

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,295 Rotonda Residents

SEPTEMBER 2024



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

RWA BOD ELECTION JUMPS INTO GEAR WITH CANDIDATE UNVEILING



By: Connie Smith

Rotonda West’s annual election of board of directors became official with the unveiling of candidates, August 9. The HOA is governed by a board of seven, with six members serving two staggered terms of three years. The seventh member is appointed by the RWA developer Cape Cave Corporation at this time.

This year, the three-year terms presently being served by board president Andy VanScyoc and treasurer Sam Besase are open for election. The position vacated by the death of board member Jack Metz on July 5, according to the Rotonda West Association By-Laws, was filled by appointment of the board of directors and that individual will serve until the end of that term in December, 2025.

Following the unveiling of board candidates, additional important dates for the RWA election include:

Sunday, October 6th– Candidate signs may be placed.

Thursday, October 17th, 7 p.m. – Candidate’s Night.

Wednesday, December 4th, 5 p.m. – All voted ballots must be returned to RWA by mail or personal delivery.

Thursday, December 5th, 5 p.m. – RWA Annual Meeting begins with IN PERSON VOTING at the RWA Community Center from 5-6:30 p.m. 5:15 p.m. recess

Thursday, December 5th, 7 p.m. – Annual Meeting resumes with announcement of election results.

Thursday, December 12 – All candidate signs must be removed.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 9

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

RWA BOD Names Candidates

Rotonda CERT

The Benches of Broadmoor Park

New “Mix & Mingle”

Alligator Presentation

Charlotte County News

Industrial Development– RR & Phosphates

Holiday Parade & Holiday Decorating

Rotonda West Administrative Office-Community Center
Broadmoor Park
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, Fl. 33947
Office Hours: 8 am-4pm M-F
Tel: (941) 697-6788

Website address:

www.rotondawest.org

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ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andy VanScyoc
President



David Kelly
1st Vice President



Sam Besase
Treasurer



Karen Harvey
Secretary



Les Goodman
Director



Peter Traverso
Director



Deb Orchard
Director

DEB ORCHARD SELECTED TO FILL VACANT SEAT ON THE RWA BOARD

At the Board of Directors meeting on August 15th, the board selected Deb Orchard to fill the seat left open by the passing of director Jack Metz. She will serve out the remainder of Mr. Metz’s term which ends in December of 2025.

Her work career included 28 years as an insurance adjuster, with the last years as a regional Litigation Specialist. In retirement, she worked as a substitute classroom aide in a public pre-school and also the school for autistic students, and served as a church trustee.

Deb and her husband, Tim moved to Rotonda West in 2017 and are full-time residents. For eighteen months during 2021 & 2022, she co-chaired with Karen Harvey, as the Community Relations and the Activities committees merged. She then took over as chairperson of the Community Outreach Committee and has continued up to the present. Deb helps out with the Broadmoor Park Butterfly Garden, and is a member of the GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club. She also volunteers with the AmVets Post 777, and is a reading buddy through Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Director Orchard looks forward to serving her term on the board and being involved in the work and the responsibilities required of a board member.



**HERE ARE THE
CANDIDATES WHO
WILL BE
RUNNING TO FILL
THE TWO SEATS
ON THE
RWA BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Sam Besase

sbesase@peoplepc.com

281-923-4041



I AM A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE RWA!

I have 8 years of experience serving on the RWA committee and RWA BOD, including 6+ years as the RWA Treasurer. It is important to note that the assessments have remained the same (\$190 per lot owner) for the past 7 years. I have successfully negotiated higher interest rates with several banks for RWA funds, resulting in interest revenues of about \$2,500 per week (\$125,000 per year). This revenue stream has played a crucial role in maintaining the consistent assessments over the past 7 years.

I have met with dozens of RWA residents weekly over these last 6 years on various RWA issues during my RWA BOD time. I am also chairman of the RWA Buildings & Grounds Committee. I have attended over 150 RWA meetings and events per year for the last 8 years, more than all of the BOD members and candidates combined. Usually, I am in the RWA office daily for 30 minutes to 1 hour to perform my Treasurer and BOD duties, as well as interfacing with the RWA Manager and the RWA staff on multiple issues.

The RWA Manager and I transitioned payments to another bank, saving costs and keeping assessments stable for 6 years. I hosted RWA events and participated in the 50th GSWFWC anniversary attended by 4 out of 5 County Commissioners.

As a Charlotte County-appointed Advisory Board Member of the Rotonda Streets & Drainage MSBU and the RWA Treasurer, I have spoken at Charlotte County Commissioners meetings, established relationships with all 5 county commissioners, and worked on issues such as the repairs to the 18 Rotonda bridges and the upcoming paving of all Rotonda roads. Additionally, I have collaborated with the RWA Manager to lower tax rates for RWA properties.

I've been told that some of my best qualities are my upbeat attitude, authenticity, attention to detail, and ability to adapt to changing environments. My superpower is being able to connect with people. The strong relationships that I have built and nurtured within my RWA and County network allow me to implement creative solutions. I value these relationships and the trust they place in me.

As a team player, I am often referred to as the "Solution Guy" because I am known for solving what seem to be insurmountable problems. It is important for me to gain knowledge of the RWA policies & procedures to excel at problem-solving. I look forward to encountering new opportunities to use my extensive experience to overcome challenges and contribute to an even better RWA community. My commitment to the RWA community is unwavering, and I will continue to work tirelessly for its betterment.

Candidate Information Statement

Name: Gwen Grace
Email Address: qweng1999@yahoo.com
Phone: 201-317-2317



BACKGROUND

I was born and raised on Long Island, NY and stayed there until going away to college in Connecticut for a very short time. After my first year I became a “dropout” and moved to New York City to chase the youthful dream of changing the world. Well, that didn’t happen! However, I did change jobs and the places I lived for five years. Crazy, wonderful times. Finally, I moved back home (my parents by then had moved to Bergen County NJ) and I met the right guy. Dennis and I have been married for over 50 years! We settled in beautiful Sussex County NJ and raised two children. He was an electrical contractor, and I was his bookkeeper, secretary and gofer. I also worked in Property Management for a local developer and after achieving my degrees, I worked in International Sales.

In 2008 we bought a second home in South Gulf Cove and were snowbirds for eight years. Upon retiring in 2016 we sold our NJ home. Looking for a new home, we decided to go to a mandatory HOA community and felt that Rotonda West was the perfect fit.

EDUCATION

Associates Degree in Business Administration from Sussex Community College
Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration; major in Marketing/minor in International Marketing from Ramapo College

EXPERIENCE

I had been a volunteer with Girl Scouts in NJ for 25 years going from troop leader to the Board of Directors. I held the position of President for five years with one council and when three councils merged in 2007 (GS of Northern NJ), I held the President’s position for another 5 years.

In Rotonda West I have been a member of the RWA Budget and Finance Committee from 2021 through 2022, currently a member of the Community Outreach Committee since 2020 and the 2019 Christmas Parade chairman.

Currently I am President of GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club with my term ending at the end of this year. I am also a member of Neighborhood watch.

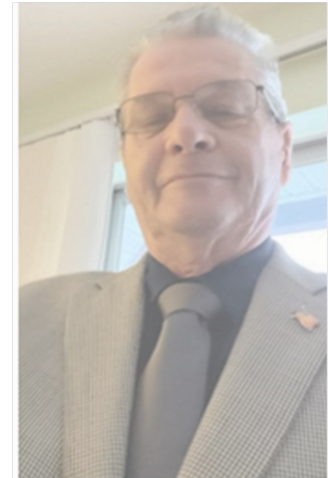
SUMMARY

Rotonda West is a wonderful community, and I am proud to be a resident. Working together we can continue to be a desirable neighborhood and I’d be honored to be a member of the board.

Andy VanScyoc

avanscyoc@aol.com

239-940-2584



My extensive board experience spans over 10 years, during which I have been involved in various significant initiatives. My first board motion involved the acquisition of the property now known as Broadmoor Park. Additionally, I take pride in being the founder of both the activities committee and the wildlife committee. While serving as the chairperson of the RMC, I made efforts to streamline processes, greatly enhancing the group's efficiency. I firmly believe in leveraging the collective expertise of committees to facilitate important decision-making processes.

Over the past 18 years, I have successfully orchestrated the grand community holiday boat parades, serving as a testament to my exceptional organizational skills. Moreover, my dedication to environmental stewardship is evident through my management of several large-scale canal trash clean-up events. Notably, during Ian's visit, our community's resilience and unity were underscored as we successfully removed storm debris from the entire accessible canal system by boat.

My active involvement in planning and executing numerous large events for Rotonda West has played a pivotal role in fostering a strong sense of community spirit. As President since October 2022, I have been at the forefront of driving cost-effective and efficient hurricane recovery efforts, being a true testament to our community's resilience and unity. These achievements would not have been attainable without the unwavering support of the incredible volunteers in Rotonda West.

Having grown up in Michigan and Ohio and subsequently residing in North Carolina until 2007, I have called Rotonda West my home since then.

RESIDENTS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN NEEDED THE MOST

Submitted by John Blanchette
Rotonda CERT Sr. Team Lead



John Blanchette with the CERT Trailer

In the aftermath of Category 5 Hurricane Ian, members of Rotonda CERT and members of Rotonda West Board of Directors discussed what we could have done to better support our residents. CERT members were going door to door in some areas to check on people. Rotonda West Association opened the doors to the community center to residents to cool off in the A/C, charge batteries and distribute food. RW Neighborhood Watch patrolled roads to see where there were blockages and also to check on residents. All this was done as groups and as individuals without a cohesive plan or communications.

For the last two months, members of Rotonda CERT, RWA Board of Directors, RWA staff and residents have been meeting and discussing what we need to do in the future if we experience another major storm. Slowly but surely we have come up with a *Rotonda West Disaster Response Plan*. This plan has been through many renditions to step up and help to make it work. When the next emergency happens there is now a better plan for neighbors helping neighbors.

Rotonda CERT is a Nonprofit 501c3 and is solely funded by donations.



Inside the organized
CERT Trailer.

All ready to help
in Rotonda West

Photos by:
John Blanchette



THE ROTONDA WEST DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN



PREPARING ROTONDA WEST FOR AND REACTING TO A STATE DESIGNATED DISASTER

Planning and Communications

- Receive authority from RWA to utilize community center and parking area for disaster response operations
- Meet with Residents before Hurricane Season
- Review previous years plan and make changes as appropriate
- Communicate updated plan making effort to reach all residents
 - Social Media
 - Newsletter
 - eMail
 - Constant Contact

Cone of Uncertainty targets Cape Haze Peninsula

- Town Hall with Residents that are not evacuating (Zoom or Google Meet?)
- Assign Team Leads for designated areas and Rallying points in those areas for volunteers
- Volunteers sign up
- Special needs registration
- Residents not evacuating information (location, number, gender, age, ?)
- Notate residents volunteering use of personal generator and/or grill as needed by neighbors.
- Test Communication network and assign radios and call signs

continued



Aftermath of Disaster

- Gulf Coast ERT (GCERT) and Rotonda CERT set up Disaster Response trailer at designated rallying point and determine Sr Team Leads for Incident Command (IC), Communications, Triage and First Aid and Volunteer Coordination.
- Open Community Center and ensure generator is operating providing an area to charge electronics, cool off and possible distribution of food, water and up to date information.
- Work with Team Leads to organize and register volunteers
- Safety and Wellness checks in designated areas with priority on registered special needs residents and visibly heavily damaged homes for survivors (Do Not Enter. Report to IC).
- Coordinate with Emergency Operations and First Responders as necessary to provide and receive information.



Generator located at Broadmoor Park will be ready to provide power to the Community Center in case of an emergency.

Provided by: John Blanchette
COO Gulf Coast ERT - Sr Team Lead Rotonda CERT
13435 S McCall Rd Suite 16-330
Port Charlotte, FL 33981

Gulfcoastert@aol.com 941 662-1656 Rotondacert@aol.com

*** GCERT and Rotonda CERT are 501c3 Nonprofits and are fully dependent on donations and fundraising ***

THE BENCHES OF BROADMOOR PARK

Story and Pictures by: Nadine Clough

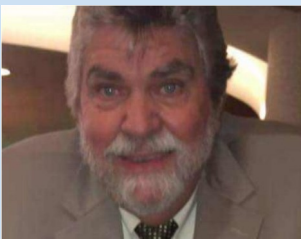


John Farrell Bench

A memorial bench is a lasting tribute to honor lives of individuals, to commemorate a special event, or sometimes to remember a much-loved pet. They are usually placed in a public place such as a park, to not only offer a place to sit and contemplate but to serve as an enduring symbol of remembrance, and to give comfort to those left behind.

In beautiful Broadmoor Park there are many such benches. We often sit and relax on them enjoying the quiet beauty of the park. We might notice the inscription and wonder for a brief moment about the people who are being honored. Some of the names may be familiar and some are not, but their stories are part of our community history and should be told.

We will start with the bench of John Farrell and its story. If you have walked the trails of Broadmoor Park, you were greeted by a sign honoring John Farrell. In fact, the lake which lies in the middle of the park is named for him. The memorial bench which bears his name, lies along the trail to the right overlooking the lake.



John T. Farrell

His contribution to our community was indeed a great one. A man with vision, he realized that the

purchase of this closed golf course in the Broadmoor section of Rotonda West would be a wonderful addition to the Rotonda community. He also knew that time was of the essence because this deal would not last long. He moved ahead with his idea by donating the money to the Rotonda West Association to purchase Broadmoor Park, and the BOD took it from there. It has grown since that time, now housing the RWA offices and a community center, wonderful trails, and even a butterfly garden.

John Farrell passed away in March of 2018 in Fort Myers, Florida. His memorial bench looks out on Lake Farrell, one of the lakes at Broadmoor Park that he helped to rehabilitate at his own expense. For those of us who love Broadmoor Park and for those who will love it in the future, we thank him.

West Ways welcomes any information or stories regarding the benches in Broadmoor Park. Send to: westways@rotondawest.org or to Nadine Clough, West Ways Editor at: nfc1138@yahoo.com



John Farrell's bench overlooks Lake Farrell



SPOTLIGHT ON DONNA STOGSDILL- Facilitating Friendships

By: Pattie Mihalik



Donna Stogsdill

A good idea becomes reality only when someone with energy and ambition makes it happen. In Rotonda West, we are fortunate to have many people that contribute ideas and the effort to improve our community. One of those people is Donna Stogsdill.

She was the original driving force behind the popular Meet and Greet events that have vastly expanded social opportunities for residents. Donna has served on many committees over the years, and currently serves on the Community Outreach Committee which now oversees the event.

In addition to the bring-a-dish monthly dinner gatherings at the community center on the fourth Tuesday of the month (September-May), Donna helped organize the Rotonda Community Park Happy Hour on the first Wednesday of each month meeting at the Rotonda Community Park. Those events, in turn, have launched plenty of new friendships and social opportunities.

It all started because of some shared wine. “It was about ten years ago when the new neighbors we didn’t know saw my husband and me having a glass of wine and asked if they could come over to share our wine”, Donna stated. That helped Donna recognize an important need. “I realized that if you aren’t a golfer there aren’t social opportunities to meet new people in Rotonda,” she said.

Along with a small committee they came up with the idea of a potluck Meet and Greet. Donna used social media to get the word out and 100 people showed up at the first event. Attendance fluctuates but residents now have both the Meet and Greet and the Happy Hour as opportunities to make new friends. “What pleases me most is that the friendships that started at our first Meet and Greet are still going strong,” Donna said.

They say if you want something done, ask a busy person. Maybe that’s why Donna not only serves as president of the Englewood Friends of the Library, but also helped spearhead the new nature group at the Rotonda Community Center, supports the enhancement of the butterfly garden at Broadmoor Park, and even is hoping to someday create a rookery. “So many people love birds and it would be a great draw for our nature lovers,” she said.

She may sleep but her mind never does. She is always planning ways to make Rotonda West even better for its residents. When there is a need, Donna Stogsdill is willing to work to meet it.

**MEET & GREET IS NOW MIX & MINGLE IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS,
BOTH LONG-TIME AND NEW RESIDENTS TO COME AND JOIN THE FUN!**

**WE WELCOME MAUREEN LADERER AS THE NEW LEAD IN BOTH
THE MIX & MINGLE AND THE HAPPY HOUR GET-TOGETHERS.**

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

MEET & GREET IS NOW MIX & MINGLE

Submitted by: Maureen Laderer

Meet & Greet has a new name- It is now Mix & Mingle and it hosts two events!

- *Happy Hour*- held the 1st Wednesday of each month (year round) at 5 p.m.
under the pavilion at the Rotonda Community Park
located inside Parade Circle at the end of Rotonda Blvd East
- *Potluck*- held the 4th Tuesday (October through May) at 5 p.m.
inside the Community Center at Broadmoor Park Building D, 646 Rotonda Circle.
Watch for flyers for suggestions for dishes to bring.
Fliers can be found in West Ways and on the Facebook page.

Both events are for all Rotonda West residents and their guests.

This is not just for new residents.



Rotonda West
Association

Community Outreach Committee
Presents

Mix & Mingle

Wednesday, September 4 at 5pm

(Always on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

Rotonda Community Park

on Parade Circle

Happy
Hour

PLEASE JOIN US
— For —
DRINKS



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

FOR ALL ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS AND THEIR GUESTS. .
BYOB, BRING A SNACK IF YOU WOULD LIKE!

Please do not contact the RWA office, they do not have information.

RWA WEST WAYS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

By: Sam Besase

6 MSBU Bridges -- Thomas Marine was low bidder on the construction contract. Its contract will likely be presented to the County Commissioners for approval at the September 10 meeting. Soon after, Charlotte County will schedule a pre-construction meeting to determine the timing of the start of the projects.

3 Gas Tax Bridges (RBN-RBE-RBW) – These 3 bridges are not scheduled for repairs before FY26.

Bridge lights – Two new poles and 16 LED lights should be installed by early October, 2024.

Reminder to readers: [Project Status Updates | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov)

The first 4 bridges (of 18*) MSBU bridges here in Rotonda West needing repairs and maintenance and also being brought up to date to current US Department of Transportation bridge standards were completed on time and have been open for traffic.

[Rotonda Circle BRIDGE between Mark Twain & Bunker Road](#)

Rotonda Circle BRIDGE between Annapolis and Caddy (high street numbers), near Rotonda Blvd. West.

Rebel Court BRIDGE over Rotonda River.

Cape Haze Drive BRIDGE over Rotonda River.

4 completed – 14* more MSBU bridges to be completed.

The next 6 bridges here in Rotonda West to be worked on are:

Bridge Number 014101- Rotonda Circle @ Pinehurst Creek North

Bridge number 014107 - Rotonda Circle @ Long Meadow Creek South

Bridge number 014104 - Rotonda Circle @ Broadmoor Creek North

Bridge number 014063 - Rotonda Circle @ Pebble Creek South

Bridge number 014100 - Rotonda Circle @ Pinehurst Creek South

Bridge number 014060 - Rotonda Circle @ Oakland Hills Creek South

*The latest news on the Hurricane Ian damaged ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH BRIDGE is that the Charlotte County Commissioners wrote a letter to the US FEMA Director in Washington DC, asking for her review and expedited resolution for this bridge. Also, Congressman Greg Steube is engaged in resolving this issue between FEMA and Charlotte County.

The issue is money: \$312K – FEMA vs \$1.2M Charlotte County.

We are in continuous follow up in person and by phone and email on this topic with the Charlotte County Commissioners and Administrators.

TRAFFIC LIGHT: The intersection of Gasparilla & Rotonda Blvd. East is slated for a traffic light. There are supply chain issues, therefore, the traffic light (being paid for by the new high-end RV park), is about 10 or more months from installation (maybe around July 2025). Charlotte County has issued a purchase request to interested bidders.

STREET LIGHTS: The street lights on SR 776 (McCall Road) have been out since Hurricane Ian (about 23 Months). We met with the DOT head person in Tallahassee along with Charlotte County Commissioner Joseph Tiseo about 3 months ago and the DOT person said that he would look into it.

We are happy to report that a large section of SR 776 now has operating street lights (between Farlow's and Gilloft. More sections of SR 776 lighting will become operational in the coming months. This is a great start.

The next quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting is at **9:30am Thursday September 26, 2024**, at the Charlotte County annex building on San Casa. Please consider attending the meeting.

- Rotonda Road Paving Schedule pushed back to perhaps late 2025.
- All Rotonda Bridges are currently structurally sound (except RBS).
- All Rotonda West bridges (all over 40 years old) have always been rated at 80,000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight.
- Residents or their contractors UNFORTUNATELY, are MOWING all the way down to the Ponds, this is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Also, Residents or their contractors UNFORTUNATELY, are FERTILIZING all the way down to the Ponds, this is **not recommended** by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Charlotte County Commissioners have alerted residents that there is **TOO MUCH NITROGEN** in local waterways.

The RWA Buildings & Grounds Committee hosted the:

- **University of Florida – LAKEWATCH presentation was held on Wednesday May 22nd 2024.**
- The topic was the condition of our canals and waterways. The RWA canals are in great shape per water test samples.

The Charlotte County Commissioners met recently regarding Proposed MSBU Rates for 2025: There are 2 MSBU's (Municipal Services Benefits Unit) that apply to RWA residents:

ROTONDA WEST STREETS & DRAINAGE MSBU: The MSBU rate for the Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU shall remain the same - \$445.00 per ERU ([Equivalent Residential Unit](#)) – repeat

– NO INCREASE IN THIS MSBU RATE.

WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY STORMWATER MSBU: The MSBU rate for the West Charlotte County Stormwater MSBU shall remain the same - \$22.68 per ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) – repeat

- NO INCREASE IN THESE 2 MSBU RATES. Look at the back page of your recently received Charlotte County TRIM tax notification.

Residents may file a petition for adjustment with the VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD. Petition forms are available from Charlotte County Property Appraiser office on San Casa and must be filed ON OR BEFORE 5:00PM ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2024.

Congressman Greg Steube advises that the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act relating to Hurricane Ian (3rd most costly storm in US history) has passed the House of Representatives, waiting passage by the US Senate.

August 20, 2024 Primary Election results: The 2 incumbent Charlotte County Commissioners, Bill Truex and Joseph Tiseo were re-elected: Incumbent Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections, Leah Valenti, was elected.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – HECTOR FLORES PROVIDES THE REPORT BELOW:

Commercial and residential growth is surging. The Community Development Department reported in May 2024 that it issued 394 single-family residential permits and 379 certificates of occupancy.

Charlotte County also issued nearly 4,000 permits of all types in May of 2024.

The Economic Development Office forecasts commercial development valued at \$150 million will be added to the tax rolls in 2024, rising to \$185 million in 2025 and \$285 million in 2026.

Charlotte County growth also means that the county shall need more staff to serve and capacity to accommodate them in the Emergency Operations Center before, during and after disasters. We learned during Hurricane Ian that the EOC, needed to be expanded to handle our storm response. We need more meeting rooms, sleeping quarters, food preparation equipment and space, utilities improvements and more.

Charlotte County tourism numbers are booming, too. In May 2024, tourism development tax collections, which are assessed on short-term stays under six months at hotels, home and condo rentals, rose 14.3% from last May to \$726,194. Revenue from visitors to Charlotte County, which also includes sales tax collections, saved county residents more than \$1,000 a year on their property taxes.

Sporting events are an increasingly important part of our tourism promotion strategy, as they typically attract entire families instead of just the competitors. In May 2024 alone, the county hosted seven events, including baseball, softball, basketball and pickleball tournaments, a half marathon and dance and cheer competitions. Sports tourism generated a \$39.5 million economic impact so far in 2024, through hotel and home rentals, and spending at restaurants and retail and grocery stores. You can review all the information in the monthly reports on our website, www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov/monthlyreport.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- **Labor Day Sept. 2nd
Office & Community Center Closed**
- “Mix & Mingle Happy Hour”
Wednesday Sept. 4th @ 5 pm
Rotonda Community Park
- Music in the Park w/Jonny Puma
(Outdoor, weather permitting)
Wednesday Sept. 4th 6:30-8:30 pm
- Char. Co. Health & Well Being Focus
Group Thursday Sept. 5th 1:30 pm
Parrot Room, Community Center
- Nature Presentation– Alligators
Tuesday Sept. 10th @ 5:50 pm
(pending)
- BINGO
Sunday Sept. 15th @ 1:00 pm
- Tai Chi
Monday 9/16, 9/23 @ 9 am
- “Keep Moving in a Chair-Chair Yoga”
Presentation Tuesday, Sept. 17th @
9am Community Center
- Trivia Night w/Tim *Music Bingo!*
Wednesday, Sept. 18th 6:30-8:30 pm
- History Presentation- Industrial
Development, the RR & Phosphate
Wednesday, Sept. 25th 1:30 pm
Community Center

OCTOBER

- “Mix & Mingle Happy Hour”
Wednesday October 2nd @ 5 pm
Rotonda Community Park
- Music in the Park-Rotonda Ukulele
Band
Thursday October 3rd @ 6:30 pm
- Tai Chi
Monday, 10/7, 10/21, 10/28 at 9 am
- Nature Presentation-Scrub Jays
Tuesday October 8th @ 5:30 pm
Community Center (pending)
- Board of Directors Town Hall
Wednesday October 9th @ 6 p.m.
Community Center
- Nature Presentation-Bobcats
Tuesday October 15th @ 5:50 pm
Community Center (pending)
- Trivia
Wednesday October 16th @ 6:30 pm
Community Center
- Candidate’s Night
Thursday October 17th @ 7:00 pm
Community Center
- BINGO
Sunday October 20th @ 1 pm
- “Mix & Mingle Potluck”
Tuesday October 22nd @ 5:00 pm
Community Center

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF A FOCUS GROUP ON HOW TO IMPROVE CHARLOTTE COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

Focus Group:
Charlotte County Health and Needs Assessment

Get involved in a county-wide initiative to gather insights for future services and make improvements to the community.

We are looking for residents of Charlotte County who are passionate about community health to join our focus group and have a discussion with their fellow community members.

 **RWA Community Center**
646 Rotonda Cir, Rotonda West, FL 33947



 **Thursday September 5, 2024**
1:30pm - 2:15pm

To reserve your spot and learn more about focus groups at other locations scan the QR code or go to www.healthycharlottecounty.org and click on events

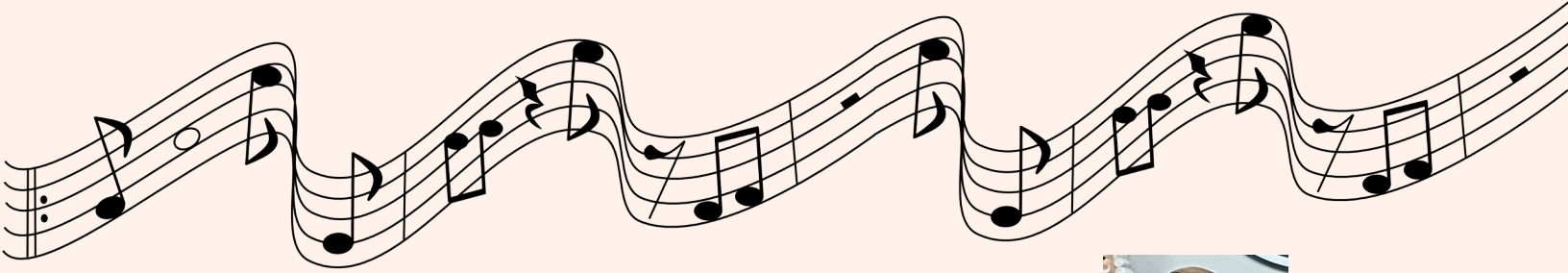


Take the 5 minute survey and come and share thoughts and ideas with your neighbors.

Open to all residents. Will meet in the Parrot Room at the Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

UPCOMING EVENTS



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

JONNY PUMA

6:30 p.m. (outside, weather permitting)



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

ROTONDA UKULELE BAND

6:30 p.m. (outside, weather permitting)



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

LEMON BAY HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

4:00 p.m. (inside)



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

CHRISTMAS MUSIC WITH JONNY PUMA

5:00 p.m. (outside, weather permitting)



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

CARY PRICE ON THE ORGAN

6:30 p.m. (inside)



Music in the Park events are held at the Community Center at 646 Rotonda Circle.

These events are for residents, renters, and guests.

Bring a snack and drink to enjoy during the performances. If the event is outside, bring a chair.

Presented by: The Community Outreach Committee

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

A PRESENTATION ON ALLIGATORS

WITH DAVID SMITH

Submitted by: Merrill Horswill

A Presentation by the Community Outreach Committee Rotonda Nature Program

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH @ 5:30 P.M.

COMMUNITY CENTER, 646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

OPEN TO ROTONDA PROPERTY OWNERS, RENTERS, AND THEIR GUESTS

Presenter David Smith has been working in land Management for Charlotte County since November 2016. David is a native son, born in Orlando, Florida. He is a graduate from the University of Central Florida. In his free time David enjoys fishing and spending time with his dog. David is a big Star Wars fan but is also an avid amateur herpetologist.

Amazing Facts About Alligators

- Alligators Are Ancient
- They Can't Survive in Salt Water
- They Can Weigh More Than 1,000 Pounds
- Their Sex Is Determined by Temperature
- They Can Run Fast but Tire Quickly
- Their Eyes Glow in the Dark
- They Prefer Meat but Aren't Opposed to Fruit
- They Thrive in Slow-Moving Waters
- Alligators Can Go Through 3,000 Teeth Over a Lifetime
- They Care for Their Young, Unlike Most Reptiles
- Alligators Spend Months in Gator Holes
- They Are the Loudest Reptiles in the World
- Alligators May Eat Their Young
- Alligator Blood Is Antibiotic and Antiviral



**COME AND JOIN US TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THESE FASCINATING CREATURES!**

BINGO

(1 TO 15) (16 TO 30) (31 TO 45) (46 TO 60) (61 TO 75)

3	23	34	50	69
5	24	33	60	68
8	29	FREE SPACE	49	64
14	17	37	52	66
12	18	38	53	67

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

BINGO IS RETURNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE
MEMBERS IN RUNNING
THESE GAMES!**

- **HELP WITH SET-UP**
- **HELP SELL THE PACKETS**
- **HELP CHECK NUMBERS**
- **HELP WITH CLEAN-UP**

If you can help, please contact:

communityoutreachcommittee@rotonda.org

NORMA



Send your questions to Norma at:
westways@rotondawest.org

She will be happy to answer any question that you have.

Here is a question that was asked of NORMA-

“Do I need to fill out an RMA (Residential Modification Application) to add a fence on my property?”

ANSWER: Yes, do you need to fill out an RMA

The Residential Modification Committee reviews and approves additions or modifications to existing homes or structures under a set of guidelines. Examples includes putting up fences, repainting the home, adding a new roof,

RMA applications are on the Rotonda West website and can be filled out and sent in online.
Or you can pick up a paper application at the office at 646 Rotonda Circle.

**ROTONDA STRONG HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE
PRESENTS "CHAIR YOGA"**

**Submitted by:
Rita Lopienski**



**KEEP MOVING IN A
CHAIR**

**Join us to learn more
about this interesting
type of yoga!**

"Keep Moving! In a Chair" (Chair Yoga)

Rick Conklin is an RWA resident and will give a presentation on Chair Yoga & Chair One Fitness.

Learn how to start moving and keep moving, even if you stay seated for the whole time!

Learn how your local Y can help keep you moving and motivated at any fitness level, even for those who use a cane or walker, or haven't been to a gym. Learn more about Chair One-a fun, musically-driven, full-body workout, that uplifts people through dance and fitness moves-all in the chair.

Rick is a Group Fitness instructor at the Englewood Y, Chair One Fitness instructor, Spinning & Aqua instructor and Parkinson mentor with Neurochallenge.org.



**"CHAIR YOGA"
TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17TH
9-10 A.M. IN THE
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Sponsored by:
The Community Outreach Committee**

Community Outreach Brings Back Tim Dowd To Test Your Musical Knowledge!



Wednesday, September 18th in the Community Center
Doors Open at 6 p.m. Game Begins at 6:30 p.m.
Will End at Approximately 8:30 p.m.

As always, snacks and drinks (cups with lids, please)
are welcome.

Since we plan to be indoors, no pets are permitted.



**JOIN US FOR MUSIC BINGO
WITH TIM DOWD**

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, THE RR & PHOSPHATE

PRESENTATION BY:
DR. JENNIFER ZOEBELEIN,
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
HISTORIAN



In 1907 the railroad was completed to Boca Grande, and for the next 50 years shipped phosphate out of Port Boca Grande. In 1969 Port Boca Grande ranked as the fourth busiest port in Florida. Today it stands abandoned.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Southwest Florida experienced a level of development not seen before. Join Dr. Jennifer Zoebelein, Historian for Charlotte County, as she discusses the rise of the phosphate industry in the region and its direct connection with the growing development of railroad networks across Florida. This industrial growth brought economic growth and opportunity to Charlotte County, fostering the creation of new towns and increased population growth, and stands as one of the more important moments in our region's history.

SPEAKER BIO:

A native of Long Island, Dr. Jennifer Zoebelein is the historian for Charlotte County, a position she's held since November 2019. She received her PhD from Kansas State University in 2018, where she examined how the United States commemorated the First World War. Prior to moving to Florida, Jennifer worked for the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City and the World War I Centennial Commission. She has also worked for the National Park Service at Fort Sumter National Monument and the New York Historical Society. Jennifer has a long-standing passion and interest in history and enjoys reading and researching local and state history.

*This presentation brought to you by the Community Outreach Community, with thanks to Donna Stogsdill for coordinating the event.

MORE “**HOLLY & JOLLY**” A CERTAINTY FOR ROTONDA WEST THIS WINTER

By: **Connie Smith**



Linda Kelly among some of the community's decorations. The wreaths will be updated with new bows.

It's September and much of Rotonda West is thinking about when summer's humidity will go away or whether the community will dodge any number of hazardous tropical weather systems coming across the Atlantic Ocean.

But Linda Kelly is thinking about Christmas. To narrow it down, she's been thinking about how festive Rotonda will look this season as it embarks upon a new era of holiday adornment. While Linda and a few trusted assistants spend the year planning, organizing and carefully buying, the beauty of Rotonda's decoration scheme is that while some 40 volunteers are needed to fully decorate the community, their volunteer obligation will require very little time.

Therefore, she wants any individual willing to spend a few hours for up to two days in late November to contact her at lskelly1954@gmail.com by the first of October. It doesn't hurt for folks who have helped in the past to drop Linda a note so she knows who she can still count on. Organization is key to efficient decorating and after years of experience, the routine moves quickly along Rotonda Circle as within one to two days, the six memorial parks and the island park at the Oakland Hills Marina are suddenly transformed.

An additional holiday focus for 2024, said Linda is the RWA Administration Building and the Community Center. "We are one of the largest HOAs in the state. We need to present ourselves as an HOA with such a large membership should," she said. "I want to see the buildings decorated to enjoy the season." She believes these should be in place immediately after Thanksgiving.

With the Community Center serving as the center for numerous holiday-related functions, both public and private, Linda believes the building's interior and exterior should reflect the season with lighting, topiaries, wreaths, banners, garlands and Christmas trees, inside or out. She sees the interior decorations as likely spots where event-goers will want to take photos or just feel a festive spirit. As for the Administration Building, residents arriving to do business, as well as employees, should enjoy holiday decorations, also inside and out.

The old one-dimensional, heavy wooden cutouts that served as decorations for many years were cleverly disposed of by raffle to residents at last year's Holiday Stroll. The Rotonda Board of Directors has approved a three-year program allowing gradual purchase of new decorations that will be just as festive, yet easier to put up and take down.

While the Community Center and Administration Building are the focus of the first year of Linda's three-year plan, next year she intends to expand upon the bridges and entrance signs and the final year will see the memorial parks receiving more decorative attention.

It's clear that Rotonda West's holiday seasons will be filled with more "holly" and "jolly" for years to come with Linda Kelly at the helm of the Santa train. "I love to decorate for Christmas," she declared. Referring to Rotonda Outreach Committee Chair Deb Orchard, she added, "That's why Deb asked me to do this."



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP OUT
WITH THE CHRISTMAS PARADE.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP
DECORATE OUR COMMUNITY CENTER AND
MEMORIAL PARKS.**

**DON'T BE NAUGHTY, BE NICE!
HELP ROTONDA CELEBRATE!**

**CONTACT THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH
COMMITTEE IF YOU CAN HELP.**

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

THANK YOU!

OTHER PARADE NEWS:

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING IN THE PARADE, MAKE SURE
TO REGISTER YOUR ENTRY.**

**REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE RWA
WEBSITE STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.**

REGISTER ONLINE AT: rotondawest.org LOOK UNDER FORMS.

BE PART OF THIS WONDERFUL EVENT!



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



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is ending the summer in a big way. Our club has been honored by the Englewood Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Day Committee who runs Pioneer Days in Englewood as one of the Grand Marshalls in their Parade on Labor Day. The club was chartered 50 years ago and is proud of the volunteering and benefits our members have given to the community over the years. We were presented with the Grand Marshall sash and a colorful certificate by Doug Izzo and Kim Parks of the Chamber. We're excited to be in the parade and will provide children's games and crafts after the parade in Pioneer Plaza on Dearborn Street.



L to R: Kim Parks, Gloria Rogoski, Gwen Grace, Jeannie Joyce & Doug Izzo from the Englewood Chamber of Commerce



L to R: Ellen Lang, Gwen Grace, Gloria Rogoski

On Friday, August 16th we collected 63 pairs of new children's sneakers for the Greater Englewood Kids Needs organization. This is our fifth annual "Kicks for Kids" sneaker drive and we enjoy it!

Like the children returning to school, a lot of our groups begin meeting again after the summer break. Check the RWA calendar for some of the meetings that take place on a weekly basis. Drop by and say hello.

Coming up in October is our Fall Fashion Show. There are still a few tickets available, and we are looking for sponsors to help raise funds for scholarships for Lemon Bay High School Students and Greater Englewood Kids Needs.

Our next General Meeting is Thursday, September 19th at the RWA community center. **Please note the change of time.** The social hour begins at 9:30 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10:30 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.

COMING SOON!

The Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon Fundraiser will be held on October 10th. We still have some tickets available and are looking for sponsors who would like to help make this event a success.

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club

Presents

Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon Fundraiser

**Thursday 10th October
11 am - 2 pm**

Heron Creek Golf & Country Club
5302 Heron Creek Blvd, North Port

Featuring Fashions By
Anthony's Ladies Apparel

\$50 per person

Includes three course lunch with choice of
Chicken Cordon Bleu or Salmon Doria
Cash Bar

For Tickets and Sponsor information,
contact Karen Lambert at 231-357-1167 or email
kmlambert168@outlook.com

Proceeds will benefit Englewood Kids' Needs
and Lemon Bay High School Scholarships



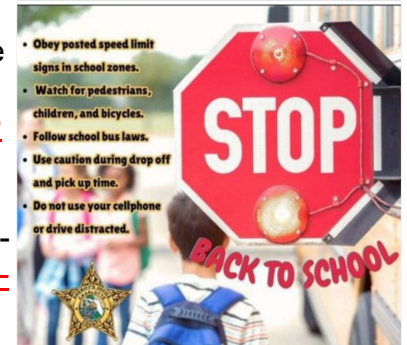
GFWC RWWC is a 501(c)3
non-profit organization.

www.gfwcrotondawest.org

Back to School Safety

And just like that the summer is over and kids are back in school. Did you know there are five schools located just on the outskirts of Rotonda? Keeping that in mind there are approximately 1600 kids within our zip code 33947 & 33946. So not only do the kids in Rotonda attending these schools, but we have parents driving into Rotonda and on the outskirts to drop kids off to school, being said the roads are starting to become crowded--just before school begins and soon after the last class gets out. So be careful!

Some interesting facts regarding crosswalks, and boy does Rotonda have enough of them, none more prominent than on Parade Circle; there are also bus stops. The driver of a vehicle at any crosswalk where the signage so indicates shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross a roadway when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk or steps into the crosswalk {Chapter 316-130-7(b)}. Also, whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass such stopped vehicle {Chapter 316--316.130.-9}. So be careful!



If you are looking to volunteer as a Patrol or be a Base Station, it just takes two hours a month; a small commitment to protecting our neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584 or by email president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com



We are the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Department

"Rotonda is the safest community in Charlotte County"-Sherriff Prummell

See you at our next meeting on September 17th, at 10:00 am in the Community Center. Meetings are recorded and shared via Facebook (Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch) and our website (www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com) Best Regards, David Perry.

Interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584, scan QR code below OR go to our Facebook page @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



Scan Here For More Information

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

Update your Charlotte County Sheriff's Office NON-Emergency number to 941-639-2101 for the fastest service!



RWA VOLUNTEER JOB LOG (Jan.-Dec. 2024)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

RED GROUP

BLUE GROUP

RWA EVENT/JOB	DATE	COMMITTEE NAME
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____

At the end of the calendar year, hand in this sheet in to the Community Outreach Committee, or to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Coordinator.

THANK YOU!

IT IS THE VOLUNTEER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FILL OUT THIS FORM!

RED GROUP

BLUE GROUP

Coordinator will check box

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

Nancy Schwechel
Administrator and
Deed Restrictions

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

Annette Casteel
Administrator and
Minutes Clerk

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Jack Lanar
Compliance Officer

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Wayne Taylor

Dale Anderson

Craig Brown

Doug Smith

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

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Peter Traverso, Director

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Nadine Clough, Editor
westways@rotondawest.org

Connie Smith, Writer

Pattie Mihalik, Writer

Gwen Grace, GFWC Woman's Club

David Perry, Neighborhood Watch

Sam Besase, Contributor

Rita Lopienski, Contributor

Merrill Horswill, Contributor

Maureen Laderer, Contributor

David Pulaski, Photographer

Nadine Clough, Layout & Design