

# WESTWAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 5,213 Rotonda Residents

**FEBRUARY 2026**



E-NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

## CELEBRATE THE GARDENS!

Saturday February 7, 2026 9-11am

Meet in front of Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle  
for garden tours, activities for all ages (children  
welcome), refreshments

### What you can do:

- Meet the gardeners who make Broadmoor Park beautiful
- Tour the butterfly and native plant gardens with the gardeners
- Learn about the butterfly life cycle and plants they depend on
- See butterflies and caterpillars at stages of their lives
- Explore the gardens with magnifiers and see plants, insects
- Create a bee house and take it home to your own garden
- Take home seeds to grow your own pollinator plants
- Take home information about making your yard pollinator friendly
- Enjoy some refreshments in our beautiful park and meet new friends

Interested in helping with the gardens and/or have ideas for  
programs? Contact: [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)



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)

Submitted by: Merrill Horswill

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 2

## NEWSLETTER

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ROTONDA ELKS PUBLIC  
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)



# RWA COMMITTEES AT WORK- MEETING SCHEDULE



**ALL MEETINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM**

<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b><u>DAY</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>
<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>	<b>2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>2 P.M.</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>“AS NEEDED” BASIS</b>	<b>TBA (not on zoom)</b>
<b>BUDGET &amp; FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE</b>	<b>1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)</b>	<b>2 P.M.</b>
<b>DEED RESTRICTION COMMITTEE</b>	<b>4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>9 A.M.</b>
<b>ELECTION COMMITTEE</b>	<b>SPECIFIC TO ELECTION SCHEDULE</b>	<b>CHECK CALENDAR</b>
<b>RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2ND &amp; 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>9 A.M.</b>
<b>RW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH</b>	<b>3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH</b>	<b>10 A.M.</b>



# 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, December 11, 2025 – 2:00 PM**

### **MINUTES**

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

**ABSENT:**

**Management:** Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

**Members:** Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Barb Peszko, Matt Brady, Dale Jensen, Matthew Brady, Maureen Lederer. (Zoom) Amanda Stuever, Bob Bondeson, Loni Kiedrowski.

The meeting was called to order by President Van Scyoc at 2:03 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 November 13, 2025, and the Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Traverso. Motion Approved with Gwen Grace abstained.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICER**

Reorganization of Officer.

Ballots were distributed to the Board of Directors they casted their secret votes, ballots were collected and votes were counted results as follows.

President -Andy Van Scyoc

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Karen Harvey

Treasurer – Sam Besase

Secretary – Debra Orchard

**President's Update:** Andy Van Scyoc

President Van Scyoc stated he would like to have Committee Confirmations at the January BOD meeting and would like to appoint a committee to review. President Van Scyoc asked Director Harvey, Director Besase and Director Grace to partake on the committee to Review Charters of each Committee.





## BOD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

### **Treasurer's Report:** Director Besase

Director Besase provided a written report attached to these minutes. Also announced the start of the Administration office addition as begun. After Director Besase presented his report to the Board of Directors, Director Kelly questioned asking what is contributing to the 6000-line items. Is it a timing issue or is it over budget? Director Besase explained that there are sixteen-line items, and there are three major ones that are over on expenses: where were legal, bad debt expense and insurance expense which made it \$82,000.00 but, the 7000-line items series is under \$120,000.00. Director Kelly thanked Director Besase for his response for clarifying the attributing specific number.

**Manager's Report:** Manager Hedges, provided the Board with an update on the projects that staff have been working on. As the grass mowing is slowing down a little bit for the season RWA has been mowing some of the unapproved vacant lots and Canal bank mowing. We have done extensive amount of work in the Maintenance Barn cleaning the whole area and some parking was added behind the maintenance building to move the trucks and equipment. RWA is getting into the wintertime project of painting the maintenance floors. The addition to the Administration Building has started, which is great.

### **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 58. 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 Orchard 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administration/Personnel** – President Van Scyoc (Chair)

No Report.

### **Buildings & Grounds** – Director Besase (Chair)

No Report.

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

Director Orchard provided a written report attached to these minutes.

Director Orchard state that this will be her last report as chairman, there will be a new chairman coming in 2026. Bingo has been canceled for December. Happy Hour will be moving to the Community Center starting in January they would like to have food trucks for this event. It's a motion that's in the packet that we have been talking about which is new. All the members of the COC Committee have agreed to return next year except Chrissy Royce sent an email withdrawing from the committee. COC would like to motion for food trucks at our Mix and Mingle event in January of 2026 for a trial run. Our Warranty Deed specifically says that RWA cannot have regular sale of food and beverage for either a restaurant, food truck or other permanent facility. President Van Scyoc asked Director Kelly to confirm for meeting minutes. Director Kelly responded yes, I agreed to do the first and then see how it goes. This should not be a "blanket" approval, every single one on every single month. Director Harvey questioned Director Kelly on what they should do on an ongoing basis. Do



## BOD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...



they consult you as they are wanting to hold the event. Director Kelly responded that yeah this is a sample trial for the first month.

- Director Orchard motioned to permit Mix and Mingle happy hour to bring in food trucks to the Community Center Parking lot for the gathering on a trial basis. It will be the first Wednesday in January at the Community Center parking lot. It would be limited to the trial run and then be reassessed and discussed among the Board of Directors. Director Harvey seconded the motion. Passed by Directors with Director Kelly abstained.

Director Harvey questioned the BOD if a date was set for Gazabo Island Statue dedication. Director Orchard replied, "no until the statue is there" it is out for a facelift. Director Besase replied that they can come up with a day in the next week, but he thinks it should be the second or third week of January for the Statue of Liberty dedication, it just must be narrowed down. Manager Hedges questioned if the dedication would be in January and President Van Scyoc responded that what they would like to have it in January. Director Orchard asked Director Grace if she could obtain a proclamation. Director Gace replied she will start working on the proclamation for the dedication ceremony for the Statue of Liberty. Director Besase asked what is the proclamation? Director Grace replied that they would like to have Charlotte County do a proclamation of Liberty Island where the Statue of Liberty will reside.

### **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)

Chair Dale Jensen recognized his committee for all their hard work during the year. Chair Jensen resigned from the Deed Restriction committee.

### **Election Committee** Dale Jensen (Chair)

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

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

### **RESPONSE TO MEMBER'S INPUT**

### **DIRECTOR INPUT**



Director Traverso I have information for the Board about the several abandoned homes where builder have decided not to finish or have gotten into economic difficulties which is an eyesore for Rotonda West. Manager Hedges is working diligently to go after the people responsible. It is an extremely complicated process requiring hiring a second attorney that is a foreclosure expert. The positive note is in the last six months we have had two builders that bought an abandoned home site and will finish it off with the original plans. In terms of new application in Rotonda West for new construction in the last six months there have not been many. There had been a lack of new construction applications, while still clearing the inventory of existing homes under construction that are taking over a year to build, and the abandoned home and the maximum fine imposed reaches \$5,000.00 then proceeding to foreclosure starts which is extremely difficult. He stated if anyone has questions feel free to contact Director Traverso. Also, he commended Dale Jensen and the Election Committee for getting secret ballots up and running. "It was no easy endeavor; it took a long time to Chair Jensen and his committee hats off thank you."

Director Grace first thanked everyone who voted for her. She stated she hopes she brings something solid to the board working together. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Director Orchard stated that she wanted to thank the Community Outreach Committee, it has been a good five years, working with a lot of members. She appreciated those who were going to stay on and do good for next year. Also, thank you to Dale Jensen for his time on Deed Restriction Committee.

Director Kelly questioned what happened to the appeal on the agenda, did it go away? President Van Scyoc stated that the member could not make it today and it will be on January 2026 agenda. Director Kelly wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Director Harvey thanked Chair Jensen for his contribution and his staff for the electronic voting, which I did have my reservation on how it would work it worked out greatly.

Director Besase responded to Director Traverso statement that some of the construction companies go out of business and can't be found. Some people ask "why can't there be a surety bond. So if you are building a \$400,000.00 home and you put up that amount, in four month if progress was made then reduced to \$300,000.00 and then if more work is done then reduced to \$200,000.00 and after four more months it is reduced to \$200,000.00 and then when given a completion then reduced to \$0 and are given certificate of occupancy, then the surety bond goes away.

President Van Scyoc thanked the staff, thanked all the committee members of RWA and thanked his fellow Directors expressing that RWA had a good year and hopefully another good year in 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 2:43PM

**Next Board Meeting:**

Annual Board Meeting: 4, December 2026, 6:00 PM

Regular Scheduled: 8, January 2026, 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Huffman Minutes Clerk

Attachments: Agenda, Minutes, Reports



# FEBRUARY



- 2/2, 2/9: Monday, 10am: Pilates Mat**
- 2/5: Thursday, 6:30pm: Music Bingo with Tina & Jim**
- 2/6, 2/20: Friday, 10am: Tai Chi**
- 2/7: Saturday, 9am: Celebrate the Gardens in Broadmoor Park  
(great for kids)**
- 2/13, 2/27: Friday, 10am: Yin Yoga Mat**
- 2/13: Friday, 2pm: Emergency Response Training:  
*Stop the Bleed* by Charlotte County Public Safety**
- 2/15: Sunday, 1pm: RWA Bingo (play begins at 1pm)**
- 2/16: Monday: RWA Office & Community Center Closed for Holiday**
- 2/18: Wednesday, 11:30am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (Rotonda Elks)**
- 2/19: Thursday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim**
- 2/20: Friday, 11am-1pm: Rotonda West Has Talent Auditions**
- 2/20: Friday, 2pm: Emergency Response Training: CPR & AED  
by Charlotte County Public Safety**
- 2/21: Saturday, 11am-1pm: Rotonda West Has Talent Auditions**
- 2/22: Sunday, All day: National Walk Your Dog Day  
send photos to West Ways: [westways@rotondawest.org](mailto:westways@rotondawest.org)**
- 2/23: Monday, 4-6 pm: Volunteer Fair at the Community Center**
- 2/24: Tuesday, 4:30-7:30pm: Food Truck Tuesday (pending approval)**
- 2/25: Wednesday, 2pm: *Day in the Life of a Land Manager*  
by Kaitlin Causey**





# MARCH



**3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/30: Monday, 10am: Pilates Mat**

**3/5: Thursday, 6;30pm: Music Bingo with Tina & Jim**

**3/6, 3/20: Friday, 10am: Tai Chi (3/20 outdoors)**

**3/7: Saturday, 1pm: Rotonda West Has Talent Show**

**3/11: Wednesday, 2pm: *Invasive Plants* by Mark Thurmond**

**3/12: Thursday, 10am: Handwriting Analysis**

**3/13: Friday, 9am – 5pm: RWA Spring Community Garage Sale**

**3/14: Saturday, 9am - 5pm: RWA Spring Community Garage Sale (3/15 Rain Date)**

**3/13, 3/27: Friday, 10am: Yin Yoga Mat**

**3/15: Sunday, 1pm: RWA BINGO (play begins at 1pm)**

**3/18: Wednesday, 9:30am: Qi Gong Session with Donna Kester Phillips (pending approval)**

**3/18: Wednesday, 11:30am: Mix & Mingle Lunch (Rotonda Elks)**

**3/18: Wednesday, 2pm: CCSO Citizens Police Academy**

**3/19: Thursday, 6:30pm: Trivia Night with Tim**

**3/22: Sunday, 5pm: RWA Volunteer Banquet at The Hills**

**3/24: Tuesday, 2pm: Woman's History: Breast Cancer Story presentation by author Judith L Pearson**

**3/24: Tuesday, 4:30-7:30pm: Food Truck Tuesday (pending approval)**

**3/25: Wednesday, 4pm: Peace River Wildlife, sponsored by GFWC RWWC**

**3/26: Thursday, 2:30pm: Adam Howard: My Career in Feature Film Visual Effects (pending approval)**



Sheriff Bill Prummell  
7474 Utilities Rd.  
Punta Gorda, FL 33982  
(941) 639-2101



## CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

The Citizen's Police Academy provides a 'behind the scenes look' at the Charlotte County Sheriffs Department, dedicated staff, policies and procedures, as well as numerous other programs and services we provide.

School to be held at Englewood, District 1. A seven-week day course— May 6, 2026 –June 17, 2026, likely from 9am-2pm with lunch served. Registration forms are available.

## Senior Outreach Program

April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has an established program to assist in ensuring the safety and well-being of our senior citizens residing in Charlotte County, along with the Anti-Theft program.

## Sex Trafficking and Exploitation (hopefully coming in May, more info later)

Charlotte County ranks in the top 5 counties of Florida for Sex Trafficking and Exploitation. What you should know. This is a teen appropriate presentation.

Community Center @ 646 Rotonda Circle  
Open to all RWA residents, property owners and their guests.  
Questions: Contact [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)

Community Outreach Committee Presents

# ROTONDA WEST *has Talent 2026*



**AUDITIONS** will be held Friday and Saturday, 2/20 & 2/21 from 11am-1pm at the Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle



A participant must be a RWA member, owner or renter. All ages and all kinds of talent are encouraged: Singer, instruments, ensembles (at least 1 in group must be in RWA), comedy (G-rated), magic, juggle, ventriloquism, dance, skits, poetry, etc. Singers must bring their own accompaniment.



**TALENT SHOW** will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 1pm at the Community Center

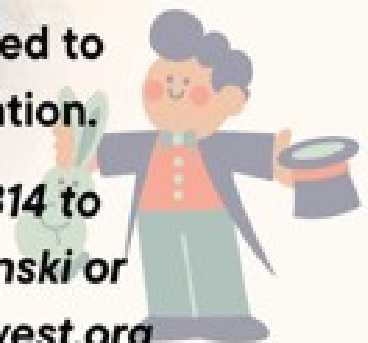


*There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place*

Previous 1st place winners are invited to perform during the judges deliberation.



*Talent should call Rita at 630-956-8814 to register. For questions call Rita Lopienski or contact [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)*



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



# WINE & CHEESE VOLUNTEER FAIR

GET INVOLVED IN ROTONDA WEST!

A diverse group of people, including men and women of various ages and ethnicities, are smiling and holding up colorful signs that list different volunteer activities. The signs include: 'FOOD TRUCKS' (with a food truck icon), 'GARAGE SALE' (with a shopping basket icon), 'CHRISTMAS PARADE' (with a Santa Claus icon), 'DECORATING' (with a checklist and paintbrush icon), 'MIX & MINGLE' (with balloons and a party hat icon), 'ELECTIONS' (with a ballot box icon), 'DEED RESTRICTIONS' (with a house and a 'DO NOT ENTER' sign icon), 'GAZEBO LIGHTING' (with a gazebo icon), 'COMPLIANCE' (with a checklist and a house icon), 'HAPPY HOUR' (with a glass of beer icon), 'MUSIC IN THE PARK' (with musical notes icon), 'OPEN HOUSE' (with a house icon), 'TALENT SHOW' (with a microphone icon), and 'FOOD' (with a food truck icon).

- Enjoy a fun, friendly evening with no obligations.
- Learn about what each committee actually does.
- Discover opportunities that align with your interests and schedule.
- Leave with new friends and perhaps a newfound interest.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**23 FEB**  
**2026**

**04.00 PM - 06.00 PM**

RWA COMMUNITY CENTER  
646 ROTONDA CIRCLE



## CHARLOTTE COUNTY NEWS ITEMS – FEBRUARY 2026

By Sam Besase

- The RW S&D MSBU unanimous motion to MILL & GRIND Rotonda Circle been REJECTED by the Charlotte County Commissioners.
- PAVING - Rotonda West PAVING began on MONDAY July 21, 2025. \$17 million
- PAVING (except for punch list items) is completed for all sections except Oakland Hills & Indian Road and Rotonda Circle and Boundary; each section took about 4-6 weeks.
- MSBU PAVING – BY RWA SECTIONS: AJAX PAVING – VENICE OFFICE
- PROJECTED PAVING SCHEDULE–Subject to weather & equipment & manpower delays/ issues
- OAKLAND HILLS SHOULD CONCLUDE BY THE END OF FEBRUARY EXCEPT FOR PUNCH LIST ITEMS
- INDIAN ROAD AROUND AMERICAN LEGION SHOULD START IN FEBRUARY 2026
- BOUNDARY FROM RB NORTH TO CAPE HAZE RECLAMATION PAVING IN FEBRUARY 2026
- Multiple sewer & water issues not to correct depth (36 inches vs 11 inches) causing delays
- ROTONDA CIRCLE FROM REBEL CT TO RB WEST RECLAMATION PAVING START FEBRUARY 2026
- ROTONDA CIRCLE FROM RB EAST TO RB SOUTH OVERLAY PAVING START IN FEBRUARY 2026
- PAVING IN ROTONDA SCHEDULED THRU APRIL 2026
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS–SUCH AS REPLACE & WATER SOD/MANHOLE COVERS, DRIVEWAY ISSUES, ETC ABOUT 8 WEEKS BEHIND ACTUAL STREET 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 45-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 Congressman Steube. Special MSBU meeting held in January, some slight progress with FEMA, there have been 2 FEMA/CC ZOOM meetings.
  - UPDATE: As of January 27, 2026, still no Army Corps of Engineer permit.
  - The bridge build bid specification is ready, waiting on the ACOE permit.
  - If you have any other concerns or questions, please reach out.
    - \*Bridge construction start perhaps 2Q-3Q 2026, completion expected 10-12 months later 1Q 2027?
    - 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(43 days) 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



Presenter Ali Tedeschi

Community Outreach Committee Presentation

## **“DROWNING IN STUFF”**

WITH ALI TEDESCHI

Article & photos by:  
Nadine Clough



An Organized Drawer

It's that time of the year again. Time to clear out the excesses of the holiday season and get our home organized. At a January Community Outreach Presentation, *Drowning in Stuff*, presenter Ali Tedeschi showed us how to keep that New Year's resolution to get organized and to stay that way.

Ali Tedeschi, a professional home organizer, opened the program by sharing a few statistics.

- The average American home holds more than 300,000 items
- In the United States there are over 52,000 storage buildings
- United States has 90% of the storage inventory worldwide

Over consumption has grown since the end of WWII due to many factors such as an excess of disposable money, cheaper products made of plastics from other countries, big-box stores, credit card use, and now incredibly easy on-line shopping.

We tend to keep too many items for what we feel are legitimate reasons, such as that we believe we will need that item someday, or that the item is worth a lot of money, or it's a family heirloom, or our favorite (and often incorrect) belief that our children will want it.

Ali states the goal of organizing your home is to create efficiencies which will save you time and money. We often spend a great deal of time searching for items, and sometimes even buy the item again because we can't find it or have forgotten that we own it. Another benefit of living in an organized home is the pride in an organized home, and the reduction of the stress that comes from living in a disorganized one.

Home organizing can be overwhelming. Ali suggests starting small with a drawer or closet. Keep in mind how much your home can hold, and who you share a home with. Different members of the family will have different comfort levels when it comes to getting rid of items.

Ali explained that there are 4 basic steps to getting organized:

1. Remove and Sort (empty targeted area to create a clean slate)
2. Declutter and Purge (time to make hard decisions. Sort into piles of “keep, sell, donate, or discard”)
3. Restore (decide where the item will live. Keep most-used items in a convenient area or in the forefront of a drawer or cabinet)
4. Maintain (Most important step! Give more thought to your purchasing habits)

**Remember: The ultimate goal of being organized is to create space. Good luck!**



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
**OFFERS TWO LIFE-SAVING**  
**PROGRAMS AT THE**  
**RWA COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**  
**STOP THE BLEED**  
**AND**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**  
**AED AND HANDS-ONLY CPR**

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



**STOP THE BLEED**

LED BY FIRE INSPECTOR MAX LOPEX OF  
CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13th AT 2 PM**

IN THE RWA COMMUNITY CENTER

**WANT TO BE  
PREPARED?  
THEN YOU  
SHOULD  
ATTEND**

LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

Severe bleeding can be fatal in minutes.

This **STOP THE BLEED** course teaches you simple,  
lifesaving skills anyone can use in an emergency.

COURSE OVERVIEW INCLUDES:

- How to recognize life-threatening bleeding
- How to apply direct pressure
  - How to pack a wound
- How to use a tourniquet

**NO MEDICAL  
EXPERIENCE  
REQUIRED**

**Feel confident in an emergency**

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



**AED AND HANDS-ONLY CPR**



LED BY FIRE INSPECTOR MAX LOPEX OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 AT 2 PM**

IN THE RWA COMMUNITY CENTER

SIMPLE. FAST. LIFE-SAVING.

**Hands-Only CPR** is an easy-to-learn method of helping someone  
who suddenly collapses from cardiac arrest.

You don't need mouth-to-mouth, just your hands and the confidence to act.

HANDS-ONLY CPR HAS TWO SIMPLE STEPS:

1. Call 911 immediately
2. Push hard and fast in the center of the chest  
(100 –120 compressions per minute) until help arrives

WHY IT MATTERS

- Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere
- Brain damage can begin in 4-6 minutes without CPR
- Most cardiac arrests happen at home to family, friends, coworkers

WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN IT

- No mouth to mouth required
- Easy to remember under stress
- Empowers you to act instead of freeze
- You could be the difference between life and death

**YOUR HANDS CAN SAVE A LIFE**

**LEARN HANDS-ONLY CPR AND AED. BE READY WHEN SECONDS COUNT**



**BE THE HELP UNTIL  
HELP ARRIVES.**  
**LEARN TO TAKE ACTION  
WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.**

# 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 3 games on 1 card. No cost to play.  
1st Thursday of each month 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Doors open at 6pm

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**

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

**THIS MONTH  
ON FEBRUARY 5TH**

Rotonda West Association



**WELCOME TO Fabulous BINGO**

RWA Community Center  
646 Rotonda Circle

**2/15**  
**3/15**

**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**  
Doors open at 12:15 pm

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

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

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

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

February 15th  
March 15th  
April 19th  
May 17th

**BINGO! 2/15 & 3/15**  
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**

**TRIVIA WITH TIM**  
3rd Thursday of each month.  
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



**Winning Trivia Team  
WMU & COMPANY**

## TRIVIA WINNERS!

Article and photo by: Deb Orchard

Our January 2026 theme was “NEW” and the winners were WMU & Company. The team was comprised of Jeff & Karen Radomski, Craig & Sur Saurer, Paul & Pam Bialek, Van & Stephanie Dickerson, Sherry Holaly & Kim Anderson. Congratulations to our winners. Hoping you will join us next month on Thursday, February 19th.



## BINGO

On January 18th, 117 people enjoyed Bingo games at the Community Center!

Next Bingo game date is Sunday, February 15th





*Community Outreach  
Committee*

**HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE  
CELEBRATES NATIONAL  
DOG WALKING DAY**



## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**

Created in 2010, this special day reminds us that walking our dog  
is an important part of being a responsible pet owner.

Plus, it's fun, good for your health & strengthens the bond  
between you and your dog.

Take a photo on 2/22/26, showing your dog and yourself enjoying a walk in the park,  
on the street or sidewalk, or wherever you enjoy walking with your furry friend.

Submit the photo with the name of your dog and the people in the picture  
taken on 2/22, and submit it to:

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

**YOUR PHOTOS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF WEST WAYS.**

**LAST YEAR WE HAD MANY WONDERFUL PICTURES SUBMITTED**

**THANK YOU!**




**3rd Annual Spring  
RWA Neighborhood**


# GARAGE SALE

**FRIDAY MARCH 13TH**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 14TH**  
**RAIN DATE: SUNDAY MARCH 15TH**  
**9 AM-5**  
**TO BUY AND TO SELL**

*Instructions and Sign Approval Form  
are posted online at: [rotondawest.org](http://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](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)

## RWA SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Friday, March 13th  
 Saturday March 14th

9 am-5 pm

*Rain Date: Sunday, March 15th*

The last Community Garage Sale  
 was a great success!



### GET RID OF SOME “STUFF” AND MAKE SOME MONEY!

The 3rd Annual Spring 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, 3/15 as the rain date only.

A GARAGE SALE PARTICIPATION FORM IS POSTED ON THE RWA WEBSITE,  
 and a hard copy is on the information rack at the RWA office.

Flyers with instructions and contacts will be sent via Constant Contact and Facebook.

**DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP: MARCH 4TH AT MIDNIGHT**

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

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski, Community Committee Garage Sale Lead

# NATURE NEWS

## WINTER-SPRING 2026 PROGRAM LIST

PRESENTED BY THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH NATURE COMMITTEE

- 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)

## PLEASE JOIN US





*Rotonda West*  
Association

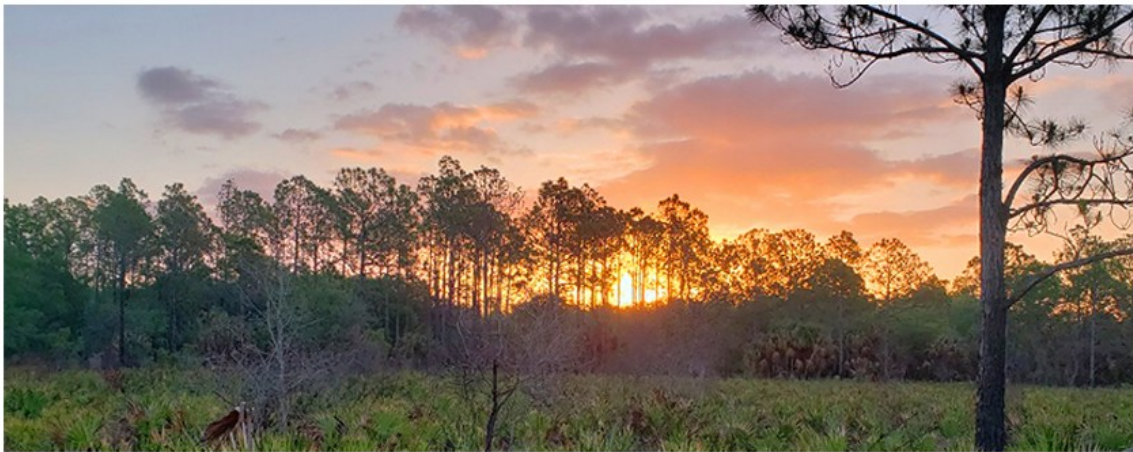
Community Outreach Nature Committee  
Presents:

## A Day in the Life of A Land Manager

Kaitlin Causey Charlotte County Environmental Lands Specialist

Wednesday February 25, 2pm

Rotonda West Community Center 646 Rotonda Circle



- Charlotte County Environmental Land Specialists manage 12 conservation preserves purchased through Conservation Charlotte, environmental parks, mitigation sites and acquisition parcels.
- The ultimate goal of Charlotte County in obtaining and managing these parcels is to protect and preserve native ecosystems, restore sensitive habitats, and provide opportunities to the public for nature-based recreation and experiences.
- Land managers are stewards of Charlotte County's natural areas. Some of their tasks include monitoring listed species, managing invasive species, conducting prescribed fires, restoring native habitats, maintaining trails, and educating the public.
- Benefits that the public obtain from these properties are education, health and well-being, economic growth, and increased property value.



Find out about these beautiful properties and how you can enjoy them

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)



# NATURE NEWS

## GARDEN TIP FOR FEBRUARY

Article Photo by: Ann Weaver



Q: When is the best time to plant a tree? A: 20 years ago (Old landscaper's joke)

In southwest Florida, any time is a good time to plant a tree. If you desire shade for your yard, you might seek a fast grower, such as the showstopper, the royal poinciana (*DeLonix regia*). Its fiery red-orange flowers will be sensational someday but its root system is superficial and its branches are prone to breakage.

Native trees often have the best wind resistance; a less familiar native tree, Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), is excellent for shade, and is also a fast grower. With interesting knobby bark, this tree has edible berries. The Sugarberry loses its leaves (**deciduous**), as does the Sweetgum, both native and fast growing. Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) offers red or orange fall color, rare in our zone. Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) with stunning fall color is another popular native. All three offer medium wind resistance, important in our area.

Want **evergreen** leaves and blossoms? Little Gem Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem') produces lush, fragrant white blossoms. It reaches a height of 25 feet, much less than our native magnolias, perfect for a small yard. Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), a native holly, has green shiny leaves, is drought resistant, and has good wind tolerance. It has flowers and berries the birds will love; you need a male tree nearby to produce fruit on the female. The sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) reaches 20-50 feet tall and is less wide than our giant live oaks. It has high wind resistance, is drought tolerant and offers food for wildlife. A beautiful pine is the native Longleaf (*Pinus palustris*), which can live up to 300 years. Its needles grow to 18" long and it supports numerous birds.

Our dry season is a fine time to plant a tree. Short days and cool temperatures help trees adjust to their new home, but be diligent about watering: every day for 2 weeks, every other day for the next 2 weeks, then twice a week for the first year. After that, native trees may rely on rain, but be sure to water during extensive dry periods.

Learn more about your tree choices on line. Soil requirements, sun exposure, height and width at maturity, planting tips, water requirements, and fertilizer needs (for non natives), and even what pests or diseases to watch for are easy to find on the internet. Use the scientific name as well as the common name for your search. Wind resistance and salt tolerance are important considerations as the future may hold more frequent storms.

See [www.peoplefortrees.com](http://www.peoplefortrees.com), our local nonprofit advocacy group for native trees for more information.



**The Longleaf Pine spends some time looking like a clump of grass. After a few years it develops a tree-like appearance with branches and a tap root.**



# NATURE NEWS

Community Outreach Committee Nature

## Gardening for Wildlife Presentation Recap

Wednesday 2pm, January 14, 2026

by Merrill Horswill

Doug Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home: "A plant that has fed nothing has not done its job."

Yards can be designed and managed for both wildlife and humans. Sara Weber presented tips for making yards wildlife friendly and help preserve the natural environment.



Limit the Amount of Lawn  
Increase Vertical Layering  
Provide Snags and Brush Piles  
Provide Water  
Plant Native Vegetation  
Provide Bird/Bat Houses and Bird Feeders  
Remove Invasive Exotic Plants  
Manage Pets  
Reduce Pesticide Use  
Expand the Scale of Habitat

Native plants offer food, shelter, and safety for birds, insects and other wildlife. Include trees, shrubs, and flowers in your garden. Diverse plants provide food sources like seeds, berries, and nectar. They also offer shelter and nesting spots. Choose plants that bloom at different times of the year to ensure food is available during all seasons. Add a birdbath or small pond near your plants. Keep the water clean and change it often. Do not use pesticides or chemicals in your garden which harm birds and the insects they eat. Choose natural ways to control pests.



## Plant it and they will come!

Learn more at the **Garden Celebration**  
2/7/2026 9-11am.

Meet in the Butterfly Garden for tours, activities  
for all ages and refreshments.



## Share the Shore with Shorebirds

**Mary Lundeberg**

Award-winning Conservation Photographer

Program was held on Wednesday, January 28th



Least Tern feeding chick, photo by Mary Lundeberg

A full house, over 70 people, attended the presentation on Share the Shore with Shorebirds. Mary Lundeberg illustrated her talk with her beautiful photographs and provided information about these state designated threatened beach nesting birds such as Least Terns, Snowy Plovers and Black Skimmers. Other shorebirds such as Semi-palmated Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings nest in the Arctic and are snow-birds, wintering in Florida and need to feed and rest while here.

Challenges include habitat destruction, pollution, pesticides, predators and disturbances from people and dogs. She talked about the decline in the bird population and how we can help. Even what we plant in our yards can make a difference, by planting native plants that need less water and no fertilizer we can reduce runoff, pesticide pollution. We can eliminate single-use plastic that ends up on our shores. We can keep dogs off beaches where nesting birds are present since birds see them as predators and will leave their nests. Chasing and disturbing birds saps their energy when they need to feed and rest. We can all do our part to make a better place for shorebirds.

Everyone wants to enjoy the beach but we can share the shore with shorebirds!

Thanks to Rotonda West resident Elaine Hunter for suggesting this program, pictured with her friend Mary. Please contact the Community Outreach Committee if you have Nature program suggestions:  
[communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)





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

**GWEN GRACE, PAST PRESIDENT**

**FEBRUARY, 2026**



Hello,

**GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is NUMBER ONE for raising funds for Alzheimer's. This is the first year the GFWC partnered with the Alzheimer's Association and asked the clubs across the country to participate. The notice to the right came from our Washington DC headquarters.**

**Thanks to all who donated and were part of the Alzheimer's Walk in November.**

GFWC is proud to report that 66 clubs (teams) from across the country rallied to raise funds for research to end Alzheimer's and dementia. Approximately 451 GFWC club members participated in the 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's, resulting in \$95,937 raised of the \$50,000 goal!!

In recognition of our champions, GFWC applauds the top 10 teams:

- 1) GFWC Rotonda West of Florida - \$10,020
- 2) GFWC Pinellas Seminole Woman's Club of Florida - \$7,090
- 3) Big D's Daughters of Illinois - \$6,252
- 4) Bradenton Woman's Club of Florida - \$4,548
- 5) GFWC Pound Cake & Biscuits of North Carolina - \$4,536.87
- 6) GFWC Cares of South Carolina - \$3,720
- 7) GFWC Charlotte Woman's Club of North Carolina - \$3,135
- 8) GFWC Ossoli Circle of Tennessee - \$3,075
- 9) GFWC- North Myrtle Beach Woman's Club of South Carolina - \$2,990
- 10) GFWC Homer Glen Junior Woman's Club of Illinois - \$2,755

Our January meeting's speaker was Kathy Macklin with Englewood Meals on Wheels. Several of our members volunteer there to serve meals to many homebound residents in the area. We were happy to donate \$2335 which was raised from our Holiday Tea.

Pictured on left: Club President, Gloria Rogoske, Kathy Macklin, and the Holiday Tea Chairperson Kathy Bickel.



The January meeting was our Art/Crafts/Photography competition. We were highly impressed with the fabulous entries. A total of 23 blue ribbons were awarded. These will go to the next round of judging at the GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club in February to compete against the five clubs in our District. Those winners will advance to the GFWC Florida State Finals in Orlando in May. The competition judges 45 categories of crafts, in art, and 6 in photography. Members can enter as many categories as they wish but the work must be done in 2025.



Pictured above are Laurie Hayden with her winning entry and the art Competition Co-Chairs, Kathy Altenburg and Lois LaVasseur.

Continued...





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

continued



Once again, our club would like to thank the residents of Rotonda West for giving generously to the One Blood Drive at the Marina on January 22nd. We reached our goal of 42 pints of blood. According to the American Red Cross, every pint of blood can save three lives. The next blood drive is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd.



The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19th at the RWA Community Center. The meeting will begin with a social time at 9:30 am, followed by the business meeting at 10:00 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!

### WHITE IBIS

Photos and Article

By Bob Winter



An interesting fact about this bird is during the great depression of the 1930's they were called Mangrove Chicken and were shot for food.

This medium size wading bird is a full time Florida resident and finds the property along our waterways a great place to find a meal of small fish and other critters.

**Enjoy the abundant Rotonda Wildlife**



Flock of White Ibises returning from foraging along the Rotonda River



They made a stop along the river across from our dock before returning to roost in Gasparilla Sound.



# RWA HEALTH & WELLNESS

Submitted by: Rita Lopienski



The new addition of Yin yoga Mat class, currently alternating [Fridays at 10 am](#) with Tai Chi, is a hit! The class has averaged 25 attendees, men women of varying levels and ages. Pilates Mat class on [Monday at 10 am](#) (except 4th Monday holidays) averages 30 participants. All three classes are offered in the Community Center for RWA members, owners, renters, and are low impact stretching and meditative, help improve balance, posture, core strength, flexibility and stress reduction!

In addition to these classes, educational presentations are also offered. West Ways, RWA website, electronic submissions, flyers at the office and Facebook posts are all ways to learn about them.

Lets keep Health & Wellness a priority at RWA!

For more information contact: [communityoutreach@rotondawest.org](mailto:communityoutreach@rotondawest.org)

**Rotonda West Association**  
Held at RWA Community Center -  
646 Rotonda Circle

Community Outreach Committee  
Health & Wellness Initiative 2026  
Presents

Instructor  
Dr. Francine Finuco

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

## PILATES

All  
Mondays  
EXCEPT  
4th Monday  
10-11 am



Pilates helps with posture as it helps to engage the deep core muscles in the abdominals, back and pelvic floor – which enables you to relax your shoulders and neck and alleviate pressure on your hips, legs and feet, in turn, improving your posture.  
**PLEASE BRING A PILATES MAT**

## TAI CHI

Alternating  
Fridays  
10-11 AM



Experience meditation in motion.  
Tai Chi promotes flexibility, strength, and relaxation, while reducing stress.  
All skill levels are welcome.

## YIN YOGA

Alternating  
Fridays  
10-11 AM



Yin Yoga is a slow-paced, passive style of yoga focusing on long-held floor poses (3-10 minutes) to target deep connective tissues like ligaments, joints, and fascia, rather than muscles.  
**PLEASE BRING A PILATES MAT**

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

# ROTONDA ELKS LODGE #2710



**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**FEBRUARY 20TH, 21ST, 22ND**

Rotonda Elks Lodge 2710  
*"Open to the Public"*  
February 20th, 21st, & 22nd

Come join us on Saturday in the Hangar (aka the patio) as we raise funds for a much-needed upgrade to a real Tiki Bar! 🌴 🍹

📅 Saturday, February 21st

🕒 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Enjoy smoked pulled pork sandwiches, burgers, and brats, along with amazing drink specials—and best of all, a great crowd of current and future friends.

This February 21st event is *"Open to the Public"*, so it's the perfect chance to come see what the Elks are all about: community, camaraderie, and fun!

Bring your appetite, bring a friend, and help support a great cause.

## Members Note:

Every Saturday of the month there is a fundraiser for our tiki with the patio open 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

🌴 Bring your guests!

We can't wait to see you! Just come around back, we will be there!

📍 Address:

Rotonda Elks Lodge 2710  
303 Rotonda Blvd East  
Rotonda West, FL 33947

📞 Phone:

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

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this important article about our Neighborhood Watch and, more importantly, about the need for volunteers.

Neighborhood Watch is not law enforcement; we assist the Sheriff's office by being an extra set of eyes and ears. We don't intervene, we don't confront, and we don't put ourselves in danger. What we do is simple but powerful: we stay alert, we observe our surroundings, and we report suspicious or unusual activity to the proper authorities. That alone makes a real difference.

One of the strongest deterrents to crime is presence. When people know that neighbors are paying attention, problems often don't start in the first place. Our patrols help keep an eye on our streets, (Boundary Blvd. to Parade Circle and all streets in between) check on county property, and provide extra awareness during hours when most people are settling in for the night. It's about neighbors looking out for neighbors.

Right now, we need more volunteers. Over time, things change. Volunteers move away. Some can no longer drive. And sadly, some of our longtime members have passed on. These are natural parts of life—but the result is the same: fewer people are left to carry the responsibility of watching over our neighborhood.

You don't need special skills, experience, or a lot of free time. Training is provided, patrol areas are clearly defined, and you only patrol in the area you live in. You choose what works for your schedule. Some volunteers patrol regularly, and snowbirds volunteer when they are here—and all of it matters.

Volunteering does **not** have to mean driving the roads. We have several unique opportunities for those who prefer not to patrol. These include **Area Patrol Coordinator**, who help organize and support patrol activity, and **Base Station Personnel**, who assist from home by monitoring communications and supporting patrols. These roles are just as important and make patrolling possible. Cont'd on next page

### [Information for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office](#)

CCSO non-emergency phone number: 941-639-2101

<https://www.ccsso.org/> [@CCSOFLSheriff](https://www.youtube.com/@CCSOFLSheriff)

Volunteering with Neighborhood Watch is also a way to connect with your community. You get to know your neighbors, build trust, and take pride in helping keep our area safe and welcoming. It's one of the simplest ways to give back.

So, if you've ever thought, "Someone should be watching out for this neighborhood," that someone can be you. We're not asking for perfection—just participation—but we need more people willing to step up. Every volunteer reduces the burden on others. Every patrol strengthens our community. And every night we're visible is a night our neighborhood is safer.

If you care about this community, if you want to protect what we've all invested in, now is the time to act—not later, not when it becomes a bigger problem.

Ask questions. Learn more. There's no obligation, just an opportunity to help. If you're interested, or even just curious, please reach out to any of us.

*Thank you for your time and thank you for caring about our neighborhood.*

David Perry~President~[president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](mailto:president@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com) 941-828-1584

Tom Bailey~Vice President ~[vicepresident@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](mailto:vicepresident@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com)

Greg Banks~Treasurer~[treasurer@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](mailto:treasurer@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com) 603-848-7867

Terri Lawson~Secretary~[secretary@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com](mailto:secretary@rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com) 571-243-8458

Judy Murdoch~Base Coordinator~941-479-1953

**Protecting Rotonda West since 1981**



# 2/7/2026

## SAFE BOATING

### COURSE OFFERED!

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard  
Auxiliary**



Date: December 18, 2025

Contact: Lillian GaNun

Phone: 941-626-9632

E-Mail: [lildsotr7@embarqmail.com](mailto:lildsotr7@embarqmail.com)

#### PRESS RELEASE

### 2026 Safe Boating Course

Offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 99, Cape Haze

**Boat America – February 7, 2026**

(US Coast Guard approved Boating Safety Course Description)

**Date:** Saturday, February 7th, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (approximately 8 hours).

**Location:** South Gulf Cove HOA Building: 14859 Ingraham Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 3398.

**Attendance in person:** We will break once in the morning, and once in the afternoon for fifteen minutes, and we will break for an hour for lunch at approximately 12 noon.

**Presented by:** US Coast Guard Auxiliary Instructors who patrol the area and are familiar with Gasparilla Sound, Pine Island Sound, Boca Grande, South Charlotte Harbor, South Gulf Cove and surrounding waterways.

#### *You will learn about boating safely topics including:*

- **Introduction to Boating** – Boating vocabulary. Types of sailboats, paddleboats, powerboats, and engine types.
- **Boating Law** – Boat registration, hull identification numbers, regulations, required safety equipment, federal boating law, state boating law, and accident reporting.
- **Safety Equipment** – Life jackets, fire extinguishers, sound-producing devices, visual distress signals, anchors, and other safety equipment.
- **Safe Operation and Navigation** – Buoys and beacons, aids to navigation, navigational rules, docking, and the dangers of alcohol use.
- **Boating Emergencies** – Boating accidents, man overboard, capsizing, hypothermia, emergency radio use, carbon monoxide peril, and weather.
- **Trailer** – Types of trailers, lights, hitches, and towing a trailer.
- **Sports and Boating** – Water-skiing, hunting and hunting gear, PWC (Personal Watercraft) operation, and other boating tips.

**Upon successful completion of a multiple-choice test at the end of the course,** you will earn a Florida Boating Safety Education virtual ID Card. In addition, you may qualify for a substantial discount on your boat insurance. **Check with your insurance agent.**

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

To reserve your space if you are not already registered, or if you have any questions, contact Wendy Breidel, Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education.

email [wbreidel.uscgaux@yahoo.com](mailto:wbreidel.uscgaux@yahoo.com) or Cell phone 987-891-7490 (voice or text). Remember, reserve and confirm your class attendance early.

We are currently accepting cash or personal checks for payment at the door.

The cost for the course is \$60 per couple, \$45 per person, or \$15 per person, for middle or high school students. This includes a 64-page workbook that you may keep for future reference.

**We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 7, 2026**

## OFFICE STAFF

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**Amanda Stuever**  
Administrator

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**Dale Anderson**

**Craig Brown**

**Doug Smith**

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
WONDERFUL STAFF**

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