

# WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,997 Rotonda Residents

DECEMBER 2024



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

## RWA ANNUAL MEETING & IN-PERSON VOTING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024, 6-8 p.m.

By now, many of our residents have already mailed in, or dropped off their ballots to the drop-box in the office. If you have not voted as yet, hopefully you are planning to attend the RWA Annual Meeting on December 5th and visit the in-person voting station, located in the lobby of the Community Center. This voting station will be open from 6 pm until 6:45 pm. You will not need your blue absentee mail-in ballot, different ballots will be provided for in-person voting.

Residents will be deciding on two important issues. First, is the Building Addition to the Administration Office. There will be no increase in your HOA Fees.

Second, is the Rollover of Excess Membership Income over Membership Expenses as provided by IRS Ruling 70-604 (See page 3 for rollover explanation).

The meeting will reconvene after the voting to announce the results of the vote.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 12

### NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

RWA Annual Meeting & Voting

BOD Meeting

RWA Committee Meeting Times

Volunteer Job Log Time

Fiesta Club

Open House Wrap-Up

Upcoming Events

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](http://www.rotondawest.org)

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**01 Upcoming Annual Mtg.**

---

**03 Rollover Explained**

---

**04 BOD Meeting**

---

**05 Committee Meeting Times**

---

**06 Volunteer Job Log**

---

**10 Fiesta Club**

---

**09 Garage Sale Success**

---

**12 Coyotes**

---

**13 “Broadway Christmas”**

---

**14 Jazz Rays**

---

**15 OPEN HOUSE**

---

**16 Drumming Circle**

---

**17 Charlotte County News**

---

**20 Nature Walk**

---

**23 Christmas Parade**

---

**26 Coming Soon-Pilates!**

---

**27 Learn About Sea Turtles**

---

**34 Staff**

---

**PLEASE EXPLAIN “ROLLOVER OF EXCESS RWA HOA FUNDS” WHICH APPEARS ON THE BALLOT EACH YEAR**

Property owners are asked each year as a part of the RWA election process to VOTE either YES or NO to rollover excess funds. Here is Geoffrey Lorah’s ( RWA’s outside independent CPA auditor) explanation:

1. Common interest realty associations (primarily condominium and property owner / homeowner associations) are organized as not-for-profit corporations. For operating purposes, it is assumed the annual budgets for these associations will be prepared on a break-even basis, meaning expenditures will equal revenues. When an association has excess member revenue in any given year, there are three basic options available to the association regarding the treatment of the excess revenue:
  - A. Refund the excess revenue on a pro rata basis to the members of the association
  - B. Obtain member approval to “rollover” the excess revenue to the subsequent fiscal year
  - C. Retain the excess revenue and report this revenue as taxable income on the association’s Federal and/or State tax return
2. If the members do not approve the rollover of the excess revenue, an association has two options regarding the treatment of the excess revenue; either refund it to the members or report it as taxable income.

Please note: This is a general explanation. The rollover process is primarily based on the requirements of IRS Revenue Ruling 70-604







# ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Andy VanScyoc**  
President

**David Kelly**  
1st Vice President

**Sam Besase**  
Treasurer

**Karen Harvey**  
Secretary

**Peter Traverso**  
Director

**Deb Orchard**  
Director

**Jerry Eldred**  
Director

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING THURSDAY, November 14, 2024

Following the Call To Order and the Pledge of Allegiance, the RWA BOD moved ahead to the business of the appointment of the open Director position, a one-year term.

Six residents submitted their names to Manager Derrick Hedges and the Board. Four of these people spoke at the meeting. Eugene Lerner spoke of a need for diversity (members of different committees) on the board. Jerry Eldred, a former board member and a candidate in the last election, spoke on his experience. Gwen Grace, RWWC Woman’s Club president, spoke on her ability to make fair decisions. Joseph Haggerty spoke on zoom regarding his intention to become involved in the RWA. Bill Kerr and Pam Wright were not present at the meeting. After a secret ballot was held, Jerry Eldred was named as the person who would fill the vacant seat. He immediately began his term.

#### Points of Interest / Committee Reports:

- Budget & Finance Committee-Darrell Bulle approved as new member
  - Community Outreach Committee-Parade Volunteers needed (meeting 12/2 at 6 pm)
  - New Event discussed and approved-”Very Broadway Christmas Program” Bus Trip
  - Compliance Committee- 3 residents protested fines. \$300. fines approved.
  - Residential Modification Committee-79 Applications. All approved, nothing tabled.
- Joe Haggerty approved by BOD to become new member of Residential Modification.

Submitted by: Nadine Clough





# RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK- MEETING SCHEDULE



**ALL MEETINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM**

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	2 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	“AS NEEDED” BASIS	TBA (not on zoom)
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE	2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:30 A.M.
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:30 A.M.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE	1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:30 A.M.
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)	2 P.M.
DEED RESTRICTION COMMITTEE	4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9 A.M.
ELECTION COMMITTEE	SPECIFIC TO ELECTION SCHEDULE	CHECK CALENDAR
RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION COMMITTEE	2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9 A.M.



## **ATTENTION 2024 VOLUNTEERS**

**You are responsible for filling out your own JOB LOG**

# **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER GUIDELINES**

**Dear Members,**

**In an effort to reach a compromise on the often controversial topic of who is invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held each spring, and the confusion on whose dinner will be paid for, the BOD approved new guidelines at their May 2024 meeting.**

**These guidelines will begin this year, 2024, and will be implemented at the March 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It is important that you read and understand these guidelines so that you can keep track of your volunteering for 2024. The Guidelines and the Job Log are on the following pages.**

**The Rotonda West Association values its volunteers and wants to properly and fairly acknowledge them all.**

**Thank you.**



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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

RWA EVENT/JOB	DATE	COMMITTEE NAME
1. _____		

## TIME TO FILL OUT AND TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER JOB LOG

**By the end of December, make sure  
to send in this form to:**

Nadine Clough Volunteer Dinner Event Coordinator

Use one of the following options:

1. Text photo of form to: Nadine at 518-598-6565
2. Email photo of form to: NFC1138@yahoo.com
3. Snail mail completed form to: Nadine Clough, 265 Mariner Lane, Rotonda West, Florida, 33947

\*This form must be submitted in order to receive your invitation to the RWA Volunteer Dinner/Dance event to be held on March 16th, 2025 at The Hills

\*RWA BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT FORM

Questions??? Text or email Nadine. See above.

**THANK YOU!**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coordinator will check box

**RED GROUP**

**BLUE GROUP**





# 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

# RWA VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



**WHO IS INVITED?** ALL RWA MEMBERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR RWA EVENTS IN 2024 (JAN.-DEC)

**WHOSE DINNER IS PAID FOR?** DEPENDENT ON NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS (see below)

**WHAT TYPE OF EVENT WILL IT BE?** SIT-DOWN DINNER

**WHERE WILL IT BE HELD?** THE HILLS, ROTONDA WEST

**WHEN WILL IT BE HELD?** MARCH 16, 2025; Time: 5 pm Social Hour, 6 pm Dinner

**There will be two categories that RWA volunteers would fall into:**

## RED GROUP

- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered in the year 2024 for an official RWA event will be invited to the RWA Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered for 1-4 RWA events will have their dinner paid for, BUT will be required to pay for their spouses/guests dinner.
- All RWA volunteers will be required to track their own volunteer jobs on a provided VOLUNTEER JOB LOG form.
- All RWA volunteers must turn in VOLUNTEER JOB LOG to the Community Outreach Committee or the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner event coordinator at the end of the calendar year.

## BLUE GROUP

- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered in the year 2024 for an official RWA event will be invited to the RWA Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered for 5 or more RWA events will have their dinner AND their spouse/guest dinner paid for.
- All RWA volunteers will be required to track their volunteer jobs on a provided VOLUNTEER JOB LOG form.
- All RWA volunteers must turn in VOLUNTEER JOB LOG to the Community Outreach Committee or the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner event coordinator at the end of the calendar year.
- Any person serving on the one of the RWA standing committees will not be required to fill out the VOLUNTEER JOB LOG form.

**Possible RWA volunteer opportunities:** Committees, Christmas parade, holiday decorating, Aquatic sub-committee water sampling, butterfly garden weeding, event welcome tables, volunteer appreciation event, photography at RWA events, event write-ups for WEST WAYS, Shred Day assistance, Celebrate the Circle, RWA Open House, serving ice cream at special events, Meet & Greet help, BINGO help, and many more.

- Proposal accepted by BOD at May 9, 2024 meeting
- Proposal accepted by Community Outreach Committee at May 2024 meeting





## **ROTONDA WEST FIESTA CLUB ASSOCIATION... A LONG STANDING INSTITUTION SINCE 1972**

Written by: Judy Murdoch

Picture: Rotonda, The Vision & The Reality, Jack Alexander

Have you ever thought to yourself, I wish I had somewhere to go on a Saturday night, where I can dine, dance and socialize with my friends and neighbors? Well, maybe the Rotonda West Fiesta Association is for you.

That is correct, there is a social club right here in the circle and it is the oldest club around. Born in 1972, The Fiesta Club is hoping to continue for a long time to come. This “not for profit” organization meets once a month from October through April, most times on the third Saturday of the month. The dates for the rest of this season are December 21st, January 18th, February 15th, March 15th, and April 12th (second Saturday).

The events are held at The Hills Restaurant at 100 Rotonda Circle and are a very reasonably priced \$35 for members and \$40 for guests. Your evening includes a three course sit-down meal of salad, an entrée, and dessert, as well as coffee or iced tea, tax and gratuity. There is also a cash bar available for your enjoyment. You will dance to the sounds of some great, local musicians. You must have a reservation in order to attend. The Hills IS NOT the point of contact. Each month has a different host/hostess that will take your prepaid reservation for you. Bring a group and reserve a table.

If this sounds like something that you are interested in, you may contact Judy Murdoch at 410-585-5839 to get on the email list. We hope to see you there.

**NOTE: To become a member, there is a \$20 per person fee.**



1972-Mike Saunders in full fiesta regalia, along with his wife Dorothy. Mike was the first Alcaide of the Fiesta Association.



# RWA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

100 homes participated in the 2nd Annual RWA Yard and Garage Sale on November 1st & 2nd. It was a sunny weekend in the mid 80's, and shoppers not only enjoyed the weather, but enjoyed the variety of items available, and sellers enjoyed the chance to downsize while interacting with shoppers.

There will be a 2nd Annual RWA Spring Garage Sale in late March or early April.

Contact: [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org) with questions.



Pictured above: Community Garage Sale coordinator  
Rita Lopienski at her sale

## Coyotes Are Adaptable, Shy, Elusive

By Connie Smith

Coyotes are adaptable, if nothing else. They exist in each of Florida's 67 counties, as well as Rotonda West, said Calvin Bernard, land manager for Charlotte County's Parks and National Resources Division.

Bernard told about 25 residents on November 6, he spends his days on the job "counting birds, fish and turtles," but he has seen very few coyotes in Charlotte County. Shy and elusive, coyotes avoid human interaction so can be hard to spot although they're definitely present.

For those unfamiliar with coyotes, they look similar to dogs but are related to wolves. They are smaller than wolves, weighing up to 44 pounds and standing up to 4 and a half feet. Life in the wild is hard for a coyote – their lifespan is about three years. In captivity, they can live up to 18 years.



Charlotte County's Calvin Bernard displays a coyote skull to residents who attended his talk about the wild animal held on November 6th



Whereas wolves live in packs of up to 30, often for their entire lives, ruled by a tight hierarchy of alpha and beta males and females, a coyote pack is very different.

The purpose of a coyote pack is primarily to raise the four to seven puppies born to it. Their pack is much smaller with the females staying put and the males often leaving by age four to five months. Coyotes are much more solitary beings and often hunt alone.

The adaptability of coyotes is illustrated by the multitudes of habitats where the animals are able to survive. Take a Florida habitat and coyotes are able to survive there. In addition to neighborhoods, they can be found in flatwoods (open canopies of pine trees, scattered shrubs and diverse ground-cover of grasses and wildflowers), swamp (flat wetlands such as the Everglades) and scrub (old dunes with deep fine sand soils that are excessively drained). A former tortoise burrow or a felled tree might serve as a nest for a female coyote to give birth.

The wide range of food types is also evidence of the adaptability of coyotes. Their eating habits are omnivorous and opportunistic. They'll eat small animals (rabbits to rats), iguanas, frogs, snakes, fish and berries. Coyotes can be a nuisance and will grab dog and cat pets if they are unattended, but they do perform a role by controlling the population of palm rats and other smaller mammals.

Bernard cautioned that residents can avoid pests by minimizing garbage and not leaving their garage doors open. Even bird feeders can attract coyotes because they will eat birds, as well as the inevitable pests that prey on birds.

Neither does he recommend people approaching a coyote. And if a coyote approaches a person, "try to get away," he counseled. "Make noise. If you are with your pet, snatch the animal up and try to retreat." The large olfactory receptors of a coyote make pepper spray an ideal defense for individuals and pet owners.

The next Rotonda West nature presentation will be about sea turtles, December 11 at 2 pm.



# A VERY BROADWAY CHRISTMAS



**A THEATRICAL SPECTACULAR FEATURING  
THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF BROADWAY TALENT  
TO HIT THE STAGE IN ST. PETE!**

**Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>  
4pm Matinee  
Reserved Discount Tickets!**

For 1 Night Only, Broadway takes over the Mahaffey Theater with multiple stars from shows such as Wicked, Hamilton, Phantom, Book of Mormon, Gypsy, Matilda, Pretty Women, Beautiful, Annie, Shrek, and many more!

**\*TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**

- Phone Theater at #727-892-5721, M-F 12pm-4pm
- Must Ask & Buy through “Brittany”
- Say purchasing “Reserved Rotonda” seats
- Prices: Orchestra \$103, Loge \$84, Front Balcony \$64, Rear Balcony \$45
- Pick Up @ Mahaffey “Will Call” Window, Pricing Includes Taxes & Fees

**\*LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US! LIMITED SEATING! SIGN UP ASAP!**

- Matinee Luxury Bus Transportation With Lunch
- \$ 63 Total Transportation Cost Includes Tax and Tips
- Pick Up and Drop Off: At “Rotonda West Community Center”
- Lunch: The Famous Sarasota “Der Dutchman Restaurant and Gift Shop” (Delicious Buffet, Drink & Homemade Pie Included)

**A Spectacular Holiday  
Broadway Show!  
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To Reserve Bus & Lunch or if you have any questions,  
please contact:

Debi Graham Schroeder

Email: [debischroeder7@icloud.com](mailto:debischroeder7@icloud.com)

Text: #941-662-9071



# JAZZ RAYS CONCERT A HIT!

Story and Photos by: Rita Lopienski & Dave Pulaski

**TODAY'S POP QUIZ: "WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING SONGS HAVE IN COMMON"???**

**"AMERICAN PATROL", "SKY LINER", "GROOVIN HIGH BEBOP", "LIL DARLING", "BLACK ORCHID", "FLIGHT OF THE FOO BIRD".**

**ANSWER: MASTERFULLY PERFORMED BY THE "JAZZ RAY'S", Lemon Bay High School's fabulous jazz band who performed at the Rotonda West Community Center on 11/13/24.**

Those songs plus many more had the audience foot stomping for sure. A huge hit was when the "Rays" played all the famed armed forces theme songs and the veterans in attendance proudly stood. The show ended with a boisterous standing ovation for these very talented musicians. Well done maestros!!! - Dave Pulaski

On November 13th, Music in the Park featured 27 Lemon Bay High School students from The *Jazz Rays* Jazz Band in their 2nd annual RWA concert. They were directed by Phil Eyrich. An audience of 100 enjoyed supporting our local high school musicians, who performed "Bebop & Groovin' High" by Dizzy Gillespie, several Latin pieces (samba), jazz ballads, such as "Lil' Darlin' " by Count Basie, and "25 or 6 to 4" by Chicago. A Jazz Combo played "Autumn Leaves" & "Black Orpheus" by Luis Bonfa.

In honor of Veterans Day, a medley of Armed Forces songs were played, with veterans standing during their respective branch's song. The band ended with a Count Basie swing, "Flight of the Fu Birds" and "Mambo over the Mountain" by Rick Hirsch Big Ol' Band.



Host: Rita Lopienski



The Jazz Rays



Band Director: Phil Eyrich





## RWA OPEN HOUSE SHOWCASES MANY CLUBS, COMMITTEES, & ORGANIZATIONS

Over 85 residents took advantage of the RWA OPEN HOUSE on November 7th to learn more about their community. Thank you to the 28 exhibitors sharing information about their group. New exhibitors this year were: the Lemon Bay Conservancy, the Englewood Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Library, and the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you to the event organizer and host Gwen Grace. Thank you to Donna Stogsdill who was food and wine coordinator; Annemarie D'Abrosca who was the official greeter and explained the bingo game for the door prizes; and Nadine Clough who provided the video slideshow. Thank you also to the office staff who provided the mailing list of new residents, and to Grace Chetcuti for creating the promotional flyer.

**Photos by: Tammy Birdsong & Dave Pulaski**





# DRUMMING CIRCLE EVENT HITS THE BEAT WITH RWA MEMBERS

Story and Pictures submitted by Rita Lopienski

In honor of National Drum Day, November 15th, music educator and music therapist Rita Lopienski of RWA, led a drumming circle to an enthusiastic group of 25 members. She brought a large collection of exotic drums from around the world and included the history and culture about each of them. She also shared how playing the drums enhances one's creativity, energizes yourself, and can also be spiritual, stress reducing and meditative. Rita shared stories of how drumming with people suffering from dementia resulted in their becoming more involved and attentive. Everyone there had an opportunity to play several drums, learn basic rhythms, including a West African djembe kuku pattern, and had a chance at leading a call & response exercise.

Rita will offer a new presentation on "The Seven Metal Singing Bowls of Tibet & Nepal" in the near future. Rita oversees the Community Outreach Committee Health & Wellness Initiative, and invites others to share their expertise on various topics related to health and wellness, by contacting: [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org).



Above: Rita Lopienski with part of her drum collection



Left: RWA members enjoy drum circle experience





# CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

By Sam Besase

As you can imagine, Rotonda BRIDGE work has been delayed a couple of months due to the recent series of Hurricanes (Debby-Helene-Milton).

The next 6 bridges work should now start in **February/March of 2025** and be completed by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025. Thus, at that time there should be 10 of the 18 bridges completed. It takes approximately 8 weeks to complete repairs and maintenance per bridge. Traffic shall be maintained. Please observe posted construction/detour signs.

1. Rotonda Bridge #014101:  
NEAR 517 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane
2. Rotonda Bridge #014107:  
NEAR 727 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Long Meadow Lane & Marker Road
3. Rotonda Bridge #014104:  
NEAR 563 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Broadmoor Lane & Sportsman Road
4. Rotonda Bridge #014100:  
NEAR 407 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane
5. Rotonda Bridge #014063:  
NEAR 211 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Bunker Road & Mark Twain Lane
6. Rotonda Bridge #014060:  
NEAR 45 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Caddy Rod & Annapolis Lane

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

The construction work schedule for the bridges over the Rotonda River at **ROTONDA BLVD NORTH and ROTONDA BLVD EAST and ROTONDA BLVD WEST** shall be provided by Charlotte County at the December 14, 2024 MSBU meeting.

These 3 bridges are paid for by the Charlotte County GAS TAX fund, NOT paid for by this MSBU.

\*The latest news on the Hurricane Ian damaged **ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH BRIDGE** is that in April of 2024, 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. **NO NEW NEWS!!!**

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

I am in continuous follow up in person and by phone and email on this topic with the Charlotte County Commissioners. There is no additional news yet.

Later in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2025, 5 more Rotonda bridges shall begin the bidding process and work on these 5 bridges shall be later in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2025.

- Bridge Rehabilitation #6 – Bridges 014105 and 014106 – Weiler Engineering Corp. will soon present 100% design plans.
- Bridge Rehabilitation #7 – Bridges 014100, 014112 and 014123 – Request for design bids in progress.

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 6 to 9 months from installation (~spring 2025). Charlotte County has issued a purchase request to interested bidders.

The 14 streetlight poles on the 4 bridges over the Rotonda River have been repaired/replaced.  
RBN & RBE & RBW & REBEL COURT

The next quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting shall be held on Thursday December 19, 2024 at the San Casa Charlotte County facility. The last MSBU meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Milton.

• The Paving Schedule for the 70 plus miles of roads here in the Rotonda West MSBU shall probably begin in the 2nd half of 2025. GREAT NEWS!

Road and Bridge gas tax paving -- The Board of County Commissioners approved the award of the paving contract in September of 2024. Rotonda Blvd North, Rotonda Blvd East and Rotonda Blvd West along with Parade Circle shall be paved probably in 2025. Standard crosswalks will be installed. If the advisory board desires stamped asphalt crosswalks instead, the MSBU would pay \$35,600 or about \$4 per property. 9,000 properties x \$4 = ~\$36,000.

- All Rotonda Bridges are currently structurally sound
- Rotonda West bridges (all are over 40 years old), they are rated at 80,000 lbs. GVW.
- Residents or their contractors are MOWING all the way down to the Ponds, this practice is not recommended by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Also, Residents or their contractors are FERTILIZING all the way down to the Ponds, this practice is not recommended by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County.
- Also, residents are leaving their GRASS CLIPPINGS in the roadway, this practice is not recommended by FWC or SWFTMUD or Charlotte County
- Charlotte County Commissioners alerted residents that there is TOO MUCH NITROGEN in local waterways.
- The RWA canals are in good shape per water test samples taken monthly by the RWA Aquatics group.

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:

1. ROTONDA WEST STREETS & DRAINAGE MSBU:
2. WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY STORMWATER MSBU:

The MSBU rates for both of the above MSBU's here in the Rotonda area shall remain the same – NO INCREASE IN MSBU RATES FOR 2025.

Swale Drainage Issues: We had a wet summer! From June – August, [43 inches fell.](#) Then Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton!

Charlotte County advised that the plan is to put a segment of Greenbelt out for bid for swale ditch maintenance. From there, the County can estimate what the entire sections would cost to remediate and then create a multi-year budget to do so. That would mean an increase in MSBU rates probably in 2026.

Drainage Pipes to be lined in advance of paving:

Rotonda Blvd E @ Crevalle Road near Fiddlers Green, line from catch basin to canal – done

- Rotonda Blvd E @ Cape Haze trail head – line road crossing pipe – done
- Sunnybrook Blvd @ Greenway Ave – line double barrel pipe – in progress.

There are DOZENS of open drainage work orders in Rotonda West. Public Works will get to all of them. These are a few that I have asked about lately.

- 72 to 86 White Marsh Lane
- 248-250-252-254-256 & 252-253 Rotonda Blvd North
- 57 & 61 Pine Valley Lane 2 & 4 Oakland Hills Ct
- 33 Clubhouse
- 243 White Marsh.
- 59 Pine Valley Lane

I hope that answers many of your questions between now and the next meeting on December 19, 2024, where you'll see the annual presentation on the Rotonda West work program.

Respectfully, Sam Besase – Advisory Board Member–Rotonda West Streets & drainage MSBU.

(questions, please call 281-923-4041, I'll try to get you an answer)

# NATURE WALK AT BROADMOOR PARK

NOVEMBER 30, 2024



Informative nature walk  
led by Dr. Bill Dunson  
in Broadmoor Park,  
Rotonda West

Dr. Bill Dunson led a group of 31 participants in a nature walk in Broadmoor Park on a cool Saturday morning. The group discovered many native and non native plants, a dozen species of birds and even two small alligators on the banks of the ponds. Dr. Dunson discussed the pond edges that had been mowed to the water's edge and poisoned, eliminating beneficial native plants which are habitat for all species of wildlife. He suggested it's better to encourage native plant growth to support the pond edges rather than leave them bare, which will lead to erosion. He compared that to another pond with intact willows, which made a buffer on the edge, creating a habitat supporting wildlife. He said mowing in general is mostly unnecessary, not doing it is better for wildlife and saves money. People were interested in the Butterfly Garden and noted monarch caterpillars on the milkweed. Dr. Dunson said every yard can be a mini habitat by planting wildlife friendly plants in gardens and pots and leaving areas wild. We can all do our part to help biodiversity!

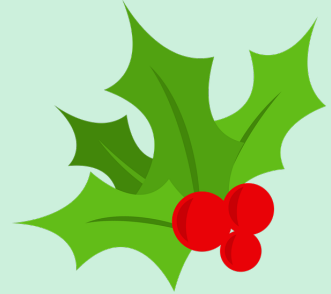
Article and photo submitted by:  
Merrill Horswill



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## DECEMBER 2024

- 12/2, 12/16, 12/23, 12/30 Monday, 9-10 am: Tai Chi
- 12/2 Monday, 6-7 pm: Parade Volunteer Meeting
- 12/4 Wednesday, 5-6:30 pm: Music in the Park with Jonny Puma (outdoor event)
- 12/5 Thursday, 6-8 pm: RWA ANNUAL MEETING
- 12/6 Friday, All Day: COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED
- 12/7 Saturday, 10 am: Christmas Parade
- 12/11 Wednesday, 2 pm: Nature Presentation, Sea Turtles
- 12/11 Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm: Trivia Night w/Tim
- 12/15 Sunday, 1-4 pm: BINGO!
- 12/18 Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 pm: Music in the Park with Cary Price (inside event)
- 12/24-12/26 Tuesday-Thursday: COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED



## JANUARY 2025

- 1/1 Wednesday, All Day: COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED
- 1/6, 1/20, 1/27, Monday, 9-10 am: Tai Chi
- 1/7 Wednesday, 2-4 pm: Charlotte County Presentation on Scrub Jays
- 1/8 Thursday, 2-4 pm: Charlotte County Presentation on Wild Hogs
- 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31 Friday, 9-10 am: Pilates Mat Fitness
- 1/15 Wednesday, 2-4 pm: Butterfly Garden 101
- 1/19 Sunday, 1-4 pm: BINGO!
- 1/21 Tuesday, 9 am– 3 pm: GFWC RWWC One Blood Drive, RWA Marina Parking lot
- 1/23 Thursday, 5:30-7:30 pm: Presentation on Pythons, Tegu & Iguanas
- 1/25 Saturday, 9 am-Noon: Share It & Shred It Day
- 1/28 Tuesday, 5-8 pm: Mix & Mingle Pot Luck Dinner

# TAI CHI

For Beginners and the Experienced  
Instruction by Dr. Francine Finucan

1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Monday  
of Each Month  
9:00am

RWA  
Community Center  
646 Rotonda Circle



- Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for self-defense and health known for its slow, intentional movements.
- Tai Chi is particularly popular as a form of gentle exercise and moving meditation, with benefits to mental and physical health.
- Tai Chi is all standing, but may also be practiced in a sturdy chair.
- Benefits of practicing Tai Chi: preventing falls in older adults, osteoarthritis, Parkinson disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and cognitive functioning.
- This gentle form of exercise can help maintain strength, flexibility, and balance, and could be the perfect activity for the rest of your life.

- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, bring water in a covered container.
- At this time, the Tai Chi fitness class will be for RWA members & renters only.
- An RWA Fitness Liability Waiver must be filled out [only once].
- Questions: [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)
- Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office, you will be referred to the above email.
- No pets.

Community Outreach Committee Presents



**DECEMBER 15TH**

RWA Community Center  
646 Rotonda Circle

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

Welcome property owners, residents, renters, and their guests.  
Please invite your vacationing neighbors.

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

Questions?  
[communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)  
Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office.  
You will be referred to the above e-mail  
No pets.

Play begins promptly at 1:00 pm  
Must be 18 to play.

Community Outreach Committee Presents

## Music in the Park with Jonny Puma



**Wednesday**

**December 4th**  
**5:00 – 6:30 pm**

646 Rotonda Circle, Broadmoor Park

Jon is always a crowd favorite and his 90 minutes of all Christmas and seasonal music should be a wonderful sing-a-long opportunity.

Weather permitting, we will be on the patio behind the Community Center.

Please bring your own seating, drinks, snacks and bug spray.  
You may want to bring a flashlight as sunset will be 5:35 pm, so his show will go well after dark.

Welcome RWA property owners, residents, and their guests.  
Questions: Community Outreach Committee  
[communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)  
Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office. No pets.



Community Outreach Committee Presents

## Music in the Park – Indoors & dessert at intermission

Cary Price from Fletcher Music  
with His Lowrey Organ

**Wednesday**

**December 18th**  
**6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

Community Center  
646 Rotonda Circle, Broadmoor Park

If you've attended his shows in the past, we're sure you will not be disappointed. This time is all Christmas and holiday music.

You are welcome to bring your own covered beverage and snacks.

Welcome RWA property owners, residents, and their guests.  
Questions: Community Outreach Committee  
[communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)  
Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office.  
No pets allowed.





Presented by the R.W. Outreach Committee

**Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 AM**

# Christmas Parade

Now presenting the 2024 Theme...

## Christmas at the

# MOVIES



Featuring "SANTA CLAUS"

**LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION!**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas Vacation</li> <li>Nutcracker</li> <li>Charlie Brown</li> <li>Muppets</li> <li>It's a Wonderful Life</li> <li>Miracle on 34th Street</li> <li>Holiday Inn</li> </ul>	<p><b>Decorate as your Favorite Christmas Movie...</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Christmas Story</li> <li>Polar Express</li> <li>ELF</li> <li>Frosty The Snowman</li> <li>White Christmas</li> <li>Scrooge</li> <li>Grinch</li> <li>Rudolph</li> </ul>
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**COME HAVE FUN AT THE ROTONDA WEST CHRISTMAS PARADE**

**PARADE ROUTE ON PAGE 20**

If you have questions, please email: [parade@rotondawest.org](mailto:parade@rotondawest.org) or

Call 616.540.7557 Pam Pierce -Parade Coordinator

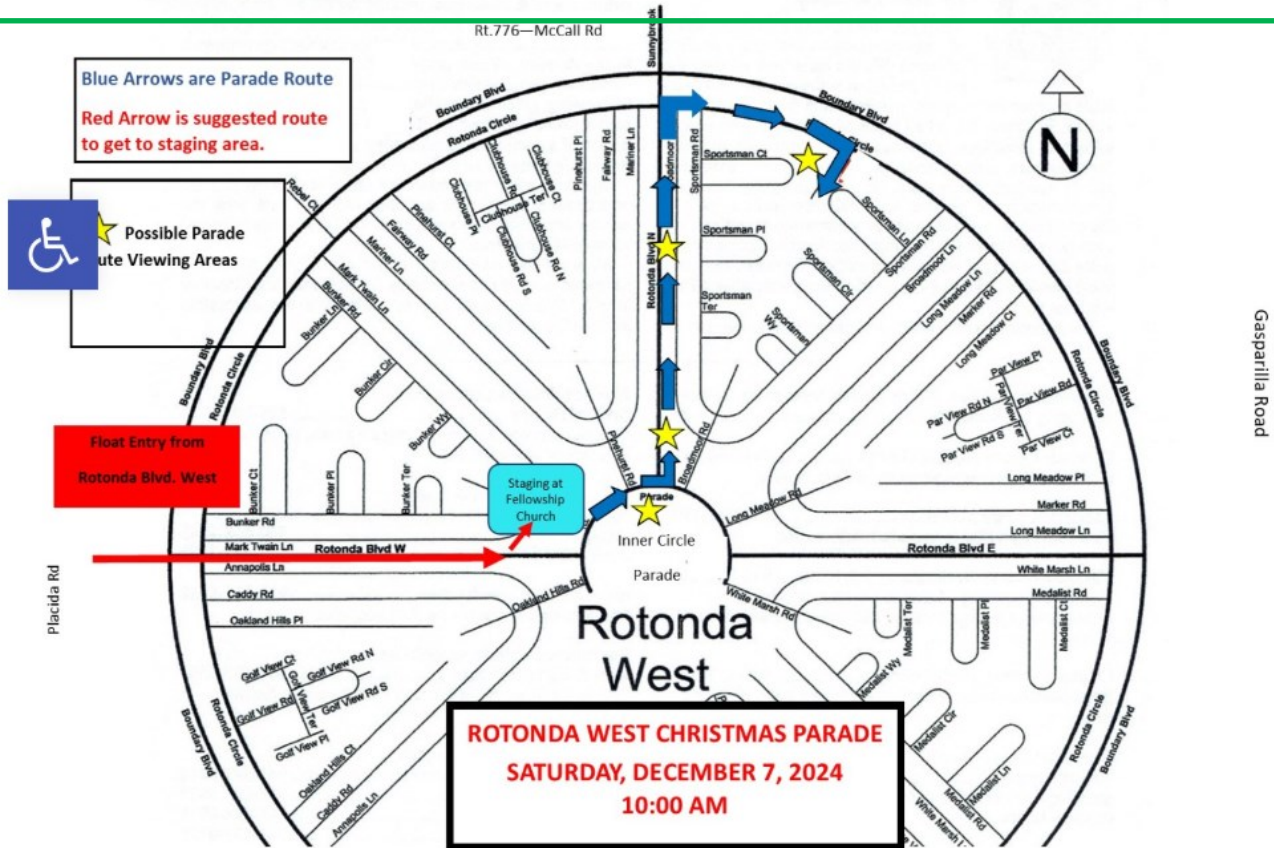
*The Marines and RWA will be collecting new unwrapped toys along the parade route to benefit Toys for Tots. We will also be collecting food items to support Englewood Helping Hands. Event sponsorships are available. Call for details.*



# ROTONDA WEST

## CHRISTMAS PARADE 12/7/24 AT 10 AM

### Parade Route Below



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

**During the Rotonda West Christmas Parade, the RWA will be collecting food items to be shared with local food pantries.**



**Every year dry goods and canned goods are generously shared in the true Christmas spirit of giving.**

**Thank you!**



The December Mix & Mingle Happy Hour is relocated to the RWA Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle.

There is a Music in the Park at the same time (5– 6:30 pm) → so bring a chair, your beverage of choice, snacks if you want, and come meet some new people while listening to some great music. This is just for December.

Mix & Mingle Happy Hour will resume on February 5th at the Community Park on Parade Circle (normal location). This is held the first Wednesday of every month (January falls on 1/1 so it will not be held).

The Mix & Mingle Potluck Dinner is also canceled for December but will resume on January 28th. Hope to see you there.





# PILATES

**STARTING JANUARY 10TH**

## **Weekly Friday Pilates Mat Class**

Pilates is a full-body workout, with targeted exercises for improving balance and posture. Pilates helps with posture as it helps to engage the deep core muscles: the abdominals, back and pelvic floor— which enables you to relax your shoulders and neck and alleviate pressure on your hips, legs and feet, in turn, improving your posture. Please bring a Pilates mat.

## **Dr. Francine Finucan**



Dr. Finucan is a retired chiropractor and has advanced training in Applied Kinesiology, acupuncture and Nutritional Analysis. She is certified through Power Pilates, Peak Pilates, on all Pilate equipment and Mat certification.

**FRIDAY'S 9 AM-10 AM**

Presented by the  
Community Outreach Committee  
This class is for RWA members, owners & renters. A one-time Fitness Waiver will need to be signed





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH NATURE PROGRAM

## SEA TURTLES

Article by Merrill Horswill

Community Outreach Committee Rotonda Nature Program: Sea Turtles

Wednesday December 11, 2024 2pm

Speaker: Susie Dernheimer Environmental Lands Manager, Charlotte County

Rotonda West Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle

Open to RWA property owners, renters and their guests

### meet the turtles

The seven sea turtle species that grace our oceans belong to a unique evolutionary lineage that dates back at least 110 million years. Sea turtles fall into two main subgroups: (a) the unique family *Derμοchoelyidae*, which consists of a single species, the leatherback, and (b) the family *Cheloniidae*, which comprises the six species of hard-shelled sea turtles.



**Flatback** (*Natator depressus*)  
IUCN Red List status: Data Deficient



**Green** (*Chelonia mydas*)  
IUCN Red List status: Endangered

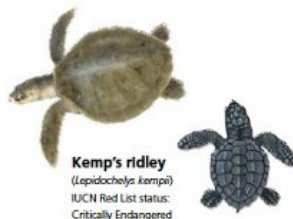


**Leatherback**  
(*Derμοchoelys coriacea*)  
IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable

Visit [www.SeaTurtleStatus.org](http://www.SeaTurtleStatus.org) to learn more about all seven sea turtle species!



**Hawksbill**  
(*Eretμοchoelys imbricata*)  
IUCN Red List status: Critically Endangered



**Kemp's ridley**  
(*Lepidοchoelys kempfi*)  
IUCN Red List status: Critically Endangered



**Loggerhead** (*Caretta caretta*)  
IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable



**Olive ridley**  
(*Lepidοchoelys olivacea*)  
IUCN Red List status: Vulnerable

Sea turtles are among the oldest creatures on earth but they are now threatened by ever-increasing pressures from a staggering array of sources as human populations grow, coastal habitats are developed, and marine habitats are degraded.

Sea turtles are keystone species that play critical roles in maintaining the diversity and the health of our oceans. There are seven species of sea turtles. The flatback lives only in Australia. The rest, the green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, leatherback, loggerhead and olive ridley are found in US waters and all but olive ridley are found in Florida. Sea turtle populations are being negatively impacted by many human-related factors. ingestion of or entanglement in plastic pollution, fishery longlines, gill nets, trawls and discarded personal-use fishing gear, destruction of sea grass by motor boats. Nesting areas are being lost by coastal development and increasingly

extreme weather events, hatchling sex ratios are now frequently imbalanced due to changes in beach temperatures. As a result, sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and are greatly in need of our help! Florida citizens have both the privilege and the duty to be responsible stewards for these endangered species.





Submitted by David Perry  
DECEMBER 2024

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, for another year of an extremely hot temperatures and a busy home building season in Rotonda, we want to extend our appreciation to our volunteers who volunteered 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 everyone.

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.

### 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 at 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 (except in January of 2025) at the RWA Community Center and post the recordings on our website. Visit our website and social media page [www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](http://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.*

**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.**





*We have been asked by several dozen residents about places to get help after Helene and Milton tore through our “little piece of Paradise”. Here are some suggested agencies to contact. These are in no order.*

Can help you apply for FEMA disaster assistance and guide you to other resources to help you recover. [disasterassistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4834).

Federal assistance is available to eligible individuals and families affected by this disaster. <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4834> or <https://www.usa.gov/hurricane-milton>

The Florida Disaster Fund distributes money to service organizations that help with disaster response and recovery throughout the state. <https://www.volunteerflorida.org/>

The American Red Cross is opening and supporting shelters for people who have evacuated their homes. <https://www.redcross.org/get-help.html>

The Salvation Army provides relief, food service and emotional and spiritual care. <https://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/index.php>

The United Way can help you navigate the many services they provide, housing, clothing, food, etc. <https://www.unitedway.org/>

*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 below, call David Perry at 941-828-1584 or email [president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](mailto:president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com)*



Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

David W Perry -President- 941-828-1584

[www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](http://www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com)

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

If you see something—say something...Call the CCSO Non-emergency number at 941-639-2101





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



We want to thank all those who came out to support the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Holiday Bazaar this year. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces and it's an event the entire club enjoys working on throughout the year. The Cookies by the Pound is always a big hit and this year we added the Gingerbread Village for the children which included the best Santa this side of the Northpole! We raised funds to make 2025 scholarships available to Lemon Bay High School students in the spring and to fund some of our other local charities and pay the bills that all 501(c)3 non-profit organizations are familiar with – insurances, website support, bank fees, supplies, etc. We are looking forward to having next year's Holiday Bazaar and have already started planning for it.



Our next General Meeting is Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at the RWA community center. This meeting is scheduled to have a speaker from Peace River Search and Rescue who will be presenting their search otter, "Splash". There will also be an instillation of the new Executive Board for the 2025-2026 administration. **Please note the change of time.** The social time begins at 9:30 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10:15 am. Please go to our website at [www.gfwcrotondawest.org](http://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. All are invited to our general meeting.



# ROTONDA'S GOT TALENT AUDITIONS & SHOW

**WE WILL AGAIN SHOWCASE RWA'S FINEST TALENT!  
ALL KINDS OF TALENT OF ALL AGES IS DESIRED FOR A  
DIVERSE VARIETY TALENT SHOW:**

**SING  
PLAY INSTRUMENTS  
DANCE  
COMEDY (PG-RATED)  
SKITS  
VENTRILOQUIST  
POETRY  
JUGGLE  
MAGIC  
AND MORE!**



**AUDITIONS: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH & 15TH,  
FROM 11 AM-1 PM**

**TALENT SHOW: SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST, 1 PM**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO JOIN THE PLANNING TEAM AND  
ASSIST WITH THE EVENT.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**[communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)**





**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE HAPPY DAYS  
FILLED WITH LOVE & LAUGHTER.  
MAY EACH DAY BRING JOY YOUR WAY  
IN THE YEAR THAT FOLLOWS AFTER.**

**WE WISH OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS  
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**RWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
RWA COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
RWA MANAGER & STAFF  
WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER**



# FESTIVE CROWD ENJOYS GAZEBO LIGHTING AND BOAT PARADE!



Photo by: Dave Pulaski



**MANY THANKS TO ANDY VANSCYOC, KAREN HARVEY,  
AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE  
THIS MAGICAL EVENING POSSIBLE.**

# BEHIND THE SCENES- WHAT YOU DON'T SEE AT THE BOAT PARADE

By: Pattie Milhalik

Many hundreds of spectators lined up Saturday along the Oakland Hills Marina to kick off the Christmas season with the Gazebo lighting and Rotonda's unique lighted Boat Parade . They watched the gazebo spring to light with its "Believe in Magic" message then cheered as a parade of cleverly decorated boats dazzled the appreciative audience. While all that was worthy of the cheers, there was an important part of the Boat Parade no one saw. The parade would never have happened if some of Santa's elves didn't work their mechanical ability. It was mechanics that made this year's event possible.

Andy VanScyoc , chief repairman and Admiral of the lighted Boat parade, said Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton played havoc with Rotonda's boats. "There was so much destruction and many boats are now gone," Andy said. "We worked to clean the canals and repair what boats we could salvage. But when it came time for the Lighted Boat Parade I worried that we would have very few boats. I said I would be happy if we had six boats this year." But he knew he was going to do everything in his power get more boats up and running.

Here's the part few know about. After he first saved a boat that was upside down in the canal he went into high gear, repairing one boat after another. That involved putting in six carbonators, repairing broken steerage on several boats and working every single day and night. In the weeks leading up to the big event Andy worked 11 days straight. For the first time he had to admit he was tired. "I think the word is exhausted," he said.

Well, the show must go on. Saturday night he and his wife Pauline were running at full throttle. About 15 boats were decorated and ready to go. Pauline had her hands full trying to find room for those who had requested space on a boat. Space was so tight that there was no room for Pauline who had to stand for the entire boat trip.

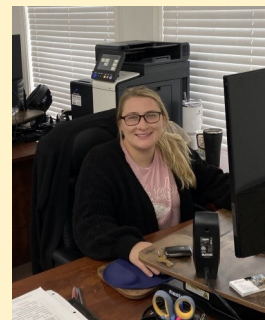
But both were pleased with the success of the night and plan to do it again.

## WELCOME NEW STAFF!



**DENISE HUFFMAN**

**Minutes Clerk**



**KELSEY STEWART**

**Administrator**

## 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

**Kelsey Stewart**  
Administrator

**Denise Huffman**  
Minutes Clerk

**Joe Harris**  
Communications Specialist

**Jack Lanar**  
Compliance Officer

## MAINTENANCE STAFF

**Wayne Taylor**

**Dale Anderson**

**Craig Brown**

**Doug Smith**

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
WONDERFUL STAFF**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024

**Andy VanScyoc**, President

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**Peter Traverso**, Director

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**Gwen Grace**, GFWC Woman's Club

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