

# WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,238 Rotonda Residents

JANUARY 2026



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

## RWA ELECTION RESULTS

**DEB ORCHARD & GWEN GRACE ELECTED TO  
ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

DEB  
ORCHARD



GWEN  
GRACE



Dale Jensen

On Thursday, December 4, 2026, at the RWA Annual Meeting, the election results were announced by Election Committee Chairman Dale Jensen (on left). Welcomed to the Board of Directors were Deb Orchard, and Gwen Grace. The rollover of year-end excess funds was passed.



## RWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

Left to Right: Sam Besase, Gwen Grace, Andy VanScyoc, Karen Harvey, David Kelly, Deb Orchard. Peter Traverso not pictured.

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

## NEWSLETTER SECTIONS

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CALENDARS

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WOMAN'S CLUB

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EVENTS

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

# ELECTRONIC VOTING MAKES A SUCCESSFUL DEBUT IN ROTONDA ELECTION



Submitted by Dale Jensen, Election Committee Chair

## 2025 RWA Election Results:

The Election Committee is pleased to announce that in the first year of its availability 1,970 RWA members chose to vote electronically. Adding the 447 mail-in ballots and the 4 in-person ballots to the e-votes, we arrive at a grand total of 2,421 members who voted this year. That represents an increase of 548 votes over the average for the past 4 years.

The committee offers its congratulations to our new Directors, Gwen Grace and Deb Orchard, and wants to thank everyone who voted this year.

The results of the voting are as follows:

### ROLLOVER OF EXCESS MEMBERSHIP INCOME FROM 2025-2026

FOR: 2,303

OPPOSED: 91

### DIRECTOR CANDIDATES:

JERRY ELDRED	1032
GWEN GRACE	1069
DEB ORCHARD	1226
SCOTT SCHERMERHORN	874

Votes tabulated and validated by McMillan, Whiteman & Associates PLLC (Certified Public Accountants)



# 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.



# ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andy Van Scyoc

Karen Harvey

Sam Besase

Deb Orchard

David Kelly

Peter Traverso

Gwen Grace

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SECRETARY

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

### Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2025

### MINUTES

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

**ABSENT:**

**Management:** Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

**Members:** Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Rita Lopinski, Barb Peszko, Bob Clough, Nadine, Clough, Bob Bonderson, Linda Paquette, RoseAnne Woodliff, Randy Keller, Ton D'Abrosca, Ann Marie D'Abrosca, Colleen Koppen Haver, Donna Duffy, Lorraine Leonard, Patrick Muldoon, Karen Hoover, Dale Jensen, Matthew Brady, Maureen McDowell. (Zoom) Amanda Stuever, Cheryl Lateer, Dave Wagner, Francine Finucan, Jenny Bulle, Melissa Simone, 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 Harvey moved the Board to approve the BOD Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2025, and the Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Eldred. Motion Unanimously Approved.

#### MEMBERS INPUT (Agenda Items)

Rita Lopinski – 252 Rotonda West. A Member of the COC and is part of the Health and Wellness committee. Three-years COC started the Health and Wellness program. Last year we added a Thia Chi Class, and this year added a Pilates class. We have been offered to have a Yin Yoga class, and some members would like it added to the Health and Wellness group, which would be three times a month. Ms. Lopinski stated that women do not like to go to the gym because gyms are too far away, cost a lot of money and they are intimidated by men, and they feel the Community Center is a safe quite space. We want our Rotonda West members to be healthy and would like to see this program offered and think this would be a good additional program to add. Linda Paquette – 49 White Marsh, Ms. Paquette addressed the Board to support the Health and Wellness program of Yin Yoga that is currently up for the Board of Directors approval to add the third exercise class. The activities that the COC offer are good programs for the community and would like to see Yin Yoga class added to the program. If the Board is reluctant to pass the motion for the Yin Yoga class to be added permanently then (continued)



## BOD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

would they consider making it temporary and try it out for six months and reevaluate it. Terry Wagner – 204 Sportsman Rd. I did attend the Yin Yoga a couple of weeks ago and would like to add "my voice" in support of the program. Being a member of the Y, this program is not offered there. She stated that there are three pillars of health and wellness. When we added Pilates, we added strength and with the Tai Chi class we added balance and the third component is Yin Yoga so one can stay flexible. Please consider this program would be great for the community.

Donna Duffy – 56 Mark Twain. I was very excited that Tai Chi was offered for a health program for people who live here. It is important to keep your health, flexibility and strength. Please consider adding the program.

President Van Scyoc questioned about the member's comments. Notice that three have claimed they were intimidated by the men at the Y. He asked if the classes that are currently offered have men in the classes. Ms. Lopinski replied yes that there are about only one to two men that show up for the classes at the RWA Community Center. Mr. Eldred asked if the classes had any fees. Ms. Lopinski responded. There was no fee, but she needs to be certified, needs to be self-insured, she does have a tip jar out.

### President's Update: Andy Van Scyoc

President Van Scyoc stated he usually does not do a Presidents update but has one today and it is a "blockbuster". We have the new Deed Restriction that were signed yesterday after 18 months. It took forever but it is done now. Also, the Association is going to offer free snow removal this year.

### Treasurer's Report: Director Besase

Director Besase provided a written report attached to these minutes.

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

### Deed Restrictions Violations: Kelsey Stewart, Administrator

Ms. Stewart 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 77. If confirmed by the Compliance Committee, these fines shall be automatically imposed.

- Director Harvey made a motion to approve the Deed Restriction Violations and Director Eldred 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Administration/Personnel – 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 attached to these minutes.



**Community Outreach** – Deb Orchard (Chair)

Director Orchard provided a written report attached to these minutes.

- Director Orchard made a motion to approve adding a third Exercise class, Yin Yoga on Mondays from 11:00 – 12:00 led by Dr. Francie Finucan and Director Eldred second the motion.  
Motion denied 2-5. Director Besase no: Director Eldred yes: Director Harvey no: Director Kelly no: Director Orchard no: Director Traverso no: President Van Scyoc yes.

**Compliance** – Barb Peszko (Chair)

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

**Residential Modifications Committee** – Barb Peszko (Chair)

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

**Deed Restrictions** – Dale Jensen (Chair)

No Report.

**Election Committee** Dale Jensen (Chair)

Ms. Jensen provided a written report attached to these minutes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS**

**MEMBERS INPUT** (Non-Agenda Items)

RoseAnne Woodliff 152 Marker addressed the Board of Directors with her resignation from the Budget and Finance committee because she did not agree with the expenditures made for Gazebo Island.

Tom D'Abrosca- 156 Tournament Rd. approached the Board of Director stating that he was not in agreeance of how the process of the expenditures were decided on the upgrades to the Gazebo Island. Mr. D'Abrosca stated that he was resigning as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Collen Koppenhaver – 101 Tournament Rd. a member of the Budget and Finance Committee for the Association stated that she puts her heart and time into the committee to make the organization better. She comments on the communications about the Gazebo Island expenditures, and she believed the by-laws were not followed appropriately. She asked the Board to take this as an opportunity to really take a look how it monitors, approves and handles expenditures for this organization. Recommended that the Board adopt an expenditure policy that will help management in the future to have a clear understanding of the processes to be followed and the approvals that are required and documentation of the processes and approvals.

President Van Scyoc asked the Board members if that had any comment or questions. Director Eldred stated that he had questions for the Manager Mr. Hedges about how the procedure works for obtaining bids for the planned projects and if the bidding process was followed according to the by-laws and state laws. Manager Hedges responded yes, remember the RWA Board went through quotes that were sent, also remember this was on the three-year plan years ago when the rip-rap repair was approved for the Island. The decision was (continued)



made from the bids received to approve the three-year plan. The process was followed it was approved back in 2024 the front entrance sign sidetracked the rip-rap project which was brought in-house. I contacted H & H Crane, and they had an opening for a couple of days, and he could do the job. Paul Bigness and the landscaper were also contacted to get the broken concrete and dead trees and roots and repair the riprap. This was a substantial saving by doing it in-house and ran everything through Paul for licensing and insurance which saved probably \$20,000.00 in riprap alone. So, with the additional funds they used to clear the damaged and bad concrete a decision had to be made, and don't regret it, it was a liability issue, damaged concrete, tree stumps, tree roots turned up and electrical wire sticking out of the ground. As Andy said, "first class community", and the Board is responsible for the common areas. We did go through the process with the Board of Directors, and it was approved. Director Eldred thanked Manager Hedges for his response.

Director Traverso addressed the Board of Directors in reference to Mr. D'Abrosca which he stated that RWA Board did not do the bidding right on the extension of the administrative building. He stated that he recalls that there was a long list of builders that were solicited. Only two bids came in Hampshire Homes and Synergy. Manager Hedges responded that the process had to be done a couple of times because of the time delayed of starting the project and bids had to be recalculated which did cover the proper procedures. Director Traverso stated that to set the record straight the RWA Board of Directors did their due diligence.

Director Besase stated that one of the previous President said that the HOA dues were raised twenty years ago from \$150.00 annually to \$160.00 which much of that was to do the erosion control at Gazebo Island, nothing was done for twenty years the concrete broke, the brush was overgrown it was a hazard. Several hurricanes had caused a lot of wear and tear on the Island and making repairs under the dollars amount that it was thought to cost, twenty years of neglect and now three months to make it right.

Maureen McDowell – 74 Pine Valley Lane State that she recently resigned from the Building and Grounds committee and does not agree with how the projects are being approved. Also thanked Mr. D'Abrosca for his oversight on the committee.

#### RESPONSE TO MEMBER'S INPUT

Director Kelly stated that he would like to thank Tom for his service on the Board and is sorry that he felt alienated by other member of the committee. Personality has alienated some other good board members. Items on the 3-year plan we approved items 2,4, 5,6 have only been approved for exploration they were not approved for full expenditure such as the \$150,000.00 roof these projects would have to come back to the Board for approval.

Director Harvey stated now that the sign is out front, it is beautiful and knows it will not be an illuminated sign with a revolving activity board on it, could we have a sign that says Board of Director Meeting today at 2:00 like the RWA bingo sign that can be placed out front on Thursday morning as a reminder. President Van Scyoc responded that it should be submitted to either the COC or B & G committee for review and submission to the Board of Directors.

Director Orchard stated that she applauded those who worked on the Budget & Finance Committee was sorry and sad that the only option was to resign, did not think this was intended with all the discussion going on. Thank you for your work and Ms. Orchard stated that she comes from an insurance background and worked with lawsuits that primarily happens when someone is injured. If you look at the Island it was a lawsuit waiting to happen and was shocked that RWA has not been sued over the disrepair that was out there. Even though a lot of you do not think the Island gets used, but it does and will be used more in the future.

Director Eldred stated it was unfortunate that the committee members resigned and it's too bad that it couldn't be worked out in a closed Board meeting.



President Van Scyoc thanked Deb Orchard and Jerry Eldred for their service on the Board, they are subject to the election and hopefully you make it back. All our four candidates our excellent, and with that he adjourned the meeting.

**DIRECTOR INPUT**

None.

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

**ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 3:22PM

**Next Board Meeting:**

Annual Board Meeting: 4 December 2025, 6:00 PM

Regular Scheduled: 11 December 2025, 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Huffman Minutes Clerk

Attachments: Agenda, Minutes, Reports

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL 2026**

**FROM:**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**OFFICE & MAINTAINANCE STAFF**

**WEST WAYS STAFF**

# JANUARY 2026

**1/1 & 1/2: RWA Office & Community Center Closed/Holiday**

**1/2, 1/16, 1/23: Friday, 10 am: Tai Chi**

**1/5, 1/12, 1/19: Monday, 10 am: Pilates Mat**

**1/9, 1/30: Friday, 10 am: Yin Yoga Mat**

**1/13: Tuesday, 2 pm: Child Exploitation & Human Trafficking by  
Don Woelke, CCSO**

**1/14: Wednesday, 2 pm: Gardening for Wildlife by Sarah Weber**

**1/15: Thursday, 6:30 pm: Trivia Night with Tim**

**1/18: Sunday, 1 pm: RWA Bingo (play begins at 1 pm)**

**1/19: Monday, RWA Office & Community Center Closed/Holiday**

**1/20: Tuesday, 2 pm: *Drowning in Stuff: An American Epidemic*,  
by Ali Tedeschi**

**1/21: Wednesday, 11:30 am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (Rotonda Elks)**

**1/22: Thursday, 6-8 pm: Charlotte County Community Meeting,  
*Drainage in Rotonda West***

**1/27: Tuesday, 5 pm: Mix & Mingle Potluck in Community Center**

**1/28: Wednesday 2 pm: Shorebirds Program by Photographer  
Mary Lundeberg**

**1/31: Saturday, 9 am-12 pm: Shredding Hunger (RWA driveway)  
Food Donation & Paper Shredding**

# FEBRUARY

**2/2, 2/9 MONDAY: 10-11 AM: PILATES MAT FITNESS**

**2/2 MONDAY: 4:30—7:30 PM: **NEW!!** HAPPY HOUR FOOD TRUCK EVENT. IN FRONT OF COMMUNITY CENTER.**

**2/5 THURSDAY: 9 AM-NOON: ROTONDA PUZZLERS**

**2/5 THURSDAY: 6:30 –8 PM: MUSIC BINGO**

**2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27 FRIDAY: 10-11 AM: TAI CHI/YIN YOGA**

**2/7 SATURDAY: 9-11 AM: BUTTERFLY GARDEN TOUR & CELEBRATION**

**2/7 SATURDAY: 9:15-9:45 AM: “PUZZLE SWAP” AT ROTONDA PARK OFF OF PARADE CIRCLE**

**2/13 FRIDAY: 2-3 PM: “STOP THE BLEED” PRESENTATION**

**2/13 FRIDAY: 2-3 PM: EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING**

**2/15 SUNDAY: 12:15-4 PM RWA BINGO (GAMES START AT 1 PM)**

**2/16 MONDAY: RWA OFFICE & COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED**

**2/18 WEDNESDAY: 11:30 AM-2:30 PM: MIX & MINGLE LUNCHEON AT THE ROTONDA ELKS**

**2/19 THURSDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM: TRIVIA NIGHT WITH TIM**

**2/20 FRIDAY & 2/21 SATURDAY: 11 AM– 1 PM: ROTONDA WEST HAS TALENT AUDITIONS**

**2/22 SUNDAY: NATIONAL WALK YOUR DOG DAY! SEND PHOTOS TO WEST WAYS NEWSLETTER AT:**

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

**2/25 WEDNESDAY: 2-4 PM: NATURE “DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LAND MANAGER”**



GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

**Thursday, January 22**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

All donors will receive\*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Long-sleeved T-shirt**
- **Chick-fil-A Coupon**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

*Location: Rotonda Marina 117 Rotonda Circle  
Rotonda West, FL 33947*

## **Rotonda West "BIG" Blood Drive January 22, 2026**

We are excited to announce the upcoming "BIG" Blood Drive scheduled for January 22, 2026, at the Rotonda Marina located across from The Hills Golf Club at 100 Rotonda Circle. Attached is the flyer for this important event. In previous years, our community has shown tremendous support: last year, despite challenging weather conditions of wind, rain, and cold, we received 43 pints of blood. The year prior, we collected 35 pints, which had set a record at the time.

OneBlood has been extremely impressed by our location and the dedication of our reliable donors. As a result, following our January 2025 drive, they began considering sending **TWO** Big Red Buses for the January 2026 event to accommodate the anticipated increase in participation.

The Rotonda West community has generously supported the OneBlood drive sponsored by the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club. This year's drive marks a significant milestone, with OneBlood confirming the deployment of **TWO** Big Red Buses on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Let's work together to make the January 2026 blood drive our most successful yet!**

Rotonda West Association

## SHREDDING HUNGER

Free Shredding Event & Food Drive

**Saturday, January 31st**

**9 am-Noon**

**Rotonda West Community Center**

**Parking lot, 646 Rotonda Circle**

**Non-perishable items for local food pantries**

**Paper will be shredded on-site.**

**Limit of 3 boxes or bags per car.**

**Please no plastic, cardboard or metal  
(other than staples and paper clips)**

**Welcome RWA property owners & residents**

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

**Please do not contact RWA Administration Office**

### SAVE THE DATE FOR SHRED-IT AND SHARE

The Rotonda West Community Outreach Committee invites all residents to participate in a drive-thru shredding event on Saturday, January 31, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This event will take place at the RW Community Center, located at 646 Rotonda Circle. Attendees will have access to a mobile shred truck that will securely shred documents on site, providing a convenient and safe way to dispose of sensitive paperwork.

In addition to the shredding service, the committee will be collecting dry and canned food donations. These contributions will benefit the St. Davids Jubilee Center, Englewood Helping Hand, and St. Francis food pantries. By donating, you will help support families and individuals in need throughout the Rotonda West community. Please ensure that all donated food items are not expired.

We encourage everyone to bring documents for shredding and a donation to share. Your participation will help make a positive impact in Rotonda West and our local community.

**RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**COMMITTEE PRESENTS:**

## DROWNING IN STUFF

**Get organized in the new year!**

**By: Ali Tedeschi**

Make a resolution to get organized once and for all this year! Learn how to organize any area of your home. It's easier than you think. Join us for an interesting and entertaining presentation on home organization.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH**

**AT 2 PM**

**RWA COMMUNITY CTR.**

**646 Rotonda Circle**

**For RWA members/renters and their guests**

**JANUARY IS THE MONTH**

**FOR ORGANIZING**

**AND**

**MINIMIZING!**

**DON'T MISS**

**THIS RELEVANT**

**AND INTERESTING PRESENTATION!**

# RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE OFFERS FITNESS & WELLNESS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Article and Photos by: Rita Lopienski

One of the most important things you can do for yourself is to nurture your mind, body and soul. Start the new year out strong, by attending some of our wonderful fitness classes! Enjoy the stretches and low impact exercises for balance and strengthening while making new friends who live in our beautiful community, in the meditative setting of Broadmoor Park.

Certified instructor Francine Finucan leads Pilates Mat class in the Community Center every Monday (except 4th Mondays and holidays) at 10 am. Every Friday Tai Chi is offered at 10 am, sometimes outdoors on the back patio if the Community center is closed.

By popular demand following a November presentation, a new Yin Yoga mat class (extended stretches) is being introduced. These will be held on January 9th and January 30th at 10 am, and on February 13th and February 27th at 10 am (alternating some weeks with Tai Chi). We hope this can become a weekly class in the future.

Please join in our Health & Wellness Initiative. Men and women of all ages, sizes, shapes, and levels are welcome. Here's to a healthy 2026!



Francine Finucan leads Tai Chi classes and Pilates Mat classes for Rotonda residents.





## CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS – JANUARY 2026

By Sam Besase

- PAVING - Rotonda West PAVING began on **MONDAY July 21, 2025.** \$17 million
- PAVING started in the PINE VALLEY section and move 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
- PEBBLE BEACH SHOULD CONCLUDE BY THE END OF DECEMBER
- OAKLAND HILLS SHOULD START BY EARLY JANUARY 2026
- ROTONDA CIRCLE & BOUNDARY – 1Q/2Q 2026
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS–SOD/MANHOLE COVERS, ETC ABOUT 6 WEEKS BEHIND PAVING
- Future issues of WEST WAYS shall include the projected start/finish for the remaining RWA sections.
- Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is James Layport and his phone number is: 941-628-8084
- **PERHAPS 30-DAY** Paving schedule slips due to Weather & Equipment & Manpower issues.
- **\*ROTONDA BRIDGE #13 – ROTONDA BLVD SOUTH – UPDATE:**
- I wrote all of the Charlotte County Commissioners as well as the County Administrator and the County Director of Public Works and I got the following reply from Mr. John Elias, the Charlotte County Director of Public Works:
  - Sam, I will try to answer your questions this way:
  - **Sam Question: Is there any NEW news related to the Rotonda bridge, namely, did Charlotte County ever receive the ACOE permit after the public comment period ended on October 24, 2025? UPDATE: As of December 22, 2025, still no ACOE permit.**
  - John Elias Answer: The public comment period has ended as you indicated. We expected to have the ACOE permit in hand already, but the government shut down has slightly delayed the process. We do expect it any day now.
  - **Sam Question: Have any further discussions been held with FEMA regarding the dollar amount to be provided to Charlotte County in light of the BCA court ruling in favor of Charlotte County in April of 2025? UPDATE: As of December 19, Charlotte County is now advising that there will be a SPECIAL MSBU meeting sometime in the first couple of weeks of January, 2026 specifically about the bridge???????**
  - John Elias Answer: This has been a real challenge that has only been exacerbated by the shutdown. Unfortunately, no new news to report here.

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS CONTINUED...

- **Sam Question: Has the bridge build bid specification been submitted to potential construction bidders?**
- John Elias Answer: Sam, in light of not having the permit and the ambiguity surrounding the funding the bid specs and plans have not been advertised yet. It is our intent to discuss this with the Board for them to weigh in on moving forward. The risk is that we potentially lose any funding from FEMA if we proceed without that being completely agreed upon. (No new news!-SJB)
- **Sam Question: Also, has the RW S&D MSBU unanimous motion to MILL & GRIND Rotonda Circle been forwarded to the Charlotte County Commissioners for approval of the change order to the paving contractor?**
- John Elias Answer: The request of the RW S&D was forwarded to the BCC in the form of a point paper as I committed to do in our town hall. There has not been a lot of direction from the Board, so Administration has asked me to prepare an item to present to the BCC at an upcoming meeting. We are finalizing those numbers, which are significant (\$527,000), and in doing so, had to then do an analysis to confirm if there was enough funding in the MSBU to cover it. That has been confirmed so this will be added to a future agenda. It should be noted that some of the residents have already taken action to prepare their driveways for not milling and if we switch courses there will be frustration.
- **MILLING OF ROTONDA CIRCLE ON COUNTY COMMISSIONER AGENDA FOR JANUARY 27, 2026**
- New requirement from a county commissioner, for CORE SAMPLES so a further delay!
- 
- If you have any other concerns or questions, please reach out.
  - \*Bridge construction start perhaps 1Q-2Q 2026, completion expected 10-12 months later **Dec. 2026?**
  - Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Rotonda Boulevard East NOW scheduled for installation - 2Q 2026.
  - Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Ingram/Ingraham are also to be installed in the 2Q 2026.
  - Remaining 4 bridges, (#110-#111-#112-#123) are scheduled for summer/fall of 2026.
  - \*US Government shutdown may affect completion of these items!!!

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



# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN ROTONDA



Parade Coordinators: Pam Pierce and Janet Mamon

## PARADE WINNERS:

**BEST USE OF THEME:** ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

**BEST COMMERCIAL BUSINESS:** MICHAEL DOUGLAS PLUMBING

**BEST ORGANIZATION:** YMCA ENGLEWOOD DRUMMING CLASS

**BEST THEME DECORATED GOLF CART:** ROTONDA WEST DECORATING ELVES

**BEST PERFORMANCE:** GIRL SCOUTS OF GULF COAST, FL

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

**JUDGES:** MEGHAN HEDGES, CAROLYN POPE, & MARY JONES

**PARADE COORDINATORS:** PAM PIERCE & JANET MAMON

**JUDGE WRANGLER:** TAMMY BIRDSONG

**WENG RADIO BROADCAST:** KERRI BLACK, MARC MCHUGH, & JB BLACK

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** DAVID PULASKI, NADINE CLOUGH,

**PUBLICITY:** NADINE CLOUGH

Thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors!

Parade Judges & Manager Derrick Hedges



Music, clowns, face-painting, treats, and of course-SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS!

Thank you to all the participants and volunteers who made this a very special event!



# FUN & GAMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS

## MUSIC BINGO

WITH TINA

CHECK CALENDAR FOR DATES  
We play 5 games on 1 card. No cost to play.

1st Thursday of each month 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Doors open at 6pm  
Aug 7th, Sep 4th, Oct 2nd, Nov 6th, Dec 4th

646 ROTONDA CIRCLE  
COMMUNITY CENTER

INVITATION TO RWA RESIDENTS, PROPERTY OWNERS, AND THEIR GUESTS.  
BRING YOUR SNACKS AND COVERED DRINKS  
NO PETS  
QUESTIONS: COMMUNITYOUTREACH@ROTONDAWEST.ORG

**NO MUSIC BINGO  
IN JANUARY, 2026**

Rotonda West Association

## WELCOME TO Fabulous BINGO

JOIN US

**1/18**  
January 18th  
February 15th  
March 15th  
April 19th  
May 17th

**2/15**

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  
Doors open at 12:15 pm

**BINGO! 1/18 & 2/15**  
3rd Sunday of each month.  
Doors open at 12:15 pm. Play begins at 1 pm (doors will close)  
Must be 18 to play.

## TRIVIA WITH TIM

3rd Thursday of each month.  
January 15th & February 19th  
Doors open at 6 pm.  
Play begins at 6:30 pm.  
Play by teams or individuals.



# FUN & GAMES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE



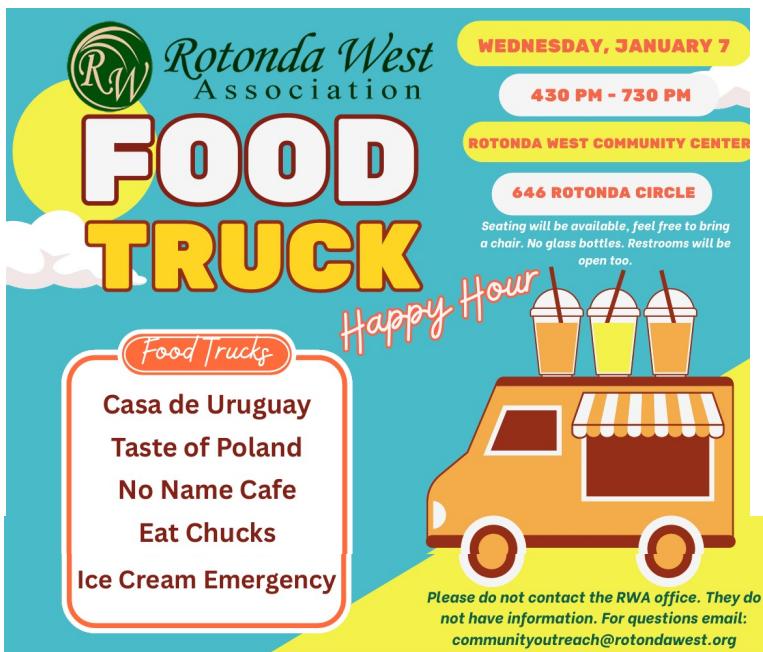
## TRIVIA WINNERS!

Article and photo by: Deb Orchard

Trivia's topic in December was "Christmas, Winter, Cold". The questions and music bonuses each had to do with one of those topics. The winning team was *Circle Diamond*, with members Rita Lopienski, Larry Lopienski, Ruthann Kort, Brad Kort, Mary Coulett and Ellyn Nadeau. They each received "100 Grand" (the candy bar). The final question: Appearing in more than 6 films, who is James Buchanan Barnes also known as? Answer: The Winter King, part of the Marvel Universe and introduced as Captain America's teenage sidekick in 1941. As Time Dowd often comments, "See what you learned by coming to trivia!"

Next month BINGO is on the 3rd Sunday, Trivia with Tim is on the 3rd Thursday, and Music Bingo with Tina & Jim will return on the 1st Thursday in February.

**DON'T COOK DINNER  
ON WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 7TH-  
GO TO THE FOOD  
TRUCK HAPPY HOUR  
INSTEAD**



# NATURE NEWS

## WINTER-SPRING 2026 PROGRAM LIST

PRESENTED BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH NATURE COMMITTEE

- JANUARY 14, WEDNESDAY 2PM: Gardening for Wildlife with Sara Weber, former Florida Friendly landscaping specialist, Charlotte County Extension
- JANUARY 28, WEDNESDAY 2 PM: Shorebirds with Mary Lundberg, Conservation photographer
- FEBRUARY 7, SATURDAY 9-11 AM: Celebrate Broadmoor Pollinator Gardens. Meet in the Butterfly Garden
- FEBRUARY 25, WEDNESDAY 2 PM: *Day in the Life of a Lands Manager*, Kaitlin Causey, Charlotte County Lands Manager
- MARCH 11, WEDNESDAY 2 PM: Invasive Plants, Mark Thurmond, retired USDA botanist
- MARCH 25, WEDNESDAY 2 PM: Peace River Wildlife Rescue, Sponsored by GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
- APRIL 4, SATURDAY 9-11 AM: Broadmoor Park Nature/Bird Walk, Kaitlin Causey, Charlotte County Lands Manager

**PLEASE NOTE:** All programs take place at the Rotonda West Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle. Saturday programs are outside. Meet in front of the Community Center unless otherwise specified.

Welcome to Rotonda West residents, renter, and their guests. Please do not contact the RWA Administrative Office.

Questions ?? Contact Community Outreach Committee:

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

# NATURE NEWS

## GARDEN TIP FOR JANUARY

Article and Photo by: Ann Weaver

Why not start 2026 with an evergreen shrub that blooms in winter and brings fragrance to your garden? The Panama rose (*Rondeletia leucophylla*) has pink tubular flowers in clusters which appear off and on all year. It can grow to 10 feet tall, can be pruned to 3 feet and is 3-6 feet wide. Enrich the soil with compost or peat, and provide consistent moisture to obtain 1-2 feet of annual growth. Plant in full sun or part shade. It can take the heat.

Sometimes called Bush penta, this shrub is native in Central America. This plant attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to its sweet nectar. There is a pleasing fragrance which grows stronger in the evening, making the Panama rose a perfect accent plant for a patio. Add three to a butterfly garden or use to form a hedge. Good companions are blue plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*), the golden dew drop (*Duranta erecta*). Native lantana (*Lantana involucrate*), and dotted horsemint (*Monarda punctata*). Hard prune in spring to maintain size and remove dead branches. There is a Panama rose in the Butterfly Garden at Broadmoor Park.

**Gardening for Wildlife** is more important than ever as natural habitat vanishes in Florida. Learn how on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 2 pm** with Sara Weber and the Nature Committee at the Community Center. Plants that provide wildlife with shelter and food will be identified as well as tips on creating a habitat for pollinators and butterflies. Win a plant to take home!

Learn about native and exotic pollinator plants at the **Garden Celebration Day on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 9 –11 am** in Broadmoor Park. All ages are invited. There will be kids' activities, seeds to take home and refreshments. Tour the Butterfly Garden and the Native Plant Garden, and learn about creating your own.



**Panama rose**  
(*Rondeletia leucophylla*)

# NATURE NEWS



Community Outreach Nature Committee  
Presents:

Gardening for Wildlife with Sara Weber  
Wednesday 2pm, January 14, 2026



## Why Wildlife-Friendly Gardening Matters

Conservation can start in your own yard. Every yard, park, school, and community can become part of a larger network of wildlife habitats, helping to:

Provide essential food, water, and shelter for native species

Reduce the spread of invasive species

Restore natural ecosystems and strengthen biodiversity

Even a small area can make a big difference! Wildlife will naturally find their way to your garden when you provide the right elements.

**To help you get started, Sara will bring a show/tell plant selection which will be raffled off after the presentation.** More information at: <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/indianriverco/2025/02/19/turn-your-yard-into-a-wildlife-haven/>

Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle. 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](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)



Community Outreach Nature Committee  
Presents:

## Share the Shore with Shorebirds

Mary Lundeberg

Award-winning Conservation Photographer

Wednesday January 28, 2026, 2pm



Black Skimmers feeding chick, photo by Mary Lundeberg

The threatened Least Tern has declined in population significantly in 50 years. These and other beach-nesting birds are threatened by numerous perils. Mary Lundeberg will talk about the life cycle of these birds, the challenges they face, and what people can do to help. Mary will illustrate her talk with images of the beautiful, threatened shorebirds and seabirds that nest on beaches in Florida.

**Learn about these beautiful and threatened birds!**

Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle. 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](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)



## GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc.

**GWEN GRACE, PAST PRESIDENT**



JANUARY, 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club!

We are delighted to extend our warm wishes for a joyful & healthy 2026 to all our members & friends.

At our December meeting, we took pride in supporting two outstanding non-profit organizations in our community. Sean Cafferty, Treasurer from Englewood Helping Hand, shared plans for an essential expansion of their food pantry, prompted by a growing need in our area. We were pleased to contribute \$500 to their expansion efforts. More information about the food pantry is available at [www.EnglewoodHelpingHand.org](http://www.EnglewoodHelpingHand.org).



Members of our six book clubs also made a significant impact by donating \$600 to the Charlotte Imagination Library. This initiative provides children under age five with access to a magical world of stories and limitless imagination. Registered children receive a free book every month through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, nurturing a lifelong love for reading and opening doors to countless

adventures. It has also proven to increase grades when the children enter the school system. You can read more about this worthwhile program and register children and grandchildren at

[www.charlottecountyimaginationlibrary.org](http://www.charlottecountyimaginationlibrary.org).

Our December Annual Holiday Tea was successful, raising money for two scholarships and funds for Meals on Wheels. Over one hundred guests had a lovely afternoon of tea and sandwiches, raffle prizes and a hat contest. Each table was individually decorated by its hostess making for a lovely setting to celebrate the holidays and enjoy an afternoon together.

We are looking forward to raising funds for Lemon Bay High School Scholarships at the next "SHOW ME THE MONEY" event on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the RWA Community Center.

**Our next General Meeting will be on Thursday, January 15th at the RWA Community Center. It will feature our Annual Art Competition, showcasing creative entries from club members. Winners from our club will advance to the District Competition, and those who succeed at the district level will proceed to the Florida State competition. The meeting will begin with a social time at 9:30 am, followed by the business meeting at 10 am. For more details about our events and activities, please visit our website at: [www.gfwcrotondawest.org](http://www.gfwcrotondawest.org). You can also connect with us on Facebook under GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. Everyone is welcome to attend our general meeting!**

# ROTONDA ELKS LODGE #2710



## COMMUNITY NOTICE

Rotonda Elks Lodge #2710 is excited to announce that in 2026, the lodge will be open-to-the-public at least one weekend every month!

### JOIN US FOR:

🍽️ Great food specials

🍹 Amazing drink prices

😊 A welcoming atmosphere

🎉 Plenty of fun and good times

📍 Address: [303 Rotonda Blvd East, Rotonda West, FL 33947](https://www.google.com/maps/place/303+Rotonda+Boulevard+East,+Rotonda+West,+FL+33947)

📞 Phone: [941-662-9914](tel:941-662-9914)

Please call the lodge for January open-to-the-public dates or for general information.

Keep an eye out here for future monthly open-to-the-public dates.

We look forward to welcoming you!

\*\*\*\*\*



Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

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

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch

***We are pleased to Welcome our newest member***

**Barry Birch**

Looking for a fresh start in the New Year? Join Neighborhood Watch, the eyes and ears of the Sheriff's department. Two hours a month to keep your piece of paradise, what it is, paradise..

### Staying Vigilant After the Holidays:

The holiday season has come to an end, and we hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful time celebrating with family and friends. As we step into a new year, we are surrounded by countless opportunities to improve our lives through acts of kindness and positivity. Unfortunately, while many of us seek to do good, there are others who attempt to take advantage through deception and scams.

This time of year, is marked by the return of gifts and goodies received during the holidays. Many people are also eagerly awaiting confirmation that their bank or credit card companies have issued the proper credits for these returns. The process has become much more convenient; gone are the days when we had to wait for a paper statement to arrive in the mail. Now, you don't even need to log in to a computer – an instant text notification alerts you when credit has been made to your account.

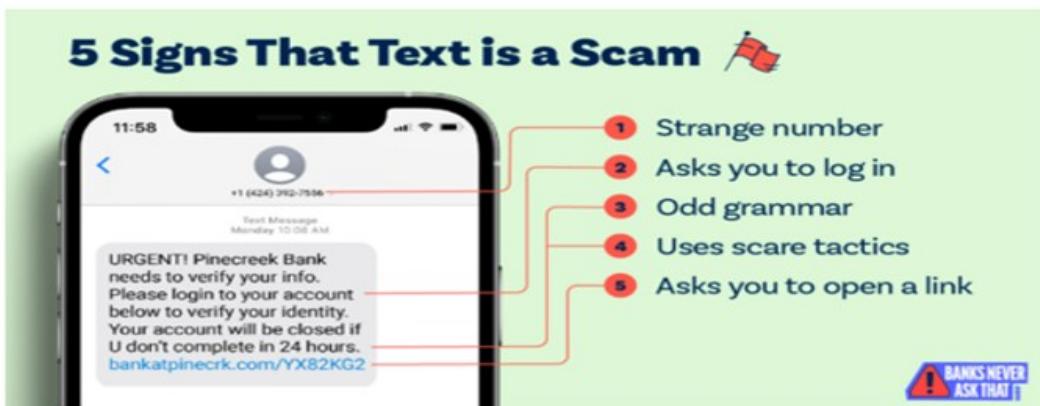
However, this convenience also presents new risks. Instant alerts can create opportunities for scammers to strike when we least expect it, catching us off guard. As such, it's important to remain cautious. Here are five key signs to watch for that indicate a text message may be a scam.

Continued on next page

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTINUED...



Protecting Rotonda West since 1981  
[www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](http://www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com)  
Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



## Strange Phone Numbers

Slow it down. Is that the number your bank usually uses to send text messages? Legit text message updates come from an official 4-5 digit number used by your bank.

## Urgent Warnings or Requests

Take a breath. Phishing texts try to create a sense of panic, such as threatening to suspend your account or urging you to log in to verify. Real bank texts won't.

## Odd Grammar or Spelling Mistakes

Spot check! If you see misspelled words or odd grammar they are all clear signs of an impersonator. Real banks use spell check.

## Requests for Personal Information

If a text message requests personal or sensitive information, such as account numbers, PINs, passwords, or social security numbers, you can assume it's a scam.

## Suspicious Links

Banks rarely – if ever – send links via text. Don't click them. Instead, verify the message by visiting your bank's official website, or calling the number on the back of your card.

If you receive a suspicious text about your bank or credit card, **DO NOT click any links, DO NOT reply to the message, and DO NOT call a number provided in the text.** Instead, independently contact your financial institution using the phone number found on the back of your card or on their official website.

*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.*

Contact David at 941-828-1584 or by email  
[president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](mailto:president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com)

## OFFICE STAFF

**Derrick Hedges**

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**Tammy Birdsong**

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**Jenny Bulle**

Bookkeeper

**Sheryl Ann Nowicki**

Administrator

**Kelsey Stewart**

Administrator

**Denise Huffman**

Minutes Clerk

**Joe Harris**

Communications Specialist

**Travis Green**

Aquatics

**Amanda Stuever**

Administrator

## MAINTENANCE

### STAFF

**Wayne Taylor**

**Dale Anderson**

**Craig Brown**

**Doug Smith**

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
WONDERFUL STAFF**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025

**Andy VanScyoc**, President

**Karen Harvey**, Vice President

**Sam Besase**, Treasurer

**Deb Orchard**, Secretary

**David Kelly**, Director

**Peter Traverso**, Director

**Gwen Grace**, Director



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**Dale Jensen**