

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

MAY 2022



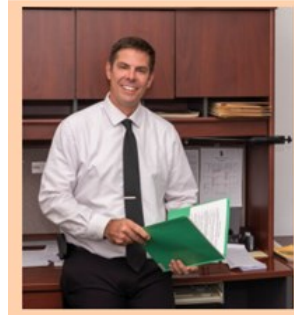
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LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE!

MANAGER'S MESSAGE	Pg. 2	LOVING EARLY ROTONDA HOMES	Pgs. 12-14
SPECIAL EVENTS	Pg. 3	CANDIDATES NEEDED!	Pg. 15
BOD MEMBERS & STAFF	Pg. 4	MSBU HISTORY /NEWS	Pgs. 16-19
TO HONOR AND REMEMBER	Pg. 6	A STORY OF JACK, THE DOG	Pg. 19
PHOTOGRAPHER STEPS IN	Pg. 7	GIVING TREE DEDICATION	Pg. 20
FRANK LEVIN'S LECTURE	Pg. 8	PETS OF THE MONTH	Pg. 21
MUSIC IN THE PARK	Pg. 9	AQUATICS LAKEWATCH MTG.	Pg. 22
CELEBRATE THE CIRCLE	Pgs. 10-11	WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS	Pg. 23

Rotonda West 50th Anniversary
1972-2022

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Fifty years ago the vision of our home and community of Rotonda commenced. Many of the aspects that contribute to our wonderful community and make Rotonda a great place to live would not have occurred without the help of the many volunteers that Rotonda West Association is so fortunate to have.

Our volunteers strive to protect, maintain, and enhance the assets of our association. The Rotonda West Association has many committees and events throughout the year that allow our members to be involved. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Rotonda West Association Administration Office to see how you too can volunteer.

Many devoted volunteers put their energy and enthusiasm into making our Rotonda West Association community the best it can be, helping our community continue to flourish. Volunteers are an integral part of any association. The work that is performed by our volunteers saves the association money and helps keep members association assessment dues down.

Before becoming the RWA Manager, I was naïve about all the arduous work, dedication, and excitement our volunteers contribute to our community week in and week out. Having been a great part of that process, it has been an absolute pleasure working with all of our wonderful hard-working volunteers. What I love most about working with our volunteers is how incredibly dedicated and witty they are with some of the greatest personalities and senses of humor. Our volunteers share the same ideals of keeping Rotonda beautiful and a place where individuals want to visit and to live. I have gained a lot of life and work experience working side by side with our volunteers that you cannot get anywhere else.

As we plant the Giving Oak Trees on Arbor Day in honor of our hardworking volunteers, I just want to say, "Thank you". The Rotonda West Association would not be what it is, or where it is, and our community would not have accomplished so much if it were not for our hardworking Board of Directors as well as our volunteers.



MAY 2022

MAY 15TH, SUNDAY

BINGO! 1-3 p.m (Doors open at 12:30)

Held inside the Community Center

Month of May (Until May 29th)

COME WALK WITH US TO HONOR AND REMEMBER

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club invites you to walk any or all days in May. This is not an organized walk. It is a personal, quiet tribute by you at any time. Sign-up sheets will be provided at Broadmoor Park and in RWA Library.

See page 6 of this issue for more details.

MONDAY, MAY 30th MEMORIAL DAY

RWA Offices are closed



Non-venomous Black Racer Snake, peeking out of a flower pot.

Picture by: Karen Potts

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

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Patti Cowin, 1st Vice President

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David Kelly, Director

Andy VanScyoc, Director

Les Goodman, Director

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Diane Shaw, 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

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COME WALK WITH US TO **HONOR AND REMEMBER** THOSE WHO SERVED AND OFFERED THEIR LIVES SO THAT WE MAY LIVE IN FREEDOM. IN THE MEMORIAL MONTH OF MAY **GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB** INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE AND REKINDLE THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT OF MEMORIAL DAY BY WALKING ANY OR EACH DAY IN MAY TO **HONOR AND REMEMBER** A VETERAN.

This is not an organized walk, but a personal, quiet tribute by you at any time. Sign in sheets will be provided at Broadmoor Park and in the RWA Library inside the Community Center. Just sign your name and add the Veteran's name for whom you are walking. Distance does not matter; it's the memory that counts.

On Sunday, May 29th, we will count the number of Veteran's names recorded and quietly plant a memorial garden of American Flags that will be seen at the driveway to Broadmoor Park on the morning of Memorial Day. You may also place a Veteran's name on the list of those honored, or to receive a sign-in sheet of your own to record your own walks and Veterans, please email a request to: kathryngal@yahoo.com

Rotonda West Association

Phone (941) 697-6788
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, Florida 33947

West Ways Photographer Helps Fight Fire at the Castaways Condominiums in Englewood

By: Nadine Clough



David W Pulaski

On Friday April 1st, a fire started in the Castaways Condominiums in Englewood. According to Battalion Chief Raymond Reese, the fire broke out in the kitchen of a ground floor apartment. The guests staying in the apartment used their extinguishers and managed to slow down the progress of the fire.

Rotonda residents Dave and Wanda Pulaski rented a Castaways unit for a week vacation on Manasota Key. As they were unpacking on Friday, Dave smelled smoke and asked if Wanda was cooking something. Below is Dave's account of the incident:

I opened up the door to the deck and was met with a wall of thick smoke from below us. I ran down the stairs and saw smoke flowing out from the door of the first-floor unit. The door frame siding was already melting. I do not remember the doorknob being warm. I cracked the door open a bit and looked in. The stove, cabinets, stove vent were a wall of big scary flames. The ceiling had started to burn.

I broke the glass case that held a fire extinguisher outside the units, and pulled the extinguisher pin. I then ran into the unit to fight the fire. I know, ludicrous, right? I hit the flames around the stove and vent, cabinets, then stuck the extinguisher hose up the stove vent. I attacked the fire several times as other guests formed a water bucket line to fight the fire until the firefighters got there.

It was quite scary! The Englewood Fire Department arrived already fully outfitted and immediately they drenched that black mess. Smoke gone. Impressive! Battalion Chief Reese said the guests did a really good job of containing the fire.

Great job Dave!

FRANK LEVIN'S LECTURE LIFE-LONG LEARNING

On Wednesday, April 20th, Professor Frank Levin, a retired Brown University physics professor, presented an hour and a half lecture on what he titled, "The Impossible Behavior of Light". Like his RWA courses on cosmology and global warming, the lecture was geared for persons with neither a math nor science background, just an interest in the topic, and the belief in the importance of being a life-long learner.

The following is a overview of what was presented:

In 1905, Albert Einstein showed that light must be composed of particles, since it was the only way to explain the "photoelectric effect," where light impinging on a metal ejected electrons from it.

This contradicted the long-held premise that light was a wave phenomenon, as first shown by Thomas Young in 1804, since it was the only way to explain the "two slit interference pattern" which contained two slits.

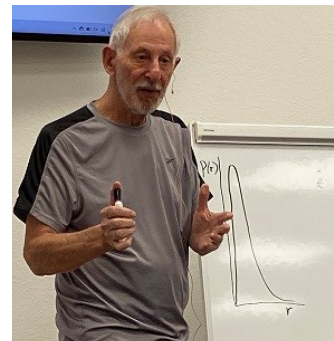
These two ways of describing light are incompatible, not only because neither can explain the other's phenomenon, but also because particles are tiny objects with a unique location and mass.

Whereas a wave has neither a unique location nor mass and is an oscillation in a medium of some kind such as water or a musical instrument string.

How can light actually be one or the other or both at the same time?! This question was discussed by Professor Levin and an answer was provided.

Professor Frank Levin

Lecturing on the beauty and behavior of light at the RWA Community Center



Why is this page colored in this manner? Did you figure it out?

MUSIC IN THE PARK PERFORMANCE

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

On Thursday, April 28th, Jonny Puma and his acoustic guitar returned for an encore performance behind the Community Center in Broadmoor Park. About 200 people enjoyed the event put on by the Community Outreach Committee, and emceed by Deb Orchard.



Jonny Puma on guitar.
Photo by Dave Pulaski

The much appreciated performance hit the mark with such favorites as Halleluiah, Tennessee Whiskey, and many other great songs by artists such as Ricky Nelson, James Taylor, Willie Nelson, & Neil Young.

This was the last Music in the Park performance for the summer season, but this well-received event will be back in the fall. See you then!



ROTONDA RESIDENTS CELEBRATE THE CIRCLE! 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTONDA WEST



The Community Outreach Committee 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 were exhibits, games, food, and music for all ages. Hope you joined us and helped to celebrate the first 50 years of history and people that have made Rotonda West a special place to live.



Many Rotonda residents enjoyed the 50th Anniversary festivities held on April 30th. Thank you to the Community Outreach Committee!



**THANK YOU SPONSORS
FOR SUPPORTING ROTONDA'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!**



THERE WAS A LOT TO LOVE ABOUT HOMES IN EARLY ROTONDA WEST

By Connie Smith

Danica Harris and her husband Harold were one of those fast-moving purchasers that bought one of the first 100 lots in Rotonda West back about 1971 and earned a free swimming pool.

Harold loved Florida so as soon as he was able to retire, they moved into their

home on Caddy Road in 1975 and enjoyed their life until the day it rained 16 inches and their Oakland Hills home flooded. Harold vowed, “never again.” He selected a lot on a hill in the Pebble Beach section of Rotonda and the couple moved in 1998. Sadly, Harold died just four years later. The Pebble Beach home may be protected from flooding, but to Danica’s mind, that original home on Caddy Road in Rotonda West’s historic Oakland Hills, is the better structure.



Danica prefers their first home on Caddy Rd. She thought Rotonda’s historic Oakland Hills section had better streets and was very nice.

Born in Vaganac, Croatia, and raised in the capital city of Zagreb, Danica Nikolic was the youngest of 11 children. One of her older brothers had moved to the U.S. years before. He had a successful cabinet shop in Chicago with nearly 50 employees and their mother decided another of the children needed to go to America so he wouldn’t be alone. Danica was chosen although she spoke no English. It took her six years to get a passport to travel to the United States. While most immigrants are envisioned as arriving by boat, Danica laughs as she says, “you know how I got here? I landed in Chicago on a 747!”

After all, it was the late 1960s and trouble with her successful brother began from the start. “I hadn’t seen him since I was eight years old. We had a difference of opinion,” she laughs. “He must have expected me to arrive wearing a babushka,” she scoffs at the memory. “I was wearing high heels.” Although her brother may have been expecting the spirited Danica to work for him, she had her green card and preferred to work as a waitress, learning English as she could and maintaining her independence.

Danica’s English improved gradually and after nearly a year and a half in the restaurant, she became partial to a customer whose name was Harold Harris. Harold was from Indiana. A World War II veteran, Danica thanks God that he survived the D-Day invasion at Normandy, of which he was a part. He also came from a large family – he was one of 12 children.

The couple eventually married and enjoyed vacationing in Florida. In 1970 they took a 6-week vacation to Englewood and heard about the Rotonda project. “The next year, we said, ‘let’s go see Rotonda’. We saw it and we liked what we saw.”

“I wish a copy of the model they had of Rotonda still existed,” Danica said. “It was gorgeous. It had a revolving restaurant. Every house had two palms in front. Electric wires were underground. Every house had a tile roof. The model was just a marvel. Every house was a model and every model had a name. Our model was the Doral. It had two bedrooms and two baths and was nice and compact. Because we were one of the first 100, we got a free pool. They tried to offer us something else but we said we wanted the pool.”



Danica and Harold
Wedding Picture

When it was suggested that her newer home in Pebble Beach might be better, Danica is far from convinced. “I tell you, when it’s nice and cool, (the Oakland Hills house) is planned so that the nice breeze blows through the whole house,” she says. “Oakland Hills has nicer streets.” She adds, “Oakland Hills is very nice.”

Danica’s eyes light up when she recalls the fun of the Superstars events in Rotonda West. Danica lived across the street from Billie Dodd who had gotten her involved in the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Rotonda West (GFWC-RWWC) that provided donuts and coffee daily for the Superstars competition. She recalls the fan favorite, O.J. Simpson as “winning all the time” – he won the overall competition in 1975 – and as being “real nice to the kids.” As friendly, cooperative and ready with the autograph as O.J. was, a certain baseball star was the opposite. “He was mean to the kids; he wouldn’t sign autographs. They threw him in the pool,” she recalls. She also recalls seeing tennis great Martina Navratilova in Rotonda West. Ed McMahon? She never met him, but did see him in Publix.

Danica and Harold learned what the Superstars meant to Rotonda West. Later, while in Las Vegas at a show, they struck up a conversation with some people from Switzerland. When they told the Europeans they were from Rotonda West, they replied, “Oh! Superstars!”



Right: Harold Harris stands at the entry to their Oakland Hills home on Caddy Road.

When she first moved to Rotonda, Danica said she would often find 776 blocked by cows. She recalls that “Englewood used to hate Rotonda because Englewood had carports and one bathroom. The homes in Rotonda West all had garages and two bathrooms!”

Harold and Danica were friends with Joe and Inge Tringali – Joe Tringali was a founder of the Rotonda West Property Owners Association, eventually a Charlotte County commissioner, and the Tringali Center on 776 that houses a library and recreation center memorializes his service to the area. Danica and Inge often played tennis together. Over the years she has been active in Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Neighborhood Watch, Meals on Wheels, of course the Women’s Club and the American Legion.



Danica and Harold Harris

As Rotonda celebrates the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Oakland Hills neighborhood park, it is Danica that oversees the cookies that everyone enjoys, although she gives the credit to the Women’s Club that donates the cookies and the Hills Country Club that donates the tables, hot chocolate and table settings. She still works at Beall’s. Now she says she’s lazy and it’s time for the younger generation to take their turn, although they will need a lot of energy to keep up with Danica Harris.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

SUNDAY, MAY 8th 2022

TO MOMS EVERYWHERE,

WE WISH A SPECIAL DAY FULL OF LOVE

AND APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOU HAVE

DONE FOR YOUR FAMILY.



CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR NEXT ELECTION CYCLE!



Have you considered becoming a candidate for the Rotonda West Board of Directors? This year, 2 seats will be up for election. The election term is for December 2022 through December 2025.

There are several actions dates that you need to be aware.

Friday, July 15 at 9:45 a.m. is a Candidate Workshop. It will be available live by Zoom and recorded and on RWA Elections Website. This workshop is intended to familiarize candidates with all the information needed to file a notice of intent to become a candidate. All candidate documents need to be **filed by 12:01 p.m. on Friday, August 12, 2022.**

Get all the facts and information from a committee member or if you have any burning question, 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





MSBU (Municipal Service Benefit Unit)

History of an Important Agency



Written by: Diane Shaw

Once upon a time, there was no Rotonda West Association-no homeowners association. In the late 1970's, before the Property Owner's Association (POA) was established, Rotonda West was undergoing an awkward phase in its development. There was a lot of disappointment among lot owners and residents about the developer's failure to maintain the waterways and drainage system. Lawsuits ensued.

To quote Jack Alexander's book, The Vision and the Reality:

In its twenty-fifth year, the community lacked a trusted controlling authority. Property values were declining, and it was drifting dispiritedly, embroiled in litigation, with unmaintained landscaping, uncertain utility services, inadequate amenities and unfulfilled promises about golf courses and waterways. Even the county was shying away from assuming responsibility for Rotonda's disintegrating roads and bridges."

During this phase, the fledgling POA recognized that they did not want the responsibility of maintaining the canals, common areas and streets. In February of 1990, they decided to form an MSTU (Municipal Service Taxing Unity) which would turn over these responsibilities to the county. Later, the MSTU was renamed Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU).

In time, the POA regretted the formation of the MSTU, but by then it was too late. Today, Rotonda West has a Streets and Drainage MSBU which is governed by a board of five residents of Rotonda West. MSTU's and MSBU's are unique to the State of Florida.

The original idea was to enable residents to control how their non ad valorem taxes/ assessments were to be spent. Non ad valorem assessments are those that are not based on the value of your property.

Our Streets and Drainage MSBU is an entity of the Public Works Department of Charlotte County. The ordinance that created it, limits it to management of the streets and drainage of Rotonda West. Today we are still responsible for maintenance of our roads and drainage, but we do so through Charlotte County. Currently you pay \$445 in MSBU assessments yearly for this service

The Rotonda West MSBU Board met with the Community liaison, Kemberly Kelley on March 31st for their quarterly meeting. They discussed ongoing projects such as bridge repair, drainage remediation and street repaving. More in-depth information on these projects will follow on page 18 of this West Ways issue.



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 (in the future)
- Have the ability to pay assessments online
 - Receive West Ways each month

Sign yourself up and help a neighbor sign up too!

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR STREETS AND DRAINAGE MSBU? GLAD YOU ASKED

By: Diane Shaw

The Rotonda West MSBU board met with the Community Liaison, Kimberly Kelley on March 31st for their quarterly meeting. They discussed ongoing projects such as bridge repair, drainage remediation and street repaving.

Here is a synopsis of the status of those projects.

BRIDGE REPAIRS AND REPAVING: Rotonda West has 17 bridges that are the financial responsibility of this MSBU and 4 that are a county responsibility (gas tax). Over the next three years, they will be repaired to bring them up to state standards. Six bridges are expected to be repaired in the fiscal year 2022, another six bridges will be completed in fiscal year 2023, and five bridges to be completed in fiscal year 2024. The first two bridges to be repaired are located at White Marsh Road and Rotonda Circle and at Rotonda Blvd. South over the Rotonda river. All will have an approximately 50-year life expectancy. They are planned to be completed by 2025—the year that repaving of our streets will begin. The MSBU board will be meeting again to discuss possible changes in the rail design of the bridges as well as the aesthetics of the bridges. The date of the meeting has not been determined as of this writing.

DRAINAGE: In 2020, the Rotonda West association, the Rotonda Golf Partners, and Charlotte County completed years of negotiations regarding which entity was responsible for drainage remediation and how to gain access to each other's easements. It culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding which ceded most of the responsibilities for drainage remediation to Charlotte County. Ms. Kelley reported that Charlotte County is remediating drainage problems on a complaint-based basis. Work orders are generated by phone calls complaining about drainage. **She noted that drainage complaints made prior to the Memorandum of Understanding may need to be resubmitted because they might not have been submitted when they were received.**

The County is not performing back-yard swale grading at this time, however, if you have an issue, you may submit a complaint. Complaints should be made only after water has been standing without additional rain for more than 72 hours. Complaints may be called in to 941-575-3600.

Charlotte County does not own greenbelts and they do not maintain vegetation in them. Almost all the complaints about front yard swales have been remediated. Currently, they are working priority issues like sinkholes, road crossing pipes and side lot outfall pipes, backyard swales are low priority. They are also working on pipe-lining in several areas of Rotonda West.

The board chair, Nick Kotzalas, made a proposal to expend funds for “No Parking” signs to be used in the medians. This was discussed and approved 3 to 2 to receive additional information regarding how many signs would be needed, etc. Ms. Kelley noted the cost of each sign is approximately \$150. She further noted that this proposal would need to be added to the No Parking Ordinance and it would have to be approved by the board of County Commissioners.

There was extensive discussion of gas tax roads, impact fees, etc. The bottom line is that gas tax funding is low, and no new roads are likely to be added. Ms. Kelley stated that the county attorney’s office determined that some traffic calming devices cannot be funded by the MSBU. MSBUs cannot fund radar feedback, speed humps, etc. Enforcement of the law is the responsibility of the sheriff’s department.

Ms. Kelley encouraged the public to visit the Facebook page for Charlotte County Public Works. www.facebook.com/charlottecountypublicworks/



TRAGEDY AND GRATITUDE

A story of a dog named Jack, as told by Corrye Hatchell

On a Monday morning in April, some friends stopped by and I wanted to show them a pineapple growing outside our lanai. As I had my hand on the door handle to step outside, Jack, one of our two yorkies (Jack and Jill), ran through the doggie door. Jack immediately yelped and I knew he had been bitten. I opened the door and saw a rattlesnake exactly where I would have stepped!

Jack was paralyzed before he even got 15 feet away. My husband, Major, grabbed a rake and killed the snake. We rushed Jack to the emergency vet in Sarasota, but sadly Jack did not make it. Jack came home with us to be buried and memorialized by a small cross given by neighbors. Thoughtful friends in Virginia ordered solar powered “snake-away” units to be delivered to our home. Kindness helps at a time like this.

Jack had just turned 3 on April 4th, but his short life had not only brightened our life, but his action had probably saved me from a life-threatening snake bite. **Please be aware of your surroundings while outside, even in your yard. Be cautious with your pets.**



Major with
dead rattlesnake

Pictures by:
Dave Pulaski

THE GIVING TREE DEDICATION ON ARBOR DAY



Two live oak trees were dedicated in Broadmoor Park on Arbor Day, April 29th, to honor the many long-time volunteers who have helped make Rotonda West a great community to live in. It was an opportunity for all of us to say, "Thank you".

Speaking at the dedication were Patricia Aho, president of the RWA Board of Directors, and Nadine Clough, West Ways editor and member of the Community Outreach Committee. Both spoke to the importance of volunteering and the benefits to both the volunteer and to the community. Many long-time volunteers were in attendance at the dedication, which was followed by a small reception in the Community Center.

Many thanks to the BOD, to the Community Outreach Committee, to Derrick Hedges, and to the RWA staff for helping to make this event a reality. The trees are planted at Lake #4, which is to the right of the Community Center.



Nadine Clough



R to L: Les Goodman, Jerry Eldred, John House,
Sam Besase, Nadine Clough, Patricia Aho



Patricia Aho



A small reception followed in the
Community Center



Thank you to our volunteers!



Both beautiful dogs are owned
and loved by:

Dave and Traci Spialek
Pinehurst, Rotonda West



My name is Gnarly and I'm a 12 year-old Chocolate Lab. I enjoy lounging in the air-conditioned house. I'm getting to be an old man...however, I still like to play tug-o-war or fetch every now and then.

My name is Nova Star and I'm a two year old French Bulldog. We just moved here from Colorado. I love chasing lizards, riding on golf carts, and walking on sandy beaches. It sure beats the snow! I love getting attention and enjoy pup cups.

PETS OF THE MONTH



This is Oscar. He was paralyzed and his owner's took him to be euthanized. A fantastic rescue, Low Rider Dachshund Rescue saved him which allowed me to become his forever human! He is around 5 years old and is a miniature smooth dachshund.

Owners: Carrie Hale and Patti Cowin
Pinehurst Section

AQUATICS LAKEWATCH MEETING

Recap taken from Constant Contact Notice

Pictures By: Nadine Clough

The RWA's Aquatics Sub-committee sponsored a presentation by FLORIDA LAKEWATCH concerning the Rotonda canal system and the health of our lakes on Wednesday, April 27th at the RWA Community Center. Data reports were handed out to the Aquatics Committee members, and LAKEWATCH Director Mark Hoyer gave a presentation of the many ways LAKEWATCH data is used.

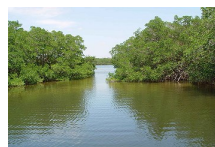
LAKEWATCH is part of the University of Florida and has a volunteer citizen program that facilitates "hands on" participation in managing lakes, rivers, canals and coastal sites through monthly monitoring activities. Rotonda West resident volunteers collect water samples from various points on the canal system. Volunteer groups throughout the state participate in the program including Lemon Bay Conservancy (Wildflower) and others in Southwest Florida.

Our canal samples are analyzed by LAKEWATCH at no charge for Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. Samplers also measure turbidity and depth. This data is used to monitor nutrient levels in our canals and the overall status of our canal system which is a vital part of Rotonda West. We have recently added two of the Broadmoor Park ponds to our sampling program.

If you have any questions, you may contact: John House 941-697-8030.



Above: Mark Hoyer makes LAKEWATCH presentation to full room.



Right: Dan Willis (blue shirt) handles sample pick-ups, training, and equipment needs. John House, RWA Aquatics Committee, in red shirt.



Presenter Mark Hoyer explaining scientific data findings.



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

Donna Krabbe, Former President



WHERE COMMUNITY SERVICE MEETS FRIENDSHIP!

Earth Day, April 22nd, was the perfect day for the Woman's Club Environment Community Service Program to get out and clean up our block! We selected the Tringali Center and Englewood/Charlotte Library grounds to "pick up trash" and make it an even more welcoming environment for students, neighbors and friends.



EARTHDAY 2022 – KEEP CHARLOTTE BEAUTIFUL and CLEAN UP YOUR BLOCK



At the Thursday, April 21st, General Meeting, our Civic Engagement Program rolled out our new partnership with the Guardian ad Litem Foundation of the 20th Judicial District. The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program is a statewide child advocacy program commissioned by statute to represent the best interests of abused, neglected or abandoned children who have been removed from their homes, due to no fault of their own, and placed under court supervision. GAL provides trained, court-certified volunteer child advocates to represent and monitor these children and to work toward a plan that ensures the children are ultimately in a safe, permanent home. Three of our club members are certified Guardian ad Litem Advocates.

Two GAL Ambassadors attended our April General Meeting to provide insight to the Guardian ad Litem Program, and they received our first donation of Bedtime Bags to be given to children as they enter foster care. The colorful, hand-made, draw-string bags contain age and size appropriate pajamas, hygiene items, a book and a comfort toy. Our members provided or hand-made all of the items and will continue to prepare a supply of Bedtime Bags for the Charlotte County GAL office on a quarterly basis.

The May General Meeting will be held on the third Thursday of the month, May 19th. The meeting will be the 48th Anniversary Celebration of Rotonda West Woman's Club. We will make presentations of season-end check donations to Englewood Community Care Clinic, Englewood Helping Hand, Meals on Wheels, Back Pack Kidz and Continuing Education Scholarships. Social hour from 9:00 to 10:00. Business meeting from 10 to 11:30. For more information, visit www.gfwcrotondawest.org You are invited to the Anniversary Celebration!