

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

FEBRUARY 2024



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

ROTONDA WEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES BACK PETER TRAVERSO

by: Nadine Clough



Peter Traverso
returns to RWA
Board of Directors

Photo by: N. Clough

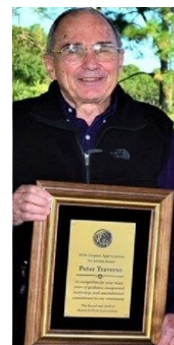
In December 2023, the Rotonda West Association held its annual election which resulted in bringing back Karen Harvey and David Kelly to the board. This, however, left Mrs. Harvey's appointed position open, resulting in six members seated on the board.

At the January 25th Board of Directors meeting, Mr. Peter Traverso was brought back to the board to fill the still vacant seventh seat.

Board President Andy Van Scyoc officially welcomed Peter Traverso stating that Mr. Traverso is no stranger to Rotonda West and that he had previously served on the board. He brings some 22 years of prior board experience with him.

According to the Association By-laws, Cape Cave (also referred to as the "developer") is entitled to appoint one member who need not be a Lot/Tract Owner.

Peter Traverso accepting an award for his many years of service
Photo by D. Pulaski



2021

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Traverso Returns to Board

Committees at Work:
Budget & Finance

Florida Snakes

Vertical Oyster Gardens

Rotonda Health & Wellness

Ask the Pharmacist, Sarah
Swiatek Letter to Rotonda

Charlotte County Items

Contact West Ways at:
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RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK:

THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE



Article and Photo by: Nadine Clough

This is the first in a series of articles featured in West Ways that will focus on a different Rotonda West Association (RWA) committee each month.

The Budget & Finance Committee is one of the seven standing committees of the Rotonda West Association. It is this committee's job to assist the Treasurer of the Board of Directors, and the RWA Manager with budgetary and financial matters.

Rotonda West is fortunate to have these volunteers, most with strong financial backgrounds, overseeing our association's money.

Attending or zooming the Budget & Finance Committee meetings, will give you a clearer picture of how our HOA funds are handled. It is enlightening to learn how funds are



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

L to R: Manager Derrick Hedges, Colleen Koppenhaver, RoseAnne Woodliff (Secretary) Sam Besase (BOD Liaison), Tom D'Abrosca (Chairperson), Thom Lisk, Jenny Bulle (Administrator), Tim Houghton and Jack Metz (insert).

The job description for the Budget & Finance Committee is outlined in the Association's By-Laws, and states:

The Treasurer, with the assistance of the Budget and Finance committee and the Manager will:

- 1.) Provide an analysis of the revenues and expenses with comparisons to the current year's budget. Deviations from the budget will be reviewed. The Treasurer, with the assistance of the Budget and Finance committee will make recommendations to the Board regarding any operational changes that need to be made as a result of budgetary deviations.**
- 2.) Review cash balances to ensure adequate funds are available for operations.**
- 3.) Review timelines of collections of assessments and report deficiencies to the Board.**

The committee assists the RWA Manager and the Board of Directors to keep expenses in line with the yearly budget.

Thank you to the members of the Budget & Finance Committee for their dedication and hard work.

Committee Meeting Times:

2nd Monday of each month @ 9:30



FLORIDA'S SNAKES: SIX WITH VENOM, BUT THERE'S ONE WITHOUT THAT'S A VERY LARGE PROBLEM

By: Connie Smith

There are six venomous species of snakes in Florida, but only one, giant, non-venomous, non-native species – the python – has the wild-life population of the Florida Everglades on its knees. The main species of concern by wildlife experts is the Burmese Python but a second species of concern in southern Florida is the African Rock Python.

On January 9, Charlotte County Senior Land Management Specialist Jason Thompson discussed pythons and other snakes in Southwest Florida and Rotonda West to a crowd of 55 persons.

A snake enthusiast, who even brought along his passive-natured pet red tailed boa named Doc (native to Colombia), Thompson said he believes only **four*** of Florida's venomous snakes live in Southern Florida. The venomous snakes are:

- ***Dusky Pygmy Rattlesnake**
- ***Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake**
- ***Coral Snake**
- ***Cottonmouth**
- Timber Rattlesnake
- Copperhead

Snakes of all kinds are extremely common in people's yards in Florida and most folks, have walked, unaware, within a few feet of a snake. The preponderance of snakes, even the venomous kind, are beneficial, should be treated with respect and left alone.

Thompson conceded that there have been "periodic" reports of pythons in Rotonda West and Charlotte County for several years that he has been inclined to attribute to pets that have either escaped captivity or have gotten too big for their owners to handle and been released into the wild. Six months ago, however, four juvenile pythons were discovered locally, three of them with umbilical scarring. "It's still possible these came from a breeder," he said, "but it's also possible they were from a loose female python."

The bad news is that under ideal conditions, a female python, in its lifetime, can give birth to 100 snakes a year over a lifespan of 15 years. Last July, a record Burmese Python 19 feet long, weighing 200 pounds was caught in the Big Cypress National Preserve near Naples. Nature relies on a delicate balance of predator and prey. At the giant size of the record Burmese Python, there are almost no predators to protect nature's balance.



Charlotte County Senior Land Management Specialist Jason Thompson introduces Rotonda residents to his pet red-tailed boa Doc, during a talk about pythons and snakes, January 9th.

The Colombia native snake is a smaller species that appears very similar to the Burmese Python and the African Rock Python that are of great ecological concern to federal, state, and local officials in southern Florida.

Continued on next page



Jason Thompson of Charlotte County government speaks informally with Rotonda residents about pythons and snakes following his talk on the subject at the Rotonda Community Center.

While Thompson's red-tailed boa looks like a Burmese Python, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (www.myfwc.com) describes the python in the following way:

The python's markings are tan in color with dark blotches like the markings on a giraffe. Their head is pyramid-shaped with a dark, arrowhead-shaped wedge extending toward the nose. They are semi-aquatic and are often found near or in water. In Florida, they have been found to prey upon a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and even alligators.

"Want to avoid a python problem at your house? Don't leave your garage door open. Keep your bushes trimmed up. Don't leave food out for stray cats; be careful what you do because you will occasionally attract a stray guest," he cautioned.

He explained that snakes are ectothermic – they obtain body heat from their environment – and on a very hot day, to get out of the heat, an open garage door will provide an attractive place to get out of the sun. Additionally, boxes, shelves and vehicles can be great places for small animals to hide to further attract snakes seeking something to eat. Similarly, bushes and abundant foliage create hiding places. Compost piles next to the house or food left out for stray animals can also attract unwanted pests. "Don't create a place for them," Thompson said.

Pythons are not protected in Florida, except by anti-cruelty laws and can be humanely killed on private property with landowner permission. The species can be captured and humanely killed year-round without a permit or hunting license. During an informal session following his presentation, Thompson was asked about a recent Rotonda West Facebook post wherein a resident came upon a purported python that was extended across the lane of road ahead. A picture was taken and posted, but the resident allowed the snake to get away. Some responding residents suggested the snake should have been run over. Thompson said running over a snake is not a humane way for it to die. He said snakes have elongated organs and internal damage created by vehicle tires would cause horrible pain to the creature.

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, there is an ethical and legal obligation to ensure nonnative reptiles are killed in a humane manner. A two-step process is recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association to prevent suffering and to destroy the animal's brain.

Thompson cautioned residents against taking it upon themselves to euthanize pythons. He believes the practice of euthanasia should be left to professionals, as anyone attempting to euthanize any species should be qualified to be 100% certain of its identification prior to taking any lethal action.

To become familiar with Florida's python control plan, go to: www.flpythoninvasion.org.

VERTICAL OYSTER GARDENS

Contributed by: Lemon Bay Conservancy



The Lemon Bay Watch Team of Lemon Bay Conservancy is pursuing their goal of improving the water quality of Lemon Bay through the use of vertical oyster gardens.

The Lemon Bay Watch “Oyster Ambassadors” will be on site at WATERWAYS Paddlesports, 501 W. Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL. every Thursday, beginning January 18, 2024 through April, 25, 2024, 10 a.m.—1:00 p.m. to provide oyster information, answer questions, and provide free oyster strands to residents who have registered through the site.

Vertical oyster gardens, also known as VOGs, are strings of recycled oyster shells collected from local Englewood restaurants. When suspended in tidal waters, VOGs provide the ideal habitat for young larval oysters to grow into adult oysters capable of filtering up to 50 gallons of water per day.

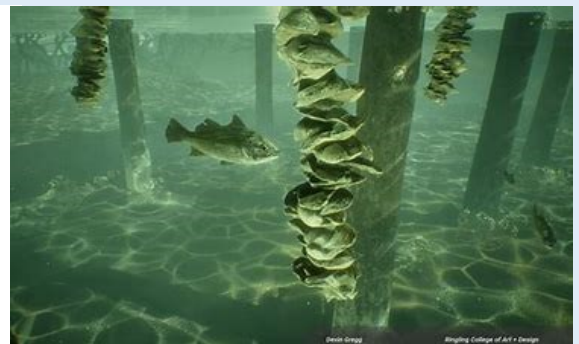
The vertical oyster garden movement has spread throughout Southwest Florida and has had a positive ecological impact. Studies have shown that not only do they contribute to water filtration and promote cleaner water for healthy seagrass; they provide habitat for a variety of marine animals and fish. The Lemon Bay Watch team is proud to be a part of this water quality initiative that will help to protect and restore the waters of Lemon Bay.

If you would like to be part of this important effort to improve the quality of water around your home, register today by scanning the QR code below or by following this link:

lemonbayconservancy.org/vog-request/



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER A REQUEST
FOR VERTICAL
OYSTERS GARDENS**



DOUBLE PLEASURE— DANCE PARTY WITH JAY SMITH

Article and Photos by: Pattie Mihalik



Jay Smith entertains
at Rotonda
Community Center

It was double the pleasure, double the fun at the January dance party. Residents and guests were treated to Jay Smith's extraordinary musical ability as they danced the night away. Sponsored by the RWA Outreach Committee, chairman Deb Orchard and MC Maureen McDowell worked to bring the highly sought after musician to Rotonda.

"It's easy to see why Jay has such a big following," said Maureen. "You don't have to be a dancer to enjoy a Jay Smith performance." Indeed, his stories are as interesting as his unique musical arrangements. A child prodigy, he was entertaining audiences from the age of six. His elementary school principal sometimes took him out of school and drove him to perform at community events. "After my parents bought me my first guitar, I wouldn't part with it. I carried it everywhere and even slept with it," Jay recalls. Before long, he was making TV appearances and being hailed as a left-handed guitar sensation.

Known as "Southpaw Jay Smith", he has a big u-tube following with more than 6 million views for his virtuoso arrangement of Dueling Banjos. The Rotonda audience went wild with applause when he played it, the same reaction that always occurs at a Jay Smith concert. With over 1,100 songs in his repertoire, no two Jay Smith concerts are the same. "But every audience will usually request my signature songs such as Dueling Banjos," he said. Indeed, before he got around to playing it at the Rotonda West Community Center, some were going up to request it.

The community center proved to be the perfect place for the dance party. The smooth flooring is conducive to dancing and it's a comfortable, uncrowded entertainment venue. Great entertainment like Jay Smith and comfortable surroundings all add up the making it one of the best entertainment tickets in town.

Best yet, it's free for Rotonda West residents.

There's always something worthwhile on the calendar. Don't miss out. Watch for the monthly West Ways newsletter and mark your calendar for your favorite future activities.

There's plenty of good stuff headed your way.



Nancy Ward-Snyder
and Sam Besase
twisting the night away!

More Music in the Park events coming soon!

February 5th THE ROTONDA UKULELE BAND

4:30 p.m. (now an inside event)

February 15th MICHAEL WHITE

4:30 p.m. outside on the new patio

***Events will be held indoors in case of poor weather**

ROTONDA HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE PRESENTS TWO INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS

Articles and Photos by: Rita Lopienski

CREATING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

On January 3rd, Terri Livesay Huttes, LPN, presented to an engaged audience on “Creating a Healthy Lifestyle” to kick off the 2024 Rotonda Strong Health & Wellness Initiative. A protein rich diet low in fats & carbs, along with strong personal goals, dedication and some exercise is a recipe for success!



Presenter
Terri Livesay Huttes, LPN



This program was presented by the Community Outreach Committee. Watch for upcoming presentations in the Rotonda Strong Health & Wellness Series in West Ways and on Constant Contact

FALL PREVENTION

As part of the RWA Rotonda Strong Health & Wellness Initiative, David Brackett, of Amedisys Home Health gave a presentation on January 17th on Fall Prevention. More than 1/3 of the population 65 and older will fall each year.



Presenter
David Brackett

SIX COMMON RISK FACTORS FOR SENIOR FALLS ARE:

- Family History
- Medications
- Age
- Slippery Surfaces (75% of falls are in the bathroom in the night)
- Living alone
- Home Layout (rugs, poor lighting, objects in pathway)

A FALL PREVENTION CHECKLIST INCLUDES:

- Use of Bathroom Mats
- Update Corrective Vision
- Installing Grab Bars
- Improve In-home Lighting
- Installing Raised Toilet Seats
- Consider Sleeping Downstairs (main floor)
- Daily Walks
- Use of Assistive Devices (walkers)
- Review Medications

Note: David will be back to present on Hydration April 17th at 2 p.m.

Trivia with Tim

By Deb Orchard

On Behalf of the Community Outreach Committee



Trivia with Tim, what a fun evening. If you weren't there you missed also our own Joe Harris, Rotonda West's IT person, who brought an adapter to connect Tim's computer to our monitors, much to the cheers of the crowd. You also missed an evening of groans and cheers as the answers were revealed. Our topic for the night was "A Look Back at 2023". You'd think that would be so easy, since it was just January 4th. Well, I can tell you, I was certainly surprised at how little I actually recalled about the 2023. We had 96 players and I believe each one of us had fun reviewing and reliving 2023. Try this sample of the questions:

Literature: Which celebrities wrote these books released in 2023?

1. Spare
2. The Woman in Me
3. Worthy
4. Love, Pamela

Sports: Who was the 2023 Champion?

1. Men's World Cup Soccer
2. Stanley Cup Hockey
3. Women's US Open Tennis

Movies:

1. Year's top grossing movie
2. What movie was released in theaters on December 25?

February 1st starting at 6:30 is our next evening of Trivia with Tim. Gather your team, or play as a single. This is also your opportunity to have a game night with your friends, only without all the work. All you need is to bring your own your drinks and snacks, we'll supply the game and the space. February's topic is sure to surprise us all. Maybe, something to do with Valentine's Day? We will see.

How'd you do? Get them all right? How about this Final Question - Henry Kissinger and Norman Lear were both born in 1923. Both lived to be 100 and died in 2023. Who is the only other famous person born in 1923 who died in 2023?

ANSWERS:

Literature:

- 1- Prince Harry
- 2- Britney Spears
- 3- Jada Pinkett Smith
- 4- Pamela Anderson

Sports:

- 1- Argentina
- 2- Las Vegas Golden Knights
- 3- Coco Gauff

Movies:

- 1- Barbie
- 2- The Color Purple

Answer to Final Question: Bob Barker



T.R.I.V.I.A. WITH TIM

ABOUT 100 ENJOYED THE FIRST T.R.I.V.I.A WITH TIM!

Brought to you by the
Community Outreach Committee

Pictures by: Rita Lopienski

DID YOU MISS IT?
NEXT TRIVIA IS
THURSDAY FEBRUARY
1ST AT 6:30 P.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.



Filling the Truck

SHRED-IT AND SHARE-IT DAY!



Filling the Pantry

On Saturday, January 27th, the popular “Shred-it and Share-it Day” was held at Broadmoor Park. A steady stream of 145 vehicles came through dropping off non-perishable goods for the St. David’s Jubilee Center Pantry, and having papers shredded at the Shred-It truck. Money was also donated to the Jubilee Center in the amount of \$90.

Thank you to the hard-working crew who ran the event.





ASK THE PHARMACIST

Insurance Tips

Dr. Sarah Swiatek Pharm.D. R.Ph.



Greetings Rotonda Residents!

Hoping everyone survived the holiday season, and is starting off the New Year healthy and happy. My regrets for not sharing an article last month, as the craze of the holiday season caught the best of me.

With a new year almost always comes NEW INSURANCE. Not for everyone, but arguably I would say the majority of us. Every season, I see the same challenges and pitfalls at the pharmacy because of the change of policies or coverage. Here are some tips and pieces of information to guide you for a more smooth transition and ensure you're prepared for your coverage changes:

- Always carry your new insurance card. And carry ALL of your CURRENT cards. Discard or file away cards from the previous year. Even if your plan "is the same", there may be important codes or information on the card that are needed by your provider.
- Preview and understand your coverage. What does your policy pay for? How much comes out of your pocket? Do you have a premium or deductible? Please call your insurance plan or speak with your agent to determine this information. Providers give health care services, they do not dictate the terms of your coverage. Prices and copays are not set by the pharmacy or provider. We serve thousands of patients. We do not have knowledge of, nor access to, the information that pertains to your policy.
- Your coverage can change at any time. A service or medication that was covered last year may not be covered this year. It may not be covered tomorrow. These decisions are dictated by your policy. Your doctor can try to file an appeal with insurance on your behalf called a Prior Authorization. The pharmacy is not involved in the process other than submitting a claim to see if your medicine is covered.
- If you've misplaced your card or don't have it, and your new information is needed, see if the pharmacy has the means to run a search for your coverage using the last 4 of your Social Security Number. It doesn't always work (especially if you have multiple addresses or last names), but it's a way we can try to help you as a last resort.

Hopefully these tips will serve you as we move along through season.

I invite you to email me at SRxSwi@gmail.com with any thoughts or ideas for upcoming articles and events. Our next discussion group will be held on March 6th, and the topic (chosen by one of our residents) will focus upon insomnia and sleep hygiene. I hope you will join me, bring a friend, and a self-care donation item. Watch for upcoming "Ask the Pharmacist" Talks in the months to come. Dates and times will be shared through our Constant Contact, West Ways Newsletter, and Facebook. Thank you and be well!

NEXT "ASK THE PHARMACIST" TALK:

Wednesday, March 6th 7-8 p.m. At the Community Center

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

FEBRUARY 2024

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



To Our Fellow Rotonda Residents, the Board of Directors for Neighborhood Watch hopes you and yours enjoyed the holidays celebrating with family and friends. Speaking of celebrating we are looking forward to the annual luncheon this month; it has been a long time since we have seen each other in person. **We are**

pleased to Welcome our newest members:

John and Sandy Langenfelder

FYI's of Neighborhood Watch:

*We are a voluntary organization (operating since 1981) that works with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office by patrolling our neighborhoods each and every night. We Do Not work for the RWA-therefore, We Do Not Report any Deed Violations.

* There are 120 members of our organization (some have 15 or more years of service with us) who are always looking to grow.

* We meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 10am in the RWA Community Center and post the recordings on our website. Visit our website and social media page www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com and on Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

****Our Mission is (and always has been) strictly to be the "eyes and ears" of the Sheriff's department.***

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 scan the QR Code, or call Cavid Perry at 941-828-1584 or email:

president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com



NEIGHBORHOOD "WATCH PARTY" LUNCHEON

PHOTOS BY: DAVID PULASKI



FOLLOW THE
PLAN,
CONCEAL THE
CAN!



ROTONDA WEST'S NUMBER 1 OFFENSE

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
HOW **CAN** THIS BE?
THE MOST DEED RESTRICTION
VIOLATIONS ARE GIVEN FOR
TRASH **CANS!**

THE RULE STATES:

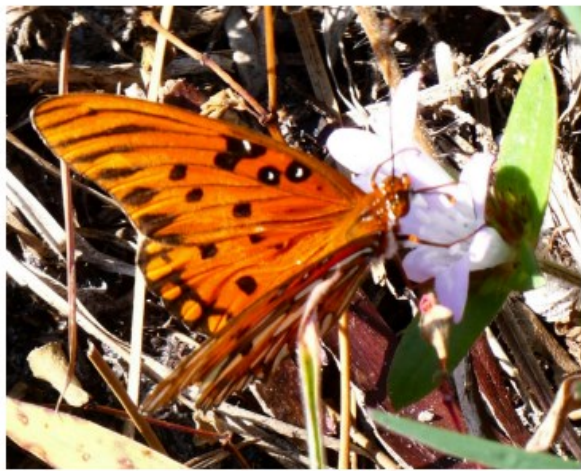
Except on the day immediately preceding the day of collection and the day of collection, garbage and recycling containers shall be kept either inside the garage or within a fenced area.

Seems like a reasonable rule, yet many Rotonda residents leave their unsightly trash **cans** out along the road creating an eyesore in our beautiful neighborhoods.

Many Rotonda residents also neglect to conceal the **cans** behind a privacy fence if they are stored outside of the garage.

Let's make an effort to follow this rule and help keep Rotonda beautiful.

WE CAN DO IT!



Gulf Fritillary in Broadmoor Park,
photo by: Jim Peterfeso

**TAKE A WALK ON THE
WILD SIDE !
IN BROADMOOR PARK
WITH JASON THOMPSON**
Senior Environmental Lands Manager,
Charlotte County
Contributed by: Merrill Horswill
**BROUGHT TO ROTONDA RESIDENTS
BY THE ROTONDA NATURE GROUP**

WHAT IS THE EVENT? Nature Walk and Broadmoor BioBlitz

WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ? A bioblitz is a communal citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible.

WHEN IS THE EVENT? Saturday, February 10th at 9 a.m.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? Rotonda West property owners, renters, and their guests. All ages are welcome!

WHO IS THE PRESENTER? Jason Thompson, Senior Environmental Lands Manager, Charlotte County

WHERE IS THE EVENT? Broadmoor Park, 646 Rotonda Circle

WHAT EQUIPMENT IS NEEDED? Only your eyes and ears, but using binoculars and some kind of camera or phone will help make identification easier.

ARE THERE APPS THAT CAN HELP WITH IDENTIFICATION? Yes, *Audubon* and *Merlin* for bird identification; *Plant.net* for plant identification; and *Seek* for all species.

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE BROADMOOR PARK

RWA WEST WAYS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY ITEMS

The 2023 Charlotte County Town Hall on Water Issues is scheduled for **9am Wednesday January 31, 2024**, at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. in Punta Gorda. Attendees shall get an overview of past, present and future water management. Topics will include a brief history of water in Charlotte County, water quality issues, stormwater drainage and management, potable water, comprehensive planning, flooding, sea level rise, and ways that the public can get involved and stay informed on water issues in Charlotte County.

The quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting is at **9:30am Thursday February 15, 2024**, at the Charlotte County annex building on San Casa. Please consider attending regarding these key MSBU non-ad valorem tax issues:

- Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge closed for 17 to 36 months (FEMA).
- Rotonda Bridges Repair Cycles (Rebel Road & Rotonda Circle). Perhaps 3 to 6 (of 18) bridges started in 2024.
- Charlotte County – Multiple Swale Drainage Issues throughout Rotonda West.
- Road Paving Schedule pushed back to perhaps 2026.
- All Rotonda Bridges are rated at 80,000 lbs. GVW.

- Residents or their contractors are MOWING all the way down to the Ponds, this is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Residents or their contractors are FERTILIZING all the way down to the Ponds, this is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Charlotte County Commissioners alerted residents that there is **TOO MUCH NITROGEN** in local waterways.
- When to Call Charlotte County Public Works (941-575-3600) if:
- Water is threatening to enter your house or garage.
- Deep Water (6 inches or more) is on the roads.
- Water remains in the swale for LONGER than 72 hours after the last rain event.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFTMUD) has recently issued a water shortage order covering Charlotte County. Homes with addresses ending in EVEN numbers are authorized to water their lawns on Thursdays and Sundays, ODD number addresses are authorized to water their lawns on Wednesdays and Saturdays. WATERING TIMES ARE – EITHER BEFORE 10AM OR AFTER 4PM.

Sam Besase



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2024

- Feb. 1st, Thursday @ 6:30 pm
T.R.I.V.I.A. With Tim (doors open at 6 pm)
- Feb. 5th, Monday @ 4:30 pm
Music in the Park: Rotonda Ukulele Band
- Feb. 15th, Thursday @ 4:30 pm
Music in the Park: Michael White
- Feb. 18th, Sunday @ 1 pm
BINGO (doors open at 12:15 pm)
- Feb. 22nd, Thursday
Walk Your Dog Day & Photo (Send Photos to West Ways Newsletter)
- Feb. 24th, Saturday @ 1 pm
“Rotonda West Has Talent Show” Finale
- Feb. 25th, Sunday
Rotonda West Association 2023 Volunteer Banquet (by invitation only)
- Feb 27th, Tuesday @ 5 pm
Meet & Greet Potluck
- Feb. 28th, Wednesday @ 1 pm
Frank Levin Lecture, “The Impossible Behavior of Light”



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

MARCH 2024

- March 6th, Wednesday @ 7-8 p.m.
“Ask the Pharmacist” Community Center
- March 7th, Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.
T.R.I.V.I.A. With Tim
- March 11th, Monday @ 4:30 p.m.
Music in the Park, (pending) Rotonda Singers
- March 17th, Sunday @ 1-4 p.m. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. BINGO!
- March 19th, Tuesday @ 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
TREASURER'S TOWN HALL
- March 21st, Thursday @ 4:30. p.m.
Music in the Park (pending)
- March 22nd & 23rd, Friday & Saturday
Community Garage Sale (watch for details Constant Contact)
- March 26th, Tuesday @ 5 p.m.
Meet & Greet Potluck Dinner
- March 27th, Wednesday @CPR/AED, Stop the Bleed
- March 30th, Saturday @ 9 a.m.
Bird Watching Walk at Broadmoor Park

**WATCH FOR CONSTANT CONTACT
MESSAGES IN YOUR EMAIL FOR
UPDATES AND/OR CHANGES IN
EVENT SCHEDULES**

Residents Bring Their Appetites to Rotonda Meet and Greet

By Connie Smith

A crowd of residents mingled and their appetites did justice to tables of salads, main dishes and desserts, at the monthly Meet and Greet, January 23 at the Rotonda Community Center.

Chairperson Donna Stogsdill welcomed the crowd, exhorted everyone to purchase 50-50 tickets from Nancy Hanson (6 for \$5), and introduced Rotonda Board Member Sam Besase who asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Within the space of two hours, very little food was left and almost everyone had met someone new.

The Rotonda Meet and Greet – for residents “within the Circle” is the 4th Tuesday of each month, at the Community Center, from 5 to 7 p.m. (bring a covered dish and a beverage – table service is provided). A second event, for any resident within any Rotonda property (Lakes, Sands, Heights, etc.) and guests, is the 1st Wednesday of every month in Rotonda Community Park on Parade Circle (BYOB and a snack).

There is a monthly lunch (location TBA), on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m., for any resident of any Rotonda property (Lakes, Sands, Heights, etc.) and guests.



Committee Chair Donna Stogsdill



Left: Meet & Greet Committee member Nancy Hanson prepares to sell 50-50 tickets. A lucky resident will leave a winner!

Right: Bob Smith finds there's no harm in one tiny cupcake!



MEET & GREET

POTLUCK

Tuesday, February 27th 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
- I-P - Main Dish
(ie: casseroles, baked pasta dish, etc.)
- Q-Z- Dessert

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**

MEET & GREET

Happy Hour

Wednesday, February 7, at 5pm

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

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

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

REMINDER - FEB 1st

Trivia Night

LITERATURE & SCIENCE

TOYS & GAMES

HISTORY & ANIMALS

MUSIC
TV & MOVIES

SPORTS AND MORE!

FREE!

Presented by Tim's Trivia
TimsTrivia@yahoo.com
Timothy Dowd, originally
from Michigan, I have been
a college professor for
almost 30 years with
degrees in English,
philosophy, sociology,
psychology, history and
humanities. I have been
doing TRIVIA for almost 20
years; also music bingo,
scavenger hunts, hosting
various events as well as
DJ-ing dances of all kinds.
Recently have been named
the number one TRIVIA in
Southwest Florida!

What: Trivia - by team or individual.

When: 1st Thursday of the month Feb 1st - Mar 7th

Where: RWA Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle

Doors open at 6pm with play beginning at 6:30 pm.

Bring your own drinks and snacks and be prepared to have fun and be challenged!

Open to RWA property owners, residents, renters, and their guests.

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

Hosted by the  Community Outreach Committee

INDOORS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

Music
in the Park

ROTONDA
UKULELE BAND

RWA
COMMUNITY
CENTER
646 ROTONDA
CIRCLE

Bring your
snacks &
beverages for
a relaxing
time.

Welcome
RWA
property
owners,
residents,
renters, and
their guests.



FEBRUARY
5TH
MONDAY

4:30
PM

Do not contact the RWA Admin Office.
Questions? communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

 Community Outreach Committee

HEADS UP!!

Rotonda West Association Neighborhood

GARAGE SALE!

*Friday & Saturday -
March 22nd & 23rd*

9:00 am - 5:00

**TO SELL AND TO BUY
MORE INFORMATION TO COME!!!!**

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, DO NOT CONTACT THE ADMIN OFFICE.
THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION.

 Community Outreach Committee

RWA Spring Community Garage Sale

March 22nd & 23rd 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

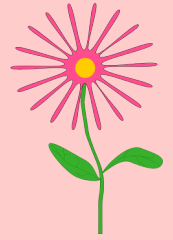
Here's a great way to do your **Spring Cleaning** and make some money! RWA will have a Community-Wide Garage Sale for RWA members and renters to participate in. You can do one or both days.

A Sign Approval Form will soon be posted on the RWA website, and flyers with instructions and contacts will soon be sent via Constant Contact and Facebook. The event will be promoted to the public with RWA signs and news releases.

Do not call the RWA office with questions. Please contact the Community Outreach Committee at communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

We look forward to our second Community Garage Sale! Last November 3-4, 2023 had 125 participants & was very well received.
Rita Lopienski, RWA Community Outreach Committee Garage Sale Chair

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE AT LEMON CREEK WILDFLOWER PRESERVE



**Submitted by: Ann Weaver
A Member of the Lemon Bay Conservancy
and a Volunteer in the Butterfly Habitat**

On Saturday, February 24, 2024, Lemon Bay Conservancy will host its annual Open House at Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve. The free event runs from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm, and features guided walks on an array of nature topics including birds, butterflies, plants, trees, fish and water quality. The Preserve is located at 3120 Gasparilla Pines Boulevard, Englewood, Florida 34224.

The Preserve is an 80 acre former golf course with numerous ponds, purchased by Lemon Bay Conservancy in 2010 with the goal of providing a refuge for wildlife, and opportunities for environmental education and scientific research. Efforts to improve the quality of water entering Lemon Bay are ongoing at the Preserve, as well as providing habitat for shorebirds and juvenile tarpon. An “Early Bird” guided bird walk begins at 8:00 am, and hourly walks on various topics will continue all day. Local environmental groups will man information exhibits and offer demonstrations of nature projects such as oyster gardening during the day.

For more information, visit LemonBayConservancy.org, email lbconservancy@comcast.net or call 941-830-8922. Lemon Bay Conservancy is a non-profit organization managed by volunteers and funded by donations, memberships and grants.



Above: Roseate Spoonbills and Woodstorks
foraging at a Wildflower Preserve Pond
Photo by Jack Simmonds



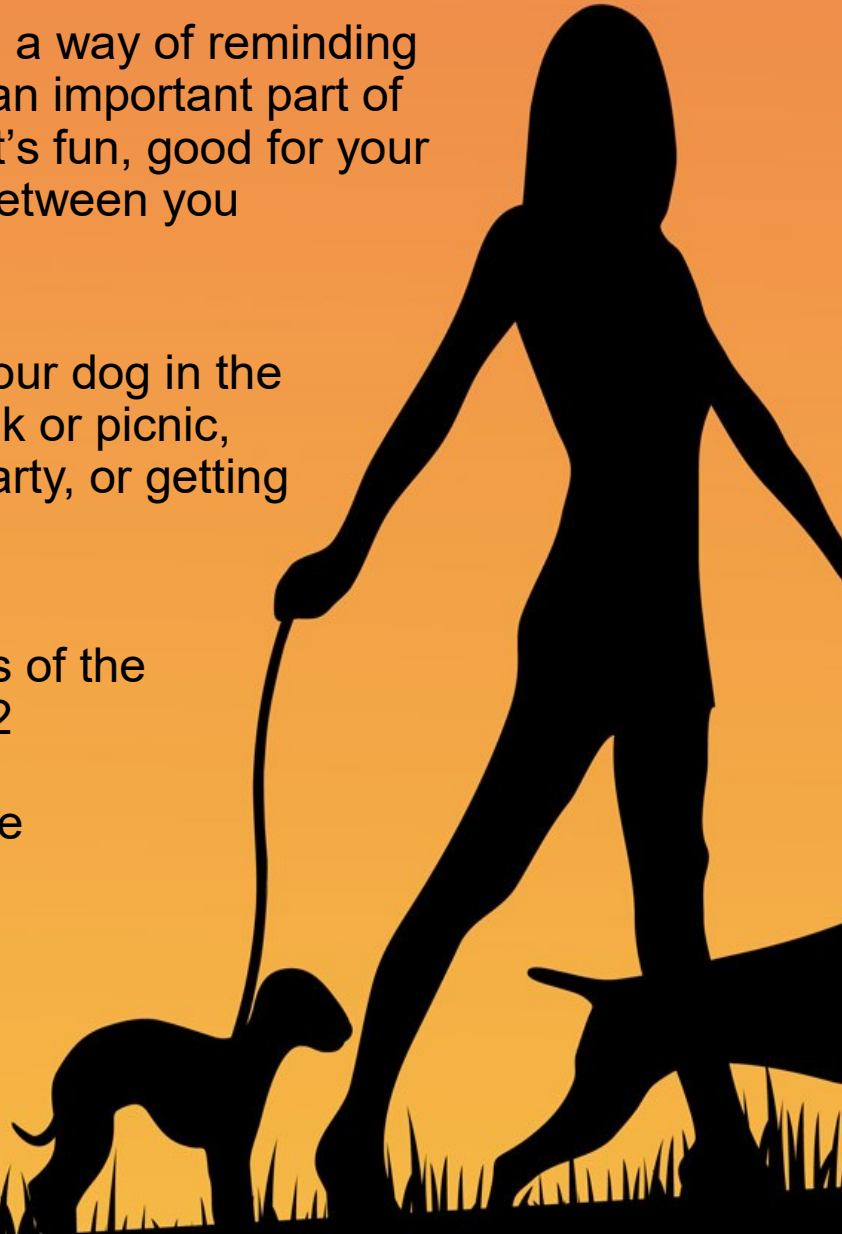
Right: Wildflower Preserve scenes

RWA Health & Wellness Initiative Celebrates National Walking the Dog Day on 2/22!

This day was created in 2010 as a way of reminding people that walking their dog is an important part of being a responsible pet owner. It's fun, good for your health & strengthens the bond between you and your dog

Take a photo on 2/22 showing your dog in the park or backyard, enjoying a walk or picnic, playing catch, having a puppy party, or getting some fresh air.

Submit the photo with the names of the people/dogs in the photo on 2/22 to Westways@rotondawest.org. The photos will be included in the March issue of West Ways .



CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS BRIEFS

By Nadine Clough



CHARLOTTE COUNTY RECREATION CENTERS STILL RECOVERING FROM HURRICANE IAN

On September 28, 2022 Hurricane Ian took aim at Southwest Florida and Charlotte County causing damage to homes, businesses, and trees. Ian also impacted our local recreational centers which are still in the process of rebuilding.



Tringali Center

TRINGALI CENTER

The once busy complex sits empty and closed next to the Englewood Charlotte Library. The center was used for months by FEMA as they helped people whose homes were damaged by the storm. FEMA left on May 13, 2023 leaving the inside of the center closed to the public. Outside facilities such as the playground, pickleball and tennis courts, and basketball court are open and available to use.



Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park

ANN & CHUCK DEVER REGIONAL PARK

Some of the facilities at the park remain non-operational since Hurricane Ian. These include the inside of the \$9 million Ann & Chuck Dever Recreation Center, which had opened in 2019. The Recreation Center was used by the American Red Cross as a shelter for people left homeless by Ian. The shelter closed on December 15, 2022, and the recreation center remains closed. Outside facilities such as the trails, dog park and multi-purpose fields are available to use.



Englewood Sports Complex

ENGLEWOOD SPORTS COMPLEX

Cole Washko, Sarasota County Public Information officer said of the complex, "In the months following Hurricane Ian, the complex suffered extensive damage, but most of the damages have been corrected." Still to come include pickleball court lighting, additional grass parking, new shade structures, and sidewalks. The complex was used as a staging area for Florida Power & Light, and was a collection point for vegetative debris after the hurricane.



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
Gwen Grace, President
February 2024



It looks like February will be a very busy month for the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club. We finished January with a successful Trivia night where the monies raised go to the Scholarship Fund and a local environmental charity. The winning team who donated their prize money back to the club was the "Just the Facts".



Coming up in February is another fundraiser, Designer Bag Bingo. The event is bingo with a twist. Instead of cash prizes, the winners get fabulous brand-new designer handbags from Coach, Michael Kor and others. This event is sold out but keep it in mind for next year. We are also looking for business sponsors to help underwrite the costs.

Also in February we will be helping the Englewood Historical Society with the Cracker Fair Lemon Dessert Baking contest. Entry is free! The event is on Saturday, February 10th at Pioneer Plaza on Dearborn Street.

If you are interested in joining GFWC RWWC you are very welcome to attend. Our next General Meeting is Thursday, February 15 at the RWA community center. The social hour begins at 9 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10 am.

Please go to our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org for information about upcoming events and who we are and what we do. You can also find us on Facebook at GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. We are proud to continue to "Live the Volunteer Spirit" as we begin to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our club.

GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB BELLA WILLIAMS MEMORIAL CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The RWWC is offering two (2) Bella Williams Memorial Continuing Education Scholarships of \$1,500 each. Applicants should be from the Englewood/Rotonda West/South Gulf Cove area and pursuing advanced education or retraining in a college or vocational school. The scholarships are intended for adults returning to school who have had an interruption in their studies. A resume, narrative and letters of reference may be sent to GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Attention: Scholarship, PO Box 672, Placida, FL 33946
Deadline for receipt of resumes is **Thursday, March 21, 2024.**

3rd Sunday of each month!



1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Doors open at 12:15 pm

January 21st April 21st
February 18th May 19th
March 17th

Invited to join in on the fun are property owners, residents, renters, and their guests.

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

646
Rotonda Circle
RWA
Community Center

Must be
18
to play.

Play
begins
promptly
at
1:00 pm

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



Community Outreach Committee

**COME
JOIN US
FOR
SOME
FUN & GAMES!**

**4 DATES
LEFT
TO THE
END
OF THIS
SEASON!**

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

Jack Lanar
Compliance Officer

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Wayne Taylor

Dale Anderson

Bill Simmons

Craig Brown

Doug Smith

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

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