

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

FEBRUARY 2021



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Karen Harvey, Writer
Barry Kean, Writer
Connie Smith, Writer
Diane Shaw, Writer
David Pulaski, Wayne Mengel, Photographers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rotonda West,

It appears our northern friends and neighbors have returned in droves! Welcome back. Arriving at a 4-way stop to leave the circle, I've noticed cars are backed up in all directions for quite a distance. We are pleased that you are enjoying this winter in Rotonda West, even though some of the mornings may be chilly.



Our Community Center is starting to become busy again, as our committees and groups hold meetings, activities and presentations which are all socially distanced, masked and striving to be as careful as possible. If you wish to know about events and activities, please check our website for the calendar listings and news articles which are listed on www.rotondawest.org. And if you wish to receive email alerts about meetings, events, and news, please sign-up for the service which is located at the bottom of our website's homepage. We are pleased that we have almost 1200 of our members subscribed to this service and we encourage others to do so as well. It is the fastest and easiest way we can communicate with the members of our community.

Our maintenance staff have completed all of the annual mowing cycles and during our non-mowing season they are busy further enhancing the beauty of our community. Whether it is power-washing, painting, refreshing paths and trails, mulching, planting or even driving our streets and picking up trash for us, their work is evident and very much appreciated. One of their tasks is checking on the 16 pet waste stations we maintain throughout Rotonda, and yes, that includes the stations you see on Parade Circle, as well as the stations in Broadmoor Park. The RWA's maintenance staff empties the bins and restocks the waste bags for our four-footed friends. As a courtesy to all, please be sure to utilize this service when walking your pets.

Maintaining the beauty of Rotonda West is a one of the most important responsibilities of our association and we will continue to work to ensure that Rotonda West looks beautiful.

My best to you for a beautiful winter!

Patricia Aho

Office Staff

Derrick Hedges,
Manager

Tammy Birdsong,
Administrator

Holly Carr,
Administrator
Deed Restrictions

Sue Halufska,
Bookkeeper

Joe Harris,
Communications
Specialist

Mike Heincelman,
Compliance Officer

Maintenance Staff

Matt Rooney

Wayne Taylor

John Daveluy

Bill Simons

WHAT'S HAPPENING? February 2021

Calendar of Events

3	9:00	a.m.	Activities Committee
	10:30	a.m.	Communications Committee
	12:00	p.m.	Wildlife Committee
4	2:00	p.m.	Compliance Committee
5	9:30	a.m.	Election Committee
	1:00	p.m.	GFWC/RWWC Board Meeting
9	9:00	a.m.	Residential Modification Com.
11	2:00	p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
	6:30	p.m.	Englewood Fishing Club
15	PRESIDENT'S DAY-RWA OFFICES CLOSED		
	9:30	a.m.	Budget & Finance Committee
17	10:00	a.m.	Aquatics/Canal Committee
	12:00	p.m.	Wildlife Committee
18	2:00	p.m.	RWWC Book Group #6
19	1:00	p.m.	Setup for WC Meeting/Art Show
23	9:00	a.m.	Residential Modification Com.
24	1:00	p.m.	Deed Restrictions Committee
25	2:00	p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting

Community Center Activities

Mondays:

Mahjong	9 a.m.
Mahjong	1 p.m.
Ukulele	2 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Sew N Sews/Knit and Chat	9 a.m.
Hand and Foot	12:30 p.m.

Fridays:

Creative Crafters	9 a.m.
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DEED RESTRICTION CHANGES APPROVED

By: Barry Kean

The Board of Directors and the Developer recently approved a number of changes to the Rotonda West Restatement of Restrictions (Deed Restrictions) and implementing Residential Modification committee (RMC) Guidelines. This is the first updating of these directives in many years, and is the result of nearly two years work by the Board. These changes have been recorded in the Charlotte County Circuit Court Clerk's Office as required by law and can be found on the RWA website on the home page. Click the "Living Here" tab and select from the resulting list. All RWA members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these important changes.

Among the significant changes, is the addition of a new Section 19 to the Deed Restrictions that prohibits clearing of, or placement or modification of any improvement on any common area, including Broadmoor Park, without prior written Board approval, and permits the Board to require the removal of unauthorized improvements at the adjacent owner's expense. To implement this change, at its meeting on January 14, 2021, the Board adopted the recommendations of its common areas working group to permit property owners who in the past have maintained areas of the park abutting their lots, with tacit RWA approval, to continue to mow those areas upon signing a waiver of liability for RWA. Maintenance other than mowing, and any other sort of improvement, will require individual written approval from the Board. Further implementing instructions should be forthcoming shortly.

Other matters of significance include changes in rules for parking on vacant lots, on turnaround areas contiguous to driveways, and lots with unexpanded single car driveways, and parking of boats and boat trailers (Section 24.d, Deed Restrictions); authorization of floats to support irrigation intake lines in canals (Section 20 c, Deed Restrictions, Section 7 RMC Guidelines); and the addition of Tiki Huts to the list of prohibited accessory structures (Section 9, RMC Guidelines).

RWA members interested in these issues are welcome to attend future meetings of the Board of Directors and the Deed Restrictions Committee, either in person or virtually. See the RWA website for scheduling.





AWESOME LAWSONS!

By: Diane Shaw

Pictured left to right:

Brenda Lawson, Terri Lawson, and
Chris Gauthier

Did you ever meet someone who just makes you feel good about your fellow man - someone who just exudes generosity and kindness? Well, that's how I felt when I met Terri Lawson. Terri and I met through Englewood Meals on Wheels (EMOW). My husband Jim and I had been driving for EMOW for a couple of years when Terri Lawson became the new driver coordinator. The job of driver coordinator is very difficult, it's like herding cats! Jim and I noticed that whoever had taken over that job had really found a way to make it all run smoothly. I was impressed. It was Terri Lawson! Terri is a dynamo of energy! Her willingness to take on almost any task led her to accept the additional job of volunteer coordinator, training new volunteers and organizing the process of volunteering. In addition to that, she administers the EMOW Facebook page. You can see some of Terri's work by viewing the EMOW Facebook page that is listed at the bottom of this story. Terri created it and now maintains it. Her goal was to make volunteering as easy as possible, so in addition to phone calls, she now receives volunteers who join merely send her a private message on the EMOW Facebook page. Terri is "multi-tasking" personified.

Terri is a retired eighth grade science teacher. She worked for thirty years at Saunders Middle school in Prince William County, Virginia. That is where she honed those organizational skills she uses in her volunteer work today. She says that what she liked most about teaching eighth grade was that every day was new and exciting. I asked her what she likes best about Rotonda West and she answered, "how peaceful and relaxing it is."

Brenda Lawson grew up in West Virginia. You can hear evidence of that in her southern accent. Brenda worked for AT&T as a legal secretary and retired after thirty-six years in 2003. While working for AT&T, Brenda met Pat Wilcoxon and they became close friends. Pat told Brenda about how much she liked Rotonda West and invited Brenda and Terri to visit. Soon afterward, Brenda and Terri bought a house on Rotonda Circle across the street from Pat. Volunteering for Meals on Wheels was Brenda's idea. They have been delivering meals for two and one-half years. She is an avid fan of the Washington Football Team. When asked what she likes best about Rotonda West, Brenda said, "how caring the people of Rotonda are".

Among the many other volunteer roles Terri and Brenda have shared is the Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch (RWNW) program. Terri is the secretary and base volunteer. A base volunteer coordinates with the patrols while they are on duty, receiving check in calls at the beginning, middle and end of a patrol, as well as forwarding any problems to the Charlotte County Sheriff's office. But that is not all they do for RWNW. Terri is also the co- newsletter editor, training coordinator, patrol driver and Facebook page administrator for the Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch. Brenda also volunteers as a base and rides with Terri as a substitute when needed. Brenda is in charge of the monthly and special mailings for the Rotonda West Neighborhood watch. Brenda and Terri attend Sunrise Baptist Church in Englewood and Brenda volunteers there as the church clerk.

Other community service work that the "Awesome Lawsons" have undertaken are: Toys for Tots, Meals of Hope, the Englewood Helping Hand Food Drive and placing Christmas wreathes on the graves of veterans at the Charlotte Memorial Cemetery.



Pictured left to right:
Dave Roach, Sally Stephenson,
Terri Lawson, and Brenda Lawson

The "Awesome Lawsons" are two happy, upbeat women. Their positive can-do attitudes are contagious. Together they are a well coordinated team - each knowing their tasks and working together as if they are reading each other's mind. And why shouldn't they? Brenda is Terri's mother! This dynamic duo are truly best friends, doing almost everything together. Both are dedicated, hard working women who sincerely have the welfare of their fellow man at heart. If they find that help is needed in our community, they enthusiastically and dependably show up and help. Just spending an hour with them restores my faith in mankind.

Englewood Meals on Wheels Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Englewood-Meals-on-Wheels-442128726542999>

Neighborhood Watch Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/437765543261526>

Jack Horner and
Terri Lawson



Looking For Writers!

Do you enjoy meeting people? Are you interested in Rotonda West events?

Does the workings of our Rotonda West Association fascinate you?

Then maybe you are just the person we are looking for!

Our newsletter, West Ways, brings the happenings of Rotonda West to the many community members both here and afar. We need writers to cover the stories that make our neighborhood so special.

**If you would like to try your hand at writing for West Ways, email me.
Nadine Clough, Editor of West Ways at westways@rotondawest.org**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



HOW MUCH IS THE YEARLY ASSESSMENT AND WHEN IS IT DUE?

The mandatory yearly assessment for Rotonda West Association, Inc. is \$190.00 per lot for the year 2021. All lot owners will receive a statement by December 31st. All payments must be received by February 15th. All payments are due upon receipt. Payments postmarked after February 15th will be charged a late fee of \$25.00.

CAN I PAY MY YEARLY ASSESSMENT USING A CREDIT CARD?

Rotonda West association, Inc. accepts Visa, Mastercard, AM Express and Discover. A surcharge of \$25.00 will be applied to fees returned “unpaid” or charged back by a financial institution.

Return in person or by mail the completed credit card form along with the top of your statement to the RWA Office at 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, Florida 33947. Or you can fax it to the RWA Office. (941) 697-0788.

Visit the FAQ page on the website for the printable credit card form you will need to fill out.

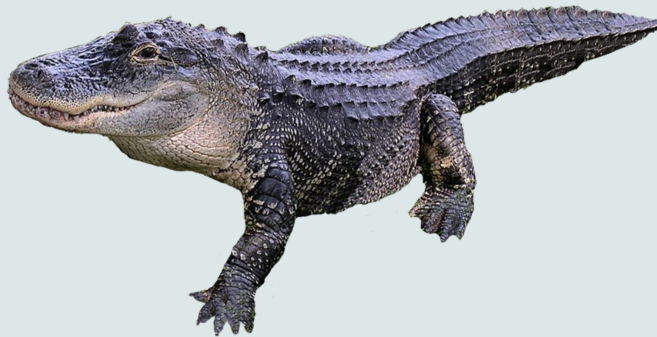
WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR GETTING SPACE IN THE ROTONDA RV PARKING LOT?

Please contact John and Barbara Peszko at (941) 697-7592 /
joba95@embarqmail.com

Or Richard Duggan at (941) 697-1891 /
rjdcurragh@aol.com

Follow the Rules for Peaceful Cohabitation with Alligators

By Connie Smith



There is a possibility that any body of water in Rotonda West contains an alligator but it needn't be a concern as long as you follow a few simple rules.

Ryan Ford, Crocodile Response Coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission addressed "Living with Alligators" during a presentation Jan. 20, sponsored by the RW Wildlife Committee.

The simple rules to avoid a confrontation with an alligator in Rotonda West are to:

- NEVER (EVER) feed an alligator – it's also illegal.
- Never molest an alligator (this includes throwing rocks at them, poking the creatures with a stick, spraying with water or interacting with an alligator in any way).
- Pay attention when you're around water; stay at least 10 feet away from the water's edge.
- If you're with a pet, keep it on a leash and well away from the water's edge.

Alligators are found in each of Florida's 67 counties and in coastal U.S. states from Texas, almost to North Carolina's Albemarle Sound. The very southeastern tip of Oklahoma may have alligators, and they may be found in the center of Arkansas. Alligators prefer fresh water lakes and slow-moving rivers and their associated wetlands, but they also can be found in brackish water habitats.

Since Rotonda West is full of fresh water lakes and its canals are the equivalent to a slow-moving river, the creatures may be found almost anywhere within the Circle. When temperatures rise the cold-blooded reptiles become active and may move between bodies of water, day or night. Early April is the time for courtship and mating among alligators occurs in late May to June. Alligator mobility may increase as potential mates seek each other out.

There is no telling at a glance whether an alligator is male or female, except perhaps by size. Female alligators are smaller, reaching just 8-9 feet in length. Mature males will grow to 10 or more feet in length. Sexual maturity may come for alligators before they reach full growth – at least seven feet - and takes many years. A female may require 10-15 years and a male, 8-12 years to reach maturity.

The mature females lay eggs from late June to July. Their nests are built at water's edge of soil, vegetation or debris. The average 32 to 46 eggs are kept warm by the natural decomposition of the nest material (similar to the heat created by the decomposition of mulch) and hatching is from mid-August through early September.



Baby Alligators

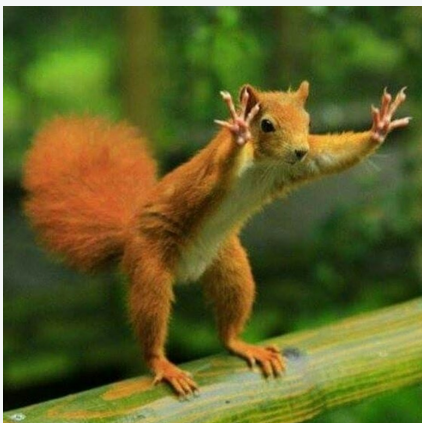
Ford said that the state does operate a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Project (SNAP) that will remove nuisance alligators. He specified that any “nuisance” alligator over 4’ will be euthanized because they are likely to return to the spot from which they were removed, no matter the distance.

He further expounded upon the reason that feeding alligators is so dangerous. “Alligators are lazy by nature,” he said. “they will approach for free food. They are opportunistic hunters.” He also said that small to medium-sized land mammals near the water’s edge are seen as potential prey, underlining why it’s important to keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

Because Ford’s job encompasses Florida crocodiles, he offered that the closest crocodiles living by Rotonda West are located in Sanibel Island although they are mostly found in the Keys and the Everglades.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission maintains an informative website- myFWC.com/alligators— that includes additional alligator facts. A publication, “A Guide to Living with Alligators” is available in the Rotonda West office, as well as on the myFWC.com/alligators website.





STOP!!!

DOES THIS BABY ANIMAL NEED MY HELP?

By: Cari Hale
Chairperson of the
Wildlife Committee

Generally, a baby
animal
needs help if:

- The animal is brought to you by a cat or dog
- There is evidence of bleeding
- There is an obvious broken limb
- The animal is shivering
- There is a dead parent nearby
- The animal is crying and wandering all day/night
- There is a featherless/nearly featherless bird on the ground.

BABY BIRDS FOUND ON THE GROUND:

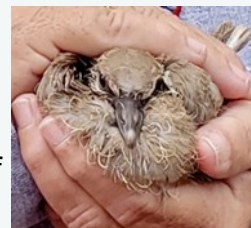
Baby birds— The most common occurrence is when a baby bird has fallen from the nest. If it appears featherless or nearly featherless and appears unharmed, it can be gently placed back in the nest (only if you can do so without danger to yourself).



It is a myth that birds abandon their young if touched by a human. Once the baby has been placed back into the nest, watch the baby for an hour to make sure there is a parent coming to feed the baby. Baby's need to eat every 15 minutes.

Fledglings - A bird that has a fully feathered body with short or non-existent tail feathers is a fledgling. They have left the nest but may not yet be able to fly. This is normal. Birds learn to fly from the ground up, not the nest down! Parents are still feeding the fledgling a few times hourly.

Fully feathered birds - If the nest has been destroyed or is too high to reach, place the bird in a shallow wicker basket close to where the original nest was. Sticks placed to support the bird work nicely as well. Adult birds will not jump into anything they cannot see out of so a shallow basket is required.



If the bird has been truly orphaned or is injured, contact a licensed wildlife rehab center such as: Peace River Wildlife Center (941) 637-3830 or The Wildlife Center of Southwest Florida (941) 484-9657.



Bunnies:

Baby rabbits are independent when they are 4 inches long with open eyes, and erect ears. If they are hopping, they are fine and should be left alone. Baby rabbits do not do well in rehab and have a much better chance at surviving if left in the wild.

Nestlings that are uninjured should also be left alone even though they may appear abandoned. Mom is nearby and will visit a couple of times daily returning to the nest in the evening. This is a survival technique and keeps predators away from the nest.

If you do happen to come across a nest that has been disturbed, follow these steps:

- Keep pets out of the area.
- Avoid touching babies. Foreign smells might cause abandonment
- Use yarn/string to make "X" over nest, cover with natural material. If "X" is undisturbed after 24 hours, notify a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

Baby Squirrels

If the squirrel is nearly full sized, has a fluffy tail, and is running, jumping, and climbing, it is independent.

You may need to intervene in the following situations:

- Baby squirrel falls from nest and Mom has not reclaimed and returned to nest.
- Nest falls from a tree.



If the baby has not been retrieved by dusk, take these steps:

-Wear thick gloves, gather the squirrel and place them inside a thick, soft cloth, diaper, fleece scarf or hat.

-Place a hot water bottle inside a sock replacing it every 30 minutes, or use a heating pad on the lowest setting inside a doubled pillow case to maintain body heat if it is cool outside or if the animal is shivering.

-Place the baby into a small cardboard box or pet carrier and notify the Wildlife Center.

**Article continued on page 17 with Baby Raccoons*





GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
PROJECTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS
Donna Krabbe, Past-President



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club

Bella Williams Memorial continuing Education Scholarships

The RWWC is offering two (2) Bella Williams Memorial Continuing Education Scholarships of \$1,500 each. Applicants should be from the Englewood/Rotonda West area and pursuing advanced education or retraining in a college or vocational school. These scholarships are intended for those who have had an interruption in their studies and are returning to school.

A resume may be sent to:

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
Attention: Scholarship
P.O. Box 672, Placida, FL 33946

Deadline for receipt of resumes is
Friday, March 26, 2021

For additional information call:
Debra at 917-573-5512



The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club and the Rotonda Golf & Country Club partnered for the January 21st, 2021 OneBlood Drive.

We are happy to report it was very successful with 21 pints of blood donated!

THANK YOU!

The Rotonda West Woman's Club is offering the opportunity to attend two different Broadway Palm Presentations.

ON YOUR FEET!
THE STORY OF EMILIO
& GLORIA ESTEFAN

A BRONX TALE

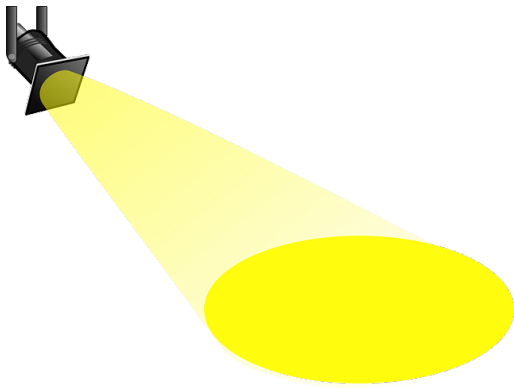
This hit crowd-pleaser takes you to the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960's. Bursting with high-energy dance numbers and original doo-wop tunes. An unforgettable story of loyalty and family. This musical is based on Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri's story that *The New York Times* hails as "A Critics' Pick!"

For Additional Information and/or Reservations, contact Gwen at 201-317-2317

- Next scheduled General Meeting will be at the American Legion Post 113 on Feb.11th.
- The monthly General Meetings will be at the American Legion through May, 2021.
- Our Domestic Violence Awareness Chair has planned a speaker from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.
- Our Health & Wellness Chair has planned a Valentine project.



Further information and to join, visit <http://www.gfwcrotondawest.org>
or send an email to rwwcmembeship@hotmail.com



SPOTLIGHT ON: CREATIVE CRAFTERS

RWWC Crafters Create for the Community's Good

By Connie Smith

Ever connect the words Creative Crafters and Force for Good? Probably not, but Creative Crafters are group of some 28 women who meet each Friday morning at the Rotonda Community Center. They industriously complete countless craft projects to raise funds for untold good deeds in the community.

The crafters are part of the not-for-profit Rotonda West Woman's Club that in turn, is part of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC). If you can think of it, they've probably made it to be sold each 2nd Saturday in November at the RWWC's annual bazaar, a major fundraiser that makes possible scholarships and donations to many, many local charitable programs.

Gift tags, beautiful cards, jewelry, lighted wine bottles, painted items and tropical items are just a few of the items made for sale. Christmas-themed items include stockings for family cats and dogs, wreaths and possibly the most anticipated item – each year's signature Santa. The 18-inch Santa has a different theme each year and comes with various accompanying items. The 2020 signature Santa had a "Welcome Home Santa Christmas Morning" theme. He carried various presents and was accompanied by a dog. Also for sale was Mrs. Claus, 17 inches high, and sitting in a chair. Beside her was a small table with a white lace tablecloth and a plate of painted wooden Christmas cookies. Santa sold for \$60 and Mrs. Santa, for \$75. Remembering that 2020 was the year of COVID-19 that hindered the bazaar's fundraising, the Woman's Club still sold eight Santas and seven Mrs. Santas.



A Creative Crafters painting class poses with their beach-themed creations.

In the back row, center, wearing pink, is Creative Crafters' leader Diana Dudick.

The Creative Crafters are led by Diana Dudick, who has taught painting classes and painted the RWWC's eagle that was part of the Florida Federation's project two years ago to restore the Everglades. Each club in the federation purchased an eagle statute, painted or otherwise decorated it, and then sold the eagle for \$500. Clubs such as the Rotonda club purchased theirs back, earned matching funds and thus doubled their contribution towards Everglades restoration to \$1,000.



Like everything else, COVID-19 made crafting difficult in 2020 when the Rotonda West Community Center closed to groups for most of the year. Fortunately, the Crafters returned February 4th and already have plans for their 2021 Signature Santa and other new and exciting crafts for this year's bazaar.

To join the Rotonda West Woman's Club and participate with the Creative Crafters, email rwwcmembership@hotmail.com



Baby Raccoons:

Mom is the best chance a raccoon has for survival! If you determine the baby is orphaned or injured follow these steps:

- Use thick gloves to box it up.
- Keep baby warm if necessary, (same method as for squirrels)

***Baby Animals continued**



Raccoons carry and transmit rabies and distemper. Keep domestic pets away and wash thoroughly if you come in contact with a raccoon.

Bottom line, do not immediately assume an animal needs your help. Assess the situation, observe for parents, contact a Wildlife Center and follow instructions. They are resilient and have the best chance for survival with their parents in their natural environment. Never feed or give water to an injured animal unless instructed to do so by a licensed rehabber.



Sign up for updates!

Get news from Rotonda West Association Inc in your inbox.

* Email

First Name

Last Name

* Email Lists

- ☐ Announcements
- ☐ Committee meetings
- ☐ Events and functions
- ☐ General Interest
- ☐ West Ways

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Sign Up!

Dear Readers,

Thank you for spending part of your day reading the West Ways Newsletter.

We have some pretty wonderful people who work hard to bring this newsletter to you.

Please take a moment the next time you are visiting our web page to sign up for our newsletter and other updates.

Once you sign up, the items you checked will be automatically sent to your email.

The sign up sheet on the left is what to look for on the website. It's located at the bottom of the Home Page.

Thank you!



CREATIVE COMMUNITY CORNER

If you would like to have your poem, short story, or photograph published in our West Ways newsletter, send it to:

westways@rotondawest.org

Put "Creative Community Corner" in the subject field

Include your name and your Rotonda West section (Pinehurst, Broadmoor, etc.)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING ISSUES!

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