

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5.274 Rotonda Residents

OCTOBER 2025



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

A MUSIC IN THE PARK EVENT

CLASSICAL GUITAR MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD WITH EDWIN CULVER

By: Rita Lopienski



What makes music so universal? Are the rules of music really so different around the world? Or is there something that music tries to say about all of us...

Come and hear the racing dance rhythms of Argentinian tangos, the interweaving lines of a great Baroque sonata nearly lost inn the bombing of Dresden, a Russian tone-painting inspired by the nuclear mysticism of Salvador Dali, brand new music composed by Edwin Culver himself (just by remixing the street sounds of modern China), and much, much more!

Who knows, perhaps you'll discover a part of the world you never knew existed, or maybe even something about YOURSELF that's been awakened by this Classical Guitar Music From Around The World.

Join us at the RWA Community Center on October 13th, at 4:30 pm (indoors) for this enlightening event!

Link to Edwin's full bio: www.edwinculver.com/bio



VOLUME 29 ISSUE 10

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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

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS FOR RWA CANDIDATES NIGHT BY OCTOBER 10, 2025



Submitted by: Dale Jensen, Election Committee Chair

This year, Candidates Night will be held on Thursday, October 16th from 7 pm to 9 pm. This event provides you with an in-person opportunity to hear each candidate's thoughts, proposals, plans and goals for the future of the Rotonda West Association. During this event, you will also have the opportunity to question the candidates.

If you have a question you would like to ask a candidate, you have three options available to you.

- 1. You can send your written question to the Election Committee at: electioncommittee@rotondawest.org.
- 2. You can drop it off at the RWA Office
- 3. You can attend the event and ask your question in person

If you choose to submit a written question, please provide your name and address. If you want your question directed to a specific candidate, please include that candidate's name with the question. We only need your name and address to verify ownership and that information will be kept confidential.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 10, 2025.

If you would like to know more about the candidates, their Candidate Information Sheets are located on the following pages in this newsletter. They are also available on the RWA website under the RWA Elections heading on the main menu (RWA Elections-Rotonda West), or you can obtain a copy from the RWA office. You will also be receiving a copy in the Annual Meeting notice that will be mailed, or if you have chosen to vote electronically, e-mailed to you.

Thank you.



Jerry R Eldred

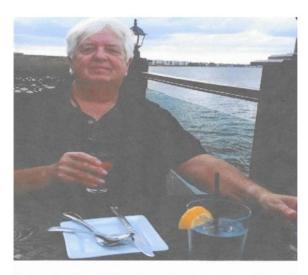
My wife Barbara, and I moved to Rotonda Westen10 years ago. We picked this area for its attractiveness, limited traffic and very low crime rate. We are permanent year-round residents we love our place in paradise. Barb and I are blessed with a blended family of seven adult children and six grandchildren.

If elected this will be my final term, I have served one three year term and a vacated one year term, this will be my last term ,you can contact me at jreldred1449@gmail.com, g376201865 or visit my website at Jerry Eldred RWA Board Member, I encourage you to sign up.

As for my background I grew up in a small rural town in Northcentral Pennsylvania. After high school graduation I attended Corning Community College in Corning NY and entered the United States Air force in 1970. Receiving an honorable discharge.

I decided to become active in our community when I began learning about taxes being levied on residents living in Rotonda West through the county MSBU District, I firmly believe that our tax dollars are to be spent wisely on projects that will benefit the entire community. I understood the need of improving our roads, drains and Our boulevard sidewalks are paid by Gas Tax funds. I promised to be open and work for the community and I will continue to do so. I want to be pro active when it comes to fines in our community, reducing the types of fines and amounts. I have no hidden agenda; I want to help ensure the quality of life in our community. Sometimes as a board member you have to make difficult the community and I will continue to do so. I want to be pro active when it comes to fines in our community, reducing the types of fines and amounts. I have no hidden agenda; I want to help ensure the quality of life in our community. Sometimes as a board member you have to make difficult decisions and when I have to, I try to make ones that are best for the entire community.

Education



Masters in Arts: Public Administration, Akron University

Bachelor of Arts in Parks and Natural Resources Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

EXPERIENCE

Executive Director Miami County Park District, Miami County Ohio, Retired (Jan. 1991-2012)

The position I retired from and loved the most was the Miami County Park District. I feel humbled that I was able to work for a governmental agency that was recognized nationwide as being unique. As a Park District in Ohio, we were created by the State Legislator in 1917, our Ohio residents may be familiar with Metro Parks found around the state. The Miami County Park District and all Metro parks are each governed by their own three-member Board of Park Commissioners In order to be a successful Park District in Ohio you must gain voter approval by passing property tax mileage levies. We successfully passed three voter approved levies, during my 20+ years. When I left the district had 13 parks and 2,500 acres, we started with 3 parks and 600 acres. The districts primary mission is natural resource management.

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City of Alliance, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public lands, 13 years

Candidate Information Statement

Name Gwen Grace

Email Address gweng1999@yahoo.com

Phone 201-317-2317

Born and raised on Long Island, NY, I was the only daughter with three brothers. Dennis and I have been married for over 50 years. We settled in beautiful Sussex County NJ. We owned an electrical contracting company for 41 years. I was also a Property Manager for a local developer and after achieving my college degree, I worked in International Sales for a small



chemical company in Paterson NJ. In 2008 we bought a second home in South Gulf Cove and were snowbirds for eight years. After retiring in 2016 we sold our NJ house and decided to live in a mandatory HOA community. In 2017 we found our house in the Pinehurst section.

EDUCATION

Associate's degree in business administration from Sussex Community College Bachelor's degree in business administration; major in Marketing/minor in International Marketing from Ramapo College

EXPERIENCE

Besides my work experience, I was a volunteer with Girl Scouts in NJ for 25 years from troop leader to the Board of Directors. I held the position of President for five years with one council and when three councils merged in 2007 to form the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, I held the President's position for another 5 years. The council had four camps, three administrative offices, a budget more than \$6 million and over 30,000 girl members.

In Rotonda West I was a member of the RWA Budget and Finance Committee from January 2021 to December 2022. Joined Activities Committee in 2019 which is now the Community Outreach Committee and co-chaired the 2021 Christmas Parade. While with the Community Outreach Committee I have chaired the RWA Open House and the Shred Hunger Day events. I also organized the "Meet the Charlotte County Candidates" night in July 2024. I am willing to lend a hand with whatever event the RWA presents including Bingo, ice cream socials and community events.

I am the Past President of GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club and author a monthly article for the club in "Westways." I am also a member of Neighborhood Watch.

SUMMARY

I am proud to be a Rotonda West resident. Working together we can continue to protect, maintain, and enhance our neighborhood. There are challenges that Rotonda West faces with continued growth and I want to be a director who listens to the members' concerns, makes well thought out decisions with short- and long-term goals and keeps Rotonda West financially strong.

Debra Orchard deborchard16@gmail.com 419-222-8184



Background:

My husband, Tim and I both grew up in Ohio, moving here in 2017. We have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. For nearly 30-years I worked as an insurance adjuster in the auto, home and commercial liability sector, ending my career as a Litigation Specialist. In retirement, along with enjoying travel and spending time with and friends, I worked as a substitute classroom aide in an autism unit and also served as a church Trustee.

Recent Volunteer Experience:

2018 – current: member of Amvets 777 Ladies' Auxiliary, now 1st Vice President.

2019 - current: Big Brothers/Big Sisters reading buddy.

2021 – current: Chair of RWA Community Outreach Committee

2024 – current: RWA Board of Director (last fall, board members unanimously voted for

me complete the term of Director Metz, following his death)

2024 - RWA Volunteer of the Year.

Why I want to Serve:

To "Pay It Forward" by making good, sound and logical decisions on behalf of all our residents. Decisions which not only affect our community right now, but also long-term. I enjoy working with our residents, volunteers, current board and our RWA staff. All of whom benefit from the decisions we make as your Board of Directors.

My Goals for Rotonda:

To help lead Rotonda into the future. Making those good sound decisions on behalf of all our residents. From decisions on updates and improvements to our infrastructure, to maintaining what is already here. All of this while keeping our HOA fees affordable. I'm very proud of our wonderful community and if elected will be proud to continue serving you.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Scott D. Schermerhorn BA, MS, MPS, RS, CAM

Name: Schermerhorn, Scott D.

Email: Scott.Schermerhorn@charlottecountyfl.gov

Phone: 740-503-4656



My fellow neighbors, It is my humble request that you consider my application to become a member of the board of directors for the RWA. I have previously served in this position providing leadership and success for our community. After taking some time to reflect on personal matters, and serve residents of Charlotte County, I am ready to focus again on serving Rotonda West. Please see a limited biography which demonstrates that public service has always been a focus of my life and that my work has been to benefit the community. As a resident of RWA for 17 + years I will continue to strive to improve our community.

Professional Objective: To succeed in a position that involves professional customer service and where my skills in analysis, application of law, problem solving, stakeholder service, organization communication, and long-term policy implementation are utilized, improved, and refined. **Education:**

Master of Arts in Political Science - Public Administration, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 2002 Master of Science in Biology, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio, 1990

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, Alfred University, Alfred, New York, 1988

Ohio Police Officers Training Academy, Office of the Attorney General, London Ohio 1991 **Employment Experience:**

2015 - Pres - Director Charlotte County Division of Mosquito and Aquatic Weed Control

2014 - 2014 - Rotonda West HOA - Administrative Assistant due to employee surgical recovery t

2013 – 2014 - Florida Department of Highway and Motorists Safety BAR Supervisor

2011 - 2011 - Florida Dept of Health Acting Environmental Health Administrator

2007 – 2011- Florida Dept. of Health, Environmental Supervisor

1994 - 2007 - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Investigator.

2004 - 2007 - Sugar Grove Police Department, Dep. Chief of Police, 2005- 2007 Chief of Police

1999 - 2008 - Vinton County Sheriffs Office Special Deputy

1991 - 1999 - Fairfield County Sheriffs Office Special Deputy

Additional Employment Related Experience:

2020 - Pres - Member Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control, FDACS

2010 - 2015 - Board of Directors Rotonda West Association Offices of Director,

Secretary and Vice President

2008 - 2014 - Marine Advisory Committeeman to BCC Charlotte Co. Fl.

2008 - 2014 - Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU to BCC Charlotte Co. Fl

2008 - 2014 - Englewood West Streets & Drainage to BCC Charlotte Co. Fl

2009 - 2010 - Charlotte County Health Dept Safety Officer for H1N1 vaccination pgm.



RWA COMMITTEES AT WORKMEETING SCHEDULE



ALL MEETINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

COMMITTEE	DAY	<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.



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, August 14, 2025 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

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

ABSENT: Peter Traverso

Management: Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

Members: Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Barb Peszko, Dale Jensen, Karen Hoover, Randy Keller, Maureen Mc Dowell, Nadine Clough, Cheryl Lateer, (Zoom), Amanda Stuever, Astrid DiMattia, Jenny Bulle, Kent & Bonnie Anselment, Maria Bussiere, Steve Gray

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was said.

Director Orchard moved the Board to approve the BOD Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2025, and the BOD/Election Committee Workshop Minutes for July 10, 2025. Motion 2nd by Director Eldred. Motion Unanimously Approved.

MEMBERS INPUT (Agenda Items)

None.

<u>President's Update:</u> Andy Van Scyoc

Treasurer's Report: Director Besase

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

<u>Manager's Report</u>: Derrick Hedges, Manager Hedges provided the Board with an update on the projects that staff have been working on.

<u>Deed Restrictions Violations</u>: Kelsey Stewart, Administrator





Manager Hedges stated that there are violations listed in the Board Packet for approval. A motion to levy fines on members for violations listed numbers 1 through 87. If confirmed by the Compliance Committee, these fines shall be automatically imposed.

Director Harvey motioned to approve the Deed Restriction Violations and director Besase 2nd the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Administration/Personnel</u> – President Van Scyoc (Chair)

No Report.

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

No Report.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Besase (Chair)

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

Community Outreach - Deb Orchard (Chair)

Director Orchard stated that they did not have a quorum at their last meeting so there was no vote or report to update. There are two things that need to be taken care of, but one that needs addressed this month. It is time to renew the contract with Westways and would like to renew that with Nadine Clough. There will not be a change in her fee 2024-2025 to do 2025-2026. Director Orchard made a motion to renew the contract and Director Eldred 2nd the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

<u>Compliance</u> – 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.

Director Besase made a motion to approve the four (4) candidates, Jerry Eldred, Gwen Grace, Deb Orchard and Scott Schermerhorn, for the two (2) open Board of Directors positions, pending a criminal background check and verification that each candidate is an RWA member in good standing by RWA office and Director Harvey 2nd the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.



RW

NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MEMBERS INPUT (Non-Agenda Items)

Randy Keller 29 Sportsman Ln. He wanted to know if there were any update from the County, State and/or homeowner replacing the pool cages or enforcing security barriers around the pool. Manager Hedges said it is a law by the State and County for security barriers for safety and liabilities issues. Trying to get the members within the State and County guideline and RWA guideline but the HOA cannot demand that they install a fence, they can only set approval for types of fencing that are allowed. RWA Association is trying to get the homeowner to take down the temporary barriers or fences that are unsightly.

RESPONSE TO MEMBER'S INPUT

None.

DIRECTOR INPUT

Director Orchard stated that there was no standard operating procedure for the use of Constant Contact through Committee Outreach. Through the outreach committee have their own set, but there has never been one for the HOA. Want to put in place a standard operating procedure for the use of Constant Contact doing advertising. I would like to put a focus group to come up with the guideline. President Van Scyoc stated that it was an excellent idea.

President Van Scyoc thanked everybody for coming out and will see everyone at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Next Board Meeting: 11 Sept 2025, 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Huffman Minutes Clerk
Attachments:
Agenda, Minutes, Reports



Photo compliments of Wayne Mengel





NOVEMBER

- 11/3, 11/10, 11/17: Monday, 10 am: Pilates Mat Class
- 11/4, 11/12, 11/13, 11/17, 11/19, 11/20, (11/21 Admin Office): Christmas Indoor Decorating (See RWA Calendar for times)
- 11/4 Tuesday, 6:30 pm: MUSIC BINGO with Tina & Jim
- 11/5 Wednesday, 4– 5:30 pm: Music in the Park w/ Lemon Bay H.S. Jazz Band (indoors)
- 11/5 Wednesday, 5-8 pm: Mix & Mingle Happy Hour at Rotonda Community Park
- 11/6 Thursday, 6-8 pm: RWA Open House
- 11/7 & 11/8 Friday & Saturday, 9 am 5pm: Community Wide Garage Sale (**11/9 Rain Date**)
- 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28 Friday, 10 am: Tai Chi (11/7 & 11/28 outdoors)
- 11/8 Saturday, 9 am- 1:30 pm: GFWC Holiday Bazaar
- 11/11 Community Center CLOSED for the Holiday
- 11/12 Wednesday, 2 pm: *How to Florida*, w/David Smith, Charlotte County Lands Manager
- 11/15 Saturday, 9 am: Walk to End Alzheimer's in Broadmoor Park
- 11/16 Sunday, 12:15 pm-4 pm: RWA BINGO (Starts promptly at 1 pm)
- 11/19 Wednesday, 11:30 am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (TBA)
- 11/20 Thursday, 6:30-8:30 pm: Trivia Night w/ Tim (Doors Open at 6 pm)
- 11/25 Tuesday, 5-8 pm: Mix & Mingle Potluck Dinner
- 11/27 & 11/28, RWA OFFICE & COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
- 11/29 Saturday, 9-11 AM: Nature Walk at Broadmoor Park w/ Dr. Bill Dunson
- 11/29 Saturday, 4-7 pm: Gazebo Christmas Lighting & Boat Parade



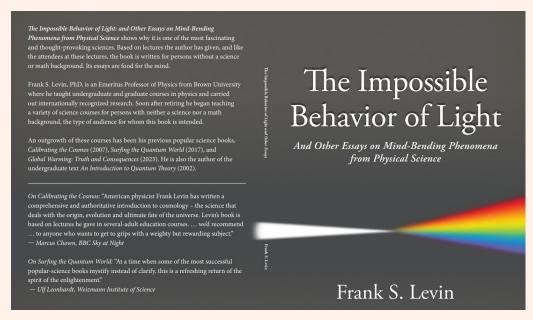
ROTONDA LECTURER & AUTHOR, DR. FRANK LEVIN RELEASES NEW BOOK

BY: NADINE CLOUGH

It has been a few years since Dr. Frank Levin gave a lecture at Rotonda Community Center, but the 92 year-old former Brown University physics professor has been busy. He has recently released a new book, <u>The Impossible Behavior of Light</u>. It is based on his 90-minute lectures delivered at the RW Community Center. He states that it is short, with many diagrams and tables, and that it was published by Amazon.

Dr. Levin's lectures series included: Symmetry in Nature-Art and the Laws of Nature; Atoms are Real, Aren't They?; The Most Important Minus Sign in the Universe; Global Warming—Truth & Consequences; and The Impossible Behavior of Light. The lectures reflected Dr. Levin's love of the science of physics and the importance of life-long learning. For those people who faithfully attended his lectures, our minds were indeed stretched by his analytical scientific explanations on the topics covered.

His resume is impressive. He has worked on several postdoctoral scientific research projects, has been a visiting professor all over the world, has chaired various scientific groups, and has written three popular science books. Now, The Impossible Behavior of Light, is added to the list.



Above: The book jacket from Dr. Levin's latest book.



STATUE OF LIBERTY COMES TO ROTONDA WEST

By. Sam Besase





This **Statue of Liberty** is soon to be located at the new <u>Liberty Island</u> in Rotonda West, Florida – near the Gazebo that is located at approximately 108 Boundary Boulevard. Thanks to residents Todd Talley and Phyliss Stewart who live on Medalist Court, for the recent donation of this beautiful 8-foot-tall Statue of Liberty. As the picture shows, this Statue of Liberty stood in the front courtyard of the **Crescent Hotel in Eureka Springs**, **Arkansas** hotel for well over 100 years.

The **Crescent Hotel** became known as one of the most haunted places in the United States, thanks to Norman Baker. The man purchased the building in 1937 and decided to open a hospital and health spa for cancer patients. He was a charlatan and had no medical education but managed to attract dozens of patients over the course of about 10 years by advertising miraculous treatments. He eventually was jailed for fraud.

The **Crescent Hotel** is known as the most haunted hotel in the United States, and there have been several reports of paranormal activities in the building. People often say they see ghosts of doctors, nurses, patients, and even pets. The most haunted spot is Room 218, the same place that the stonemason building the hotel fell to death thus resulting in the first of many deaths at this hotel.

This lithograph painting shall be placed in the RWA Community Center along with this brief history related to this Statue of Liberty and the Crescent Hotel.



The view is looking at the main entrance to the Crescent Hotel, circa 1926, almost 100 years ago in Eureka Springs, AR. <u>The Statue of Liberty</u> and the Crescent Hotel were both constructed in 1886, about <u>140 years ago</u>.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS



By Sam Besase

- PAVING Rotonda West PAVING began on MONDAY July 21, 2025. \$17 million
- PAVING started in the PINE VALLEY section and work counter-clockwise (White Marsh & Broadmoor, etc.); each section takes about 4-6 weeks.
- MSBU PAVING BY RWA SECTIONS: AJAX PAVING VENICE OFFICE
- PROJECTED PAVING SCHEDULE-Subject to weather & equipment & manpower delays/ issues
- PINE VALLEY MOSTLY COMPLETED PUNCH LIST REMAINING ITEMS
 WHITE MARSH MOSTLY COMPLETED PUNCH LIST REMAINING ITEMS
 LONG MEADOW MOSTLY COMPLETED PUNCH LIST REMAINING ITEMS
- BROADMOOR SHOULD COMPLETE BY 10/6 PUNCH LIST REMAINING ITEMS
- PINEHURST SHOULD START BY MID OCTOBER
- Future issues of WEST WAYS shall include the projected start/finish for the remaining 2 RWA sections.
- Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is James Layport and his phone number is: 941-628-8084
- PERHAPS 30-45 DAY Paving schedule slips due to Weather & Equipment & Manpower issues.
- ROTONDA BRIDGE #13 ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH UPDATE:
- Some important movement Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit process is now out for
 30 days of PUBLIC COMMENT, ending in late September, perhaps permit issued in late October.
- FEMA negotiations have started, and a report was provided to FEMA including updated project costs of about \$1.8M (vs \$1.1M 3 years ago), a 64% cost increase.
- Bid specification is ready to go out for bid, must wait for ACOE permit perhaps November!
- Bid close perhaps Jan 2026, County Commissioners award contract perhaps 1Q 2026
- Construction start perhaps 2Q 2026, completion expected 10-12 months later Dec. 2026???
- Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Rotonda Boulevard East NOW scheduled for installation 1Q 2026.
- Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Ingram/Ingraham are also to be installed in the 1Q 2026.
- Rotonda Bridges Rehabilitation Status: Bridge #106 Long Meadow, expected to be completed by 10/03/2025; Bridge #060 – Oakland Hills, expected to be completed by 10/18/2025
- Remaining 4 bridges, (#110-#111-#112-#123) are scheduled for summer/fall of 2026.

Charlotte County Emergency Management has installed COLLARS around most of the STOP signs. The COLLARS near the bottom of the STOP, are color coded and the color indicates the evacuation zone for that area and it includes a LETTER designation in addition to the COLOR designation. Go to Charlotte County Emergency Management website for more detailed information.

The regular quarterly Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU meeting was held on Thursday September 25, 2025, at 9:30am at the San Casa Road (DMV) Charlotte County facility.

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



DIET IS A POWERFUL ANTI-AGING TOOL

A Health & Wellness Presentation

Article and Photo by: Connie Smith



If you want to live longer, pay attention to your dinner plate, because you "can't out-exercise a bad diet," says Diane Casey. The licensed dietitian, nutritionist and health coach discussed "Eating for Longevity" before a large crowd, September 25, at the Rotonda Community Center.

Based upon the whole-food plant-based diet advocacy of Michael Gregor, M.D. FACLM, author of, "How Not to Age," Casey discussed the eight anti-aging principles of food consumption:

1. Nuts

- Although walnuts are king, include almonds, cashews, peanuts, hazelnuts and Brazil nuts daily.
- Because nuts are high in calories and fat, watch your portion size, limit servings to 10 walnut halves,
 13 cashews, 17 almonds and 25 peanuts. Never eat more than one cup of nuts per day due to oxalate content and potential for kidney stone formation.

2. Greens

- Leafy greens, including spinach, kale, arugula, beet and mustard greens, chard and cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cabbage, bok choy, brussels sprouts, add fiber, phytonutrients and antioxidants which decrease inflammation.
- The nitrates in these foods, dilate blood vessels and thereby lowering blood pressure.

3. Berries

 The nutrients in these berries help to improve memory and slow cognitive decline, repair DNA damage, provide vascular benefits, defend against cancer, improve insulin sensitivity.

4. Probiotics & Postbiotics

- Probiotics are fibers found in beans and lentils or intact grains like oats and barley. These fibers
 we ingest feed the good bacteria in our gut.
- Postbiotics enhancers are fermented foods (kimchi, sauerkraut, miso, tempeh, kombucha, plantbased kefir); they reduce inflammation, strengthen gut barrier, improve insulin sensitivity, support immune regulation.
- · Both prevent color cancer.

5. Caloric Restriction

- A whole-food, plant-based diet is naturally low calorie and nutrient rich.
- Reducing your daily intake by as little as 300 calories between meals can put you on the road to lowering inflammation and slowing down metabolic pathways relating to aging. Aging adults should also consider restricting protein to 54 to 68 g. per day for a 150 lb. person. Animal protein spikes IGF far greater than plant protein.

Continued...



6. **Protein Restriction** (especially animal protein)

- Reduce animal protein to less than 4 oz. a day or eliminate; Beans, lentils, tofu or tempeh for balanced plant protein; prioritize legumes over protein powders.
- Excess protein (especially animal protein) accelerates aging; animal protein spikes IGF-1, plant protein does not.

7. **Xenohormesis** (plant stress compounds)

- Colorful, bitter or pungent foods are richest in polyphenols, such as spices, herbs, teas, dark berries, coca and crucifers; when we eat them, they strengthen our resilience.
- Examples are grape skins and peanuts (resveratrol), apples and onions (quercetin), turmeric (curcumin), green tea (catechins) and broccoli sprouts (sulforaphane).

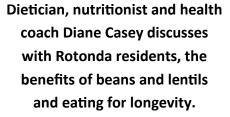
8. NAD+

 NAD is an important component found in every cell in the body. By middle age, the amount is reduced by as much as 50%. NAD can be boosted naturally with exercise, telework restriction, fasting and a plant-based diet.

Casey counseled those in attendance, "eat whole foods. Eat in response to hunger. Move your body. Prioritize deep sleep. It's so important as we age. Diet is so most powerful. It's never too late. You can see an improvement in as little as two weeks. There's immense power in a healthy life."









FUN & GAMES

Article & Picture by: Rita Lopienski

On the rainy evening of September 17th, 30 residents joined in a fun night of Circus Trivia with Time. Four large tables competed and it was an ever-so-close game! In the end, a new combined group, "THE GIRLS RULE" beat out the most recent defenders of the title. Pictured below.

There is a trophy kept on display in the Community Center showing the monthly winning team.

BEGINNING IN OCTOBER 2025, TRIVIA WITH TIM WILL MOVE TO THE 3RD THURSDAY EACH MONTH. GAMES BEGINS SHARPLY AT 6:30 PM, SO GET THERE A LITTLE EARLY TO GET YOUR TEAM SIGNED UP AND READY



THE GIRLS RULE!

SEPTEMBER TRIVIA WINNERS!





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025



Theme: Rocking Around the Christmas Tree Parade

A 50's & 60's Rock 'n' Roll Celebration

CHECK OUT THE RWA WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

This year golf carts may be entered!

Presented by the RWA Community Outreach Committee





Andy Vanscyoc sung the National Anthem

MUSIC IN THE PARK OPEN MIC NIGHT A SUCCESS!

PICTURES AND ARTICLE BY: RITA LOPIENSKI



Emcee Rita Lopienski played "Ave Maria"

September 24th was a 1st time ever "OPEN MIC NIGHT" for Rotonda. Luckily, it was planned for indoors, because it was 90 degrees outside. Nine different acts displayed Rotonda West's talent and spirit!



Rotonda Ukulele Band members, Ron, Ken, Ann, Nadine, Wendy, and Mike, got the show off to a great start



Charlie Shelton entertained with non-stop jokes



Michael Meehan, guitarist/ singer did a touching Irish song



Sam Besase did a fun country song on karaoke



Poet & Author Tammy Usher shared her poetry



Anthony Gravano had the audience laughing with his stand-up comedy



Soundman, Wayne Barber, closed the night with Sweet Caroline



Community Outreach Nature Committee presents

All About Alligators

Wednesday 10/22/25, 2pm: Robert Pasquali, Charlotte County Lands Manager



Legal Status: The American alligator is classified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as federally protected but allows state-approved management and control programs. in Florida Alligators can be legally taken only by individuals with proper permits.

Diet: Alligators are opportunistic feeders. Juvenile alligators eat primarily insects, amphibians, small fish, and other invertebrates. Adult alligators eat rough fish, snakes, turtles, small mammals, and birds.

Distribution: Alligators occur from Oklahoma and Texas to North Carolina and Florida. They prefer fresh water lakes and slow-moving rivers and their associated wetlands, but they also can be found in brackish water habitats.

Size: Female alligators rarely exceed 10 feet but males can grow up to 15 feet.

Reproduction: Alligators become sexually mature when they reach approximately 7 feet in length, which for a female is 10-15 years and a male 8-12 years. Courtship begins in April, and mating occurs in May or June. Females build a mound nest and deposit an average of 32 to 46 eggs in late June or early July. Incubation requires 63-68 days, and hatching occurs from mid-August through early September.

Survival: About 1/3 of alligator nests are destroyed by predators or flooding. The average clutch size is 38 and an estimated 24 live hatchlings will emerge. Only 10 alligator hatchlings will live to one year. Of these yearlings, 8 will become subadults (reach 4 feet in length). The number of subadults that reach maturity (6 feet in length) is approximately 5.

For more information see: https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/alligator/facts/

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



GARDEN TIP FOR OCTOBER

Article & Photos by: Ann Weaver Master Gardener

Three Tricky Sennas for your Butterfly Garden

Want to have a band of yellow butterflies swirling through your garden? The cooler weather brings the Cloudless Sulphur, the Sleepy Orange and even the Little Yellow butterflies if you have a trio of their host plants, the sennas, to feed their caterpillars.

The Bahama senna (Senna Mexicana var. *(chapmanii)* is a short-lived (3-5 years) native shrub that grows to 3-5 feet. Its feathery leaves are evergreen, and it does well in full sun or part shade. This is an excellent pollinator plant, and, in our area, it features yellow blooms all year. Part of the legume family, it produces seed pods, which turn brown. Harvest them to share with neighbors or let them grow where they fall. The Bahama senna attracts our solitary native bees and bumble bees as well as many butterflies.

A very similar native shrub is the Privet senna (Senna Ligustrina), also a host plant for those yellow butterflies. This long-lived perennial has a more pointed leaf than Bahama and can reach 8 feet high and 3-6 feet wide. Same buttery yellow flowers and seed pods. This is a "short-day" plant, requiring a longer period of dark to form its flowers, so it blooms from September to late spring. It will self-seed and tiny privets will appear in your yard.

What makes these two sennas tricky? A gland at the base of its leaves attracts ants that will feed on caterpillars, resulting in fewer butterflies. (source: Florida Wildflower Foundation, Florida Native Plant Society) Some caterpillars do escape the ants. In my yard, both sennas are grown for their appeal to nectar-loving butterflies and bees. To ensure the many yellow butterflies, I add one trickier senna.



Cloudless Sulphur caterpillar



Cloudless Sulphur butterfly (internet photo)



The third tricky senna is Senna alata or Candlestick plant which is native to Mexico and the West Indies. (Some of the non-native sennas are considered invasive, but the alata is easily managed by removing the large seed pods). This is a fast-growing tree, 8 feet tall and wide. It thrives in full sun and likes well drained loamy soil. The enormous leaves are rounded. The heavy branches can break in a storm so aggressive pruning in winter is recommended and results in more blooming. The flowers look like bright yellow candlesticks and are present all year.

This senna is the key to having MANY yellow butterflies. Having all three sennas in my garden, I have seen that the butterflies are most often on the Senna alata laying their eggs. How do they know about the ants on the Bahama and Privet? This time of year, there are many caterpillars feasting on the alata. The plants are so large, the leaf damage is not noticeable. If the caterpillars eat the blossoms, they are yellow; if they eat the leaves, they are green. The Senna alata is well known for its medicinal uses in treating ringworm,



Bahama senna, native host plant for Sulphur butterflies. Note the rounded leaves.



Senna alata, best host plant for Sulphur butterflies with its candlestick flowers and large leaves.



Privet senna leaves are pointed.

Blooms in the cooler months.

Note the seed pods.





Community Outreach
Committee Presents

2025-2026 Season

September 21st October 19th November 16th December 21st January 18th February 15th March 15th April 19th May 17th 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@roton dawest.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 Nature Committee Presents:



ALL ABOUT ALLIGATORS

October 22, 2025, Wednesday 2pm 646 Rotonda Circle Robert Pasquali, Charlotte County Natural Resources Lands Manager

Have questions? Join us to become informed about our wildlife neighbor!

- · Federally protected but can be legally taken with proper permits
- · Opportunistic feeders, mostly fish, snakes, turtles, birds, small mammals
- · Female alligators can exceed 10 feet, males 14 feet in length
- · Alligators can run up to 11 mph
- · Alligators can hold their breath under water up to 2 hours
- · Breeding season is April-June
- · Hatching occurs August-September
- The average alligator lifespan is 30-50 years

For more information see: https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/alligator/facts/

If you're concerned about an alligator, call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-392-4286

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









FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7th
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8TH
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY NOV. 9TH
9 AM-5 PM
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 FALL
COMMUNITY
GARAGE SALE
Friday 11/7 and
Saturday 11/8
9am-5pm

RAIN DATE:

SUNDAY 11/9



GET RID OF SOME "STUFF" AND MAKE SOME MONEY!

The 3rd Annual Fall Community Garage Sale sponsored by the RWA and the Community Outreach Committee is coming up soon!

RWA members and renters are welcome to participate on both days with a third day Sunday, 11/9 as the rain date.

A GARAGE SALE PARTICIPATION FORM is posted on the RW 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.

DEADLINE FOR SIGN – UP: OCTOBER 26TH 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 w/questions

The last Community Garage Sale was a great success!

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski, Community Committee Garage Sale Lead





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



OCTOBER 2025



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club started our club season at our General Membership meeting by inviting two of the four HOBY Leadership students from Lemon Bay High School to speak about their experience. Every year our club donates the funds to support the cost of sending four high school students to an amazing weekend

conference. Since 1958 HOBY's mission has been to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and innovation. Pictured are Karen Lambert, chair of RWWC scholarships, school advisor, two students, school advisor and Gloria Rogoski, Club President.

To support our Scholarship program, our Education and Library Community Service Program chairs are having a fun fundraiser on **Sunday**, **October 6**th at the Rotonda West Community Center. The fun and easy game **"SHOW ME THE MONEY"** will be held starting at 1pm. For more information see the flyer below.

The wonderful residents of Rotonda West have generously donated to the blood drives that the club has. Our next **blood drive** will be on **Thursday, October 23**rd.

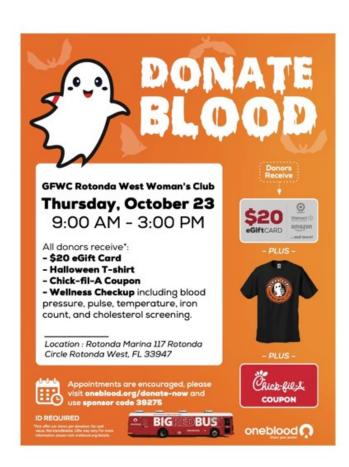
Save the date for our Annual Holiday Bazaar featuring cookies by the pound, bake sale, beautiful crafts and holiday gifts, Santa and Gingerbread Village for the children. Held the second **Saturday of November, please circle the 8**th on your calendar so you do not miss this amazing fundraiser. Your support is so important to our ability to continue to give to our local community.

Looking ahead: The 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's will once again take place at beautiful Broadmoor Park on Saturday, November 15th. This event is in collaboration with the RW Community Outreach Committee. This year looks to be even bigger than previous years!



Our next **General Meeting is on Thursday, October 16**th at RWA Community Center. The social meeting 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.







Rotonda West Woman's Club



Get ready for a fun and lively afternoon while raising & donating funds for college scholarships for our local students.

Show Me the Money!

Sunday, October 26, 2025 Doors Open 1:30 p.m. ~ Games Begin 2:00 p.m. RWA Clubhouse ~ 646 Rotonda Blvd., Rotonda, FL

Opportunity Drawings ~ 50/50 ~ \$1.00 Per Game Strip The pots will be split 60/40 ~ Refreshments Served No credit cards accepted - Please bring dollar bills

GPWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is an all volunteer 901 (c)(3) non-profit service organization 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 lover, respect and kindness for all.

A copy of our official registration & financial information by the obtained from the Div of Consumer Services by calling foil free 1-100-HELP-PLA or coline.

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

Registration No.: CH1833



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.



JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING - Charlotte County

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Rotonda West, Englewood, Port Charlotte, Charlotte County Friends, Families, Caregivers

When: Saturday, November 15, 2025 Registration 8:30, Walk 9:00

Where: Broadmoor Park, 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West 33947

<u>We're registered under the Sarasota Walk</u> <u>Registration & Donation address: act.alz.org/goto/rotondawest</u>

Questions: Kathryn Gallagher ROTONDA WEST TEAM kathryngal@yahoo.com alz.org/walk











Protecting Rotonda West since 1981



It is with a heavy heart that I am sharing a difficult experience that I hope will prevent others from falling victim to a similar crime. Over the past year, one of our residents was scammed out of over **several million dollars in cash and gold**. This wasn't a simple case of online fraud; it was a sophisticated, year-long con that preyed on their trust and fear. Scammers go to great lengths to create an illusion of authority and legitimacy, which is exactly what happened.

The scammers used what appeared to be legitimate FBI credentials, official-looking cars, delivery service (like Uber and Lyft) and secret code words to manipulate trust over time. They are professional criminals. This isn't a simple case of a "scammer," but a complex criminal enterprise that requires a coordinated response. They were so convincing that they made even our most experienced CCSO deputies question their own "scammer-detecting skills."

I'm sharing this as a critical warning. Please be vigilant. If a supposed government agent ever asks you for cash, gold, or gift cards, it is a scam. Legitimate law enforcement agencies will never demand money in this way. Don't be fooled by official-looking vehicles or credentials—these criminals are getting better and better at faking them.

Report any perceived scam to CCSO at 941-639-2101.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...





My hope is that by sharing this story, we can save at least one other person from this of devastating loss. Don't let embarrassment or shame stop you from reporting this. By coming forward, you are providing crucial information that could help law enforcement stop them from targeting someone else.



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

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

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



Scan Here for More Information

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

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

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook page: Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

Our next meeting is October 21st at 10am at the RWA Community Center.





OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, November 6th 6:00-8:00 pm

RWA COMMUNITY CENTER, 646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

Enjoy some wine and cheese and enter our raffle while seeing what our area has to offer.

Meet service organizations, community groups, local nonprofits, government agencies and the Rotonda West committees.

Learn the many ways you can get involved, have questions answered and meet your Rotonda West neighbors.

Welcome RWA property owners and residents..

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.

No pets.





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Sheryl Ann Nowicki

Administrator

Kelsey Stewart
Administrator

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Aquatics

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Wayne Taylor
Dale Anderson
Craig Brown
Doug Smith

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL STAFF

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