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Rotonda West Association

West Ways



‘Give Me 5’ - Stone Crab’s mascot Stoney will be at the All Star Game as he was with our fans at an earlier ‘Rotonda West Night.’ *Photo by Sue Killion.*

It’s a Special ‘Rotonda West-All Star Night’

Tickets on Sale on May 26, June 2

A real treat is in store for baseball fans in our community!

The 51st annual Florida State League All Star Game is 7:00 p.m., Saturday, June 16 and the Charlotte Stone Crabs will be the host team at the Charlotte Sports Park.

It’s “Rotonda West Night” at the ball park and 200 tickets will be available for reserved seats behind third base. Ticket prices are \$9.00 for a seat, game program and Stone Crabs cap. A \$15.00 ticket gets you all this plus a hot dog, soda and a bag of chips.

Tickets will be on sale from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 26 and Saturday, June 2nd at the Community Center, 3754 Cape Haze Drive. Ticket sales will be coordinated by Earl Haas, Hank Killion and Don Mahon. If you are unable to make the sales day, you may call Earl Haas, 698-9207 to order tickets. Josh Murray, a marketing representative with the Stone Crabs, is helping to coordinate the event for our community.

The best of the best in the 12-team league will be in the line-ups for the North and South division teams. Several Charlotte Stone Crabs players are expected to play.

A Home Run Derby will be held at 5:30 and music and special entertainment are scheduled. A spectacular fireworks display will immediately following the game. The first 1,000 fans will receive a “rally towel.”

It promises to be a special night at the ballpark. So don’t miss it!

Going ‘Green’ with West Ways!

In line with a modern-day trend by many organizations, the Rotonda West Association has adopted its Electronic Communications Program designed to minimize printing and mailing costs for issues of West Ways and other Association documents.

Under the ECOM Program, all owners have the opportunity to read the newsletter on-line and in full color. All issues are posted on the West Ways Newsletter link on the RWA website, www.rotondawest.org. Eventually, the Association mailing list will be culled and only those owners who have not opted for the ECOM program will continue to receive printed copies of West Ways and other RWA documents.

So far, more than 1,000 members have chosen to read the newsletter on line, as well as receive billings such as the annual assessment and other documents via email.

Promotion of ECOM participation began on these pages a year ago.

If you have an email account and prefer to view issues on-line, send an email to Manager Jay Lyons at manager@rotondawest.org. Include your name, property address and account number and request participation in the ECOM Program. The ECOM program could eventually save the Association thousands of dollars in printing and postage costs. Sign up now!

A Look At Website Usage

by Christine Lee, RWA webmaster and incoming Editor of West Ways

On April 11th, we totaled 160 hits on the rotondawest.org website. From April 1st to April 11th, we had 1601 hits. Last month, we had a total of 5709 hits. Our most popular pages are the forums and the newsletters.

These statistics help to reaffirm the need for the website, especially since it exists to give Rotonda West property owners what they want and need. We will evaluate the information and compare it from last year.

Website Usage - Continued on page 6



President's Message

by Glynn Perkins

Setting the Record Straight

As long as there is a Board of Directors of the Rotonda West Association, not every member will agree with our decisions. This simply goes with the territory.

A Red Herring

As RWA President, I have always taken the position to avoid dignifying criticism by not responding. It's best to take a deep breath and move on. But in the last several months, we have been the subject of baseless diatribes by a small, dissident group through letters in the local press, on certain websites, and at Board meetings. Much of the information is not factual and is misleading - a red herring, so to speak. In several cases, the letters have been signed by members who are on record as never attending a meeting. So, we can only assume that their rationale is based on hearsay.

Unfounded criticism serves no useful purpose. Twisting the facts and innuendo have reached the point where some residents are being led to believe the falsehoods. And even more disappointing, prospective buyers of property here are telling their Realtors that they are not interested in settling here. That is detrimental to all of us and signals a huge red flag.

So, in the best interests of our community, we must present the facts on matters that have been challenged.

One subject that often receives criticism is our deed restrictions. I want to address this issue.

Misinformation

Deed Restrictions have been in place in our community for decades. Many owners have told us they settled here because of deed restrictions. They protect property owners and help us to maintain a desired look in our neighborhoods. Covenants protect the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhoods, including acceptable designs and sizes of houses, exterior

paint colors, regulating landscaping issues, or prohibiting use of the lot for storage of campers, trailers or cars that don't run. There are many more.

Some members have publicly stated that the RWA does not offer a forum for members to express their views about deed restrictions. One even commented recently that the RWA is about to "throw in the towel" on deed restrictions. Nothing can be further from the truth. Every committee meeting is posted and members are welcome to participate with questions and concerns. But member presence is rare.

Approval Nears

The Deed Restrictions Committee has devoted hundreds of hours at public meetings reviewing the current covenants page-by-page and has brought the provisions up-to-date. The last time they were updated was in 2003. In an attempt to expedite the completion of the draft, two marathon meetings have been held with our attorney, in addition to dozens of Deed Restrictions Committee meetings and Board of Directors workshops, all open to the public.

The current draft with many revisions has been turned over to the developer - Gary Littlestar, President of Cape Cave Corporation. Mr. Littlestar, as the developer, has sole authority to approve the changes. Our Board does not. We expect approval shortly and the approved version will be posted on the RWA website.

Responsibilities of Directors

Each of our seven Board members has a fiduciary responsibility to the association. The RWA maintains By Laws and Deed Restrictions that essentially are the letter of the law. We must and we do abide by them, as well as Florida State Statutes that apply to homeowners associations. By-Laws, Deed Restrictions and State statutes guide every decision.

In closing, I plead with every resident - do not accept rumor and innuendo as gospel. Misinformation is harmful. We encourage everyone to attend meetings, ask questions and read the Minutes of meetings on line. Accept fact, not fiction!

Volunteers Recognized For Their Service

The Rotonda West Association honored 72 volunteers at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Sunday evening, March 4 at The Hills Country Club.

In 2011, thirty-three volunteers served on more than one committee and four members served on four committees. Outgoing Director Hank Artz topped all by serving his final year as a Director and was a member of four other committees. He received special recognition for his service at the dinner.

Jay Lyons, Association Manager, served as the Master of Ceremonies. He introduced 11 committee chairmen who in turn introduced their committee members. Jay entertained the crowd with a mix of light-hearted humor.

Charlotte County Commissioner Robert Skidmore was a special guest and congratulated the volunteers on their service. Other special guests were Mike Billington, Publisher of the Englewood Sun, and Ken and Tammy Birdsong. Ken is General Manager of WENG Radio and hosts a morning

show. He anchored a live broadcast of the community's 2011 Christmas Parade. Tammy Birdsong is with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Mike and Tammy were judges for the Christmas Parade.

RWA President Glynn Perkins spoke and praised the volunteers for their hundreds of hours of service.

Chairman of the Appreciation Dinner committee was Wayne Mengel, assisted by Sue Artz, Linda Bondeson, Ginni Mahon and Ruth Sargent. All are members of the RWA's Community Relations Committee.



Charlotte County Commissioner Robert Skidmore was a special guest. Around the table from the left are Hank Artz, Ken and Pat Guillerm, and Joan Duggan. Photo by David Pulaski.

Introducing Our New Editor

(Note: Christine Lee will become our new Editor of West Ways on May 1. She has served as the RWA webmaster since last summer and will now do double duty. Here, in her own words, she introduces herself and her family to our readers.)



My family and I moved to Charlotte County in August of 1996 from Chicopee, Massachusetts. My husband Cuyler and I looked at several developments in Charlotte County, but ultimately we fell in love with Rotonda West. The beautiful homes and location had sold us. The fact that Rotonda West is a deed restricted community is a plus. We knew our home would hold its value in this prestigious neighborhood. We moved into our home in July of 1998.

My children graduated from Lemon Bay High School. Lindsey graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University and is currently working as an IT Analyst/Web Designer for Osceola County. Christopher is attending University of Central Florida in Orlando and he will be graduating in December.

My career in Computer Systems started in Massachusetts, where I did consulting for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and Stamford, CT Hospital. I have been working as the IT Director for Vickie Potts, the Tax Collector, since 1996. I am a Certified Chief Information Officer and I hold a Bachelor's Degree from FGCU in Computer Information Systems. Throughout the years, I have learned a great deal about our beautiful community and the wonderful people who live in and volunteer their time to Rotonda West. They are a great caring group of people and I am greatly privileged to know them.



To Be Or Not To Be??... The bridge and the gazebo on the island at the Oakland Hills Marina are showing their age. The Properties Committee estimates that \$5,000 will be needed every other year for paint and re-roofing of the gazebo and resealing of the bridge. The gazebo and island are popular scenic attractions as community landmarks. But other than the annual holiday decorations ceremony and one or two events a year, the gazebo gets very little use. The Properties Committee is in the process of preparing a survey to determine the choice of residents - maintain the gazebo and bridge or demolish them and use the money for other RWA properties. Watch for the survey in our next issue. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

Peszko, Watson Named to MSBU Committee

At the April 10 meeting of the Board of Charlotte County Commissioners, John Peszko was re-appointed to a 3-year term and Peter Watson appointed as the alternate member of the Rotonda West Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) Advisory Committee.

The motion to appoint the two was made by Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch. The vote was 4 to 1. Commissioners Robert Skidmore, Christopher Constance, Tricia Duffy and Mr. Deutsch voted for the motion. Commissioner Bob Starr voted against the motion.

Commissioner Deutsch announced that he had a meeting with Charles Dodd, the former alternate member. Mr. Dodd was unable to attend 5 of the last 11 meetings and agreed to step down. Members who have three unexcused absences from meetings in one year automatically forfeit their appointments. Mr. Watson is Mr. Dodd's successor.

Commenting about his meeting with the two candidates, Commissioner Deutsch said, "both gentlemen have absolutely outstanding character and impressed me as overachievers." He added they both vowed to work together for the betterment of Rotonda West.

In an earlier Commissioner's meeting, Peter Watson was named to replace John Peszko by a 3 to 2 vote. Commissioner Skidmore, who represents District 3 including Rotonda West, exercised his Robert's Rules of Order rights to ask for a re-vote. During the interim, the Commissioners had each received many letters and emails from supporters of the two candidates. Several spoke at the Commissioner's meeting.

John Peszko has served on the MSBU Committee for seven years and was Chairman for the past two years. He is also a member of the RWA Beautification Committee. Peter Watson is a newcomer to the MSBU committee.

In another MSBU development, Charlotte County Public Works is currently reviewing bids for the Parade Circle bike/walking trail. Selection of the contractor is expected shortly and work will get underway.

MSBU's 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 advisory committee.

Other members of the Rotonda West MSBU Committee are Olga Durham, Sue Killion, Scott Schermerhorn, and Stan Plizga.



Charlotte County Commissioners deliberate on the MSBU appointments at their April 10 meeting. *Photo by Sue Killion.*

2012 Christmas Parade Steps Off on December 1

Planning is already underway for the 2012 Christmas Holiday Parade.

The popular event will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 1 and the parade route will be shortened. In the past, the staging area was Rotonda Boulevard East and the parade proceeded along Rotonda Circle for 5 miles to the Oakland Hills Marina. This year, the staging area is Rotonda Boulevard North for 3.2 miles along Rotonda Circle to the Marina. "The longer route was too long for several marching and walking units, especially on warm days," said Earl Haas, Parade Chairman. "We expect the shorter route to attract more units." More than 60 units participated last year.

The Lemon Bay High School and L.A. Ainger Middle School bands will still start at Rebel Court.

Volunteers in golf carts will again collect canned food and toys along the parade route. For residents who don't live along the parade route, food and toy drop-off points will be established. Englewood Helping Hand will again be the beneficiary of the collections. Last year, 2,300 pounds of food were collected and \$1,000.00 in cash.

Helping Earl again with parade planning are Sue Artz and Cathy Moseley.

Harry Kaar, First Rotonda West Resident

The community of Rotonda West began with a family of three - Harry and Joan Kaar and their young son, Jeff. The Kaar's moved into their new home at 8 Annapolis Lane in October 1971 - 41 years ago.

From Stanhope, New Jersey, the Kaar's came down in July 1971 because their home was supposed to be ready. It wasn't. They had to rent a place to live until October and the former developer paid only one month of their rent. They were totally disappointed. To make matters worse, they found sloppy work and no framing behind the walls, and made the developer rip out the walls and put in proper studding.

A year after the Kaar's moved in, the infant community was progressing with one hundred families in residence, 230 homes under construction and 75 more homes about to be started.

Sadly, Harry Kaar passed away in March. He will always be remembered as the community's first pioneer. He was 89.

Inside the Circle

Bits & Pieces Around the Community

Do Your Share... With drought conditions prevailing and with low water levels in our canals, we all need to follow these simple rules: Even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. Odd addresses water on Wednesday and/or Saturday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. The schedule applies to watering from private wells and the canal.

Fiesta Resumes in the Fall... After a summer hiatus, The Fiesta Association will host its first dinner-dance of the new season on Saturday, October 20 at the Hills Country Club. The community's premier social organization has been going strong since 1971. For membership information, call Kathy Gizzi at 698-1061 or Ed Morris, 830-8739.

Name Change... The Rotonda Community Foundation has changed its name to better reflect the region it covers. Now known as the Cultural Guild of the Greater Cape Haze Peninsula, the mission of the organization is to develop and introduce new human services programs for residents in its service area, including all of Rotonda West. These include educational, social and cultural programs ranging from health and wellness information and Bloodmobiles to theater and the arts, computer classes and youth programs now lacking on the Peninsula. For more information, go to www.culturalguild.com.

Fore!... Golfers in the community, and there are many, who called in for tee times at our 5 golf courses had a first-hand account of increased play during the "season." Pinemoor West Golf Club, acquired about a year ago by Rotonda Golf Partner's, LLC, saw robust activity since vast improvements were made to the course.

Green Thumb... Sue Killion won the top prize, the Edna Halliday Silver Bowl Horticultural Award, at the Lemon Bay Garden Club Standard Flower Show. She also won an Award of Merit for best cut foliage. Sue is the newly-elected President of the Garden Club. Gardens she maintains at her residence in Pine Valley are show-case quality. The Club's Second Vice President is Rosemarie Sheedy of the Pinehurst subdivision.

Neighborhood Watch Responds

In recent weeks, there has been wide-spread media coverage of an incident in a gated community in Sanford, Florida in which George Zimmerman, a Neighborhood Watch patrol, allegedly shot and killed 17 year old Trayvon Martin during an apparent confrontation.

At the RWA's April 11 Board meeting, a member asked for clarification of our own Neighborhood Watch policies.

John House, President of Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch, responded.

- Our patrols do not carry firearms or weapons of any kind.

- Patrols are instructed to always remain in their vehicles.
- Patrols are equipped with cell phones that are programmed to connect directly with the Watch Base on duty that night. When a patrol reports an incident to the Base, the Base calls the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department and a deputy is dispatched to the incident location.

"Again, we do not carry weapons and do not leave our vehicles," John said.

Our Neighborhood Watch is an independent community organization not affiliated with the Rotonda West Association. The Watch is under control of and works with the Sheriff's Department.

Manager's Report

by Jay Lyons, Manager,
Rotonda West Association

2012 Dues Assessment

Thank you to all RWA owners who have paid the 2012 assessment.

The \$156.00 per lot assessment for 2012 was due on March 15, 2012. Any assessment payment not received within thirty (30) days after the due date is delinquent. At the time an assessment becomes delinquent, an administrative fee of fifteen (\$15.00) per assessment will be added to the account.

If your payment was not received by April 15, 2012, you will be receiving a notice of delinquency by certified mail. This notice will include the amount of the delinquent payment, the administrative fee and the cost of certified mail.



If your payment has not been received by May 1, 2012, a 45 day pre-lien letter will be sent by certified and first class mail.

If within 60 days of the delinquency date the account still remains delinquent, a list of the property(ies) in question and the name(s) of the owner(s) shall be turned over to the counsel for the Association, who shall cause lien(s) to be recorded and shall take other appropriate legal action. Payment must be received by June 15, 2012 to avoid a Lien being placed on the property.

If a Lien is placed on the property, interest at the rate of 18% per annum will be calculated as the date of delinquency, and will be added to the assessment along with other charges.

If there is any question concerning the payment and collection of assessments, please refer to the Governing Documents, Section 24 - Association Membership and Assessments.

If you have not already done so, please remit all delinquent assessments to the Association. If you have any questions, please contact us at (941) 697-6788.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Summary of Board Meeting Minutes, March, 2012

Regular Monthly Meeting, 3/14/12

Present: Glynn Perkins, George Burger, Hank Killion, Scott Schermerhorn, Stan Plizga, David Kelly, Peter Traverso.

- Director Killion moved that the Board motion the Residential Modification Committee to reconsider the approval of a detached garage on Medalist Court. (The RMC, a statutory architectural committee, approved the application). Yes: Killion, Traverso, Plizga, Kelly. No: Perkins, Burger, Schermerhorn. Passed 4-3.

- Director Plizga moved to approve the revisions in the 2011 Aquatic Canal 5-Year Plan as presented. The changes will be incorporated into the 2012 Aquatic Canal 5-Year Plan. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Plizga moved to approve the Aquatic Canal Committee tasks as presented for 2012. Traverso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Killion moved the Board to accept the Representation Letter (prepared after the audit was completed) from Webb, Lorah & Company, P.L. (accounting firm). Traverso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Burger moved that the motion made by Pat Kelly on March 10, 2010 that required password protection for members only to access Board and Committee Minutes posted on the website be rescinded. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Burger moved that the motion by Mark Reynolds on April 13, 2011 that established members only attendance at Board of Directors meetings, as well as participation rules at same by members be rescinded. Traverso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Burger moved that the Board motions and votes be published in West Ways. Seconded by Traverso. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Perkins moved that the Board meetings be voice-streamed onto the website. Seconded by Traverso. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Perkins moved the Board of Directors to fine 175 Rotonda Circle and 182 Mark Twain Lane be applied from January 23, 2012. Seconded by Traverso. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Burger moved that the Deed Restrictions and Residential Modification Guidelines be sent to the Developer for final review and issuance to the RWA. Seconded by Schermerhorn. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Schermerhorn moved that the Association Manager obtain a detailed cost estimate from three contractors for the construction of the soundproofing of the office area (No money had been expended thus far). Seconded by Killion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Schermerhorn moved that the Association Manager obtain three bids for demolishing the gazebo and associated bridge and three bids for the refurbishment of the existing Gazebo and island erosion problem so that an informed recommendation can be made regarding this issue to the Board as most cost efficient and practical approach to the problem. Seconded by Traverso. Motion carried unanimously.

- Director Perkins moved that the Association Attorney be contacted to determine if the Board has the authority to have the Residential Modification Committee revisit the detached garage issue. Seconded by Traverso. Motion carried.

- Director Perkins moved that a letter be sent to the applicant for the detached garage on Medalist Court to refrain from continuing with the process. Seconded by Killion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meet Pastor Carl - Rotonda Pioneer, Minister, Activist

by Ruth Sargent

In 1973, when Rev. Carl Kalterider and his wife Patricia and young son moved from Michigan to Rotonda West, many observers called the expansive new resort-like community a tropical paradise. A few others called it "the end of the world," probably signifying that they had not yet visited Rotonda West!

Cavanagh Community Properties of Miami had assumed development and marketing responsibility for the community. It had been named one of 12 original self-contained "New Town" planned communities in the nation and was beginning aggressive nationwide promotional and sales campaigns.

Not the least of these was the unique and immensely popular two-day "Superstars" sports event in the early 1970s televised nationally by ABC-TV's Wide World of Sports. For three consecutive years, the February event showcased the likes of Johnny Unitas, Joe Frazier, Johnny Bench, Gary Player and many others competing in a total of 10 separate athletic events in Rotonda West. A Proclamation by then-Governor Reubin Askew lauded creation of "The Superstars" and proclaimed a "Superstars Week" in Rotonda West. National and international publicity followed.

Who should arrive in Rotonda West shortly thereafter but the Rev. Carl Kaltrieder with a mission! Serving from 1973 to 1975 as Chaplain to the Superstars event was a perfect 'fit' for Pastor Carl, as Rev. Kaltrieder had become known over the years. He had retired from his 19-year congregational ministry in Michigan and answered a call from the Lutheran Church in America to be mission developer in Rotonda West. He was initially to provide a 'ministry of presence,' doing whatever it took to serve the needs of Rotonda residents, many of whom were also newly arrived until a permanent Lutheran church was established. Today, Faith Lutheran Church stands on Rotonda Boulevard West in part as testimony to Pastor Carl's dedication to his new community and neighbors.

Pastor Carl's record of community involvement is astounding. At the request of parents of junior high school students, he organized a youth program which presented a state championship skeet shooting event; served as co-chair of the first Charlotte County Council on Aging; co-founded the first hospice home in the County; supervised the badly-needed West Charlotte Social Service Agency; for 12 years, broadcast a weekly world church news show on WENG; held a leadership role in the Rotonda West Fiesta Association; and today leads the historical Rotonda Pioneers Club which meets monthly for luncheons at the American Legion Hall.

Says Pastor Carl, "I'm very pleased with the growth and the changes in our community." And the community salutes Pastor Carl for all of his enormous achievements through the years!



Pastor Carl Kaltrieder, sporting his Superstars cap, at a recent Newcomer's Reception.

Watchers Turn Out at Spring Fling

Tuesday, March 20 was the first day of Spring but the Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch got a head start ushering in the new season.

On Sunday, March 18, about 80 Watch volunteers and their guests gathered for the annual Spring Fling at the Rotonda Community Park. They feasted on a variety of dishes provided by Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q and desserts donated by members.

Special guests were Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Cameron and Captain Bill Prummell. Sheriff Cameron expressed appreciation for the work of the Watch as the 'eyes and ears' of the Sheriff's Office. "Your Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch is the model organization in Charlotte County," he said to enthusiastic applause.

Watch President John House presided, with a big assist from his wife, Jo Ann who coordinated refreshment donations.

About 120 Watch members volunteer to patrol or serve as base operators for two hours each month. For information, call John House at 697-8030 or Bob Bondeson, 548-1384.



Watch President John House, center, greets Sheriff Bill Cameron and Captain Bill Prummell. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

Website Usage - Continued from page 1

We plan on improving the website by delivering articles that will be of interest to you. We plan also on continuing the forum, as it is a great avenue for exchanging ideas and information. As seen in the statistics, many visitors are looking for recreational and fun things to do in the area. In fact, golf and fishing are the top two. We encourage you to post comments on any improvements you suggest we make to make the navigation easier. We also encourage you to post further topics of interest.

Our website is the easiest way we can get to know one another. We strive to keep the website up to date with current news and we post board meeting minutes so you can see what exactly is happening within your community. We would like to make our website the one-stop-shop for you to go to quickly locate information. Please continue to visit us often - www.rotondawest.org - to keep up on the latest news!

Election Committee To Conduct Candidate Workshop

by Donna Krabbe, Member, Election Committee

The Election Committee encourages all members to become involved in our community and to consider running for the RWA Board of Directors.

In order to inform members of the process and to assist anyone wishing to become a candidate, the Election Committee has scheduled a Candidate Workshop at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 at the Rotonda West Community Center. Information will be provided regarding candidate guidelines, the secret ballot and how Florida State Law affects the procedures, and what your duties and responsibilities would be as a director.

A member will need to decide whether to become a declared candidate or undeclared candidate. A declared candidate is one who announces his or her wish to run for the RWA Board by providing a Candidate Statement to the RWA office by the deadline in August and will be listed on the ballot. An undeclared candidate is one who informs members of his or her candidacy by some other means and becomes a write-in candidate.

The Workshop will provide more detailed information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of these choices.

Please check the RWA website, www.rotondawest.org, for more detailed information about our election procedures in the deed restrictions and election guidelines sections. We hope you are interested in exploring the possibility of running for the Board. Our community needs and the RWA welcomes dedicated volunteers who wish to strive for a better Rotonda West.

Help Wanted - Holiday Decorations Chair

Despite the option to restore or demolish the aging gazebo at the Oakland Hills Marina, the community still needs someone to step forward to volunteer as Holiday Decorations Chairperson. Besides the gazebo and island, the committee also decorates the five entrances and the memorial parks. Call Earl Haas, (941) 698-9207 for the details.



Nap Time... A lanky Gator suns himself on the new Pine Valley dam, with a stretch of our 26 miles of canals in the background. Photo by Sue Killion.

A Close Look at Water Quality in Our Canals

by Wayne Mengel & John House, Members, Aquatic Canal System Committee

So, how good is the water quality in our canals?

In the last issue of West Ways, we looked at solutions to the immediate problem of vegetation control and what the Rotonda West Association is doing about it. This article is devoted to beginning a discussion on the quality of the water in our canals.

The first step is to define what is meant by water quality and how we compare our canal system to other bodies of water. The RWA has been working on assessing the water quality of Rotonda's canals with the Florida Lakewatch organization at the University of Florida. Florida Lakewatch uses the Trophic State Classification System, which is used worldwide to measure water quality by dividing water bodies into one of four categories called trophic states, based on their level of biological productivity.

The names of the four trophic states, from the lowest level of biological productivity to the highest are:

1. oligotrophic - having the lowest level of biological productivity. These bodies of water typically have clear water, few aquatic plants, few fish, not much wildlife, and a sandy bottom;

2. mesotrophic - having a moderate level of biological productivity. These typically have moderately clear water and a moderate amount of aquatic plants which support a moderate amount of fish and wildlife;

3. eutrophic - having a high level of biological productivity. These typically have clear to moderately clear water and lots of aquatic plants. It has the potential to support lots of fish and wildlife; and

4. hypereutrophic - having the highest level of biological productivity. These typically have very low water clarity and an over-abundance of aquatic plants and the potential of lots of fish and wildlife.

For detailed information on the trophic states, go to the RWA website at: http://www.rotondawest.org/pdf/5_Year_Plan_FINAL.pdf and see appendix 2 on page 20.

The four trophic states are defined by measuring four indicators of biological productivity, that is, the ability to support life. The four indicators include the presence of chlorophyll (algae), phosphorus, nitrogen, and water clarity.

Water sampling performed by Rotonda volunteers and analyses done through Florida Lakewatch has determined that the Rotonda canal system is in a eutrophic state. To maintain these conditions, we need to carefully control nutrient runoff into the canals from fertilizer application. Those of us who irrigate our lawns with canal water do not need to apply additional fertilizer since canal water contains abundant nutrients.

These findings have verified that the Rotonda West canals are productive and can support abundant fish and wildlife. In the next issue of West Ways, we will examine chemical and biological contaminants and how they can affect our canal water quality.

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

Office Staff

Jay Lyons, Manager
 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



Volunteer Extraordinaire - Hank Artz, left, was honored as the leading volunteer in 2011 by serving the final year of his term as a Director and on four committees. In the photo, he is congratulated by Jay Lyons, RWA Manager. 72 volunteers were the guests of the Association at the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on March 4 at The Hills Restaurant. For a report, go to page 2. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

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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 Web www.rotondawest.org

ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 ROTONDA WEST, FL 33947

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. 2nd Tuesday
- 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

Rotonda West Association, Inc.
3754 Cape Haze Drive
Rotonda West, FL 33947

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