

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC

JULY 2023



PUBLISHED BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION FOR ROTONDA WEST PROPERTY OWNERS.
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DAMSEL IN DEFENSE AND AWARENESS

Story & Pictures by: Rita Lopienski

On 6/22, a small enthusiastic crowd came to the third of a series of Rotonda West Association's Emergency Preparedness programs, "Damsel in Defense". An ice cream social kicked off the event. Laura Fogarty presented the safety workshop that included a handout, exhibits of self-defense tools, raffle prize & information on how to protect, prepare and prevent.

The most important takeaway was:

Pay Attention to your surroundings & Be Prepared!

There are some sobering facts:

- * 1 in every 5 women are survivors of rape
- * 70% of sexual assaults occur before age 17
- * 1 in 3 experience partner domestic abuse
- * Violent crime occurs every 26 seconds
- * College-aged women are 4x more likely to be assaulted.

continued ➡



Above: Presenter Laura Fogarty





Rotonda West residents listening to important information on how to “protect, prepare and prevent”



Above Left to Right:
Gwen Grace and Deb Orchard
serving sundaes at the event

Sobering Statistics for Women



Use “Situational Awareness”, meaning always look around & be aware of what is around you. Don’t get focus-locked, especially common when using your cell phone, making you easy prey, which predators want. Also, don’t be in denial that nothing could ever happen to you in a safe environment. It can happen anywhere, anytime and to any age group.

EASY AWARENESS EXERCISES:

- Use your muscle memory to pay attention to surroundings.
- Be extra careful in elevators, stairwells, parking lots & garages.
- See something, say something. If uncomfortable, trust your gut. Report!
- At gas pumps, keep your purse on the floor instead of on the car seat. Keep doors closed.
- Sit in a restaurant facing the door, look for exits.
- Stand with upright position.
- Make eye contact with people.
- Don’t be intimidated, be assertive, not afraid. Know boundaries.
- If it comes to assault, fight! Don’t allow being taken to another location.
- When walking don’t wear earbuds in both ears, only use one earbud on low volume.
- Carry an alarm, layered protection.
- Always have a plan!

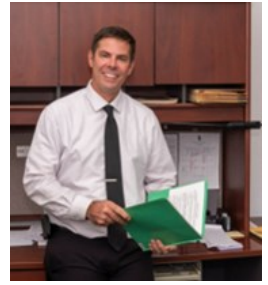
LOOK AT WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE!

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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Derrick Hedges



It is the start of a new season, and we are ready! It is almost July, and hopefully, this message finds you well and enjoying summer. With rising temperatures, humidity, and the approach of the rainy season, the Rotonda West Association's Maintenance Staff is prepared for the growing season. Clean-up from Hurricane Ian continues throughout our community. Although restoration continues, the amount of repairs and clean-up done already is phenomenal.

The Rotonda West Association's Administration and Community Center Buildings have been under rehabilitation with the painting of the outside of the Community Center as well as updating outlets and lighting inside Maintenance Buildings A and B.

The Administration and Community Center are busy with members and guests visiting, enjoying activities, and attending events. It's wonderful to see so many people enjoying this beautiful space!

Broadmoor Park is also bustling. The walking trails and benches are utilized daily by walkers, joggers, artists, bicyclists, and four-legged friends assisting their friends to get fresh air and enjoy the sights!

The new plantings planted in the fall around the park and the plants around the front entrance signs have grown nicely.

Repairs are still being made at the Oakland Hills Marina, but the gazebo's soffit repair and roofing have been completed.

The hard-working Rotonda West Association Administrative Staff are continually busy answering questions and assisting residents as needed. Please do not hesitate to stop by the Administration Office at 646 Rotonda Circle, Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Staff members are happy to assist with any applications or if you have R.W.A. Deed Restriction questions or other issues affecting your home. Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July!

Derrick Hedges

**Rotonda West Association Inc.
Manager**



JULY EVENTS

- **Wednesday, July 5th. *Happy Hour* at 5 p.m. (see page 17 for details)**
- **Friday, July 14th. Candidates' Workshop. In the Community Center at 9:30 a.m. (see page 8 for more details)**
- **Tuesday, July 25th. Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner from 5-7 p.m. (see page 16 for details)**
- **Wednesday, July 26th. Music in the Park. The Rotonda Singers return. 6-9 p.m.**

August Events

- **Thursday, August 3rd. AED/CPR Training. 6-9 p.m. at the Community Center.**
- **Saturday, August 5th. Bloodmobile from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Community Center (see flyer on page 21).**



Rotonda West Association Board of Directors 2023



Sitting L to R:

Sam Besase, Treasurer; Andy VanScyoc, President;
Les Goodman

Standing L to R:

Patricia Cowin, 1st Vice President;
Jack Metz, Director; Karen Harvey, Secretary
Right: David Kelly, Director



BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 2 P.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A MEETING AND LEARN INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR
COMMUNITY FIRST HAND.

OR YOU MAY ZOOM THE MEETINGS FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME.

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

Nancy Schwechel
Administrator and
Deed Restrictions

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

Annette Casteel
Administrator and
Minutes Clerk

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Jack Lennar
Compliance Officer

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Wayne Taylor

Dale Anderson

Bill Simmons

Craig Brown

Doug Smith

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

Andy VanScyoc, President

Patti Cowin, 1st Vice President

Sam Besase, Treasurer

Karen Harvey, Secretary

David Kelley, Director

Les Goodman, Director

Jack Metz, Director



WEST WAYS STAFF

Nadine Clough, Editor

Connie Smith, Feature Writer

Barry Kean, Writer

Deb Orchard, Writer

Rita Lopienski, Writer

Gwen Grace, GFWC Woman's Club

David Perry, Neighborhood Watch

Sarah Swiatek, Guest Writer

David Pulaski, Photographer

Wayne Mengel, Photographer

Nadine Clough, Layout & Design

ELECTION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES WORKSHOP

Submitted by RoseAnne Woodliff, Election Committee Chairperson

Each year RWA holds an election for Board Director's positions. The Election Committee shall offer a Candidates' Workshop on **July 14, 2023 at 9:30 AM** in-person or live via Zoom [to review required documentation and answer any questions participants may have](#).



The Workshop encompasses a review of RWA Election Committee Rules, Procedures and Political Campaign Guidelines and the 2023 Candidate Information Packet which includes, Notice of Intent, Candidate Information Sheet Guide, Key Dates and Timelines for the election process up to the Annual Meeting and some helpful hints.

The goal of this workshop is for interested candidates to have all the necessary tools to ensure their candidacy is preliminarily approved at the August 11, 2023 Election Committee meeting. *A failure to comply with all requirements will result in a denial of your candidacy.* All materials must be submitted per the guidelines of the Election Committee Rules, Procedures and Political Campaign Guidelines which can be found at rotondawest.org website.

The recording of the workshop will be available through the RWA Website under RWA Elections.



ATLANTIC STORM NAMES		
2023 HURRICANE SEASON		
ARLENE	HAROLD	OPHELIA
BRET	IDALIA	PHILIPPE
CINDY	JOSE	RINA
DON	KATIA	SEAN
EMILY	LEE	TAMMY
FRANKLIN	MARGOT	VINCE
GERT	NIGEL	WHITNEY

**THANK YOU LETTER FROM MEALS ON WHEELS, INC. FOR MONEY
DONATED FROM BINGO SNACK COLLECTION BOX**

Englewood Meals on Wheels, Inc.

Location:

400 Loma Linda
Englewood, FL 34223

Mailing Address:

PO Box 782
Englewood FL 34295-0782

Telephone: 941 474-4445

May 28, 2023

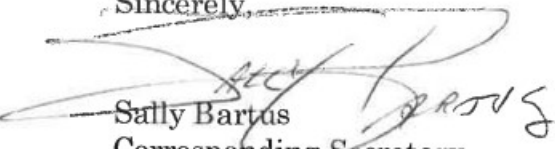
Rotonda West Association Bingo
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West FL 33947

Dear Members:

Thank you for the generous \$74.86 donation to Englewood Meals on Wheels. We appreciate and depend on our faithful donors. It is donations like yours that help us to provide nutritious meals to those in our community who cannot do for themselves. Meals is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization. No goods or services were provided in response to your contribution.

We volunteers at Englewood Meals on Wheels feel so fortunate to serve the people in our community. Again, thank you very much for your donation that helps make this possible.

Sincerely,



Sally Bartus
Corresponding Secretary

THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Deb Orchard

While we have our ongoing events, such as Meet & Greet the 4th Tuesday of each month and Bingo resuming in September and monthly through May on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We are planning some wonderful one-time events for you. Here are some highlights, so you may mark your calendar now so you don't miss out on the fun.

July 26th @ 6pm Music in the Park features the return of "Rotonda Singers". We will be inside the Community Center, so no pets are permitted. There will be plenty of seating, so no need to bring your own chair.

August 3rd @ 6pm is our next "Emergency Preparedness" presentation. C.E.R.T. will be presenting training in CPR. We will also have training is using the AED. Did you know we have one mounted on the wall just inside the main entrance to the Community Center? Please join us in the Community Center.

August 26th Music in the Park, *MUSIC BINGO* @ 6:30 p.m.

October 14th Food Drive from 9-12 a.m. in the Broadmoor parking lot.

November 2nd our annual Open House in the Community Center.

November 3rd – 4th the Community wide Garage Sale. More information later.

November 24th is our annual Gazebo Lighting and Boat Parade at the Marina.

December 2nd our Holiday Parade returns. There are some big changes coming this year; but, more information about that in the upcoming months.

December 3rd our Holiday Stroll. Wooden cut outs will be staged around the pond next to the Community Center for you to "stroll" around seeing them. More details later on this event.

We will continue to advertise our events on the RWA calendar, RWA e-mails through Constant Contact, West Ways Newsletter, FaceBook posts on Rotonda West Property Owners page, the portable sign at the entrance to Broadmoor Park and flyers posted on the bulletin boards outside the office and in the Community Center along with ones you may take home by stopping in the office or from the table in the entrance to the Community Center. We, on the Community Outreach Committee, hope you will come join us for these events.

FLUFFY AND MILD-MANNERED, SENTENEL CHICKENS THWART DEADLY VIRAL DISEASES

Story and Pictures by: Connie Smith

Not far from the Peace River and I-75, a lovely, mild-mannered, flock of some 75 Easter Egg Chickens prepare to stand sentinel between the population of Charlotte County and three deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

About the first week of June, the chickens were distributed in groups of three among seven county sites, where their actual work began, alerting county officials if mosquitos carrying any of these deadly diseases show up here:

West Nile Virus,
St. Louis Encephalitis,
Eastern Equine Encephalitis.



How do they do it and why chickens?

Explains Charlotte County Director of Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control Scott Schermerhorn, “chickens are dead end hosts for these viruses, meaning they can be bit by a mosquito carrying the virus but they won’t get sick and they won’t take the virus to another host.” He said the chickens are tested weekly for the viruses and thanks to them, the county does not have to do unnecessary chemical spraying against the three diseases until alerted by a positive result.

The sentinel chicken season is roughly June through December, when mosquitoes are most active in southwest Florida. Each January, the flock is replenished with arrival of viral-virgin young chicks from Ohio. Actually, managing the flock under Schermerhorn are Biological Specialists Sydney L’Heureux and Beth Kovach.

The good news is, no chickens are harmed while doing their duty! In fact, being a sentinel chicken can be a cushy life! Many of the county’s chicken “cooperators” (hosts) at the seven sites spoil their sentinels. In exchange for a location to place the chickens and access as needed, the county provides the chicken coop, feed, and, of course, the chickens. The cooperators get to keep the eggs. If a chicken happens to test positive for one of the deadly viruses, it is removed from the test site and replaced with a virally sterile chicken.



Pictured on left:

Charlotte County Biological Specialist Sydney L’Heureux holds Sentinel Chicken ambassador Lavender. Lavender earned her position as Sentinel Chicken ambassador after testing positive in the field for one of three deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

Continued on next page

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The chicken that is no longer useful as a sentinel might be donated to a 4-Her as a project or join some resident's flock. The county's Sentinel Chicken Ambassador, Lavender, was once on the sentinel front lines until she tested virus positive. It so happens that Easter Egg chickens get their name for their colorful, blue, green and pink eggs. Ambassador Lavender was so named because she was lavender colored as a young pullet.

The sentinel chicken program began in the 1980s in Florida with an ugly outbreak of St. Louis Encephalitis. In Charlotte County, the Department of Public Works administers the program with funding included in its biannual budget. The program is not just limited to Florida, however; even states with arid climates administer sentinel chicken programs because large cities can have increased mosquito populations, due to standing water, usually created by humans. (There's no substitute for the constant public education reminder for residents to empty all standing water where mosquitoes love to breed!)

In a large county the size of Charlotte, that runs from coastal to inland, there are 40 resilient and formidable mosquito breeds that run the gamut of disease carrying, terrain breeding and time of day feeding. Some mosquitoes even specialize in the area of the human body they like to bite!

As Florida statute specifies a certain threshold of mosquitos must be reached or exceeded before spraying can be done in an area, it is important that Charlotte County Mosquito Control utilize every tool in its arsenal to take the battle to the mosquitos, every day, where ever they find them. If cute, fluffy chickens become an unlikely, but potent weapon in the fight against disease, thwarting mosquitoes and saving humans from deathly illness - not to mention red bumps and miserable itching - then Hooray for Sentinel Chickens!



Above: These young Easter Egg Chickens await placement at one of seven sites around the county where county biologists will test weekly for mosquito-borne diseases. The colorful birds get their name for their colorful, blue, green and pink eggs.

ASK THE PHARMACIST!

Health and Lifestyle Information

By: Sarah Swiatek Pharm.D. R.Ph.



Do you find yourself overwhelmed with how many medications you take? Are you unsure of why you take them, or how to space them out? Does Dr. Oz intrigue you with his medical suggestions? Or do you find yourself forgetting to make sure you're prepared for your trips and snowbird travel? Were you scrambling to handle your medical needs after Hurricane Ian?

As a pharmacist with over 20 years under my belt, I feel called to lead a discussion group to share and discuss challenges and pitfalls commonly experienced by patients in the world of pharmacy. Self-care and health awareness are more important than ever.

If you believe you would be interested in attending a quarterly event in the Community Center, where we can meet and share questions and solutions related to pharmacy and health, I invite you to email me at SRxSwi@gmail.com to express your interest. Additionally, if you would offer topic suggestions, as well as a time of day, that would be helpful for planning.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet and learn with you!

Sarah Swiatek Pharm.D. R.Ph.

WORLD BIKE DAY

Story and Pictures by: Rita Lopienski



Pictured Left to Right: Bob Ivey, Kurt Swanson, Rita Lopienski, and Janet Swanson

Saturday, June 3rd was World Bike Day. A group met up at Rotonda Community Park on a sunny day for our Rotonda West Association sponsored biking event.



Bob Ivey, Kurt Swanson, Rita Lopienski and Janet Swanson met at 9 a.m. to promote the 1st RWA Strong Health & Wellness Initiative on World Bike Day.

Bob rides his bike 3 times a week to the park for 4 mile rides. Kurt and Janet rode 5 miles on Saturday and enjoy taking different streets each time to explore the community.

Rita usually rides 5 times weekly for “ReCycling”, picking up littered cans, bottles and cigarette cartons. Her single day clean-up record this year was 103 items!



Pictured above: Beyond the Pavillion Saturday were many pickleball players who also rode their bikes to play!

Rita’s typical ride for “Re-cycling” litter averages 45 items picked up while biking.



FIRE, EMS OFFER EXTRA SERVICES

By: Barry Kean

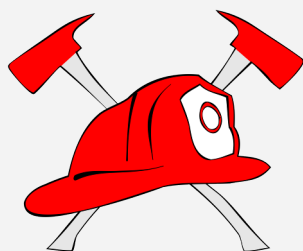
In our May issue we featured a presentation by Todd Dunn, Public Information Officer for the Charlotte County Fire Department. While Mr. Dunn mostly spoke about fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operations in the County, he briefly mentioned some additional services offered to the public by the Department. A number of you have expressed interest in those additional services, so we spoke again with Mr. Dunn to try to answer your questions.

Working smoke detectors are a key component in your defense against home fires. One a fire starts, your home can fill with smoke to a deadly level in as little as two or three minutes. A working smoke detector can warn you – wake you if necessary – in time to get out safely and to rescue children and pets. The Charlotte County Fire Department will help you maintain your smoke detectors; a representative will come to your home, check the functionality of your detectors, and replace the batteries (you supply the batteries). A caveat, however. The useful working life of a smoke detector is generally considered to be ten years. If your detectors are more than 10 years old, the Department will not service them but will recommend that you replace them. Smoke detectors should be marked with the date of installation but if they are not, the date of manufacture can be found on the label on the back.

Mr. Dunn recommended the use of wired smoke detectors – those that connect to the household wiring and also have a backup battery. Be aware, though, that if these detectors are hard wired to the household wiring, they must be installed or removed by a licensed electrician. A Fire Department representative cannot legally do it. Wiring for these detectors is available that allows them to be simply plugged in, or unplugged; so that anyone can connect or disconnect them.

In his talk here in April, Mr. Dunn emphasized that in order for Fire and EMS personnel to help you, they must be able to find you. It is essential that your house number be plainly visible and legible and in a contrasting color to the background. The County can provide reflective and highly visible address signs at a cost of \$25.00; these are designed to mount on your mailbox. Save our Pets signs are also available for \$3.00. Call 941 833 5600. Mr. Dunn can be reached at 941 833 5610.

Note: Rotonda West “within the circle” is located within the Charlotte County Fire District. However, it is close to the boundary with the Englewood Fire District, and some of our readers may live in that district. They offer similar services; contact Kristin Powell at 941 474 3361.





June's Meet & Greet Draws Many New Friends



MEET & GREET



Tuesday, July 25th from 5-7pm

RWA Community Center

646 Rotonda Circle

Open to all RWA members and their guests

Bring a dish to share, and your drink of choice and cup. We will provide the rest of the tableware.

*To try and even out the dishes, we are **suggesting** the following (we will rotate this every month):*



If your last name begins with:

A-H -Salad or Side Diss

I-P - Main Dish

Q-Z- Dessert

(ie: casseroles, baked pasta dish, etc.)

This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends!!!



**Rotonda West
Association**

Presented by the
Community Outreach
Committee



**There will be
a 50/50 pot**

**A NEW EVENT!
CHECK IT OUT**

MEET & GREET

Happy Hour

**Wednesday, July 5th,
at 5pm**



**FOR ALL ROTONDA RESIDENTS
(THAT INCLUDES SANDS, LAKES,
HEIGHTS, ETC) AND GUESTS.
ROTONDA COMMUNITY PARK
ON PARADE CIRCLE. BYOB,
BRING A SNACK IF YOU WOULD
LIKE!**

**COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND
MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS AND
HAVE SOME FUN!!!!**

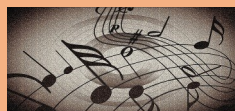
SEE YOU THERE!



Cary Price

CARY PRICE CHARMS RESIDENTS WITH HIS MUSIC

Story & Pictures by: Nadine Clough



On a warm Saturday afternoon, Rotonda West residents were treated to both cool music and cool ice cream treats courtesy of Cary Price from Fletcher Music. This was June's Music in the Park presentation sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee.

A full house of about 75 people enjoyed a wide variety of tunes from several decades. Cary entertained the crowd with music from genres like country, classical, bluegrass, patriotic, big band, and rock 'n roll on the impressive Lowry Prestige organ.

The interactive show had the crowd singing along to favorite songs, clapping out the rhythm of the music, doing "YMCA", and helping with the train sounds in the "Train Medley". The fun continued with a musical trivia game at intermission, and free ice cream provided by Cary Price.

Right: Emcee Deb Orchard, Chairperson of the Community Outreach Committee greets the crowd.



**Don't miss the upcoming Music in the Park event!
We welcome back the popular "Rotonda Singers".
July 26th from 6-9 p.m.**



Happy Belated Father's Day! We want to wish those special Dads a big Thank You for being you... There are many more days to celebrate in June/July. We have Alzheimer's Awareness Month, Gun Violence Awareness Day, World Oceans Day, World Sea Turtle Day, World Refugee Day, Canada Day, Independence Day, and Sugar Cookie Day, just to name a few. In fact there are 100's of special days; no matter what you are celebrating, just be careful out there and know your surroundings.

Is someone taking care of your home while you are away?? According to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Home Security depends on good visibility. Plants should be kept trimmed, especially around doors and windows where someone could hide. One of the best sources of protection around your home is exterior lighting, ones that are motion-sensored or ones that come on at night. Make sure you have a neighbor or property management company keep an eye on your home while you are away.



Charlotte County requires you to register your home alarm system with the Sheriff's Office. Registration is super easy- <https://ccso.org/PublicInterest/pdf/AlarmRegistration2012.pdf>

Beware of Skimmers at Gas Pumps

A few tips to avoid a skimmer scam; (1) make sure the gas pump panel is closed, (2) wiggle the card reader to check if it is loose, and (3) THEN insert your card.

-If you are concerned about being scammed at the pumps, you can always pay inside.

-Monitor your credit card statements regularly for unwanted charges and report those immediately. Don't forget to request a new credit card.



Have you considered being a Base Station? Do you know of anyone that doesn't like to drive at night, but would be willing to be a Base Station? Please let us know, as we are seven bases short of a full schedule and I know many doing more than one night a month, which I greatly appreciate!

If you do, contact me or Judy Murdoch.

See you at our next meeting scheduled for June 20th, at 10:00 am in the Community Center.

Regards, David

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

David W Perry -President- 941-828-1584

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

Gwen Grace, President



Creative Crafters

What the heck is GFWC? And why does the Rotonda West Woman's Club always use those initials?

The Rotonda West Woman's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) which is an international women's organization. We are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. Collectively, we are Living the Volunteer Spirit.

GFWC was founded in 1890 and its impact has been felt throughout communities across

the US and the globe. GFWC is comprised of nearly 3,000 local clubs. Each club elects officers and works independently on various projects in their community. But we all follow the guidelines of GFWC which is distinguished from other service organizations by the breadth of our outreach. Our community service programs (CSP) span all areas of the lives of our members, their families, and communities: arts and culture, civic engagement and outreach, education and libraries, environment, and health and wellness.

Our Arts and Culture CSP is lead by Kathy Altenburg. Several groups work under the umbrella of Arts and Culture including the Creative Crafters, the Sew n Sews, the Knit & Chat group and the Tonettes. The program encourages our members to promote and support art activities in schools and communities. It also organizes trips to museums, art galleries and theater productions and the Annual Arts Competition for members. The Arts Competition begins in January at the club level in 17 categories. The winners move up to a competition at the District level and those winners go to the State competition held during the Spring Conference in Orlando.

If you are interested in joining GFWC RWWC, please go to our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org for information. You can also find us on Facebook at GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. Our next General Meeting is Thursday, September 21, 2023.



DONATE BLOOD

**Together Saving Lives: The Rotonda
West Rotary Club & The GFWC
Rotonda West Woman's Club
Saturday, August 5
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

All donors will receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood Swag Bag**
- **Chick-fil-A Coupon**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

*Rotonda Golf and Country Club - The Hills Course
100 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947*



Appointments are encouraged, please visit **oneblood.org/donate-now** and use **sponsor code #39275**.

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood 
Share your power.

FEMA BUILDING NEW COMMUNITY IN ENGLEWOOD EAST TO AID HURRICANE-IMPACTED FAMILIES

BY Samantha Serbin of NBC 2 Fort Myers June 27, 2023

ENGLEWOOD EAST, Fla.—FEMA is creating a group living community in Charlotte County. Instead of building the site in Punta Gorda as was done after Hurricane Charley, this time, the location is in Englewood East on Kevitt Boulevard.

FEMA explains 25 families have applied for the mobile homes they'll be moving into. However, they're building 40 plots just in case the need arises.

The location doesn't give off that homey feel yet. Crews are clearing dirt and preparing for utility installation. It will be about a month before move-in for these families.

Within 30 days, you're going to see mobile homes sitting in here," Joseph D'Angelo said. He handles logistics for the location. "We weren't sure we were going to need it until the very end, but now that we do, they're going to push hard to get it done."

Wednesday marks nine months since Hurricane Ian wrecked so much of Southwest Florida. D'Angelo said the group site is centrally located to help the remaining families who need the space. They're from multiple counties, including Charlotte, DeSoto and Lee.

The goal is to get people into apartments or rental homes before creating a group site. If those aren't available, the project has to be done. It will cost a couple of million dollars. However, D'Angelo said it's worth it.

"I don't believe it's a waste of money. If it can help a family. There are people out there that still need help," he said. "Is it expensive? Yes, that's why it's our last resort."



TIPS TO PREPARE DURING HURRICANE SEASON

- **Gather supplies.** Stock up on essential supplies for a hurricane. This includes plenty of water, non-perishable food and batteries.
- **Clean your gutters.** To help reduce water damage, ensure your gutters, downspouts and drains are clear before the storm. This will help divert as much rain as possible away from your home.
- **Prepare windows and doors.** One of the best ways to prep a home for a hurricane is by protecting your windows and doors from broken glass. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection, but you can also cover them with one-half inch marine plywood, if needed.
- **Turn down the temperature.** If you don't have a generator, turning your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting will help your food stay cool if the power goes out.
- **Fill up your tank.** If damage in your area is severe, it may be difficult to find an open gas station for days or weeks after a hurricane. Make sure all your vehicles are gassed up and fill up any portable gasoline cans you have in advance.
- **Charge your devices.** Mobile devices like smartphones and tablets are your link to critical information during a disaster. Make sure they're fully charged when a hurricane watch is announced. For extra peace of mind, consider purchasing a battery-powered portable charger or power bank.
- **Store outdoor items.** Patio furniture, trash cans and bicycles can easily be carried away by high winds, so bring them indoors before the storm hits.
- **Check in with neighbors.** See if anyone in your neighborhood can use an extra hand preparing for the storm. This is especially important if you have neighbors who are elderly or have a disability.
- **Move your valuables.** If you have time, move valuables and furniture to the highest point in your home to prevent water damage.
- **Notify friends and family.** Before the storm hits, let those closest to you (outside the storm zone) know your plans. During the storm itself, try to limit your phone calls. Wireless networks are often overtaxed during an emergency.
- **Evacuate if directed.** If local authorities issue an order to evacuate, take it seriously and act quickly. . Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges. If an evacuation order is in place, riding out the storm could put you and your family in danger. If you can't stay with friends or family, head to an emergency shelter.

ATTENTION: ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS

Public Hearing Notice

THIS IS NOT A BILL

Friday, June 23, 2023



www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Owner Name: Your Name

Parcel ID Number:

Your Name

Property Address

Your Address

Legal Description

You are hereby notified that the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners will hold public hearings, at which all affected property owners have a right to appear, to impose non-ad valorem assessments against certain parcels of property within the Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBUs) listed below. Please check the table below closely for the time and location of the hearings. After consideration of public comments, the Board will consider imposing the assessments. The table below shows the purpose of the assessments, the total revenue Charlotte County will collect from the assessments, the unit of measure, the maximum annual assessment, the rate, and the number of units applicable to each property to determine the amount of the maximum annual assessment.

There will only be one hearing for each assessment. If imposed, the adopted assessments will appear on your 2023 ad valorem tax bill, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the adopted assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a recognized ADA disability needing a special accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact our office at 941.743.1914, TDD/TTY 941.743.1234, at least seven days prior to the date of the hearing.

Any property owner affected by the assessments may submit written objections within 20 days of this notice to the Board of County Commissioners, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, Florida 33948-1094. Any person wishing to appeal any decision of the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered will need a record and may wish to ensure that a verbatim record is made. **If you have any questions, please contact the county's MSBU Division at 941.743.1914 or from Englewood area at 941.681.3770**

Assessment for West Charlotte Stormwater Utility Unit (M) - Occupied

Purpose: The MSBU Advisory Board has intended a rate increase that will provide for the water quality monitoring program, pipe lining and the current level of maintenance.

Total Revenue to be Collected by County: \$2,990,427.00

Hearing Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Unit of Measure: ACR Acre

Hearing Time: 5:01PM

Number of ACR for your property: 0.200

Hearing Location: Tringali Cmty. Center, 3460 N.Access Rd, Englewood

Maximum Annual Assessment: \$125.00 / ACR

Proposed rate for this year: \$125.00 / ACR

Last Year's Rate: \$50.00 / ACR

2023 PROPOSED ASSESSMENT: 0.200 ACR at \$125.00 = \$25.00



BE INFORMED:

**HEARING DATE IS TUESDAY, JULY 18TH
AT 5:01 P.M.**

NOTE: A (C) in the name of the MSBU indicates a capital improvement project; an (M) indicates a maintenance project

RWA MEMBERS

JOIN CONSTANT CONTACT

FULL RWA WEBSITE ACCESS

&

DELIVERED TO YOUR E-MAIL

WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS
GENERAL INTEREST

**Administrative Office - Community Center
Broadmoor Park**

**646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, Florida 33947**

**Office Hours: 8:00AM - 4:00PM M - F
TEL: (941) 697-6788**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

HOW TO REGISTER

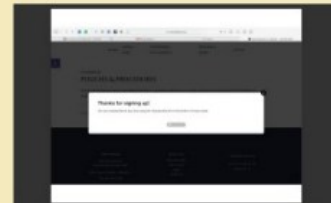
Step 1.

**On any device with
website access go to:
rotondawest.org**



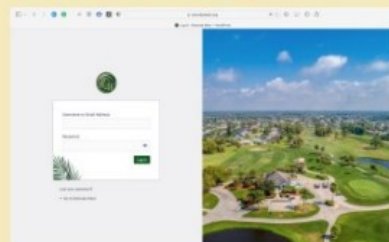
Step 2.

**Fill out the pop-up screen
information.
Enter "Sign-up"
Close screen**



Step 3.

**To enter into website,
log-in again at
rotondawest.org**



NEED HELP? CALL 941-697-6788