



Special Points of Interest

- President’s Messagepage 2
- Pligza, VanScoyc Join Boardpage 4
- Gazebo Lightingpage 5
- What to do with the Grandkidspage 7

Volume 15, Number 5
September/October 2011

Published six times annually

Published by the Rotonda West Association for Rotonda West property owners.
DISCLAIMER: THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTONDA WEST ASSOCIATION, INC.

Rotonda West Association

West Ways

2011 Christmas Holiday Parade Set for Saturday, December 3



It's back by popular demand!

Marching bands, floats, and other entrants will fill the 5-mile stretch of Rotonda Circle when the 2011 Christmas Holiday Parade steps off at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3.

So mark the date on your calendar and get the lawn chairs ready.

Many decorated floats will enter, as well as the Lemon Bay High School and L.A. Aingler Middle School bands, clowns, horses, civic and service clubs, veterans groups, classic cars, churches and many commercial businesses will be in the line of march. And, a holiday parade is not complete with an appearance of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

To accommodate all of our residents our parade route will remain the same as last year, Rotonda Boulevard East traveling the length of Rotonda Circle ending at the Oakland Hills Marina, a full 5 miles of marching. We will have live entertainment peppered throughout the parade but our marching bands will be performing from Rebel Court to the Marina. If you wish to have one of the best seats in the house to view the 180 kids from Lemon Bay and L.A. Aingler perform your best place to sit is between these two areas.

This year, before the parade begins some of our volunteer elves will cruise the parade route distributing 1,050 individually wrapped 3/4 oz. Cabot Seriously Sharp cheese snacks to munch on and enjoy during the festivities as well as American flags to the first 1,000 people with donations (donations will be picked up by other elves later during the parade). We hope to give away every piece of cheese and every flag and look forward to seeing a sea of our beloved red, white and blue waving along the parade route showing not only how we can come together to support our community but also the men and women serving our Country.

See - Holiday Parade - continued on page 5

RWA ELECTION REMINDERS



By now all Annual Meeting Notice Packages (voting packets) have been mailed. If you do not receive your packet by October 28, 2011, please contact the RWA office at 941-697-6788.

In order to assure secret ballots, the mechanics of the voting procedure have changed since last year. Just a reminder to read all the documents in the voting packet very carefully. Detailed instructions are provided regarding completing and returning your ballot. If you have any questions about this procedure, please contact the RWA office – the staff will be happy to assist you.

In order to meet the requirements of State Law Chapter 720, all secret ballots must be counted at the Annual Meeting. Therefore, the Annual Meeting on December 1, 2011 will convene at 1:00 P.M. at Rotonda Community Center. If you do not vote by mail, you may vote at the Annual Meeting at the Rotonda Community Center between 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. – photo identification required. The meeting will then be recessed for the counting of all ballots. The Annual Meeting will resume at 7:00 P.M. at Tringali Center on South McCall Road. You will not be able to vote at Tringali Center because polls will close at 2:00 P.M. at the Rotonda Community Center, and all votes will have been counted before 7:00 P.M. Please check your voting packet for complete information.

To validate your ballot, you must print and sign your name on the return envelope.



President's Message

By Glynn Perkins

At the end of the September Board of Directors meeting Mark Reynolds tendered his resignation from the Board. Mark as you may possibly remember replaced former Director Townsend who resigned earlier in the year. Mark has been replaced with Andy VanScyoc, who will serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting in December. This, given the number of resignations this year, means that all those candidates that stood for election last year will have served on this year's Board of Directors.

I am pleased to report that all the Beautification projects previously reported regarding the Entryways, Bridges, Memorial Parks, Oakland Hills Marina and the Community Center have been completed and that the results are better than I imagined.

By now you should have received your annual meeting notice and voting documents for this year's election of Directors to the Board. This year there will be two vacant

positions to be filled for the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that two candidates have come forward to ask for your vote they are David Kelly and Scott Schermerhorn, their candidate statements are enclosed within that package. Although only two candidates have come forward, others can be written in and or self nominate themselves at the Annual General Meeting so your votes are, like every year, very important to the candidates.

You will hopefully have noted that following last year's election the Board of Directors decided to change the style of the election to a Secret Ballot. This required a number of changes to be made to the Association's election procedures. The Election Committee together with our Attorney and Auditor have drafted and had approved by the Board, those new procedures.

I therefore ask that you take your time in reading all the material enclosed in the documentation you have received to familiarize yourself with those new procedures and what is now required by members to cast their vote for the candidates in this the association's first Secret Ballot.

If by chance you have not received the annual meeting notice and election documentation, please contact the Association Office to arrange replacements.

Stone Crabs Fans Treated to Exciting Game

With 75 Rotonda West baseball fans among the second largest crowd in its 3-year history, the Charlotte Stone Crabs thrilled the spectators with a 7 run seventh inning on Saturday night, September 3. But it wasn't quite enough.

When the smoke cleared, the Stone Crabs were on the short end of a 10-9 verdict to the Bradenton Marauders, a Pittsburgh Pirates affiliate. After the game, spectators were treated to a colorful fireworks display beyond the center field fence, with lots of 'oohs' and 'ahhs!'

It was the second "Rotonda West Night" of the season and Fan Appreciation Night at the Charlotte Sports Park.

Several Stone Crabs players this year and last have advanced through the Tampa Bay Rays farm system, which adds to fan interest. Former Stone Crabs ace pitcher Matt Moore joined the Rays for the September play-off run and helped the team to win a play-off spot, in the opening playoff game against the Texas Rangers. In only his second start in the majors, he gave up just two hits and no runs in seven innings and won the game.

Ed Morris and George Krabbe were the raffle winners. George won a team autographed baseball and Ed earned the right to throw out the first pitch. He delegated the honors to his son, David, who was visiting from Indiana.

Game arrangements and ticket sales were coordinated by George Burger, Earl Haas, Hank Killion and Don Mahon, who attended the game with their wives.



Above: Rotonda residents at the Stone Crabs
Below: Ed Morris, left, won the right to throw out the first pitch but his son, David, right, did the honors.





Free to Breathe 5K

The GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club is supporting the third annual “Free To Breathe” 5K Run/Walk to be held Saturday, November 12, 2011, at the Charlotte Sports Park. The event is raising funds for the National Lung Cancer Partnership. Tom Cappiello, a local lung cancer survivor, has been the driving force behind the project.

Tom spoke to the members of the Woman’s Club on Thursday, September 8th, and told his personal story of dealing with lung cancer. He noted that thirty years ago, the disease had a 5 year survival rate of 14%. Today, that rate is 15%. Lung cancer kills more Americans than breast, prostate and colon cancers combined. More than 440 people die every day from lung cancer. Tom explained that part of the problem is in the beginning the disease has few, if any, symptoms. By the time it is discovered, it is usually later stages. There is no early diagnostic test, such as a PSA, a mammogram, or a colonoscopy for lung cancer. Part of the aim of research is to develop just such a test. Research for early testing and treatment takes funding, and the aim of the National Lung Cancer Partnership is to provide those funds.

The Woman’s Club is entering a team in the 5K, the “Rotonda Walking Wonders”. The club has made a donation of \$1000 to the team. Our goal is to double or even triple that amount. Your support would be greatly appreciated. So many have been touched in some way by this disease. Help us eradicate it by donating to our walking team and “Free To Breathe”. Donations can be made on-line by going to “freetobreathe.org”, and following the directions to locate the event and our team. Donation forms are also available from members of the team. Donations will be accepted until December 31, 2011, and credited to the “Rotonda Walking Wonders”. For more information, or help in donating, contact Rose Marie Morris at 941-830-8739.

New Sidewalk in the Works!

The sign reads, “Sidewalk Closed.” But not for long...

Kids at Vineland Elementary School on Boundary Boulevard now have new sidewalks for a safer journey to school. In fact, Charlotte County is pouring 3,100 linear feet of new sidewalks from the school to Rebel Court.

The sidewalk, one of several being poured in the Englewood area, is funded through the County’s 1 percent sales tax and coordinated with school officials. Work is scheduled to be completed by November.

A future project is the installation of sidewalks along Rotonda Boulevards East, West and North from Boundary Boulevard to Parade Circle. The three projects will be funded by the Rotonda West Municipal Service Benefit Units (MSBU) and will add 21,900 linear feet of sidewalks to Rotonda West, a welcome addition!



Fellowship Church Rises on Parade Circle

The one-mile length of Parade Circle in the center of Rotonda West has always been zoned for commercial development but with no takers... until now.

Early in 2004, Fellowship Church acquired 12.5 acres of land on Parade Circle and five years later, secured an additional 3 acres, giving the Church 15.5 acres of usable property. The Church now has over one mile of road-frontage on Rotonda Boulevard West, Parade Circle and Pebble Beach Road.



In 2005, Fellowship Church retained a cutting-edge architectural firm specializing in church design, J. David Shanks Architect Company of Dallas, Texas to head the design phase. The Zirklebach Construction Company of Sarasota was selected to head the building phase.

The Church received approval to begin building the Sanctuary Phase in November 2009. As passersby can see, construction is progressing on the huge structure. During the construction process, the Church with Pastor Garry Clark has been holding services in the auditorium of Lemon Bay High School in Englewood.

Dressing Up the Center

Dozens of plants have given the Community Center on Cape Haze Drive a new look.

Palms trees and a variety of hardy native plants that can withstand cold weather were selected by the Beautification Committee. Coupled with the complete renovation of the interior and exterior of the building, the Center is now representative of Florida’s largest mandated homeowners association. The five entrances and three memorial parks have also received new landscaping.



Pligza, VanScyoc Join RWA Board

Stan Pligza and Andy VanScyoc are the newest members of the Board They replace Pat Kelly and Mark Reynolds, respectively, following their resignations.

Stan Pligza

Stan and his wife Charlotte have been Rotonda West residents for 5 1/2 years. Soon after they moved here, Stan joined the Aquatic Canal Systems Committee and more recently, the Polices & Procedures Committee. He was named chairman of the Aquatics Committee at the July 21st meeting, succeeding Hank Killion, who opted to fill the vacant Secretary's role but remains a member of the committee. At the October 12th Board meeting, he also was named Chairman of the Policies and Procedures Committee.

Stan is a native of the Pittsburgh area and moved to Syracuse, New York when joining the General Electric Company for the start of a 42-year career. He started as an Electrical Engineer and when he retired, he was Senior Design Engineer in GE's Military Division, designing advanced radar systems..The Military Division was later acquired by Martin Marietta and eventually merged with Lockheed Martin.

Andy VanScyoc

Andy is a native of Fremont, Ohio and has been a Rotonda West resident since 2007. He has served as a member of the Community Relations Committee since 2009 and was on the Deed Restrictions Committee and a sub-committee of the Aquatic Canal Systems Committee. He helped develop the interactive Forum on the RWA website and organized the first boat parade in conjunction with the Holiday Lighting at the Oakland Hills Marina.



Andy was associated with various teams on the NASCAR circuit until 1994 and owned an auto salvage yard in North Carolina. He has managed two marinas and currently manages an auto recycling facility in Englewood. Auto racing is top priority with Andy. He drives his Corvettes in Autocross and Drag Racing in Bradenton, and won three races this summer in the Cowboy Cadillac competition at the Punta Gorda Raceway.

7th Newcomer's Reception Open to All

New residents will be receiving invitations to the Newcomer's Reception scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th.

The popular event will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Rotonda West Community Center, 3754 Cape Haze Drive. All interested residents are welcome to attend. This is the seventh reception, held twice yearly.

Representatives of RWA committees and social and service organizations will be on hand to describe their services and to answer questions. Refreshments will be provided.

Sue Artz of the RWA Community Relations Committee chairs the event.

Christine Lee Takes Reins as New Webmaster

Accomplished volunteer webmasters are a rare commodity so the Rotonda West Association is very fortunate to welcome Christine Lee as our new webmaster, and her daughter, Lindsey as co-webmaster. She replaces Ken Hirsch, who was webmaster for several years and developed a professional product for the Association.

Christine is a native of Chicoppe, Massachusetts. She brings a vast background in information systems and technology to her new volunteer responsibilities. She currently is Information Technology Director for Vickie Potts, the Charlotte County Tax Collector, and has been associated with the County tax office since 1996. She holds two degrees in Computer Information Systems, an Associate of Science degree from Holyoke (MA) Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida Gulf Coast University.



George Burger, Eric Christenson, Christine Lee, Lindsey Lee
photo by Sue Killion

On-Line or Hardcopy

West Ways readers will recall that last issue Jay Lyons in his Manager's Report wrote about the ECOM program, designed to save costs and distribute West Ways in a more timely manner. His message bears repeating and we will continue to do so each issue, providing up to date information on the program. The important thing for readers to remember now, is that it will take some action by you to ensure uninterrupted receipt of West Ways. Even though bulk mailing costs are relatively low, reducing those costs will allow us to spend that money on other worthwhile projects that benefit the association.

Of course, you can enroll in the ECOM program right now by sending an email to manager@rotondawest.org stating your willingness to receive all Association information by email, or your intention to access the website to view West Ways.



November 26 Is The Date The Lights Go On

Get the kids ready!

The 22nd Annual Gazebo Lighting Ceremony and Boat Parade are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on

Saturday, November 26 at the Oakland Hills Marina. The event traditionally kicks off the holiday season in the community.

At dusk, Santa will arrive by boat and the switch will be activated to illuminate hundreds of holiday lights at the island Gazebo. On previous weekends, the Gazebo Decorating Committee, led by Earl Haas, had been hard at work dressing up the gazebo and five entrances to the community.

The lighting ceremony goes back 22 years when Earle Simpson and his late wife Alyn got the tradition going. Then, Harry Senger chaired the event for several years.

A fleet of lighted boats are expected to arrive at the Gazebo just before the lighting to add to the festivities. Andy VanScyoc is in charge of boat parade arrangements for the fifth year.

Refreshments will be available, thanks to the Rotonda West Woman's Club and The Hills Restaurant.

Holiday Parade - *continued from page 1*

Last year, dozens of residents along Rotonda Circle invited friends and neighbors to view the parade from their front lawns and driveways, and parties were in full swing. The same is expected this year

The Parade Committee of Earl Haas, Sue Artz and Cathy Moseley has been hard at work getting out mailings, contacting participants and handling myriad arrangements.

We have two simple requests from you, our spectators. First is to have a great time and secondly but most importantly are your donations. First and foremost on the list of needed items are toiletries and household cleaning supplies which are unobtainable by those utilizing these programs; following those the pantry still needs non-perishable, unexpired food items, new unwrapped toys for the holiday season and cash.

The beneficiary again this year is the food pantry of Englewood Helping Hand. Volunteers will man golf carts and travel down the parade route collecting donated items. The first 1,000 donors will receive miniature American flags and cheese. Last year, over 700 pounds of food was collected. The committee is hoping to surpass the amount this year.

Residents unable to attend the parade may make a donation by calling Earl Haas, (941) 698-9207. A pick-up will be arranged.

Trophy award presentations and an after-the-parade party will once again be hosted at the VFW located at 3725 Cape Haze Drive. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and other items will be available for purchase and the fun will continue into the evening with more live entertainment.

The parade staging area is Rotonda Boulevard East between Rotonda Circle and Parade Circle. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch will not only be represented in the parade but will help with traffic control.

Rain date is Sunday, December 4.

Manager's Report

*by Jay Lyons, Manager,
Rotonda West Association, Inc.*



West Ways On-Line

I want to thank the 400 plus owners who have chosen to participate in the ECOM Program, our Electronic Communications Program. The ECOM program provides owners with the opportunity to receive selected communications from the Association by email. We established the program earlier this year to reduce mailing and printing costs and to improve communications. Participants have received the annual billing statements and notices announcing the opportunity to view the West Ways newsletter on-line, in color and two weeks before it is printed and sent by snail mail. In the future, we will consider sending additional information electronically, as well.

Due to the extremely low cost of the bulk mailing, we will continue to mail West Ways to the 33947 zip code.

If you have an email account and wish to receive Association information in this manner, please send me an email at manager@rotondawest.org stating your willingness to receive all Association information by email, or your intention to access the website to view West Ways.

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving our ECOM Program, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for your help!

Welcome Our New Editor!

He was born in Boise, Idaho. He earned his degree in English from George Mason University on the GI Bill. He's traveled the world with his military family. He served in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for 33 years and more travel.

He's Eric Christenson and he's our new editor of West Ways.

While a student at George Mason in Fairfax, Virginia, he served as editor of his campus newspaper, getting out weekly editions. With degree in hand, he set his sights on a newspaper career. But he soon discovered that the pay wasn't nearly enough to support his soon-to-be bride and himself. Enter the CIA and a long career.

"My interest in West Ways fulfills a goal of mine since college... to write for and edit a worthy publication," Eric said.

Eric is a product of a military dad and calls himself a "military brat," having spent brief periods in just about every country in the world, except Africa. He played football and ran track for his high school in Naples, Italy. The school was run by the US Navy. Later, he did a stint in the US Navy in the Seabees as an Equipment Operator.

After his long service with the CIA, he joined Northrup-Grumman and was in national security programs for seven years.

Eric and his wife, Cindi, have been married for 28 years. He has served as a fund raiser for the American Lung Association and enjoys fishing, boating, golf and reading.

Welcome aboard, Eric!!!

Offering a Helping Hand Up, Not a Hand Out.

What do mayo, ketchup, canned pastas, soups, instant potatoes, canned meat, peanut butter and jelly, crackers, Hamburger Helper and household paper goods have in common? They're all headliners on the "Urgent Pantry Needs" list of Englewood Helping Hand, Inc. Many of these items will be donated by spectators at the December 3 Rotonda West Christmas Parade; however, the needs are endless -- and growing constantly.

West Ways sat down recently with Rotonda resident and Helping Hand, Inc. Board President Ginny Anderson for an overview of the non-profit corporation's many and varied services. Her first words were "Please thank the community for their support, enabling Helping Hand to serve about 13,000 of our neighbors in temporary need this past year alone." Anderson said the need for emergency assistance is immense and growing. Not only are there new clients who never thought they would need to ask for help, but some longtime donors are themselves having to seriously limit their giving at this time.

What Is Englewood Helping Hand, Inc.? Englewood Helping Hand was incorporated in 1983 as a faith-based social service agency that provides short-term, confidential emergency assistance to residents of the Englewood area. A staff of two and numerous volunteers from local church congregations work from small offices and food pantry at 700 East Dearborn Street (on the campus of Englewood United Methodist Church.) There are eleven additional sponsoring churches and a working Board of 9 (Anderson emphasizes working!) which includes three Rotonda residents: Janet Evans-Puckey, Pastor Teresa Foster and Anderson. Appointments for assistance may be made from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday by phoning EHH at (941) 474-5864. A request for food assistance must be accompanied by a photo I.D. and proof of residency in the area if it is not on a driver's license.

Anderson reiterated that Englewood Helping Hand is uniquely designed to provide a hand-up rather than a hand-out for Englewood area residents. "It's far more than several bags of groceries every so often, as important as that is. It's assisting our clients in obtaining food stamps and Medicaid services if they are eligible but not yet receiving them, and getting them into the entire array of other local social services as needed. Sometimes that means assisting with some rent or utility bills or referring clients to health services or job counseling. We could not do this without the tremendous support from our donors and partnering groups and -- of course -- the grant monies we are fortunate enough to receive from local organizations. Through our direct donors and our many partnerships in the community, Englewood Helping Hand is able to facilitate delivery of these much-needed services."

In addition to the busy food bank and other services, EHH operates annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Adopt-A-Family programs and its Toys for Englewood program. Donors (including organizations or clubs) who wish to Adopt-A-Family or provide special gifts to family members must first complete a form outlining the number and size of the families they wish to assist, and exactly how (complete dinner for a single elderly person or perhaps for an extra

Homeless Benefit From Rotonda West Drive



The little fella in the photo above was doing his share to help the homeless. He and many others brought blankets, warm clothing and shoes to the "Rotonda West Collection Day" on Saturday, September 24th.. The collection center was Quality Self-Storage in Englewood.

Led by 11 year old Caitlyn Loveless, 8 of the 10 members of her "Kids Creating Change" team live in Rotonda West.

Three-year old Bryce brought a blanket almost bigger than he is to the Rotonda West collection. He also brought his dog, "Guinness the Shop," named from Blinds Blinds

A Vietnam veteran brought the largest donation of men's clothing, and a recent widow donated her deceased husband's coats in his memory.

Items collected by the kids are donated to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Since the program started a year ago, the kids have collected over 500 blankets and have set their sights on collecting 1500 more in the next year.

Some 7,500 families are homeless in Charlotte County, including some 440 school-age kids.



large family with children.) EHH will provide the selected family's information and it is then up to the donor to discuss assistance and delivery plans with the family -- and make it happen!! Forms or additional information may be obtained at the EHH offices during operating hours.

Two major annual fundraisers help support Helping Hand's work: Crop Walk (February 25, 2012) and Faith Night at the Charlotte ball park (April 27, 2012). Other local organizations, such as the Rotonda West Association Christmas Parade committee, hold their own fund-and-food raisers for EHH. Last year, about 700 pounds of food were collected at the parade and much more is expected this year -- watch for the roaming golf carts picking up donations along the parade route!

Rotonda resident Ginny Anderson, President of Englewood Helping Hand, Inc., speaks often to groups interested in "helping Helping Hand." She may be contacted at the HH office at 941-474-5864.



What To Do When the Grandkids Visit...

Rotonda West will soon be 40 years old. It is a dynamic, ever-changing community with more younger families moving in and attractive homes and well-manicured properties dotting our landscape. Located on the Cape Haze peninsula, we are surrounded by water, cool breezes and spectacular sunsets. Our many amenities offer golf, fishing, boating, nature walks, spectator sports and much more.

So what's offered for our young visitors and resident kids alike?

Swimming in Grandpa's pool may top the list but if Grandpa doesn't have a pool, there's pristine Englewood Beach on the Gulf of Mexico and the olympic-size pool at Oyster Creek Park.

If fishing is the sport of choice, there's our 26 miles of canals and the pier at the Myakka River Bridge, as well as surf-casting at Englewood Beach. Charter fishing boats abound in the area. And there are plenty of bait shops.

The Rotonda Community Park off Parade Circle offers a play area for younger kids, a picnic pavilion, tennis courts and a huge field to toss a football or a Frisbee, or hit a baseball.

For \$4.00 each for a game, you can take the kids bowling at Englewood Bowl. Or if an amusement park is the answer, go to Kidstar Park in Port Charlotte and ride the Dragon Wagon roller coaster or the Space Sled, or navigate the climbing wall. The arcade at the park features a dozen games.

If hitting golf balls is the choice, the Rotonda Golf & County Club offers 99 holes of golf, as well as putting greens and driving ranges.

On a trip to Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda, you'll find an especially interesting Military Heritage Museum with a huge collection of memorabilia from the war years, displays and historical war-time photographs.

In baseball season, there's summer action at Charlotte Sports Park with the Charlotte Stone Crabs in the Florida State League, and the Tampa Bay Rays in spring training in March.

If nature walks are top-rated, there's lots to do at Myakka State Park in Osprey with canopy walks, gator gazing and much more. Closer to home, Cedar Point Park opposite Lemon Bay High School and the Wildflower Preserve in Placida are great places to visit.

In Sarasota there is the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium where the kids can not only touch and feed some of the sea life but also take a side trip on a pontoon boat and collect specimens. While in Sarasota you might want to check out the Ringling Circus museum detailing the day-to-day, city-to-city operation of a circus traveling by rail.

One of Florida's best-kept secrets is the South Florida Museum in Bradenton with an extensive collection and an aquarium with a 63-year-old manatee and an up-close look at planets and the stars in the planetarium.

That's a pretty extensive list, with choices for just about every taste. There's plenty to do under brilliant Florida sunshine and on rainy days. But note that we haven't even mentioned the theme parks in the Orlando-Kissimmee-Tampa areas... Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, Busch Gardens and more. Whatever your choice, have fun kids!

Neighborhood Watch Issues a Scam Alert

Rotonda West Neighborhood Watch has issued a warning to all residents to be alert to an on-going scam.

The caller will claim he or she is a family member, is incarcerated in a Mexican prison and needs money to get out. The caller preys on the elderly who are often too anxious to help a family member who appears to be in trouble. The callers are particularly convincing and ask that the money be wired by Western Union to an individual in Mexico City.

A Rotonda West woman was victimized by this exact scam recently and was out \$2,500.00.

"In these times of economic hardship for many, unscrupulous people will go to any lengths to victimize people," warned John House, President of Neighborhood Watch. "We all need to be vigilant and alert to suspicious phone calls like this scam."

The Watch is always in need of volunteers. If you can spare 2 hours one night a month, please call Bon Bondeson, (941) 548-1384, or John House, (941) 697-8030.

Inside the Circle

Bits & Pieces from Around the Community

Going Out of Town?... Whenever you leave your house unoccupied for any length of time, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will keep an eye on it for you. If notified of your absence, a Sheriff's Deputy will check your house on routine patrols. You will need to complete a House Check Request Form. Go to the Rotonda West website, www.rotondawest.org. On the menu at the right, click the "Public Service" link. Scroll down to Charlotte County Government and the listing for the form that you can print. You'll then need to deliver the completed form to the Sheriff's Office, 6868 San Casa Drive in Englewood.

Badger Club Start-Up... We ran a news item in the last issue about a social club being formed for Wisconsin transplants. Organizer Chris Thompson, a former resident of Hartland, Wisconsin, reports that 5 families have signed up and she's issuing a follow-up call for members. Interested? Call Chris at (941) 214-8115 or email her at badger_8663@yahoo.com

A Classic No-No... A resident in the Pinehurst subdivision reported observing a neighbor tossing grass clippings in the canal in back of his home. Grass clippings rot and encourage weed growth. This careless act is counter-productive to the Association's aggressive posture to maintain weed-free canals. Reminder: Waste Management collects yard waste every Tuesday.

Rotonda West Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

Glynn Perkins, President
 George Burger, 1st Vice President
 Hank Killion, 2nd Vice President,
 Secretary, Treasurer
 Hank Artz, Director
 Stan Plizga, Director
 Andy VanScoyc, Director
 Peter Traverso, Director

Office Staff

Jay Lyons, Manager
 Norene Kugler, Assistant Manager
 Dianne Brophy, Deed Restrictions
 Merle Fulton, Accounting
 Claudette Romano, Administration

West Ways Staff

Eric Christenson, Editor
 Ruth Sargent, Writer
 Sue Killion, Photographer
 David Pulaski, Photographer
 Julie Gaustad-Ruhr, Layout



NO! These are not turtle poachers. This boat will harvest the weeds in our canals and reduce the amount of herbicides used. A full story on this operation and more pictures in our next issue. *Photos by Sue Killion*

Mission Statement

The role of Rotonda West Association, Inc. is multi-faceted: To protect the property interests of the members; to enhance living in the community; to plan for the future in its role as a community association. (Approved November 13, 2002)

Rotonda West Association

3754 Cape Haze Drive
 Rotonda West, FL 33947
 Phone 941-697-6788
 Fax 941-697-0788
 Deed Restrictions 941-697-1780
 Email info@rotondawest.org
 Editor westways@rotondawest.org
 Web www.rotondawest.org

ECRWSS
 POSTAL CUSTOMER
 ROTONDA WEST, FL 33947

- All committee meetings are open to RWA members and meet monthly on the days listed at the RWA Community Center.
- Board of Directors 2nd Wednesday @ 2 p.m.
 - Aquatics Committee 4th Wednesday @ 3 p.m.
 - Beautification 1st Thursday @ 2 p.m.
 - Budget & Finance 1st Wednesday @ 10 a.m.
 - Community Relations 1st Wednesday @ 2:30 p.m.
 - Deed Restrictions 2nd Monday @ 1 p.m.
 - Properties 4th Monday @ 10 a.m.
 - Residential Modification 2nd & 4th Monday @ 2 p.m.

Important Dates

Rotonda West Association, Inc.
 3754 Cape Haze Drive
 Rotonda West, FL 33947

BULK MAILING
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PLACIDA, FL
 33947
 PERMIT NO. 38