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Rotonda West Association

West Ways



Photo by Sue Killion

Parade Bike Path Underway

By Don Mahon

General Contracting Services of Placida was awarded the contract in May to build the long awaited one-mile bike path along Parade Circle. Parade Circle is the “hub” of the community and a popular route for bicyclists and pedestrians. The successful bid was \$275,472.70 and the contract was awarded by the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners.

The Rotonda West MSBU Advisory Committee proposed the plan that was approved by Rotonda West residents by a show of hands at an MSBU meeting in December. The plan was later approved by the Commissioners. An alternate proposal drawn up by the County Public Works was for \$950,000.00.

Before construction started on August 6, there were several weeks of delays from flooding from summer rains to scrub jay sightings. The project was initiated on January 22, 2009 by the Rotonda West Municipal Services Benefits Unit (MSBU). At the July 26 MSBU meeting with County officials and District 3 Commissioner Robert Skidmore in attendance, MSBU chairman John Peszko and committee members expressed dissatisfaction with delays and the minimal activity on site preparation.

The bike path will have an asphalt surface. Benches will be placed at each end and in the middle of the bike path. Live oak trees and cabbage palms will be planted beside the benches. There will be more landscaping and amenities in the future.

The bike path will be named after Bruce D. Miller as a memorial to the RWA’s late Director and community activist. Before his passing in 2008, Bruce set the wheels in motion for the County to consider a bike path along Rotonda Boulevard West. It never came to fruition.

– See **MSBU**
Continued on Page 2

Coyotes Spotted in Rotonda West

By Christine Lee

Recently, coyotes have been spotted in Rotonda West and pose a serious danger to our pets. There have been two incidents involving small pets being taken by these wild animals in the Oakland Hills area. Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) states that “coyotes are timid and usually run when challenged. The coyote’s innate fear of humans tends to keep them from getting too close.” Regardless, the recent encounters have proven that the coyotes did not fear human contact. The FWC describes reasons for coyotes roaming too closely to humans. These include residents feeding the animals, and exposure to garbage left around homes.

The Florida Wildlife Commission advises against initiating a close encounter with a coyote. These are wild animals and will innately protect themselves and their young. The FWC advises the following if you are approached by a coyote: act aggressively and throw your arms up into the air, throw rocks or small objects, and make yourself appear larger by either standing up or standing on something like a stump or stone. When walking your pet, carry something that could make noise like a horn, or fill a can with coins. You could also carry an object such as a golf club or walking stick, and try to avoid walking your pet during nighttime hours. Most coyote attacks occur either at night, at dusk, or at dawn. Be sure to keep your dog close on a short leash, and try to keep cats indoors.

There is a link on our website, www.rotondawest.org, with instructions from the Humane Society on hazing a coyote. If you encounter a coyote in your neighborhood, follow the hazing

– See **Coyotes**
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President's Message

by Glynn Perkins

I hope you are all having a good summer wherever you may be. By now you should have received a letter from the office informing you of the proposed changes to the Deed Restrictions, By-Laws and Residential Modification Guidelines. These changes have come about in order to comply with changing Florida Statutes, general housekeeping and amendments to change and clarify certain rules that were less than clear and which could have been misinterpreted.

Please take the opportunity to read these important documents which are posted on the bottom of the front page of the Association's web site. www.rotondawest.org. If you do not have access to a computer then please call the Associations office and arrange to either pick up a copy, if you are in the area, or have one mailed to you if you are out of state or in another country.

It is the Boards intention to vote on these documents at its September Board Meeting therefore if you have any comments on any of the items please ensure they are sent to the office by letter or emailed to info@rotondawest.org prior to the meeting on September 12th.

The Beautification Committee will also hold the first of two Town Hall style meetings with the Associations Landscape Architect to discuss the various ideas regarding the future improvements to our community, these items cover but are not limited to entry and directional signage, the look of the Bridges and Boulevards as well as street decor.

We would like as many members to attend these meetings, the first was held on August 15th, the second being planned for November 7th. The more input we receive will help determine how you the members, would like Rotonda to look.

RWA Director Candidates Announced

By Donna Krabbe

The Election Committee announced Glynn Perkins (above) and Andrew Vanscyoc (right) as candidates for the two RWA Board of Directors vacant seats. Their Candidate Statements will be included in your voting packet.



Andrew Vanscyoc

The committee encourages all members to learn about these candidates and ask questions at Candidates' Night on Thursday, October 18, 2012 located at the American Legion Post 113, 3436 Indiana Road, Rotonda West. Only these declared candidates will be permitted to speak.

The Florida State Statute governing homeowners associations allows write-in (undeclared) candidates. Therefore, the RWA is compelled to hold an annual election. Any person compelled to run for office must be nominated at the RWA Annual Meeting on December 6, 2012.

Any Undeclared Candidate running for office must self nominate at 1:00 PM during the Annual Meeting on December 6, 2012.

MSBU

- Continued from page 1

Other MSBU projects discussed at the July 26 meeting were:

Boulevard Sidewalks - Sidewalks will be constructed on one side of Rotonda Boulevards North, East and West and bike paths on both sides of the roadways. A buffer strip will be included for resident's mail boxes. Construction is scheduled to start later this year or early next year. Approximate cost: \$1.5 million.

Entrance Signs - Residents will have an opportunity to give input for the design of new signage at the five entrances to the community. One meeting was held in August and another will be scheduled in November. Approximate cost: \$50,000.00 per sign or \$250,000.00 total.

Lighting for the Entrance Bridges - The MSBU committee voted to install wiring for the eventual installation of six lights at each of the five bridge entrances; three on either side. Approximate cost: \$50,000.00 per bridge or \$250,000.00 total.

Street & Drainage - Several public meetings have been held to determine streets vulnerable to flooding throughout the community after heavy rains. The County is currently doing a study and the findings will be released at a future meeting. Cost to be determined.

Carp - The MSBU committee voted to work with the Southwest Florida Water Management District to stock our canals and waterways with carp fish that feed on aquatic plants and eat three times their body weight daily. Cost to be determined.

Maintenance of Medians - The committee discussed upgrading services for fertilizing and mulching native trees in the medians.

Chairman Peszko is a former Commander of the New Jersey State Police and served the agency for 30 years in public safety. Other MSBU committee members are Olga Durham, Scott Schermerhorn, Stan Pligza, Sue Killion, and Peter Watson.

Coyotes

- Continued from page 1

instructions on our website. We have to live alongside our diverse wildlife, so we must educate ourselves by visiting our website or by going to FWC.org in order to keep ourselves and our pets safe. The management of the Rotonda West Association will be working with the Florida Wildlife Commission and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office to see if more proactive measures can be taken to avoid further incidents. Please report any aggressive action by a coyote or any harmful animal to the Charlotte County Sheriff by calling 941-474-3232 or 911; Florida Fish & Wildlife dispatch at 1-888-404-3922; Charlotte County Animal Control at 941-833-5690; or Rotonda West Association, Inc. at 941-697-1780.

Warning: Be Alert - They Live Among Us!

by Don Mahon



Photo by Don Mahon

Just after sunrise on a beautiful late spring morning in 'Paradise,' one of our sons visiting from Connecticut set out on a bike ride. While on Parade Circle, he made a fast right onto Pinehurst Road. A few yards ahead, he spotted movement just off the road... a 6 foot Eastern Diamondhead Rattlesnake slithering in the weeds (see photo above).

When we told this story to our Rotonda West friends and neighbors and to Jay Lyons, RWA Manager, we discovered that these and other venomous snakes are more prevalent than we first thought in our neighborhoods, besides bobcats, raccoons, gators, armadillos...even coyotes and a rare sighting of a Florida Panther.

The fact is that Florida has an abundance of wildlife, including a wide variety of snakes. Of the 44 species of snakes in Florida, only six are venomous and just four are common in our area. These are readily recognized by spotting a few distinctive field marks.

Diamondback Rattlesnake

The eastern diamondback is the largest and most dangerous of our native snakes. It is recognized by a distinctive pattern of yellow-bordered diamond-shaped body markings. In addition, brittle, button-shaped segments form a rattling mechanism at the end of its tail. The arrow-shaped head is much wider than the neck. Its large body size, quantity of venom, aggressive defensive tactics, and tremendous striking speed make this snake one to be treated with extreme caution. It is most likely to be encountered around gopher tortoise holes. Take particular caution around these burrows.

Rotonda Fiesta Association Plans Season's Dinner Dances

By Ruth Sargent

Temperatures haven't yet cooled; leaves on the trees haven't yet faded (those that do!) but the Fiesta Association is getting a jump on the upcoming social season by planning for 7 monthly dinner dances at the Hills Golf & Country Club, starting with "Good to Ghoul" on Saturday, October 20th.

The Rotonda West Fiesta Association, Inc. was established in 1971 to encourage residents of the Rotondas, Cape Haze, and Windward to meet neighbors and initiate new friendships. As the Spanish influence was part of our peninsula's local history, it was chosen as an overall theme for the non-profit Fiesta Association. The leader each year was called Fiesta's "Alcalde" (meaning temporary mayor) and the directors were called "Conquistadors", according to Kathy Gizzi, Fiesta's reigning Alcalde and the 33rd member to serve in that position since 1972.

Pigmy Rattlesnake

The pigmy rattlesnake, also called ground snake, is usually no more than 18 inches in length, is slender, and produces a warning signal sounding like the buzzing of an insect. The pigmy rattlesnake is stout-bodied for so small a snake. It is gray in color and marked prominently with rounded dusky spots. Starting at the base of its head, there are reddish spots that alternate with black, along the middle of its back. While the bite could be fatal, no deaths from the bites have been recorded.

Cottonmouth Moccasin

The cottonmouth moccasin is a pit viper without rattles. It can exceed five feet in length. Its color pattern varies from olive-brown to black, with or without dark cross bands on its body. It is stout-bodied with an abruptly tapering tail, and a broad head much wider than the neck. A distinctive mark is a dark band extending from the eye to the rear of the jaw.

Coral Snake

The coral snake's venom is the most potent of any North American snake. It is brightly colored with red, black, and yellow bands. The red rings border the yellow. The coral has a black nose, and most are less than 24 inches in length. It is a small-sized, slender-bodied reptile with a narrow head and round pupils which are usually characteristic of non-venomous species.

Canebrake Rattlesnake & Copperhead

Of the two remaining venomous snakes in Florida, the canebrake rattlesnake is restricted to northern Florida, while the copperhead is rarely spotted in a few counties in the northwest portion of the state.

Now you know what to look for if you come upon a crawling creature. Above all else, proceed with caution.

Note: Dr. Bill Dunson, a noted activist with the Lemon Bay Conservancy and Wildflower Preserve, verified the identity of the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake.

In the ensuing years, the monthly Fiesta get-togethers grew from "pot luck" suppers at small venues to the magical present-day themed events featuring scrumptious dining, live entertainment, door prizes, and raffles. Membership is open to all property owners in surrounding subdivisions; annual membership dues are a mere \$15 per person, due in October. Fiesta's dinner dances held every third Saturday at the Hills Restaurant from October 20th through April are \$17 per person for Fiesta members, \$21 per person for guests. Reservations are required and guests and prospective members are welcome. In addition, "theme costumes" are welcomed but not required!

Themes for this season's Fiesta events - in addition to October 20th's "Good to Ghoul" are: "Harvest Hoedown" (November 10th); "Charlie Brown Christmas" (December 15th); "Broadway Rhythms" (January 19th); "Sweetheart Dance" (February 16th); (March 16 is as yet TBA); and "Fire and Ice" (April 20th). For information and/or to be placed on the Fiesta Association mailing list, contact Fiesta Conquistador/Treasurer Ed Morris at 941-830-8739.

Future Olympic Hopefuls Learn the Game of Tennis

by Don Mahon

Madison Gowdy, 5 and Sarah Smith, 4 both from the Oakland Hills subdivision were among ten kids, ages 3 through 5, who gathered at the Tringali Recreation Center for five weeks of tennis instruction. For most, it was the first time they had held a racquet.

Art Richards of Rotonda West, a noted local tennis instructor, was instrumental in making the program happen. Art has taught tennis to hundreds in his native Massachusetts and Florida and has been honored by the United States Tennis Association. "I just want youngsters to enjoy the game as I have for so many years" Art said.

Tennis is part of the Super Mini Sports Program coordinated by Tyne Gill (shown above with four-year old Lola Delbridge) of the Charlotte County Community Services Department in partnership with the Cultural Guild of the Greater Cape Haze Peninsula. Tyne Gill and Sharon Ullrich from the County Community Service participated in the program. The Cultural Guild donated the special equipment designed to accommodate the little kids' size and abilities.

The kids would gather every Monday at 5:30 p.m. for one-hour sessions patterned after the QuickStart program. The program provides fundamental skills and instruction for beginners. Smaller racquets and shorter nets were used as well as low-compression tennis balls to accommodate the youngsters. Nick Gizzi, President of the Cultural Guild, and George Krabbe, Vice President were seen observing the final lessons.

The Super Mini Sports Program offers basketball, golf and tee-ball in the coming months. Tyne Gill coordinates the program and gives instruction on all sports. Call (941) 681-3742 for information.



Tyne Gill, program instructor with Charlotte County Community Services, works with four-year old Lolla Delbridge. Photo by Sue Killion.

Public Meeting Notice

A public meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7th at the Rotonda West Association Community Center, located at 3754 Cape Haze Drive. The purpose of the meeting is to review the survey results initiated at the August 15th meeting which set the stage for community standards with signage aesthetics, infrastructure design, and other considerations. These designs and standards will be used for the main entry, directional and community signs, boulevard design, bridges and sidewalls, and site/directional lighting. Residents have the opportunity to complete a survey designating their choices. Information will be collected and utilized by the RWA Beautification Committee for decision-making. If you would like to participate in the survey you can get a copy of the survey at the Association office, 3754 Cape Haze Drive or call 941-697-6788. We need more input from residents, as the August 15th meeting was disappointing with only 80 residents in attendance. This is your chance to participate in decisions that will affect the Rotonda West community.

Inside the Circle

Bits & Pieces Around the Community

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! 2012 GENERAL ELECTION

"BOOK CLOSING" for 2012 General (Last Day to register if not already registered) October 9, 2012

Early Voting - Sat. Oct. 27, 2012 THRU Sat. Nov. 3, 2012
7AM to 7PM

Early Voting Locations - Voters may vote in any one of the 3 Early Voting Locations:

San Casa Supervisor of Elections Office

West County Administration Center, 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL

Punta Gorda Supervisor of Elections Office

Historic Courthouse, 226 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, FL

Mid-County Regional Library

2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL

Election Day - Nov. 6, 2012 - Polls Open 7AM - 7PM

All voters must vote in the voting location assigned to them on Election Day.

RWA to Reprint "Rotonda - The Vision and The Reality"

by Don Mahon

Jack Alexander, the author of the popular book, "Rotonda - The Vision and The Reality," has transferred all rights of his book to the Rotonda West Association.

Jack, an accomplished retired journalist, researched and wrote the book in the 1990s. It was first published in 1995 and updated and reprinted in 2006. The RWA Board of Directors has approved the reprinting of the book at the suggestion of the Community Relations Committee.

Reprints, with a soft cover and 236 pages with text and photos, are now available in the RWA office at a modest \$5.00 per copy. Many new residents over the years have made the book required reading after settling here.

As Jack wrote for the jacket, "The Vision was utopian-Florida marshland transformed into a round golf and waterfront community. Slick marketing sold The Vision and affordable lots to northerners. A familiar Florida story - The Reality was unfulfilled promises, mortgage foreclosures, a federal investigation and on-going litigation. Rotonda has a star-studded history. Television pitchman Ed McMahon of the Johnny Carson 'Tonight Show' promoted the community in the early 1970s."

"World class athletes such as Johnny Bench, Reggie Jackson, Kyle Rote, Jr., and Billie Jean King, as well as O. J. Simpson, competed against each other in Rotonda on ABC-TV's 'Superstars' program while Pastor Carl Kaltreider, a long-time resident here, manned the scoreboard while residents sold hot dogs." Much progress and development has been accomplished since.

But that's all we'll mention about the book. Buy a copy and enjoy an interesting read!

Manager's Report

by Jay Lyons, Manager, Rotonda West Association

Abandoned Properties:

The number of abandoned properties remains at a very high level. We receive calls daily from concerned residents regarding the conditions of these properties. The issues include the height of the lawn, the condition of planting areas, broken windows and the condition of the pool. We are not authorized to enter a home or a pool cage under any circumstance. The Association's hands are tied when it comes to dealing with these properties until certain procedural conditions are met.

In most cases the properties in question are in some state of the foreclosure process. An owner may say that a property is in "foreclosure" or as some owners tell us "we gave it back to the bank". Neither of these terms is accurate. If there is a mortgage on the property and the bank initiates the foreclosure process, it may take up to two years for the foreclosure to be final. In the meantime, the owner of record is the owner of record until the court says otherwise. The owner of record is responsible for the upkeep of the property and unless the property is posted as an abandoned property by the bank, the owner of record is the only party we can approach.

The Association can only get involved in the process when there is a specific Deed Restriction violation. The most common indication of a problem is addressed in Section 14 of the Deed Restrictions, Lawns-Landscaping. This section covers a multitude of issues concerning



lawn height, landscaping, etc. and when the height of the lawn exceeds eight (8) inches we have a Deed Restriction violation. We can also apply Section 13. Nuisance which states: "Nothing shall be done which is or may become an unreasonable annoyance or nuisance to any person or which would not be consistent with the maintenance of the highest standards for a first class residential community". With all Deed Restriction violations, Section 31, Deed Restriction Enforcement comes into play and we are required to follow this process. After the Initial Violation notice and Final Violation Notice, we are able to apply Section 33 of the Deed Restrictions. The section allows the Association, after proper notice (20 days), to correct any violation of the restrictions, charge the owner for the expense and file a Lien to collect the expense.

The Association is currently maintaining the lawns and grounds at 25 abandoned properties. There are over 100 properties in Rotonda West in some stage of the foreclosure process. Asset management companies are maintaining the majority of the abandoned properties but not to the level we would like to see. We are in constant contact with the banks requesting they take action on managed properties but of course the banks are trying to limit their losses as well.

As always, our objective is to maintain the property values in our community. We must do this within the boundaries of our governing documents and the resources available both financial and physical. If you are concerned about the condition of any property in your area, please call me at 941-697-6788. I will be happy to let you know where they are in the process.

Summary of Board Meeting Motions - June 2012

Regular Monthly Meeting - June 13, 2012

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

Absent: Stan Plizga

Director Traverso moved to post two documents on the RWA website. The 2012 RWA voting procedure question & answer sheet and the 2012 RWA election dates timetable. Seconded by Killion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Kelly moved that the RWA partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, the largest chapter in the country, at no cost to the RWA. Traverso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Perkins moved that the Board approve posting of the revised Deed Restrictions on the web site for all members to read and understand, as sent to the Developer. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Perkins moved to apply a fine recommended by the Compliance Committee at 60 Oakland Hills Court for failure to have the Residential Modification Committee approval to close in the lanai and add a deck at \$20.00 per day starting February 6, 2012. Burger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Perkins moved to post the revised Residential Modification Guidelines on the web site, as sent to the Developer. Traverso seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Killion moved that (an existing) structure attached to a garage be considered an attached accessory structure and be allowed to remain through the sale of the property and all future sales. Schermerhorn seconded the motion. Motion carried 4 to 2 with Burger and Perkins voting in the negative.

Director Schermerhorn moved that the Board approve keeping and maintaining the gazebo and island (at Oakland Hills Marina) in a fashion to restore and maintain its usefulness for perpetuity. Traverso seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Perkins moved the Board to write off the Discharge of Debt for Bankruptcy in the amount of \$2,014.31 for properties located at 36 Oakland Hills Place, 72 Oakland Hills Place, 97 Bunker Road and 47 Bunker Lane. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Perkins moved the Board write off the Discharge of Debt for Bankruptcy in the amount of \$776.26 against 22 Oakland Hills Place. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

West Ways Article from Neighborhood Watch – The Mystery Shopper Scam

By John House

A recent news article described a scam that law enforcement refers to as the “Mystery Shopper Scam.” The scam targets individuals by email, phone or U.S. mail and requests to participate in an evaluation of a specific company’s business practices. When individuals agree, they are told that they will receive a substantial fee for their participation. A letter then arrives containing a check or money order with specific instructions including the name of the company they are to survey. The instructions direct the victim to deposit the check or money order in their bank and take a specified amount for their services, usually 200 or 300 dollars. The remainder of the money is to be forwarded by Western Union to a person designated by the scammers. In many cases the victims are told that Western Union is the company being evaluated. The scam works because out-of-state checks or money orders may take 10 days to three weeks to clear and by that time the victim has sent the majority of the money to the scam artists. The victim is now responsible for the amount of the fraudulent check or money order plus any fees for insufficient funds.

The checks and money orders used in this fraud appear legitimate. They are excellent forgeries using legitimate companies' checks that were obtained by burglary, larceny or other means such as dishonest employees. In order to appear legitimate, the perpetrators may indicate that state agencies are involved.

When committing this type of fraud, perpetrators will blitz an area with initial success after which people become aware of it through publicity from law enforcement, news media, or word of mouth. When the number of victims drop off, the scam is simply moved to a new location and after a period of time it may reappear. An Englewood resident was targeted by a mystery shopper scam but recognized it as a scam and reported it to the newspaper and local law enforcement. It is important that suspected scams and other illegal activity be reported immediately to law enforcement but also reported to the news media so that people can be made aware of the activity. There is a website, www.IC3.gov that you can report this type of activity to and get additional information. This website is the Internet Crime Complaint Center which is a partnership among the FBI, the National White Collar Crime Center, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

REMEMBER FOLKS, THERE IS NO FREE LUNCH

For more information on ROTONDA WEST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH and how to VOLUNTEER to participate in making our development safer for our residents, call John House at 697-8030, Bob Bondeson at 548-1384, or Jim Laurent at 698-4250.

Joint RWA Committees Will Determine Gazebo’s Next Step

By Don Mahon

As reported in the last issue of West Ways, the RWA Board has approved the renovation of the structures at the Oakland Hills Marina. The landmarks were constructed 40 years ago and are of historic value to the community.

The deteriorating condition of the gazebo roof, bridge repairs and erosion of the island received the attention of the RWA Properties Committee several months ago and a subcommittee was formed. There were two options, to either renovate or demolish the structures and island. The Properties Committee approved the renovation and the Board agreed. The next step is to hold a workshop with four RWA committees - Properties, Beautification, Aquatics, and Budget where the role of each committee will be determined as well as the funding. The earliest that the committee representatives will meet is in September.

The project will not interfere with the 23rd Gazebo and Island Christmas Decorations and Lighting which is scheduled for dusk on Saturday, November 24. Watch for more details in subsequent issues.



Photo by Sue Killion

Let’s Give Earl a Break!!

Somewhere out there in our community, there’s one or more residents who really enjoy creative decorating. Could that be you? If so, we have a position for you. The title is Chairman of the Christmas Holiday Decorations Committee.

We need an experienced committee person to plan and perform the decorating of the island and gazebo at the Oakland Hills Marina and the five bridge entrances.

A stockpile of decorations exist and new ones are being planned. Earl Haas has served as chairman of both the Christmas Holiday Parade and the gazebo and bridge decorations for several years. Earl wants to “retire” as decorations chairman and devote full attention to the parade. If you enjoy decorating and organizing, give Earl a call at 698-9207.

The Rotonda Christmas Parade Marches Forward

By Cathy Moseley

The last thing on folks' minds in sunny Florida just might be the Rotonda West Christmas Parade but this is not so for our parade committee. Sue Artz, Earl Haas and I have been in the planning stages for months. We have reviewed all the functions of the parade and have been diligently working on new ways to make the parade experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

The new parade march has been mapped out and cut in half. The new line of march will begin on Rotonda Boulevard North and extend to just after the Oakland Hills Marina. Although the committee realizes that this news upsets some parade watchers, it has become evident to the committee that some of the parade participants struggled with the length of the parade, especially in the heat. In addition, the parade length has been a major concern with marching bands and other musical entertainment. We felt that the length of the parade was the reason some of our 2010 participants dropped out of the 2011 parade. Trying to please everyone is simply impossible but we are doing the best we can to please the majority and make this an enjoyable experience for both the participants and the spectators.

To coincide with the parade route, the judges stand and WENG radio will now be located at the Pebble Beach Memorial Park on Rotonda Circle, about a half way point through the route. This spot offers us enough room for the stand to be installed and allows us to use electricity without utilizing a generator.

As in the past, we will be asking all of our parade participants and watchers for donations of food, toys and/or cash, which we will be collecting for donations to the Englewood Helping Hand food pantry. Last year donations were phenomenal and our wish is to break our 2011 record of 2,300 lbs. of food and \$1,001.00 in donations.

Our first "Save the Date" mailing went out to past participants. If you participated in a previous parade and did not receive a postcard and would either like to be added to our mailing list or get an entry form for the upcoming parade, you can email Cathy Moseley at rotondachristmasparade@gmail.com or call Sue Artz at 941-697-5591.

We are so looking forward to another fabulous parade and hope you are too. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 1st, rain date Sunday, December 2nd.



Photo by Sue Killion

Home Sales and New Home Construction on the Rise

By Christine Lee

Our local newspaper reports home sales are improving. According to the Charlotte County building department Rotonda West has 12 new building permits applied for this year. New construction is seen in most of the subdivisions of Rotonda West, Pinehurst, Broadmoor, White Marsh, Long Meadow, and Pebble Beach. This is great news for our community.

Lower property assessments mean lower taxes which may attract baby boomers back to sunny Florida. Slowly rising property values and higher property taxes up north are triggering more people to retire to Florida. Our beautiful community is attracting several new residents because we offer a variety of amenities, lush golf courses, beautiful beaches and great weather. The cost of living in Florida is lower than the northern states plus there is no state income tax.

Home sales researched on the Englewood MLS show over 140 homes sold in Rotonda West since the beginning of the year and the sales have come very close to the asking price. Six single family homes have been sold from 8/01/12 -08/18/12. One was sold for asking price, two sold for less than \$5,000 from asking price, another sold for less than \$10,000 from asking price and two sold for \$20,000 less than asking price. In July, 21 homes were sold; and six sold for the asking price. In June, 16 homes were sold; two for asking price and two sold less than \$5,000 from asking price.

The economy is improving and we can see the growth in our lovely community. We welcome new residents and offer opportunities for volunteering in our homeowner's association.



Photo by Sue Killion

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

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



Five-year old Madison Gowdy of the Oakland Hills subdivision, demonstrates good form. (see page 4 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 @ 2 p.m. 4th Wednesday
 - Beautification @ 2 p.m. 1st Thursday
 - Budget & Finance @ 2 p.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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