939, through the Coast Guard Reserve Act of 1939, originally described as "An Act to establish a Coast Guard Reserve to be composed of owners of motorboats and yachts." In 1941, that organization was renamed the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Auxiliary was charged with promoting maritime safety, improving the operation of motorboats and yachts, fostering greater understanding of maritime regulations and operations, and supporting other Coast Guard missions.

Much has changed since 1939; the Auxiliary has grown far beyond what its founders could have imagined. Yet one thing has remained constant: the commitment of Auxiliarists to serve as dedicated, trusted, and capable members of Team Coast Guard. While recreational boating safety remains at the heart of the Auxiliary, members now serve across an extraordinary range of missions. Throughout the Southeast District, our members stand the watch, support surface and air operations, teach boating safety, conduct vessel safety checks, provide public affairs and administrative support, assist with publications and forms, serve in culinary roles, support emergency management and hurricane recovery operations, and bring specialized skills as coxswains, aviators, medical professionals, interpreters, chaplains, cyber experts, editors, mentors, and so much more. Since June 23, 1939, the Auxiliary has been the heart of our community outreach and a vital part of the Coast Guard family.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Southeast District, Flotilla 99 meets on the third Thursday of the month at the South Gulf Cove Homeowners Building.

For more information about meetings and to register for Safe Boating Classes 2026, visit our website. www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-09-09

STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Rotonda West's Real ★ **STARS** **ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Leo VanOrden

Oversees the Association's budget, financial planning, and reporting. Perfect for those who enjoy working with numbers, spreadsheets, and financial strategies.

*If you are interested in volunteering, please email budgetandfinance@rotondawest.org

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Chair: Sam Besase

Cares for community properties, grounds, and facilities. Ideal for those who appreciate detailed landscaping, maintenance, or projects.

*If you are interested in volunteering, please email buildingsandgrounds@rotondawest.org

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Chair: Gwen Grace

Plans and oversees community events. Great for you if you enjoy organizing events, socializing, and uniting people within the community.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

COMPLIANCE

Chair: Barb Peszko

Handles formal violation hearings and promotes fair enforcement processes. Ideal for those who value fairness, clear rules, and thoughtful decision-making.

*If you are interested in volunteering, please email compliancecommittee@rotondawest.org

ELECTIONS

Interim Chair: Brian Armen

Oversees Board elections and annual voting processes. Ideal for you if you're organized, detail-oriented, and enjoy managing procedures.

*If you are interested in volunteering, please email electioncommittee@rotondawest.org

RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATIONS

Chair: Barb Peszko

Reviews and approves homeowner exterior modification applications. Ideal for those with an eye for design, standards, or plan reviews.

*If you are interested in volunteering, please email residentialmodifications@rotondawest.org



Join the Christmas Indoor Decorating Elves

We are looking for volunteers to help decorate the Community Center and the Admin Building. No special talent is needed.

To kick off the Christmas Season, join us on August 6th from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm in the Rotonda Community Center. We will meet every Thursday starting August 6th to November 12th from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Times may vary depending on room availability.

From November 17th through the 20th, we will spend all day decorating the trees and rooms. You can volunteer every Thursday or come whenever you can. We are looking forward to seeing all of you! Make sure to mark your calendars.

Grace Chetcuti & Debbie Jensen

GFWC Rotonda West Women's Club, Inc.

Gwen Grace (Past President)

July 2026



Happy 4th of July and 250th Anniversary of this wonderful country! We hope everyone has a wonderful day celebrating the USA!

The Health & Wellness Community Service Program of GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club partnered with the EPIC Resource Center of Englewood to support individuals in transition toward a better life. EPIC provides health, legal, and case management services each Monday, while GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club members bring and serve lunch.



During the summer months, our club members continue with their book clubs, project groups and the executive committee meet to make plans for the upcoming year.

Many members go north or take time to travel all over the world. Meanwhile our club continues to maintain the free library at the community center and collect food for local pantries. And coming up on July 9th, we will have the Big Red Bus at the RW Marina across from the Hills County Club. Children's sneakers and socks will also be collected for "Kicks for Kids" giving the opportunity for all children going back to school to have new shoes for the first day of school.



ONEBLOOD DRIVE & KIDS' NEEDS BACK-TO-SCHOOL COLLECTION

SAVE A LIFE - HELP A CHILD PREPARE FOR SCHOOL!

THURSDAY, JULY 9TH

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ROTONDA MARINA PARKING LOT
Across from Rotonda Golf & Country Club
117 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West

THE BIG RED BUS WILL BE ON SITE!

Summer time OneBlood Drives are especially critical due to very many travel and sport related accidents.

First-Time Donors Are Very Gratefully Appreciated!

ALL ONEBLOOD DONORS RECEIVE:

\$20
eGift Card

Chick-fil-A
Coupon

Free
Wellness
Checkup

Appointments are encouraged.
IDs are required.

Visit: oneblood.org/donate-now
Use Sponsor Code: **39275**

For information, contact:
Kathryn - **610-952-1333**

We will not be having our General Meeting until September which will take place on Thursday, September 17th at the RWA community center. Everyone is welcome to join us for a social gathering at 9:30 AM, followed by the business meeting at 10:00 AM.

For more information about our club's events and activities, please visit our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org. You can also find it on Facebook under GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. All are welcome to attend our general meetings!



TOGETHER, WE CAN **SAVE LIVES** AND SUPPORT LOCAL CHILDREN.

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Annette Casteel
Assistant Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator/ResMod

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Denise Huffman
Administrator/Minutes Clerk

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator/Deed Restrictions

Kelsey Stewart
Administrator/Deed Restrictions

Amanda Stuever
Administrator/Event Coordinator

Faela Waldrop
Administrator/ResMod

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Dale Anderson

Craig Brown

Travis Green - *Aquatics*

Marc Santos

Doug Smith

Wayne Taylor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

Andy Van Scyoc
President

Karen Harvey
Vice President

Gwen Grace
Director

Sam Besase
Treasurer

David Kelly
Director

Deb Orchard
Secretary

Peter Traverso
Director

WEST WAYS STAFF

David Pulaski
Photographer

Connie Smith
Writer

Nancy Seiss
Editor

Amanda Stuever
Design/Editor

CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

Sam Besase - *MSBU*
Grace Chetcuti - *Christmas Volunteer Flyer*
Gwen Grace - *RWWC*
Merrill Horswill - *Nature News*
Debbie Jensen - *Christmas Volunteer Flyer*
Maureen Laderer - *Food Truck Flyer*
Rita Lopienski - *Health & Wellness*
David Perry - *Neighborhood Watch*

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

646 Rotonda Circle

Rotonda West, FL 33947

Phone #: (941) 697-6788 | rotondawest.org