

WEST WAYS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Emailed to 6,737 Rotonda Residents

MAY 2026

VOLUME 30 , ISSUE 5

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UF LAKEWATCH HONORS THE *ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY AWARD* PRESENTED TO DR. ANN WEAVER

By: Sam Besase

Each year, the RWA Buildings and Grounds Committee awards the Stan Plizga Environmental Advocacy Award. Ann Weaver received the 2026 honor at the Florida Lakewatch event in April. Ann and her team maintain the Butterfly and Native Plant Gardens at Broadmoor Park. Ann is also a volunteer at Lemon Bay Conservancy's Wildflower Preserve Butterfly Habitat.



The RWA congratulates her on this well deserved recognition.



RWA COMMITTEES

MEETING SCHEDULE

**ALL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON ZOOM
(LINK PROVIDED IN CONSTANT CONTACT)**

COMMITTEE	DAY	TIME
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	12:00 P.M.
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE	TBD	TBD
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:30 A.M.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE	1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:00 A.M. (Please note new time change)
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	2:00 P.M.
ELECTION COMMITTEE	SPECIFIC TO ELECTION SCHEDULE	TBD
RES-MOD COMMITTEE	2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:00 A.M.
RW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:30 A.M.



ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ANDY VAN SCYOC
President



KAREN HARVEY
Vice President



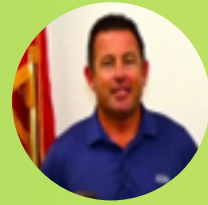
SAM BESASE
Treasurer



DEB ORCHARD
Secretary



GWEN GRACE
Director



DAVID KELLY
Director



PETER TRAVERSO
Director

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 2:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Sam Besase, Gwen Grace, Deb Orchard, Peter Traverso, Andy Van Scyoc (Chair).

ABSENT: David Kelly (Excused)

Management: Derrick Hedges, RWA Manager

Members: Joe Harris, Annette Casteel, Claudine Hoffer, Bruce Robbins, Susanne Robbins, Ron Cluckering, Marcia Cluckering, Less Goodman, Karen Hoover, Bob Bonderson, David Winkelman, Ken Hunter, Elaine Huner, Kelly Williams, Dale Jensen, Paul Slovinski, Rosemarie Sheedy, Colleen Koppenhaver, Pam Pierce, Mike Charysh, Don Sibley, Pat Fitch, Barb Paszko, Paul Thiel, Elizabeth Thiel, Jeff Lupton, Monika Lupton, Dor Frederick Kirsch, Ann Weaver, Barry Paterson, Mary Patterson, Tyler Glenn, Larry Lopienski, Rita Lopienski (Zoom), Jim Martin, Amanda Stuever, John Taylor, Joseph Brennan, Kevin Corrigan, John McGionigle, Paul Anselmen, Tony O'Hare, Cheryl Lateer, Suzanne Smith, Sue Rueckel, Tom Rocque, Mike Hack.

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 the February 12, 2026, meeting, and with Director Orchard seconding the motion. Motion approved. Motion Unanimously Approved

MEMBERS' INPUT (Agenda Items)

BOD MINUTES CONTINUED...

President's Update: Andy Van Scyoc

President Van Scyoc stated that, following updates on the new project, the Quarters for 212 units proposed, inside the Rotonda West Association property, the Board of Directors, and I are not willing to accept a no. We are seeking suggestions and awaiting legal feedback. I do not think we can stop it, but I'm not going to settle for hearsay information. We are also looking at some things to fix the zoning. This is going to sit inside of RWA, and it is not under RWA's jurisdiction. That is unacceptable, and we will move forward on this. I don't know what can be done yet. This is not a good situation and is not healthy, and the plan does not fit in our neighborhood. President VanScyoc noted that next month's Board Meeting will be at noon rather than 2:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report:

Director Besase provided a written report attached to these minutes.

Total cash is 1.8 million, the CDARs are 1.1 million, and cash and reserves are three million dollars. Total expenses were under twenty-nine thousand dollars so far for the year, and we have already made the reserve contribution. The net income by the end of February was 1.2 million dollars.

Manager's Report: Manager Hedges

Mr. Hedges provided a written report attached to these minutes.

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 57. If confirmed by the Compliance Committee, these fines shall be automatically imposed.

- Director Orchard made a motion to approve the Deed Restriction Violations, and Director Traverso 2nd the Motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel – President Van Scyoc (Chair)

No Report.

Budget & Finance Report:

No Report.

BOD MINUTES CONTINUED...

Buildings & Grounds – Director Besase (Chair)

Director Besase provided a written attachment to these minutes.

A new roof was put on the existing building in conjunction with the addition. Which was approximately a \$40,000 saving and will help reduce insurance costs. The patio covering is out for bid, and we should have prices in the next 30 to 45 days. Once bids are received, they will be presented to the Board for approval. The annual University of Florida Lake Watch Night is on Wednesday, April 8th from 5:00 to 7:00. It's a well-attended event, so mark your calendars. Director Besase also noted that there was a discussion at the Building and Grounds meeting, and a suggestion was made that we, as members, consider a one-time special assessment of \$500, which would generate about \$4 million, and purchase land on Parade Circle to block that development. After the suggestion was made, Director Besase stated that a formal mailing to all members would need to be sent, which we are legally required to do, costing about twenty thousand dollars. So right now, we have six thousand emails addressed, and we are going to send out a soft pull to get an idea of what the results would be and how the community feels about the special assessment. We will get that information and bring it back to the board, and then we will discuss and figure out how to proceed.

Rotonda West Association (RWA) has experienced overnight parking issues, especially at Liberty (Gazebo) Island; therefore, the following measures need to be instituted, per the advice of the attorneys.

- Director Besase made a motion to address parking issues at RWA properties:
4 Hour Limit on Parking From 7 AM to 7 PM
No overnight parking (From 7 AM to 7 PM) with proper legal signage.
Signage every 25 feet of frontage
7 Memorial Parks plus Marina Parking Area (7parks x 4 signs each plus 10 signs for Marina parking area = 38-40 signs) And Director Harvey seconded the motion. Motion approved. Motion Unanimously Approved

Charter Taskforce Committee – Karen Harvey

Materials in the Briefing Packet. Director Harvey stated that the committee has met several times and has reviewed each Charter, and is waiting on one more Charter, which is the Community Outreach Committee, and is being reviewed now. We should be ready to move ahead and let the Board review the Charters at the next meeting. Director Harvey also asked the Board how to proceed with this. There are eight to ten Charters that are being reviewed. They decided that it should be printed on paper, and Director Harvey stated that she would email a copy as well. There is a Board/Workshop with the Budget Committee next Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

Community Outreach – Gwen Grace (Chair)

Director Grace provided a written report attached to these minutes. Attendance at our events is going very well. Food truck Tuesday was a little down, but we have gotten permission to do it for the remainder of the year. So, Food Truck Tuesday will be once a month. Nadine Clough has stepped down as editor of Westway, and Amanda will be taking her place.

BOD MINUTES CONTINUED...

Compliance – Barb Peszko (Chair)

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

Kathy Stickland to join the Compliance Committee.

- Director Traverso moved to accept Ms. Stickland to the Compliance Committee and Director Harvey seconded the motion. Motion Unanimously Approved.

Residential Modifications Committee – Barb Peszko (Chair)

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

Deed Restrictions

No Report.

Election Report

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & COMMUNICATIONS

Appeal 139 Mariner Lane – Delifina Ledesma attended the meeting to appeal the Residential Modification Committee's decision regarding the roped-off driveway post along the sides of the driveway using pressure-treated posts. Ms. Ledesma claimed that when she attended the January 27, 2026, meeting, she was only told the objection was that the post needed to be treated. Discussion was held.

- Director Harvey motioned to table the decision until the Board of Directors reviews the Residential Modification committee meeting from January 26, 2026, and Director Orchard seconded the motion for 139 Mariner Dr. Motion. A final decision will be made at next month's BOD meeting in April. Motion Unanimously Approved.

BOD MINUTES CONTINUED...

MEMBERS' INPUT (Non-Agenda Items)

Collen Koppenhaver – 101 Tournament Dr.

A member of the Budget and Finance Committee serving as interim chair. She stated that she cannot make the special workshop meeting for the review of the Charters for the Budget and Development Committee. She stated that after she read the redlined version of the Charter for the Budget and Development Committee, she stated her concerns about how important the Budget Committee is to the community, and stripping the committee is not in the Board's best interest or the members of the community. Ms. Koppenhaver reminded the Board of their fiduciary responsibilities and feels that having a budget and finance committee stripped of everything is in nobody's best interests.

Several members of the RWA community voiced their concerns and thoughts about the Quarters project. They want to be involved in the process of figuring out what can be done to stop the building project, and which Association will be responsible for the new community guidelines and restrictions. Many members suggest ways and ideas that are being investigated, and are collecting information to proceed. President Van Scyoc stated that they will have a meeting soon for members to talk about what other information has been gathered and discussed with members of the community at the next Town Hall meeting on this topic.

RESPONSE TO MEMBER'S INPUT

DIRECTOR INPUT

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM

NEW SIGN GUIDELINES

Signs, Signs Everywhere are Signs By Deb Orchard

The RWA sign guidelines have been updated and approved by the Board of Directors. You will find them on the RWA website rotondawest.org, Policies and Procedures, section 11.5 Sign Guidelines.

There are three major changes to the guidelines:

Residential Single-Family Home Signs

- A residential single-family home sign form must be completed and submitted to the RWA Administration Office.
- RWA members shall purchase "No Trespassing/No Soliciting," "Surveillance," and "Dog on Premises" signs from the RWA Administration office at cost. The only signs permitted are those purchased through the RWA Administration Office.
- Signs must be attached to the dwelling, mailbox, or an RWA-approved fence.
- Signs are not permitted to be free-standing or attached to a yard stake.
- Signs in medians, greenbelts, swales, and right of ways, or attached to trees, road signs, or poles, are prohibited and are subject to removal.
- Signs must be kept clean, well-maintained, and in good condition, and the surrounding area must also be taken care of.

Each property is limited to a maximum of three (3) signs.

Temporary Celebration Signs and Banners

Temporary celebration signs and banners are permitted for personal events such as birthdays, graduations, holidays, and similar occasions.

- Such displays should be temporary in nature, reasonable in size and number, and must be kept clean, well-maintained, and in good condition, and the area surrounding the sign or banner must also be well-maintained.
- Residents are encouraged to display celebration signs and banners only for a customary and appropriate period of time surrounding the event or holiday. Signs or banners should be removed promptly once the celebration has concluded.
- The Association reserves the right to request the removal or modification of any display that is deemed excessive, unsightly, improperly maintained, or inconsistent with community standards, as determined at the sole discretion of the Association.
- Temporary celebration signs and banners may not be used for commercial purposes.
- Signs and banners in medians, greenbelts, swales, and right of ways, or attached to trees, road signs, or poles, are prohibited and are subject to removal.

SIGN GUIDELINES CONTINUED...

Towing from Common Area Roads

Chapter 715.07, Florida Statutes, permits the removal of vehicles and vessels on private property and provides the authority for the "owner or lessee" of real property to tow improperly parked vehicles or vessels. This applicable law gives the Association the authority to tow vehicles and vessels which are parked on Common Areas in violation of the Association's Governing Documents. The term vehicle is defined as any mobile item that normally uses wheels, whether motorized or not. The term vessel is described as every description of watercraft, barge, and airboat used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, other than a seaplane or a "documented vessel" as defined in s. 327.02.

Signs alerting to the towing from Common Areas will be placed at the marina and gazebo parking lots. Please be aware of this change.

Along with the new sign guidelines, these 3 signs have been approved for placement on your property for purchase. The RWA office will soon make these signs available to all residents of Rotonda West. Each sign measures 3 inches by 8 inches. ***More information to follow in the coming months.***



**No Trespassing
No Soliciting**



24hr Surveillance



Dog on Premises

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND TOWN?

Rotonda West offers a vibrant community life with a variety of events and activities to engage residents and visitors alike. Whether you're interested in attending social gatherings, participating in club meetings, or enjoying recreational activities, the Community Center serves as a hub for all things happening around town.



To stay updated on the latest events, simply scan the QR code provided to access the comprehensive calendar of events. This digital tool ensures you won't miss out on exciting opportunities to connect with others and make the most of your time in Rotonda West.



✿ MAY ✿

05/01, 05/08, 05/15, 05/22, 05/29 @ 10 AM: Tai Chi/Yin Yoga

05/02 @ 9:15 AM: Rotonda Puzzle Swap *(Rotonda Park/Parade Circle)*

05/04, 05/11, 05/18 @ 10 AM: Pilates Mat Fitness

05/07 @ 6:30 PM: Music Bingo *(Final game until September)*

05/13 @ 3 PM: Hurricane Preparedness Presentation

05/17 @ 1 PM: BINGO! *(Final game until September)*

05/21 @ 6:30 PM: Trivia Night with Tim


05/23 @ 10 AM: Liberty Island Dedication Ceremony & Celebration

05/25: Memorial Day *(Office & Community Center Closed)*



05/26 @ 4:30 PM: Food Trucks Tuesday

***All events are held in the RWA Community Center unless otherwise noted**.*



FUN & GAMES

May

2026

07
MAY

**MUSIC BINGO WITH TINA
(FINAL GAME UNTIL
SEPTEMBER)**

6:30pm - 8:00pm (Doors open @ 6:00pm)

17
MAY

**BINGO (FINAL GAME
UNTIL SEPTEMBER)**

1:00pm - 5:00pm (Doors open @ 12:30pm)

21
MAY

TRIVIA WITH TIM

6:30pm - 8:30pm (Doors open @ 6:00pm)

All located at the Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Rotonda West's Real

★ STARS

ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS



**Become a Star in Rotonda West!
Find Your Perfect Role Inside!**

Which Committee Fits You?

BUDGET & FINANCE

Interim Chair: Colleen Koppenhaver

Oversees the Association's budget, financial planning, and reporting. Perfect for those who enjoy working with numbers, spreadsheets, and financial strategies.

*If you are interested in volunteering please email

budgetandfinance@rotondawest.org.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Chair: Sam Besase

Cares for community properties, grounds, and facilities. Ideal for those who appreciate detailed landscaping, maintenance, or projects.

*If you are interested in volunteering please email

buildingsandgrounds@rotondawest.org.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Chair: Gwen Grace

Plans community events like Christmas Parade, BINGO, Music in the Park, Food Trucks, Garage Sale, Talent Show, and more. Great for you if you enjoy organizing events, socializing, and uniting people.

*If you are interested in volunteering please email

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

COMPLIANCE

Chair: Barb Peszko

Handles formal violation hearings and promotes fair enforcement processes. Ideal for those who value fairness, clear rules, and thoughtful decision-making.

*If you are interested in volunteering please email

compliancecommittee@rotondawest.org

ELECTIONS

Chair: Position Open

Oversees Board elections and yearly voting processes. Ideal for you if you're organized, detail-oriented, and enjoy managing procedures.

*If you are interested in volunteering please email

electioncommittee@rotondawest.org.

RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATIONS

Chair: Barb Peszko

Reviews and approves homeowner exterior modification applications. Ideal for those with an eye for design, standards, or plan reviews.

*If you are interested in volunteering please email

residentialmodifications@rotondawest.org.

★ YOU'RE INVITED ★

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION



STATUE OF LIBERTY DEDICATION CEREMONY

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD • 10:00 AM

★ TAKING PLACE AT ★

LIBERTY ISLAND

110 BOUNDARY BLVD
ROTONDA WEST

★ FOLLOWED BY ★

★ CELEBRATION OF THE ★

250TH

ANNIVERSARY OF THE USA

STARTING AT 11:30 AM

AT THE

ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CENTER

646 ROTONDA CIRCLE
ROTONDA WEST

★ HONORING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM ★
★★★ INSPIRING OUR FUTURE ★★★

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE RWA OFFICE.

FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

★ ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION ★

★ — CELEBRATES THE — ★

250TH

ANNIVERSARY

★ OF THE USA! ★



SATURDAY,
MAY 23



11:30 AM –
2:30 PM



Rotonda West
Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

★ JOIN US FOR A ★
STAR-SPANGLED AFTERNOON OF FUN! ★



FOAM
PARTY

CLASSIC
CAR SHOW

HOT DOGS,
BURGERS &
SAUSAGE

PIE BAKING
CONTEST

MUSIC

GAMES

FACE
PAINTING

★ *And More!* ★

*Bring your family,
friends & patriotic spirit!*

Celebrate community, tradition,
and **250** years of America!



★ OPEN TO ROTONDA WEST MEMBERS, RENTERS AND GUESTS ★



QUESTIONS?

communityoutreach@rotondawest.org



PLEASE DO NOT
CONTACT THE RWA OFFICE



LET FREEDOM RING — SEE YOU THERE!



presents:



**Hurricane
Season**

June 1st - November 30th

Are you prepared?

Join us for a FREE presentation on
May 13th from 3pm to 4pm to ensure
you're ready for the 2026 hurricane season!

Located in the Community Center @ 646 Rotonda Circle

Gopher Tortoises are On the Move!

Article and Photo by: Ann Weaver

Spring is the season the gopher tortoise travels to find a mate, select a nest site or seek a new territory. Gopher tortoises are a protected species statewide. These slow moving reptiles are most vulnerable when crossing streets.

If you see a gopher tortoise in the road or about to cross pavement, please give some assistance. Pull your car to a safe spot and put on your flashers. Proceed in traffic with caution! The Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) says you may help the tortoise cross the road. To do this, carefully pick up the tortoise by holding it on either side of its shell and placing it out of harm's way in the same direction that it was headed. Do not take the tortoise with you or move it to a different area. Do not put your life in danger to move the tortoise. (myFWC.com/gophertortoise)

The tortoise may expel breath when picked up, making a hissing sound. She does this so she can get inside her shell. She won't bite, but her claws are sharp. If a tortoise is injured or sick, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's toll-free Wildlife Alert hotline at 888-404-3922 or a wildlife rescue such as Peace River Wildlife Center, 941-637-3830. Tortoises are land animals; do not put them in water.

In April, a gopher tortoise was killed by a vehicle on Rotonda North Blvd. If you have questions about a tortoise on or near your property, you can call Charlotte County Parks and Natural Resources at 941-613-3220. It may be appropriate to ask for a Gopher Tortoise Crossing sign.

Watch the road while driving and follow speed limits to avoid hitting tortoises crossing the road. No road in Rotonda West has a speed limit greater than 35 mph! That includes Boundary Boulevard and Rotonda Circle. Ask your service providers – pest control, lawn and pool maintenance – to drive the speed limit.

Let's all work to keep our wildlife safe.



Are You Over-Pruning Your Palms?

by Tia Silvasy Residential Horticulture Extension Agent in Hillsborough County. She leads the Master Gardener Volunteer program and provides educational programming to help homeowners work towards more sustainable landscapes.



The Big Misunderstanding:

“Do not prune above 9 and 3 on a clock” was guidance intended as an absolute pruning limit. “Pruning to 9 and 3” as a standard was never the goal. Over time, it has been misinterpreted as the correct way to prune palms. Horticultural best practices are to encourage a palm’s natural growth by keeping as close to a full “round crown” as possible. This palm is over-pruned, reducing the palms nutritional uptake and making it more susceptible to high winds. Photo: L. van der Laag, UF/IFAS

What Palm Leaves Actually Do: Palm Leaves = Food Storage +Defense

Palms recycle their nutrients from the older leaves to feed the new leaves. Any green palm frond contributes nutrients to the plant through photosynthesis. Green and yellowing leaves supply potassium, magnesium, and other nutrients to new growth.

Diagnostic Clues:

Yellowing patterns help identify nutrient deficiencies early- before palms decline.

Removing green or partly yellow leaves robs the palm of food and weakens its defense against pests and disease. In the long run, it can increase your maintenance costs due to additional fertilizer and the fight against pests and disease.

Notice how the older leaves are yellowing in this nutrient deficient foxtail palm. Photo: L. van der Laag



Why Palms Need Their Leaves:

Older leaves act as a nutrient reservoir, especially for potassium and magnesium. When you remove them before they are fully brown, you’re essentially cutting off much of the palm’s built-in nutrient supply system messages. In our urban areas, where soils are often highly compacted or lacking in organic matter, less pruning is recommended.

Ideally, prune palms only if necessary. What can you safely prune?

Completely brown, dead leaves, any leaves that pose a safety hazard or touch a structure, flower or fruit stalks (especially before they “fall”)



If the palm frond is green, even partially green, it is still contributing nutrients to the palm. Also, many palms are “self-cleaning” – they drop their own leaves in time.

Pruning green or yellowing leaves exacerbates nutrient loss and weakens the palm. Giving palms a “hurricane cut” or pruning to a pencil point top actually weakens their ability to withstand high winds. Help end palm over-pruning and avoid: “Hurricane” cuts, “Feather Duster” look, “Pencil point” tops.

Happy, healthy Phoenix palm tree with full canopy. Photo: L. van der Laag, UF/IFAS

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsboroughco/2026/03/29/are-you-over-pruning-your-palms/>

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CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PRESENTS:

There's a Lot of Caring About People at CCSO

By Connie Smith

There's a lot of caring about people – including seniors - going on at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). Mary Sharp of the Sheriff's Community Affairs Unit described the numerous community service programs, including a few that benefit seniors, April 15, at the RWA Community Center.

Anyone who would benefit from one of these programs should call the Sheriff's Office 941-575-5260:



Mary Sharp of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Support Services discusses programs that benefit seniors.

- **Senior Outreach** – Persons 55 and over who are disabled or isolated may receive a weekly checkup call from a Community Affairs member or a trained volunteer who will inquire whether the individual is in good health or needs any services or assistance.
- **DNA Scent Kits** – Mary demonstrated how a strip of gauze is used to obtain an individual's pure scent that is placed in an air-tight glass jar and placed out of direct heat and sunlight. The scent will last for up to 10 years. If the individual is lost or wanders away, a CCSO K-9 will use the pure scent to track and locate the individual.
- **Take Me Home** – This program assists CCSO deputies in locating missing individuals by providing a recent photo and personal information of vulnerable citizens with a tendency to wander.
- **Red Dot** – The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office sponsors this program which is beneficial to all responding agencies including Charlotte County Fire & EMS and Englewood Fire Department. Red Dot provides information on prior medical emergencies and basic health information. When you return the completed Red Dot application in the envelope provided, 911 operators will be able to inform emergency personnel of your medical information before they arrive at your home. You will also have a red dot to place on your front door and a corresponding magnetic red holder on your refrigerator which will benefit EMS responders by providing the appropriate care.
- **Operation Pill Drop** – Seniors accumulate medications over the years and never know what to do with their expired meds! Your CCSO has a receptacle box at all five district office locations. The closest location to Rotonda West is located at Sunnybrook and Wilmington – not far at all!

CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CONTINUED...

- **Camera Registry Program** – Share your security camera footage to solve crimes. This program does not give CCSO access to your cameras, but it helps investigators to know who to get in touch with if there is a criminal incident in your area. There is no cost in sharing your camera location.
- **B.A.T. (Bicycle Anti-Theft)** – Register your bicycle, golf cart or kayak with CCSO and have a registration sticker placed on your bike, golf cart or kayak. If your property is stolen, it will help to identify you as the correct owner.
- **C.A.T. (Combat Auto Theft)** – By displaying the C.A.T. decal on your vehicle or trailer, deputies have permission to stop the vehicle, without probable cause, particularly during late-night/early-morning hours, to determine if it has been stolen.
- **Neighborhood Watch** – Mary said Rotonda West is fortunate to have the “poster child” for Neighborhood Watch programs in Charlotte County! She also mentioned that Rotonda West has one of the lowest crime rates in the county and that the excellence of this local program plays a big part in that statistic! She urged residents to consider volunteering if possible.



When Florida deputies see this decal on a vehicle or trailer traveling during late-night or early-morning hours, they may conduct a stop to determine whether there has been a theft.

The sheriff's office non-emergency line is always accessible by calling 941-639-2101 and you can be transferred to Mary Sharp or someone in the Community Affairs Unit to assist you. There are several ways that seniors can register with the Sheriff's office to benefit from programs. They can learn more from Sheriff's web site, ccso.org, or download the free app.



EARTH DAY BIKE RIDE LITTER CLEANUP- CHALLENGE

By: Rita Lopienski

Celebrate Earth Day! Bike Ride & Walking Litter Clean-Up Challenge was a success, with a beautiful sunny & breezy day, full of nature to enjoy while keeping our neighborhood clean!



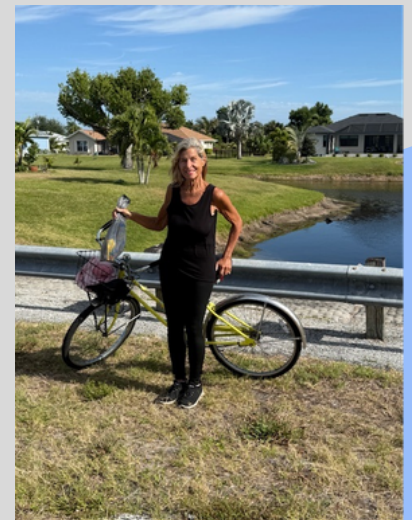
Jeff & Karen Nicholas



Kevin Lagraff & Susan Atkins were ready to cover Broadmoor



Shawn Anderson was ready for a 2nd bag. She walks daily picking up litter



Organizer Rita Lopienski enjoyed meeting members & renters while "Re-Cycling".

Parade Circle and Rotonda West Blvd to Boundary. Approximately 5 miles - 1 hour - 120 pieces. 14 gallon trash bag and two plastic grocery sacks.



MUSIC IN THE PARK

by: Chester Mann



Music in the Park on April 15th was a huge success. Paul Duffy entertained and told stories to a crowd of approximately 140. Paul sang, played Keyboard, Guitar, Tin Whistle, Flute, and Sax, even 2 saxophones at the same time. We have booked Paul again for Music in the Park on **December 8, 2026 4-6pm.**



Next season of Music in the Park, will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning in November with Jonny Puma.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

April was filled with great programs for the RWA Health & Wellness Initiative!
Don't miss out on these wonderful opportunities to improve your balance,
strengthen your core, reduce stress and get into better shape!

By: Rita Lopienski



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.

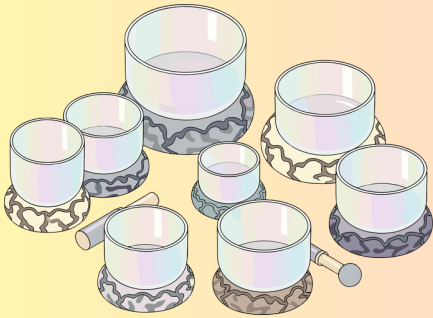
**PLEASE BRING A
PILATES MAT**



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Community Outreach Committee Health & Wellness Initiative presented “Sound Bathing Meditation with Crystal Bowls”

By: Rita Lopienski



On April 9th Instructor Dr. Donna Kester Phillips, who has led several Qigong sessions for us in the past year, led this first time unique meditation therapeutic journey using resonant sound waves.

The participants relaxed and let the soothing and vibrating sounds of crystal singing bowls help clear their minds and open their hearts for better health and vitality. Chakra stones were also brought, available to use with the bowls for emotional balance, calmness, mental clarity and meditation.



The bowls were set up as a scale for chakra alignment. There were harmonic sequences & intention setting, led by Donna. The major stages include Arrival (Grounding or Centering), Descent (Releasing or Clearing), Depth (Deep Relaxation or Immersion), Expansion (Integration or Awakening) & Return (Grounding or Awakening).

We hope to offer this program again later this year, due to many requests for it.



NATURE NEWS

Broadmoor Park Nature Walk April 4, 2026

by Merrill Horswill



Coreopsis, Florida State Wildflower



Kaitlin Causey, Charlotte County Land Manager explains bird identification by sight and sound



Butterfly Garden tour with Ann Weaver

Bobwhite quail in grass (USDA photo), ground nesting in park



Alligator sunning on pond bank



It was a beautiful and informative day in Broadmoor Park. Enjoy your park and nature!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAYS



TUESDAY, MAY 26
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY

ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CENTER
646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

Food Trucks

**Trucks
to be
announced
at a later
date.**

Live Music
on the back
patio



No outside food or
beverages. The Hills golf
course will be operating
a bar.
Restrooms will be open .

Please do not contact the RWA office. They do
not have information. For questions email:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

Join us at the RWA Community Center on the 4th
Tuesday of each month and indulge in mouthwatering
food trucks—don't miss out on this delicious
opportunity!



GFWC Rotonda West Women's Club, Inc.

Gwen Grace (*Past President*)

May 2026



Did you know the Rotonda West Woman's Club hosts five active book clubs? Members can participate in Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO), a special program within the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) that encourages reading, self-enrichment, and personal growth along with making friendships. Open to all GFWC federated club members who pay dues, ESO offers a structured approach for ongoing learning through reading.

Besides our book club regular meetings, all the book clubs get together for a luncheon every six months. On April 8th, 40 members of ESO met at Lipinski's Tavern to hear Judy Pearson, a best-selling author, an accomplished presenter, and a graduate of Michigan State University. But her favorite title is "storyteller."

With expertise in cancer survivorship, women's history, and the study of courage, Judy's first books told of ordinary people who became extraordinary heroes during World War II: ***Belly of the Beast: A POW's True Story of Faith, Courage and Survival*** and ***The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy***. The latter is a best-seller, received a "Best of Phoenix Award," and has been purchased for a movie.

A diagnosis of Triple Negative Breast Cancer briefly interrupted Judy's career as an author. That started a trilogy, beginning with ***From Shadows to Life: A Biography of the Cancer Survivorship Movement***. In addition to receiving wonderful praise, it was a **2022 Nautilus Gold Award** winner. While researching that book, Judy was introduced to the inimitable Mary Lasker.

Crusade to Heal America: The Remarkable Life of Mary Lasker is the never-before-told story of the woman who persuaded President Richard Nixon to allocate over \$1 billion to cancer research, dramatically changing survival rates. The book was selected a **2023 Bronze Florida Book Award** winner.



The third book in the trilogy is ***Radical Sisters: Shirley Temple Black, Rose Kushner, Evelyn Lauder, and the Dawn of the Breast Cancer Movement***. three courageous women turned their darkest day into life-saving changes for all of the breast cancer survivors who came afterward. It is the recipient of a **2025 Gold Florida Book Award**.

The next General Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 21st at the RWA community center. We will not have general meetings in June, July or August. Everyone is welcome to join us for a social gathering at 9:30 AM, followed by the business meeting at 10:00 AM.

For more information about our club's events and activities, please visit our website at www.gfwcrotondawest.org. You can also find it on Facebook under GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Group. All are welcome to attend our general meetings!



Saturday, May 23, 2026 – Rotonda West Community Center at 646 Rotonda Circle Hosted by GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club

- **11:30 to Noon: Deliver your Rotonda Shaped Pie in an 8” or 9” Disposable Pan**
- **For Community Health concerns, please no pies that require refrigeration**
- **First, Second and Third Place Awards will be announced at 1:30 pm**
- **There is no entry fee. The pies will be cut, judged and remaining slices sold as a small fundraiser to benefit the 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer’s.**
- **Open to all Rotonda West Members, Renters and their guests.**
- **Questions: Contact Community Outreach Committee
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org**

GFWC PIE BAKING CONTEST EVENT RULES

Pie Baking Contest Hosted by GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club

What better way to show off your pie baking skills and creativity than joining in a fun and delicious competition! Rotonda West, a pie-shaped community, are inviting contestants to bring their best homemade pie to be judged. Entries will be evaluated based on overall appearance, crust, filling, and flavor/taste. After judging, the pies will be sold at \$1.00 per slice to support GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Walk to End Alzheimer's 2026.

How to Enter

To participate, bring your home-baked pie to the Rotonda West Community Center on Saturday, May 23, between 11:30 AM and 12:00 PM. Judging will start promptly at 12:30 PM and conclude at 1:00 PM. Winners will be announced at 1:30 PM. Bakers must be present to win.

Contest Rules & Regulations

- No entry fee is needed to submit your pie to the contest.
- Pies must not require refrigeration and cannot include raw or uncooked eggs (whites or yolks).
- Each pie must be baked by the contestant and presented in an 8 or 9-inch disposable pie tin.
- Do not write your name on the pie tin. Pies will be assigned a number at registration to ensure anonymity during judging.

Judging Process

- Judges will not know the identity of the bakers.
- Judging begins at 12:30 PM, and prizes will be announced at 1:30 PM.
- All decisions made by the judges are final. Pies will be scored based on four criteria:
 1. **Overall Appearance – 10 points**
Pre-Slice: Judges will consider the basic eye appeal and the extent to which the whole pie entices them to try it, including creative and appetizing decoration.
After Slice: Judges will assess the look and consistency of the filling and crust in a single slice.
 2. **Crust – 20 points**
 3. **Filling – 20 points**
 4. **Flavor/Taste – 50 points**

Total possible points: 100

Prizes

- 1st Place – \$75
- 2nd Place – \$50
- 3rd Place – \$25

So let's start baking!



Date: April 25, 2026

Contact: Lillian GaNun

Phone: 941-626-9632

E-Mail: hildsosl7@embarqmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AT WORKDAY and NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day, May 15, 2026 is part of the week Highlighting the importance of life jacket use in all boating activities whether you are working in the office, at home, or on the water, all boating enthusiasts can and are encouraged to Wear Your Life Jacket At Work on Friday, May 15, 2026. This fun day is part of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in three out of every four recreational boating fatalities, and the 87 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK IS MAY 16-22, 2026

National Safe Boating Week in 2026 runs from May 16-22. It is organized by the National Safe Boating Counsel to encourage safe and responsible boating practices, with a particular focus on wearing life jackets and ensuring all safety equipment is in proper condition. This week serves as a reminder for boaters to review safety procedures, check their vessels, and participate in educational activities.

National Safe Boating Week aligns with the start of the boating season in many regions, making it an ideal time to inspect boats, check safety gear, and prepare for summer activities.

By participating in National Safe Boating Week, boaters contribute to reducing accidents, promoting life jacket use, and fostering a culture of safety on the water.

Flotilla 99, Cape Haze will be passing out Boating Safety Information at the Freedom Boat Club, Englewood, Gasparilla Marina Fuel Dock, Tiki Hut restaurant, Placida Boat Ramp and the South Gulf Cove lock and their Communication/PA trailer located at the South Gulf Cove HOA property 14859 Ingraham Blvd.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org



As Mother's Day approaches, the entire Board of Directors would like to acknowledge all the wonderful Moms in our community and remember those who are no longer with us.

With development on the rise in Rotonda West—including the proposed *Quarters at Rotonda*, a 212-unit multifamily project located between Long Meadow, Broadmoor, and Parade Circle that includes affordable housing—[joining Neighborhood Watch just makes sense.](#)

There are also additional properties around Parade Circle that could receive approval for multifamily housing by the end of the year. Let us not forget the proposal for senior and low-income housing across from the park at the end of Parade Circle.

At the same time, Charlotte County has introduced new safety regulations for e-bikes, scooters, and other micromobility devices, along with speed zone cameras in school zones.

Where you **CAN** ride e-bikes and similar devices:

- Sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, multi-use paths, and designated bike paths
- Maximum speed: 15 mph

Safety reminders:

- Always yield to pedestrians
- Slow down when passing and alert others with a bell, horn, or voice

Where you **CANNOT** ride:

- Trails, greenways, and greenbelts are off-limits for powered devices
- Example: Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Park

Speeding in School Zones

With over six schools just outside Rotonda West, there is a high chance you pass at least one daily. Don't forget there is an entrance to Vineland Elementary on Boundary Blvd.

While most school zones are set at 20 mph, Vineland Elementary and L.A. Ainger operate **at 15 mph when lights are flashing.** Stay alert and slow down—those tickets come quickly.

[Welcome to our newest Patrols!](#)
[Mark Griffith and Diane & Dennis Swinney](#)



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

Charlotte County requires you to register your home alarm system with the Sheriff's Office. Registration is super easy-

<https://ccso.org/PublicInterest/pdf/AlarmRegistration2012.pdf>



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

Prefer to Patrol? Either position takes two hours a month; a small commitment to protecting our neighborhoods. If you are interested in joining our organization, please contact David Perry at 941-828-1584, go to our Facebook page @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch, or scan the QR code above.

[There will not be a meeting in May due to overlapping schedules.](#)

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) non-emergency number is
941-639-2101 and they can also be reached at <https://www.ccsso.org/>

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

David W Perry -President- 941-828-1584

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



Sheriff Bill Prummell

7474 Utilities Road

Punta Gorda, FL 33982

(941) 639-2101

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

Integrity, Professionalism, Trust

Training Announcement

"Citizen* Handgun Safety Course"

Must be a resident of Charlotte County

Dates & Times:	January 24, 2026	9am - 3:30pm
	February 21, 2026	9am - 3:30pm
	March 28, 2026	9am - 3:30pm
	April 11, 2026	9am - 3:30pm
	May 16, 2026	9am - 3:30pm
	June 20, 2026	9am - 3:30pm

Location: Charlotte County Sheriff's Office – Training Range
25520 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Instructor(s): CCSO Firearms Instructors

- Program:**
- Class participants will be taught NRA's three rules for safe gun handling, primary causes of firearm accidents, firearm parts, how to properly unload and load a firearm, cleaning and maintenance, and safe storage of firearms in the home.
 - Class participants will be provided with an overview of the local requirements for owning and purchasing a firearm.
 - Class participants will be provided with an overview of Florida's Laws and Statutes governing the safe and recreational use of firearms, including self-defense.
 - Class participants will learn and practice the fundamentals of marksmanship to include stance, grip, breath control, sight alignment & picture, trigger control.
 - Class participants will have the opportunity to practice the fundamentals of marksmanship with live fire on our range.

Materials to Bring with you: Note Taking Materials; Firearm & Ammunition; Closed toe shoes (sneakers or boots are preferred) and long pants are required. We will supply hearing protection and eye protection if you do not have your own.

Class Size: 18

Registration: Application must be submitted to Jillian Reich (jreich@ccsofl.net) by no later than the Monday prior to the class beginning. Applicants will be contacted to confirm your registration after your background check has been completed.

MSBU UPDATE

CHARLOTTE COUNTY & MSBU NEWS

By Sam Besase

- GREAT NEWS! The Army Corps of Engineers permit for Bridge 113 has finally been received by Charlotte County.
- Now the solicitation package can be sent by Charlotte County Public Works to prospective bridge construction firms.
- PROJECTED - ESTIMATED TIMETABLE
- Bridge construction solicitation package planned to be released to prospective bridge construction contractors: April 28?
- This solicitation package has presumably been ready since November 2025, some 6 months ago.
- The bridge construction bids should be due back to Charlotte County: June 16?
- Charlotte County Public Works staff make their bidder selection recommendation: July 18?
- Charlotte County Commissioners planned to vote on bidder: August 5, August 19, or September 2
- Charlotte County Schedule GROUND BREAKING EVENT: August 12, August 26, or September 9
- Planned Bridge 113 Opening (Ribbon Cutting): May 2027, June 2027, or July 2027

Charlotte County Commissioners unanimously voted on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, to begin the work to **REPLACE** the Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge (113) due to damage from Hurricane Ian (3 years and 7 months ago!). The latest offer from FEMA is **\$769K**, well short of the latest estimate of \$2.7 million. The additional **\$2 million** funds shall come from the MSBU. Meanwhile, Charlotte County shall continue to discuss with FEMA in an attempt to secure MORE funding, possibly thru another lawsuit. Information shall be updated monthly in this newsletter.]

- The RW S&D MSBU unanimous motion to MILL & GRIND Rotonda Circle was 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
- PAVING IN ROTONDA CONCLUDED IN LATE APRIL 2026
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS—SUCH AS REPLACE SOD & WATER SOD/REPLACE MANHOLE COVERS, RESOLVE RESIDENT DRIVEWAY ISSUES, ETC, SHOULD CONCLUDE ALL PAVING PUNCH LIST ACTIONS BY JUNE.
- Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is **James Layport**, and his phone number is: **941-628-8084**
- Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Rotonda Boulevard East NOW scheduled for installation - **2Q 2026**.
- Traffic lights at Gasparilla & Ingram/Ingraham are also NOW scheduled for installation - **2Q 2026**.
- Remaining 4 bridges, (#110-#111-#112-#123) are NOW scheduled for **3Q/4Q 2026 & 1Q of 2027**.
- *US Government shutdown (43 days + 53 days) may affect completion of these items!!!
- Charlotte County started major construction for the complete renovation of G. C. HERRING Park, located on the far southwest side of the RWA, next to the American Legion
- **Watering restrictions** are in effect due to the severe drought conditions. Check the Charlotte County Utilities website for specific information. **WATER 1 DAY A WEEK!**
- (If you have any questions on any of the above items, please call me at 281-923-4041. I'll try to get you an answer.)

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