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DISCLAIMER: THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Rotonda West Association
West Ways

Election Changes for 2011 Election

The Election Committee met on March 1st, 2011 to start preparations for the upcoming Board of Directors election to be held in December 2011. In an effort to keep residents informed of this very important event the Election Committee voted to reschedule the submission date for candidates to coincide with the publication dates of West Ways. In addition, the ballots will be redesigned implementing a “Secret Ballot Procedure” incorporating an additional envelope in the voting packages; instructions on this new procedure will follow. These motions were presented to the Board of Directors and approved on March 9th, 2011.

The Candidates’ Statement Deadline has been moved up one week and is now scheduled for the second Friday in August at 12:01 pm. This years date for the deadline is August 12th. Candidates Night will continue to be held on the third Thursday of October. This years date for Candidates Night is Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 7:00 pm, the location will be announced.

West Ways will continue to remind you with these dates and also advise you when the candidate’s statements and ballots are being mailed. If for some reason you do not receive an election package after we publicize that they have been mailed you are encouraged to contact Manager Jay Lyons so a replacement can be provided. We encourage every resident to attend the Board of Directors meetings and consider becoming involved.

Complete RWA Political Campaign Guidelines including Candidate Statement Guidelines and Political Sign Guidelines are available on the RWA website: www.rotondawest.org.

Workshop Held on Rotonda Buffer Zone

A workshop was held on April 7th to plan a buffer zone in the Pine Valley subdivision. The workshop helped identify the steps necessary to construct the buffer zone at Pine Valley Memorial Park. A buffer zone is plants installed around a water body that help to filter fertilizer and pesticide runoff. The workshop was part of a Community Education Grant from the Peace River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. To implement the plan, the RWA’s Aquatic Canal System committee chaired by Hank Killion is partnering with the Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Charlotte County Extension office.

This meeting was advertised in the Sun and residents of Rotonda West and the general public were encouraged to participate in the workshop. Please contact Hank Killion 941-697-3453 for further information.

Deed Restrictions

By: Patricia Kelly

The Board has completed their review of the recommended changes to the Deed Restrictions. They have been sent back to the attorney for review prior to being sent to the members for comment and the Developer for his review and execution.

A reminder that the Developer has in its sole discretion the right to modify, amend, abrogate, add to or derogate from the covenants and restrictions, and that the members of the Association had no authority in this regard.

The Board of Directors in reviewing some items in the deed restrictions which were last amended in 2002 has determined that there were some needed clarifications and “housekeeping changes” and will be requesting these changes be made by the Developer.

When the Board of Directors receives the final changes back from the attorney, they will be sent out to all members for their information. We encourage your comments and recommend that you forward your comments to info@rotondawest.org or mail your comments back to the office.

President's Message

By: Glynn Perkins

Since the last issue of West Ways many changes have taken place within the Board of Directors. For any residents unaware of what has transpired I thought this was the perfect platform to keep you informed.

Following the February Board of Directors meeting, Director Gerry Townsend resigned her position as Board Director and Treasurer. Gerry was a very hard working member and I will personally miss her input on a wide variety of subjects. At this time, I would like to publically thank her for the time and dedication she gave to the Association and wish her well in her future endeavours.

The vacancy on the Board was offered to Mark Reynolds. Mark narrowly missed being elected at the last election in December 2010. I have personally known Mark for a number of years and I believe his skills and experience will be a tremendous asset to our Board. At this time, I wish to officially and personally welcome Mark to the Board.

Because of the member changes we held a reorganizational meeting to restructure the vacant positions. In addition to Mark's position as Director, he will assume the responsibility of Chairman of the Policy and Procedure Committee and Hank Killion was appointed as Board Treasurer and Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. All other Officers of the Association remain unchanged.



Glynn Perkins
President, RWA

On quite another subject, I have noticed an area where members may come into conflict with the Association. Although conflict is extremely rare several situations have recently come to my attention.

The situation I have noticed is regarding exterior home improvements. When a member decides to improve, modify, refresh or make any additions or alterations to the outside of their property they should immediately contact the association office for guidance. In almost all circumstances an application for any improvement or maintenance must be submitted to the Residential Modification Committee for approval prior to commencing the project. Please, please, do this before you do any work whatsoever as not doing so could become a costly mistake.

In closing I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable summer and for our seasonal owners wish them a safe journey back to their summer residences. I look forward to welcoming you back in the fall.



New Board of Directors: Front Row L: Pat Kelly, Glynn Perkins, George Burger. Back Row L: Pete Traverso, Hank Artz, Hank Killion, Mark Reynolds *Photo by: Sue Killion*

LAKEWATCH Volunteers Honored



Lakewatch Aquatic Canal System Committee members (L) Bob Winter and Dick Stravino discuss the Lakewatch aquatic vegetation display with biologist Jason Bennett. *Photo by: Sue Killion*

On March 17th Rotonda West volunteers Ted Anderson, Earl Haas, Jack Johnson, Hank Killion, Jack Townsend and Bob Winter were honored for their service by Florida LAKEWATCH at a dinner held at the Community Center.

These volunteers are members of the Aquatic Committee and each month they capture samples from the canals for analysis by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences/SRVC Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, a program which includes 40 counties throughout the state.

Biologists Jason Bennett and Jesse Stevens were both guest speakers and recognized the volunteers for their service. Monitoring the 30 miles of fresh water canals is an essential part of the Aquatics Committees duties. If you are interested in training and volunteering for the Aquatics Committee please contact Hank Killion 941-697-3453.

Manager's Message

By: Jay Lyons

We speak with owners every day regarding Residential Modifications of one kind or another. There is confusion and sometimes disbelief as to why the Association is so interested or involved in owners improving their property. Well I'm here to tell you we see and hear of some very interesting "improvements" that you would not believe. Paint colors and combinations that challenge the imagination, roofing materials that have yet to be patented and structures that defy common sense and sometimes gravity.

Some owners complete the Residential Modification Application, as required, before the addition, alteration, modification or repair is undertaken. There is no charge if the application is submitted before the work is undertaken. If the work is started before the application is approved a \$25.00 late charge will be assessed whether the application is approved or disapproved.

All applications are reviewed by the RWA Manager and presented to the Residential Modification Committee for review. The Residential Modification Committee meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month to review applications. If the application adheres to the Deed Restrictions, it will be approved at the meeting. If an application is not complete or if it requires further explanation it will be disapproved until all the necessary

information is provided. If the modification is not in concurrence with the Deed Restrictions, the application will be disapproved. Owners are welcome to attend the Residential Modification Committee meeting to present their application to the committee. All applications must be received by 4:00 PM on the Friday before the RMC meeting in order to be reviewed at the meeting.



Jay Lyons,
Manager RWA

Modifications may also require permits from one or more departments of Charlotte County government. It is the property owner's responsibility to determine if permits are required by Charlotte County.

Section 1 of the Rotonda West Association, Inc. Deed Restrictions reads "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."

If you have access to the internet you will find both the Deed Restrictions and the Residential Modification Guidelines listed on our web site at www.rotondawest.org or call us at 941-697-6788. We will be happy to send you a copy.

Newcomers Night

By: Cathy Moseley

Our Newcomers Night was a great success. Thank you to the Woman's Club for your wonderful treats and to Sue Artz and Ginni Mahon for your work on organizing this event. From Wisconsin to Vermont the topic of much conversation was tales of friends left up

north for another horrible winter and the delight that those present did not experience it. All in all 26 people attended, thank you to our 7 new neighbors who signed up with the Neighborhood Watch and congratulations to the following clubs on your new memberships: Women's Club 6; Fiesta Club 10; and Buckeye 1.



New Residents Holly and Don Martin, with Walter Taylor and Bob Bondeson



New Residents Joe and Jean Delbonis at Fiesta Table with Joann House and Linda Bondeson *Photos By: Sue Killion*

Volunteer Dinner

By: Ruth Sargent

Sadly, volunteers can be sometimes viewed as expendable and of questionable value. Not true in Rotonda. "Our volunteers are priceless, far from worthless," Rotonda West Association Manager Jay Lyons said of the 83 residents who were honored March 6 at the annual Rotonda Volunteer Appreciation Night at The Hills Restaurant. Lyons served as Master of Ceremonies, noting that the volunteers are the foundation that makes the Rotonda West Association work.

Wayne Mengel, who serves on the Community Relations Committee, chaired the annual recognition dinner for honorees and spouses/guests. Sue Artz, Linda Bondeson and Ginni Mahon assisted Mengel. Committee chairs were called upon to introduce members of their respective committees. Mike Billington, Publisher of the Englewood Sun, was a special guest.

Outgoing Board members Nick Gizzi and Earl Haas received special accolades for their years of service to RWA. Gizzi was President of the RWA for four consecutive years of a total seven years and chaired the all-important Aquatic Canal Systems committee. Haas chaired the "pro-active and very active" Community Relations Committee for three years. Among the many projects initiated recently are the immensely popular annual Holiday Parade, and lighting of the Christmas tree at the Oakland Hills marina. Publicity, Newcomers Night information reception and the West Ways newsletter are also responsibilities of this committee.

Nearly 100 Rotonda residents regularly volunteer their time and talents serving with or chairing the various committees year-round. These range from Beautification, Elections and Properties to Budget and Finance. Many residents serve on multiple committees. There are many opportunities for residents who wish to volunteer on a committee or special event. You are needed and welcome to join this "priceless" group! Won't you please call the RWA office today to volunteer!!!



Chairman of the Volunteer Dinner Wayne Mengel Introduces Manager Lyons



Manager Lyons addresses the volunteers Photos by: Dave Pulaski

Courtesy and Safety for Walkers and Bikers

By: Cathy Moseley

There are many who walk or ride bicycles in Rotonda West and there are standards for doing both. If you are riding your bike and are coming up behind someone walking you should alert that person that you are approaching them. A simple statement such as "on your left or, on your right" will alert them to your approach and prevent someone from accidentally stepping into your path.

Unfortunately Rotonda West does not have bike lanes or sidewalks. With very few exceptions, the safest way to ride is as part of the traffic, going with the flow of the normal traffic pattern. Some cyclists fear being struck from behind and think they're safer on the left. But rear-end collisions are actually rare, and riding on the left is one of the biggest causes of car-bike crashes.

If you ride on the left, drivers and pedestrians about to pull out from side streets and crosswalks will be

Continued - see BICYCLES, page 6

State of Rotonda Canals

Florida Native Plant Society, Mangrove Chapter, recognizes Rotonda West Homeowners Association on behalf of the work of the Aquatic Canal System Committee for their efforts in preserving, conserving and restoring The Real Florida.

Photo Right: (L to R) Hank Killion, Chairman Aquatics Committee, Lois Cantwell, Chapter Secretary Florida Native Plant Society and Bob Winter member Aquatics Committee.

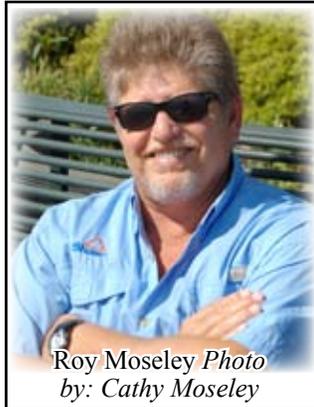
Photo by: Sue Killion



What's My Line?

By: Cathy Moseley

Many residents ask me what my husband does for a living. After years of explanations and months of reflection I've decided it was time to write a human interest story on my husband, Roy.



*Roy Moseley Photo
by: Cathy Moseley*

Many times that I've found it easier to try and explain a particular project Roy is working on. Because of the nature of his business I most often finish with: "he points and yells a lot." Surely, this explains nothing. The problem is by the time I explain his job I've not only bored you, I've bored myself.

So, at an attempt not to bore you let's play "What's My Line", here are the clues: what do you think when you hear: asbestos, arsenic, lead, anthrax, Agent Orange, benzene, PCBs, DDTs or Exxon Valdez? Poisons or hazardous waste materials? That's correct. Now let's try landfills, capping, closures, military base remediation or restoration. Again, nothing pleasant, any guesses? How about: "First Responder". No not EMT. If I say Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Wilma rescue and restore can you guess now?

Perhaps instead of clues, short narratives will help.

Roy just finished with asbestos remediation in the Washington, DC schools when he was summoned to NJ. We met and then married after he completed the removal of the anthrax at the Trenton Post Office. His next assignment was in Utah so together we left NJ.

In Utah 2 children had died and many others became sick. It was discovered that the town of Eureka had reclaimed the dirt from the old mine and used it throughout the town. The children were being infected with arsenic poisoning. Roy's company removed about a foot of soil from every parcel and replaced it with clean fill and then the entire town was landscaped. (It was much more involved so if you are interested you can Google it.)

During the Utah project while watching the news about Hurricane Katrina Roy was one of the First Responders who received the opposite instructions of the New Orleans residents. He was told to pack and get there NOW. With that, he left me in Utah and headed towards the impending disaster.

In Utah and living thousands of miles from anyone I was not a happy camper. I could not return to NJ but knew someone with a house to rent in Venice so, this is where we decided to go. Roy flew back to Utah and together we drove down only to be sidetracked by Hurricane Rita. With some changes to our travel route we eventually arrived. Roy immediately returned to New Orleans only to turn around again because now Wilma was heading towards us and I was alone. Snow yes, hurricanes, no.

Once again in New Orleans he discovered the Wilma damage to the West Palm side of the state was so severe he was again transferred. Roy and his crew worked hard to help everyone they could however; his main focus became getting anyone who was now homeless into housing. He concentrated on cutting through the red tape of the local government and with sheer persistence he accomplished this.

At this time, our lease ended, we didn't like the West Palm area and we didn't care for Venice so that's how we ended up in Rotonda West; it was just a stroke of luck because of a rental agent.

There were several other projects between then and now. His most current assignment is a \$360-million project to reinforce barrier islands from the Chandeleur Islands on the east side of the mouth of the Mississippi River Delta to the Scofield Island on the west. The goal was to raise a 6-ft-plus elevation to prevent floating oil from migrating on the tide into the marshes causing an environmental nightmare as well as killing wildlife and ultimately to prevent further island erosion. This project was the first one of its kind anywhere in the world. (Again, you can Google it.)

So with all these clues, can you answer "What's My Line?"

Roy is a Quality Assurance Specialist with Shaw E&I. Roy has been involved in the environmental field before most of us knew we had one. Personally, I'm surprised he doesn't glow in the dark.

The specific projects I shared with you are because of the impact I felt they had. I am so proud of Roy and the amazing things he does for people he doesn't know or will ever see again. Throughout his career he has protected thousands of lives from contaminants, many of which never even knew they were being exposed. No matter what he is doing or where he is Roy responds at the drop of a hat. He is helping to save our children, our wildlife and our planet a piece at a time.

Bon Voyage

By: Cathy Moseley

Years ago, before cell phones many people carried beepers. I remember telling my boys when they were young and annoying that I was going to get a beeper and an RV, if they wanted me they could beep me and if I felt like it I would call them. Of course that would have never happened but, at the time it sounded like a good threat. However, the idea of traveling around in an RV has always seemed like fun.

In our last issue we introduced you to our new Webmaster, Ben Tobe; he is replacing Ken Hirsch who recently decided to step down. During my interview with Ken I was amazed when he told me that's exactly what he and his wife Jamey did.

Ken is retired from the Federal Aviation Administration, he first worked as an electronics technician and at the time of his retirement he supervised the Radar Unit in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His career with the FAA sent him too many interesting places throughout the United States and as far away as the Panama Canal Zone.

Perhaps his extensive traveling for work gave them the itch, I'm not sure but with retirement approaching and the children grown and gone they decided to do what many others dream about. Ken and Jamey sold their home and belongings in Tennessee, purchased an RV, hooked their car to the back of it and spent the next 6.5 years travelling around the United States, Canada and Mexico.

When they decided to settle down again they chose Florida. At first glance Rotonda West didn't have the appeal they were looking for and considered Venice.

It's "Rotonda West Night" at the Stadium

By: Don Mahon

The Charlotte Stone Crabs will face the Tampa Yankees on Friday, May 27th and it's designated as "Rotonda West Night" at the ballpark, a growing and popular tradition for our residents.

The first pitch is at 6:30 at Charlotte Sports Park in what promises to be a competitive game.

These two teams won their respective division titles last year and competed in the championship round of the Florida State League The Yankees edged the Stone Crabs for the league crown. The Stone Crabs are an advanced Class A team of the Tampa Bay Rays while the New York Yankees are the parent of the Tampa Yankees.

Tickets will be on sale at the Community Center from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 7th and again on Saturday, May 14. Ticket prices are \$9.00 for each seat, a game program and a Stone Crabs cap, or \$15.00 for each seat, program, a cap, plus a \$6.00 food voucher (hot dog, chips, soda). Only cash or checks made payable to the Charlotte Stone Crabs will be accepted.

The game and ticket sales are a project of the RWA Community Relations Committee, chaired by George Burger. Expected to lend a hand at the ticket sales

On their second look and with rising home prices they came back to Rotonda. In 2003 they purchased a lot, picked out their home and in 2005 once again settled down.

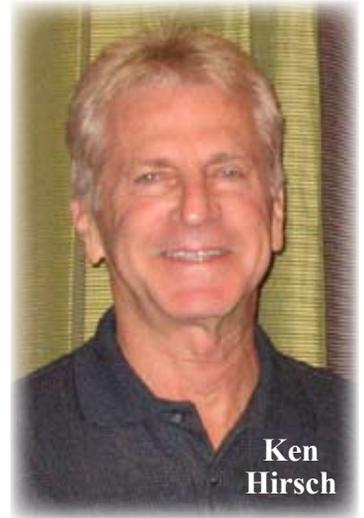
Ken's interest in computers began in 1984 and quickly turned into a hobby. He is a self-taught computer geek who was always able to answer any question our committee threw at him.

He is responsible for implementing the forum area on our web site. When members mention some type of problem they have with the site he would make a few little tweaks enabling someone with virtually no computer experience to easily navigate throughout the site.

With Ben's transition completed Ken is ready to retire as our Webmaster. I asked him what his future plans were, he smiled and replied "relax and travel"

Driving home I thought of our interview and began humming a Willie Nelson tune: "Goin' places that I've never been. Seein' things that I may never see again, I can't wait to get on the road again."

Ken, thank you for all of the great volunteer work you've done for us and your dedication to the Association. Be safe and have fun in your new adventures.



are Hank Killion, Earl Haas and Don Mahon. Eric Schmidlkofer, an Account Representative with the Stone Crabs, will also participate. If you are unable to make the ticket sales, call George Burger at (941) 828-3611 or Hank Killion, (941) 697-3453 who will have tickets available.

A second "Rotonda West Night" is scheduled for Saturday, September 3rd. The Stone Crabs will face the Bradenton Marauders. More details to follow.

BICYCLES - continued from page 4

looking away from you – in the direction traffic normally comes from. As a result, collisions at driveways and intersections are a major hazard for wrong-way riders.

Another thing to keep in mind is when you are walking without a sidewalk it is recommended to walk facing oncoming traffic on the same side of the road as the oncoming traffic. Also, you should get as far to the side of the road as possible to provide additional space between you and oncoming cars.

Bikes on one side of the road and walkers on the other would prevent the entire situation. Hopefully our new bike paths will be installed soon and this will allow everyone to bike/walk in harmony.

Be careful on the humpback bridges!

Residents Step Up and Show Appreciation for Neighborhood Watch

By: John House, President, Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

The Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch relies on contributions from our residents for financial support. The response to our current solicitation letter, mailed recently to property owners only in the 33947 zip code, will assist us by providing operating funds for the coming year. The generosity of the residents has been very gratifying, especially during the economic conditions which we all are facing. A number of donors included notes of appreciation for our services which reflected their heartfelt gratitude for our efforts. We thank all of our supporters for their generosity. In addition, a number of residents have volunteered their services, we always welcome new members.

Delivery of our solicitation letter is limited to the Rotonda West zip code. Rotonda property owners who did not receive our letter and wish to contribute can send their donations to: Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch, Post Office Box 691, Placida, Florida 33946.

We often ask ourselves how we can improve our operation and be even more effective in deterring crime. All residents can help by being observant and report unusual activities to the Sheriff's Department. Most of the crimes that impact us are theft and burglary, we patrol at night but criminal activities occur during daylight hours as well. Residents who are out and about during the day can practice observing their surroundings and what others are doing. Residents who cycle can be a valuable source of information since bicycles are silent, and often ride in areas that they are familiar with. They



Neighborhood Watch President John House thanks the 120 volunteers of the Neighborhood Watch at the "Spring Fling," an appreciation BBQ held on Sunday, March 13 at the Rotonda Community Park

recognize neighbors' residences and vehicles and can report or make a note of anything suspicious.

Our Neighborhood Watch organization is truly a great group of volunteers who give their time, vehicle use and fuel. The size of our membership is small compared to the population of our development, but our dedicated members volunteer to serve as patrols, base stations, coordinators, trainers and perform the many functions that are necessary to provide community security. Our Board members donate much time and effort in managing the organization.

If you would like more information or would like to join us, please call Robert Bondeson 548-1384; James Laurent 698-4250; or John House 697-8030.

Critter Collection Has An Unexpected Visitor

Professor Bill Dunson was very excited when he spotted this Sora Rail during the April 12th Critter Collection in White Marsh Park. This small secretive bird lives in well concealed locations, in dense vegetation, making it very reclusive and seldom seen. Their greatest threat is the destruction of fresh water marshes where they breed. Bill stated it was rare for birdwatchers to ever see a Sora Rail. We just had to share it with you!



Sora Rail Photo by: Sue Killion

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES

are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in becoming active in the community, please see the back page of West Ways for a list of our committees, meeting dates and times or contact Manager Jay Lyons for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Check out the Rotonda West web site for details on clubs, meetings, exercise classes, etc. at <http://www.rotondawest.org>. No computer, no problem. Stop at the Community Center Monday-Friday until 4:00 pm for a calendar, helpful information or a library of books to borrow.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Submission date for Candidates Statement is Friday, August 12th at noon. Candidates Night Thursday, October 20th. See www.rotondawest.org for guidelines.

WEST WAYS has a writing position opening. If you would like to share your writing skills please email: westways@rotondawest.org or call Cathy Moseley 941-270-7215.

Rotonda West Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

- President: Glynn Perkins
- 1st Vice: George Burger
- 2nd Vice: Hank Killion
- Secretary: Patricia Kelly
- Treasurer: Hank Killion
- Director: Hank Artz
- Director: Mark Reynolds
- Director: Peter Traverso

Office Staff

- Association Manager* - Jay Lyons
- Assistant Manager* - Norene Kugler
- Deed Restrictions* - Dianne Brophy

West Ways Staff

- Editor* - Cathy Moseley
- Layout* - Julie Gaustad-Ruhr
- Photographers* - Sue Killion, David Pulaski
- Writer* - Ruth Sargent

**Be Sure to Visit the
Rotonda West Web Site
for More Community
News Updates!**

- ✓ Calendar of Community Events
- ✓ Meeting Minutes from the Association Board and Committees
- ✓ Golf Course Information
- ✓ Rotonda West History and Area Pictures
- ✓ Deed Restriction Updates
- ✓ Property Information
- ✓ Join The Rotonda West Forum

Find this and more at www.rotondawest.org

Mission Statement

The role of Rotonda West Association, Inc. is multi-faceted: To protect the property interests of its 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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Do you have a suggestion for the *West Ways* newsletter? Email the Editor at westways@rotondawest.org

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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. 1st Wednesday
- Community Relations @ 3 p.m. 1st Wednesday
- Deed Restrictions @ 1 p.m. 2nd Monday
- Properties @ 10 a.m. 4th Monday
- Residential Modification @ 2 p.m. 2nd & 4th Monday

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