

SEPTEMBER 2023



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

RWA ELECTION COMMITTEE NAMES CANDIDATES

By: Nadine Clough

On Friday, August 11, 2023 the envelopes revealing the names of the candidates for the Rotonda West Association's Board of Directors 2024 election were opened by the Election Committee. These names represent the association members who have qualified as declared candidates to fill the two empty seats on the board. A motion was passed to accept the four candidates at the BOD meeting on Thursday, August 17th.

Association members in good standing who have qualified as candidates are: Jerry Eldred, Karen Harvey, Dale Jensen, and David Kelly.

According to the association's by-laws, any person desiring to be a candidate for the Board of Directors shall give written notice to the association no later than 12:01 pm on the second Friday of August of the year in which the election will be held. To comply with this requirement, a member must either submit a "Notice of Intent" form, or state by letter the desire to run for the Board of Directors. A member must also submit a "Candidate Information Sheet" in the form prescribed by the Association.

The Candidate Information Sheets can be seen on pages 4-8 of this issue. West Ways will follow all the election events and updates until the election on December 8, 2023 at the RWA Executive Board meeting.

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Directors Election:
Candidates Announced

Board of Directors Meeting

BOD Candidate Info Sheets

Emergency Preparedness
CPR/AED Training

Storm Shelters
Good or Bad Choice?

Charlotte County
Commissioner Report

Upcoming Events

Administrative Office-Community
Center Broadmoor Park
646 Rotonda Circle Rotonda West,
Fl. 33947

Office Hours: 8 am-4pm M-F

Tel: (941) 697-6788

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ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

UPDATES

DIRECTORS: Sitting L to R- Sam Besase, Treasurer; Andy Van Scyoc, President; Les Goodman. Standing L to R- Patricia Cowin, 1st Vice-President; Jack Metz; Karen Harvey. Inset: David Kelly



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THURSDAY AUGUST 17, 2023 2PM

ROLL CALL: ALL DIRECTORS PRESENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 27, 2023 MINUTES

MEMBERS INPUT: Directors discussed issues with resolution of deed restriction compliance due to unusual circumstances caused by Hurricane Ian. Resolution was to table these issues until directors meet at a special meeting to be held on Thursday August 24, at 1-4 pm.

OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS REPORTS:

- President Van Scyoc-expressed condolences regarding the passing of RWA committee member, Lynn Smith
- Treasurer Besase-stated initial budget for 2024 is being developed; 97% of members have paid assessment; overall, RWA is in excellent financial shape.
- Manager Hedges-stated the office staff continues to work with members to resolve compliance issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance Chair Tom D'Abrosca-brought two motions to BOD for approval. 1.) Raise estoppel fee to \$299. 2.) Raise transfer fee to \$299. Both motions passed with a vote of 6-1 with Director Kelly voting no on both motions.
- Buildings & Grounds Chair Sam Besase- brought two motions to BOD for approval. 1.) Installation of new shell material for paths in Broadmoor Park 2.) Parking lot extension. Adding 20 spaces and safety blocks. Both motions passed unanimously.
- Community Outreach Chair Deb Orchard-reviewed upcoming events; presented action items; all passed unanimously.
- Compliance Chair Barb Peszko- reminded members that committee is willing to listen to residents.
- Residential Modification Chair Barb Peszko- stated RWA office staff and committee members reviewed 182 applications in the month of July. There is a 97% approval rate on applications. Not a difficult process, and office staff will help.
- Election Chair RoseAnne Woodliff-brought motion to BOD for approval of candidates for the RWA Board of Directors. Five names were submitted to the Election Committee on August 17, 2023. Four names had proper submissions, one lacked a "notice of intent" and was therefore dismissed. The names submitted to the BOD for approval were: Jerry Eldred, Karen Harvey, Dale Jensen, and David Kelly. All four names were approved for the December, 2023 election to fill the two vacant seats. Candidates Night will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 7-9 pm.

NEW BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Discussion and approval of events to be held in the Community Center (Frank Levin's lecture; shower; fishing club; October 28th event {audio problem}).
- Director Les Goodman discussed participation in a webinar on possible changes from state on HOA rules.

Respectively submitted by: Nadine Clough

Next BOD meeting: Thursday, September 14, 2023 2-4 pm

RWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE SHEETS



THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN INFORMATION
ABOUT THE DECLARED CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR
SEATS ON THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISCLAIMER: *Candidate Information Sheets are based solely on the opinion or opinions of the individual candidate and are NOT based on an opinion or opinions of the Rotonda West Association, Inc., its officers, directors, committee members, or employees (collectively referred to as the "Association"). The Association does not assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in the Candidate Information Sheets.*

CANDIDATES NIGHT
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

ROTONDA WEST HOA MEMBERS



QUESTIONS NEEDED FOR CANDIDATES' NIGHT (10/19/2023)

WHEN: September 26 through 10/7/2023

WHERE: EMAIL: electioncommittee@rotondawest.org

TBA CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR TWO POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHY: Candidates' Night is to formally introduce the Candidates, as well as provide residents an opportunity to hear their thoughts, proposals, plans, and goals for the future of Rotonda West Association.

Once again, we offer an opportunity for residents to ask questions of the candidates, via email, in advance of Candidates Night (No audience questions or comments will be allowed.)

Each Candidates Information is available from the RWA office, or online at rotondawest.org, or in West Ways.

Well, now is your chance to ask --

Two ways to submit questions:

via email to electioncommittee@rotondawest.org

use the drop box at the office – 646 Rotonda Circle

Questions deadline is 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 12th

The committee reviews all questions prior to acceptance

Your question must include your name and address. Each question will be read randomly to one of the candidates whose turn it is to answer the next question in line. If you want your question to be directed specifically to a certain candidate, you MUST include that in your email.

Limit of 5 questions per owner.

Jerry R Eldred

My wife Barbara, and I moved to Rotonda West eight years ago. We picked this area for its attractiveness, limited traffic and very low crime rate. We are permanent year-round residents. We love our place in paradise. Barb and I are blessed with a blended family of seven adult children and six grandchildren.

You may contact me at jeldred1449@gmail.com, PHONE-937620-1865 or as soon as I have it up and running visit my website at Jerry Eldred RWA Director,

As for my background I grew up in a small rural town in Northcentral Pennsylvania. After high school graduation I attended Corning Community College in Corning NY and entered the United States Air force in 1970. Receiving an honorable discharge.

I decided to become active in our community when I began learning about taxes being levied on residents living in Rotonda West through the county **MSBU District**, I firmly believe that our tax dollars are to be spent wisely on projects that will benefit the entire community. I understood the need of improving our roads, drains and bridges but the addition of a sidewalk masterplan, the initial addition of five miles of sidewalks (670,000 per mile) and beautification projects, I felt these were not needed. Our boulevard sidewalks are paid by Gas Tax funds. I promised to be open and work for the community and I will continue to do so. **I was secretary of RWA and served on the Building and Grounds committee and the Aquatic's subcommittee. I have no hidden agenda; I want to help ensure the quality of life in our community. Sometimes as a board member you have to make difficult decisions and I try to make ones that are best for the entire community. As a retiree I have seen my funds disappear due to cost of living and tax increases I am not in favor of any new taxes**



Education

Masters in Arts: Public Administration, Akron University

Bachelor of Arts in Parks and Natural Resources Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

EXPERIENCE

Executive Director Miami County Park District, Miami County Ohio, Retired (Jan. 1991-2012)

The position I retired from and loved the most was the Miami County Park District. I feel humbled that I was able to work for a governmental agency that was recognized nationwide as being unique. As a Park District in Ohio, we were created by the State Legislator in 1917, our Ohio residents may be familiar with Metro Parks found around the state. The Miami County Park District and all Metro parks are each governed by their own three-member Board of Park Commissioners. **In order to be a successful Park District in Ohio you must gain voter approval by passing property tax mileage levies.** We successfully passed three **voter approved levies**, during my 20+ years. When I left the district had 13 parks and 2,500 acres, we started with 3 parks and 600 acres. The district's primary mission is **natural resource management.**

City of Alliance, Director of parks, Recreation and Public lands, 13 years.

Candidate Information Statement

Name: Karen W. Harvey
Email Address: karen.harvey@rotondawest.org
Phone: 301 910 7038



Background:

I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and I lived there until my father was transferred with the Federal Government to Rockville, MD. I finished my education and decided to work in Washington, DC where I remained until retirement in 2018. I worked as a Senior Director of Human Resources for a large trade association in Washington, DC.

Education:

Associates of Arts degree in Business Management from Montgomery College
Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from Columbia Union College

Experience:

My husband and I joined Neighborhood Watch upon moving to Rotonda West and then I became a Writer for West Ways. I then became very interested in the committee work of the RWA. My Rotonda West Association Committee work includes:

Chair of the Communications Committee for 2 years – 2019 – 2021
Member of the Community Relations Committee – 2019 – 2021
Co-Chair of the Community Outreach Committee for 1 year – 2021 to 2022
Holidays Decorations Coordinator for 3 years – 2020 – 2022
Event Chair for Gazebo Lighting for 3 years – 2020 – 2022
Elections Committee for 3 years – 2020 – 2022; Secretary for 1 year - 2021 to 2022

I am currently serving a 1-year term on the Rotonda West Association Board of Directors in the Developer's position.

Summary:

I am a leader who is dedicated and passionate about Rotonda West. I care about the residents of our community. Our community needs a strong female leader who is transparent and has a willingness to listen. I have more than proven myself a capable person who can get things done. I pride myself on gaining consensus among my peers and will work toward a better tomorrow. We need to have solid deed restrictions in order to maintain our little slice of Paradise called Rotonda West. I also volunteer outside of Rotonda West doing charity work that is vital to our community. This community suffered greatly at the winds of Hurricane Ian and I want to continue to build and restore our community. I am a person who can create and maintain ways to sustain and showcase Rotonda West as an exciting community.

2023 RWA Board of Directors Election - Candidate Information Sheet

Dale Jensen

djensen000@ameritech.net

608-201-2481



Greetings Rotonda West neighbors. My name is Dale Jensen and I'm running for a seat on the Rotonda West Association Board of Directors. I believe that Rotonda West is a wonderful place to live and, if elected, I look forward to working with the other board members, management team and committee volunteers to make Rotonda West an even better community.

A little information about me. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio and attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. My entire career was spent in the telephone industry, beginning with Ohio Bell and culminating with AT&T. I held a variety of positions ranging from cable maintenance technician to high-speed data product director (that was when 1.544 Mbps was considered high-speed) and finally as a director of corporate communications.

Rosemarie and I bought our home at 30 Sportsman Place in Rotonda in 2010 and after several years of "snowbirding" we moved to Rotonda West permanently in 2014. We love Rotonda West and once we became full-time residents I wanted to participate in the community, so I volunteered for a committee assignment. Since then, I have been a member of and/or chaired several committees and I have also attended many of the RWA Board meetings. My committee activity includes:

- Residential Modification Committee – member and Chair – 2016-2019
- Deed Restriction Committee – member and Chair – 2021 - present
- Election Committee – Chair - 2020
- Buildings and Grounds committee – current member

I also volunteer as a local coordinator for the AARP Tax-Aide program and during tax season I manage a group of 20 tax counselors who provide in-person tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income.

I am a firm believer in our Deed Restrictions and, as a director, I will actively support monitoring, enforcing and revising of those restrictions to ensure that they meet their purpose of preserving and enhancing the appearance and property values of our Rotonda West community. I would also support an effort by the Association to explore electronic voting since printing, mailing and tabulating the election materials each year is a huge expense.

I believe the Board has performed well and I want to join it to ensure the same performance going forward. I'm asking for your vote so I can put my experience and ability to work developing, supporting and implementing Board actions intended to enhance and improve our Rotonda West community.

In closing, should you have any issues you'd like to discuss or have any questions you would like to ask – please, just call or email me. And don't forget Candidates Night on Thursday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. when you'll have an opportunity to ask the candidates your questions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and to participate in the upcoming election.

Dale Jensen
8/10/23



David Kelly

100 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947 / 941-270-2575

Davidkellyrgcc@aol.com

Personal:

Native of: Rotonda West, Englewood

Family: 3 Children (17,21,22) Resident of Rotonda West and Surrounding areas for over 40 Years

Education:

High School: Lemon Bay High School

College/Degree: BS Degree University of South Florida -Business Administration

Employment History:

Oyster Creek Golf Club 1998-2000

Rotonda Golf & Country Club 22 Years -2001-Present

Public Service:

Rotary Club of Placida 22 Years

Englewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors-2004-2011, President 2010

Rotonda West Association RMC Liaison 2021-Present

Why I Want to serve:

It has truly been great to serve our community for the last 12 years. If I am elected for 3 more years I will continue to provide conservative financial logic to keep dues low and our standards high for my fellow directors and residents. Rotonda continues to grow at a rapid pace with permanent and seasonal residents moving to our great area every day. Our community is moving in a direction to be proud of!

My Vision of the future of Rotonda:

My vision for Rotonda is to continue our responsible growth and at the same time keep this an affordable community to live in for our residents. We need to continue to maintain canals, green belts, common areas and Broadmoor park at the highest levels possible to keep property values high for our residents.

Signature

Date

7/28/23



CERT Team leader John Blanchette demonstrates the proper hand technique for CPR compressions

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: CERT TRAINING PROVIDES ANSWERS FOR WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS

Story and Pictures by: **Connie Smith**

PRESENTED BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

It's a normal day and you're attending a meeting. Suddenly, the person next to you keels over. They fall to the floor and they're not breathing! No one knows what to do!

Everyone who attended a recent Emergency Preparedness presentation on Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and use of an Automated External Defibrillators (AED) found out exactly what to do. The August 3 event was sponsored by the Rotonda Communities Emergency Response Team and presented by CERT Instructor John Blanchette and veteran EMS responder Jack Metz.

Blanchette presented the CPR portion of the meeting and Metz discussed use of an AED device.

When the unthinkable happens, here were Blanchette's instructions:

- 1) Call 9-1-1.
- 2) Arrange the unconscious person on a hard flat surface.
- 3) Kneel next to them.
- 4) Place the palm of your dominant hand away from you, in the center of the patient's chest and interlock the fingers of your second hand on top.
- 5) Begin chest compressions with your arms straight, letting your shoulders do the work.
- 6) Press to a depth of two inches at the rate of two presses per second or 120 presses per minute, allowing the patient's chest to rise completely after each compression.

CPR should be continued until there is an obvious sign of life (such as breathing). If an AED is available, call for someone to get the device and continue CPR until the AED is ready to use. CPR may also be discontinued when another trained responder or EMS personnel arrives, you are too exhausted to continue, or the scene becomes unsafe.

Blanchette said that 70 percent of cardiac arrests occur in homes when the patient is in bed. To deliver CPR, the patient should be transferred to a hard, flat surface - generally the floor. "Don't drag the patient by the feet," he cautioned. "They may hit their head and complicate their survival. Grab them by the shoulders and maneuver them to the floor."

Another tip from Blanchette involves the 9-1-1 call. "Put the phone on speaker mode," he suggested.

"If you dial 9-1-1, you will not be by yourself. They will stay with you."

Veteran emergency responder and BOD member, Jack Metz discusses how to use an AED device



Jack Metz, who also happens to be a member of the RWA Board of Directors, said there is an AED located in a box near the front door of the Rotonda Community Center. Several folks in the audience warned the box in the Community Center has an alarm that will sound in the building and in the RWA Office next door.

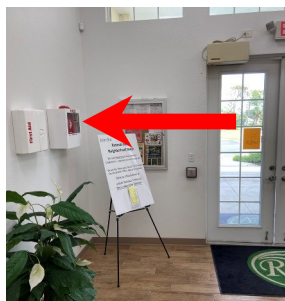
While many restaurants and public buildings have AEDs, if you are a heart patient or have a loved one who is, it may be a good idea to ascertain where the device is located wherever you go.

As an AED is an expensive device, rarely will you find one in a home, said Metz.

“Always start CPR first,” he said. “If an AED becomes available, switch it on and follow the voice instructions,” he said. He further instructed:

1. Due to the AED voice prompts, it is easy to use.
2. When using an AED, the patient's chest must be free of all clothing and most importantly, all metal. Lying the patient on a conductive surface, such as a metal bleacher, may transfer the shock to others, so be aware of the patient's surroundings.
3. Connector pads must be attached correctly to the patient.
4. The AED will analyze the patient's heartbeat for a shockable rhythm.
5. If the AED determines a shock is needed, deliver the shock, making sure that all other persons are out of the away.

Right: CERT Volunteer and BOD member Sam Besase staffs an information table during the CPR/AED training, held on August 3, at the Community Center



Location of the AED in the Community Center

If a patient opens their eyes, you can stop CPR,” said Metz. “If the AED doesn't work, you can always go back to CPR. You want to see them breathing on their own,” added Blanchette.

At one time, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was part of CPR for non-responsiveness, but the two trainers said unless the patient is a young child or infant, it is no longer considered necessary. Another difference for babies and young children is that compression should be done with two fingers instead of the palm of the hand.

If one is ever in the dire situation of delivering CPR to an unconscious person, it may be helpful to run a popular song through one's head to maintain the 120 beats per minute rhythm. One such song is the aptly named and rhythmically correct is the Bee Gee's song, “Stayin' Alive;” or there's the Queen standard, “Another One Bites the Dust”. Anyone in contact with a little one will know the song “Baby Shark” by Pink Fong. An internet search of the term CPR songs will deliver a list of appropriate well-known musical numbers that play at 100 or more beats per minute.

A quick refresher in CPR and AED is a video played at the conclusion of the CERT Training that is available on YouTube by searching: “CPR Training: BEST CPR Video Ever”.

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team – is made up of community residents who are trained in basic fundamentals of emergency assistance. Teams are deployed when traditional emergency services are overwhelmed or cannot reach an incident area, such as when a tornado or hurricane strikes. To join Rotonda's CERT Team, contact: John Blanchette, CERT Senior Team Lead, Rotondacert@aol.com, or at 941-662-1656.

WOMEN NEED MORE CPR !

More people are surviving cardiac events, but it's not always true for women. According to the American Heart Association, a man's chances of surviving a cardiac event are 23 % higher.

A 2017 study of more than 19,000 people who had cardiac events demonstrated that 45% of men received CPR from bystanders in public compared to only 39%

HERE'S WHY:

- *Women are more prone to cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle
- *A woman may have a non-shockable rhythm that cannot be treated with an AED
- *Women with cardiac events are often older and live alone
- *People believe women are less likely to have heart problems, which is not always true
- *Many people feel that women overdramatize illness
- *Many are reluctant to perform CPR on a woman because they feel it is inappropriate or may cause personal injury

HURRICANE SHELTERS ARE BASIC FACILITIES ONLY

By: Nadine Clough



Above: A typical hurricane shelter.
Don't expect a hotel experience.

HAVE A PLAN AND PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME!

REASONS TO CHOOSE TO EVACUATE OR GO TO A SHELTER

- Home is not hurricane proof (trailers, modular homes, older homes)
- Loss of electricity (air-conditioning, refrigeration)
- Ordered to evacuate
- Access to latest storm status and news
- May have communication systems up and running
- Don't want to be home alone

REASONS TO CHOOSE TO STAY AT HOME

- Not believing the storm will be too bad
- Concerns about leaving property, valuables
- Inconvenient and uncomfortable at shelter
- Have pets
- Have a hurricane-proof, strong structure
- Prepared with generator, supplies, meds

Officials want to be clear that staying in a hurricane shelter during a storm should be only considered as a last resort. These shelters are meant for people who are unable to evacuate ahead of time. Retirees have the ability to leave days before a storm hits, many working people do not have that option. In addition, space in these shelters is very limited and is not meant to accommodate everyone who is ordered to evacuate.

If you are forced to make use of a hurricane shelter, prepare by bringing:

- Drinking water and snacks
- Important documents, ID, driver's license
- One person air mattress, sleeping bag, pillow
- Comfort items such as a lawn chair, books and activities, a fan, earplugs, covering for your eyes for sleeping
- Medication, facemasks, personal hygiene items

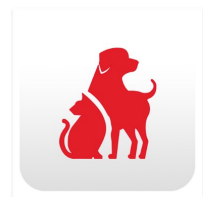
County Shelter listings may change during a storm, so check charlottecountyfl.gov website under Shelter Listing for the most updated list.

Many families wish to bring their **pets** with them to a shelter. Some shelters allow pets, while others do not. Although all Charlotte County shelters are pet friendly, check the above website before going.

Prepare your pet's bag ahead of time.

Include:

- Non-perishable food
- Water
- Medications
- Sturdy cage or carrier
- Collar and leash
- Up-to-date vaccination records



CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Submitted by: Sam Besase



CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS AFFECTING ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS

At recent Charlotte County commissioner meetings, the county commissioners gave some information on the Charlotte County 2024 budget.

Charlotte County Commissioners stated that we must keep the County on track in these inflationary times. Charlotte County Property values have increased 13.2% in the last year; however, Homestead property is capped at 3%.

Hurricane Ian was the most devastating event Charlotte County has ever experienced.

Commissioners stated that there is an increase of about \$850 million in property valuation, however, there is over a BILLION dollars in Hurricane Ian losses for Charlotte County budget.

Perhaps 70% of Hurricane Ian losses might be recovered from FEMA (federal government) and another 20% from the State of Florida, leaving perhaps 10% to be borne by residents.

Commissioners stated that the Millage will stay the same and the 3% cap stays in place.

The last public hearings in June of 2023 on proposed tax increases had HUGE crowds, therefore the final 2 public hearings in September of 2023 shall be held at the Charlotte County Event Center.

Rotonda West and Charlotte County property owners by now, should have received their TRIM notices from the Charlotte County Property Appraiser in the mail. They were placed in the mail on Tuesday August 22, 2023. TRIM stands for the State of Florida's **Truth in Millage Act**.

TRIM notices inform taxpayers which governmental entity (such as MSBU or Fire, etc) is responsible for the taxes levied and the amount of tax liability taxpayers may owe to each taxing authority. The assessed value of your property is also included. The property appraiser sends this information, known as the TRIM notice, to the property owner in August of every year.

TRIM notices reflect the **MAXIMUM** tax rate that can be levied on a property. It is not a tax bill, its an estimate, your actual tax bill should be mailed to property owners in October 2023.

Note, if your mailing address is your NORTHERN address, then your tax information from Charlotte County will be mailed to your NORTHERN address, hopefully residents have their mail FORWARDED to their RWA address (or the property owner can request a CHANGE to their mailing address from Charlotte County (and also change your address with the RWA).

US Mail sent to your NORTHERN address, only to be **FORWARDED/RE-SENT** back down to your Rotonda West address by USPS can cause a 2-to-3-to-4 week delay in receiving your mail.

For example, the County Commission set a maximum rate for the Charlotte County Fire Rescue MSBU, however, commissioners have publicly indicated they do not intend to set the millage at the **maximum** rate. At the West Charlotte County Stormwater MSBU meeting on Wednesday August 23, 2023 it was reported that the proposed TAX increase of \$125 per acre is going to be reduced to \$103 per acre. Most RWA lots are ¼ acres therefore, the tax increase for this MSBU would amount to an increase of about \$25.33 per year. (\$2.11 per month for **just this MSBU tax increase**)

The actual millage rate is set by the Charlotte County Commissioners at its September 2023 budget public hearings listed below.

Again, the Charlotte County Commission public hearings on the 2024 budget are set for:

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON CHARLOTTE COUNTY 2024 BUDGET: 5:01pm Thursday September 7, 2023 – CHARLOTTE COUNTY EVENT CENTER, PUNTA GORDA

FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON CHARLOTTE COUNTY 2024 BUDGET: 5:01pm Tuesday September 19, 2023 – CHARLOTTE COUNTY EVENT CENTER, PUNTA GORDA

LOCATION: Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda.

RWA residents are encouraged to attend these 2 Charlotte County budget meetings as they will impact your TAXES that are coming out in October of this year.

If RWA residents have issues with the proposed TAX increases to their properties, then they should plan on attending and SPEAKING directly (for 5 minutes) to the Charlotte County Commissioners. Residents can also go to the Charlotte County Property Assessor office at 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL to appeal their property tax bill.

Shown below is an update on the Rotonda Boulevard South bridge replacement project from the Charlotte County Public Works Department:

- ***When shall the design phase be completed? The design phase is scheduled to be completed by 08/12/2024 assuming no permitting delays.***
- ***When shall the construction contract be issued? The construction contract is scheduled to be issued sometime in October of 2024.***
- ***What design was agreed upon? The design consultant is currently doing a feasibility study to determine the most economical repair/replacement solution whether to repair the existing bridge or construct a new bridge. The final design solution is scheduled to be completed by 10/20/2023.***
- ***When is the best estimate for start date for construction of the bridge? The estimated start date for construction of the bridge is 01/6/2025.***

When is the best estimate for the completion date for construction of the bridge? The estimated completion date for construction of the bridge is 07/21/2025.

The next Quarterly **ROTONDA WEST STREETS & DRAINAGE MSBU** (Municipal Services Benefit Unit) meeting is Thursday September 21, 2023, at 9:30 am in the conference room at 6868 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL. Residents are allowed to speak for 3 minutes on any MSBU agenda item. RWA residents are encouraged to attend this MSBU meeting.

PARADISE

Submitted by: Sam Besase

CHARLOTTE County has been spotlighted in another ranking, this time as the fourth best place to retire in the state of Florida, according to the online, consumer -focused financial information and advisor company, SmartAsset.

Charlotte County came in behind Sumter, Sarasota and Martin Counties in the ranking of 10 Best Places To Retire in Florida according to the research survey analysis. The study determined the 10-county ranking using four criteria:

- A. Tax Burden
- B. Medical Care Access (number of doctors' offices, etc.)
- C. Recreational Opportunities (number of recreation centers)
- D. Social Activity Opportunities. (number of retirement centers)

- 1. SUMTER COUNTY
- 2. SARASOTA COUNTY
- 3. MARTIN COUNTY
- 4. **CHARLOTTE COUNTY**
- 5. CITRUS COUNTY
- 6. COLLIER COUNTY
- 7. PALM BEACH COUNTY
- 8. INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
- 9. PINELLAS COUNTY



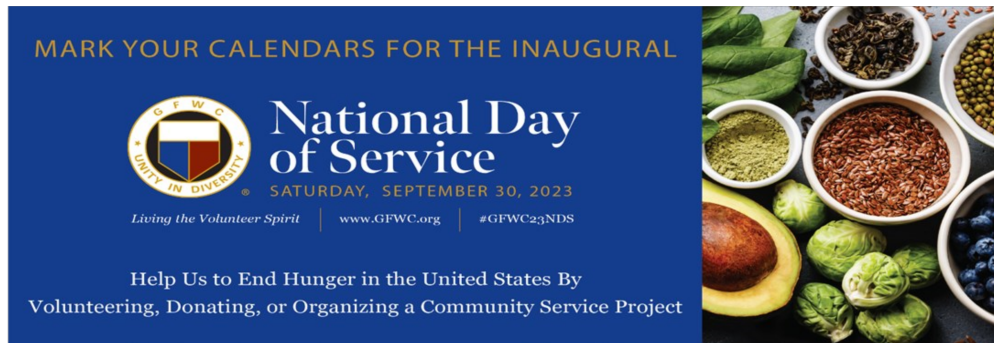


GF WC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

Gwen Grace, President



September is when the Rotonda West Woman's Club comes back from a summer break. And we begin to focus on a major event coming from The General Federation of Woman's Clubs.



**HELP STAMP OUT
HUNGER AND FOOD
INSECURITY**

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, in Charlotte County, and all 50 states, the individual clubs of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) will work with one single purpose on their National Day of Service to Stamp Out Hunger and Food Insecurity. Everything received at the two local collection sites will stay in Charlotte County.

We are aware that 34 million people in the United States are food insecure and more specifically, Charlotte County has approximately 19,000 adults and 5,200 children who do not know when or where they will have their next meal.

The three GFWC Woman's Clubs of Charlotte County (Punta Gorda, Rotonda West and Port Charlotte) will host their Day of Service with food drives and gratefully accept monetary donations earmarked for Back Pack Kidz, the Homeless Coalition and Food Banks throughout Charlotte County.

- 1. Food Drive for non-perishable items from 9:00 am to Noon, (drive-thru) sponsored by GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club at the Rotonda West Association Community Center at 646 Rotonda Circle and the South Gulf Cove HOA Clubhouse at 14859 Ingraham Blvd. Donations collected at these two locations will be distributed to Englewood Help Hand, St. David's Jubilee Center and St. Francis Food pantries.**
- 2. Food Drive for non-perishable items sponsored by GFWC Woman's Club of Port Charlotte and GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club at the Port Charlotte Clubhouse - 20271 Tappan Zee Drive, Port Charlotte, FL 33952 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. There will be an ice cream truck and live music to enjoy, so plan to stay and enjoy a little break in your day.**

We hope that the residents of Rotonda West will come out and support our efforts.

Welcome Back! The September General Meeting at the RWA Activity Center is on Thursday, September 21st. Refreshments and social time begins at 9:00 am. The business meeting is from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. September's guest speaker is Tammy Tiu from The Literacy Center in Englewood as we focus on activities of our Educations and Libraries Community Service Program Committee. If you are interested in joining GFWC RWWC you are very welcome to attend. Or 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.



If you have not had a chance to watch our monthly meetings that we have recorded, please do. Recordings are located on our website and Facebook Page. You will find all kinds of interesting information about Neighborhood Watch, what transpired over the month(s), and pertinent information presented by Deputy Inferino from CCSO. Each month he gives us an update on things going on around our Rotonda West community and around Charlotte County.

Currently there are 306 homes under construction within our circle and approximately a combination of 505 homes and vacant lots for sale. This means heavy traffic on our roads, unwanted eyes on unoccupied homes, and construction equipment/materials up for grab. There should not be anyone working overnight on a “new build”. If you see something—say something...Call the CCSO Non-emergency number at 941-639-0013. When CCSO responded to these calls, workers did not have permission to be on the property (at that time) OR CCSO walked into a crime being committed. This is why we need more volunteers to protect our assets and our community.

Why do we patrol?

*Basic Crime Prevention~ Work for a better and safer neighborhood through protecting and honoring the rights of others.

*Build a Stronger Community~ Get to know your neighbors. In our fast-paced world, we don't spend enough time learning about our neighbors. Watch groups give community members a reason to get together and talk about making their community a better place.

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

There are obvious benefits Neighborhood Watch volunteers and their communities have experienced throughout the years such as: • a reduction in crime • a better quality of life • a greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control • building community pride and unity • preparing for helping others and ourselves in our community • becoming the extra “eyes and ears” of law enforcement personnel and therefore reduce law enforcement's burden.

We Need You!!! If you are looking to volunteer as a Patrol or be a Base Station, it just takes two hours a month; a small commitment to protecting our neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584 OR go to our Facebook page @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

See you at our next meeting; September 19th @ 10am at the RWA Community Center

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

David W Perry - President- 941-828-1584

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

COMING SOON!

SEPTEMBER:

- Sunday, September 17th
BINGO RETURNS! Doors open at 12:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 20th
Ask the Pharmacist, at 3 p.m. in the Community Center
- Tuesday, September 26th
Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner, 5-7 p.m. in the Community Center

OCTOBER:

- Thursday, October 5th
Health Fair, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Community Center
- Saturday, October 14th
World Food Day. Collection for St. Francis Food Pantry (9 a.m.-12 noon). RWA Office parking lot.
- Sunday, October 15th
BINGO! Doors open at 12:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 24th
Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner, 5-7 p.m. in the Community Center.
- Saturday, October 28th
Alzheimer's Walk (9 a.m.) Broadmoor Park.
- Monday, October 30th
Music in the Park, Rotonda Singers, 6 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS




Hosted by the RWA Community Outreach Committee

Fall Events 2023

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO RWA RESIDENTS, RENTERS, AND THEIR GUESTS.
ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CENTER AND BROADMOOR PARK
6416 ROTONDA CIRCLE
CALENDAR AT WWW.ROTONDAWEST.ORG

Event flyers will be posted with details as they approach the event date.

September 17 - BINGO Doors open, 12:15 pm. Play begins, 1:00 pm
September 20 - Ask The Pharmacist @ 3:00 pm
September 26 - Meet & Greet Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:00 pm

October 5 - Health Fair @ 10:00 am
October 14 - World Food Day Collection for St. Francis Food Pantry @ 9:00 am
October 15 - BINGO Doors open, 12:15 pm. Play begins, 1:00 pm
October 24 - Meet & Greet Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:00 pm
October 28 - Alzheimer's Walk with RWWC @ 9:00 am
October 30 - Music in the Park, Rotonda Singers @ 6:00 pm

November 2 - RWA Open House @ 6:00 pm
November 3 & 4 - Community Garage Sale
November 15 - Frank Levin Lecture @ 1:00 pm
November 19 - BINGO Doors open, 12:15 pm. Play begins, 1:00 pm
November 25 - Gazebo Lighting & Boat Parade
November 28 - Meet & Greet Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:00 pm

December 2 - Christmas Parade @ 10:00 am
Along with Toys for Tots and food collection for Helping Hands
December 3 - Holiday Stroll @ 4:00 pm
December 10 - Music in the Park, Christmas Music by Jonny Puma @ 4:30 pm
December 17 - BINGO Doors open, 12:15 pm. Play begins, 1:00 pm
December 26 - Meet & Greet Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:00 pm

ASK THE PHARMACIST

By: Sarah Swiatek



Sarah Swiatek, Pharmacist



JUST A REMINDER!

I will be conducting our first quarterly gathering in the Community Room to discuss wellness and self care.

Looking forward to seeing you [on Wednesday, September 20th at 3 p.m.](#)

Please bring questions for group discussion, as well as any personal comforts (a beverage, snack, layers of clothing, medications).

The more the merrier....Friends and guests are welcome!

The intentions for this event is to generate conversation and ideas for taking care of ourselves, and each other.

Additionally, I will be collecting donations of personal care items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap. These items will be passed along to a local entity that helps the community.

I invite you to email me at SRxSwi@gmail.com if you would like to offer topic suggestions, or with questions that you might have.

Thank you and hope to see you there!

Sarah Swiatek Pharm. D. R.Ph.



*Sunday
September 17th*

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Play begins promptly at 1:00 pm. Doors open at 12:15 pm

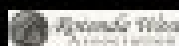
The event
is open to
RWA
members
and their
guests.

Must be
18
to play.

Event
open to
RWA
members
and their
guests.

646
Rotonda
Circle
RWA
Community
Center

Snacks &
water
available,
or bring
your own.
Covered
beverage
container
please.



Community Outreach Committee

MEET & GREET



Tuesday, September 26th 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 -Dessert

I-P - Salad or Side

Q-Z- Main Dish

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

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



Presented by the
Community Outreach
Committee

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



Save the Date

October 5th

10 am - 1 pm

RWA Community Center

In honor of Healthy Aging Month, your RWA Community Outreach Committee is partnering with Rotonda's Brookdale Senior Living to bring you a Health Fair. What's a Health Fair? Various businesses in the area will have booths of information designed to add enrichment to your health and well-being as you age.

Get a screening of your blood pressure, blood sugar, vision or hearing. Learn more about living at Brookdale. Perhaps, you would like to know more about the YMCA, or Coastal Dermatology, Amedisys Home Health, or Veterans Advocacy, or get information on non-emergency services/information through the Charlotte County Emergency Services (sheriff and fire departments), or find out all about the Meals on Wheels program. We are still working on plans and adding more vendors each week. We'll also have some great door prizes for those attending. So, mark your calendars to join us on **Thursday, October 5th between 10 am-1 pm** in the RWA Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle.

If you have a health/senior living related business and would like to join us that day, please contact either:

Deb Orchard by email at communityoutreach@rotonda.org.

Alicia Green by email at Agreen20@Brookdale.com





Christmas Parade

Save the Date!
Saturday, December 2, 2023



2023 Theme...
Santa's Workshop
Toys-Toys-Toys

Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, December 2, 2023



New for this Year

Morning parade start and shorter route

COME HAVE FUN AT THE ROTONDA WEST CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday December 2nd, 2023 at 10:00 AM

If you have questions, please email: parade@rotondawest.org or

Call 616.540.7557 Pam Pierce -Parade Coordinator

Parade entry application opens 9/1/2023

Register online at Rotondawest.org under FORMS

*The Marines and RWA will be collecting new unwrapped toys
along the parade route to benefit Toys for Tots.*

We will also be collecting food items to support Englewood Helping Hand

Event sponsorships are available. Call for details.

Community Outreach Committee
Rotonda West Association
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947

Local Postal
Customer

MUSIC BINGO

A MUSIC IN THE PARK PRESENTATION

Story by: Deb Orchard

Photos by: Wayne Mengel



On Saturday, August 26th, the Community Outreach Committee presented “MUSIC BINGO” featuring Mr. Game Show as host. This was a return of a very popular event.

It was a small group of approximately 50 attendees; yet, we were enthusiastically singing along with the music and marking our bingo cards. It was also good to catch up with friends and neighbors. I saw new faces in the group and hope they also had a great time, too.

There were two bingos in the first game with a total of 4 winners overall. Each winner received a gift card for Publix. In fact, one of our winners, visiting his grandparents, said he was going to give his gift card to his dad. Thanks to the movie “The Lion King” this 14 year old knew the words to the Tokens 1961 hit “A Lion Sleeps Tonight” and sang along with the rest of us.



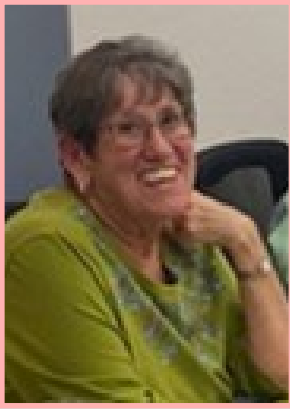
Mr. Game Show



Enjoying the games and the music!

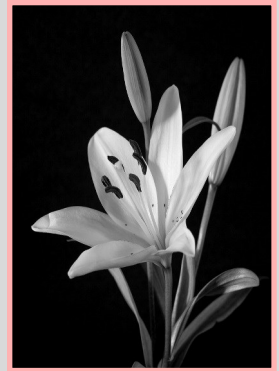


**JOIN US FOR THE NEXT MUSIC IN THE PARK EVENT
FEATURING THE ROTONDA SINGERS
ON OCTOBER 30TH
AT BROADMOOR PARK AT 6 P.M.**



Lynn Smith
1951-2023

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
LYNN SMITH
FRIEND, NEIGHBOR, QUILTER,
AND RWA COMMITTEE MEMBER



Lynn Smith passed away suddenly on Monday, August 14, 2023 at the age of 72. Lynn is survived by her husband, Paul, her daughters, and grandchildren.

After moving to Rotonda West, Lynn became involved in the Englewood sunshine quilt group, and served on the Community Outreach Committee.

Lynn was truly a special lady with a warm personality, a quick wit, and a beautiful smile. She will be missed.



Husband Paul and Lynn

A MESSAGE FROM DEB ORCHARD

As many of you know Lynn Smith passed away on August 14th. Many of us know her from being active in Rotonda's Sew Much Fun sewing group, Sunshine Quilt Guild, or our RWA Community Outreach Committee.

She relayed such entertaining tales about of her life, her husband (Paul) and her dog (Pinto). Tales which left me laughing with delight. I will certainly miss the stories about her life; as much as, I will miss all the good she was doing in this world. While I knew Lynn from other activities, I got to know her best from serving together on the Community Outreach Committee.

Lynn joined our Community Outreach Committee during the summer of 2021 (a time of just coming out of the COVID shutdowns). During her first meeting, much to my surprise, she volunteered to help Denise Slovinski (also a new committee member) bring back Rotonda Bingo. At the time, I didn't know she and Denise were best friends, which may have been what prompted her to volunteer so quickly. Still, it was no small commitment to join our committee and immediately take on such a project. Since then, she has also brought us the RW logo items and Shred-It Day with food drive for St. David's. She was co-chair of the fall Celebrate the Circle and for the past two years co-chair of the annual Volunteer Banquet. She was always one of the first people to volunteer her time and talents to anything our committee planned.

Certainly, during the time I knew her, she was an example of a "life well lived".

We miss you my friend,

OFFICE STAFF

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Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

**Nancy Schwechel and
Pablo Guardiola**
Administrator and
Deed Restrictions

Jenny Bulle
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Minutes Clerk

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Joe Harris
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Craig Brown

Doug Smith

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

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