

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

July 2021



PUBLISHED BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION FOR ROTONDA WEST PROPERTY OWNERS.
THE E-NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT ROTONDAWEST.ORG

LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MANAGER'S MESSAGE	Pg. 2	CANDIDATES NEEDED	Pg. 11
CALENDAR	Pg. 3	MUSIC IN THE PARK	Pgs. 12-13
HARBOR VILLAGE MEETING	Pgs. 4-5	SNAKE PRESENTATION	Pgs. 14-15
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS	Pgs. 6-7	CERT HELPS WITH SHUTTERS	Pg. 16
PLANTING FOR WILDLIFE	Pgs. 8-9	CERT DONATION FORM	Pg. 17
ACCESSING RWA WEBSITE.....	Pg. 10	HOLIDAY PLANS	Pg. 18

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Stephen Froggatt, Director
Bernie Schmelz, Director
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Karen Harvey, Writer
Barry Kean, Writer
Connie Smith, Writer
Diane Shaw, Writer
David Pulaski, Wayne Mengel, Photographers

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



HAPPY SUMMER NEIGHBORS!

The “Sunshine State” has been heating up. With warmer weather, higher humidity, and rain, the grass is growing so our Rotonda West Maintenance Crew is out in full force mowing. Although our waterways are still currently low, FloridAquatics is closely monitoring and treating invasive grasses along our multi-use waterway.

Our Community Center is coming alive again with many events. Please be sure to check the RotondaWest.org calendar for upcoming events, presentations, and meetings.

While visiting the Rotonda West Association Office, Community Center, or our Broadmoor Park you may notice some sidewalk expansions. We are beginning to add an accessible walkway for all. In addition, around the trails of Broadmoor Park, the crushed shell is being added to low-lying areas of the trail, and where more crushed shell is needed.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our numerous committees. Thank you to those members that have been sending in applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Rotonda West Association if there are any questions or concerns.

I hope that everyone has a safe, enjoyable, and healthy summer.



Derrick Hedges

Rotonda West Association
Manager

Office Staff

Derrick Hedges,
Manager

Tammy Birdsong,
Administrator

Holly Carr,
Administrator
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Joe Harris,
Communications
Specialist

Mike Heincelman,
Compliance Officer

Maintenance Staff

Matt Rooney

Wayne Taylor

Bill Simons

Eric Pierce

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 am Sew Much Fun 2:00 PM Compliance Committee Meeting	2 1:00pm > GFWC RWWC Board Meeting CANCELED 8:30 am Sweatn' to the Oldies 9:00am > RWWC Creative Crafters	3
4	5 Independence Day Holiday > RWA Office Closed	6 9:00am GFWC RWWC Sew N Sews/Knit & Chat 1:00 Tonettes (chord group)	7 9am > Activities Committee Meeting 10:30am Communications Committee Meeting 11:00 AM Ladies of Paradise Bridge Group 12:00pm > Wildlife Committee Meeting	8 6:30pm > Englewood Fishing Club 9:00 am Sew Much Fun 9:00am GFWC RWWC Blood Drive 2pm > Board of Directors Meeting	9 CANCELED 8:30 am Sweatn' to the Oldies 9:00am > RWWC Creative Crafters	10
11	12 9:30am-12:00pm > Mahjong 1:00pm > Mahjong 2pm Ukulele Club	13 6:30 PM Building & Grounds Committee Meeting 9:00am GFWC RWWC Sew N Sews/Knit & Chat 9am > Residential Modification Meeting 10:00 AM Neighborhood Watch Leadership Team Meeting 1:00 Tonettes (chord group)	14 10:00 AM RW Neighborhood Watch Meeting 11:00 AM Ladies of Paradise Bridge Group	15 9:00 am Sew Much Fun 2:00 PM > RWWC Book Group #6 meet 6:30 PM Election Committee meeting and workshop	16 CANCELED 8:30 am Sweatn' to the Oldies 9:00am > RWWC Creative Crafters	17
18	19 9:30 am > Budget & Finance Meeting 9:30am-12:00pm > Mahjong 1:00pm > Mahjong 2pm Ukulele Club 6:00 Pm Wildlife Presentation - Bats	20 9:00am GFWC RWWC Sew N Sews/Knit & Chat 1:00 Tonettes (chord group)	21 10:00 Aquatics/Cana I Meeting 11:00 AM Ladies of Paradise Bridge Group	22 9:00 am Sew Much Fun 2pm > Board of Directors Meeting	23 CANCELED 8:30 am Sweatn' to the Oldies 9:00am > RWWC Creative Crafters 11:30 am Rotonda Garden Club Meeting	24
25	26 9:00 AM Fishing Club Board Meeting 9:30am-12:00pm > Mahjong 1:00pm > Mahjong 2pm Ukulele Club	27 9:00am GFWC RWWC Sew N Sews/Knit & Chat 9am > Residential Modification Meeting 1:00 Tonettes (chord group)	28 11:00 AM Ladies of Paradise Bridge Group	29 9:00 am Sew Much Fun 2:00 PM Compliance Committee Meeting	30 CANCELED 8:30 am Sweatn' to the Oldies 9:00am > RWWC Creative Crafters	31
Categories ■ Activities ■ Clubs ■ FLORIDA AQUATICS ■ Holiday ■ Meetings ■ Presentation ■ Requires RWWC Membership ■ Reservation ■ RWA Mowers						

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HARBOR VILLAGE JUMPS COUNTY HURDLE, INCREASES TRAFFIC CONCERNS

By: Connie Smith

A 408-acre residential and commercial development on the southeast corner of 776 and Gasparilla Road passed a county government hurdle, June 22, when the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners voted to create the Harbor Village Community Development District. The proposed Harbor Village Project will create:

- 1,000 residential dwelling units
- 150 beds of assisted living facilities
- 200 hotel rooms, and
- Up to 516,000 square feet of commercial/office uses without hotel rooms and assisted living facilities.

Roads and other infrastructure for the development are expected to be complete by 2025.

At its June 10 meeting, Rotonda West Association Board member Bernie Schmelz, expressed concern about the impact of increased traffic created by the development, particularly upon the intersection of Rotonda Boulevard East and Gasparilla Road. Therefore, Association President Patricia Aho was asked to testify at the hearing concerning the intersection.



Board of Directors' President
Patricia Aho
Testifying at Hearing
Concerning impact of Proposed
Harbor Village Development

"The Boulevard East/Gasparilla intersection is poorly configured because it is not a 90° angle, making visibility difficult and creating a serious safety concern," testified Aho. That intersection already has approximately 25,000 vehicles per day already and back in 2015, was identified as a "crash hot spot" within the county.

Also testifying was Vicki Gibson, community association manager of Holiday Lake, that consists of 551 manufactured homes that abuts the proposed development. She expressed concerns about drainage onto the Holiday Lake development, property values, noise, buffering, lighting and the potential that a large number of wild hogs that presently live on the undeveloped site will move onto Holiday Lake properties.

In response to the wild hog concern, Matt Morris or Morris Engineering in Sarasota said the developers would consider a Wild Hog Mitigation Strategy.

As the community development district for the proposed Harbor Village passed by a vote of 4-0, County Commissioner Stephen Deutsch addressed the concerns of the Rotonda West Board. He noted that like Rotonda West, South Gulf Cove is also expanding at a “great rate”, increasing the stress on Gasparilla Road. He suggested a traffic signal at the Rotonda Boulevard East or even a roundabout is being considered. “We are trying to keep on top of that,” he promised.

The final approval needed to green-light the Harbor Village Development is a detailed site plan, to be considered at a future date.



Map showing relationship of Rotonda West to the proposed Harbor Village.

Harbor Village is shown in **RED** and is identified as “SUBJECT PROPERTY”



HURRICANE PREPARATION PRESENTATION

Article and Pictures by: Karen Harvey

The Hurricane Preparation presentation was a well-attended event at the Community Center on Tuesday, June 15 with over 60 plus people in the room and over 40 on zoom.

Patrick Fuller, Director of Emergency Management at Charlotte County was the guest speaker along with the Rotonda CERT team.

The one big take-away from Mr. Fuller's presentation was to be prepared/make a plan.



The Rotonda West CERT Team

KNOW YOUR RISK:

- ◆ Know your flood zone, know your home, correct amount of insurance

MAKE A PLAN:

- ◆ Where will you go, prepare your home (shutters, etc.)
- ◆ Communicate with family
- ◆ Write the plan down and share it with family

PREPARE FOR THE STORM:

- ◆ Within 5 – 7 days before the storm, get groceries
- ◆ Medicines
- ◆ Make a kit
- ◆ Don't forget pet supplies

STAY INFORMED:

- ◆ Sign up for Alert Charlotte
- ◆ Sign up for CharCoCares – text 777-888 for alerts
- ◆ Listen to county local media (FB, Twitter, Instagram)
- ◆ Monitor local media (WINK News, radio)



DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Check out the STOP signs. Almost every stop sign has a colored band just below the sign which signifies which evacuation zone you live.
- ◆ Libraries, after a storm, are used for charging and cooling stations.
- ◆ If you leave your house for an evacuation, you should turn off the electric service at the breaker box.
- ◆ Visit a shelter as a last resort. Make other plans, take a vacation, go visit family and/or friends.



L to R:

Bernie Schmelz, Patrick Fuller,
and Patricia Aho

Presentation was well-
attended by residents
of Rotonda West





THERE'S A WAY EVERY HOMEOWNER CAN BENEFIT WILDLIFE IN ROTONDA

By: Connie Smith

Environmentalists have raised big money and they've set aside big swatches of land for conservation. But big scale environmental conservation has reached a point that both money and land are finite, so now it's down to you and me. And it's entirely doable.

Sarasota County Master Gardener Ann O'Leary recently outlined a program wherein every Florida resident can be a part of the effort to aid propagation of native Florida wildlife, including birds, by establishing native Florida plants in their yards. The talk was sponsored by the Rotonda West Wildlife Committee.

Why should we worry about wildlife? Because Florida is a victim of its own abundant sunshine and quality of life for humans. People are fleeing to Florida and this is a problem for our native wildlife that is in decline. The threats are:

- The degradation and loss of animal habitat, and;
- The introduction of invasive plants and animals. The invasive plants largely do not provide specific foods, habitat or reproductive hosts required by native Florida wildlife and invasive species prey on native wildlife or compete for food and habitat.

The problem is specifically great in Florida. Of the 50 United States, Florida is number one in invasive species. Birds are a particular victim – one in five breeding adult birds have disappeared in this state, affecting warblers, finches and blackbirds.

But despite all of the bleak statistics, there are opportunities created by residential development – if homeowners make their “own small patch” hospitable to wildlife by planting native species selected for their ecological value. One can make sure their plant selection benefits pollinators that help plants to reproduce; the plants selected can provide food, such as nectar, fruits, nuts, berries or seeds. Plants with thick foliage especially benefit birds because they provide cover against predators, thermal protection and habitat for nesting.



Sarasota County
Master Gardener Ann O'Leary
(Wildlife Committee Guest)

So, along with those showy palms, the Bismark (native to Madagascar) or the Foxtail (native to Australia), why not plant a few Florida natives? The desire to plant Florida natives, unfortunately, goes beyond agreeing, “okay, I’ll do it!” Native Florida plants are rare to nonexistent in the “big box” stores that are so convenient to buy from. If a “big box” store happens to have a native plant, there’s a chance it has been treated with pesticides that may harm the wildlife it’s supposed to benefit. Native plants must be sought out through effort because not every community has a native plant store.

The Florida Native Plant Society (www.fnps.org/plants) is recommended by O’Leary as a source to determine what are the best native plants for Charlotte County. The web site allows you to select the amount of sunlight, moisture and salt conditions in your yard, as well as the type of wildlife you want to attract. Once you submit your parameters, a list of plants to choose from will come up. Another source to identify local native plants is through the Audubon Society, audobon.org/plantsforbirds. One simply has to input their e-mail address and zip code and a list of plants beneficial to birds will be emailed to you.



Ecologists are now proponents of a theory that even small plots of ground, such as yards in Rotonda West, can sustain native wildlife if plantings include native Florida species. Although it takes a little research and planning, the results are well worth the effort.

What will take particular dedication to the concept of wildlife and native plantings, is finding the plants. “One problem is, it seems all the native garden centers that sell native plants have non-remarkable names,” sighed O’Leary. Punta Gorda’s All Native Garden Center & Plant Nursery is perhaps the easiest native plant store to get to and can serve as a great resource.

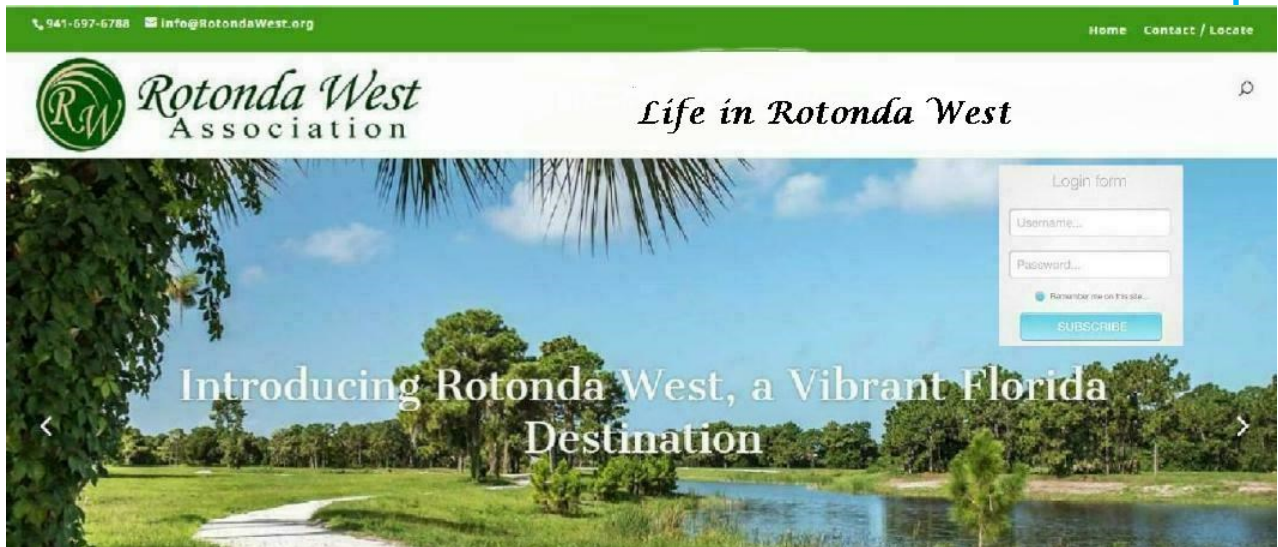
There are two web sites that will aid in locating native Florida nurseries or one may purchase a particular plant online:

- Florida Association of Native Nurseries – fann.org
- Plant Real Florida – plantrealflorida.org

O’Leary’s presentation may be viewed on the Rotonda West website: RotondaWest.org. Look at the bottom of the page on <https://rotondawest.org/governance/meeting-minutes/> for a link to Zoom Meetings. The link takes you to YouTube where the Plantings for Birds presentation may be found under RW Presentations.



ATTENTION: ROTONDA WEST HOMEOWNERS



**Soon you will Need to Register and use a Login and Password
to Access our Rotonda West Association Website.**

In early September, our Rotonda West Association website will become a private site; available only to members. It will require a login and password. You will be required to register and thereafter you will use your login and password to gain entry to the site. Lots of good things are planned for the site in the future.

Watch for further updates and information!



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:

- **Thursday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m.** This workshop is intended to familiarize candidates with all the information needed to file their notice of intent to become a candidate. Candidate packets for a Board position can be picked up in the office or found online at www.rotondawest.org. Click on *GOVERNANCE*, then *ELECTIONS*. There is a green box on the left that has all the information.

- **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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP





Group Leader Doug Newport
(standing)

MUSIC IN THE PARK: *A SUCCESSFUL EVENT*

By: Nadine Clough

Pictures by:
Cheryl LaTeer and
Diane Shaw



Rotonda Ukulele Band Members
Picture submitted by: Nadine Clough



Music floated through Broadmoor Park on the evening of June 17th as the Rotonda Ukulele Bank performed at the first ever "Music In The Park" event put on by the RWA Activities Committee. Emcee Patti Cowin enthusiastically introduced the songs for the two hour program. The crowd of about seventy people seemed ready to sit back in their lawn chairs and enjoy the musical entertainment. Packets were handed out with the words to the songs, and people were encouraged to sing-along, and they did!

Fifteen members of the Rotonda Ukulele Band, lead by Doug Newport, played at the concert. The group meets every Monday at 2 pm in the Community Center. New members are always welcome whether you are a beginner or more experienced.

A door prize was generously donated by the Woman's Club. The winners of the gift bag were George Scortia and Jan Painter.



Community members singing along and enjoying the evening of music.



FRANK SANDERS TRIO TO PERFORM IN BROADMOOR PARK

By: Diane Shaw

The Activities Committee has worked hard to produce the "Music in the Park" series for our members. Their first production was a performance by the Rotonda West Ukulele band and was an enthusiastic success. The July "Music in the Park" performance will take place on July 22nd and will feature the Frank Sanders Trio.

Their members are college students who have formed a jazz trio. A person who is familiar with their talents and who has a doctorate in music has said that Frank is the most talented musical student he has encountered in his 40+ years. According to Mr. Sanders, they usually have five performers, but due to our budget constraints, they are willing to limit their performance for us to a trio. The trio consists first of Frank Sanders on piano and bass. Frank is studying Music Performance at Florida Gulf Coast University. Second is Jorge Ylissigui on saxophone. He is studying jazz performance at the University of

North Florida. Third is John Gonzalez on drums. He is studying Music Education at Florida Gulf University. These three musicians appear to be rising stars in their chosen fields of study.

The Activities Committee hopes you will enjoy their performance at the RWA Community Center on Thursday, July 22nd from 6PM to 8PM. Bring your own lawn chairs, beverages and snacks and don't forget the bug spray.



Thursday, July 22, 2021
6 PM to 8 PM

The Frank Sanders Trio Jazz Band

ROTONDA WEST
COMMUNITY CENTER
At Broadmoor Park
646 Rotonda Circle

Bring your own lawn chairs, beverages and snacks.
And don't forget the bug spray!!
Rotonda West Association
RWA Activities Committee





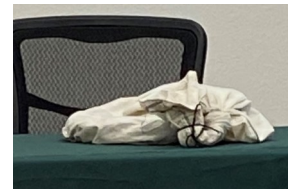
SNAKES SNAKES SNAKES

THE SECOND FAVORITE REPTILE

**Article and pictures by:
Nadine Clough**



The Rotonda West Wildlife Committee sponsored an educational presentation on snakes on June 22nd and June 25th. David Smith from the office of Environmental Land Management of Charlotte County spoke on the ecological importance of these reptiles. He was assisted by Jason Thompson, a snake enthusiast with much life experience with snakes, and two very live snakes who waited patiently in their bags until it was their turn to charm.



David pointed out to the group that there is no such thing as a good snake or a bad snake. These creatures have their place in keeping the ecology of an area in balance. Snakes serve two important functions in a healthy biosystem:

- They manage pest or nuisance species such as rodents, spiders, cockroaches
- They provide a food source for other animals such as birds, opossums, bobcats

Often people are not happy when snakes move onto their property. David suggested a few things to do to protect your home from unwanted visitors:

- Keep the area surrounding your home free of clutter.
- Do not hang birdfeeders. Feeders attract rodents, which in turn attract snakes.
- Clean up leaf litter and other yard waste which creates a habitat for snakes.



Jason Thompson handling an Eastern Black Racer (left), and a Columbian Red-tailed Boa (right).



David understands that many people have a fear of snakes, but often learning about them diminishes many fears. There are forty species of snakes in Florida, with six of those being venomous snakes. Only four of those venomous snakes live in the Charlotte County area. Get to know the local snakes.

There are many good sources to help you to identify snakes. A few that David recommended were:

- Field Guides (such as Peterson's Field Guide)
- Online at University of Florida website
- Facebook Group, "What kind of snake is this?"

Some take-away lessons from this presentation:

- When outside be aware of your surroundings.
- Watch your feet! Stay out of tall grasses.
- Keep your distance. Snakes are afraid of you and will move away if they can.
- Assume any snake you come across is venomous.
- Be smart! Educate yourself on local venomous snakes.



Columbian Red-Tailed Boa

VENOMOUS SNAKES IN OUR AREA OF FLORIDA



CORAL SNAKE

File
Photos



EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE



COTTONMOUTH / WATER MOCCASIN



PYGMY RATTLESNAKE





Rotonda Communities CERT – a 501C3 non-profit Corporation

CERT HELPS RESIDENTS WITH SHUTTERS!

Rotonda Communities CERT team members will put up hurricane shutters at homes in the Rotonda area during the 2021 Hurricane Season. Residents who are elderly or otherwise unable to install shutters themselves will be given priority. Panels must be factory made panels or pre-cut to fit in an opening. CERT Team Members are NOT authorized to cut or modify panels.

Mr. John Blanchette and Mr. Steve Ball will be coordinating the hurricane shutter program. They can be reached as follows:

John Blanchette 301-807-9777

Steve Ball 502-316-2330



Please plan ahead and don't wait until the last minute to have hurricane shutters put up. The National Hurricane Center forecasts usually provide residents with at least 5 days advance notice of a storm event. Please be sure to monitor your local news and weather outlets and plan accordingly. Last minute requests may not be accomplished as volunteers have their own preparations to make.

The Rotonda Communities CERT Team is made up of community volunteers who are trained in basic fundamentals of emergency assistance. CERT Teams are sent out when traditional emergency services are overwhelmed or cannot reach an impacted area such as when a tornado or hurricane strikes.

Rotonda Communities CERT gladly welcomes donations!
If you would like to donate, fill out the form below.

Rotonda Communities CERT Inc accepts cash donations
DONATION RECEIPT

Donation amount _____ Date _____
CERT Team Member Signature _____



=====

FOR CERT RECORDS

Donation amount _____ Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone number _____

THANK YOU!



HOLIDAY PLANS!



**GAZEBO LIGHTING
SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 27TH**

PARADE

**2 p.m. SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 4TH**



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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