



## Special Points of Interest

- RWA Election Important Dates .....page 4
- Meals on Wheels .....page 6
- Big Brothers Big Sisters .....page 6
- Cultural Center in our Future?.....page 7

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Rotonda West Association

# West Ways



RWA President Glynn Perkins in dark glasses with friends, including Hank Killion at bottom left. *Photo by Sue Killion.*

## A Fun “Night” Out at the Sports Park

*by Don Mahon*

Charlotte Sports Park was the place to be on Saturday night, June 16<sup>th</sup>, complete with ideal weather conditions.

It was "Rotonda West Night" with 185 fans from our community on hand for the 51st Florida State League All-Star game.

Before fans settled into their seats, a Home Run Derby was already underway. Fans looked up at the sky to witness three skydivers in a colorful display who were heading for the stadium, with one even delivering the game ball!

Two hours and forty minutes later, Stone Crabs closer Chris Rearick had gotten the final three outs for the save. His dedicated team had scored six runs in the late innings to win the game, with the score ending at 6-3. Stone Crabs pitchers acted as bookends as the starting pitcher, C.J. Riefenhauser, pitched a scoreless first inning. Stone Crabs shortstop Derek Dietrich and outfielder Mikie Mahtook also contributed to the team’s victory.

The raffle held included a top prize consisting of an autographed bat by Stone Crabs players, which was won by Sue Killion of Pine Valley, a stellar photographer for West Ways. Carol Genest of Long Meadow, an avid golfer, won a round of golf for four including use of golf carts; courtesy of David Kelly of Rotonda Golf Partners. The “Dinner for 2” winner was George Burger of Broadmoor, who will dine at The Hills with his wife Lois. This prize is also courtesy of David Kelly. Lastly, Betty Voegler of Pine Valley took home a floral arrangement provided by Glynn (RWA President) and Julie Perkins, owners of Gladrich Florist in Port Charlotte. We would like to thank all of the sponsors for their generous prize contributions.

To jovially conclude an entertaining night, a post-game fireworks display illuminated the night sky for the enjoyment of more than 5,700 fans who included the Rotonda West contingent in Sections 215 and 216.

Responsible for game planning, publicity, ticket sales and the raffle were Earl Haas, Hank Killion and Don Mahon. Another “Rotonda West Night” at a Stone Crabs game in September is in the works.

## Public Meeting Notice

Charlotte County will be conducting a public meeting Wednesday, July 18 at 6:00 pm at the Tringali Center, 3460 N. Access Rd., Englewood. The purpose of this meeting is for members of the Association to provide input to the County’s plan to construct sidewalks on Boulevards West, North and East and to restripe the travel lanes on the Boulevards to establish bike lanes.

## Transparency and Improved Communication

*by Christine Lee, RWA Webmaster and Editor of West Ways*

The Rotonda West Association is currently recording audio for Board Meeting minutes. A DN-F450R Solid State Audio Recorder/Player will elevate the Rotonda West Association to a new level. The DN-F450R records and reads MP3 files and uncompressed WAV files. The audio player will prove to be cost-effective and reliable. Additionally, existing microphones will be utilized by the Board of Directors.

The sound files are currently available on the Rotonda West Association website. Minutes are also documented on the Community Forum.

Audio recordings are an effective way to accurately document what develops during our Board of Directors’ public meetings. They also can alleviate potential dilemmas resulting from incomplete

– See **Transparency**  
Continued on Page 7



## President's Message

by Glynn Perkins

Transparency is a hallmark of our Association's business practices and always will be as long as I'm involved. Every homeowner is entitled to full disclosure of our proceedings and that's how it will be.

Along these lines, we are excited about a new communications innovation adopted by the Association - a new audio recording of our Board meetings that will be made available to all members around the world. All subsequent Board meetings will be recorded and posted on a special link on our website - [www.rotondawest.org](http://www.rotondawest.org).

### Have A Question?

There are number of ways to get answers to your questions and I'll address these here.

The schedules of our Annual meetings, Board meetings, and Committee meetings are always posted and open to all of our members. We encourage your attendance. The meeting schedules are published on page 8 of this issue.

Every member has an opportunity to ask questions first-hand at Board and committee meetings, as well as to visit the office or through emails.

At every Board meeting, members have the option of speaking at two different junctures. First, the Board holds a pre-agenda meeting on a Friday in advance of each Wednesday Board meeting to set the agenda. The published agenda is available in advance of Board meetings via email and contains all items and motions that will be offered at the regular meetings. Members who want to address the agenda items simply sign a "Speakers Sign-Up Sheet" upon entering the meeting room. Members may also sign up for the "Member Input" portion that is offered near the end of the meetings. And finally, members unable to attend meetings may send an email to the office at [info@rotondawest.org](mailto:info@rotondawest.org).

## Garage Issue

Moving to another topic, I want to comment here on an issue that has the attention of many in our community, especially the immediate neighbors. Several months ago, a resident sought approval to build a 1200 square foot detached garage to house his recreational vehicle. He submitted the proper plans to the Residential Modification Committee. The Committee reviewed its guidelines and Deed Restrictions to determine if his plan complied with acceptable construction. Since there was no restriction on the size of the garage and height of the roof and because of the extraordinary circumstances of the application, the Committee by way of the Board of Directors, sought the ruling of the RWA attorney. The attorney found no restrictions in the governing documents that would cause the Committee to deny the application and advised the Committee accordingly. The attorney's ruling is available to you to view on the RWA websites Community Forum, included with the March 22, 2012 Board meeting Minutes.

Only the Residential Modification Committee had the authority to rule on the application. The Board did not. Because residential construction over time includes new building materials and technological innovations, deed restrictions are ever-evolving. Our Board and the Residential Modification and Deed Restrictions committees took into consideration these issues along with other suggested amendments to the Association's governing documents. These have been reviewed by the Deed Restrictions Committee and the Board of Directors at public meetings over a number of years. The revised governing documents have now been sent to Gary Littlestar, the Developer, for his consideration, comment, amendment and ultimate approval.

In closing, I want to extend best wishes to all our members and families for a safe and memorable summer. For those full-time residents of our community, we hope you'll enjoy the wide range of extraordinary cultural, social and recreational amenities available to all of us in our region.

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## Board Votes to Save Oakland Hills Gazebo, Bridge

by Don Mahon

At its June 13 meeting, the RWA Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the Properties Committee recommendation to save the island, gazebo and bridge at the Oakland Hills Marina.

Members of the Board agreed that the structures are of historical value to the community and should be restored. Further discussion is required on funding.

The island and its structures opposite The Hills Golf & Country Club have become community landmarks constructed more than 40 years ago.

Originally, the Committee had planned to have residents respond to a survey but the issue became a maintenance consideration with an expenditure that required Board approval.

The deteriorating condition of the gazebo and bridge and erosion of the island led to the action by the Properties Committee led by Scott Schermerhorn.

A Properties sub-committee was formed and led by George Krabbe to investigate the cost to demolish all three

structures or restore the island and repair the gazebo and bridge. With the Board's approval to proceed with repairs, the next step is a meeting with the Properties, Beautification, Aquatics and Budget Committees to discuss the role of each and how the repairs will be funded.

The island has been the scene for 22 years of the annual Christmas lighting ceremony. The decorations and bright lights have been a holiday attraction for all those years. Occasionally, the gazebo is used for wedding receptions and other events.

### Anyone For Holiday Decorations Chair?

With the Board decision to retain the gazebo and bridge at the Oakland Hills Marina, the holiday lighting tradition will continue. All that is needed is for a new Holiday Decorations Chairman to step up to the plate. For details, call Earl Haas at 698-9207. Earl has served as chairman for three years but has opted to devote his full attention to the Christmas Holiday Parade that occurs at about the same time.

## Rotonda Canal Water Sampling Plan

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

Water quality is vitally important to the health of the Rotonda West canals. An effective water sampling program is imperative in monitoring water quality. The RWA Aquatics Committee has developed a Water Sampling Plan to monitor the health of our canals as part of The Rotonda West Canal System 5 Year Plan. Volunteers will collect samples for analysis and will analyze the resulting data which will enable the committee to monitor the status of the canals as well as assist in the identification of pollution and extreme chemical or biological levels. This program will also alert monitors to potential problems in need of mediation. This is particularly important because of the interaction of the canal system with Buck Creek and the Rotonda Lakes inlet.

There are several potential pollution sources. The first is general runoff from roads, commercial and residential areas inside the circle. Other sources are from outside the circle. There is a drain path originating in the Rotonda Lakes area that connects directly to the Rotonda River in the White Marsh section. Another potential source of pollution and/or contamination is from Buck Creek in the Pebble Beach area. While a weir separates Buck Creek from the canals and water generally flows from the canals into Buck Creek, the potential for pollution is always present. This watershed may be a source of sewage pollution as significant levels of fecal coliform bacteria have been found in Buck Creek. Rotonda West is connected to a municipal sewer system; however, surrounding communities, including much of Charlotte County, utilize septic systems which represent a significant potential for fecal pollution (sewage) problems. The sewer lines that cross under the canals could also present a significant problem if they fail. Major storms could result in chemical and biological pollution of the canal system from storm water runoff and failed septic systems from adjacent watersheds.



The ecological status of the canals is determined greatly by nutrient levels including nitrogen and phosphorus. Elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus are detrimental to water quality. Excessive fertilizer application to residential lawns and golf courses results in increased nutrient levels and enhanced aquatic plant growth, particularly when fertilizer is applied close to the water's edge. These excess nutrients have resulted in an abundance of aquatic plants which are a continuous concern and are costly to mitigate.

The Water Sampling Plan calls for the following parameters to be monitored monthly: Total Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Chlorophyll, Clarity, Conductivity, pH, Dissolved Oxygen and Water Temperature. Other tests that will be performed less frequently include: Fecal Coliform Bacteria, Oil and Grease, Pesticides and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Chloride and Heavy Metals (Lead, Cadmium and Mercury).

Data from the sampling program will be analyzed, combined with historical sampling data and trended to form a data base that can establish the environmental status of the canal system. This information will be reported to the RWA Board of Directors on a regular basis thus providing a method of monitoring the health of our canals.

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## Deed Restrictions News & Notes

Some members may wonder if there are any requirements to display house numbers in our community. Section 6 of the Deed Restrictions, Charlotte County Rules and Regulations states that "all homes shall have a house number that will be readily visible from the street." This is really a safety requirement, as homes without numbers may leave occupants vulnerable when there is a need for emergency services, because vehicles may have trouble finding the house.

The amended Deed Restrictions are currently with the Developer for comments and approval after a three-year effort to make the provisions current. When they are returned to the Association, they will be placed on the RWA website - [www.rotondawest.org](http://www.rotondawest.org) - for member review prior to a special meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board will then formally accept them and have them recorded. If you don't have access to a computer, you can request a copy from the office. When they are available for review, it will be announced.

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## Emergency Supplies for Hurricane Season

by John House

Develop your storm plan and stock your hurricane supply kit.



Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days  
Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days: Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices, foods for infants or the elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking utensils / fuel, paper plates, plastic utensils  
Blankets, Pillows, etc. / Clothing - seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes / Medical supplies - first aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs / Flashlight - extra batteries / Radio - battery-operated and NOAA weather radio / Cash - (Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.)

Go to [www.rotondawest.org](http://www.rotondawest.org) for more information on Hurricane Preparedness.

## RWA Election Important Dates

by Donna Krabbe

The RWA Board of Directors election is fast approaching. The Election Committee wishes to encourage all members to consider becoming a director – two positions will be filled this year. It is an excellent way to volunteer your time and talents for the betterment of Rotonda West.

**Candidate Workshop** – Thursday, July 19, 2012, 7:00 pm at the RWA Community Center. This workshop will be very helpful to anyone interested in running for an RWA Director position. Pertinent information will be provided regarding the RWA election procedures and requirements, and directors’ duties and responsibilities.

**Candidate Statement Deadline** - Friday, August 10, 2012 at 12:01 pm. To become a declared candidate, you must submit your candidate statement to the RWA Office by the deadline. Your candidate statement will be in the election packet sent to all members and your name will appear on the ballot. This is the best venue to provide your information and vision for Rotonda West. If you need computer assistance, please contact the RWA Office at 941-697-6788. Note: If you choose not to submit your statement by the deadline, you will run as an undeclared (write in) candidate.

**Candidates’ Night** – Thursday, October 18, 2012, 7:00 pm at the American Legion Post 113, 3436 Indiana Rd, Rotonda West. Mark this date on your calendar – it will be your opportunity to question declared candidates about their backgrounds, abilities, and future plans for Rotonda West.

Information regarding election procedures and guidelines is available at [www.rotondawest.org](http://www.rotondawest.org)

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## Inside the Circle

### *Bits & Pieces Around the Community*

For Charlotte County residents, the last day to register to vote in the August 14th primary is July 16th. Please visit [www.charlottevotes.com](http://www.charlottevotes.com) for voter information.

### **PRIMARY Election Day - August 14, 2012**

Polls Open 7am - 7pm

Early Voting - Sat. Aug 4, 2012 THRU Sat. Aug. 11, 2012

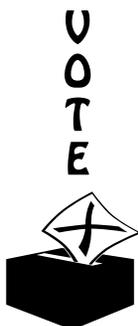
### **Early Voting Locations**

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



## Future Use of Pinemoor East On The Drawing Board

by Don Mahon

There is no plan to re-open the Pinemoor East Golf Course now or any time in the future.

That was announced by RWA President Glynn Perkins at the June 13th Board meeting after consultation with Bill Stine, President of Rotonda Golf Partners, Inc. Rotonda Golf Properties owns the land and operates our community’s five golf courses under the umbrella of Rotonda Golf & Country Club offering 99 holes of golf at The Hills, The Palms, The Links, Long Marsh & Pine Valley, and Pinemoor West golf courses.

“Any future use of the 169 acres of greenbelt will be for the benefit of the community, preferably as a recreation facility and to safeguard bordering properties,” President Perkins said.

Mr. Stine has stipulated he prefers the property go to a non-profit, charitable organization. The property has vast irrigation lakes and ponds and borders on many homes in the Broadmoor subdivision. The golf course closed about two years ago,

The Board voted to form a sub-committee to investigate how to go forward by a 5 to 0 vote, with David Kelly recusing himself as General Manager of the Rotonda Golf & Country Club. Director Stan Plizga was absent.

Named to the sub-committee were President Perkins, First Vice President George Burger and Director Stan Plizga. Director Kelly indicated the grass will be cut 4 or 5 times on the property during the summer.

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## Neighborhood Watch Responds

Our patrols are reporting a number of open garage doors throughout the development. With valuable items in plain sight such as golf clubs, fishing gear, and tools to name a few, an open garage door is an invitation to steal. If you do not need to have your garage door up, keep it closed. It takes less than a minute for someone to enter and remove valuable items from an open garage. Our policy is to report open garages only when there is some indication of illicit activity. Please remind your neighbors to keep their garage doors closed. If you see an open door, and the house is a vacation rental, remind the vacationers to keep the door closed. An open garage door could also lead to a more serious burglary if the perpetrator can gain access into the dwelling from the garage. Another easy target for thieves is an unlocked vehicle. If your car is parked in your driveway, keep it locked. We get numerous reports of thefts from unlocked vehicles. It is amazing what people leave in their vehicles. Computers, business documents, wallets, purses –you name it and someone will leave it in their car. When leaving your car in your driveway or parking lot hide your valuables and lock the vehicle. Property owners who rent out their homes remind your renters to keep their garage door closed and their vehicles locked. Call your property management company to remind renters of precautions.

## Manager's Report

by Jay Lyons, Manager,  
Rotonda West Association

### Rotonda West is a Deed Restricted Community.

*Our Governing Documents state;*

Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of these Restrictions and Architectural Review is to produce an orderly and desirable community to protect and enhance property values in Rotonda West, Florida.

On any given day the office staff receives phone calls from residents complaining that we are either not enforcing the Deed Restrictions or that we are over enforcing the Deed Restrictions. Perception can either be near sighted, far sighted or blind. We are asked: "if we have nothing better to do?" "Why are you picking on me?" "How about the house down the street..." "I saw x occurrence of the same violation."



"I didn't know this was a Deed Restricted Community." "I never received a copy of the Deed Restrictions." "Why didn't you knock on my door before you sent me a letter?"

The staff is abused verbally every day by owners and renters concerning compliance with the Deed Restrictions. We are employees of your Homeowners Association, charged with the responsibility by the Board of Directors and the Governing Documents to enforce the Deed Restrictions. If you do not agree with the Deed Restrictions, let your Board of Directors know your feelings, by email at [info@rotondawest.org](mailto:info@rotondawest.org) or by letter to 3745 Cape Haze Drive, Rotonda West, FL 33947.

If you do not have a copy of the Deed Restrictions, they are available online at [www.rotondawest.org](http://www.rotondawest.org) or you can pick up a copy at the Community Center or we would be happy to mail a copy to you.

The Deed Restrictions will be enforced. If the Deed Restrictions are not complied with, there will be fines. If the fines are not paid a Lien will be placed on the violating property.

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## Summary of Board Meeting Minutes, April, 2012

### Regular Monthly Meeting, 4/11/12

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

- Director Killion moved to accept the resignation of Linda Bondeson from the Budget & Finance Committee and add John Carroll to the Committee. Schermerhorn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Director Kelly moved that the Board accept Christine Lee as editor of West Ways at \$500.00 per month/\$6,000 yearly. Director Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Based on a request from Richard Duggan, Chairman of the Compliance Committee, Director Traverso moved to remove Jack Nolen and Richard Dignan from the Compliance Committee. Burger seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Director Perkins moved to have the fines applied to 201 Marker Road starting February 20, 2012 and 57 Oakland Hills Court on February 20, 2012 and give a 10 day extension for 32 Oakland Hills Court. Traverso seconded the motion. The fine is \$20.00 per day. Motion carried unanimously.
- Director Schermerhorn moved that the Board of Directors put an article in West Ways asking for comments from residents regarding whether the Gazebo, island and bridge should be repaired and improved or removed. Traverso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Director Schermerhorn moved that the Board of Directors go out to bid to have the rip rap installed at the four corners of the seawall at the Oakland Hills Marina. Killion seconded the motion. Manager Lyons stated it must be advertised because it's over \$5,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- Director Schermerhorn moved whereas it has been suggested to record and post to world-wide web, video and audio recording of all RWA Board of Directors meetings to demonstrate transparency and increase communication

for all RWA members. It is moved that the Association Manager purchase the equipment necessary to add to computers in use to record, store, file and post all RWA Board meetings to website. Funds are available up to \$1,000.00. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Perkins stated that a number of letters and emails have been received regarding Deed Restrictions. The Deed Restrictions are and have continued to be those that were amended in 2003. Director Perkins stated that the Board has gone to great lengths to ensure that the Association has followed Florida Statutes, our guidelines and procedures. A draft response letter was given to the Board of Directors for their review and approval. Director Perkins moved that Board of Directors adopt the draft letter to be sent for any correspondence questioning Deed Restriction changes that have not been made. Schermerhorn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Special Board Meeting, 4/16/12

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

Members of the Deed Restrictions Committee and Residential Modification Committee were present for input on the discussion of Detached Accessory Buildings.

- Director Burger moved the Board approve removal of all mention of "detached accessory building" from the Residential Guidelines and Deed Restrictions. Anything presented as an addition must conform to the architectural integrity of the original building. Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 to 2 with Directors Schermerhorn and Perkins voting in the negative.
- Director Burger moved that the Board approve the addition of the words "Pictures must denote where posting is to be done by color" to section 02, Colors for Homes and Structures of the Guidelines. Traverso seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## Meals on Wheels Seeks Summertime Volunteers

Rotonda Residents Call for Reinforcements!

By Ruth Sargent

How does a local all-volunteer organization providing 36,000 meals a year to homebound neighbors survive during the summer when many seasonal volunteers are out of town and out of service?

"It's not easy: our full winter-season roster is about 100 volunteers," says Rotonda resident and Meals on Wheels Board Member Lois Burger. "Each volunteer gives just one morning a week to preparing, packaging or delivering meals in the Englewood area. We have a different crew every day, but it all flows nicely, the team works together and the work gets done. In the summer, it is crucial that we recruit and add more helpers, especially drivers and their assistants," said Burger. The MOW service area stretches on 7 routes (soon to be 8) from Manasota Beach to the Myakka River.

Meals on Wheels was formed in Englewood in 1968. Over one million noon meals have been delivered to appreciative residents since that time. Burger and her husband, George, a Rotonda West Association Board member, have been part of the all-volunteer organization for eight years. They say quite a few Rotonda residents are Meals on Wheels clients.

In addition to Lois Burger, Rotonda residents Mel Kugler, Martha Blenner and Flo Bush are current MOW Board members. Kugler coordinates the meal-delivery drivers - and wants to hear from residents who would like to help. Even in this "slow" summer season, 140-150 meals are delivered every day, 5 days a week. (480 meals were served daily in April.) Bush is chief buyer, menu planner and head cook, a tall job considering everything is prepared "from scratch". Each meal contains a protein, a starch, a vegetable, a drink and dessert. The standard charge of \$3 daily may be waived if a client is unable to pay.

The MOW budget is financed through numerous non-government sources including donations and club, religious and corporate contributions, client revenues and grants for specific services and needs. MOW leases a beautiful freestanding building from Community Presbyterian Church which helped found the organization originally. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Lois Burger at 828-3611.

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## Governing Document Revisions Posted For Member Review

The revised Deed Restrictions and Residential Modifications Guidelines have been posted on the RWA website for all interested members to review. Go to [www.rotondawest.org](http://www.rotondawest.org) and click onto the "Deed Restrictions & Guidelines" link under "Association" on the menu. If you have any comments, please submit them to [info@rotondawest.org](mailto:info@rotondawest.org). Provisions of both documents have been under review by the two committees and the Board over a several year period. The changes in the documents are under simultaneous review by Gary Littlestar, the Developer. Any changes will also be posted.

## RWA In Step With Big Brothers Big Sisters

by Don Mahon

Some 30 residents of Rotonda West are doing their share for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast.

Five residents are Englewood Community Board members and two dozen serve as mentors. So it's only fitting that a Community Partnership has been formed between the Rotonda West Association and the Englewood Community Board of BBBS.

The new partnership enables the RWA to encourage members to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters to make an impact on the lives of kids who need a boost. The partnership was proposed by David Kelly, RWA Director and Community Relations Committee Chairman and his committee. The RWA Board endorsed the proposal by a unanimous vote at its June 13 meeting.

The mission of BBBS is to provide children facing diversity with strong and enduring one-on-one relationships that forge better lives, and for all kids to achieve success in life.

Mentors are known as Big Brothers or Big Sisters and are matched with a Little Brother or Little Sister.

BBBS volunteers are involved in one of five key programs and some in multiple programs. They include two core community-based programs involving time devoted to individual attention, two school-based programs and an initiative for Bigs and Littles interested in sports.

In a recent area survey, 81% of former Littles agree their Big gave them hope and changed their perspective of what they thought possible. 90% agreed that their Big helped them make better choices throughout their childhood and 93% improved their academic performance.

"We are very fortunate that so many Rotonda West residents take an active role in our mission and we're hoping others will join them," said Charlotte County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Cotton, Chairman of the Englewood Board. "The need is on-going and we currently have 28 boys and girls between 6 and 18 years waiting to be matched."

The Rotonda West Association joins a dozen other organizations and businesses in the Englewood area to form a partnership with BBBS. Some others are Englewood Bank, Key Agency, three area Rotary Clubs, Fellowship Church, Englewood United Methodist Church, and the YMCA of Englewood.

Rotonda West residents who serve on the Englewood Community Board are Danica Harris, Mel Kugler, Ted Kern, Jim Laurent and Don Mahon. Deputy Cotton also serves on the BBBS Gulf Coast Corporate Board. Its service area includes Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties.

Interested in volunteering? For information, call Natalie Anderson, Mentor Manager at (941) 473-4003.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of the Sun Coast

## Holiday Parade to Feature Shorter Route

by Don Mahon

Planning is progressing for the traditional Christmas Holiday Parade that steps off on Saturday, December 1. A mailing has been made to all prior parade participants to save the date and to announce a new, shorter route this year.

The line of march will begin at Rotonda Boulevard North which will reduce the distance about one-half to 2.9 miles from the original Rotonda Boulevard East staging area. The shorter route is expected to encourage greater participation of parade entries. The parade will end just beyond the Oakland Hills Marina. As in prior years, marching bands will join the parade at Rebel Court.

Last year, more than 60 units participated and thousands lined the parade route along Rotonda Circle. Record-breaking food donations for the Englewood Helping Hand food bank were collected and the goal is to collect significantly more this year. Earl Haas, Sue Artz and Cathy Moseley return as parade coordinators.

For a day of entertainment and fun, circle December 1 on your calendar!



**Traditional Scene** - The island and gazebo all lit up for the holidays will continue for the 23rd year. *Photo by David Pulaski.*

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## Transparency

- Continued from page 1

or erroneous notes. The valuable knowledge is stored in digital form indefinitely, ensuring accurate and accessible information while helping to facilitate accountability. Recordings will be used for review, and also for obtaining crucial director interactions with the Association members. Currently, precise commitments are available for immediate review and may be retrieved at any time if a dispute arises.

You can listen to the audio recordings by utilizing Windows Media Player, Winamp, VLC Media Player, iTunes, Quicktime, or any media player that plays MP3 files. The aforementioned are all available to download free of charge. In the future, links to audio players will be implemented into the Rotonda West Association for greater usability.

## Is There a Cultural Center in Our Future?

by Don Mahon

In 2007, a small group of community activists began to set the wheels in motion for what they hoped would be a much-needed cultural center for residents on the Cape Haze Peninsula, including all of Rotonda West. It began as the Rotonda Community Foundation and is now known as the Cultural Guild of the Greater Cape Haze Peninsula. The name change better reflects the region it serves.

Why this effort? The organizers recognized that the area lacks human services available in other regions of Charlotte County. Both Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda have cultural centers with wide uses that are a beehive of activity for young and old.

The primary purpose of the Cultural Guild, a nonprofit foundation, is to develop educational, health, safety and welfare programs, as well as musical and cultural programs, for residents of the Cape Haze Peninsula to enrich the quality of life in the region.

To achieve its objectives, the Cultural Guild Board led by Nick Gizzi as President and George Krabbe as Vice President, both Rotonda West residents and former officers and directors of the RWA, have called for a survey to determine the level of interest of residents in the area. The survey was designed by students at Edison State College and contains 13 questions ranging from household data and the need for a cultural center to how often you would visit. The survey also asks for ideas and comments of how to utilize the facility and the best methods to fund it.

To participate in the survey, go to the website - [www.culturalguild.com](http://www.culturalguild.com) - and click onto the survey box at the left on the Home Page. If you have trouble submitting your survey, you can make a copy and mail it to: Survey, Cultural Guild of the Greater Cape Haze Peninsula, Post Office Box 721, Placida, FL 33946-0721.

The results of the survey will go a long way in determining the future direction of the Cultural Guild. Deadline for submitting the survey is August 5.

Other members of the Board are Hank Artz and Linda Harrison of Rotonda West, and Mike Billington, former Publisher of the Englewood Sun.

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## Writers wanted!

By Christine Lee, Webmaster/Editor

Thank you for giving me this opportunity of being West Ways Editor. I am lucky to have the West Ways staff to guide me through the May/June issue. West Ways is always interested in writers. If you love to write and love the Rotonda West community, please email me at [webmaster@rotondawest.org](mailto:webmaster@rotondawest.org). The West Ways staff meets and discusses upcoming articles and plans for future issues. If you cannot make the meetings we can always work electronically through email or phone.

**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



"Rotonda West Night" at the Florida State League All-Star game was a fun night for 185 fans in our community. (see page one for the story) All smiles are the raffle winners with their winning tickets. From the left, George Burger, Carol Genest, Betty Voegler, and Sue Killion. *Photo by Hank 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

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