

WEST WAYS



September 2026
Volume 30, Issue 9



NEWSLETTER SECTIONS

- Remembering 9/11
- Back to School Safety
- Board of Directors
- Election 2026
- Fun & Games
- Health & Wellness
- MSBU Info/Rotonda Quarters
- Nature News
- Neighborhood Watch
- September Calendar
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Volunteers Wanted
- Woman's Club

Remembering



September 11, 2001 (9/11) was a series of coordinated terrorist attacks carried out by 19 hijackers affiliated with the Islamist extremist group al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden. It remains the deadliest terrorist attack in U.S. history and the single largest loss of life from a foreign attack on American soil.

What Happened

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the hijackers boarded four commercial airliners departing from East Coast airports (Boston, Newark, and Washington Dulles), all bound for California. Using knives and box cutters, they seized control of the planes shortly after takeoff.

- 8:46 a.m.: **American Airlines Flight 11** crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City (floors 93–99).
- 9:03 a.m.: **United Airlines Flight 175** struck the South Tower (floors 77–85). Both towers were set ablaze by the jet fuel.
- 9:37 a.m.: **American Airlines Flight 77** hit the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.
- 10:03 a.m.: **United Airlines Flight 93** crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers and crew learned of the other attacks via phone calls and attempted to retake the plane. It is widely believed the target was the U.S. Capitol or White House.



The South Tower collapsed at 9:59 a.m.; the North Tower fell at 10:28 a.m. Later that afternoon, 7 World Trade Center also collapsed due to damage from falling debris.



Casualties

A total of 2,977 people were killed (excluding the 19 hijackers), including:

- Approximately 2,753 in New York (World Trade Center and surrounding area)
- 184 at the Pentagon
- 40 on Flight 93 in Pennsylvania

Victims included office workers, airline passengers and crew, and 441 first responders (the largest single loss of rescue personnel in U.S. history). People from more than 90 countries died. Thousands more were injured.

Aftermath and Impact

The attacks prompted the U.S. to launch the “War on Terror,” including the invasion of Afghanistan to dismantle al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban regime that sheltered it. They led to major changes in U.S. national security, intelligence, airport security (creation of the TSA), and the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security. The events profoundly shaped American foreign policy, domestic politics, and public life for years afterward.



≡ 9/11 MEMORIAL RIDE ≡

HONOR GUARD TRIBUTE EDITION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2026



Net Proceeds Benefit:

**Charlotte County Fire & EMS
Benevolent Fund**

American Legion Riders

Donation: \$20 per Bike or Cage

Starting Location: Moose Lodge #2554

4212 N Access Rd, Englewood, FL 34224

REGISTRATION OPENS at 10:00 AM / KSU at 11:00 AM

HONOR GUARD TRIBUTE & EVENT FEATURES



**DRINK
SPECIALS**



**FOOD FOR
PURCHASE**



**BASKET
RAFFLE**



50/50s



MUSIC



LIVE AUCTION
by a firefighter
who served on 9/11

★ ≡ **COME ONE, COME ALL – BIKE OR CAGE!** ≡ ★

1ST STOP

Moose Riders



2ND STOP

Rotonda V



3RD STOP

Wills Honkytonk



4TH STOP

The White Rabbit



5TH STOP

American Legion Riders



RIDE ENDS AT 3:00 PM

★ ★ AL Post 113, 3436 Indiana Rd, Rotonda West ★ ★

3rd Annual ROTONDA Puzzlers

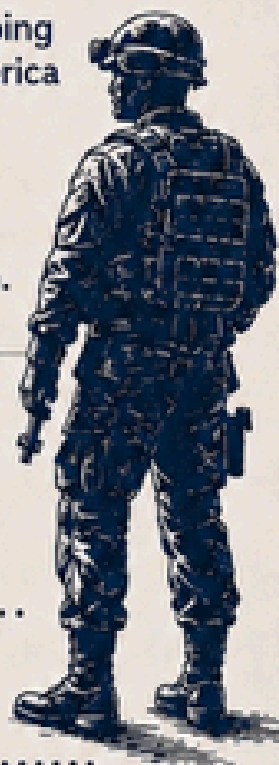
★ SUPPORTS ★



TUNNELS TO TOWERS — FOUNDATION —

Tunnels to Towers is a foundation committed to helping eradicate veteran homelessness and ensuring that America never forgets **September 11th, 2001**.

We are privileged to help build mortgage free, specially adapted smart homes to Gold Star veterans and fallen first responders families with young children.



HOW YOU CAN HELP??



Donate a brand new puzzle to the Rotonda Puzzlers Group to raffle.



Purchase Raffle tickets to win puzzles.



Annual drawing will be
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH AT 9AM



at the Rotonda Community Park,
100 ROTONDA BLVD EAST

Contact Ellyn
for more information.
ellynnadeau@gmail.com



DRIVERS

Watch for pedestrians!
Especially children walking on the street or congregating near bus stops

Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking



Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load/unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop



Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before driving again.

CHILDREN

Crossing any road is dangerous!

- ★ Get to the bus stop ahead of time
- ★ When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street
- ★ If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk along the side of the road (at least five giant steps) ahead before you cross
- ★ Be sure that the bus driver can see you & you can see the driver
- ★ Never walk behind the bus
- ★ Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus



PARENTS

Teach children to follow these safety tips to arrive safely everyday!



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Safety • Service • Community



ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION *Board of Directors*



ANDY VAN SCYOC
President



KAREN HARVEY
Vice President



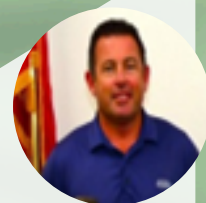
SAM BESASE
Treasurer



DEB ORCHARD
Secretary



GWEN GRACE
Director



DAVID KELLY
Director



PETER TRAVERSO
Director

SUMMARY OF JULY 9, 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(To view full minutes, please visit rotondawest.org/meeting-minutes/)

Meeting Overview

- Held on July 9, 2026, with quorum present; President Van Scyoc called the meeting to order.
- A moment of silence was observed for employee Dale Anderson.
- Minutes from June 11, 2026, were approved unanimously.

Member Input

- Dale Jensen questioned early meeting start times and voting procedures.
- Karen Hoover raised concerns about committee member appointments and communication issues.
- Members expressed appreciation for health and wellness programs and the addition of exercise classes.

Reports and Approvals

- Treasurer's report indicated \$2.3 million cash, income ahead of schedule.
- Management provided updates on the administration building and water quality.
- Fines were approved for violations, and new members joined the Deed Restrictions Committee.

New Business

- Election rules, candidate packets, and voting procedures were discussed.
- Brian Arman will moderate two candidate events.
- A proposed \$1,000 Dale Anderson scholarship was suggested, with community input supporting broader eligibility.

****Next meeting is Thursday, September 10, 2026 @ 12:00PM****

RWA 2026 ELECTION

MEET THE CANDIDATES

On August 20, 2026, the RWA Board of Directors officially certified six candidates for the two available seats on the Board.

The candidates are:



Jeff Bridges



Karen Harvey



Dale Jensen



David Kelly



Maureen Laderer



Kelly Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Candidates Evening: October 14, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

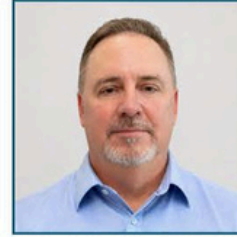
Candidates Afternoon: October 21, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

ELECTRONIC VOTING

As a reminder, for those of you who wish to vote electronically and haven't consented to do so yet, please visit the RWA website to sign up

CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Jeff Bridges
jrb4765@gmail.com
(636) 357-6927



My name is Jeff Bridges and my wife Sandye and I live here in Rotonda West. We have owned our home here since 2020. I have recently retired from the work force after 30 years in sales, that past 18 as the director of sales for an interactive technology company working with public and private schools across the United States. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and have continued that passion throughout my life as an avid collector of books from World War II through modern day US history.

I have volunteering throughout my adult life, trying to give back and help improve organizations for all involved. I volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for more than a decade and served on the board of directors for my youngest son's high school hockey team as president in Missouri. Along the way I've volunteered to coach just about any sport you can think of as my kids grew up. I understand that for organizations to function, and to improve, you must get involved. I've never been afraid to jump in and roll up my sleeves to get the work done and I'm excited to do the same with the RWA Board.

I want to serve on the RWA Board for one simple reason-to make residents proud of our community. I think the Board should work toward common goals like public safety and improved communication. I hear about many issues that arise via social media and discussion with neighbors. Our board should work to meet the community in the middle, not mandate. I realize these issues won't disappear with the wave of a magic wand, but I'm willing to put in the work to bring service back to the purpose of the RWA board.

I think there are some things we can do to start this process. Vacant lots need to be maintained more consistently. If you own the lot, keep it maintained - period. Boundary Blvd, where I live, is a race track. Vehicles regularly pass by our home, and yours, in excess of 50 mph or more. There are no sidewalks and no speed bumps and it's simply dangerous. Finally, the "third rail" of living in Rotonda West...trash cans. There has to be a solution that solves these issues once and for all. Those are my "wants," what are yours?

Let's work together to make Rotonda better.

Jeff Bridges
4 August 2026

Karen W. Harvey

karen.harvey@rotondawest.org

301 910 7038

Background:

I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and I lived there until my father was transferred with the Federal Government to Rockville, MD. I worked in Washington, DC where I remained until retirement in 2018. I worked as a Senior Director of Human Resources for a large trade association in Washington, DC.

Education:

Associates of Arts degree in Business Management from Montgomery College

Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from Columbia Union College

Experience:

Current Vice President of the Board – December 2025 until present

Communications Committee for 2 years – 2019 – 2021

Member of the Community Relations Committee – 2019 – 2021

Co-Chair of the Community Outreach Committee for 1 year – 2021 to 2022

Holidays Decorations Coordinator for 6 years – 2020 until present

Event Chair for Gazebo Lighting for 6 years – 2020 – present

Elections Committee for 3 years – 2020 – 2022; Secretary for 1 year - 2021 to 2022

Summary:

I am a dedicated leader who is passionate about Rotonda West and committed to serving its residents. Our community needs strong, transparent leadership from someone who listens, builds consensus, and gets things done. I have proven my ability to lead effectively and will continue working toward a stronger future for Rotonda West. Solid deed restrictions are essential to preserving our community and maintaining the quality of life that makes this our little slice of paradise. I also volunteer with charitable organizations outside Rotonda West, supporting work that is vital to our broader community. After the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian, I want to help continue rebuilding, restoring, and strengthening our community. I am committed to creating and supporting efforts that sustain and showcase Rotonda West as an exciting and thriving place to live.



Currently serving a 3-year term on the Rotonda West Association Board of Directors where I hold the position of Vice President

Expertise

- Strong Female lead
- Currently serving on RWA Board
- Several years' experience on RWA committees
- Consensus Builder
- Able to tackle challenges
- Problem-Solver
- Clear Communicator

Name: Dale Jensen

Email Address dale@electdalejensen.com

Phone: (608) 201-2481

Campaign website: www.electdalejensen.com



Background

I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and spent most of my adult life in the Midwest. After a 32-year career with the telephone company—beginning with Ohio Bell, then Ameritech, and ultimately AT&T—I retired and Rosemarie and I purchased a second home in Rotonda West. In 2010, after deciding we had endured enough Midwest winters, we made Rotonda West our permanent home. I have proudly called this community home for the past 16 years. In my free time, I enjoy golfing, volunteering in the community, and managing my willful but lovable dog.

Experience

- Past Chair, RWA Deed Restriction Committee
- Past Chair, RWA Election Committee
- Current Member, RWA Building and Grounds Committee
- Current Member, RWA Residential Modification Committee
- Local Coordinator, Englewood AARP Tax-Aide Program

Accomplishments

The volunteer accomplishment I am most proud of is leading the implementation of electronic voting for the Rotonda West Association. For many years, I believed members deserved a convenient, secure alternative to the traditional paper ballot. In 2025, that vision became a reality. Electronic voting increased convenience, improved accessibility, and gave members another easy way to participate in Association elections.

Another accomplishment that is especially meaningful to me is serving as the Local Coordinator for the Englewood AARP Tax-Aide Program. I coordinate a team of 18 volunteers who prepare and electronically file income tax returns for approximately 750 low-to-moderate income individuals and families each year. Helping people navigate what can be a confusing process—and often saving them hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees—is both personally and professionally rewarding.

Why I'm Running

Like many Rotonda West residents, I don't always agree with every decision made by the RWA Board. It's easy to express disagreements on social media, but simply criticizing decisions does little to improve them. I believe the best way to make a positive difference is to become actively involved.

There's an old saying: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." That philosophy has guided my decision to run for the Board of Directors. Rather than standing on the sidelines, I want to put my experience, commitment, and willingness to listen to work on behalf of our members.

If elected, I will approach every issue with an open mind, ask the hard questions when necessary, and always strive to make decisions that are transparent, fiscally responsible, and in the best interests of the entire Rotonda West community.

I would be honored to earn your vote and the opportunity to serve our community.



David Kelly

941-270-2575 / Davidkellyrgcc@aol.com

Personal:

Native of: Rotonda West, Englewood

Family: 4 Children (20,22,24,25) Resident of Rotonda West and Surrounding areas for over 40 Years

Education:

High School: Lemon Bay High School

College/Degree: BS Degree, University of South Florida -Business Administration

Employment History:

Oyster Creek Golf Club 1998-2000

Rotonda Golf & Country Club 25 Years -2001-Present

Public Service:

Rotary Club of Placida 25 Years

Englewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors-2004-2011, President 2010

Rotonda West Association RMC Liaison 2021-2026

Why I Want to serve:

It has truly been great to serve our community for the last 15 years. If I am elected for 3 more years, I will continue to provide conservative financial logic to keep dues low and our standards high for my fellow directors and residents. Rotonda continues to grow at a rapid pace with permanent and seasonal residents moving to our great area every day. Our community is moving in a direction to be proud of!

My Vision of the future of Rotonda:

My vision for Rotonda is to continue our responsible growth and at the same time keep this an affordable community to live in for our residents. We need to continue to maintain canals, green belts, common areas and Broadmoor park at the highest levels possible to keep property values high for our residents.

Maureen Laderer
mmladerer@gmail.com
410-598-5065



My name is Maureen Laderer, and I am honored to be a candidate for the Rotonda West HOA Board of Directors. My husband and I live year-round in the Pinehurst neighborhood and are proud to call Rotonda West our home. Before moving to Florida, we lived in Maryland, where we raised our three sons.

Community involvement has always been an important part of my life. Throughout my sons' school years, I was an active volunteer, serving as Vice President of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and as Team Mom for their football teams. I also dedicated many years to Scouting, serving as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Boy Scout Troop Committee Chairperson, and Chartered Organization Representative. These experiences strengthened my leadership, organizational, and communication skills while reinforcing the value of teamwork, volunteerism, and bringing people together for a common purpose.

Professionally, I am a travel advisor specializing in group and cruise travel. My career has strengthened my skills in planning, organization, budgeting, problem-solving, and working with people from all walks of life. I believe in listening to others, finding practical solutions, and creating positive experiences through collaboration.

Since moving to Rotonda West, I have become actively involved by serving on the Community Outreach Committee. I have been on the committee for over 3 years now. I am proud to have started our monthly Food Truck Tuesday event, which has become a popular opportunity for neighbors to gather, socialize, and support local businesses. I am also working with the committee on several new initiatives that I hope will continue to strengthen our sense of community and encourage resident involvement.

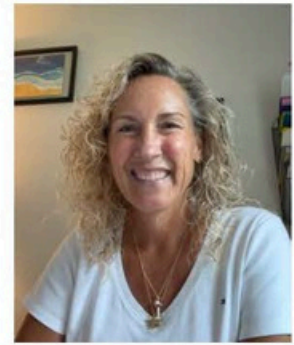
I am seeking a position on the Board of Directors because I want to help make a positive difference in our growing community. I believe Rotonda West is a wonderful place to live, and I would like to help shape its future while preserving what makes it special. One of my goals is to expand opportunities for neighbors to connect by creating more social events and community activities that bring residents together, foster new friendships, and strengthen our sense of community.

If elected, I will bring proven leadership, enthusiasm, and a collaborative approach to serving our community. I am committed to listening to homeowners, making thoughtful and transparent decisions, and always acting in the best interests of our residents. It would be an honor to earn your trust, your vote, and the opportunity to serve on the Rotonda West HOA Board of Directors.

Kelly A. Williams

kawilli2021@gmail.com

410-905-6541



My name is Kelly Williams and I am excited to enter my name as a candidate for the Rotonda West Association Board. My husband, Chuck, and I live here full time in Rotonda West. We moved here in 2022 from Virginia Beach, after my husband fully retired so he could play golf and I could continue my 25 plus-year career as a certified Reading Specialist with a local nonprofit that serves the children and families of Englewood and surrounding areas.

In addition to my full-time career as a teacher, Reading Specialist, and university professor and raising 3 wonderful sons in my native Maryland, I have volunteered in a wide variety of positions for over 30 years; including cub scout leader (5 yrs.), parish counsel member (3 yrs.), religious education teacher (7 yrs.), executive board member of my sons' high school Mothers' Club (4 yrs.), swim team concessions chair (8 yrs.), and baker for a community nonprofit (14 yrs.). Here in Florida, I continued my volunteer service as an executive board member of The Literacy Center for Dyslexia (3 yrs.), and most recently, I've been working with the Rotonda research group (1 yr.) learning about the proposed development coming to our community and helping spread awareness.

My extensive experience, both professionally and as a community volunteer, in leadership, diplomacy, strong organization, community support, creative problem solving, as well as a passion for collaborative and cooperative communities has served me well in all areas of my life, and will make me a positive addition to the Rotonda West Association Board.

If elected, I look forward to bringing my knowledge and experience to an established and strong association, complimenting the existing talents and skills, supporting the lines of communication with all homeowners and board members, and working toward a bright and exciting future for this little piece of paradise we are all lucky enough to call home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly A. Williams



RWA COMMITTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

**All meetings are available on Zoom
(link provided in Constant Contact)**

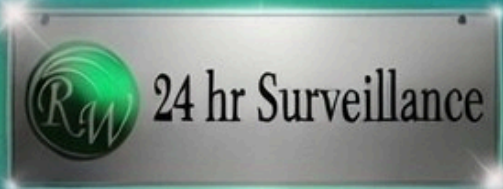
COMMITTEE	DAY	TIME
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH	12:00 P.M.
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)	10:00 A.M.
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:30 A.M.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE	1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:00 A.M.
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	DATES VARY (CHECK CALENDAR)	2:00 P.M.
ELECTION COMMITTEE	SPECIFIC TO ELECTION	TBD
RESIDENTIAL MODIFICATION COMMITTEE	2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	9:00 A.M.
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	10:00 A.M.

Now Available!

Enhance your home's security and pride!

Official RWA-approved
Perfect for Rotonda West residents

\$7 each



The official RWA approved signs for residents to place on their property are now available for purchase in the RWA Office.

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.

ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FAIR & RESOURCE EXPO

Connecting Charlotte County residents, age 50 and better to local resources and services.



COME CONNECT ON:
WED., SEPT. 30, 2026
9 AM - 2 PM

ROTONDA WEST COMMUNITY CENTER
646 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL 33947

FREE ADMISSION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RAFFLES & PRIZES — MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

This free event will bring together 30 local organizations and service providers from throughout the Charlotte County Rotonda area.

Meet and interact with representatives of local organizations and agencies that provide health and wellness information, emergency preparedness education, veteran services, senior services, family supports and much MORE!

This event sponsored in party by:



DR. MAKSIM SHMARGUN

**Physical Medicine &
Rehabilitation/Medical Director**
PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Venice

JOIN US AT 11 AM
to hear Dr. Shmargun speak on:

***The Road to Recovery:
Stroke, Parkinson's Disease &
Multiple Sclerosis***



CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

Our CPA provides a 'behind the scenes look' at our agency, dedicated staff, policies and procedures, as well as numerous other programs and services we provide.

Sign up today and follow us on social media to get notifications of our upcoming classes and locations!

LEARN ABOUT...

- COLD CASES
- NARCOTICS
- JAIL
- INTEL/RTIC
- VOLUNTEER SERVICES
- DIVE TEAM
- SWAT
- K9
- AVIATION
- MARINE PATROL
- HEAR FROM SHERIFF PRUMMELL
- AND SO MUCH MORE!



Connect with us!



@CCSOFLSheriff



Apply Online!

WWW.CCSO.ORG

'NEWS AND EVENTS'

'CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY'

Or by contacting

CPA@ccsofl.net

(941) 575-5260

MUST BE 18+ AND A CHARLOTTE
COUNTY RESIDENT (OR EMPLOYED IN
CHARLOTTE COUNTY).

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED 18

Charlotte County Transit

By Deb Orchard

Planning your next trip is about to get a whole lot easier. Shirley Ciampi, Transit Outreach Manager at Charlotte County Transit is coming to share with how we may take advantage of this free transportation service. Please join us in the Community Center on Wednesday, October 14 @ 2pm.

Charlotte County Transit is a shared ride, curb-to-curb public transportation service provided to the general public throughout Charlotte County. Service area includes Englewood, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda.

Charlotte County Transit is a first-come, first-served service operating Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday service is restricted to a limited area.

Transportation is not provided on Sunday or Charlotte County recognized holidays.

For more information, please call Charlotte County Transit 941.575.4000, visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov/transit or download our mobile app.

Where Can You Go?

- Bank • Beach • Medical
- Appointments • Hospitals
- Work • Airport • Area
- Attractions • Library
- Grocery Stores • Restaurants
- College • Shopping • Meal Site

Planning Your Next Trip is ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT EASIER

Easily schedule your rides with the Charlotte Rides app.



SCAN ME





Rotonda West
Association

Presents...

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY

ROTONDA WEST
COMMUNITY CENTER
646 ROTONDA CIRCLE

Good Food
Great Times
Everyone
Welcome!

BRING
YOUR
APPETITE!

LIVE
MUSIC

TABLES &
CHAIRS INSIDE
THE COMMUNITY
CENTER!

AIR
CONDITIONING
INSIDE!

FOOD TRUCKS

- ★ GULF COAST DIRTY DOGS CO.
- ★ GULF COAST DIRTY SODA CO.
- ★ MARCELLO'S PIZZA
- ★ UNAMI TWIST
- ★ SMOKE & THYME
- ★ ICE CREAM EMERGENCY



JOIN US
MONTHLY ON THE
4TH TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH.
TRUCKS WILL
BE ROTATED!

NOTICE: NO ALCOHOL WILL BE SOLD AT THIS TIME.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE RWA OFFICE.
THEY DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION.
FOR QUESTIONS EMAIL:

COMMUNITYOUTREACH@ROTONDAWEST.ORG





4th Annual Community Garage Sale

November 6 & 7!

By Rita Lopienski – COC Garage Sale Lead
(and professional clutter-slayer)

Time to dig through that mountain of “maybe someday” stuff and turn it into cash! RWA residents & renters, this is your moment. One day or both – your call.



Rain date Sunday Nov 8
(because Mother Nature has a sense of humor too).

Participation form lives on the RWA website + hard copies chilling on the info rack in the office.

Flyers with all the goodies coming via Constant Contact & Facebook. We'll plaster the neighborhood with signs and tell the whole town!

**DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP:
OCTOBER 30th @ MIDNIGHT**

(no late-night excuses!)



Don't call the RWA office – they're busy.
Hit up the Community Center Outreach Committee at
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org
or call 630-956-8814 for questions.

Last year **120+** homes
joined the party and
it was a blast!



GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

9 AM – 5 PM

★ TO BUY AND TO SELL – MORE
FUN INFO COMING!! ★

Instructions & contacts flying your way soon
via Constant Contact & Facebook.



Sign approval form will pop up on the
RWA website and at the office.



This is the 4th Community Garage Sale –
average turnout 120+ homes and counting!

DO NOT CONTACT ADMIN OFFICE.

Questions? Community Outreach Committee:
communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

**\$1
EACH
YOU
PICK!**

**BIG
FINDS
SMALL
PRICES!**



Trivia with Tim's theme for
**August was Yesterday,
Today and Tomorrow.**

The M & M's were the winners.
Their team consisted of Sam
Besase, Debbie & Bruce
Longwell, Bart & Toni Duncan
and Vickie Curran. We had a
total of 8 teams and 50
players.

See you next month on the
3rd **Thursday of September.**



TRIVIA

with Tim



Open to all RWA owners, residents and their guests



Play as an individual or form a team



3rd Thursday of each month



**Doors open at 6 pm
Play begins at 6:30 pm**



**RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle**



You may bring
your drinks
(lidded cups)
and snacks



No Pets



Questions? email: communityoutreach@rotondawest.org

Presented by the RWA Community Outreach Committee

Health & Wellness



9/7: Community Center closed (no class)



**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
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

1st, 3rd & 5th
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

2nd & 4th
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

RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



STOP THE BLEED



LED BY FIRE INSPECTOR MAX LOPEX OF
CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY



**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
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.



**NO MEDICAL
EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED**

COURSE OVERVIEW INCLUDES:



- How to recognize life-threatening bleeding



- How to apply direct pressure



- How to pack a wound



- How to use a tourniquet



**BE THE HELP
UNTIL HELP ARRIVES**



**LEARN TO TAKE ACTION
WHEN IT MATTERS MOST!**





RWA COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



AED AND HANDS-ONLY CPR

LED BY FIRE INSPECTOR MAX LOPEX OF
CHARLOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 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



**YOUR HANDS CAN SAVE A LIFE
LEARN HANDS-ONLY CPR AND AED.**

BE READY WHEN SECONDS COUNT



Fire Safety & Fire Extinguisher Program

Presented by the Charlotte County Fire & EMS Fire Prevention Division
Hosted by the Rotonda West Association



Date: October 9



Time: 2:00pm



Location: Community Center

Fire Safety Starts at Home

Join the Charlotte County Fire & EMS Fire Prevention Division for a free educational program designed to help homeowners protect their families and property through fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

Topics Include:

- Fire extinguisher selection and proper use
- Knowing when to use an extinguisher and when to evacuate
- Smoke alarm placement, testing, and maintenance
- Carbon monoxide alarm recommendations
- Kitchen and cooking fire safety
- Electrical and seasonal fire safety tips
- Home fire escape planning
- General fire prevention practices for every home

This informative program is appropriate for homeowners, renters, and anyone interested in learning practical fire safety skills. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and participate in the discussion.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY & MSBU NEWS ITEMS – SEPTEMBER 2026

By Sam Besase

Here is the latest information from Charlotte County on the **Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge Replacement**:

(NO CHANGE IN STATUS)

"Staff is working with the consultant that helps us through FEMA processes on when we can start the bridge while making sure we get the FEMA funds that they have said we could obtain. Public Works' staff is ready to put the project out to bid as soon as we get the go-ahead from them and our fiscal team."

"Once we can put it out, the bidding process typically takes around 4 months from the time it is sent to purchasing until it is approved by the board. The bids include a section for the contractor to add the timeframe of when they would be able to start the project. Staff and the contractor choose a start date based on this timeframe once it is approved by the board."

- Joanne Vernon, P.E., County Engineer, Charlotte County Public Works. Phone: 941-575-3661.
Joanne.Vernon@charlottecountyfl.gov
- SAM ESTIMATED TIMELINE: JAN 2027 Bid Award - DEC 2027 Completion
- *US Government shutdown (43 days + 49 days) affected completion of these items!!!
- Charlotte County Commissioners unanimously voted on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, to begin the work to **REPLACE** the Rotonda Boulevard South Bridge due to damage from Hurricane Ian (3 years and 11 months ago). FEMA's latest offer is **\$769K**, well short of the latest estimate of \$2.7 million. The additional **\$2 million** funds shall come from the MSBU. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers **PERMIT** finally arrived on April 13, 2026.
- Remaining 4 bridges (110-111-112-123) are not scheduled until after bridge #13 is decided - bid and start for remaining 4 bridges is estimated to be **2027**. Completion probably late 2027-early 2028.
- Also, here is the latest information from Charlotte County on the Gasparilla Road Traffic Lights: SEPTEMBER 2026 PROJECTED TO START ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026
- "The traffic signals are under contract, which is being written. The contractor is expected to start on November 2, 2026. Included the link to the project status updates page, which is updated every two weeks.
- <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/projects/gasparilla-road-intersections-signalization.stml>
- SAM ESTIMATED TIMELINE: Nov 2026 START - SEP 2027 COMPLETION
- 2 LOCATIONS ON GASPARILLA: ROTONDA BLVD EAST & INGRAM
- **PAVING** - Rotonda West PAVING began on **MONDAY, July 21, 2025**, 13 MONTHS AGO. Estimated MSBU costs: \$18.5 million
- **PAVING (except for punch list items)** is completed for all sections in the RWA.
- MSBU PAVING: AJAX PAVING – VENICE OFFICE
- PUNCH LIST FOR ALL SECTIONS—SUCH AS MANHOLE COVERS, DRIVEWAY ISSUES, REPLACE & WATER SOD, REPAIR STAGING LOT AREAS, ETC are ongoing. The paving project is not completed until all punch list issues are resolved to the satisfaction of the Charlotte County Project Manager. The 3-year WARRANTY doesn't start until Charlotte County signs off on completion. Approximately 50% (~\$9.5 million) has been paid to Ajax.
- Residents are not satisfied with some of the uneven manhole covers – we are compiling an address list for corrective actions. COFFEE CUP TEST
- Charlotte County Paving Project Manager is **James Layport**, and his phone number is: **941-628-8084**
- Charlotte County WATERING restrictions are also in effect through **OCTOBER 1, 2026**, due to the severe drought conditions; check the CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES website for specific information.

The next West Charlotte County MSBU meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2026, at the DMV office on San Casa at 9:30 am.

Respectfully, Sam Besase—Advisory Board Member—Rotonda West Streets & Drainage MSBU. If you have questions, please call me at 281-923-4041; I'll do my best to help.

The other MSBU members are Laura Ingrassia, Nicholas Kotzalas, Leo VanOrden, and Derrick Hedges.

QUARTERS @ ROTONDA DEVELOPMENT - COMMUNITY UPDATE

The RWA Board of Directors would like to provide Rotonda West property owners with an update regarding the proposed 212-unit Quarters at Rotonda development at 155 Rotonda Plaza.

The developer submitted plans to Charlotte County approximately six months ago as part of the County's review and permitting process. During that process, Charlotte County identified several items requiring additional information and/or revisions to the original plans and was awaiting the developer's response to those requests. Because the County was still awaiting the requested information, there had been limited public information regarding the project over the past several months to report.

On August 12, 2026, the Charlotte County Zoning Official issued a decision letter regarding the preliminary plan submitted for the project. The County determined that the requested information and/or revisions had not been satisfied in a timely manner and DENIED the preliminary plan. The attached decision letter provides the specific comments identified by the County and explains the basis for the current denial.

This denial does not mean that the project has been permanently cancelled. The County's decision letter specifically states that, if the developer intends to move the project forward, the applicant will be required to reapply for Site Plan Review.

At this time, the RWA has not been made aware if the project developer still intends on moving forward. Neither Charlotte County nor the project developer has a legal requirement to keep the RWA informed while matters are being reviewed and or addressed between the developer and Charlotte County during this process.

The information regarding the project is being compiled from multiple sources, including Charlotte County Zoning and Community Development online records, RWA Board discussions, discussions with the Cape Cave Corporation, and individuals monitoring the project, including Change for Rotonda West? personnel and community participants.

The RWA will continue to monitor the status of the Quarters at Rotonda project and provide updates through future issues of WEST WAYS and Constant Contact as new information becomes available.

Residents may also follow Change for Rotonda West? on Facebook and visit the Change.org petition page for additional community information and updates.

<https://www.change.org/Stop-RotondaWest-AptUnitDevelopment>





August 12, 2026

IS Engineering
Attn: Mary Sprague
8017 Weyers Ct.
Englewood, FL. 34224

Re: DRC-26-012 Quarters at Rotonda – Preliminary Plan
Agenda Date: February 26, 2026

County staff have reviewed the Preliminary Plan for Quarters at Rotonda. The project consists of a 212-unit multi-family, office and pool with deck area. This project site is 15.76± acres and is located at 155 Rotonda Plz., Rotonda West, FL.

It is the decision of the Zoning Official to deny DRC-26-012. The comments are as follows:

1. There is public 6' D.U.E. at the rear and sides of each lot per the plat. At the time of the review the lots were not consolidated therefore the reversion clause would not apply. The proposed development is currently impacting most if not all of the easements. The owner will need to consolidate the lots to omit the easements between the lots. The site plan and the landscaping plans need to show all the easements to determine more Clearly what is encroaching.
2. If the CT district abuts a residential district, no structure other than screening required pursuant to article XXII, chapter 3-5, of the Code, shall be erected closer to the abutting residentially zoned property than twenty-five (25) feet or the building height, whichever is greater. Show setbacks from all structures to all property lines. Dumpsters must be located on the side or rear and be 10' from the property line & comply with 1-12-113-121. Pool parking is 1/250, Rotonda Plz is dedicated but not accepted rd. Road is shown on plat. Is road vacated? Provide clarity on road. Consolidation of lots is needed. May need to vacate plat.
3. Survey older than 1 year.
4. Provide the Trip Distribution/Trips map along with the supporting calculation worksheets for the left and right turn lane analysis.
5. First, you must secure the Street vacation of Rotonda Plaza from the County prior to including it in the development plans.

Comments have not been satisfied in a timely manner; therefore, this project has been denied. If the project intends to move forward, it will be required to reapply for Site Plan Review. Conditional approval comments, if applicable, have not been provided and are available online.

Sincerely,

Shaun Cullinan

Shaun Cullinan
Planning and Zoning Official

RWA HOMES VS. VACANT LOTS

By: Sam Besase

For informational purposes, this snapshot graph shows homes and vacant lots in the RWA.

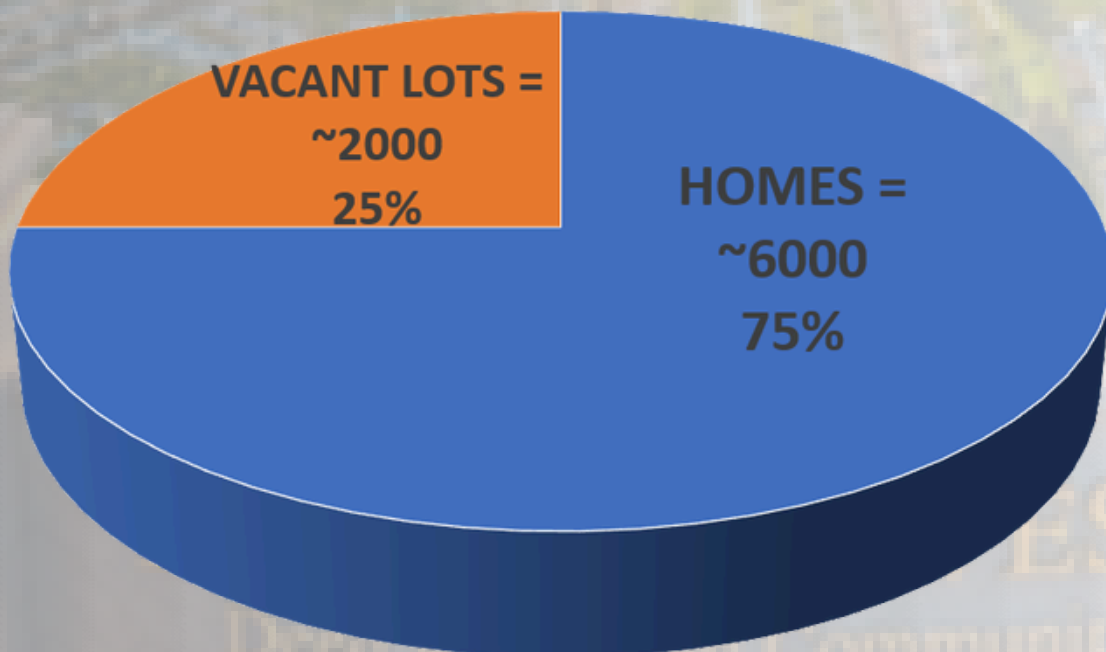
Currently, the RWA has about 6,100 homes. That leaves about 1,900 vacant lots.

The RWA has averaged about 120 NEW HOMES built on vacant lots per year; at that rate, the RWA would be “built out” around 2042.

An average of about 120 new homes built on vacant lots per year times 16 years equals about 1,920 new homes.

It should also be noted that some residents, perhaps 10% (800), purposely bought the lot(s) next to their home as a “buffer”, with no current intention to sell that lot for home build. That would make the RWA build-out happen about 7 years sooner, or in 2035.

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION PROFILE - 2026
IF 120 NEW BUILDS ON VACANT LOTS PER YEAR THEN
PERHAPS 17 YEARS (2038) TO BUILD OUT





RWA TREASURER

QUARTERLY TOWN HALL

MAJOR BUDGET EXPENSES

- Canal Maintenance • Canal Bank Mowing • Legal • Wages • Employees • Taxes • Licenses • Insurance • Audit • Community Outreach • Election • Utilities • Tech Support • Office Equipment & Supplies • Printing & Postage • Vacant Lot Mowing • Community Center Expenses • New Buildings

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

3pm - 4:30pm

BUDGET INCOME STREAMS
ASSESSMENTS
INTEREST
ESTOPPELS
TRANSFERS
FINES



INFORMATIONAL

Get answers to FAQs
What does Yearly
Assessment cover?

Streets & Drainage
MSBU



RWA Community Center
646 Rotonda Circle

**COOKIES & ICE CREAM
WILL BE SERVED**

NATURE NEWS

By: Merrill Horswill

Got wildlife conflict?

Florida's wildlife and human populations encounter each other more than ever before, and the circumstances which create conflicts with wildlife are as varied as the environment of Florida itself. As people develop more open space and wildlife habitat is reduced and fragmented, conditions are often created which attract wildlife. Such contacts between people and wildlife often result in conflicts.

The FWC's Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Biologists work with individuals and communities to prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict through education, outreach and technical assistance. Staff work with constituents experiencing human-wildlife conflict in Florida to find sustainable resolutions and to foster coexistence with native wildlife whenever possible



Photo By Brian Norris-Port Charlotte

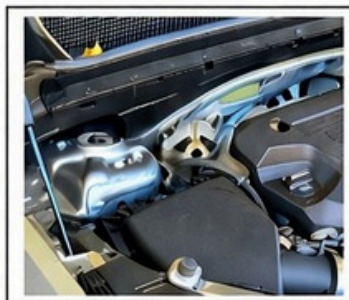


Photo by David Ferchau- Clearwater

If you are experiencing conflicts with wildlife and would like more information about how to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, you may visit
myfwc.com/conservation/you-protect/conservation/you-protect/wildlife/ for additional information.

Wildlife Interactions Reporting Form

If you have an observation and would like more information about wildlife in your area, please submit a report to the Wildlife interactions Reporting Form. *Forms can also be submitted for automatic responses with suggestions to address most wildlife concerns:*





No it's not the name of the mens pickelball team.

Heron's are a family of birds that make our waterways home. There are 5 species of herons seen here. The Great Blue is the largest and the smallest is the Least Bittern. Found between these sizes are the Little Blue, Tricolored and Green. All of these Herons were seen from our dock on the Rotonda River and filmed with other birds to make a 7-minute YouTube video. The video features a Moorhen family, Limkin family & the special feeding activity of the Least Bittern, along with clips of 4 more species. Video can be found on www.youtube.com/@robertwinter4497

Thanks for taking an interest in the Birds that live here.

Robert Winter - Aquatics sub committee.

Rotonda Herons

By: Robert Winter - Aquatics sub committee.

GREAT BLUE HERON



LEAST BITTERN



GREEN



TRICOLORED



LITTLE BLUE





Vehicle Burglaries in Long Meadow and Broadmoor on the Rise:

A Simple Mistake Can Cost You Everything

Vehicle burglary continues to be a growing problem in Rotonda, and one of the biggest reasons is surprisingly simple—people leaving their cars unlocked. While professional thieves may use advanced techniques to steal vehicles, as occurred in 2024 on Rotonda Circle, many thefts occur because criminals find an easy opportunity. An unlocked car can become an open invitation.

Many drivers believe they will only be away from their vehicle for a few minutes or assume their neighborhood is safe. Unfortunately, thieves often look for these exact situations. They walk through parking lots and neighborhoods checking door handles until they find an unlocked vehicle. Once inside, they may steal wallets, electronics, purses, garage door openers, spare keys, or other valuables.

In a recent incident within the Long Meadow area, **a firearm was stolen from an unlocked vehicle**. This incident serves as a reminder that leaving vehicles unsecured not only puts personal property at risk but can also result in firearms falling into the wrong hands, creating serious public safety concern. **This is the third firearm that has been stolen from an unlocked car in Rotonda this year.**

Leaving a vehicle unlocked doesn't just increase the risk of theft—it can also lead to identity theft if personal documents are stolen. Replacing stolen valuables, repairing damage, and dealing with insurance claims can be expensive and time-consuming.

Fortunately, preventing vehicle theft is often simple. Always lock your vehicle, even when it is parked in your driveway. Never leave your keys or key fob inside the vehicle, and avoid storing valuables where they are visible. Firearms should never be left unsecured in a vehicle. If a firearm must be transported, it should be secured in a locked container that complies with applicable laws and removed from the vehicle as soon as possible. Parking in well-lit areas, using security cameras, and installing anti-theft devices can also discourage criminals.

Protecting Rotonda West since 1981

www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com

Facebook @ Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch



This is an especially important time to join the Neighborhood Watch program.

By participating in neighborhood patrols, reporting suspicious activity, and simply being visible in our community, we send a clear message that Rotonda West residents are watching out for one another. While we cannot prevent every crime—particularly when opportunities are created by negligence—our presence can be a powerful deterrent. Criminals are far less likely to target neighborhoods where residents are engaged, alert, and willing to report suspicious behavior.

Together, by practicing good security habits and strengthening our Neighborhood Watch, we can reduce opportunities for theft and help keep the Long Meadow community a safer place to live.

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

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

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

See you at our next meeting on September 15th, at 10:00 am in the Community Center. Meetings are recorded and shared via Facebook (Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch) and our website (www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com)



Scan Here For More Information

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

Safety Depends Upon Patrols – And Locked Doors!

By Connie Smith

Rotonda West may be one of the safest places to live in Charlotte County.

Some say “bad guys” fear the ridiculously difficult-to-navigate traffic patterns of the various “pies” that make escape hard enough for those who belong here, let alone for those who don’t.

But a big reason we are safe is the Neighborhood Watch - an unsung group of volunteers that have been working with law enforcement to protect Rotonda for going on 50 years. President David Perry says when the organization began in the early 80s, the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office was small, theft at construction sites in the sprouting community was rampant, and unmarked planes often flew low, dropping off suspicious packages among the sandy scrub.

Today, the Sheriff has a satellite office nearby but the extra eyes and ears of Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch volunteers are welcomed, passing by fully occupied homes, construction sites and homes that winter residents have left obviously vacant (with hurricane shutters up for the summer).

Watch volunteers have discovered and reported fires, unauthorized activity in the area between L.A. Ainger Middle and Vineland Elementary Schools, sink holes, downed power lines and suspicious vehicles and the location of a missing teenager. While this is certainly a big part of Neighborhood Watch, anything amiss is always reported to the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office - volunteers never become personally involved and leave all interdiction to law enforcement.

The organization asks of volunteers to donate just two hours a month, providing one of two basic services: 1) driving an assigned area, or, 2) serving as a telephone “base operator.” The base operator answers calls from volunteer drivers and passes along the information to the Sheriff’s Department for those two hours.

To adequately cover this circular community, Neighborhood Watch has divided Rotonda into four areas according to its seven “pies.” Right now, Neighborhood Watch officers and support personnel happen to be coordinating each of the four areas:

- Oakland Hills and Pebble Beach – David Perry, president
- Pinehurst – Gregory Banks, treasurer
- Broadmoor and Long Meadow, Terri Lawson, secretary
- White Marsh and Pine Valley, Jerry Strait, area coordinator



Neighborhood Watch President David Perry (left) gives instructions to Treasurer Greg Banks as he gets ready to go on his two-hour patrol of the Pinehurst section on behalf of the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office. Volunteers are the “eyes and ears” of the Sheriff’s Office. Their mission is to observe and

Tom Bailey serves as the vice president. Judy Murdoch serves as base coordinator and Donna Gleason produces the organization's Watch Word newsletter, and Brenda Lawson assists the secretary.

"Right now, we have 90 volunteers; 200 is ideal," said Perry. "These last three hurricanes (Ian, Helene and Milton) scared people out of the area that were here. After Ian, we lost about 25% of our volunteers. People are aging out or moving away. Rotonda West is now a community of working families, more so than retirees."

Perhaps the biggest misconception about the organization is that it limits itself to full-time residents and nighttime patrolling of Rotonda West streets. In fact, volunteers consist of seasonal and full-time residents and any issue of public safety is a Neighborhood Watch concern. When the organization meets at 10 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, Sheriff Community Policing Officer Dominick Ierfino – or "Deputy Dom", as he is more easily known – is on hand to discuss whatever policing concern is going on in the county, whether it be a new scam or fraud, shady contractors going around (and how to check whether they are legit), golf cart safety, or e-bikes.

Lately, Deputy Dom has been reminding Rotonda residents to lock their vehicles and homes. He pointed to an area in the Long Meadow section where there was a theft of handguns, credit cards, IDs, a key fob - and not one car window was broken! Every stolen item was taken from unlocked vehicles!

Yes, volunteers are very much needed to drive neighborhoods for just two hours each month or monitor a telephone "base operator" for that same time commitment, but residents can also get involved by attending the monthly meetings, follow the organization's Facebook page (search for Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch) or check out the web site, www.rotondawestneighborhoodwatch.com. Meetings are recorded and posted online, so it's possible to go back and see what you've missed!

A safe community is every resident's responsibility, noted David Perry. "People say we're safe. We're safe because we have patrols!"

September

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

9/4, 9/11, 9/18, & 9/25 @ 10am: Tai Chi/Yin Yoga

9/5 @ 9:15am: Rotonda Puzzle Swap
(located @ Parade Circle)

9/6 & 9/7: Office & Community Center
Closed for Labor Day

9/9 @ 2pm: Emergency Response Training - Stop The Bleed

9/14, 9/21, & 9/28 @ 9am: Mahjong (experienced players)

9/14, 9/21, & 9/28 @ 10am: Pilates

9/16 @ 5:30pm: Charlotte County Environmental &
Community Presentation - OneCharlotte,
OneWater Resiliency Planning

9/17 @ 6:30pm: Trivia with Tim

9/20 @ 1pm: BINGO

9/22 @ 4:30pm: Food Truck Tuesday

9/23 @ 2pm: Emergency Response Training -
Hands Only CPR & AED

9/30 @ 9am: Rotonda West Community Connections
Fair & Resource Expo



25 August 2026
Contact: Lillian GaNun
Public Affairs Officer
941-626-9632
Email: lildsosr7@embarqmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

OPERATION DRY WATER

Operation Dry Water takes place over the Labor Day weekend, September 5th to the 7th.

During this period, The U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Florida Fish & Wildlife (FWC) and local maritime security organizations will be performing heightened safety patrols and enforcement activities over this weekend. They will be removing impaired boat operators from our waterways.

FWC has documented that in 2025, the latest boating statistics that are available:

Reportable Accidents: 694 crashes, marking an increase from 685 in 2024 and 659 in 2023.

- **Fatalities:** 51 deaths resulting from 41 separate incidents, which is down significantly from 81 deaths in 2024.
- **Injuries:** 439 injuries documented statewide.
- **Waterway Congestion:** Florida's active waters managed nearly 1.03 million registered vessels alongside an estimated 1 million unregistered vessels.
- **Alcohol:** was tied for the leading identified cause of boating accident fatalities along with inattention of the operator and excessive speed.

These statistics were drawn from the website <https://myfwc.com/media/1cobinby/2025-basr.pdf>

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is bringing increased awareness to the public of the issue of boating while intoxicated. **Operation Dry Water** attempts to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities on our local waters due to alcohol and / or drug consumption while boating. As we are required to be sober to drive our automobiles, we have the same responsibilities to operate our boats while sober.

Please drive sober on the land and on the water. The life you save may be your own.

To register for Safe Boating Classes 2026, visit our website.

wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-09-09

STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Rotonda West's Real ★ **STARS** **ARE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Leo VanOrden

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 and oversees community events. Great for you if you enjoy organizing events, socializing, and uniting people within the community.

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

Interim Chair: Brian Armen

Oversees Board elections and annual 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

Christmas Crafting

Join me on October 1 for a fun and creative
ornament decorating class!

I'll teach you how to attach picks to a round ornament,
perfect for hanging in a window or doorway.

I'll provide the picks and hanging ribbon—just
bring along three 5-inch ornaments and a
glue gun with glue if you have one.

Don't miss out—reserve your spot by September 25th!



Contact Debbie Jensen at jensendebby12@gmail.com to RSVP.





Holly Jolly HAPPENINGS

AT ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION



Giving Tree

**NOVEMBER 5 –
DECEMBER 5**

Share the joy and
make a difference in
our community!

Gazebo Lighting — AND — Flotilla Parade

NOVEMBER 28

Kick off the holiday
season with lights,
boats and holiday cheer!




Christmas Parade

DECEMBER 5

Come out and enjoy
a festive parade
for the whole family!

House Decorating Contest

DECEMBER 12 – 20

Light up your home
and spread holiday cheer!



2 CHRISTMAS CONCERTS!



December 2
FEATURING
Jonny Puma



December 16
FEATURING
Cary Price

Celebrate the Season. Create Memories. Strengthen Our Community.

For more information, email questions to hollyjolly@rotondawest.org

GFWC Rotonda West Women's Club, Inc.

Gwen Grace (*Past President*)

September 2026



The GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is gearing up for the club calendar year with our first General Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17th.

Meanwhile our club members have been enjoying social time together at book club luncheons, Crafters and Knit & Chat meetings. On July 9th, our Big Red Bus Blood Donation Drive at the Rotonda West Marina contributed 18 pints of much needed blood to the community. Many thanks to the organizing member Kathryn Gallagher and to the generous members and residents of this community.

The Charlotte County Sheriff's took a moment to thank the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club for our generous donation to their IRIS (Integrated Response for Intervention and Support) Unit. The IRIS Unit works collaboratively with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC) and Charlotte County Fire/EMS, to form a team of highly trained individuals that can respond to sensitive mental health related calls.



Our next General Meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 17**, at the RWA Community Center. Everyone is invited to join us for the 9:30 a.m. business meeting, followed by a social gathering. This updated meeting format reflects the new Executive Board's goal of adding more fun, friendship, and opportunities to learn at our General Meetings.

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!

OFFICE STAFF

Derrick Hedges
Manager

Annette Casteel
Assistant Manager

Jenny Bulle
Operations & Finance Administrator

Joe Harris
Communications Specialist

Denise Huffman
Administrator/Minutes Clerk

Sheryl Ann Nowicki
Administrator/Deed Restrictions

Kelsey Stewart
Administrator/Deed Restrictions

Amanda Stuever
Administrator/Event Coordinator

Faela Waldrop
Administrator/ResMod

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Craig Brown

Travis Green - *Aquatics*

Marc Santos

Doug Smith

Wayne Taylor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

Andy Van Scyoc
President

Karen Harvey
Vice President

Gwen Grace
Director

Sam Besase
Treasurer

David Kelly
Director

Deb Orchard
Secretary

Peter Traverso
Director

WEST WAYS STAFF

David Pulaski
Photographer

Connie Smith
Writer

Nancy Seiss
Editor

Amanda Stuever
Design/Editor

CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

Sam Besase - *MSBU, Rotonda Quarters & Vacant Lots*
Gwen Grace - *RWWC*

Karen Harvey - *Holly Jolly Happenings Flyer*

Merrill Horswill - *Nature News*

Maureen Laderer - *Food Trucks*

Rita Lopienski - *Health & Wellness & Garage Sale*

Debbie Jensen - *Christmas Crafting Flyer*

Ellyn Nadeau - *Tunnels to Towers Flyer*

Deb Orchard - *Charlotte County Transit*

David Perry - *Neighborhood Watch*

Cheryl Rippe - *Rotonda Quarters Update*

Andy Van Scyoc - *9/11 Memorial Ride Flyer*

Robert Winter - *Rotonda Herons*

Michelle Wojtowicz - *Rotonda Quarters Update*

ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION

646 Rotonda Circle

Rotonda West, FL 33947

Phone #: (941) 697-6788 | rotondawest.org