

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

June 2021



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2021 Board of Directors

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Sam Besase, Treasurer
Jerry Eldred, Secretary
Stephen Froggatt, Director
Bernie Schmelz, Director
Diane Shaw, Director

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From: Patricia Aho



Hello Everyone,

June signals the start of our storm season, whether it is frequent rain and thunderstorms or the more serious hurricanes. Once again, we will be hosting Patrick Fuller, Charlotte County's Director of Emergency Management to walk us through how to be prepared for the serious storms and hurricanes. Please join us on June 15th at 2 pm at our Community Center for his presentation and to learn more about our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), who actively assists the County in many different types of emergencies.

The storms and rain are also good reminders for us that the 30 miles of waterways through Rotonda West, plus the greenbelts and ponds in Broadmoor Park are part of a crucial major area-wide drainage system into the Gulf which helps protect our community from flooding disasters. The greenbelts are a system of water retention areas, which is why it takes time for them to absorb the water. The swales in front of homes also help carry the water into the system as well.

Please make sure that you and your home are prepared for our annual storm season. Whether it is high winds, heavy rains, thunderstorms or hurricanes, a few hours of planning and preparation now will save you countless hours of worry later on.





PREPARE

FOR

HURRICANE SEASON

- What do you need to prepare
- Where to go if you need to evacuate
- What resources are available
- How to track the storms

Learn how to get ready for storm season
from Charlotte County's

Director of Emergency Management

Patrick Fuller

Join us

June 15 at 2:00pm

Rotonda West Community Center

(also available via Zoom)

Director Fuller will also be joined by our local CERT
(Community Emergency Response Team) Team

JUNE 2021

Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat.

Office Staff

Derrick Hedges,
Manager

Tammy Birdsong,
Administrator

Holly Carr,
Administrator

Deed Restrictions

Nancy Schwechel
Administrator

Penny Hanson,
Bookkeeper

Annette Casteel
Minutes Clerk

Joe Harris,
Communications
Specialist

Mike Heincelman,
Compliance Officer

Maintenance Staff

Matt Rooney

Wayne Taylor

Bill Simons

Eric Pierce

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- FLORIDA AQUATICS
- Holiday
- Meetings
- Presentation
- Requires RWWC Membership
- Reservation
- RWA Mowers

BOARD APPROVES COMMUNITY CENTER REOPENING GUIDELINES



By: Barry Kean

The Rotonda West Association Board of Directors, at its May 27 meeting, approved in final form guidelines for reopening the Community Center for general use after the shutdown occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following guidelines go into effect June 1, 2021:

- The Community Center will be open for its full lawful capacity of 233 persons.
- Masks and social distancing of three feet are no longer required. While the Board recommends these as good public health practices, they are personal choices and not required for use of the Community Center.
- A temperature check, the contact tracing log, and the Covid-19 release form are no longer required and will not be available.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided. In addition, the facility will be sanitized daily by RWA staff.
- Rest rooms will be open. However, the kitchen will remain closed and water fountains will continue to be unavailable. No sharing of food or drinks will be permitted in the facility. These are temporary measures and will be reconsidered as circumstances dictate.

This final version of the guidelines was approved at the most recent Board meeting on May 27. There are earlier drafts which differ from this one in some particulars. Please be sure you are looking at the current and final version – this one.

With respect to Covid-19 there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. But it isn't over yet. All of us are anxious to get back to something resembling normal. To that end, the Association urges you to continue to take appropriate precautions. Get vaccinated, if you haven't already. And if you feel sick, please stay home.

DEED RESTRICTIONS, RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATIONS AVOID “ASSAULT ON THE SENSES”

By Connie Smith

Any homeowner who has experienced the neighbor from hell (crams miscellaneous vehicles and equipment onto their lot, knows no quiet hours and never mows) appreciates the certainty and respectability of a homeowner's association's deed restrictions and residential modification guidelines.

In 2020, Rotonda West's Homeowner's Association revised both its deed restrictions and its residential modification guidelines. Copies of both were mailed to all HOA members in late December. The 30 pages of documents can be less than scintillating, but very important, reading and every member should make an effort to familiarize themselves with the documents. They may also be found on the Rotonda West web site - <https://rotondawest.org/living-here/>

According to floridaforboomers.com, deed restrictions play an important part in preserving a homeowner's investment:

It can sound like a pain to have to pay these fees and abide by these restrictions especially if you are coming from a community that doesn't have any fees or restrictions. But all these fees and rules, as inconvenient as they may sometimes seem, do serve the important purpose of protecting your home values. If you are going to pay a quarter of a million dollars or more for your new home here in Florida, you want to know that someone is looking out for you and your investment. Ask any reputable real estate agent or property appraiser and they will tell you that communities governed by homeowners' associations have the best track record of preserving and increasing home values.

Deed Restrictions

In short, any new or modified construction in Rotonda West is subject to approval, as are exterior walls, fences or screening; sheds, temporary storage units and accessory buildings; structure sizes; flag poles, antennas or reception/transmission devices; types of pets (no monkeys, poultry, livestock, etc.); no unreasonable annoyances or nuisances; maintenance of dwellings, landscaping and lots; clothes drying (keep it behind the house and within a fenced area); regulation of common areas; maintenance and improvement within canal areas; anchoring of boats and watercraft; sign specifications; garage/lawn sales and auctions; vehicle operation and parking; overnight vehicle passes and additional owners' responsibilities.



The deed restrictions document also outlines association membership and assessments, charges and fees. The document declares that liens for unpaid assessments and charges include interest (at the highest rate allowed by law), late fees and costs and expenses of collection, including reasonable attorneys fees and costs. Rights of the grantor/developer are also set out.

A section outlining enforcement of deed restrictions includes fines that may be assessed each day of continuing violation. Fines are limited to \$5,000 in aggregate and fines of \$1,000 or greater not paid within 30 days become a lien on the lot/tract of the owner who owes the fine. Additional penalties may include suspension of use rights and association voting rights.

Residential Modification



Making a change on your lot/tract? Chances are the change will be subject to residential modification guidelines. From colors of dwellings, new roofs or reroofs, dwelling additions or modifications, the residential modification committee is charged with determining the appropriateness of lot/tract changes. Details of the residential modification committee guidelines are included in the late December mailing and are located online on the Rotonda West web site (<https://rotondawest.org/living-here/>). Often, contractors making residential modifications will submit the forms for approval on the property owner's behalf. If not, the forms are also available online at the above web address. Rotonda West Association employee Tammy Birdsong will also be able to assist with questions via email: tammy@rotondawest.org.

The Rotonda West HOA actively enforces deed restrictions and residential modifications. A recent weekly HOA manager's report wrote that during the period April 8-May 13, property owners were contacted by e-mail, phone or letter for 592 violations. Sixty-five of those violations had no residential modification approval. But despite the large number of violations, apparently just 10 were unable to achieve resolution and the foreclosure process being instituted. Liens were being released on four properties.

Rotonda historian Jack Alexander wrote in "Rotonda The Vision and the Reality," that the creation of a recreational vehicle association went a long way to alleviate parking issues within the development. He further told of a resident that continually hung her laundry out to dry in full view of golfers and neighbors. By noting that one woman's fresh-smelling laundry is another resident's irritation, Alexander illustrated that deed restrictions and the residential modification process goes a long way to relieve "assaults on the visual senses of many residents."



CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR NEXT ELECTION CYCLE

Submitted by: Karen Harvey

The time is now for you to step up and become a candidate for the Rotonda West Board of Directors. This year, two seats, Stephen Froggatt and Sam Besase, will be up for election. The election term is for December 2021 through November 2024.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ACTION DATES THAT YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF:

- **Friday, June 4 at 9:45 a.m.** The first of two Candidate Workshops.
- **Thursday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.** The second Candidate Workshop will be held in the evening. These workshops are intended to familiarize candidates with all the information needed to file their notice of intent to become a candidate.
- **Friday, August 13, 2021** All candidate's documents must be filed by **12:01 p.m.**

Get all the facts and information from a committee member or if you have any questions, please consider sending the election committee members an email at: electioncommittee@rotondawest.org.

Stay tuned! More information will be coming your way through West Ways and Constant Contact over the next several months.



Awesome

Owls

Photo submitted by:

Nelson and Cheryl

LaTeer

Pinehurst

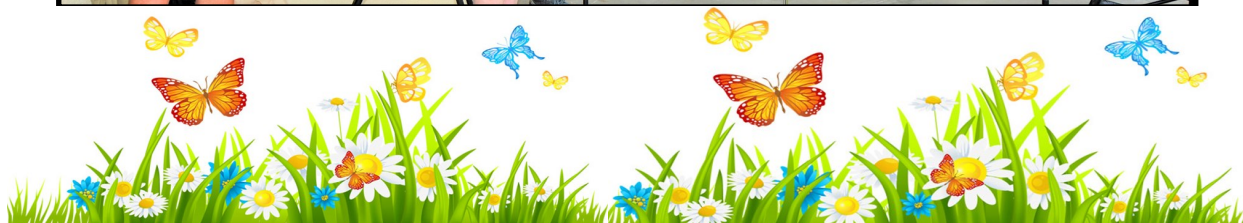


Music in the Park

Thursday, June 17th

From 6-8 p.m.

***Many old favorites will be performed by
The Rotonda Ukulele Band***



Bring your lawn chair and join us for an evening of music and some fun!

***The Rotonda Ukulele Band will be performing
on the back porch of the Community Center.***

***If you would like to be considered to perform
during a future Music in the Park event,***

Please email: activitiescommittee@rotondawest.org.





**ATTENTION:
RWA WEBSITE IS IMPROVING!
CHANGES ARE ON THE WAY!**

By: Diane Shaw

The Rotonda West Association (RWA) has ambitious new plans for improvements in our website! RWA President Patricia Aho, Manager Derrick Hedges, and Communication Specialist Joe Harris, have been researching ways to make the site more secure and more useful to our members. In a few months, you will find that when you visit the home page of our site (rotondawest.org) you will need to register to gain access to the rest of it. The home page will be the only public part of the site. To register, you will have to choose a username and a password and thereafter you will use them to sign in to see more than the home page. The plan is to change from a public website to a private "members only" one. Some advantages to members that the RWA anticipates are: having two way communication with the RWA; being able to vote "on line" as well as make payments "on line"; having access to their personal accounts; having the ability to respond to surveys as well as receive documents and announcements that formerly would have been mailed. The increased privacy will enable recorded meetings to be available only to members. Minutes to meetings will also only be available to members. There are many other advantages to having a private site and the RWA plans to take advantage of them as the it evolves. Currently, the RWA communicates with members both by mail and through the website. In the future, some of the information that was mailed will be published on the web site instead. Since one mailing can cost upwards of \$10,000, this will result in a big savings in postage alone. Other improvements are being investigated too! More information will be available later. For now, you just need to know that in the near future, you will be required to register to gain access to our website.

STAY TUNED!





Golf cart, Bicycle & Kayak registry is being done by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. This is a **FREE** event! You **MUST** bring each item you register to the event. You will fill out a basic information form, the Deputies confirm the serial number and apply a numbered ID sticker to each item. The ID sticker will assist law enforcement in identifying your item if it is ever stolen.

When: August 13th, 2021

Where: Rotonda Community Park (at the end of Parade Circle)

Time: 9-11am

Neighborhood watch contact person: David Perry @ 941-828-1584

Please contact Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention with any questions or to schedule this event in your neighborhood!

Crime Prevention 941-613-3227

**FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTIONS**

Frequently Asked Questions About Deed Restrictions

Submitted by: Diane Shaw

I asked Holly Carr, the RWA Deed Restriction Administrator what questions she was asked most frequently and here are her answers in reverse order:



Holly Carr
Deed Restriction
Administrator

5. QUESTION: Can I rent my home in Rotonda West?

ANSWER: Yes, you can rent out your home. The tenants **MUST** follow the Deed Restrictions.

4. QUESTION: Is there a limit on how many pets are allowed in your home?

ANSWER: There is no limit on how many pets you can have.

3. QUESTION: Are we allowed to have sheds?

ANSWER: NO.

2. QUESTION: Do we have a noise ordinance?

ANSWER: We follow Charlotte County's noise ordinance. Quiet time is between 10-PM and 6- AM.

AND.....The number one most common question asked is.....drum roll.....

**I want to park my recreational vehicle in the RV parking lot in the circle.
Who can I talk to?**

ANSWER: The RWA doesn't own or manage the center circle RV storage facility. It is privately owned by the developer. The manager is Barbara Peszko. You can contact her at 941-697-7592.

Many thanks to Holly Carr for this information!!!...Is that your phone I hear ringing?





GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
Projects and Upcoming Events
Donna Krabbe, Past-President



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Celebrated 47th Anniversary

GFWC RWWC celebrated our 47th Anniversary of Federation on May 1st and again on May 13th, exactly 47 years to the day since the installation of the first Executive Officers Board. At the May 13, 2021, meeting Rotonda West resident Danica Harris was named Queen of the Rotonda West Woman's Club. Danica has been a woman's club member and living the volunteer spirit for 45 years! She was presented with a crown, flowers and sincere thanks from our entire membership for her dedication, perseverance and tremendous sense of humor as we navigated through this unique Covid-19 year!



L to R:
Clare Imre
Danica Harris
Kathryn Gallagher



FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The RWWC Scholarship Committee reviewed dozens of resumes from Lemon Bay High School Seniors and selected three students to receive \$1,500 each for their chosen college or technical school. Two Continuing Education Scholarships were awarded to area residents furthering their education toward their Master's Degrees.

BIG RED BUS BLOOD DRIVE – THURSDAY, JULY 8TH, 9am to 2pm

The next OneBlood Drive is Thursday, July 8th, at the Rotonda West Golf Club, Hills Course. Most current COVID Guidelines will be followed.

Donation by appointment only. Please call Kathryn at 610-952-1333.

Your generosity provided 31 pints of life giving blood at our April Drive



DIVERSITY AND KINDNESS LIBRARY



Myakka River elementary School Books
Presentation

During the 2020-2021 Club Year, Education and Libraries Committee Chairman Debra Sigismondo, a Junior High School Teacher in New York City for 40 years, researched and assembled Diversity and Kindness Library collections of over 50 titles designed to foster empathy, understanding and com-*passion* in elementary school children. Two identical collections were delivered to Myakka River Elementary School and Vineland Elementary School on April 26th.

Vineland Elementary School Books
Presentation



During the second year of the project Debra and Co-chairs including Norma Wood and Merrilee Warner will continue fundraising for the Diversity and Kindness Libraries in order to add an additional 50 titles to each collection. Rotonda West Woman's Club plans to extend this project to the middle school in the community as well.

SUMMER PLANNING

The Club Board will meet throughout the summer to plan a Covid-Free schedule for the 2021-2022 Club Year! Stay tuned for all of the news and opportunities to come.



Some of our members proudly wearing their Love, Respect and Kindness Shirts.



HOLIDAY PARADE NEWS!

Save the Date
December 4th, 2021



Theme
"Santa Paws"



Come see "Who let the PAWS out" in Rotonda West !



WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR WRITING PUBLISHED AND READ BY
RESIDENTS OF ROTONDA WEST?

WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER WOULD LIKE TO OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO
ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS TO SHARE THEIR WRITING SKILLS!

JUST EMAIL WESTWAYS@ROTONDAWEST.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING ISSUES!

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