

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

APRIL 2021



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LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	Pg. 2	RWWC CRAFTERS	Pgs. 10-11
CALENDAR	Pg. 3	AQUATIC/CANAL TOUR	Pg. 12
MSBU PRESENTATION	Pgs. 4-5	ROTONDA TRIVIA	Pg. 12
DON PEDRO ISLAND	Pgs. 6-7	WOMAN'S CLUB	Pgs. 13-15
FAQ'S	Pg. 8	RICHARD DUGGAN	Pg. 16
BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREES.....	Pg. 9	CREATIVE CORNER INVITATION	Pg. 16

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rotonda West,

We all know the benefits of living in a Deed Restricted community because we made a conscious decision to purchase property and live here in Rotonda West. The restrictions are a commitment we make with our neighbors to maintain our property to the standards which have been established, which in turn help us all to ensure our property will maintain its value.



The following is paraphrased from an article which was originally published in *West Ways* in 2013 and was reprinted in 2015. Our compliance staff work hard on our behalf, so I believe it is important to write again about Rotonda West's deed restrictions.

The Association spends a significant amount of time enforcing the restrictions – whether through answering questions, daily phone calls to request that members follow the restrictions, hundreds of emails, and yes, unfortunately through assessing fines for violations. We ask all members and tenants to read and understand the restrictions and the Residential Modification Guidelines (RMC). Both documents are on our website www.rotondawest.org or at the Association Office. Applications for RMC permits may also be found on our website and at the office. Many times, our staff are asked, “Is this all you have to do?”, and while the answer is “no”, it is one of the most important tasks, if not the most important task we do for the community. We all expect the restrictions and guidelines to be followed and if not, to be enforced so we can ensure our community looks its very best.



Patricia Aho

RWA Board President

(Photo by Dave Pulaski)



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS April 2021

Date	Time	Committee
1st	2:00 p.m.	Compliance Committee Mtg.
2nd	9:45 a.m.	Election Committee Mtg.
7th	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Activities Committee Mtg. Communication Committee Mtg. Wildlife Committee Mtg.
8th	2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Mtg.
13th	9:00 a.m.	Residential Modification Mtg.
14th	10:00 a.m.	RW Neighborhood Watch (ZOOM ONLY)
19th	9:30 a.m.	Budget & Finance Committee Mtg.
20th	1:00 p.m.	Building & Grounds Committee Mtg.
21st	10:00 a.m.	Aquatics & Canal Committee Mtg.
22nd	2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
27th	9:00 a.m.	Residential Modification Com. Mtg.
28th	1:00 p.m.	Deed Restrictions Committee Mtg.
29th	2:00 p.m.	Compliance Committee Mtg.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Monday:	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Sew Much Fun Mahjong Mahjong Ukulele
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m.	GFWC RWWC Sew N Sews/Knit & Chat
Thursday:	6:30 p.m. 2:00 p.m.	Englewood Fishing Club (April 8th only) RWWC Book Club #6 (April 15th Only)
Friday:	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Sweatin' to the Oldies RWWC Creative Crafters Rotonda Garden Club Meeting (4/23) Gopher Tortoise Day Celebration (4/9)
Saturday:	8:30 a.m.	Nature Walk (April 17th Only)

**Ms. Kimberly Kelley
Charlotte County Liaison
For the Rotonda West Municipal
Service Benefits Unit (MSBU)
Gives Presentation on
Proposed Increase
in Assessments**

By: Diane Shaw



Kim Kelley

On Thursday, March 25th, Ms. Kimberly Kelley, Charlotte County Liaison for the Rotonda West Municipal Service Benefits Unit, gave a presentation to Rotonda West residents regarding the proposed increase in assessments by the MSBU board. The meeting was sponsored by the Rotonda West Association (RWA) who invited Ms. Kelley to speak. The meeting took place in the (RWA) Community Center. RWA President Aho introduced Ms. Kelley and after the presentation, she asked the questions that had been submitted by residents before the presentation. Ms. Kelley joined the meeting via Zoom.

Here are some highlights of her presentation:

- The MSBU has a web site. It is: <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/msbu-mstu/rotonda-west/> On the web site you will find all the latest information regarding meetings, maps, board members, etc. The bridges that will be repaired will be identified on the web site as those decisions are made.
- In compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the county, the Rotonda Golf Partners and the Rotonda West Association, remediation of drainage issues will begin in August or September of this year, barring any emergencies that might occur. Much of the funding will come from the West Charlotte Stormwater MSBU. Ms. Kelley encouraged residents who have drainage issues to report them to her by calling 941-575-3613.

- The proposed increase, if accepted by the Board of County Commissioners will be for \$200. Currently, your MSBU assessment consists of \$100 for drainage and street maintenance, \$145 for the road repaving project scheduled to being in 2025. With the \$200 increase for repair of bridges, your total assessment will be \$445. If approved, this will be effective in November of 2021
- The MSBU board chose to repair 17 bridges over a six year span. Six will be done in 2022 and six more in 2023. Then, five will be repaired in 2024. Maintenance will be done at the five year and ten year marks. The first bridge to be repaired will be Rotonda South, which was severely compromised by vandals. Charlotte County has never had a bridge maintenance plan until now.

In response to questions, Ms. Kelley stated that that after the six years of the bridge repair project, it is possible that approximately \$100 of the \$200 increase could be reduced from the assessment. She also clarified that impact fees can not be used by the MSBU for road repairs.

Ms. Kelley emphasized that the proposed assessment increase is dependent on MSBU approval at their March 31st meeting. That meeting will be held in the West County Annex at 6868 San Casa Drive at 9:30 AM. Residents are welcome to attend and may speak for three minutes during the meeting. Following the MSBU approval, there will be a public hearing in July at the Tringali Recreational Center at which residents can speak regarding the increase. Following the public hearing, the County Commissioners will either approve or disapprove the increase.

Contact Information:

To report a drainage problem: Call Kimberly Kelley at **941-575-3613**
or e-mail her at **Kimberly.Kelley@Charlottecountyfl.gov**

The web site for the Rotonda West MSBU is: <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/msbu-mstu/rotonda-west/>



WELCOME TO YOUR BEACH AT DON PEDRO STATE PARK

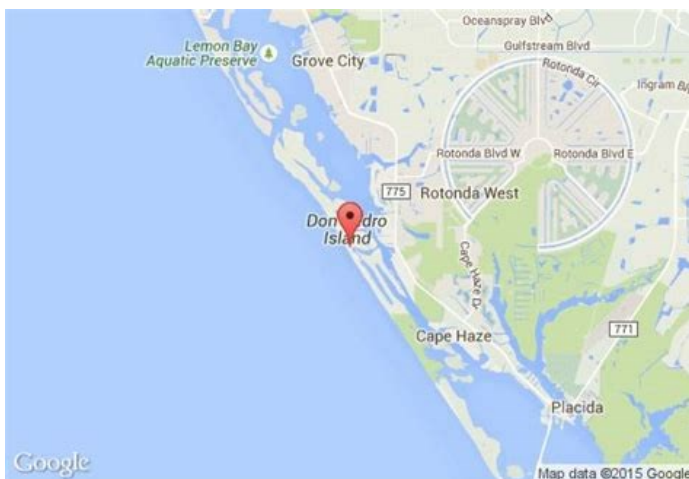
by: Diane Shaw



Picture by Jim Shaw

It's 1970, and you are newly married. You and your spouse attend a county fair that features Johnny Carson's co-host, Ed McMahon! He is standing in front of a big sign that says: "Win a free house and a pool in Rotonda West, Florida." Then Ed begins addressing the growing crowd like a side show barker singing the praises of the vision of Rotonda West. If you were not a lucky winner, you could buy one of the three model homes for between \$22,100 and \$36,300. If you were among the first 100 people to purchase, you would get a free swimming pool, television and carpeting! You would have access to a community owned island located on the Gulf of Mexico called Don Pedro Island! A free ferry service would be included. So, like a lot of other people, you decide to buy one – sight unseen. While the reality of Rotonda West presented definite disappointments, you and your spouse become part of a growing community with a promising future. Both of you were excited about the grandiose plans for Rotonda West!

In his book, "Rotonda, the Vision and the Reality", Jack Alexander states: "In the early selling of "The Vision of Rotonda West, Don Pedro Island was the crown jewel." From 1972 to the early eighties, Don Pedro Island was the site of many developer sponsored cocktail parties complete with a live bands and free food. The free ferry ushered thousands of people between the mainland and the island.



There was a dock and a pavilion, a hot dog stand and restrooms for Rotondans and their guests. "Don Pedro Days" was a yearly event featuring special activities sponsored by Rotonda clubs and social groups. You and other residents enjoyed many parties, picnics and resident gatherings at Don Pedro Island, the island that the developer (Cavanagh) said was for the residents, prospective purchasers and their guests.

But all of that ended around 1978 when it became clear that the owner of Don Pedro Island was the developer – Cavanagh – not the residents, and had actually been mortgaged without notifying anyone. When Cavanagh began plans to build condominiums on Don Pedro Island, the Rotonda West POA, was under the leadership of Col. Joseph Tringali, who led the lawsuit and FTC investigation against Cavanagh and won. One of the results of the 1979 FTC investigation of Cavanagh was their ruling that a 400 foot water fronted beach area on Don Pedro Island was formally designated for use by Rotonda West residents into perpetuity! You and the other residents are overjoyed! Eventually, the island was given to the State of Florida which created Don Pedro State Park. The good part is that the 400 feet of beach still belongs to you and your Rotonda West neighbors!

Today, Don Pedro State Park remains a big attraction to Rotonda West residents. The park property begins on the mainland at 8450 Placida Road and ends across the intra-coastal waterway at Don Pedro Island. It's open seven days a week, 8AM to sunset.



Mother and son enjoying the beach.

Picture by: Diane Shaw

So how do you get to Don Pedro Island? First, it is a 15 minute kayak ride across the channel from the mainland park location. You can rent a kayak or paddle board on site from SUP Paddlesports which is located in the park.

OR, you can use your shallow draft boat to get to the dock on the island. The channel is less than 3 feet deep. Launch at the boat ramp on the land side. Dock on the island via the channel in the Intracoastal Waterway that leads to green marker #35, which is the where the dock on the island is located.

OR, you can take a water taxi. Call “Boat to Beach” at 941-375-9299 for a private ferry across. Also, “Hooked on SUP” at 941-504-1699 offers guided tours of many destinations including Don Pedro Island.

Once you have docked your kayak or boat, there is a dune boardwalk that leads to the picnic pavilion which features picnic tables and wood fired bar-b-que stations as well as restrooms. The view from the pavilion is jaw dropping spectacular!

The best part is that 400 feet of the beach belongs to YOU! and thousands of other Rotonda West lot owners.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PLEASE EXPLAIN “ROLLOVER OF EXCESS RWA HOA FUNDS” WHICH APPEARS ON THE BALLOT EACH YEAR

Property owners are asked each year as a part of the RWA election process to VOTE either YES or NO to rollover excess funds. Here is Geoffrey Lorah’s (RWA’s outside independent CPA auditor) explanation:

1. Common interest realty associations (primarily condominium and property owner / homeowner associations) are organized as not-for-profit corporations. For operating purposes, it is assumed the annual budgets for these associations will be prepared on a break-even basis, meaning expenditures will equal revenues. When an association has excess member revenue in any given year, there are three basic options available to the association regarding the treatment of the excess revenue:
 - A. Refund the excess revenue on a pro rata basis to the members of the association
 - B. Obtain member approval to “rollover” the excess revenue to the subsequent fiscal year
 - C. Retain the excess revenue and report this revenue as taxable income on the association’s Federal and/or State tax return
2. If the members do not approve the rollover of the excess revenue, an association has two options regarding the treatment of the excess revenue; either refund it to the members or report it as taxable income.

Please note: This is a general explanation. The rollover process is primarily based on the requirements of IRS Revenue Ruling 70-604

BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREES



By: Cari Hale

Wildlife Committee

Chairperson



The initiative to remove Brazilian Pepper Trees began many years ago and continues today as a means to allow native plants and wildlife to thrive in Rotonda West. It is an invasive plant that forms a canopy so dense that nothing else is able to grow beneath it. Think about that for a minute! Nothing else can grow because the Brazilian Pepper prevents sunlight from reaching the ground! The majority of native species in south-west Florida prefer full sun to part shade. It is classified as a category 1 invasive plant species which means it poses the highest threat of environmental destruction as determined by the Florida Exotic Plant Pest Council.

Not only does the tree prevent the growth of natural habitat, it is alleopathic. Alleopathy is a biological phenomenon that describes a plant that produces 1 or more biochemicals that adversely influence the growth, survival and reproduction of other plants and organisms. The Brazilian Pepper Tree is in the same family as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac which means it can cause extreme skin irritation as well as respiratory irritation. The irritant/allergen is uroshiol.

The invasive Brazilian Pepper Tree threatens the Gopher Tortoise by its dense overgrowth as well as the killing of native plants required for the diet of the Gopher Tortoise. The root systems are entangled and dense thus preventing successful burrowing. The endangered Florida Scrub Jay is being pushed out of its natural habitat as scrub oaks are being overtaken by the plant. Habitat destruction and loss of native food sources are a great concern as it is estimated that over 700,000 acres of land in Florida have been overtaken. Cedar wax wings, robins and warblers will eat the berries but only because other natural food sources have been choked out by the Brazilian Pepper Tree. Excessive consumption of the berries has resulted in large scale bird kills in Florida. The Florida White Tail Deer has also been adversely effected as native food sources are disappearing. The dense overgrowth is also the prime nesting habitat for the black spiny tail iguana, another destructive invasive species that threatens our native wildlife and vegetation.

By eradicating the Brazilian Pepper Tree, the ecosystem within Rotonda West will have a chance to recover by allowing the growth of native plants which will in turn promote the return of our native wildlife. It is a process that will ultimately benefit our community and its cherished wildlife.

DON'T MISS GOPHER TORTOISE DAY CELEBRATION APRIL 9TH AT 1:00 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND ON ZOOM



RWWC CRAFTERS CREATE FOR THE COMMUNITY'S GOOD

Article and Pictures by: Connie Smith

Using needles, crochet hooks and sewing machines, two crafting groups of the not-for-profit Rotonda West Women's Club boast an output that does unbelievable good in Charlotte County and elsewhere.

Knit N Chat is led by Lois LeVasseur and on a recent Tuesday morning on the Community Center veranda, she was knitting and Cecilia Marshall, crocheting. They are among a dozen women making "fidget sleeves" for residents of the Englewood Heritage Oaks memory unit. In these times of Covid, many of the members choose to work from home. Attached to the tubular-shaped fidget sleeves are numerous items such as buttons, bits of ribbon, or beads, that satisfy the need to touch/grab by compulsive, ever-moving fingers. LeVasseur believed the group would be exceeding the 36 asked-for sleeves. Knit N Chat also makes fidget mats that perform the same service. One thing that makes these community service projects possible is the donation of much of the yarn used for knitting or crocheting.

When exploring fidget sleeves on the web site Etsy, the value of the service provided by Knit N Chat is most appreciated. "On Etsy they want a crazy amount for these fidget products," said Lois. "We've seen them for as much as \$56! Our president, Kathryn Gallagher called and asked if we'd be interested in making the fidget products and we were all over it!"

For the Englewood St. David's Episcopal Church Jubilee Center outreach program, the Knit N Chat makes lap blankets.

Lois LeVasseur said that soon, the Knit N Chat will operate "on a more relaxed basis" during the summer and then ramp up in the fall to prepare for the RWWC's annual craft bazaar for which they will make for sale innumerable items, such as crocheted dish cloths and scrubbies, knitted sweaters, ornaments, Santa wine bottle toppers, baby sweaters and blankets – "whatever is good and fun to make."



Knit N Chat Club leader Lois LeVasseur (left) and Cecilia Marshall work on "fidget sleeves" that will be donated to residents of Englewood Heritage Oaks memory unit.



Tubular-shaped fidget sleeves help with the need to touch/grab by the compulsive, ever-moving fingers of memory patients.

Sew N Sews

Inside the Community Center, three ladies were taking inventory of the RWWC Sew N Sews projects including hospital gowns destined for children undergoing cleft lip or palate surgery provided by Operation Smile. Jackie Miller is leader of the Sew N Sews and some eight women, many of whom work from home (Covid), had accumulated 120 gowns so far and five blankets. Requirements for the gowns are precise and Jackie said the woman's club has plenty of compassion but no financial budget for projects such as this. The gowns were made possible by a generous donation of cotton fabric from St. David's Episcopal Church in Englewood.

Like Knit N Chat, the Sew N Sews will recess for the most part from June to August, then gear up for the RWWC's major bazaar fundraiser. They will make place mats, hot pads, aprons, table runners, potato bags, or any other saleable household item. Sew N Sews accepts donations of cotton fabric. "We can always create something with cotton," said Jackie. Sew N Sews may be found at the Rotonda West Community Center on Tuesdays, from 9 to noon.

Jackie is hoping that by fall, Sew N Sews will be able to work together in person as a group again. "We are so looking forward to getting back to normal," she said. "Some of the older ladies are concerned (about Covid) and I don't blame them."

The Rotonda West Woman's Club is part of the not-for-profit General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). The RWWC's annual bazaar is the 2nd Saturday in November and is a major fundraiser that makes possible scholarships and donations to many local charitable programs.

To join the Rotonda West Woman's Club and participate with the Knit N Chat or Sew N Sews groups, email rwwcmembership@hotmail.com.



Bev Dobbins of RWWC Sew N Sews stitches a seam on an item that will soon be donated to a charitable cause.



Sew N Sews leader Jackie Miller displays a colorful hospital gown destined for a child soon to be treated for lip or cleft palate, courtesy of Doctors Without Borders.





FORMER GOLF COURSE NOW A WILDLIFE HABITAT

Rotonda West Wildlife Committee member Jim Peterfeso caught this pileated woodpecker during a tour of the Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve on March 1, arranged by the Aquatics/Canals Committee. Approximately 35 Rotonda West residents participated in the tour of the preserve, significant because the property was once an 18-hole executive golf course, abandoned in 2006. The once-polluted and overgrown site was purchased by the Lemon Bay Conservancy in 2010 and has been extensively restored into an outstanding wildlife habitat. The woodpecker was cleaning out its nest and the closeup of the bird shows it expelling old debris from its beak. Photo credit: Jim Peterfeso

LET'S PLAY ROTONDA TRIVIA!

Do you think you know a lot about where you live? See if you can get the correct answers to the following 3 questions. (They are found somewhere in this issue)

1. What is the original meaning of "Links" in relationship to golf?
2. What is the exact center of Rotonda West?
3. How many other communities in Florida have our unique circular pattern?



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc. Projects and Upcoming Events

Donna Krabbe, Past-President



The GFWC Rotonda West Club

Next OneBlood Drive-Monday, April 12, 2021

COVID-19 Guidelines Followed

Donation is by **Appointment Only**.

Please contact Ellen at 917-579-7770.



Hopefully, we will be as successful as our last drive, with 21 pints of blood donated!



CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLOTTE ARCADIA

The Rotonda West Woman's Club, a member of the International General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), nominated Charlotte Arcadia for the highest honor bestowed by the GFWC, The Jennie Award.

The GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor bestowed by GFWC that recognizes individual members for personal excellence. The award is an occasion to highlight extra-ordinary women who epitomize the spirit of independence, courage and persistence through their roles as volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community and as members of their families.

In Charlotte Arcadia's 22 years as a member of GFWC, she has filled many leadership roles within her first GFWC club in Pennsylvania and since joining GFWC Rotonda West in 2004. Charlotte is currently Parliamentary Advisor, having previously served as Community Service Project Chairman, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President and District 12 Director of GFWC Clubs including Arcadia, LaBelle, Naples, Port Charlotte, Punta Gorda and Rotonda West Woman's Clubs. A well-known and loved GFWC Florida member throughout the state, Charlotte's work on the GFWC Florida level includes the Resolutions Committee and the Membership Committee.



Earth Day is Thursday, April 22nd

So far, 22 members of Rotonda West Woman's Club have signed up to participate in the **Great American Cleanup!** Charlotte County residents get involved with the Great American Cleanup by cleaning up shorelines, roadsides and parks through the local affiliate **Keep Charlotte Beautiful**. We have chosen the Rotonda Community Park (and trails) at Parade Circle to be our neighborhood site.



“DIVERSITY & KINDNESS LIBRARY”

Our Education and Libraries Community Service Program, working with our ESO Book Clubs, are promoting this new project to purchase books from the “Diversity & Kindness Library” book list – selected and recommended by educators. These award winning books can influence students to be kinder and more understanding. We are raising funds to purchase these books for our local elementary schools – Myakka and Vineland.



Anyone interested in donating funds for this project may contact Debra at (941) 697-7519

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club General Meeting-April 8, 2021

The April General Meeting will be at the American Legion Post #113
on Thursday April 8th



Love, Respect and Kindness for All is the President's Project for 2020-2022. The General Meeting will focus on that theme in April. We have invited Beth Harrison of the Englewood Community Care Clinic, Becca from Kids' Needs-Englewood and Callie Stahl, Executive Director of Peace River Wildlife Center to visit with us and give us a brief picture of the past year as they survived the Covid-19 Pandemic. Each organization, along with an additional nine Charlotte County Outreach Programs will receive donations from the Rotonda West Woman's Club to assist their individual missions during this recovery time.

We invite you to join us as a guest – You might become interested in joining. Registration at 10:30am, meeting at 11:00am, lunch served at 12:30pm. Call Jane at 941 214 5981 to reserve a lunch selection.

For further information and to join, please visit <http://www.gfwcrotondawest.org> or send an email to rwwcmembership@hotmail.com

“To Ever Widen Our Circle”



Pictured: Club Members, many wearing our Love, Respect and Kindness Shirts and Heart Shaped Sunglasses surrounding the “Beautiful Hearts Quilt,” made by Past President Bonnie Wine with the dedication: *To Ever Widen Our Circle*



ANSWERS TO ROTONDA WEST TRIVIA QUESTIONS

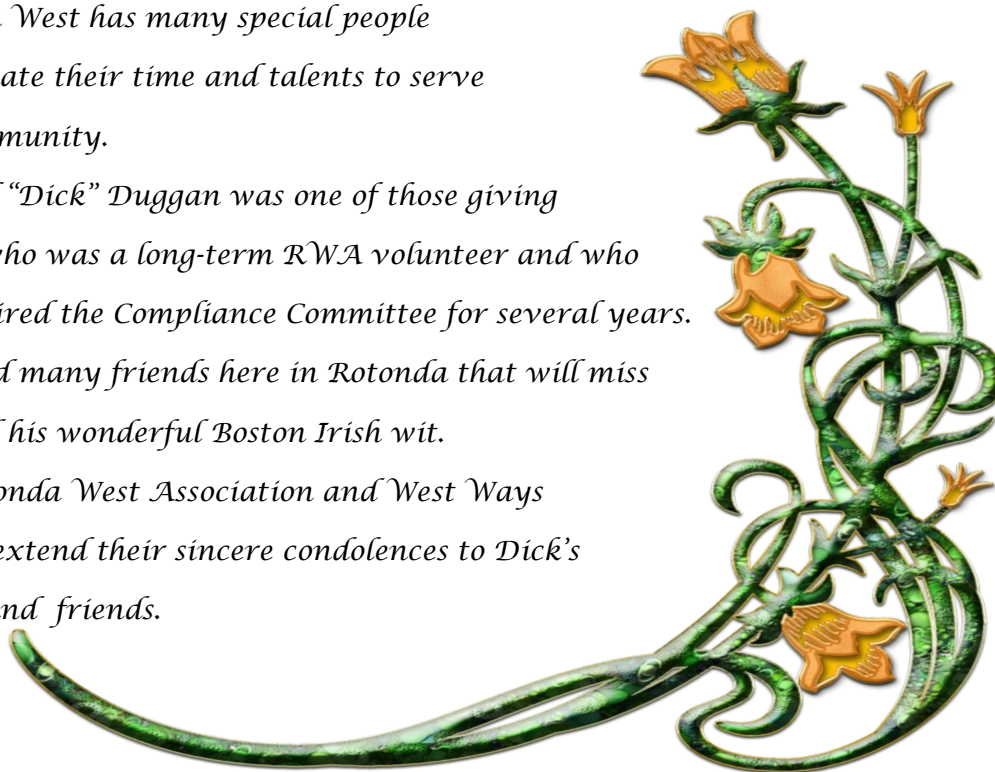
1. In Scotland, “links” referred to the area that joined the sea to the farmland. It was usually a rough grassy section of land. Golf was originally played there.
2. The exact center of Rotonda West is where the water tower sits. A surveyor jammed a stake in the ground in January, 1970 and declared it the center of Rotonda West.
3. Although there are other city layouts with a circular pattern, especially in the ancient world, Rotonda West is the only one in Florida.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DUGGAN

*Rotonda West has many special people
who donate their time and talents to serve
our community.*

*Richard "Dick" Duggan was one of those giving
people who was a long-term RWA volunteer and who
also chaired the Compliance Committee for several years.
Dick had many friends here in Rotonda that will miss
him and his wonderful Boston Irish wit.*

*The Rotonda West Association and West Ways
wish to extend their sincere condolences to Dick's
family and friends.*



CREATIVE COMMUNITY CORNER

**If you would like to have your news story, poem, cartoon,
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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