

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

OCTOBER 2023



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

'ADMIRAL ANDY' AND VOLUNTEERS LIBERATE ROTONDA'S CANALS FROM HURRICANE IAN

Story by: Connie Smith

Photos by: Rotonda West Yacht Club

Following Hurricane Ian that devastated south-west Florida on September 28, 2022, the one part of Rotonda West that had yet to recover was its 23 miles of canals.

Andy VanScyoc, best known as president of the Rotonda West Association Board of Directors may find more pleasure in his honorary title of admiral of the Rotonda West Yacht Club. In Rotonda West, a yacht more often than not, translates to a pontoon boat. Folks who followed the group's Facebook page, prior to "Ian", would find "Admiral Andy" gathering member's pontoons for lighted holiday parades or evening floats. Often, an announcement would go out and any resident would be invited to hop aboard an available "yacht" for a memorable float through the canals.



A section of dock floats to the surface after being retrieved by Rotonda West Yacht Club volunteers during cleanup of the Pinehurst section of the Rotonda River, August 8.

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Canals Free of Hurricane Debris
Thanks to Volunteers

September Board of Directors
Meetings

BOD Candidate Info Sheets

Deed Restriction Committee
Posts Reminders

Grass Clippings, Be Smart

Charlotte County News Briefs

Upcoming Events

Rotonda West Administrative
Office-Community Center
Broadmoor Park
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947
Office Hours: 8 am-4pm M-F

CONTACT WEST WAYS EDITOR AT:

It was a combination of impatience to get back to that state of enjoyment, knowing that waiting on Charlotte County to start canal cleanup might take years, and understanding that very few people had the equipment or leadership ability to undertake such a project that prompted VanScyoc, last January 24, to post on the Rotonda West Yacht Club page the following message:

Hopefully start cleaning the canals this weekend. We are way overdue, first the county was going to do it, then the state but I think we can get the ball rolling with the awesome volunteers of the yacht club. We will be getting trash and small debris.

Recognizing the size of the project ahead, he added:

In the past I would put together massive fleet efforts and get it done in one weekend but this time the task is way too large for that. I'm just hoping to initiate the process this week.

As it turned out, the project was fully completed in nine months, with the most time spent in the Oakland Hills section – January 24 to April 5 - where tornados during Ian deposited all manner of flora, fauna and home debris. It was also VanScyoc's home base, and there volunteers learned valuable techniques for dealing with trash/recycling cans (turn them sideways) or portable toilets (NEVER bring them aboard, instead get them to shore and put them on a truck with a lift gate).



Volunteers Jeff Sweeney and Patti Cowin latch on to a downed tree as they attempt to remove it from Rotonda's waterways. Also on the boat that day was Dave Dziezynski

Volunteers next tackled Pebble Beach from April 5 to May 26. On April 11, another of many equipment issues occurred when VanScyoc documented what sounded like a gunshot that blew the hood off the boat engine, igniting a fire that was finally put out with canal water after a fire extinguisher ran out. To make matters worse, the engine hood also sank in the excitement. On the good side, a couple of days before, the volunteers had completed cleanup of 20% of "Ian's crap out of our beautiful waterways."

The months of June and July saw a break while VanScyoc recovered from foot surgery but lady volunteers, including Melissa Blayman, did spend the July 4th weekend cleaning up in the White Marsh section.

Cleanup resumed in earnest on August 8 with the Pinehurst, Broadmoor and half of Long Meadow sections of the Rotonda River being cleared. Pine Valley, on August 10, took just six hours to clear its four and one-half miles. White Marsh was completed on August 15, with four creeks left to "finish the whole place for storm debris cleaning". Long Meadow was completed on the 16th.

On August 23, VanScyoc geared up for a final push, targeting upper Broadmoor Creek on the 25th, "I'm not going to sugar coat it, the work is hot and nasty but the satisfaction of being involved in this project is worth it. We are getting close to completion now!!" he wrote on the Facebook page while calling for assistance.

Lower Broadmoor Creek was completely blocked until the volunteers removed trees and made the creek passable on September 1.

The project came full circle on September 5 when all of Rotonda's navigable waterways were declared open. Unfortunately, VanScyoc's vessel overheated and was towed home. "She's broken, nasty and stinky, but she's home and she accomplished her objective," he wrote. On September 14, he posted a photo of the engine that had been presumed dead. It was running. "I'm happy today," he wrote.



A final mission was completed on September 23 when volunteers returned to the Oakland Hills section to clear a particularly daunting bit of storm debris. It was a massive section of metal roofing that was hanging from a tree, down into the Oakland Hills creek. VanScyoc realized this job would take all of the accumulated experience gained over the nine months of the project. When removed, VanScyoc realized his decision to leave this portion of the project to the bitter end was correct - the metal material measured 37 feet.

Left: This massive section of metal roofing hanging in a tree and extending into the Oakland Hills Creek since Hurricane Ian, was left for last by volunteers who knew they would need every bit of experience gained during nine months of cleanup.

In all, over the nine months, VanScyoc estimated the volunteers recovered 60-70 trash/recycling cans and some 60 portable toilets. They recovered so much soffit material he was able to replace the dodger board – a frame-supported fence that protects boat passengers from waves - on one of his boats with soffit material. While a bowling ball may have been the strangest object recovered, “we pulled a lot of patio furniture out of the canals,” he recalled. Another trip recovered a boat bimini top.

VanScyoc utilized two of his own boats during the project and turned one pontoon (“we found regular boats don’t cut it”) into a specialized cleanup vessel with a blue center mount high towbar for dragging out tree limbs.

Nearly two dozen individuals participated in the cleanup as they could. Some had their own personal storm-related hardships or were seasonal residents. Others no longer lived in Rotonda West. In the case of one volunteer, VanScyoc theorized their motivation was a love of wildlife. He recounted an alligator that even seemed grateful and remained still while that volunteer removed a plastic bag from its back during one cleanup event. “It was almost like it was thanking us,” he said.

So, with sincere apologies to any overlooked individual, here is an attempt to list the cleanup volunteers: R.J. Mignagaray, Cindy Chatham, Stephanie Jack, Joe Mcc, Bob Carver, Hank Barstow, Jim Freiberger, Eugene Lerner, Patti Cowin, Dave Dziezynski, Larry Lopienski, Sean Raspatello, Rick Beck, Karen & Jeff Nicholas, Jeff Sweeney, Bill Obst, Brian Cox, Buck Harrison, Larry Ash, Ronald Wilson, Steve Reed.



Rotonda West Yacht Club “Admiral” Andy VanScyoc put soffit recovered from Rotonda’s canals to good use to replace his dodger boards on one of his pontoon vessels



Left: A boat bimini top sits fully extended after being rescued from the Rotonda Canals

Looking back on the project, VanScyoc said, “originally, I didn’t intend to do the entire canal system...Charlotte County should have done it but they had to concentrate on major salt water areas. I knew I could do it...It needed to be done.”

Thanks to Admiral Andy and a host of Rotonda West (and other) volunteers the canals, once again navigable, have been liberated from Hurricane Ian.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**01 Rotonda Canal Clean-up
Effort**

05 BOD Meeting 8/17/23

**07 Candidates' Night
Questions Requested**

**12 Reminder From Deed
Restriction Committee**

13 Ask the Pharmacist

16 Grass Clippings

**17 Charlotte County
News Briefs**

**18 RWA Treasurer Town Hall &
Residents Roundtable**

19 Neighborhood Watch

20 Woman's Club

21 Mark Your Calendars

22 Event Flyers

**28 Christmas Parade-
Sign up to Participate**

29 Staff

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 SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 2PM

ROLL CALL: ALL DIRECTORS PRESENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 17, 2023 MINUTES

MEMBERS INPUT: brought forward were issues related to signage guidelines.

OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS REPORTS:

- President Van Scyoc-expressed condolences to Derrick and Meghan Hedges on the passing of Meghan's mother.
- Treasurer Besase-stated initial budget for 2024 is being developed; 97% of members have paid assessment; 3% of members are delinquent. Overall, RWA is in an excellent financial position.
- Manager Hedges-stated the office staff continues to complete mowing cycle, and that removal of Brazilian Pepper Trees is proceeding. Manager Hedges also reminds members that grass clippings should not be mowed into canals, or dumped into canals, as it will cause algae issues. Allow clippings to stay on lawn, nutrients will help lawn. Manager Hedges also stated that 3 and 1/2 miles of shell will be put down on pathways in Broadmoor Park sometime in October-November when clean-up is completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Discussion of sending out certified letters to members regarding deed restriction violations. Many people state that they did not receive warning letter about violation. 947 violation letters were sent out, 133 letters were ignored. 80% of violations are in 4 categories (trash cans, parking, pepper trees, & exterior projects performed without Residential modification application approval). Report that Residential Modification informational meeting (town hall style) may be held in late October.
- Residential Modification – reports that 168 applications reviewed. 98% approval rate, 1-2% not approved (often approved on resubmittal). Reminds members that RMA process works.

NEW BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Applications (3) for use of common areas: Woman's Club Food Drive 9/30; Campaign Event at Marina 10/15; bridal shower 10/22. All passed.
- Campaign signs allowed at entrance to Broadmoor Park. Item passed.
- FAQ regarding fiscal issues held

Respectively submitted by: Nadine Clough

BOARD DEBATES GOLF CARTS, “LOW SPEED VEHICLES”

By: Barry Kean



The Rotonda West Association Board of Directors met on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month (September 14 and 28), its normal schedule. For the most part, these meetings dealt with routine business and committee reports, but at its September 28 meeting the Board scheduled a discussion of whether golf carts can be parked in residential driveways, visible from the street. The subject apparently was seen as relevant because a small number of Rotonda West residents have been cited for RWA parking violations on this basis. The Rotonda West Deed Restrictions do not include golf carts in the categories of vehicles that may be parked in driveways.

The scope of the discussion quickly expanded, however, when it became apparent that two classes of vehicles are involved, golf carts, and “low speed vehicles,” which more often than not look like golf carts. Florida law defines a low speed vehicle as a four wheeled vehicle with a top speed of more than 20 but less than 25 miles per hour, which complies with the state’s safety standards and equipment requirements. Low Speed Vehicles must be licensed and insured, and must be operated by a licensed driver. They may be operated on public roads where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

Golf carts which do not meet the definition of Low Speed Vehicles have a top speed of less than 20 miles per hour and are not subject to state licensing, insurance, safety and equipment requirements. They may be operated on roads with speed limits of 30 miles per hour or less that have been designated by the county as authorized for golf cart use. Prior law permitted those 14 years of age to operate golf carts on authorized public roads. However, a recent change to the law, effective July 1, 2023, requires that such operators be at least 15 with a learner’s permit, 16 with a driver’s license, or 18 with any government issued ID. At present, though, these provisions are of only academic interest in Rotonda West, because no public roads in Rotonda West have been authorized by Charlotte County for golf cart use.

All of these matters were discussed at the September 28 Board meeting but no action was taken or formally proposed. It appears that the RWA Deed Restriction Committee will place this topic on the agenda for its next meeting to explore what, if any action may be needed. The Deed Restriction Committee normally meets at 9 AM on the fourth Wednesday of the month; its meetings are open to all RWA members.

FINAL WEEKS FOR SUBMITTING QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES' NIGHT OCTOBER 19TH, 2023



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

Election Committee wants YOUR questions for Candidates' Night, Thursday, October 19th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All questions (limit of 5 per owner) need to be submitted via email at electioncommittee@rotondawest.org or by dropping off at RWA office by **October 12, 2023**.

No questions will be taken live from the floor or via Zoom on October 19th. Each candidate will be asked a random question pulled from a bowl, submitted by you, our community. If you want your question to be directed to a specific candidate, you **MUST** include that in your communication.

The Election Committee reviews all questions prior to acceptance. You must include your name and address with questions to verify ownership within Rotonda West HOA. All names of individuals are kept confidential.

Candidate Information Sheets can be found on the following pages in this West Ways issue. Also, information sheets can be picked up at the RWA office, or can be found online at rotondawest.org.

RWA ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTING RESULTS 12/7/2023



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



FRIENDLY REMINDER TO THE RWA MEMBERSHIP FROM THE DEED RESTRICTION COMMITTEE

From Dale Jensen, Chairman of the Deed Restriction Committee

Over the past 12 months, the deed restriction committee has found that 80% of the deed restriction violations in Rotonda West fall into four categories:

- Garbage and recycling containers.
- Illegal parking.
- Exterior modifications performed without an approved Residential Modification application.
- Unimproved lots with invasive, non-native vegetation, e.g., Brazilian pepper plants, melaleuca, present.

With that in mind, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the rules and regulations pertaining to those categories.

Garbage and recycling containers (Reference: *Amended Restatement of Restrictions for Rotonda West, Section 18, Garbage and Recycling/Outside Equipment*).



Except on the day immediately preceding the day of collection and the day of collection, garbage and recycling containers shall be kept either inside the garage, behind landscape shrubs or within a fenced area. In Rotonda West, the normal day of collection is Tuesday which means you can place your containers outside on Monday but must return them to a place of concealment by end of the day Tuesday. (Reference: *Amended Restatement of Restrictions for Rotonda West, Section 18, Garbage and Recycling/Outside Equipment*)



Illegal Parking (Reference: *Amended Restatement of Restrictions for Rotonda West, Section 24, Vehicle Operation and Parking, Subsections b, c and d*).

All vehicles, other than automobiles, pick-up trucks, SUVs, vans, motorcycles or other vehicles as may be approved from time to time at the sole discretion of the Grantor/Developer or Association must be parked in a fully enclosed garage. Any vehicle containing any commercial advertising signage parked on a driveway overnight cannot exceed four wheels. Box trucks are prohibited.

No vehicle may be parked on any lawn, road right of way, easement or Unimproved Lot/Tract, except on a temporary basis, not to exceed twelve (12) hours, and only for the necessary construction, repair or maintenance of an Improved Lot/Tract or Unimproved Lot/Tract. Approval from the Owner of the Unimproved Lot/Tract must first be obtained before parking on an Unimproved Lot/Tract.

Any vehicle not required to park in a garage must park on a driveway, or on a contiguous turnout or turnaround area. A driveway or a contiguous turnout or turnaround area are defined as a concrete surface or paver bricks that provide continuous access to a garage except for expanded driveways as herein provided.

Exterior modifications performed without an approved Residential Modification application (Reference: *Rotonda West Association, Inc. Residential Modification Committee Guidelines, Section 1, Exterior Additions, Alterations and Modifications*).



A Residential Modification Request form must be submitted, reviewed and approved by the Residential Modification Committee (the “RMC”) prior to making any additions, alterations or modifications to any Dwelling, Addition, Accessory Structure or Improvement on a Lot/Tract within Rotonda West. **There is no charge for submission of a request form**, however, a Deed Restriction Violation Fee of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for subsequent offenses will be levied for any work started or completed prior to RMC approval of an RMC request. You may view or download the Residential Modification Application on the Rotonda webpage under “applications & forms”.



Unimproved lots with invasive, non-native vegetation, e.g., Brazilian pepper plants, melaleuca, present (Reference: *Amended Restatement of Restrictions for Rotonda West, Section 16, Dwelling Maintenance, Landscaping and Lot Care, Subsection b*).

Any unimproved Lot/Tract not containing a Dwelling or other Improvement shall be maintained so that no refuse or unsightly objects shall be placed or allowed to remain on the Lot/Tract and the Lot/Tract shall otherwise be maintained in compliance with local government ordinances and regulations and Rules and Regulations adopted by the Association from time to time regarding the maintenance of natural vegetation and limitations or prohibitions regarding invasive non-native vegetation, including but not limited to Brazilian Pepper and melaleuca and any other unsightly objects as determined by the Board.

The Rotonda West Association staff is very knowledgeable about deed restriction rules and are here to help you with any questions or concerns regarding these rules. Every attempt will be made to help homeowners follow the rules and correct any violations. It is important to remember that even if you receive a violation letter, you are still allowed so many days to correct the violation before a fine is levied.

Because you chose to live in a Deed Restricted community, you have the responsibility to both know the deed restriction rules and, of course, to abide by them.

As always, should you have any questions concerning these rules and regulations, please call the Rotonda West Association office at (941) 697-6788. Thank you!

STEPS TO FOLLOWING DEED RESTRICTION RULES:

PICK UP RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION APPLICATION AT RWA OFFICE OR DOWNLOAD FROM THE RWA WEBSITE

FILL OUT FORM. TAKES ONLY MINUTES. GET HELP FROM RWA OFFICE IF YOU NEED IT.

SUBMIT FORM EITHER ONLINE OR AT RWA OFFICE. THERE IS NO CHARGE! 98% OF APPLICATIONS ARE APPROVED.





Sarah Swiatek, Pharmacist

MANY TOPICS DISCUSSED AT FIRST *ASK THE PHARMACIST* EVENT

By: Nadine Clough



Pharmacist Sarah Swiatek led an informative and interesting group discussion at the first *Ask the Pharmacist* event held at the Community Center on September 20. The hour-long question and answer format centered on wellness and self-care, with a wide range of topics discussed.

After introducing herself, Sarah set the ground rules for the group. On her white-board she wrote three basic rules that would be adhered to. Namely, that we would be polite to one another, that we should keep in mind that privacy is honored, and lastly, that politics would not be allowed into the conversations.

The fifteen members of the audience quickly jumped in with questions that were relatable to our age group, and relevant to current events. Sarah answered questions very clearly, and validated all inquiries. Some of the topics discussed were: name-brand vs generic drugs; prescription drug shortages; COVID, flu, and RSV vaccines; over-the-counter meds; “Test & Treat” program; blood sugar management; vitamin D and vitamin B-12; skin protection from the sun; allergies; and dietary choices for a healthy life. Through-out the hour, she added interesting behind-the-scenes facts about the profession of a pharmacist, and the increasing demands of the job.

Thank you to Sarah for a wonderful, informative presentation. Also, thank you to the generous people who donated personal care items for those in need. This event was sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee as part of their Wellness Series.

**Plan to join Sarah at the next “Ask the Pharmacist”
event planned for December.**

To the Rotonda Members Who Attended "Ask the Pharmacist" Event,

I would like to thank everyone who attended the first "Ask the Pharmacist" discussion group in September. I enjoyed meeting and speaking with you all.... The hour flew! Everyone in attendance presented great questions and offered valuable feedback for the next event. It is my hope that future events will be more of a "discussion group" format, with the intention of having more conversation and learning from each other. Additionally I would like to extend thanks for the generous hygiene/self care items that were donated for our local community.

The next event will be planned for early December, and announced in the next newsletter. It is my hope that we pack the room.... The more the merrier.

As we approach the autumn months, we all know this is the time to renew yearly vaccinations. The updated flu and COVID vaccines are out, and this year now offers the RSV vaccine for infants and those over age 60. Pneumonia guidelines have been updated, so you may consider getting that vaccine also. And don't forget Shingles protection. Lots of opportunities. Kindly remember, as we move further into the the winter months, that the pharmacies are getting busier, and are understaffed. There may be times when the wait is a little longer than expected. When the staff members are providing immunizations, their efforts are diverted from filling prescriptions. The pharmacies are not afforded extra staffing during these months. The workers are doing MORE with the same amount of hands.

I am always interested in topic ideas for future events. If you'd like to contact me or share any thoughts, please email me at SRxSwi@gmail.com.

Stay well!

Sarah Swiatek Pharm.D. R.Ph.

Thank You

BE SMART ABOUT GRASS CLIPPINGS

DON'T BE DOPEY!

Please do not mow your grass clippings into our beautiful Rotonda West canals!

Grass clippings in the canals cause algae to grow. The algae robs the water of oxygen, hurting the natural balance.

Put clippings back onto your lawn. The nutrients will help your lawn to grow.



DON'T BE GOOFY!

Please do not mow your grass clippings into the road!

Not only does it cause slippery and dangerous conditions for motorcycles and bicycles, but it is littering!

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS BRIEFS



CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS AFFECTING ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO HAVE TERM-LIMITS?

A bill was recently filed to consider term limits on county commissioners. The bill was filed by Rep. Michelle Salzman, R-Pensacola. If approved by both chambers, the proposal would go on the ballot in the November 2024 election. It would require the approval of 60% of Florida's voters. The bill states that it prohibits "incumbent members who have held office for preceding 8 years from appearing on a ballot for reelection". This would apply to terms beginning on or after November 5, 2024. The bill's language is open to legal interpretation and may be different in different counties as dependent on their charters.

NEW LAW RAISES LEGAL AGE TO DRIVE A GOLF CART

Beginning October 1st, 2023 a new Florida law goes into effect for operation of golf carts. The law prohibits a person under 18 from operating a golf cart on certain roadways, unless they have proper identification. The new legislation requires that the driver carry a government-issued I.D. such as a driver's license.

APPROVAL OF REDUCED MSBU RATE BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMISSION

The new fire service rate will be approximately a \$31 increase for the next fiscal year, then a \$28 increase in 2024-2025 for a total increase for the two years of \$59. The original plan would have seen a total increase of \$67. The new rate was approved by the Charlotte County Commissioners after a public hearing. During the hearing, Charlotte County Fire Chief Jason Fair stated that the county's Fire/EMS received 37,868 calls in 2022, which is an 18% increase over the past five years. The funding raised through MSBU rates would help with staffing three new stations in the county. Also, a total of 40 new positions, including new captains, will be added from 2024-2028.

SPRING TRAINING BACK AT CHARLOTTE SPORTS PARK

Charlotte County Facilities project manager Travis Perdue stated that the Charlotte Sports Park was on schedule to reopen by early 2024. The Tampa Bay Rays who rent the facility from the county for spring training have been unable to use the park due to damage caused by Hurricane Ian. The Ray's Baseball Foundation helped with the restoration by presenting a check for \$1 million donation to aid in recovery efforts. Robbie Artz, the foundation's vice president, said he looked forward to the team's return to Charlotte Sports Park in the upcoming months.

ASSOCIATION OFFERS TOWN HALL & RESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE TO ANSWER BUDGET & FINANCE QUESTIONS



The poster is green and white with a circular logo on the top left containing the letters 'RW'. It features several sections of text: the title 'RWA TREASURER TOWN HALL & RESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE', the location 'RWA COMMUNITY CENTER 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West', the dates 'October 18th, Wednesday, 11:00 am - 1:00pm' and 'November 16th, Thursday Noon - 2:00 pm', and the format 'In-person & Zoom'. It also mentions 'Ice Cream Social before we begin!'. There are three columns of topics: 'INFORMATIONAL GET ANSWERS TO FAQs YEARLY ASSESSMENT WHAT DOES IT COVER?', 'BUDGET INCOME STREAMS Assessments Interest Estoppels Transfers Fines', and 'RESERVES/CDARS LIENS & FORECLOSURES'. A large oval at the bottom lists 'MAJOR BUDGET EXPENSES' including Canal Maintenance, Legal, Wages, Taxes, Licenses, Insurance, Audit, Community Outreach, Election, Utilities, Tech Support, Office Equipment & Supplies, Printing & Postage, and Vacant Lot Mowing. Decorative dollar signs are on the left and right sides.

**RWA TREASURER
TOWN HALL &
RESIDENTS ROUNDTABLE**

RWA COMMUNITY CENTER
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West

October 18th, Wednesday, 11:00 am - 1:00pm
November 16th, Thursday Noon - 2:00 pm
In-person & Zoom

Ice Cream Social before we begin!

**INFORMATIONAL
GET ANSWERS TO FAQs
YEARLY ASSESSMENT
WHAT DOES IT COVER?**

**BUDGET INCOME
STREAMS**
Assessments
Interest
Estoppels
Transfers
Fines

**RESERVES/CDARS
LIENS & FORECLOSURES**

MAJOR BUDGET EXPENSES
Canal Maintenance - Canal Bank Mowing - Legal
Wages - Employees - Taxes - Licenses - Insurance - Audit
Community Outreach - Election - Utilities - Tech Support
Office Equipment & Supplies - Printing & Postage
Vacant Lot Mowing - Community Center Expenses

- Free Ice Cream before meeting begins
- Bring a neighbor to the RWA Treasurer Town Hall/ Roundtable
- Ask questions about RWA Finances
- Get answers to Frequently Asked Questions from the RWA Treasurer and the RWA Manager
- Questions like, “What do property owners get for the \$190 yearly assessment?” will be discussed
- Meeting is also on ZOOM and will be recorded to be viewed later at any time
- Members of the RWA Budget and Finance Committee will be in attendance
- Members of the RWA Community Outreach Committee will be in attendance

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH RWA MANAGER
DERRICK HEDGES AND RWA TREASURER SAM BESASE ABOUT
ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION FINANCES**



Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

First of all, WELCOME BACK to our Snowbirds who call Rotonda West their home away from home. You were missed as neighbors and volunteers. Secondly, to all the volunteers that were here in the hottest summer on record (according to NOAA and Weather.com), the busiest home building season Rotonda has ever had (RWA and County Records), and for volunteering more than once a month, we THANK YOU... It's this sense of community and appreciation for each other that keeps us resilient in difficult times, and grateful for all the pleasant ones.

Neighborhood Watch is undoubtedly one of history's oldest and most well-known crime prevention programs. The aim of our group is to promote education for residents and have a safe and secure neighborhood. In general, when criminal activity is suspected, members are encouraged to report it to authorities, and not to intervene. Neighborhood Watch strives to promote awareness and efficiency when acting on suspicious activity. With such large investments and resources from the community, it is important to ask: are community watch programs effective in reducing crime?

The answer is **"YES"**. Charlotte County Sheriff's Department consistently states that Rotonda West is one of the safest places to live in the county.

****Please Welcome our newest members Scott Carruthers who is car #511 and base #4 AND Courtney Carruthers who is car #512 ****

Talk with your neighbors, talk with your friends, and ask them to join you in preventing crime; it is just two hours a month. Remember without volunteers, we would not exist and crime could increase.

Lastly, it is sad news that Jack Webster (car#704) recently passed away. Please keep Cathie and the entire Webster family in your thoughts and prayers

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

David W Perry -President- 941-828-1584

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

If you see something—say something...Call the CCSO Non-emergency number at 941-639-0013



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

Gwen Grace, President



The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club began the season with our General Meeting on September 21st with Tammy Tiu from The Literacy Center for Dyslexia in Englewood as our guest speaker. Our members and guests learned how the center serves children with language-based learning disa-



Above: Tammy Tiu with Debra Sigismondo and Kara Kelly chairs of the Education and Libraries Community Service Program

bilities. Our club supported the Center financially by donating proceeds from the April 2023 Fashion Show. At this general meeting, our members donated over \$300 worth of supplies to the Center. On September 25, seven RWWC members (& one husband) of the Environment Community Service Program Committee had a road cleanup day along Rotonda Blvd. West. The group collected 60 lbs of litter. 93 cans & bottles were recycled at the RW Community Park.

Coming up on Saturday October 21st is the Fall Bazaar and on October 28th is the Rotonda Walk to End Alzheimer's.

The October General Meeting is at the RWA Community Center on Thursday, October 19th. Refreshments and social time begins at 9:00 am. The business meeting is from 10 am to 11:30 am. Our guest speaker is Rita Bertler from Dollars for Mammograms whose mission is to provide no-cost mammograms to area women who are uninsured or under-insured and cannot afford the cost of this life saving cancer detection procedure.

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.



Above: Environmental Community Service Program Committee work to clean up Rotonda Blvd. West

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

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.
- Wednesday, October 18th
Treasurer Townhall & Residents Roundtable 11 a.m. –1 p.m.
- Thursday, October 19th
Candidate's Night 7-9 p.m. Community Center
- Saturday, October 21st
Rotonda West Woman's Club Craft Bazaar 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Community Center
- Tuesday, October 24th
Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner, 5-7 p.m. in the Community Center.
- Saturday, October 28th
Alzheimer's Walk (8:30 a.m.) at Broadmoor Park.
- Monday, October 30th
Music in the Park, Rotonda Singers, 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- Thursday, November 2nd
RWA Open House, 6 p.m.
- Friday & Saturday, November 3rd & 4th,
Community Garage Sale
- Wednesday, November 15th,
Frank Levin Lecture @ 1 p.m.
- Thursday, November 16th
Treasurer Townhall & Residents Roundtable Noon-2 p.m.
- Sunday, November 19th
BINGO! Doors open at 12:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 28th
Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner

DECEMBER

- Saturday, December 2nd
Christmas Parade @ 10 a.m.
- Sunday, December 3rd
Holiday Stroll @ 4 p.m.
- Thursday, December 7th
Annual BOD Meeting. RWA Voting Results 7 p.m. Community Center
- Sunday, December 10th
Music in the Park, Christmas Music with Jonny Puma @ 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 17th, BINGO!
Doors open at 12:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 26th, Meet & Greet
Potluck Dinner @ 5 p.m.



PLEASE JOIN US!

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





WORLD FOOD DAY

FOOD DRIVE

OCTOBER 14TH
9 AM - NOON

DROP OFF LOCATION

RWA BROADMOOR PARK PARKING LOT
DRIVE THRU
646 Rotonda Circle

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

Canned Foods –Please no glass.
peanut butter | pasta sauce | tuna | rice | canned fruit

FOOD INSECURITY

The USDA defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. This can be a temporary situation for a family or can last a long time. Food insecurity is one way we measure how many people can't afford food. More than 34 million people, including 9 million children experience food insecurity in the United States.

CAUSE

Many Americans struggle to meet their basic needs, which increases their risk of food insecurity. For example, lay-offs at work, unexpected car maintenance, or an accident can suddenly force a family to choose between buying food and paying bills. The causes of food insecurity are complex. Some of the causes of food insecurity include:

- Poverty, unemployment, or low income
- Lack of affordable housing
- Chronic health conditions or lack of access to healthcare
- Systemic racism and racial discrimination

EFFECTS

Food insecurity can have a wide impact, depending on someone's circumstances. Here are just some examples of the effects of food insecurity:

- Can cause serious health issues when people have to choose between spending money on food and medicine or healthcare
- Can make it more difficult for a child to learn and grow
- Can lead to difficult decisions like choosing between food and rent, bills, and transportation

GREAT EVENTS BACK IN OCTOBER!



*Sunday
October 15th
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

DOORS OPEN AND TICKET SALES BEGIN AT 12:00
NO SEAT SAVING.

646 Rotonda Circle
RWA Community Center

Must be 18 to play.

Play begins promptly at 1:00 pm

Event open to RWA residents, renters, and their guests.

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



**Rotonda West
Association**

Presented by the
Community Outreach
Committee

RWA Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner of September 26th was enjoyed by 35 people who gathered for a delicious meal and a wide variety of dishes, with social time to get to know neighbors & a 50/50 raffle. Thanks to Donna and her team for organizing.

Rita Lopienski



These events have been very popular with Rotonda residents.

Check them out!

Meet & Greet Potluck dinners are held every month.

BINGO is offered from September through May

**COME JOIN OLD FRIENDS AND
MAKE NEW ONES!**

MEET & GREET



Tuesday, October 24th 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 Dish
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**

Proud Member of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs

ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit service organization working to improve the community by volunteering time and financial resources to support numerous local and national charities and groups. We are "Living the Volunteer Spirit" with Love, Respect and Kindness for all.

CRAFT BAZAAR

ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CENTER

646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

Saturday October 21st

9 am til 1:30 pm

*Cookies by the Pound, Chinese Auction,
Decorations, Coastal Art and much, more!!*

*(Handcrafted by the Creative Crafters,
Sew 'n' Sews and the Knit 'n' Chat Groups)*



**PLEASE
JOIN US!**

GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS TWO GREAT EVENTS

TEAM NAME:

ROTONDA WEST

The Rotonda West team consists of members of GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Rotonda West community, friends and family!

REGISTRATION & DONATION

We're registered under the Sarasota walk. Type in the website address or use the scan code.

act.alz.org/goto/rotondawest



THANK YOU!

This is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Thanks for supporting us.

QUESTIONS

Clare Imrie
clareimrieuk@hotmail.com
Cell: 713-825-2154



PLEASE JOIN US!

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club invites you!

OCTOBER 28TH

SATURDAY

8.30AM

BROADMOOR PARK

646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

ROTONDA WEST, FL



GFWC Florida
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
Living the volunteer spirit



COME JOIN US



indoor
Music *in the*
Park

Rotonda's Got Singers

Hosts Nichol Kastor and Ethan Carvalho

Featuring talented RWA members:
Sam Besase, Claudine Hoffer, Kent Harvey, Don Mcguire,
Scott and Pearl Barnette, Doc Coombs, Andy Van Scyoc,
Vance Absher, Dick Young, Eric Stefanik
Performer subject to change

OCTOBER 30TH MONDAY	RWA COMMUNITY CENTER 646 ROTONDA CIRCLE	6:00 PM
------------------------------------	--	--------------------

Welcome RWA members, residents,
renters, and their guests.
Bring your beverage and snacks.

 *Rotonda West*
Association
Community Outreach Committee



Rotonda West
Association

Presented by the
Community Outreach
Committee

Want to know more
about our community
and Rotonda West
Association?



Want to understand how
our committees can
benefit you? Interested in
clubs and events?
Swing by for a casual
walk-about among the
booths to meet and talk
with many
representatives at the
RWA Open House!



Rotonda West
Association

Community Outreach Committee

OPEN HOUSE

November 2nd

6 - 8 pm

RWA
Community
Center

646 Rotonda Circle



Questions? communityoutreach@rotonda.org
Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office.

Aquatics Committee
Building & Grounds Committee
CERT
Charlotte County Sheriffs Office
Charlotte County Tax Collector
Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 99
Community Outreach Committee
Compliance Committee
Election Committee
Englewood Fishing Club
Fellowship Church
Fiesta Association
Game Playing Clubs

Meet & Greet
Charlotte County Mosquito & Aquatic Weed Control
MSBU Stormwater
MSBU Streets and Drainage
Neighborhood Watch
Residential Modification Committee
RMC Deed Restrictions Subcommittee
Rotonda West Elks Club
Rotonda West Yacht Club
Rotonda West Association Staff
Ukulele Club
West Ways Newsletter

WANT TO BE IN THE PARADE? REGISTER ONLINE AT:
Rotondawest.org

BE PART OF THE FUN!

Volunteers still needed to make this event happen.

****New for this Year***
Morning parade start and shorter route*

 **Rotonda West Association**

Christmas Parade 2023

Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00 AM

2023 Theme...

Santa's Workshop...Toys-Toys-Toys



COME HAVE FUN AT THE ROTONDA WEST CHRISTMAS PARADE

Register online at

Rotondawest.org

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 and ends 11/16/2023

*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 Hands*

Event sponsorships are available. Call for details.

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

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

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

Annette Casteel
Administrator and
Minutes Clerk

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Jay Dernier
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
westways@rotondawest.org

Connie Smith, Feature Writer

Barry Kean, Writer

Deb Orchard, Writer

Sam Besase, Contributor

Gwen Grace, GFWC Woman's Club

David Perry, Neighborhood Watch

Sarah Swiatek, Guest Writer

Grace Checuti, Event Flyers

David Pulaski, Photographer

Wayne Mengel, Photographer

Nadine Clough, Layout & Design