

WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 6,058 Rotonda Residents

MAY 2025



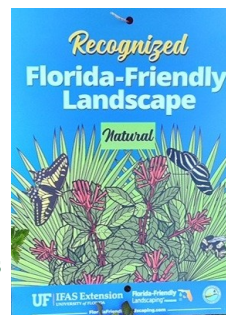
E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

BROADMOOR PARK BUTTERFLY GARDEN RECEIVES FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD

By: Ann Weaver

When Sara Weber, of Charlotte County Extension Service and Florida Friendly Landscape Education Specialist visited the Broadmoor Park Butterfly Garden on April 15, 2025, she was already familiar with the thriving pollinator garden. Ms. Weber had visited the garden on several occasions, most recently after her Nature group presentations on Florida Friendly Landscaping and Butterfly Gardening 101. She knew the majority of the Broadmoor Butterfly Garden plants are Florida natives, that there are no invasive plants such as Brazilian pepper, are in the garden, and that it meets the criteria for a Florida Friendly Landscape.

Therefore, Ms. Weber was pleased to award Gold (the highest level) of Florida Friendly Landscape recognition in the "Natural" category to the Broadmoor Butterfly Garden. She presented the volunteer gardeners with a distinctive sign (right) which will be displayed in the garden. Congratulations to the Butterfly Garden Team who have planted, weeded, watered, weeded, pruned, weeded some more, given tours, and spread mulch! Many thanks to Merrill and Bob Horswill, Bob Clough, Grace Chetcuti, Deb Orchard, Kjell Plotkin, Steve Bramlage, Galina Loza, Natalie Roesler, Nancy Ward-Snyder, Denny Lammie, Diane Casey, Jo-laine Roberts, James Marx, Maura Qualls and Jack Simmonds.



Recognition sign to be displayed in Butterfly Garden

To join the garden team, email Ann Weaver at ann.weaver815@gmail.com

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5

NEWSLETTER SECTIONS

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

BOD MEETING MINUTES

ELECTION COMMITTEE NEWS

LAKEWATCH MEETING

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS

2025 VOLUNTEER FORMS

NATURE NEWS

COMMUNICATIONS

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WOMAN'S CLUB

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

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 13, 2025 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Sam Besase, Karen Harvey, Deb Orchard, Peter Traverso, David Kelly (Zoom) and Andy Van Scyoc (Chair)

ABSENT: Jerry Eldred

Management: Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

Members: Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Barb Peszko, Dale Jensen, Darcy Detzel, Nadine Clough, Karen Hoover, Tom D'Abrosca, Maureen McDowell, Randy Keller (via Zoom) Eugene Lerner, Cheryl Lateer, Kelsey Stewart, Kevin Corrigan

The meeting was called to order by President Van Scyoc at 2:00 PM. The meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum was present.

COMPLETE Meeting Minutes can be found on the Rotonda West Association Website.

- 1. LOG IN TO WEBSITE**
- 2. GO TO: "Governance"**
- 3. CLICK ON: Meeting Minutes**
- 4. SCROLL DOWN TO: Board of Directors**
- 5. CHOOSE THE DATE OF MEETING: Example BOD Minutes 3-17-25**



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel – President Van Scyoc (Chair)

No Report.

Budget & Finance Committee – Tom D'Abrosca (Chair)

Chair D'Abrosca provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

- Director Besase made a motion to move \$100,000.00 from the operating account into the reserves
Director Traverso 2nd the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Besase (Chair)

Director Besase provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Community Outreach – Deb Orchard (Chair)

Ms. Orchard provided a written report that is attached to these minutes. A focus group meeting was held with Nadine Clough, editor of the Westways, to talk about some changes in the March issues. Constant contact lost some members, and the comments made were that are getting too many notices. The Committee is trying to reduce the number of notifications in hope that members will return.

Compliance – Barb Peszko (Chair)

Ms. Peszko provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Residential Modifications Committee – Barb Peszko (Chair)

Ms. Peszko provided a written report that is attached to these minutes.

Deed Restrictions – Dale Jensen (Chair)

No Report.

Election Committee Dale Jensen (Chair)

Mr. Jensen provided a written report that is attached to these minutes. The electronic voting information packages went out and members are returning their consent forms. At the last meeting Director Harvey asked what arrangement could or would be made for the owner who wished to vote electronically, but didn't have the expertise or equipment to do so. Mr. Jensen stated that CondoVoter offered telephone voting, however, we have learned that Section 720.317 Florida Statutes that an association may conduct elections and other owner votes through an internet based online voting system. Owners will still be able to vote via paper ballot and if needed, an electronic voting station could be set up in the Administration office. To formally implement electronic voting and noticing the Board must motion to adopt the Board Resolution Authorizing Electronic Voting and Participation for Association Meeting and Elections and Electronic Notice of Meetings.

- Director Traverso made a motion that the Board adopt the Resolution authorizing Electronic Voting and Participation for Association Meetings and elections and electronic notice of meeting. Motion Unanimously Approved.

**Candidates Needed For Next
Election Cycle
Rotonda West Association BOD**



If you have ever considered running for HOA board position, now is the time for you to step up and become a candidate for the Rotonda West Board of Directors. This year, 2 seats will be up for election. The election term is from December 2025 through November 2027.

Detailed information regarding the process for filing as a candidate is available in the *2025 Board of Directors Candidate Packet*. This document is available on the RWA website on the RWA Elections page under the Governance heading.

If you are unable to access the website, or if the packet doesn't address your question(s), just send an email to the Election Committee at:

electioncommittee@rotondawest.org

and we'll be glad to send you a copy of the document or answer your question(s).

You should note that if you decide to run for office, all candidate documents need to be submitted by **12:01 p.m. on Friday, August 8, 2025.**

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING YET?

THANK YOU,
RWA ELECTION COMMITTEE



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	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.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

* EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

MAY

5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30 Friday, 10am: Tai Chi (5/16, 5/23 & 5/30 on patio)
5/5, 5/12, 5/19 Monday, 10am: Pilates Mat
5/7 Wednesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park
5/15 Thursday, 2:30pm: Treasurer's Town Hall Meeting by Sam Besase
5/18 Sunday, 1pm: BINGO!
5/21 Wednesday, 9:30am: Music in Park World Meditation Day with 7-Metal Singing Bowls of Tibet & Nepal by Rita Lopienski
5/21 Wednesday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim
5/22 Thursday, 2pm: Nutrition and Brain Health by Lori LeBlanc, RN
5/26 Monday, **MEMORIAL DAY**: Office, Community Center Closed

JUNE

6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/30 Monday, 10am: Pilates Mat
6/3 Tuesday, 9am: World Bicycle Day Rotonda Bike Ride at Rotonda Community Park
6/4 Wednesday, 5pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park
6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27 Friday, 10am: Tai Chi (6/13 & 6/27 outside on patio)
6/16 Monday, 6:30-8pm: Music in the Park with Speakeasy Alley Band
6/18 Wednesday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim
6/19 RWA Office & Community Center closed
6/25 Wednesday, 2:30pm: Fit for Life Using Functional Exercise to Maintain Muscle Mass and Confidence by April Sutphen



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE MOMS NEAR AND FAR



Of all the special
joys in life,
The big ones
and the small,
A mother's love
and tenderness
Is the greatest
of them all.



RWA Resident Dr. John House Receives Two Awards at Annual LakeWatch Meeting

By: Sam Besase

Photos by: Dave Pulaski



The Rotonda West Homeowner's association (RWA-HOA) recently held their annual University of Florida-Lakewatch program. The RWA HOA used this occasion to award the 1st ANNUAL STAN PLIZGA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AWARD. The award shall be presented annually in honor of Stan Plizga, long time member of the Aquatics group who passed away a couple of years ago. Stan was also a former RWA BOD member. On hand to present the award was Charlotte Plizga, the wife of Stan Plizga.



Dr. House speaks at the Lake Watch Annual meeting.

The award winner was long time resident, Dr. John House who has been serving as a volunteer with the Aquatics group for over 15 years. Dr. House and his wife, Joann bought property here in the early 1970's, and they moved here in the early 1990's. Dr. House has been the primary person leading the collection of water samples at the 6 locations here in Rotonda West, then sending the water samples to the laboratory. The laboratory results are then fed into the University of Florida Lakewatch database.

The water samples collect data like regarding levels of nitrogen, phosphorous, and mercury. It is important to note that the quality of the water in our canal system is NON-IMPAIRED, which is great for fish and wildlife as well as for the property values here in Rotonda West.

The University of Florida Lakewatch administration also awarded Dr. House the coveted UF Lakewatch Canoe Paddle which is awarded to volunteer personnel across the state of Florida for 15+ years of volunteer service with UF Lakewatch. Previous RWA awardees of the UF Lakewatch Canoe Paddle are Bob Winter and Nick Gizzi who were also in attendance.

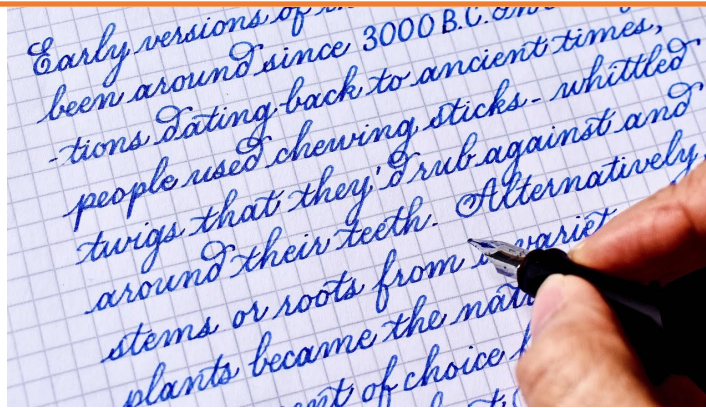
The UF Lakewatch personnel provided valuable information to the residents in a Town Hall format where they shared information on 3 specific subjects and answered questions from the residents. They supplied lots of literature and pamphlets for the residents to take home with them.



Above: Dr. John House is awarded the 1st Annual Stan Plizga Environmental Advocacy Award from Charlotte Plizga and Sam Besase.



Dr. House with wife Joann accept the UF Lakewatch Canoe Paddle awarded for 15 + years of volunteer work.
Picture by Sue Killion



Handwriting Analysis

By Deb Orchard

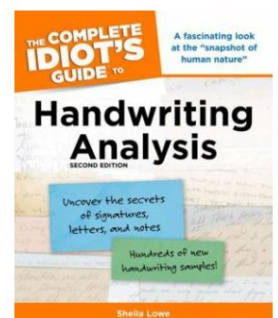
Pat Carter, a certified Graphologist, introduced us to insights into our personality based on our handwriting. Each of us wrote a sentence and our signature. She explained to us that handwriting is individual, no two are alike. Like x-rays of our bodies, it changes with time as it reflects our journey through life. Handwriting reveals our instincts and strengths of our personality, guides us to working more cohesively with those around us and can lead to greater self-awareness and improve interpersonal relationships.

We learned that which way your handwriting slants is your “first instinct”. Whether it slants right, straight up and down or to the left reveals whether you are one who acts quickly on an emotional level and are more outgoing as the slant “reaches out toward your people”. Or, whether you are guided by logic, doing what makes sense and you pause before reacting or moving forward. Or, even one who is likely to hold back to assess a situation before you act, wondering if it is safe and you are more protective of self.

The size of your writing gives insight to your strengths. Those right-brain or left-brain thinkers. Whether your strengths lend you to being a more of an outgoing, a less detail oriented, multi-tasker who sees the big picture and keeps lists so you don’t forget what’s on your mind; or, the detail oriented, technical work person for keeps lists to keep on track of the details and one who doesn’t tend to delegate work.

The loop of your letters also holds keys to your personality. Large, small or none at all, either on the top or bottom of letters holds the keys as to how you fill up your life. Lots of friends, shopping with lots of variety. Or, you tend to need less and have a smaller group of friends. Or, one who is even more selective, impatient and doesn’t want to waste time on politics and enjoys more time alone. Also, whether you tend to be creative, willing to try new things and theories and always have a plan B; or, you are one who wants to be reassured by facts at hand and work that plan before you considering a plan B.

If you’re looking for a book on the subject, Pat suggests [The Idiots Guide to Handwriting](#) by Sheila R. Lowe.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS—MAY 2025

By Sam Besase



- PAVING - Rotonda West roads shall begin on **MONDAY May 19, 2025.**
- Ajax Paving advised me that PAVING shall start in the PINE VALLEY section and the plan is to work counter-clockwise. (White Marsh & Broadmoor, etc.)
- The contract specifies that COMPLETION shall be within 286 days. (about 10 months).
- **MAY 19, 2025 THRU FEBRUARY 28, 2026 GREAT NEWS!**
- The paving contractor shall place hangers on doors of the affected streets 48 hours in advance. There will also be public email announcements.

Meanwhile - The Rotonda BRIDGES work shall continue from now thru December, 2025 and includes 6 more bridges.

It takes approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete repairs and maintenance per bridge. Traffic shall be either detoured or maintained. Please observe posted construction/detour signs.

1. Rotonda Bridge #014104: Nearing completion in May 2025
NEAR 563 ROTONDA CIRCLE—Between Broadmoor Lane & Sportsman Road
 2. Rotonda Bridge #014107: Next bridge – should start in May 2025
Near 727 ROTONDA CIRCLE Between Long Meadow Lane and Marker Road
 3. Rotonda Bridge #014101: then next bridge – July, 2025?
NEAR 517 ROTONDA CIRCLE—Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane
 4. Rotonda Bridge #014100: September 2025???
NEAR 407 ROTONDA CIRCLE—Between Fairway Road & Mariner Lane
 5. Rotonda Bridge #014063: October 2025???
 6. Rotonda Bridge #014060: December 2025???
- 6 completed + 6 starting = 12 of 18* there remains 6 more MSBU bridges to be completed in 2026.

The latest news on the hurricane Ian 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 some damages were PRIOR to Hurricane Ian.

Charlotte County APPEALED in April, 2025, requesting ARBITRATION. Charlotte County is also pursuing other funding sources to START the work on this bridge. We should know more about this in the next 60 days.

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

Englewood Beach update:

The southern entrance to Englewood Beach parking lot reopened on Wednesday, April 2, providing pedestrian access onto the beach. Parking spaces are very limited. In addition, Charlotte County Transit provides a park & ride service to the beach from Tringali Park located at 3460 N. Access Road in Englewood. This program operates 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The shuttle will depart Tringali Park at the top of each hour and the bottom of the hour from Chadwick Park. For a list of Charlotte County Transit passenger rules and regulations visit <https://tinyurl.com/CCTransitRules>.

Portable toilets are available for temporary restroom facilities. Patrons are advised to only use designated "dune walk through" access points and to be diligent and alert for hazards.

The remainder of Englewood Beach parking is closed for several more months due to reconstruction of bathrooms and reconstruction of the dunes boardwalks-for safety concerns.

Swale Drainage Issues: FAIRWAY ROAD = SWALE/GREENBELT RESTORATION PROJECT starts in May.

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 remaining sections would cost to remediate and then create a multi-year budget to do so. The excellent financial reserves position might mean no increase in MSBU rates.

Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Rotonda Boulevard East are still scheduled for 4Q 2025.

Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Ingram/Ingraham are also, still scheduled for 4Q 2025.

FDOT is taking public input on the approximate 4 mile stretch of SR 776 (McCall Road) between Gulfstream/Willmington West (Big W Law Firm) and Gulfstream/Willmington East (near Home Depot) with about 7 intersections that **do not have traffic lights** because of recent multiple serious and deadly crashes (Mayport & Regina/Rosewood & Flintlock & Oceanspray & Shalimar & Princess & David), perhaps by limiting vehicles from CROSSING all 4 lanes by only allowing right turns.

The next regular quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage meeting shall be held on Thursday June 26, 2024 at the San Casa Road (DMV) Charlotte County facility.

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

There are approximately 9,000 ERU's = Equivalent Residential Units, that pay (\$445) into this MSBU. The Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU budget is a little over \$4 million annually.

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: Laura Ingrassia-Nicholas Kotzalas-Carol DeLuca-Leo VanOrden

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S - QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING

The next RWA Treasurer's Quarterly Town Hall meeting (in person & ZOOM) is scheduled for May 15, 2025, at the RWA Community Center from 2:30pm to 4pm. Please plan to attend to ask questions.



ATTENTION 2025 VOLUNTEERS

You are responsible for filling out your own JOB LOG

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER GUIDELINES

Dear Members,

Last year a new system of guidelines were adopted to put into practice in order to achieve a more fair and equitable system for rewarding volunteers at the Appreciation Dinner. The new guidelines were well-received last year by RWA volunteers, resulting in the best-attended dinner in years.

These guidelines will once again be implemented at the 2026 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It is important that you read and understand these guidelines so that you can keep track of your volunteering for 2025. The Guidelines and the Job Log are on the following pages. Please print them out for tracking your volunteer hours.

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

Thank you.

RWA VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



RWA VOLUNTEERS WILL FALL INTO ONE OF TWO GROUPS, DEPENDENT ON THE HOURS THEY VOLUNTEERED.

RED GROUP

- Any Rotonda resident who volunteered in the year 2025 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 2025 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



RWA VOLUNTEER JOB LOG (Jan.-Dec. 2025)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

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



Nature News

Mottled Duck

Submitted by: Bob Winter

This duck we see here in Rotonda near our canals and ponds is very similar in size and shape to the more familiar Mallard Duck. The big difference is its drab brown color compared to the flashy green headed Mallard.

It is only found near the coastal Gulf, and is not a snow bird but a full time resident. They nest on the ground in bushy areas near fresh water.



This mother with 7 babies was seen along the Rotonda River

Since freshly hatched ducklings leave the nest and head for water within 48 hours their nest was nearby along this canal



She cares for her brood by protecting them from the hot April sun

Enjoy watching Rotonda's Wildlife



Nature News

Healthy Ponds and Waterways

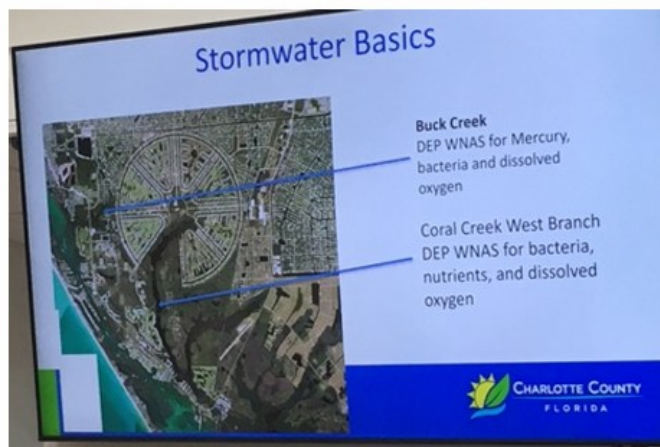
by Merrill Horswill

April 2, 2025 2pm Mollie Holland, Environmental & Community Resiliency Coordinator, Charlotte County



Mollie Holland provided storm water basics and how Rotonda West development has impacted our ponds and waterways. Because Rotonda West is the headwaters of Buck Creek and Coral Creek, West Branch, which flow into Gasparilla Sound, Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor, what we do in our own yards impacts the health of all our waters. Both Buck Creek and Coral Creek are listed by the DEP as WNMS (Waters Not Attaining Standards). To remedy this, the County recommends that Rotonda West property owners:

- Do their part to protect our waterways



- Reduce runoff by using less fertilizer and fewer pesticides on lawns and gardens
- Do not fertilize along swales and areas that connect to storm drains
- Naturalize shoreline, leave at least a 3 foot buffer un-mowed to the waters edge
- Use native plants that need no fertilizer and less water and attract wildlife
- Be part of the solution, not part of the problem!

For information on managing the landscape to improve water quality
See: [One Charlotte, One Water | Charlotte County, FL](#)

Celebrate Earth Day! Bike Ride Litter Clean-Up Challenge

On April 22nd, Earth Day, RWA residents Rita Lopienski and Ali Tedeschi met up at Rotonda Community Park to do a Bicycle Day Litter Cleanup Challenge. Within an hour, covering Rotonda Blvds West, North, and East, & Parade, a total of 100 beer cans, plastic bottles, cigarette cartons and more were collected and properly recycled or disposed of.

Many other residents took up the challenge in their own neighborhood, helping to keep Rotonda West looking its best.

Way to go! Let's take this challenge on every single day of the year!



Left: Rita Lopienski and Ali Tedeschi starting off the challenge at the Rotonda Community Park.

Right: Some of the litter that was picked up and disposed of.



Left: Abbey who has helped her owner find and collect litter every Earth Day for 8 years.

Right: David & Katherine Szawlewicz who collected and properly disposed of 36 pieces of trash



THANK YOU!!

GARDEN TIP FOR MAY

By: Ann Weaver

Master Gardener



Nature News

Weeding can seem like a never-ending chore. My favorite garden project is creating a new planting area out of existing turf, which is generally the worst weed, torpedo grass. I have searched (with some success) for ways to minimize future weeding in planting beds with cardboard, mulch and Florida native groundcovers.

PREPARING THE NEW BED Dig a perimeter between the turf and your future garden; then install edging if desired, which will act as a barrier between your lawn and planting bed. The existing weeds and turf can be dug up and turned over. Most will die, and the root clumps can be chopped up. I prefer to cover the whole bed, weeds and all, with flattened cardboard (plastic tape and labels removed). In a few weeks, the weeds are dead and easy to remove in spots where plants will go. Cover the cardboard with mulch.

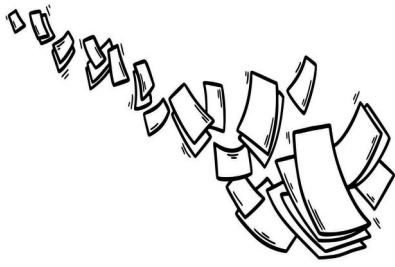
PREFERRED MULCH I use only melaleuca mulch, sold as *Florimulch*. Other mulches may contain bald cypress, an important native tree, which should not be sacrificed. Colored mulches may contain toxins such as arsenic, so I go for the “natural” color, which will not fade. Stone as mulch can raise the soil temperature, and in Florida, more heat is not needed. When I first started gardening here, I used landscape cloth and found the weeds poke right through it. So I have eliminated it from my gardens, making transplanting much easier.

NATIVE GROUNDCOVERS Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) grows 6” tall, but sends down a deep root. Its fern-like leaves are evergreen, and spring to fall, a round, pink blossom appears, attracting bees and butterflies. Mimosa is happy with sandy soil in full sun or part shade. Great as a turf replacement, it can be mowed and tolerates foot traffic. It will spread so consider that before planting. Once established, it will need no watering, and will form a thick mat which discourages weeds.



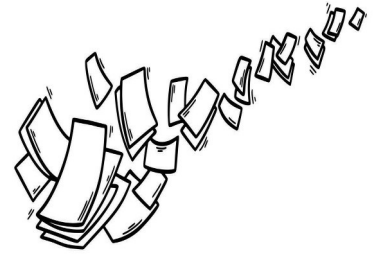
FROGFRUIT, FOGFRUIT, MATCH STICK PLANT (*Phyla nodiflora*) may already be in your yard. It has small leaves on a long stem and blooms all year long. It grows along the ground in full sun or part shade. Frogfruit is host to three butterflies, the common buckeye, the phaeon crescent, and the white peacock. It serves as a nectar source to many other butterflies. It also can be a turf substitute, and it forms a mat that discourages weeds. Once established, frogfruit needs only rainfall. It takes just a few months to thickly cover the ground.





RWA STREAM-LINING COMMUNICATIONS

By: Nadine Clough



Rotonda West Association offers many presentations, activities, committees, & clubs to its residents. It is vital that residents are alerted to these events and are informed as to the who, what, when, where of such happenings. The use of flyers posted at the office, and the availability of direct email through Constant Contact has made the communication better than in past years. However, even good things can be improved. Therefore, a focus group has been working to reduce the number of flyers and emails going out to residents. By consolidating and steam-lining the information going out, we hope to better serve our residents by not over-loading your email.

From Deb Orchard (BOD member; Chair of Community Outreach Committee:

Manager Derrick Hedges, Assistant-Manager Annette Casteel, IT Specialist Joe Harris, West Ways Editor and Layout Director Nadine Clough, and I met. As a result, we have some wonderful new changes coming which should let us get the information out to you/ our residents, yet reduce the number of Constant Contact messages. Instead of sending out one or more individual flyers for each Community Outreach Committee event and presentation, “At A Glance” will be posted to Constant Contact every 2 weeks and placed on the Rotonda West website under the “RWA Happenings” heading. We hope you appreciate and enjoy the change. Please check it out!

Starting in May, residents who receive Constant Contact in their email will notice a drop in event notices, and will begin to see the new communication called, “AT A GLANCE”. This will be delivered to emails every two weeks, and as the name suggests, will provide basic information about events. More detailed information about each event will be given on the website. The first “AT A GLANCE” went out in emails last week, and is shown on the following page.

Many more changes, updates, and new features are coming soon to the RWA website. If you haven’t visited the site in a while, take a few minutes and explore the changes that have already started, and be ready to enjoy the ones that will be coming.

RWA EVENTS AT A GLANCE (5/1—5/20)

* EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SUNDAY
5/18 AT 1 PM

BINGO!

**LAST GAMES OF THE
SEASON**

B I N G O				
7	11	4	1	18
24	21	34	42	39
5	13	★	16	22
2	27	36	40	10
8	44	13	17	28

COC EVENT

WEDNESDAY
5/7 AT 5 PM

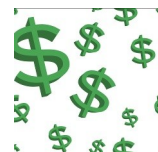
**MIX & MINGLE
HAPPY HOUR
AT ROTONDA
COMMUNITY PARK**
Come join your neighbors



COC EVENT

THURSDAY
5/15

**AT 2:30 PM
TREASURER'S TOWN
HALL MEETING
WITH BOD TREASURER
SAM BESASE
COMMUNITY CENTER
QUESTION &
ANSWER**



MONDAY
PILATES MAT CLASS
5/5, 5/12, 5/19
AT 10 AM



COC EVENT

WEDNESDAY
5/7
5:15 PM DOORS OPEN
6 PM TOURNAMENT STARTS



**Rotonda West Woman's Club
Community Center**

See Full Flyer on Page 24

FRIDAY
TAI CHI
DR. FRANCINE FINUCAN
5/2, 5/9, 5/16 AT 10 AM
AT 10 AM



COC EVENT

- THESE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO RWA PROPERTY OWNER, RENTERS, AND THEIR GUESTS.
- PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE RWA OFFICE WITH QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THESE EVENTS. THEY DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COC (COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE EVENTS), CONTACT: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

THANK YOU

Entertainment in Rotonda!

TRIVIA

 **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!

Presented by Tim's Trivia
Tim's Trivia@yahoo.com
Timothy Dowd, originally from Michigan, I have been doing TRIVIA for almost 20 years; also music bingo, scavenger hunts, hosting various events as well as DJ-ing dance of all kinds. Recently have been named the number one TRIVIA in Southwest Florida!

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.



TEAM MEMBERS: Irene Thibeault, Bob Thibeault, Kathy Bennett, Ali Tedeschi, David Tedeschi, Jerry Bouchard, Betsy Bouchard, Mary Alice McMeniman, Pat Moodie, & Wayne Moodie.



WINNERS TWO MONTHS IN A ROW!
TEAM: WE DRINK AND WE KNOW THINGS

TRIVIA TOPIC: TAXES



Presented by the R.W. Outreach Committee

A 50s & 60s Rock 'n' Roll Christmas Parade!

Theme: "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree!"



Rotonda West
Christmas Parade

Saturday,
December 6, 2025

Save the Date!

Now spinning the greatest hits of Christmas cheer! Slick back your hair, grab your poodle skirts, and get ready to jingle and jive as floats roll by in true retro holiday style! Elvis, jukeboxes, hot rods, and holiday hits — all coming to life in this toe-tapping celebration!

Mark Your Calendar!
Saturday, December 6,
2025 at 10:00 AM

HOLIDAY PARADE

GET READY

PLAN ON ENTERING

GET SET

**START DESIGN IDEAS FOR YOUR
ENTRY**

GO

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Scan here for more information

MAY 2025

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

The Board of Directors and our entire volunteer team extend a heartfelt



to everyone in our community who generously contributed to our fundraising drive over the past few months. It's remarkable to think our last major drive was in 2020. Your support has been invaluable, allowing us to replace the aging signs and vehicle lights, and to cover our essential monthly operating expenses.

We're proud to collaborate with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, patrolling our streets nightly across our seven subdivisions, ensuring a safer community for all.

It's never too late to contribute! Donations can be made payable to and mailed to:

Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch PO Box 691 Placida, FL 33946

Alternatively, you can donate conveniently through Zelle (zelle.com) via your banking app or the Zelle app, using the email: donations@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Welcome our newest Patrols- Ron Fagans, David Key, and Terry Sickler,



A visible presence with Neighborhood Watch helps deter those people who would take advantage of our residents. We are always looking for volunteers to patrol one night per month for two hours. If you would rather not drive, please consider volunteering as a Base Station to assist the nightly patrols.

If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584, go to our Facebook page @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch, or scan the QR code above.

Our next meeting is May 20th at 10am at the RWA Community Center.



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



MAY 2025

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club welcomed seven new members with an induction ceremony at our April 17th General Meeting. The photo shows the new members with their sponsors who will act as advisers as they become familiar with our activities, committees and events.



Our club is part of the Greater Federation of Women's Club International and we have quarterly GFWC District meetings to learn from the other clubs in our district while having a fun time together. In April over 50 women from clubs in Naples, Bonita, La Belle, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda gathered for a Membership Rally lead by the GFWC Florida 2nd Vice President. One of the Punta Gorda members has been with GFWC for 60 years!



Coming up on Wednesday, May 7 is our first Bunco Tournament. As I write this, we have a couple of spots still available. The Tournament champion wins \$300! Once all the tickets are sold, we will have a waitlist if someone cannot attend that night. So if Bunco is your game or if you just want a night out and want to help us raise funds to benefit local charities, send an email to Annette at rwwcbunco2025@gmail.com. It's going to be a fun and exciting evening as the competitors roll the dice! A flyer is attached.

Our next General Meeting and the last until September is Thursday, May 15th at RWA community center. The social time begins at 9:30 am and the business meeting starts promptly at 10:30 am. Please go to our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org for information about upcoming events and who we are and what we do. You can also find us on Facebook at GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. All are invited to our general meeting.

Join us

May 7th, 2025

for our
1st Annual



Tournament



Organized by
Rotonda West Woman's Club

Tournament champion wins
\$300

RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

Doors open at 5:15pm
Tournament starts at 6pm

Raffle Prizes
50/50 Drawing

\$25 per person to
enter tournament

Water & snacks provided

No Refunds!

Contact: Annette
rwwcbunco2025@gmail.com

Must be 18 or older to play

Fundraiser
Proceeds benefit local charities



Follow this event on Facebook for tournament details!

@GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Bunco Tournament

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

OFFICE STAFF

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Manager

Annette Casteel
Assistant Manager

Tammy Birdsong
Administrator

Nancy Schwechel
Administrator and
Deed Restrictions

Jenny Bulle
Bookkeeper

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

Andy VanScyoc, President

David Kelly, Vice President

Sam Besase, Treasurer

Karen Harvey, Secretary

Peter Traverso, Director

Deb Orchard, Director

Jerry Eldred, Director



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