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Rotonda West Association

West Ways

After July 1, Color West Ways ‘Green’

West Ways is at a crossroads!

As has been reported over the last year, the newsletter is going ‘green.’ The effective date is July 1.

This means that all subsequent issues can be read on the RWA website - www.rotondawest.org - under the link West Ways Newsletter. It’s all a part of the Association’s cost-saving plan to encourage owners to join the Electronic Communications Program (ECOM).

So far, over 700 owners have opted to read the newsletter on-line and to discontinue receiving printed copies in the mail. In addition to the newsletter, owners will receive billings such as the annual assessment and other documents via email, in place of printed copies.

ECOM could save the Association thousands of dollars in printing and postage costs. But the participation of owners is required.

If you have an email account and prefer to view issues on-line two weeks earlier than the printed copy and in color, take the time now to sign up. It’s simple. Send an email to Manager Jay Lyons at manager@rotondawest.org with your name, property address and account number and request participation in the ECOM Program. Printed copies will still be available for other owners.

One more issue... March/April ...will be printed and mailed before we go on-line on July 1. That is a firm deadline. The cooperation of all is necessary to make this cost-savings program work!



Cyclist Supports Plan... Walter Taylor of the Broadmoor subdivision was one of a dozen speakers to support the lower-cost plan for the bike/walking trail on Parade Circle at a recent meeting of the Rotonda West Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU). An active cyclist and member of the Board of Coastal Cruisers Bicycle Club, Walter logs about 8,000 miles a year on trails throughout the County. For an update on the project, see page 3. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

‘Community Forum’ Offers Useful Tips

When was the last time you checked our web site, www.rotondawest.org? The wealth of information available may surprise some and contents are updated on a regular basis by our Webmaster, Christine Lee.

The “Community” section has fourteen information links and the “Association” section has another thirteen.

One under-utilized link is the “Community Forum.” The Forum is an ‘interactive’ resource for you and other members to share thoughts, comments and ideas on a whole host of everyday topics. These range from local restaurants and golf courses, educational opportunities, community events and activities and many more. If you are into boating and fishing, there’s a topic for both, as well as computers and the Internet and a homeowners corner to discuss all matters about your home and its care. Lawn care, a volunteer’s corner and help wanted are also included.

Once you access the link, all you need to do is register with your user name and password and you’re off and running. Give it a try!

A Word of Thanks!

The names Ruth Sargent, Sue Killion and Dave Pulaski appear under the *West Ways* listing in the masthead on page 8 - Ruth, a writer, Sue and Dave as photographers. Their good work is acknowledged on these pages with a by-line. But as volunteers working behind the scenes, their value goes much further. All three are always willing and able. Dave and Sue carry their camera equipment wherever they go. They often cover for us on nights and weekends. So, special credit is overdue. Thanks, Dave! Thanks, Sue! Thanks, Ruth!

- The Editor



President's Message

by Glynn Perkins

Committee Volunteers - Backbone of the RWA

On Sunday evening, March 4, our legion of volunteers will be honored at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - and deservedly so. They devote hundreds and hundreds of hours every year to make our Association tick.

The Rotonda West Association is the largest mandatory homeowners association in the State of Florida with 8,000 lots, over 6,000 owners in all 50 states and 37 foreign countries, and 13,000 residents.

So, it's a tall order to keep the wheels turning to make this a desirable community. Seventy-two members volunteered last year and stepped up to the plate to help a staff of 5 to cover all bases. Thirty-three of the volunteers served on more than one committee in 2011, with Hank Artz leading the pack with 5 committees. Eight members served on 4 committees.

Here's a quick profile of the 11 committees whose volunteers make the RWA tick. Refer to the schedules on page 8 for the time and day of the month for committee meetings.

Administrative/Personnel

Composed of the President and 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. Reviews performances of staff and recommends salary increases. Reviews and resolves employee issues.

Aquatic Canal System/Drainage

Oversees canal infrastructure for storm water retention, flood control, recreation. Assures adequate water levels, quality/cleanliness, weed control, aquatic life. Works to resolve street and/or drainage problems.

Beautification/Mowing

Main function is to keep the community looking 'beautiful' and upgrading entrances, parks, marinas. Responsible for

mowing contracts of common areas, swales, vacant lots, specialty mowing.

Budget & Finance

Manages the finances, revenues and expenses of the association. Responsible for developing annual budget. Committee members have a strong background in finances, banking, CPA and Accounting and a corporate business focus.

Community Relations

Communications link between the Association and members through West Ways and the RWA web site... www.rotondawest.org. Organizes committee events such as the Christmas Parade, Newcomer Receptions, Volunteer Recognition dinners, Holiday decorations. Interacts with the local media on news of importance in the community.

Compliance

Provides a review process for members through hearings for a fine or suspension resulting from deed restrictions violations and violation of other covenants.

Deed Restrictions

Responsible for enforcement of deed restrictions to protect property. Establishes methodology of consistent enforcement and fining structure.

Election

Establishes election guidelines and conducts the annual election of the Board of Directors.

Policies & Procedures

Prepares policies and procedures that apply to RWA committees.

Residential Modification

All members are required to submit plans for additions and modifications of existing homes or structures under a set of guidelines. This committee reviews each application.

RWA Properties

Maintains, upgrades and improves RWA-owned facilities such as the administration building, gazebo, gazebo bridge and marine docks.



Perfect Symmetry...

A birds-eye-view of a sliver of our community looking west toward the Gulf of Mexico. Oakland Hills at the left and Pebble Beach at the right are divided by Rotonda Boulevard West at just right of center. Of our seven subdivisions, Oakland Hills was the first to be developed. Pebble Beach was next.
Copyright 2012 - Brett Slattery

Parade Circle Bike Path Underway

Work was scheduled to begin by early March for the long-awaited construction of the one-mile bike/walking path around Parade Circle for joggers, walkers and bike riders.

Construction was delayed while consideration was given to a proposed \$950,000 project offered by Charlotte County Public Works. It would include a concrete surface, 228 trees, 303 shrubs, benches, landscaping and an irrigation system.

Members of the Rotonda West Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) challenged the proposal as too costly and submitted a scaled-down plan of its own. The MSBU plan totaled about one-half million dollars less than the County proposal. It includes an asphalt surface less costly and better suited for bicycle traffic, three benches positioned at both ends of the bike path and in the center, with three cabbage palm trees and one live oak tree planted at each bench area.

At a well-attended MSBU meeting on December 13th, MSBU Chairman John Peszko presented his committee's plan and Tara Musselman, County Project Director, presented the County's proposal. By a show of hands, the overwhelming choice of attendees was for the less-costly MSBU plan. The County then proceeded with the design phase in advance of construction.

The bike path will be named in honor of the late Bruce D. Miller. Bruce served two terms as a Director of the RWA and was Second Vice President and Treasurer. He became

a volunteer in 2000 when he joined the staff of West Ways and progressed from there. Before his death from cancer in 2008, he was working with the County on a proposed bike path along Rotonda Boulevard West.

The MSBU committee is working on several other projects with the County. Among them are the installation of sidewalks along Rotonda Boulevard East, Rotonda Boulevard North, and Rotonda Boulevard West. The design phase is about 30% complete and construction is expected to be completed in February 2013. Other projects are new signage at the five entrances, power to bridges, and street lights. The MSBU committee is also working with the County on flooding and drainage issues after heavy rains create problems in Oakland Hills neighborhoods. In addition, RWA President Glynn Perkins, Director Stan Plizga and RWA Manager Jay Lyons met with County officials on the same issue. The County has been slow in providing a copy of a detailed analysis of our community's drainage system to the RWA and MSBU committee.

MSBUs are special Charlotte County assessments to pay for specific projects in communities like ours by apportioning the costs to property owners. The Rotonda West MSBU is a County committee with a working relationship with the RWA Board.

In addition to Chairman John Peszko, the Rotonda West MSBU committee consists of Olga Durham, Scott Schermerhorn, Stan Plizga, Sue Killion and Charles Dodd.

Election Committee Gets Early Jump on 2012 Voting

As members might suspect, the voting process for new directors of the Rotonda West Association takes many months to administer. With this in mind, the Election Committee has already begun its planning for the 2012 election that takes place in the fall.

Last year, with two openings on the Board, just two candidates were on the ballot, contributing to low voter participation. Greater participation is now an Election Committee priority.

The committee is encouraging interested members to give serious consideration to becoming a director and will offer direction. Candidate workshops will be scheduled that will cover the requirements and responsibilities of candidates, as well as newly-elected directors.

The committee is also looking into ways to further simplify the ballot by streamlining the instructions in a step-by-step approach. The committee expects the results will be a more user-friendly process. However, the committee is bound by the requirements of Florida state law governing homeowners association elections.

The Election Committee meets at 1:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Center. Members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Peter Traverso is the committee chairman. Committee members are Donna Krabbe, Margie Carroll, Ginni Mahon, Barbara Peszko, Lois Burger, Sue Artz, Fred Warner, and Dick and Joan Duggan.

A Thoughtful Remembrance

The family of a long-time resident of a Riverhouse condominium on Boundary Boulevard has donated a memorial bench and surrounding landscape as a tribute to their father's memory.

Dr. Bruce H. Dinsmore, who passed away a year ago, was a Ph.D. in aquatic ecology, an outdoorsman and environmentalist. In retirement, he gave many birding tours in the area. The bench is placed in a tranquil setting at the Oakland Hills Marina where Bruce had often visited.

The family dedicated the bench on December 28 in an informal gathering. A son, two daughters and grandchildren were present. The small, dignified memorial plaque reads; "In Loving Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Bruce H. Dinsmore."



The Dinsmore memorial bench at the Oakland Hills Marina.
Photo by Sue Killion.

Newcomers to be Prepped on Community Amenities on March 20

The seventh in a series of Newcomer's Receptions is set for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 20 at the Community Center. Although the event is arranged for new residents, all are welcome.

Representatives of RWA committees and social and service organizations will be on hand to describe their services and answer questions. Many informative displays will be set up around the meeting room. Refreshments will be served.

The event was created three years ago to introduce and welcome new residents to the community. Several hundred residents and others have participated.

Event chairperson is Sue Artz. Call Sue at (941) 697-5591 for more information.

Watch Says 'Thanks' to Its Volunteers

More than 100 volunteers of Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch gathered at the Rotonda Community Park for the annual Member Appreciation Picnic on a Sunday before Christmas. Guests feasted on pizza, salads and desserts. The festive spirit of the holidays pervaded. Entertainment was provided by The Tonettes, the popular Woman's Club chorus that appears regularly at nursing homes and other venues.

John House, Watch President, presided and thanked all the volunteers for donating their time of two hours each month to patrol our streets or serve as a base. The annual election of officers was held and the trio of President John House, Vice President-Administration Bob Bondeson and Vice President-Operations Jim Laurent will return for another year. "This yearly event is our way of thanking our members with our complimentary outing," said John House.

The next social event for the Watch is the annual Spring Fling on Sunday, March 18 at the Rotonda Community Park. The Watch operates independently from the Rotonda West Association.

Interested in volunteering for 2 hours a month with a worthy cause? Neighborhood Watch can always use more volunteers. Call Bob Bondeson, (941) 548-1384, or John House, (941) 697-8030.



Watch President John House makes announcements as his wife Jo Ann looks on. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

Manager's Report

by Jay Lyons, RWA Manager

Odds & Ends

2012 Annual Statements

The annual Statements for the 2012 dues of \$156.00 per lot were sent out to all owners during the week of January 9, 2012. Payment is due by March 15, 2012. If you have not received a copy of your 2012 statement, please contact the Association at (941) 697-6788 or by email at: info@rotondawest.org.



ECOM Program

Thank you to all our members who have agreed to receive Association communications electronically. I am happy to report that we sent over 1,000 Annual Statements electronically this year. We are still encouraging all our members who have the capability of receiving information electronically to sign up for the Electronic Communications Program (ECOM). Just drop me an email at manager@rotondawest.com with your name, property address and account number requesting participation in the ECOM Program. Participation includes receiving a link via email to view the West Ways newsletter on our website, www.rotondawest.org.

Yard Trash

If you are clearing brush or trimming trees on your property, make sure when you put your yard trash out for Waste Management that you place the trash on your lot. If you place the yard trash on a vacant lot adjacent to your property or across the street from your property, it will not be collected by Waste Management because vacant lots do not pay the fees for trash removal. If you have yard trash to be picked up, please call Waste Management at (941) 629-1106.

2011 Annual Audit

Copies of the 2011 Annual Audit will be available for members to pick up at the Rotonda West Community Center on Friday, March 30, 2012.

Editor Opening!

A three-month search for a new volunteer editor of this newsletter has hit a dead-end. The Community Relations Committee is now embarking on a study with options that includes a paid position to fill the opening. The RWA Board endorsed the study at its February 8 meeting.

The editor has the responsibility to manage the planning and publication of the bimonthly newsletter for owners around the world.

Required are planning, writing and creative skills. News stories will highlight association business, community improvement projects, human interest stories, and ongoing community events and activities. The editor will work with an experienced staff and report about the inner workings of Florida's largest mandated homeowners association.

Interested? For a job description or to express interest, send an email to the Interim Editor, Don Mahon, at donmahon3@comcast.net.

QuickStart Tennis - New For Kids 10 And Under

Two sports that can last for a lifetime are golf and tennis. And we have both facilities right at our fingertips, with five golf courses and two tennis courts in our community.

Thanks to the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and our own Art Richards, tennis lessons are now available for kids as young as 5 years old. It's called QuickStart tennis and allows kids to start playing immediately, even if they have never picked up a racquet.



QuickStart Tennis is designed to bring kids into the game by utilizing specialized equipment, short court dimensions and modified scoring, all tailored to age and size.

Tennis has been Art Richards's passion for years and he's been honored by the USTA. Now he's involved with QuickStart. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

Art Richards, an accomplished tennis player himself and a resident of the Broadmoor subdivision, got

the ball rolling by appearing before a meeting of the Cultural Guild of the Greater Cape Haze Peninsula (formerly the Rotonda Community Foundation). Art described the benefits of the program and asked for the Guild's support. Guild officers and members then got behind the program and sought public funding. Enough money was raised to re-stripe and add blended lines to the two courts at the Rotonda Community Park on Parade Circle and to purchase smaller racquets, very low compression tennis balls and a smaller net, all suited to make the game easier for kids to learn.

Kids from ages 5 to 10 are welcome. Lessons are held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the Rotonda Community Park courts. Parents can register their children at the Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 North Access Road off SR 776 in Englewood, or call (941) 681-3742. A fee is required. USPTA Pro Tony Geraci is the instructor, representing Charlotte County's Community Services Department. Tony's career is teaching tennis and he has successfully completed the professional teacher's exam.

Art Richards learned the game while in the Army. Through the years, he has played in USTA tournaments and taught the game to hundreds of students of all ages in his native Massachusetts and Florida. He is now certified to teach the USTA QuickStart Program.

Among Art's achievements, he is the recipient of a National Community Service Award by the USTA for giving clinics for students in schools for the deaf. He is now accredited to teach the QuickStart program.

"I just want area youngsters to experience the joys of the game as I have for so many years," Art said. "We hope to encourage many Rotonda West kids to be involved."

Jean Bennett: Re-Inventing Retirement

(Editor's Note: In 1916, the headlines read that the Allies turn back the Germans in the WWI Battle of Verdus, Woodrow Wilson is re-elected President, Charlie Chaplin signs his first film contract, and Babe Ruth pitches and wins 14 inning World Series game. And 1916 was the year that Jean Bennett was born. Here's a profile on Jean, a very busy Nonagenarian as written by Ruth Sargent.)



Our own Jean Bennett, volunteer extraordinaire!
Photo by Sue Killion.

In the Spring of 1972, Jean Bennett retired from FBI Health Services in Washington, D.C. and settled into her new home in Rotonda West. No doubt she envisioned a life of travel and leisure after building her home in Oakland Hills. "I love to cruise, to travel all around, anywhere," the perky redhead says with a sparkle in her expressive eyes.

As a Registered Nurse, Jean enjoyed a career which spanned from public health to working with private medical practices in obstetrics, orthopedics and other fields. Whatever she chose to do as an RN, it would entail helping people. "That has always been my major satisfaction." Her 'retirement' would follow the same path, volunteering to help people in her rapidly growing new community.

Jean is still busy helping people. She has, in essence, re-invented retirement. Several surprise celebrations of the 95th birthday last July revealed the community's widespread respect and admiration for her contributions to Rotonda West and the Englewood area. She was among the original members of the Rotonda West Garden Club and the Rotonda West Woman's Club. She has been an active member for 15 years at the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113 where she was Sergeant at Arms and now serves on the Executive Board. "I washed dishes, served as a volunteer waiter - anywhere I was needed."

Jean has been volunteering at Englewood Community Hospital for 12 years - again wherever she is needed. "Although I often worked from the hospital kitchen, setting up and serving patient trays, for example, the most enjoyable aspect was helping patients and families. Staff is busy doing its job and this is where the volunteer comes in. It is one of the most satisfying aspects of being a volunteer."

Jean serves as a Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch base station by telephone two evenings a month, and schedules and recruits Sunday greeters at Faith Lutheran Church. The entire list of her volunteer activity is long and varied but she stresses again, "very satisfying." As a Neighborhood Watch base, she is a vital communication link between the volunteers patrolling the neighborhoods and any possible help they may need along the way. Neighborhood Watch drivers and the residents who may need help know they are not alone out there. "We can immediately contact the police and/or fire department and get them on the scene right away."

Jean Bennett is lauded as a caring and giving neighbor but most of all she is certainly a role model for good citizenship among her Rotonda neighbors.

We all thank you, Jean!

Canal Maintenance - More Than Meets the Eye

by Wayne Mengel, Member, Aquatics Canal System Committee

As reported in the last issue of West Ways, the newest addition to the continuing challenge to control the 20+ species of invasive and native vegetation in our canals is the Truxor Aquatic Weed Cutter, Excavator and Dredger.

While our canals were originally constructed as a water containment and drainage system, they have become an integral component of life in Rotonda West. Their restoration and maintenance are a primary concern of our Rotonda West Association.

To this end, the RWA Board of Directors has charged the Aquatic Canal System/Drainage Committee with the responsibility to develop a long-term plan to ensure that the canals would be maintained in the most productive and efficient manner possible. In November 2010, the Board approved a "5 Year Plan for the Canal System" that appears on the RWA web site at www.rotondawest.org/committees under the Aquatic Canal System/Drainage Committee's description.

One major issue identified in the plan is the control of unwanted vegetation (Issue 2.4). The plan identifies multiple approaches for vegetation control, including chemical, biological and mechanical.

The chemicals in use are all approved for use by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and include both liquid and granular forms applied directly to the plant or the surface of the water. Blending the proper chemicals in the proper proportions is critical to ensure a water system that can be used for irrigation and also be a suitable environment for wildlife. In the past, this has been the primary means of vegetation control used in the canals.

The second method of vegetation control is biological. This method involves the use of fish to consume the vegetation. Grass carp have proven to be effective in this area. They too have certain limitations in that they need to be stocked over the years and barriers have been constructed to contain their movement within the canal system. The RWA is working with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the Charlotte County Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) to implement this program in the coming year.

The third method of vegetation control is mechanical. This method includes the use of a variety of mechanical tools to



Above: The Truxor cuts and harvests invasive vegetation in our canals. Below: FloridaAquatic President John Farrell at work harvesting weeds. Photos by Wayne Mengel (top), Sue Killion (below).



cut and harvest the invasive vegetation. This is where the new Truxor DM 5000 enters the picture and is in use by FloridaAquatic, Inc., our canal maintenance vendor. Truxor can operate on land or in the canals and is equipped with a sickle bar cutter attached to the leading edge of a basket at the front of the unit. This allows the operator to cut and gather the weeds in a single process. A second option is the use of another sickle bar attachment that can be lowered into the canal to cut vegetation close to the bottom. The floating debris can then be harvested and disposed of to alleviate the buildup of muck in the canals. The Truxor DM 5000 is also capable of dredging the canal, excavating land, and removing trash from the canal. This and other maintenance vehicles are in continuous use in the maintenance of the canals.

The RWA is pleased to have both the chemical and mechanical means of vegetation control operational. The addition of a biological control through the use of grass carp will round out the canal maintenance program as defined in the five-year plan, and residents can expect even better-looking canals.

Monitoring the Health of Our Canals

Florida Lakewatch is a volunteer citizen program that facilitates 'hands-on' participation in managing lakes, rivers, canals and coastal sites through monthly monitoring activities. The program is coordinated by the University of Florida.

On Thursday, March 15, representatives of Florida Lakewatch will be at the Community Center to give a presentation on our canal system. The meeting is open to the public and begins at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The presentation will demonstrate the need for water sampling, how it is conducted, what is tested, and how

the results are used to monitor the health and well-being of our canals. Water sampling is an integral part of our Canal Maintenance Plan (see related article).

Founded in 1986, Lakewatch currently analyzes water samples from our canals at no cost. Samples are provided by Rotonda West resident volunteers who collect the samples from various points within the canal system. The data generated enables the RWA's Aquatic Canal System Committee to monitor the overall status of our canal system, a vital part of Rotonda.

All interested residents are encouraged to attend the presentation. For more information about the meeting or how to participate in the water sampling program, please call John House at 697-8030.

Kids Give the Homeless Much-Needed Comfort

When a cold front from the north was about to sweep into our area in early January, a group of school-age kids were prepared. Not for themselves but for hundreds of others.

Since September, the young kids had been collecting blankets and warm clothing for the homeless in advance of the cooler winter months, a highly-commendable project.

The temperature would plunge into the 30s on the night of January 8. The day before, 10 members of "Kids Creating Change" loaded up a 16-foot trailer with blankets and clothing earmarked for the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition in Port Charlotte. At the same time, they had gathered 50 blankets for the overnight homeless shelter at St. David's Episcopal Church in Englewood.

The kids are members of the "Kids Creating Change" team that has made a huge impact since their founding in October 2010. They are extraordinary kids doing extraordinary things. Their leader is 11 year old Caitlyn Lovelace, who has spearheaded the effort since the beginning.

In a little over a year, the kids have collected more than 1,000 blankets, as well as clothing items, shoes and personal hygiene products for the homeless in every age group. And many Rotonda West residents stepped forward with donations



It's break time after the kids loaded up the trailer. Left to right, Clayton Crawford, 12, Chris Slowick, 15, Kiri Polak, 14, Kelsey Hansen, 12, and Caitlyn Lovelace, 11, 'Kids Creating Change' founder. *Photo by Jill Lovelace.*

on September 24 that was designated as "Rotonda West Collection Day."

Caitlyn and her group have sent a note to Rotonda West residents who helped. It reads - "Thanks to the Rotonda West community, many people are warm this winter because of the warmth in your hearts." signed - "All the kids of Kids Creating Change." Several members of the group live in our community.

At last count, 4,500 families were homeless in Charlotte County.

Inside the Circle - Bits & Pieces From Around the Community

Start of Something?... Peter Traverso, an RWA Director representing the Developer, reported at the February Board meeting that 8 new homes are under construction throughout the community, three in White Marsh and one each in Pebble Beach, Pinehurst, Broadmoor, Long Meadow and Pine Valley. Oakland Hills is the only exception. The 8 new homes tops the total for all of last year.

Honors for Hannah... Hannah Lindsey has been named one of the four recipients of the state-wide 2011 Distinguished Scholastic Award by the Florida Association of Teacher's Education. A 2011 graduate of The University of North Florida, Hannah teaches social studies at Paxon High School for Advanced Studies in Jacksonville. Her parents live in the Broadmoor subdivision. A national champion in gymnastics as a young teenager, Hannah grew up in Rotonda West and is a product of Lemon Bay High School.

World Championship, Close to Home... All boating eyes around the world were focused on Charlotte Harbor in early January. Every year, the International Association for Disabled Sailing conducts a world championship regatta. The IFDS chose Charlotte Harbor Regatta, Inc. as the 2012 host organization and a huge success the event was. More than 100 disabled sailors on 75 boats from 20 countries participated. It took 150 volunteers. Hank Killion of the Pine Valley subdivision played a major role. He serves as a Director of the Charlotte Harbor Regatta, Inc. and handled all shore-side arrangements for the guests. If that didn't keep him busy enough, he was also the International Jury Secretary. For his work during the 10-day event, he was awarded a special Bronze Medallion. Hank is in his second year as an RWA Director and serves as Second Vice President and Treasurer.

'Break a Leg'... Carol Louisgnan of the Oakland Hills subdivision has been involved with Community Theater for five years. As a member of the Charlotte Players, she just played the role of Vivian Tractmann, the mother, in the comedy, 'Love, Sex and the IRS.' Carol labels that as her favorite role to date. She appeared in five January performances of the show before sell-out crowds at the Charlotte County Cultural Center. Carol started her new acting career in a one-act play for amateurs at the Lemon Bay Playhouse and has been cast in 5 more plays since. "In my role as Rose Ann in 'Natalie Needs a Nightie,' I laugh when I think about the 16 entrances I made on stage, even 17 one night," she quipped. Carol is also Secretary of Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch and a member of the Woman's Club. *Photo by David Pulaski.*



Hummm!... With the opening of the newly-constructed Fellowship Church scheduled for next Spring, will this signal some commercial development along Parade Circle? Stay tuned!

On the Fiesta Calendar.... The Rotonda West Fiesta Association, the community's premier social club founded in 1971, has monthly events from October to April at The Hills Golf & Country Club. A dinner-dance is set for March 24th with the theme, "Mad Hatter." "Italian" is the theme for April 21st. Interested in joining? Call Kathy Gizzi, (941) 698-1061 or Ed Morris, (941) 830-8739.

Rotonda West Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

Glynn Perkins, President
 George Burger, 1st Vice President
 Hank Killion, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer
 Scott Schermerhorn, Secretary
 David Kelly, Director
 Stan Plizga, Director
 Peter Traverso, Director

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 Norene Kugler, Assistant Manager
 Dianne Brophy, Deed Restrictions
 Merle Fulton, Accounting
 Claudette Romano, Administrator

West Ways Staff

Don Mahon, Interim Editor
 Ruth Sargent, Writer
 Sue Killion, Photographer
 David Pulaski, Photographer
 Julie Gaustad-Ruhr, Layout



Next Stop: The Tour? The QuickStart tennis program is underway at the Rotonda Community Park for kids 10 and under. Our own Art Richards, long involved with teaching youth tennis, was instrumental in bringing the program to fruition. "It's a tremendous opportunity for kids to be able to have a tennis program in their own backyard," Art said. Here, Brayden Clark, 8, returns a volley. See page 5 for the story. *Photo by Sue Killion.*

Mission Statement

The role of Rotonda West Association, Inc. is multi-faceted: To protect the property interests of the members; to enhance living in the community; to plan for the future in its role as a community association. (Approved November 13, 2002)

Rotonda West Association

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IMPORTANT DATES

All committee meetings are open to RWA members and meet monthly on the days listed at the RWA Community Center.

- Board of Directors @ 2 p.m. 2nd Wednesday
- Aquatics Committee @ 3 p.m. 4th Wednesday
- Beautification @ 2 p.m. 1st Thursday
- Budget & Finance @ 10 a.m. 1st Wednesday
- Community Relations @ 2:30 p.m. 1st Wednesday
- Deed Restrictions @ 1 p.m. 2nd Monday
- Election @ 1 p.m. 3rd Thursday
- Properties @ 10 a.m. 4th Monday
- Residential Modification @ 2 p.m. 2nd & 4th Monday

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