

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

JANUARY 2022



PUBLISHED BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION FOR ROTONDA WEST PROPERTY OWNERS.
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ROTONDA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!
1972-2022

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year Rotonda West,

We are now in 2022 and we look forward to a successful new year. Throughout 2021, we welcomed many new members to our Rotonda West Association community. With the ending of 2021 and the arrival of the new year, the association has mailed out all of the annual assessments to all members. Please contact the Rotonda West Association Administration office if there are any questions or concerns. The administration Staff has been busy processing payments and our association is fortunate to have so many diligent members paying their assessments promptly. The Administration Office is also busy processing Residential Modifications and I remind our community that we are always available to help with any questions or concerns.

The Rotonda West Association maintenance crew is doing an exceptional job with keeping up with the landscaping in our Rotonda West Association community. Mulch is continually being added to different locations along with the continuation of trimming and mowing. The maintenance staff are additionally busy cleaning, power washing, and preparing to paint certain common areas and association buildings. Continuation of the removal of invasives and pepper trees continues along with the addition of native plants around lakes and other areas to help restore the natural habitat.

As another year begins, it brings the new beginning of new ventures and more successes. Let us continue to see positive results. I wish all of the Rotonda West Association Community a happy and prosperous 2022!

Derrick Hedges

JANUARY 2022

- January 16th, Sunday (third Sunday of each month)
1 p.m. BINGO! At the Community Center. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
- January 25th, Tuesday. TRIVIA NIGHT! 6-8 p.m.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- January 27th, Thursday 5:00-6:30 p.m. Music in the Park Featuring, "Seasons of Sound".
Held at Broadmoor Park
- January 29th, Saturday 9 a.m.– Noon
"Shred It Day"
Food Drive to benefit St. David's Episcopal Church in Englewood

FEBRUARY 2022

- February 20th, Sunday. Starts at 1 p.m. BINGO!
Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
- February 24th, Thursday 5:30-7 p.m.
Music in the Park- Jonny Puma & his Acoustic Guitar

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
Maintenance
Supervisor

Wayne Taylor

Tim Deutsch

Paul McGinley

Pablo Guardiola

Dale Anderson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

Patricia Aho, President

Patti Cowin, 1st Vice President

Sam Besase, Treasurer

Jerry Eldred, Secretary

David Kelly, Director

Andy VanScyoc, Director

WEST WAYS STAFF

Nadine Clough, Editor

Karen Harvey, Writer

Barry Kean, Writer

Connie Smith, Writer

Diane Shaw, Writer

David Pulaski, Photographer

Wayne Mengel, Photographer

Nadine Clough, Layout & Design



TWO ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

By: Barry Kean

Pictures by: Dave Pulaski

The Rotonda West Association held its Annual Meeting on December 2, 2021 to receive committee and financial reports and elect members of the board of directors. Two seats on the board, being vacated by Sam Besase and Steve Froggatt, were up for election, and were being contested by Sam Besase, seeking to retain his seat, Cynthia Chatham, John Metz and Andy VanScyoc. Final results were VanScyoc 1667 votes, Besase 1147 votes, Chatham 938 votes, and Metz 701 votes. Hence, VanScyoc and Besase were elected to the RWA Board of Directors.



ANDY VANSKYOC



SAM BESASE

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Also on the ballot was the question of whether surplus funds in the 2021 association budget should be “rolled over” to be available for use in 2022. This measure passed overwhelmingly, by a vote of 2165 in favor to 75 opposed.

As in past years, the Annual Meeting was held in two parts. The meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. and the polls were opened for in-person voting for directors and for the budget roll-over (most votes were received by mail or drop-off at the RWA office prior to the annual meeting). The polls closed at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting was suspended while votes were counted. Then the meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

The RWA Board of Directors meets at 2:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Rotonda West community Center. All RWA members are invited to attend.

The following week, on December 9th, the Rotonda West Association Board of Directors held a special reorganizing meeting, the primary purpose of which is for the board to elect its officers for 2022. The current slate of officers was reelected: Patricia Aho, President; Patti Cowin, Vice President; Sam Besase, Treasurer; and Jerry Eldred, Secretary. In addition, the board approved the appointment of committee chairpersons and some committee reorganization.

In addition to the election results, the meeting received the association's annual committee and financial reports. Geoff Lorah, CPA, reported that the association remains in sound financial condition. Mr. Lorah, of the Punta Gorda CPA firm of Webb, Lorah and McMillan, has served the RWA in this capacity since 1991. At this annual meeting, he was presented with a plaque in commemoration of his long and valued service.



BOARD PRESIDENT PATRICIA AHO
PRESENTING THE PLAQUE TO GEOFF LORAH



PLAQUE READS:

With Deepest Appreciation
We hereby honor
Geoff Lorah
In recognition for your
decades of guidance, exceptional
professionalism, and unconditional
commitment to our community.
The Board and Staff of
Rotonda West Association



THANK YOU, MR. LORAH

Rotonda's Christmas Parade

By: Nadine Clough Pictures by: Dave Pulaski

Rotonda's annual holiday parade was back this year after a year off due to COVID concerns. Back also was the pure joy a parade offers to everyone who participates and to the audience who cheers and waves as the parade passes by. The theme this year was "Santa Paws" and over 40 entries decorated accordingly. Our thanks to Gwen Grace who did a fabulous job as chairperson, and to Deb Orchard, Activities Committee chairperson. Many thanks to the judges, Megan Hedges, Amy Gonzales, and Peter Ide. Trophy winners were as follows:

Spirit of Christmas - Galloway Roofing

Best Organizational - Charlotte County Tax Collector's Office

Best Commercial - Abel Air & Heating

Best Use of Theme - Low Rider Dachshund Rescue

Best Performance - Rotonda Ukulele Band

Awards Sponsored by: Paradise Exclusive Real Estate



OUR EARLY ROTONDA HISTORY

Submitted By: Robert Ivey

It all started when my wife Loretta and I read a book describing ways to survive on free or near free offers and events. Among these were taking advantage of church dinners and going to free dinners offered by companies luring you with a free meal to sell you something. The key, of course, was to eat the free meal, listen to their spiel, but not buy anything.

So off we went to one of those infamous free dinners where they pressured you into buying Florida land, which often turned out to be an uninhabitable swamp. But this one sounded different, so we bought one lot for about \$6,500 that we paid on at \$62/monthly until 1992. As part of the deal, the company would host us in Florida to look over the property. If we didn't like it, we could back out. While we made our purchase in 1970, it wasn't until 1972 that we could make the trip. We had a couple of friends who were doing the same thing, so we got together to decide how to make the trip more economical and combine it with a tour of the state.

After much discussion and analysis, we agreed to rent a motor home since we had several stops to make along the way. Our traveling companions for our two-week trip in the summer of 1972 were Roy and Carol, and Bill and Wilma. The three men rotated the driving the entire trip. The small motor home, a Winnebago Brave, had a sleeping area about 24" in height above the driver's area. It was very claustrophobic, so we all took turns. You couldn't turn over without getting stuck between the roof and the mattress. The main sleeping area was made up by folding down the dining area table to make one large bed sleeping four. What a surprise that trip was! It reminded me of the 1969 movie comedy, "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice".



Aerial view of an early developing Rotonda West Community provided by Robert Ivey

The first day we drove straight through from Pittsburgh to our first stop at the Disney World Campground, a 19 hour drive, where we spent a couple of days taking in the sights and the rides. The next stop was Busch Gardens in Tampa, then on to Sarasota to meet the land people.

They put us up in the Sheraton Sandcastle on Lido beach, where they picked us up for a trip to the new community of Rotonda, south of Sarasota. We spent the day touring the property by air and by boat. The community was being heavily advertised by Ed McMahon and was hosting the Superstars athlete events on TV. It all looked so good that we kept the lot. Initially, the idea was that it would be investment property, and we had no idea that we would be living there someday!



Ed McMahon
Helping to sell lots in
Rotonda



There were many changes to the Rotonda plan over the years, which made us wonder whether our land purchase would ever be worth anything or we would just have to give it up. Among these were the questionable land dealings of companies who at different times had control of the land like the General Development Corporation and the Mackle Brothers, the many assessments that property owners had to pay, the decision to not develop the business area in the center of the circle, losing Don Pedro Island and its beaches reserved for Rotonda property owners, and the decision not to continue with the underground electric service.

While Jack Alexander's book, Rotonda: The Vision and the Reality provides an excellent history of Rotonda, a more detailed account on how South Florida was sold off lot-by-lot, including Rotonda West, can be found in the book, The Swamp Peddlers by Jason Vuic.

We have been full-time residents in Rotonda since 2005. In the intervening years we have enjoyed the natural environment in and around Rotonda, and the relative peace and quiet inside the bubble of the circle, and consider ourselves fortunate to live in close proximity to the Pioneer Trail.

Over the years, there have been many welcome changes to Rotonda. Among these have been the making of what would have been the St. Andrew pie section into a nature preserve; the Community Park and the walking/bike path around the center of Parade Circle; and of course, our beautiful Broadmoor Park, with its many miles of walking paths and the welcoming Community Center building.

Envelope Please! The Winners of the Second Annual Rotonda West Holiday Lights Contest are.....

By: Diane Shaw

Pictures by: Dave Pulaski

Last year, Lorah Steiner and her husband Ken began a Rotonda West Christmas tradition – the Annual Holiday Lights Contest. Lorah recruited sponsors for the contest, started a Facebook page to advertise it, developed rules, found judges, and along with others, tabulated votes. As the contest began to attract interest among residents, volunteers helped Lorah and her husband by creating a route map and a list of participants. Some residents chose not to compete in the contest, but wanted to be included so there were two lists of decorated homes– contestants and non-contestants. Rotonda residents were like inspired elves, devising creative themes, unusual color combinations and even lights that are synchronized to music!

This year, the contest has grown and Rotonda is glistening with bright shining lights. The Facebook page features a map and a list of decorated homes. Twenty-seven homes are on the Decorated Homes list/map. Eleven competed in the contest. A preliminary judging round was held on December 13th and the final seven homes were judged on the December 14th. There were seven judges total and none of the judges traveled with other judges so that all the scores would be individual without influence from others. Interestingly, the scores ran very close from one judge to another.

So, drum roll please!! The winners are:

1st Place: 932 Boundary Blvd - Harvey and Kathy Lang

2nd Place: 48 White Marsh Lane - Joe and Donna Danish

3rd Place: 69 Pinehurst Court - Cindy and Eddie Schneider

And.....

“Best Street” goes to: Tournament Road!

Prizes were awarded on December 21st.

Sponsors were: Michelle Seager-Eberley with Paradise Exclusive Realtors; and two anonymous Rotonda Elves who made this possible!

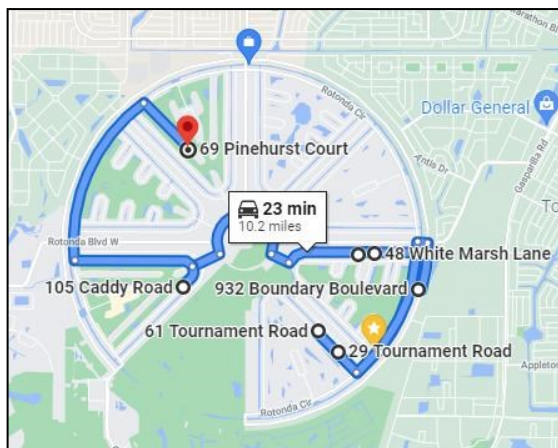


Honorable mention goes to Alan and Kim Woinski, who are veteran holiday lights contest winners and have been strong supporters of the Rotonda West Holiday Lights contest. They do not enter the contest so that residents can enjoy their creation without any competition. They live at 179 Tournament Road and their home is a gleaming holiday spectacle again this year. Al and Kim promoted the holiday spirit by having a food drive at their home so that people who visited to enjoy the lights and holiday music could drop off non-perishable food items. The food drive ended on Dec. 18th. Al and Kim won last year's Englewood Holiday Decorating contest and in 2019, their home won the state wide holiday lights decorating contest in New Jersey.

Lorah Steiner and her husband really enjoy seeing the results of their efforts to promote holiday lighting in Rotonda West. Lora said: , "One of the most gratifying things about working on this event has been hearing from parents who have taken their children to see the lights and tell us how much they enjoyed it. We even heard from Brookdale nursing home that they loaded up their bus with residents and took an evening tour of the lights.

The Steiners are a great example of what two inspired people can accomplish to make our community a happier place to live during the holidays. Happy Holidays to all...and to all a bright night!

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/413041953040389>



Map of the Decorated Homes route



Rotonda

Follow this route to see Christmas lights and decorations in Rotonda

1st Stop - 613 Rotonda Circle	15th Stop - 1121 Rotonda Circle
2nd Stop - 3 Sportsman Way	16th Stop - 1069 Boundary Blv
3rd Stop - 17 Sportsman Terr	17th Stop - 932 Boundary Blv
4th Stop - 94 Broadmoor Lane	18th Stop - 887 Rotonda Circle
5th Stop - 8 Long Meadow Rd.	19th Stop - 105 Caddy Rd
6th Stop - 249 Marker Road	20th Stop - 83 Rotonda Circle
7th Stop - 48 White Marsh Lane	21st Stop - 228 Rotonda Circle
8th Stop - 43 Medalist Road	22nd Stop - 16 Bunker Ct
9th Stop - 39 Medalist Place	23rd Stop - 138 Mark Twain Ln
10th Stop - 66 White Marsh Rd.	24th Stop - 75 Rotonda Circle
11th Stop - 83 Pine Valley Lane	25th Stop - 109 Fairway Rd
12th Stop - 29 Tournament Rd.	26th Stop - 60 Mariner Lane
13th Stop - 61 Tournament Rd.	27th Stop - 69 Pinehurst Ct.
14th Stop - 179 Tournament Rd	

A big thank you to our sponsors sponsors to Michelle, Diane Shaw and an anonymous Rotonda West Elf!

* happy holidays *

HOLIDAY LIGHTS WINNERS!



First Place Winner: 932 Boundary Blvd.
Harvey & Kathy Lang



Second Place Winner: 48 White Marsh Lane
Joe & Donna Danish



Third Place Winner: 69 Pinehurst Court
Cindy & Eddie Schneider

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!

MUSIC IN THE PARK IN DECEMBER

ROTONDA UKULELE BAND



Deb Orchard

Holiday songs filled the air on December 10th, as the Rotonda Ukulele Band played for two hours to a large crowd of Rotonda residents. Deb Orchard, co-chair of the Community Outreach Committee, which is a newly formed committee joining the Communications and Activities committees, acted as emcee.

By: Nadine Clough

Pictures by: Dave Pulaski



The Rotonda Ukulele Band



Mike Roller and Mia Stelzer read
"The Night Before Christmas"

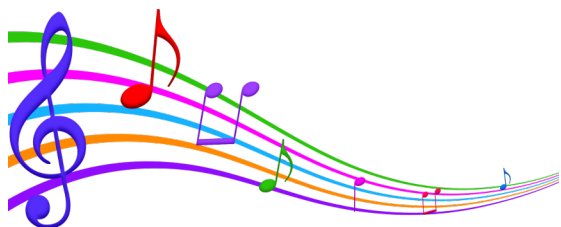


Everyone seemed to be
enjoying themselves



Beautiful Evening for the Music Festivities

MUSIC IN THE PARK



***Mark Your Calendars
BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS AND
FRIENDS TO HEAR***

SEASONS OF SOUND

And play “Name That Tune”

Thursday, January 27th

5:00-6:30 p.m.

***On the back porch of Community Center
(outside weather permitting)***

646 Rotonda Circle

Bring chair, drinks, eats, and bug spray

**JOIN
US
FOR
JANUARY’S
MUSIC
IN THE
PARK
PRESENTATION!**

**SEASONS
OF
SOUND
FEATURING
ERIC
AND
EMILY
STEFANIK**

CHECK THIS OUT! By: Deb Orchard

Seasons of Sound looks forward to singing and playing a “Name That Tune” game at the January 28th Music in the Park Event at 5 p.m. *Seasons of Sound* is a presentation of 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s music by Eric and Emily Stefanik. The most recent appearances include a Christmas Block Party at Foxwood Community in North Englewood, and a New Year’s celebration at Gasparilla Mobile Estates. Look for *Seasons of Sound* one Saturday evening a month at the Rotonda American Legion Post 113 on Indiana Road next to Rotonda Veteran’s Park. Eric is a registered nurse and teaches for the Charlotte Technical College in Port Charlotte. Emily is retired from the hospitality business and is the author of “My Dinner Party Pocket Organizer”. Eric and Emily have lived in Rotonda West since 1995.



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
Donna Krabbe, Former-President



Greetings, Good Health and Happiness in 2022!

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club begins their brand-new Calendar Year/Club Year on January 1, 2022. This is a departure from previous club years but reflects internal changes that have taken place throughout the General Federation of Women's Clubs and GFWC Florida.

On October 26, 1973, 36 women, residents of Rotonda West, met with interest in forming a woman's club. On November 16th of that year, temporary officers were selected. The following month charter membership was closed with 43 members. In January 1974, a committee approved the Bylaws and Standing Rules. In April, the first officers were elected. On May 1, 1974, the Rotonda West Woman's Club was chartered as a member of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and on May 13th the first Officers were installed.



75 Women in Sunglasses: Our members reflecting Love, Respect and Kindness while enjoying our Christmas Meeting.

In May 2022, GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club will celebrate 48 years of Living the Volunteer Spirit in Service to the Community. Our Club and our activities and responsibilities have expanded considerably and we have adopted the GFWC Florida President's Project logo of Love, Respect and Kindness for all. This logo resonates within the community as we offer our services to become helping partners with other like-minded organizations in Charlotte County and beyond.

Our own fund-raising activities are open to the public and held in order to raise funds for outreach assistance aligning with our Community Service Programs of Art & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, Health & Wellness, and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. As we work together, we form friendships and learn from each other...after all, we are all from someplace else and we have unique experiences and interests to share.



Rotonda West Woman's Club Tonette Choral Group

The group performed Christmas Carols at the Christmas meeting.

A festive time was had by all!

The January 20th General Meeting will feature Arts & Crafts items created and displayed by our members. The February 17th "Hearts Afire" Meeting will be sponsored by the Health & Wellness Community Service Program. Wear **RED**!

You are invited! Please visit and see if you would like to join the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club.

General meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, September through May in the RWA Activity Building.

Times: 9:00 a.m. Social Hour

10:00 a.m. General Meeting



GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS



Hosted by
MR. TRIVIA Jim Wasowski

Tuesday, January 25, 2022
6-8 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 pm

\$15 PER PERSON

Teams forming now or join some new friends on Trivia night!

ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CENTER

\$100 FIRST PRIZE

\$50 SECOND PRIZE

For tickets contact Jennifer Cope **816-678-4045**

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT,
HEALTH AND WELLNESS, and
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS.**

GET RID OF OLD PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS!!

WE ARE HAVING A “SHRED IT DAY”

WHEN: SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH 9 a.m.-Noon

WHERE: 646 Rotonda Circle, Parking Lot of RWA Offices

WHY: Bring all documents you want to shred. Items may be stapled, rubber-banded, or spiral bound. You may bring your papers in any container. You will get container back.

No 3-ring binders or metal clips.

**HOW: Easy route in and out; people to help you unload;
Food Drive for St. David's Episcopal Church in Englewood**

**SPONSORS: Englewood Bank & Trust; Arnold Insurance;
and Michael Saunders Realty, Amy Gonzales**

**Put on by the Community Outreach Committee and chaired
by Lynn Smith**

ATTENTION: EARLY ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS!

**WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER WOULD LOVE TO SHARE
YOUR EARLY MEMORIES OF ROTONDA WEST!**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY OLD PICTURES OR SHORT STORIES
ABOUT THE EARLY DAYS IN ROTONDA THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS.**

**SEND QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, STORIES, OR PICTURES
TO: westways@rotondawest.org.**

**Editor will be glad to help you in any way needed*

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

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