

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 6,097 Rotonda Residents

MARCH 2025



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL DOG WALKING DAY! 2/22

By: Nadine Clough

The question, “Do you want to go for a walk?” always produces the same wonderful, happy response from our dogs– YES, with a tail wag! Walking your dog is fun, good for your health, and strengthens the bond between you and your dog. Plus, it’s a great way to meet people.

Residents of Rotonda West sent in some great pictures of their faithful companions enjoying special time together with their owners.

Thank you for sharing these joyful photos. We have spread them throughout this issue of West Ways.

Enjoy!



MILO of Mariner Lane
is ready !



SADIE really wants to go
for a walk. How do you
resist that face?

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER SECTIONS

NATIONAL DOG WALKING DAY

ROTONDA GOVERNANCE

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT

NATURE NEWS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMAN'S CLUB

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

STAFF

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



ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andy VanScyoc
President



David Kelly
Vice President



Sam Besase
Treasurer



Karen Harvey
Secretary



Peter Traverso
Director



Deb Orchard
Director



Jerry Eldred
Director

RWA Board to Approve Electronic Voting and Electronic Noticing

Submitted by: Dale Jensen

At its meeting on March 13, 2025, the RWA Board of Directors will approve a resolution to enable RWA members to cast their votes for Board candidates and association issues electronically and to receive electronic notices of Board, committee and Annual Meetings.

Members choosing to vote electronically will be able to avoid the hassle of folding the paper ballot, inserting it into multiple envelopes, stamping the outer envelope and then mailing the package. Instead, they will be directed to an election website where they can review election-related information, including an explanation of any issue that may be on the ballot as well as each candidate's information. Members choosing electronic noticing will receive Board and committee meeting notices as well as the entire Annual Meeting notice package electronically.

By now you should have received a mailing from the Association that contains a copy of the resolution, a copy of the consent form you would use to opt in to electronic voting and or electronic noticing or both. There is also a copy of the revocation form you would use to opt out of either electronic voting or noticing or both. Both the Board and the Election committee urge you to opt in to both electronic voting and electronic noticing. We believe this is an option that will simplify voting for Board-related issues and by doing so it will increase member participation in elections. For your convenience, this mailing includes a self-addressed stamped envelope which you can use to return your consent forms.

If you haven't received your mailing yet, you can view copies of the resolution, the opt in form for electronic voting and noticing and the revocation forms by logging on to the RWA website and selecting *RWA Elections* under the *Governance* heading on the home page.

As always, both the Board and the Election committee appreciate your participation in the RWA election process and look forward to adding the convenience of electronic voting to the traditional paper mail-in ballot in 2025. If you have any questions about electronic voting, electronic noticing or any other election-related issue, please send us an email at electioncommittee@rotondawest.org.

Everything You Need to Know about Electronic (Online) Voting in Florida

By Ben Solomon, Esq. / Published October 2019

“Associations are discovering huge advantages by implementing electronic voting for their members pursuant to Florida Statutes §718.128 (for condominiums) and §720.317 (for homeowners associations). Among other benefits, voting online saves costs to associations, increases member participation, eliminates dishonesty and human errors associated with paper votes, decreases meeting times, and greatly improves the process of inspections, as well as potential recounts. Consenting owners in Florida can also receive notices by electronic (email) transmission, which significantly reduces costs associated with printing, envelopes, postage, copies, and administrative time.



Voting online and sending electronic notices by email is instantaneous and costs much less to associations. Due to less actual counting of physical ballots, meeting times are also shortened through the use of electronic voting, and associations can therefore reduce unnecessary expenses for attorneys, monitors, and other staff having to attend longer meetings. Instead of inspecting and counting ballots for hours, the electronic results are displayed and confirmed in just seconds. Most importantly, members can vote conveniently from their computers or mobile devices anywhere in the world.

Online voting in Florida, however, must be done in strict compliance with the applicable statutes. As such, it is imperative that associations use a reliable, proven, secure, and legally compliant electronic voting system. Associations should not take risks with software that intermittently fails, only has a limited number of users, or was not created by a qualified lawyer.

Under Florida Statute §718.128 (for condominiums), an association must provide each owner with (a) a method to authenticate the unit owner's identity to the online voting system; (b) for elections of the board, a method to transmit an electronic ballot to the online voting system that ensures the secrecy and integrity of each ballot; and (c) a method to confirm, at least 14 days before the voting deadline, that the unit owner's electronic device can successfully communicate with the online voting system. Moreover, Florida law only allows associations to conduct elections and other unit owner or member votes through an internet-based online voting system if a unit owner or member consents, in writing, to online voting and such software system meets certain legal requirements. Note that the applicable homeowners association statute, §720.317, is substantially similar.

The law also requires associations to use an online voting system that is (a) able to authenticate the unit owner's identity; (b) able to authenticate the validity of each electronic vote to ensure that the vote is not altered in transit; (c) able to transmit a receipt from the online voting system to each unit owner who casts an electronic vote; (d) for elections of the board of administration, able to permanently separate any authentication or identifying information from the electronic election ballot, rendering it impossible to tie an election ballot to a specific unit owner; and (e) able to store and keep electronic votes accessible to election officials for recount, inspection, and review purposes.

Continued...

There are also legal and technical requirements to getting started with online voting. For example, in order to implement electronic voting, associations must formally adopt a (one-time) board resolution authorizing an online voting system and establish procedures and guidelines for unit owners to consent in writing to online voting and opt out later, which is often accomplished using promulgated forms prepared by an attorney. Written notice of the meeting at which the resolution will be considered must be mailed, delivered, or electronically transmitted to the unit owners and posted conspicuously on the condominium property or association property at least 14 days before the meeting. A unit owner's consent to online voting is valid until the unit owner opts out of online voting according to the procedures established by the board.

It is often critical for associations to achieve certain votes, such as for capital improvement projects, elections of directors, and waiver of reserves. Electronic voting increases member participation, in large part, due to the convenience of members being able to vote online from any device with internet access as well as the ability to send electronic reminder notifications. On average, online participation is often as high as 60–80 percent compared to many associations that struggle to achieve 20–30 percent participation from physical balloting. Although some owners will prefer to continue using physical votes (and may do so by law), the online votes help associations achieve quorum requirements and/or certain required percentage votes.

Online voting is also beneficial as it may eliminate cheating and human errors because owners can only submit one secure, verified ballot. Good online voting systems can also cross-reference, detect, and prevent duplicates where owners may also try to vote in person. Additionally, owners cannot make mistakes in casting their electronic ballots like they do with physical ones where, for example, they may forget to sign the outer envelope properly or fail to include the sealed inner envelope; in both these instances for condominiums, the votes must be disregarded. Once an online vote is received, it is automatically counted correctly by the electronic voting system.

Some of the best online voting software systems also offer associations other communications tools and features, such as the ability to live stream and record meetings, send verified (tracked) emails, and survey members. Streaming and recording association meetings to the members in a password-protected portal is a new best practice standard that can provide maximum transparency and accountability for boards. Online surveys can also be a great way to get the community involved and provide members' input without taking an official vote.

More and more associations are implementing electronic voting for their members every day, and this trend will inevitably increase. Some things to look for when selecting the right electronic voting software provider include whether the company (a) provides software that is 100 percent legally compliant and was created by a qualified attorney; (b) has a cyber insurance policy with a well-rated carrier to protect against data breaches; (c) has an effective method for cross referencing physical and online ballots (in order to prevent any duplicates); (d) has in-house legal counsel; (e) has a program that is proprietary, and does not utilize other third-party features which are more susceptible to problems and security risks; and (f) has a large enough support staff to provide all technical and other support your association needs.

The benefits of electronic voting are limitless! Has your board implemented it for your association members yet?"



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	4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH (NEW)	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.
RW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10 A.M.

DID YOU KNOW?

By: Deb Orchard

With Sam Besase and Derrick Hedges

There have been small physical changes made here in Rotonda over the past few months, putting your HOA fees to work. The marina island bridge was repaired last fall, just in time for our annual Gazebo Lighting and Boat Parade event. Some of its condition was due to wear and tear and some due to the hurricanes over the past few years. Now, it is once again safe to cross over to the island and gazebo.

The area in front and behind the administrative office and community center has seen some upgrades, too. There are additional solar security lights for the parking lots and behind the buildings. A few trees have been added to replace some that were lost due to hurricane damage. The butterfly garden and the native plants garden are being improved and maintained. In the gardens identification tags have been added by some of the plants so you know the names and whether they are a host or a nectar plant for butterflies. We had 11 Monarch Butterfly caterpillars in the garden last month and many more butterflies seem to find the garden each month.

If you're wondering what that wide path is at the entrance to Broadmoor Park, it is a maintenance road. A dedicated, unpaved road for our large RWA equipment, plus FEMA and county debris removal trucks. The road will also be used for construction equipment to bring materials for the addition to the administrative office. And, if we ever need it, it will serve as an emergency entrance/exit should the main paved road ever be blocked. The plan is for this to take some of the wear and tear off the paved entrance road which leads back to the administrative office and the community center.

Three TVs have been added in the community center. One in the foyer which will have scrolling messages of coming events. Plus, two in the center of the main room so presentations and games (bingo & trivia) may be more easily seen by those sitting in the middle of the room. We already have two at the front and two at the rear.

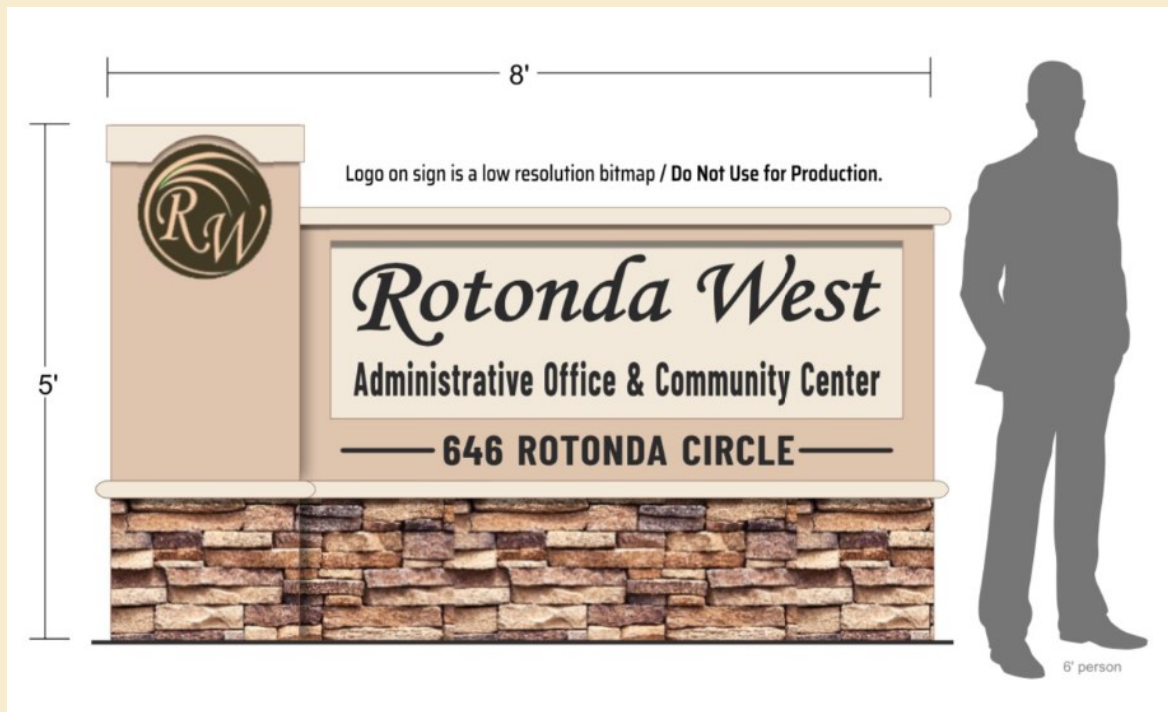
Staff is updating policy and procedure documents. They are also replacing batteries in the exit signs, painting the buildings (same color), installing more fire boxes which hold the fire extinguishers. Repainting the interior of the buildings is now complete.

Coming soon, a contractor will be repairing the parking lot asphalt near the administrative office, community center and at the marina, with sealing and striping work to begin in April. Although, not paid by our HOA fees, the county roads which pass through Rotonda have been repaved. East, West and North Boulevards, plus Parade Circle. They even have reflector strips to separate the lanes.



ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

New Entrance sign !



COMING SOON!

By: Nadine Clough

Here is your first look at a sketch of the new entrance sign to the Administrative Office & Community Center at Broadmoor Park. The Building & Grounds Committee and the Board of Directors have been working to develop a sign that is functional and also pleasing to the eye.

Presently, the drawings are being readied and then will be submitted to the County for permitting. According to Manager Derrick Hedges, "Depending on the permitting process and the contractor's schedule, we hope to have the sign in place before the end of the year." The sign will be placed in front of Broadmoor Park where the small temporary sign was.

More details to follow! Thank you to committee members for their hard work on this project.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

By Sam Besase

- Paving of the GAS TAX ROADS/BRIDGES started on January 6, 2025.
- ROTONDA BLVD NORTH–ROTONDA BLVD EAST–ROTONDA BLVD WEST–PARADE CIRCLE
- The Paving Schedule for the other 60 plus miles of roads here in the Rotonda West MSBU shall probably begin in the 4th quarter of 2025. GREAT NEWS!
- Standard crosswalks were installed at the 6 crosswalks on Parade Circle much to the dismay of many residents.
- The election of MSBU Officers has been deferred until the March 27, 2025 meeting.

The Rotonda BRIDGE work shall start again on March 10, 2025 and includes 6 bridges. The first bridge is on Rotonda Circle between Long Meadow Lane and Marker Road and very near Rotonda Boulevard East. Charlotte County and its contractor expect the next 6 bridges to be completed perhaps in the 3rd quarter of 2025.

Thus, at that time there should be 10 of the 18 bridges completed. It takes approximately 4 weeks to complete repairs and maintenance per bridge. Traffic shall be either detoured or maintained. Please observe posted construction/detour signs.

1. Rotonda Bridge #014107:
Near 727 ROTONDA CIRCLE Between Long Meadow Lane and Marker Road
 2. Rotonda Bridge #014104:
NEAR 563 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Broadmoor Lane & Sportsman Road
 3. Rotonda Bridge #014101:
NEAR 517 ROTONDA CIRCLE–Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane
 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 – 6 starting = 10 of 18* 8 more MSBU bridges to be completed.

Meanwhile, 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 March 27, 2025 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 damaged ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH BRIDGE is that in early February of 2025, FEMA rejected the Charlotte County APPEAL, stating that there is photographic evidence thru Google Maps that damages were PRIOR to Hurricane Ian. Believe that Charlotte County plans to APPEAL the APPEAL while also pursuing funding sources to START the work on this bridge. We should know more about this at the March 27, 2025 MSBU meeting.

I am continuously following up in person and by phone and email on this topic with the Charlotte County Commissioners and Public Works personnel.

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 (~fall of 2025). Charlotte County has issued a purchase request to interested bidders.

The next regular quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting shall be held on **Thursday March 27, 2024 at the San Casa Charlotte County facility**. The Charlotte County Paving Manager is supposed to attend.

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.

I hope that answers many of your questions between now and the next meeting.

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)

The other MSBU members are: Carol Delucca–Laura Ingrassia–Nicholas Kotzalas–Leo VanOrden



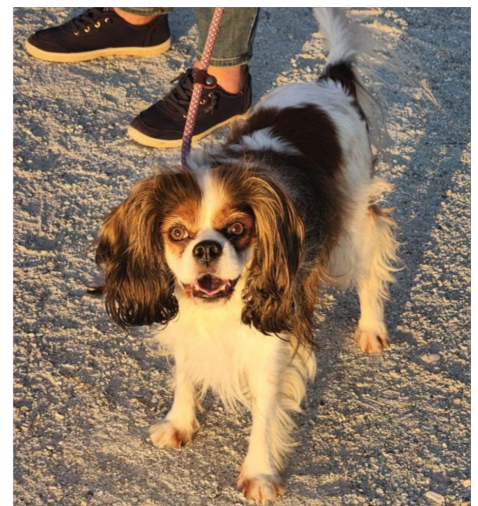
WALK YOUR DOG DAY!



**Wilshire w/ Tammy
Ramsey w/ Sue**



Pepper, A CAT?, Silas w/ Max



Abbey

Entertainment in Rotonda!

Community Outreach Committee Presents

ROTONDA WEST HAS TALENT 2025

Saturday, 3/1/2025 at 1 pm
at the Community Center,
646 Rotonda Circle

Starring
RWA'S FINEST TALENT

Welcome RWA Property Owners, residents, renters and their guests.

Questions? Contact
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

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

Rotonda West Association COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Trivia Night

LITERATURE & SCIENCE TOYS & GAMES
HISTORY & ANIMALS
MUSIC TV & MOVIES SPORTS AND MORE!

Play as a team or individually

FREE!

3rd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Doors open @ 6:00 pm
Starts @ 6:30 pm

RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

Welcome RWA property owners, residents, renters and their guests.
Questions: Contact the Community Outreach Committee: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office, you will be referred to the above email.
Bring your own drinks with lids & snacks. No pets.

TRIVIA

By Nadine Clough

Trivia with Tim is on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The game begins at 6:30 pm. In February there were 12 teams and 93 participants.

A prize goes to the winning team. The winning team this month was:

TRIVIA NEWTON JOHN

DOUG SMITH
STEPHANIE MACHEL
ANN CARLON
JOE OSTER
DAVID LUCIDO
TINA LUCIDO
SHARON GRIFFIN
KELLIE BUTTNER
KASEY BUTTNER
AL LAITY

Tim has a different theme for each month. February's theme was THE 80'S. All the answers and musical bonuses had something to do with that decade such as sports, toys & games, people, disasters, television shows, etc. Thank you to Tim and Julie of Tim's Trivia, and to Deb Orchard for hosting.

Our next night of trivia will be **MARCH 19th**. Form your team, or come join a group of players to form a new team. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Be prepared to join your neighbors and have some fun.



ABOVE: THE WINNERS!

Trivia team,

"Trivia Newton John"

Tim & Julie at each end

Rotonda West Association Community Outreach Committee Presents

BINGO

SUNDAY,
MARCH 16TH
COMMUNITY CENTER

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
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.

MUSIC IN THE PARK WITH JONNY PUMA

THURSDAY 3/27
AT 6:30 PM
(OUTSIDE EVENT)

BRING YOUR LAWNCHAIR, A SNACK, AND DRINK

COME JOIN US!

ROTONDA WEST HAS TALENT SHOW



Saturday, March 1st



STARRING

NATIONAL ANTHEM

RITA LOPIENSKI + KATHY HOWE - GUEST SINGERS



TOM DAMIKO
Singer-Guitarist

LIZA SAVAGE
Singer

SCOTT LADERER
Singer-Guitarist

CLEO OLSON
Lip Sync

MIKE MILLINGTON
Singer-Guitarist

ELIZABETH BERNARDINI
Singer-Guitarist



CHARLIE SHELTON
Comedy

NADINE CLOUGH
Rotonda Ukulele Band

MICHAEL MEEHAN
Singer-Guitarist

JACKIE RIDDLE
Singer

BOB DUNN & BRIAN PRESCOTT
Singer-Guitarist & Banjo



GUEST PERFORMERS
SHARON COSTEDIO
Singer
SCOTT BARNETT
Singer



OVER 200
PEOPLE
ENJOYED
THE SHOW!

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

First Place: Jackie Riddle (middle)

Second Place: Elizabeth Bernardini (left)

Third Place: Rotonda Ukulele Band (right)



Thank you to the Judges:

Doug Izzo (Executive Director of
Englewood Chamber of Commerce)

Patti Mihalik

Judy Long

Thank you to:

Rita Lopienski (Producer)

Maureen Laderer (Co-Producer)

Scott Barnett (Sound)

RWA & Community Outreach Committee

RWA TALENT SHOW PHOTOS



**Rita Lopienski & Kathy
Howe sing
National Anthem**



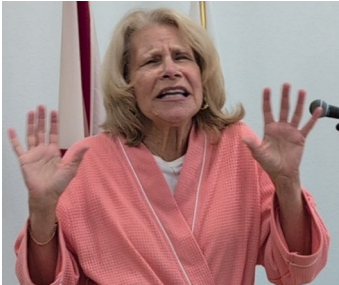
Tom Damico



Liza Savage



Scott Laderer



Cleo Olson



Mike Millington



Elizabeth Bernardini



Charlie Shelton



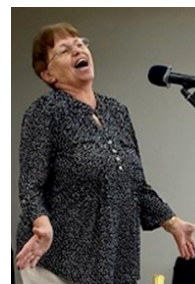
**Rotonda Ukulele
Band led by
Nadine Clough**



Jackie Riddle



Bob Dunn & Brian Prescott



Sharon Costedio



Scott Barnett



**Left: Judges Judy Long, Patti Mihalik, and
Doug Izzo (Executive Director of Englewood
Chamber of Commerce)**

Right: Maureen Laderer and Rita Lopienski





Nature News



Rotonda West Community Outreach Nature Committee
Nature Talks by David Smith, Charlotte County Land Manager
by Ann Weaver and Merrill Horswill

Gopher Tortoise

February 4, 2025



Program participants learned about one of the oldest creature on earth, the Gopher Tortoise, a state Threatened species and a keystone species, with a disproportionately large effect on it's natural environment. Gopher Tortoise burrows can provide shelter for over 350 other species. Gopher Tortoises are losing their high dry habitat to development. For more information see: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/gopher-tortoise/>

Amphibians

February 18, 2025



Amphibians are cold-blooded, vertebrate animals with an aquatic phase (gill breathing) and a terrestrial phase (lung breathing). <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/discover-herps/florida-amphibians-reptiles/>

Amphibians are crucial for the ecosystem by nutrient cycling and food chains. They act as both predators and prey, controlling pest populations and serving food for other wildlife, maintaining ecological balance.

Invasive Cuban tree frogs (shown on left above with large pads) are out competing the native green tree frog.

Another invasive amphibian is the cane toad, also known as the bufo, giant or marine toad. Cane toads are poisonous to most animals that try to bite or consume them. See: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/amphibians/cane-toad/>





Nature News



Rotonda West Community Outreach Nature
Committee Presentation:

Atalas and Coonties

February 12, 2025, 2pm

Forest Hecker Community Educator
Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program UF/IFAS
Extension Sarasota County

Florida history and a nature success story were combined in a fascinating presentation about how the beautiful Atala butterfly is being saved from extinction by gardeners planting its host plant, the ancient native evergreen cycad called coontie. Forest brought examples of both and explained how gardeners can grow coontie and attract atala butterflies to expand their range. See: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasotaco/2023/07/27/a-florida-friendly-landscaping-tale-of-survival-and-resurgence-part-i-coontie-cycads/>

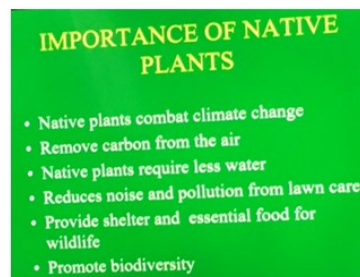


Participants enjoyed seeing the live butterflies and caterpillars up close. After the presentation the butterflies and caterpillars were released at Wildflower Preserve in order to establish a resident population in Charlotte County.

Rotonda West Community Outreach Nature Committee February 26, 2025

WHY PLANT NATIVE?

Speaker Jayne Neville, Mangrove Chapter of the Native Plant Society
by Merrill Horswill



Jayne Neville explained that without native plants, there would be no insects and without them there would be no wildlife. For example, birds and many other animals rely on insects to feed their young. Native plants also provide food and shelter for wildlife. Once established, native plants need minimal water and no fertilizer or pesticides which damage our natural habitat and waterways.

There were many questions, including where to purchase native plants: Florida Native Plants, Sarasota, Sweet Bay Nursery, Parish and All Native Nursery, Fort Myers are 3 in our area. The recommended Florimulch can be purchased at GoMulch in Englewood.

The Mangrove Chapter of the Native Plant Society is holding their annual plant sale March 1, 2025 9-11 at Lemon Bay Park 570 Bay Park Blvd, Englewood.

Attendees left the program with a free native plant for their yard!





Nature News

ROTONDA WEST RESIDENTS RECEIVE FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING RECOGNITION

By: Ann Weaver

Sara Weber, Florida Friendly Landscaping Education and Training Specialist at Charlotte County Extension presented the Florida Friendly Landscaping Gold recognition to Bob and Merrill Horswill for their yard at 96 Fairway Road.

Native plants and trees predominate, with an emphasis on wildlife habitat and pollinator gardens. The empty lots on each side of the house are being restored to the original native pine flatwoods habitat that predates development. These lots received a Florida Friendly Landscape Wild recognition. The Horswill's property is the first to be recognized as Florida Friendly in Rotonda West.

To qualify, the landscaping must follow the Florida Friendly Landscaping principles below:

Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

1. Water Efficiently, as needed
2. Fertilize Appropriately, if at all
3. Mulch with sustainable products
4. Attract Wildlife with plants that are native and Florida friendly
5. Control Yard Pests Responsibly, if needed
6. Recycle yard waste
7. Reduce Stormwater Runoff
8. Protect the Waterfront
9. Right Plant, Right Place

For more information see: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>



ABOVE: Merrill Horswill (on left) with Sara Weber



LEFT:
Florida friendly Landscaped home
Of Bob & Merrill Horswill
96 Fairway Road, Rotonda



Community Outreach Nature
Committee Presents
646 Rotonda Circle

Explore Nature in March

With Kaitlin Causey, Charlotte County Land Manager

March 5, 2pm Community Center

BOBCATS



- Short pointed ears, bobbed tail
- Twice the size of a domestic cat
- Breeds after 1 year, 1-4 young
- Feeds primarily on squirrels, rabbits, rats
- Widely distributed, probably in your back yard!

[Learn more about this beautiful native cat](#)

**COMING
IN MARCH!**

**MORE
GREAT
NATURE
PRESENTATIONS!**



March 15 9-11am Broadmoor Park

NATURE WALK

- Leisurely stroll around park and ponds
- Meet other nature enthusiasts
- All ages welcome, no dogs please
- Identify animals, birds, butterflies and plants
- Make a checklist of what we see
- Learn about habitat

- Possibly find a great horned owl nest!

[Bring your binoculars, water, hat and questions](#)

Welcome are Rotonda West residents, renters and their guests. Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office. Questions? Contact Community Outreach Committee:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

**OPEN TO ROTONDA WEST
RESIDENTS, RENTERS,
AND THEIR GUESTS**

Please do not contact the RWA Admin Office.

Questions? Contact

Community Outreach Committee:

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

THANK YOU



Community Outreach Nature
Committee Presents:

TREES: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



March 26, 2025 Wednesday 2pm
646 Rotonda Circle

Alice White, People for Trees

People for Trees, Inc. is a non-profit native tree advocacy group in North Port, FL.

Learn what trees to plant, how to plant and maintain them to help them survive and bring beauty, shade and wildlife to your yard.

The good: Florida native trees that do well in our area that our native wildlife depend on for food and shelter.



The bad: non-native trees, often popular and available choices with problems

The ugly: invasive trees that are prohibited from being planted, propagated or sold and should be removed.

A list of native trees and \$15 vouchers will be available for the People for Trees' 28th Annual Tree Fair, Saturday, April 26, 9am-1pm at the North Port City Center Green, 4970 City Hall Blvd.

Health & Wellness



Rotonda West
Association

Community Outreach Committee
Health & Wellness Initiative 2025
Presents

TAI CHI

All
Mondays
EXCEPT
4th Monday
10-11 am



RWA Community Center - 646 Rotonda Circle

Instructor

Dr. Francine Finucan

PILATES CLASS



All
Fridays
9-10 AM



These classes are for RWA members, owners & renters.
A one-time Fitness Waiver needs to be signed.

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

RWA Community Outreach Committee
Health & Wellness Initiative 2025 presents

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH: "ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EATING"

THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH, 3 PM

COMMUNITY CENTER 646 ROTONDA CIRCLE



Inflammation is known to be the root cause of all disease. Come out and learn how you can eat an anti-inflammatory diet to reduce inflammation in your body and actually reverse current symptoms.

Diane Casey is a registered licensed dietitian, with 30+ years in all modes of health care. Diane got her Masters degree at Ohio State University. She is currently working in private practice. You can find her bio and client testimonies at: www.dianecaseymsrd and at healthpros.com under Diane Christine Casey

STILLS NIGHT OF THE HUNTER w/John



Neighbors Petra with her dog HAILEY, Liz with her dog STELLA, and Colleen with her dog KAITI



PINTO W/ Paul



WALK YOUR DOG DAY!

WESTWAYS





RWA Health & Wellness Initiative

Nutrition Month presents:

**“TRANSFORM YOUR HEALTH, NOURISH YOUR BODY THROUGH
BASIC FUNCTIONAL NUTRITION CONCEPTS”**

With Lori LeBlanc RN BSN, IFNCP

**JOIN AN INTRODUCTORY CLASS ON THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF FUNCTIONAL NUTRITION AND
A BRIEF DIVE INTO SOME TOPICS INCLUDING “LEAKY GUT INFLAMMATION”, DETOX,
STRESS, AND BRAIN HEALTH**

**THINK ABOUT FOOD IN A DIFFERENT WAY;
TO LEARN NOT ONLY HOW TO MAKE CHANGES BUT WHY THEY WORK!**



-What’s at the end of your fork? Is it what your body is asking for?

-Food first! Learn how to use food as medicine to discover the healing power & optimize health.

-Does your body need a tune-up? An under-the-hood check-up? Nourish from the inside out. Beyond calories, beyond trends: Learn what functional nutrition is all about.

JOIN US AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

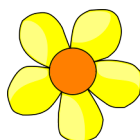
THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH @ 10 AM

PHOTO ON RIGHT:

Lori LeBlanc lives in Rotonda West, with a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing, Board certified in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing and certified as a Functional Nutrition Practitioner from the Integrative and Functional Nutrition Academy.

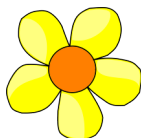


CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



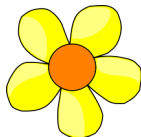
MARCH

3/1 Saturday, 1pm: Rotonda West Has Talent Show
3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/31 Monday, 10am: Tai Chi
3/5 Wednesday, 2pm: Bob Cats Presentation
3/5 Wednesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour (at Rotonda Community Park)
3/6 Thursday, 10am: Basic Functional Nutrition Concepts by Lori LeBlanc, RN
3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28 Friday, 9am: Pilates Mat
3/12 Wednesday, 5:30pm: History, Rotonda & The Vanderbilts
3/15 Saturday, 9am: Broadmoor Park Nature Walk by Kaitlin Causey
3/16 Sunday, 1pm: BINGO!
3/16 Sunday, 5pm : Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at The Hills
3/19 Wednesday, 11:30am: Mix & Mingle Lunch at Rotonda V
3/19 Wednesday, 2pm: History, Rotonda and The Superstars
3/19 Wednesday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim
3/20 Thursday, 3pm: Anti-Inflammatory Eating by Diane Casey
3/25 Tuesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Potluck
3/26 Wednesday, 2pm: People for Trees Presentation
3/27 Thursday 6:30pm Music in the Park with Johnny Puma
3/28 Friday, 9am-5pm: Spring Community Garage Sale
3/29 Saturday, 9am-5pm: Spring Community Garage Sale
3/30 Sunday, 9am-5pm: Rain Date Spring Community Garage Sale



APRIL

4/2 Wednesday, 5pm : Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park
4/2 Wednesday, 2pm: Healthy Ponds Presentation by Mollie Holland
4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25 Friday, 9am: Pilates Mat
4/3 Thursday, 6:30pm: Singo, Music Bingo
4/7, 4/14, 4/21 Monday, 10am: Tai Chi
4/16 Wednesday, 11:30am: Mix & Mingle Lunch at Rotonda V
4/16 Wednesday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim
4/22 Tuesday, 9am: Earth Day Bicycle Day Rotonda Litter Cleanup Challenge @ Rotonda Community Park
4/22 Tuesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Potluck
4/23 Wednesday, 2pm: Fueling Your Exercise Routine by April Sutphen



MAY

5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30 Friday, 9am: Pilates Mat
5/5, 5/12, 5/19 Monday, 10am: Tai Chi
5/7 Wednesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park
5/18 Sunday, 1pm: BINGO!
5/21 Wednesday, 9:30am: World Meditation Day with 7-Metal Singing Bowls of Tibet & Nepal by Rita Lopienski
5/21 Wednesday, 11:30am: Mix & Mingle Lunch at Rotonda V
5/21 Wednesday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim



Rotonda West
Association

Community Outreach Committee
Presents

Mix & Mingle

UPCOMING

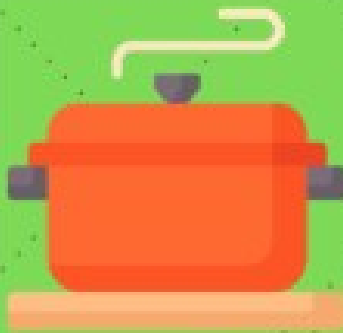
EVENTS



Join us for Happy Hour, the 1st
Wednesday of every month under the
pavilion at the Rotonda Community
Park, Rotonda Circle
(by the tennis courts)
March 5, 5 pm



Join us for lunch at the Rotonda V,
the 3rd Wednesday of every
month.
March 19, 1130 am



Join us for a community potluck
dinner, the 4th Tuesday of every
month at the RWA Community
Center.
March 25, 5 pm

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



2ND ANNUAL SPRING RWA NEIGHBORHOOD



GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY MARCH 28TH

SATURDAY MARCH 29TH

RAINDATE: SUNDAY MARCH 30TH

9 AM-5PM

TO BUY AND TO SELL

*Instructions and Sign Approval Form
are posted online at: rotondawest.org
and hard copies are at the RWA office rack*

*Final Address List will be posted
the week of the event*

DO NOT CONTACT ADMIN OFFICE.
QUESTIONS? CONTACT COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE AT:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

RWA

SPRING

COMMUNITY

GARAGE

SALE

**Friday 3/28 &
Saturday 3/29**

9 am-5 pm

Rain date:

Sunday 3/30

Here's a great way to go through your extra "stuff" and make some money! RWA will have a Community Wide Garage Sale for RWA members and renters to participate in. You can do one or both days. A third day, Sunday, 3/30, is only added as a rain date.

A Garage Sale Participation Form is posted on the RWA website, and a hard copy is on the information rack at the RWA office. Flyers with instructions and contacts will be sent via Constant Contact and Facebook. The event will be promoted to the public with RWA signs and news releases. **DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP: MARCH 20TH AT MIDNIGHT**

Do not call the RWA office with questions. Please contact the Community Outreach Committee at: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org, or call [630-956-8814](tel:630-956-8814) for questions.

Our last Community Garage Sale had 115 participants and was very well received.

Submitted by Rita Lopienski,

Community Outreach Committee Garage Sale Lead

ROTONDA WEST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Scan here for more information

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

****Please welcome our newest members****

Fabian Benito, Jackie Casadidio, Diane and Mark Casey, Rich Griffith, Marcel Fortin, Ruthann Kort, Michael Meehan, and Herb Wiley.

Our annual luncheon was a huge success as usual... The Legion served roasted chicken and eggplant parmesan.. Both were delicious.. Special “thanks” to all our volunteers that provided a HUGE assortment of desserts. Just like past years, the desserts were spectacular...



Is someone taking care of your home while you are away?? According to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, Home Security depends on good visibility. Plants should be kept trimmed, especially around doors and windows where someone could hide. One of the best sources of protection around your home is exterior lighting, ones that are motion activated or ones that come on a night till dawn. Make sure you have a neighbor or property management company keep an eye on your home while you are away.

Charlotte County requires you to register your home alarm system with the Sheriff's Office. Registration is super easy- <https://ccso.org/PublicInterest/pdf/AlarmRegistration2012.pdf>

ROTONDA WEST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Beware of Skimmers at Gas Pumps

A few tips to avoid a skimmer scam; (1) make sure the gas pump panel is closed, (2) wiggle the card reader to check if it is loose, and (3) THEN insert your card.

-If you are concerned about being scammed at the pumps, you can always pay inside.

-Monitor your credit card statements regularly for unwanted charges and report those immediately. Don't forget to request a new credit card.

Please keep the family of Billy Coyle in your thoughts and prayers. Billy was a long serving patrol and recently passed away. He will be missed by many.



Have you considered being a Base Station? Do you know of anyone that doesn't like to drive at night, but would be willing to be a Base Station? You can volunteer from the comfort of your couch or favorite chair. If you do, contact me.

See you at our next meeting scheduled for March 18th at 10:00 am in the Community Center.

Regards, David

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) non-emergency number is 941-639-2101

They can also be reached at <https://www.ccsso.org/>



WALK YOUR DOG DAY!



Mitzi



Miss Noelle



Nora w/ Will & Ali





GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.
GWEN GRACE, PAST PRESIDENT



MARCH 2025

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club sponsored the Englewood Cracker Fair Lemon Dessert Baking Contest in February. The money raised was donated to the Lemon Bay Historical Society to help pay for a new coat of paint on the Green Street Church. The fabulous dessert entries were judged by women who owned local Englewood area restaurants. Our members sold tickets for dessert samples and cut up and served the many hungry fair attendees. What a fun and delicious day!



In February our Environment Community Service Program once again did a roadside cleanup of Rotonda Blvd. West. With the help of two of our boosters, they picked up a large amount of litter.



On March 22nd we will be having our Rummage Sale at the RWA Community Center. And coming up on April 9th is our annual Trivia Night. The proceeds will be used for scholarships for Lemon Bay High School students. Lots of things happen in our club and we are proud to be a part of the community for over fifty years.

Our next General Meeting is Thursday, March 20th at RWA community center. 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 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.

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club



Saturday, March 22nd
9am till 12:30pm ** No Early Birds

646 Rotonda Circle * Broadmoor Park
 Rotonda West Community Center

Bakery * Clothing * Shoes & Purses * Crafts * Jewelry
 Household * Sports * Technology * Wall Décor
 Holiday * Children & Pet Supplies

Donations may be dropped off only on Friday,
 March 21 between 12:30 & 2:30pm

NO Large TV's (small flatscreen only), Large Furniture,
 Books, Magazines, VHS tapes

Benefiting GFWC RWWC Scholarships, Projects & Programs

GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS



Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
 7pm - 9pm
 RWA Community Center
 646 Rotonda Circle

TEAM TRIVIA
 Maximum 8 per team
\$15 per person

\$100 FIRST PRIZE
\$50 SECOND PRIZE

50/50 available
 Plus Opportunity Drawings for great prizes!

BYO Soft Drinks
 Water and snacks are provided

Contact: Betsy Bouchard 757-952-9890
 betsybou60@gmail.com

This is a fundraiser for GFWC Rotonda West
 Woman's Club Scholarships



LEFT: LUNA
 "Queen of Rotonda
 Canals"
RIGHT: DUKE with
 Egon and Susan
BELOW: BUCK
 with Kathy



BELOW: MILO & DANTE
 with Roy



**WALK YOUR
 DOG DAY!**



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

Travis Green
Aquatics

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Wayne Taylor

Dale Anderson

Craig Brown

Doug Smith

**THANK YOU TO OUR
WONDERFUL STAFF**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

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David Kelly, Vice President

Sam Besase, Treasurer

Karen Harvey, Secretary

Peter Traverso, Director

Deb Orchard, Director

Jerry Eldred, Director



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Pattie Mihalik, Writer

Gwen Grace, GFWC Woman's Club

David Perry, RW Neighborhood Watch

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Merrill Horswill, Contributor

Deb Orchard, Contributor

Dale Jensen, Contributor

Ann Weaver, Contributor

Sam Besase, Contributor

David Pulaski, Photographer

Nadine Clough, Layout & Design

Flyers by: Nadine Clough & Maureen Laderer