

# WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

APRIL 2022



PUBLISHED BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION FOR ROTONDA WEST PROPERTY OWNERS.  
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**Rotonda West 50th Anniversary**  
**1972-2022**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Rotonda West,

Happy 50th Anniversary to us! What started as an idea to create a mixed-use planned community, very rare back then, is now celebrating its golden anniversary. Our homeowners' association, the predecessor of which was the Rotonda West Waterways Association, started in 1990, with our first President, Robert Underwood. Therefore, it is actually the 32nd anniversary of the homeowner's association this year.

Please take the time to have a look in the Community Center at all the historical information on display and say a word of thanks to our pioneers who dared to take Rotonda from a vision to a reality.

We hope that you come to our spectacular Broadmoor Park and Community Center on April 30th and enjoy the "Celebrate the Circle" Family Fun Day that our Community Outreach Committee and volunteers have planned for all ages. There will be food, games, fun, some great historical information, and music. It will be a special time for us as a community to get together and celebrate our community.



Early Rotonda West

*Patricia Aho*

RWA Board President

# APRIL 2022

**April 7th, Thursday**

**OPEN HOUSE 6-8 p. m.**

**A chance to meet and talk to the various Rotonda West committees, clubs, and organizations.**

**Held in the Community Center at Broadmoor Park**

**April 24th, Sunday**

**MUSIC IN THE PARK 6:30-8 p.m. An Encore Performance!**

**Jonny Puma and his acoustic guitar**

**On the lawn behind the Community Center**

**April 29th, Friday**

**ARBOR DAY Planting of the Volunteer Live Oak Tree**

**April 30th, Saturday**

**CELEBRATE THE CIRCLE 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Held inside the Community Center, and in Broadmoor Park**

# MAY 2022

**May 15th, Sunday**

**BINGO 1-3 p.m. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.)**

**Held inside the Community Center**

### **OFFICE STAFF**

**Derrick Hedges,**  
Manager

**Tammy Birdsong,**  
Administrator

**Holly Carr, &  
Nancy Schwechel,**  
Administrators  
Deed Restrictions

**Penny Hanson,**  
Bookkeeper

**Annette Casteel**  
Minutes Clerk

**Sheryl Ann Nowicki**  
Administrator

**Joe Harris,**  
Communications  
Specialist

**Mike Heincelman, &  
Matt Rooney**  
Compliance Officers

### **MAINTENANCE STAFF**

**Lamar Higdon**  
Maintenance  
Supervisor

**Wayne Taylor**

**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

Les Goodman, Director

### **WEST WAYS STAFF**

Nadine Clough, Editor

Karen Harvey, Writer

Barry Kean, Writer

Connie Smith, Writer

David Pulaski, Photographer

Wayne Mengel, Photographer

Nadine Clough, Layout & Design





## **ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Sitting left to right: Sam Besase (Treasurer), Patricia Aho (President)  
Patti Cowin (1st Vice President), Jerry Eldred (Secretary)

Standing left to right: David Kelly (Director), Andy VanScyoc (Director),  
Les Goodman (Director)

Photo: Deb Orchard

**ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**646 Rotonda Circle**

**Rotonda West, Florida 33947**

**Tel: (941) 697-6788**

**Fax: (941) 697-0788**

**Email: [info@rotondawest.org](mailto:info@rotondawest.org)**

# WILDLIFE SUB-COMMITTEE ELIMINATED

By: Barry Kean

The Rotonda West Association Board of Directors, at its March 24 meeting, bid adieu to the Wildlife Committee in either Committee or Subcommittee form, dissolving the existing Wildlife Subcommittee and rejecting a motion to restore Wildlife to full Committee status.

Originally a Committee reporting directly to the Board, Wildlife was changed to Subcommittee status in last year's reorganization and made a part of the Building and Grounds Committee. This move proved controversial at the time and, together with disagreements regarding the marking of gopher tortoise burrows on private property, resulted in the resignation of several committee members.

The issue came to a head at the March 24 Board meeting when Director Patti Cowin made a motion to restore Wildlife to full Committee status. After seconding and discussion, the motion was defeated on a roll call vote, four to three, Directors Cowin, Eldred and Van Scyoc voting yes and Directors Aho, Besase, Goodman and Kelly voting no. At an earlier board meeting in 2022, the Board had debated and voted on a motion to change its status back to a committee. The motion did not prevail at that time as well.

Later in the meeting Director Sam Besase, on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which he chairs, made a motion to dissolve the Wildlife Subcommittee. After seconding and discussion, this motion was approved on a roll call vote, four to three, Directors Aho, Besase, Goodman and Kelly voting yes and Directors Cowin, Eldred and Van Scyoc voting no.

There has been talk of reorganizing the Wildlife function as a club or nonprofit organization, and these possibilities were mentioned at the Board meeting, but it is unclear at present whether this will happen, who would bring it about (this would not be an official RWA activity), or the extent to which such a group could duplicate the activities, such as public presentations on wildlife related topics, of the old Wildlife Committee. This is a developing story – rely on West Ways to keep you informed.



# **FIND SOMETHING TO DO AT THE ROTONDA OPEN HOUSE**

By: Connie Smith

New to Rotonda and wondering what's going on? Been here a while and wondering what's new? The answers you're looking for may be found at the Rotonda Open House, April 7th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Broadmoor Park Community Center.

Rotonda West HOA committees, clubs, groups, churches and some county offices will be represented.

Want to do your part to ensure the safety of your property and your neighbors'? Representatives of the Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch will be on hand to tell you how they assist local law enforcement or to sign you up for duty! Love it when colored lights twinkle everywhere over the winter holidays? The Holiday Decorations group will be represented to get you involved. Ever wonder what goes on at those monthly Meet and Greet events? This will be your chance to find out when the next one will be! And if you've moved into a deed restricted community without understanding exactly what that means, a representative of that committee will be there to provide answers. If you want to write for the West Ways Newsletter, editor Nadine Clough will be there to discuss your journalistic aspirations!

Organizer Patti Cowin of the RWA Community Outreach Committee has planned a clever participation game that may win you a Rotonda memento. See you April 7!



## **MUSIC IN THE PARK PERFORMANCES**



**March 31st 6:30-8 p.m.**

**Doug White and Friends**

**This presentation featured a drummer, keyboardist, and Doug on woodwinds (sax, clarinet and/or flute). Many favorites were played including some soulful jazz, older tunes, and 60's and 70's music. An involved crowd of approximately 75 people had a nice evening of music and sang along to their personal favorites.**



### **COMING IN APRIL!**

**Music In the Park**

**April 24th Sunday 6:30-8**

**Jonny Puma and his acoustic guitar**

**Encore Performance! Halleluiah!! And other great songs by artists: James Taylor, Willie Nelson, Allman Brothers,**

**Janis Joplin and more. Bring your chairs, drinks, snacks, and bug spray and join us on the lawn behind the Community Center**



Jonny Puma on guitar.  
Photo by Dave Pulaski





# CELEBRATE



GAMES

KIDS ZONE

BOUNCY  
HOUSE

FACE  
PAINTING

HISTORY  
CENTER

**ROTONDA WEST 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY PARTY!  
COME JOIN US  
FOR FAMILY FUN DAY!  
4/30/22 11am-3pm  
COMMUNITY CENTER AND  
BROADMOOR PARK**

MUSIC

TWO FOOD TRUCKS!  
STREET FRESH  
SAUSAGE EXPRESS

# THE CIRCLE



**JOIN US FOR  
FAMILY FUN DAY!  
CELEBRATE THE CIRCLE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ROTONDA WEST  
4/30/22 11 AM-3 PM**



The Community Outreach Committee has put together an exciting, fun-filled slate of events for Rotonda West residents to enjoy. Taking place inside the Community Center and at various locations at Broadmoor Park, there will be exhibits, games, food, and music for all ages. Come and join us and help celebrate the first 50 years of history and people that have made Rotonda West a special place to live.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Want to help out? We need people to help with:

- Setting up
- Welcome table
- Kids Zone
- Games
- Monitor Bounce House
- Cupcake Challenge
- Rotonda "Store"
- Water and Chip Station
- Monitor "Rest Tent"
- History Center

**TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:**

Deb Orchard

[communityoutreachcommittee@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreachcommittee@rotondawest.org)

Karen Harvey [kj2team@gmail.com](mailto:kj2team@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Committee

# ROTONDA CELEBRATES THE VOLUNTEERS THAT ADD SO MUCH QUALITY OF LIFE

Article by: Connie Smith

Photos by: Dave Pulaski

Rotonda West looked back, Sunday night, March 27, on volunteers that made the community work in 2021. The Volunteer Appreciation Night event was sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee.



L to R: Karen Harvey, Deb Orchard, and Lynn Smith

Committee Co-Chair Karen Harvey thanked those present “for all you do and the hours you have given to Rotonda West and your commitment to our slice of paradise.” Noting that paid homeowner association staff could never provide such services as investigating and considering nearly 3,000 annual residential modification applications on a timely basis; plan and execute the Christmas parade or communitywide holiday decorations; nor plan for or executing fair and impartial elections, Harvey added, “Rotonda West is a far better place because of your efforts.”

Homeowners Association Board of Directors President Patricia Aho recognized the community’s 50 years of existence. “There have been 50 years of volunteers before us,” she said. “The Rotonda West Association began in 1990, so the HOA is 32 years old. The first association president was Robert Underwood.” Noting there were two former board presidents in attendance and many former directors, she added, “thank you for your service, your commitment and your love of this community.”



West Ways Editor Nadine

Clough announced that on Arbor Day, April 29, a Southern Live Oak will be planted in Broadmoor Park along the walking path on the pond next to the community center. In dual recognition of Rotonda’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its volunteer heritage, Clough said a future plaque will designate the plant as the Giving Oak Tree. She stated that, “Volunteering is a self-less act, much like planting a tree. You do it for the future good it will bring.”



L to R: John Harvey, BOD President Patricia Aho, and Ron Aho



Rotonda West Manager Derrick Hedges also thanked the volunteers present for “all the time and all of the money you save us. You really have made my job so much easier.”

2021 being a year of Covid, committee and some event chairs were called to the podium to recognize the volunteers who made their efforts a success. Some had more to say than others:

Stan Plizga, Aquatics Committee chair, said his committee has been active since 2007, providing a lot of expertise and knowledge about water quality in the canals and ponds in Rotonda. A documentary he is hoping to compile will preserve the committee’s work.

Sam Besase is Buildings and Grounds chair and board liaison to the Budget and Finance Committee. Budget and Finance chair Tom D’Abrosca said among the committee’s focus is income statements, collections, foreclosures, liens and HOA assessments. “We’re off to a good start this year. We’re a healthy organization,” he said.

Barb Peszko took over the Compliance Committee in 2021 after the loss of chair Richard Duggan. “That was the hardest to deal with,” she said sadly. “We had 11 meetings. After being fined, our committee would hear the residents’ complaints; most of the time it had to do with deed restrictions.”

Barb Peszko also is chair of the Residential Modification Committee that meets twice per month and heard 1,944 applications for modifications to residential structures in Rotonda West in 2021. “I’m sure it could have been 2,944,” she said wryly, “but it’s getting better. More people are learning they need to apply.”



Enjoying a well-deserved celebration.



Past BOD President and long-time volunteer, Nick Gizzi (center) and his wife, Katherine (right)

Les Goodman, chair of the Deed Restrictions Committee recited a long list of topics his committee has researched, attempting to reconcile Residential Modification Guidelines with Deed Restriction Guidelines so that they are not in conflict. Among the topics the committee has explored is sign restrictions, vehicle parking in swales, flags, and recreational vehicle parking. He acknowledged his committee members: “we’ve had a busy year. My team has done a lot of research and they always come to meetings prepared.”



After 2021, the Activities Committee (chaired by Deb Orchard) and the Communications Committee (chaired by Karen Harvey) merged into the Community Outreach Community co-chaired by Orchard and Harvey. Orchard recounted how after COVID, an Activities Committee of nearly all new members continued on with the Christmas parade, gazebo lighting and holiday decorating, bingo, shred event and music in the park. The Communications Committee, although small, published online 12 editions of the West Ways newsletter. The 2021 West Ways writers were: Barry Kean, Connie Smith, Diane Shaw, and Karen Harvey. West Ways photographers were Dave Pulaski and Wayne Mengel. When the two committees merged in 2022, they added 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration events to the regular activities in Rotonda.

Elections Committee Chair Patricia Aho said her committee worked to update election guidelines, compiled outreach materials, held candidate workshops, information nights to introduce candidates to residents and “conducted an HOA election that was impartial and fair to everyone who wished to run.”

Cari Hale, Wildlife Committee chair, said she was proud of the projects her group undertook in Broadmoor Park, including eradication of invasive Brazilian pepper vegetation and the planting of some 60 plants and trees as replacement habitation and restoration. Noting the committee is ending, Hale said, “It has been a privilege and our service to this community is something I am very proud of.”

Also recognized during the evening were volunteers who have served 20+, 15+, 10+ and 5+ years in Rotonda West.



L to R: Meghan Hedges, John Pesko, Barb Pesko, Derrick Hedges,



Clockwise from Wade (blue shirt) & Annette Castell, Paulette Adams, John & Karen Harvey, Pattie & Ron Aho



L to R: Bob Clough, Nadine Clough, Cheryl LaTeer, Nelson LaTeer



Traveling 50th Anniversary Banner  
2nd Banner is hanging in Community Center

# **LIVE OAK DEDICATION TO ALL VOLUNTEERS**

**By: Nadine Clough**



At the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on March 27th, a Southern Live Oak tree was dedicated to the many volunteers, both past and present, who have contributed their time and energy to making Rotonda West a special place to live. The Live Oak presentation and planting is part of this year's celebration of Rotonda West's 50th Anniversary. A plaque will also be displayed at the location of the tree to honor the volunteers and to officially name the tree, "The Giving Oak Tree".

Rotonda West, is fortunate to have people who give of themselves in so many ways. From the Board of Directors, to committee members, to people who organize clubs, to those who help out with special projects, they all are as important to the health of our community. Volunteers are indeed the roots of a strong community.

The southern live oak tree was selected because it is a native tree to Florida, and because of its strength and staying power. It will be planted on Arbor Day, April 29th, with the above mentioned plaque to follow at a later date.

Some interesting facts about the live oak:

- The live oak is the broadest spreading of the oaks, producing much shade
- Live oaks can live for hundreds of years. One of the oldest being the Seven Sisters Oak tree in Louisiana, believed to be over 1,000 years old.
- The name live oak comes from the fact that they remain green and "alive" throughout the winter when other oak trees are dormant and leafless
- The U.S.S. Constitution was nicknamed "Old Ironsides" because British cannon balls bounced off it. The ship had a hull made of live oak trees.

Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee for sponsoring the live oak tree, to the RWA for funding it, and to Rotonda West Manager Derrick Hedges who helped to make it happen.

## FOOD DRIVE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Help those who need some assistance in feeding their families in Englewood by dropping off some food and personal hygiene donations during the Food Drive on Saturday, April 2nd from 11 am to 2 pm at the Rotonda West Community Center parking lot, 646 Rotonda Circle. The Food Drive will benefit Englewood Helping Hand and the Jubilee Center.

Non-perishable food items, canned goods, pasta, pasta sauce, toilet paper, bar soap, and ramen products are all gladly accepted. It's contactless; just place your donations in your car trunk and volunteers will unload them. Cash donations are also gladly accepted. If you would like to volunteer for this event, or have questions, contact: Steve Reed at 239-300-8029 or email Steve at [steve@havemysunshine.com](mailto:steve@havemysunshine.com)

Thanks!

Karen W. Harvey



## PETS OF THE MONTH



### ROTONDA WEST SNOOPERS

Left: Noodles -

Male, Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Age 9

Right: Genevieve-

Female, Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Age 7

Owned by: Eugene Lerner, Rotonda Circle

Send a picture of your pet, along with a description, and what makes them funny or special, along with your name to:

[westways@rotondawest.org](mailto:westways@rotondawest.org)



**ROTONDA UKULELE BAND  
PERFORMS AT  
BOOKDALE SENIOR  
LIVING FACILITY  
FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**Story and Pictures by:  
Nadine Clough**



Brookdale residents enjoying the music



The Rotonda Ukulele Band getting ready to play

Rotonda West's own ukulele band visited the Brookdale Senior Living Facility on Rotonda Blvd. West to share some Irish cheer and lively music with the residents. The group played for an hour to a wonderful and receptive group at Brookdale. Many clapped and some sang along to a selection of old tunes and Irish ballads.

The ukulele group was approached after the Christmas Parade and asked to come and play for the people at Brookdale. After a couple months of unexpected delays, the day finally came for the performance. Twelve members of the group shared their time and talent with the residents and it was warmly received. Both the ukulele players and the people at Brookdale all enjoyed themselves tremendously.

The Rotonda Ukulele Band meets on Monday, at 2 p.m. in the Rotonda West Community Center. All levels are welcome!

Contact: Nadine Clough (group leader) with questions. [cloughnadine381@gmail.com](mailto:cloughnadine381@gmail.com)





## **GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.**

**Donna Krabbe, Former President**



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is a proud member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. GFWC is one of the world's oldest and largest women's service organizations dedicated to community involvement through volunteer service. Individual clubs set their own agendas and work on projects and programs that address the specific needs of their communities.

Our Community Service Programs regularly support several unique programs within Englewood and Charlotte County. On a monthly basis, a group of our members volunteer at Englewood Helping Hand as part of our Civic engagement and Outreach Program.



In February, the Education and Libraries Program assisted with the Englewood & Charlotte County Library Princess Tea Party. Also, over Spring Break for local students, we provided snacks and new books for the Library's Read and Feed Program.



On March 19th, after a COVID delay of two years and four days, we were finally able to present our “annual” Fashion Show and Luncheon to raise funds for local out-reach donations such as the Englewood Community Care Clinic and Meals on Wheels.

Our six book clubs will be holding their joint annual Spring Luncheon in early April and, at that time, a Wine and Chocolate Basket Opportunity Drawing will be held to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

In May, we will be “Walking to Remember” each day as we pause to consider the true meaning of Memorial Day.



Visit with us during the RWA Open House evening on Thursday, April 8th. We'll bake cookies for you! We need to stay in practice for our Fall Bazaar and Christmas Tea.

The April General Meeting will be held on the third Thursday of the month, April 21st. The meeting will be sponsored by our Civic Engagement and Outreach Service Program with a presentation by Guardian ad Litem. Social hour from 9-10 am. Business meeting from 10-10:30 am. For more information, visit [www.gfwcrotondawest.org](http://www.gfwcrotondawest.org).



**STOP!**  
**LET'S BE CLEAR-**  
**ROTONDA NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**WATCH**  
**IS NOT RELATED TO COMPLIANCE**  
**ISSUES!**



Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch has been supporting our community since 1981. Neighborhood Watch looks after your safety NOT compliance issues, so when you see our flashing yellow lights at night, know that it is not RWA but Neighborhood Watch patrolling. We are affiliated with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, not the RWA. We are all residents too.

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please visit:

<https://www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com/>

**THANK YOU!**

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**TO ALL ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS,**

Have you signed up for the  
Rotonda West Association Website yet?

**ALLOWS YOU TO:**

- Keep up to date on Rotonda's events & news
  - Have the ability to vote online
- Have the ability to pay assessments online
  - Receive West Ways each month

Sign yourself up and help a neighbor sign up too!