



# Rotary Club of Covington Bulletin

<http://www.RotaryCovington.org>

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## Club Leaders



[Thomas Kephart](#)  
President



[Bryan Fazio](#)  
President-Elect



[Lauren Poynter](#)  
Secretary



[Clay Hodges](#)  
Treasurer



[Jackie Gutknecht](#)  
Public Relations Chair



[Tarrence T. Houston](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair



[E. Wayne Pugh](#)  
GRSP Chair



[Brad Bettis](#)  
Club Director



[Douglas E. Bolton](#)  
Club Admin Chair



[Joseph Davidson](#)  
CCO-Club Comm. Officer

[Ricky Mock](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms

## Rotary Program 12-1-20 - Meeting Canceled for Rotary Christmas Party

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, November 30, 2020

### **Rotary Meeting 12-1-20 CANCELED.**

**We will not have our normal Rotary Meeting 12-1-20. We will make it up on the Rotary Christmas Party Friday**

**We will have our next regular meeting on 12-8-20. It will be our last meeting of 2020.**

## December Birthdays & Anniversaries

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, November 30, 2020

### December Birthdays

**Bob Stafford 12/1**  
**Johnny Smith 12/2**  
**Gena McLendon 12/8**  
**Michael Pulliam 12/8**  
**Lauren Poynter 12/12**  
**Art Vinson 12/21**  
**Keith Adams 12/29**

### December Anniversaries

**Patrick & Janet Carmichael 12/18**  
**Wendell & Nancy Clamp 12/20**

### December Covington Rotary Member Anniversaries

**Janet Brewer 11 Years**  
**Clay Hodges 6 Years**  
**Ricky Mock 22 Years**  
**Terry Ozburn 19 Years**

## Rotary Club of Covington Future Programs and events

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, November 30, 2020

**Meetings are being held at Covington First United Methodist Church at 12:00pm**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting starts at 12:20 PM**

12-01-2020 - Meeting CANCELED for Rotary Christmas Party

12-04-2020 - Rotary Christmas Party

12-08-2020 - Empty Stocking Planning Meeting

12-15-2020 - Meeting Canceled for Empty Stocking

12-17-2020 - Empty Stocking Pack out day

12-19-2020 - Empty Stocking Deliver Day

12-22-2020 - Meeting canceled for Christmas

12-29-2020 - Meeting canceled for New Years

4-22 to 25-2020 - District Conference - Jekyll Island

## 2021 District Conference Jekyll Island

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, September 28, 2020



[John King](#)  
iPast President



[Dorothy Bala](#)  
Assistant Governor



[Register NOW!](#)  
[Info on meeting safely on Jekyll Island](#)

### Birthdays

- Bob I. Stafford  
December 1st
- Johnny S. Smith  
December 2nd
- Gena McLendon  
December 8th
- Michael Pulliam  
December 8th
- Lauren Poynter  
December 12th
- Arthur M. Vinson  
December 21st
- Brian Keith Adams  
December 29th



### [Beach Towel/Mat Competition](#)

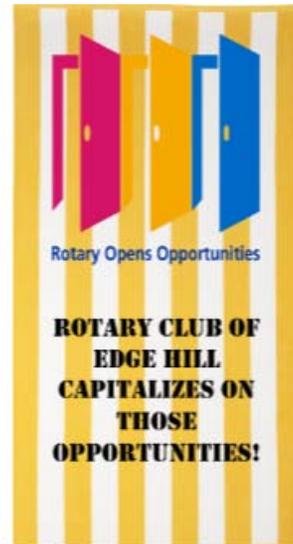
### Wedding Anniversaries

- Patrick Roy Carmichael  
December 18th

### Club Member Anniversaries

- Ricky Mock  
12-01-1998  
22 Years
- Terry Ozburn  
12-31-2001  
19 Years
- Janet Brewer  
12-31-2009  
11 Years
- Clay Hodges  
12-16-2014  
6 Years
- Stephen C. Smith  
12-11-2015  
5 Years

### [Hotel Info & Registration](#)







Link to the news story:

<https://wxow.com/2020/11/07/the-annual-rotary-lights-provide-more-than-just-a-community-tradition/>

LA CROSSE, Wis. - (WXOW) - The holidays wouldn't feel like the holidays without the beloved Rotary Lights tradition, but providing that fun sense of community isn't the only thing the annual lights do.

"This year of 2020 is the most important year we have ever had for Rotary Lights," said Pat Stephens, President of Rotary Lights. "We expect to have a banner year because of all the hindrances that the virus has created."

The lights have been a community tradition for \_\_\_ years and it takes about five weeks to set everything up. On Saturday there were about 140 people of all ages in Riverside Park helping but they have around 3,000 volunteers, some that work year round, which means it truly is a community effort.

"There's no Rotary Lights without the volunteers, it's a great group," said Stephens. "I think we ended up with 98 non-profit organizations that agreed to help out this year. They supply the people power."

But as many know, Rotary Lights does more than just provide the community with a fun and festive annual tradition. Community members have the ability to donate both money and food which goes to local food pantries.

"When we started Rotary Lights collecting food was kind of an after thought. In 1995, our very first year we collected a little over 13,000 food items," said Stephens. "Since that time the community has really adopted that project and I'm guessing that we're going to be right around 350,000 food items that will be collected."

Stephens explained that the need has never been greater than it is right now which is also why this year's Rotary Lights is so important.



"That really, really helps us," said Susan Oddsen, Program Manager at the La Crescent Food Shelf. "We get the Halloween food and that keeps us going through November and just about into December but then we start to get really low and Rotary Lights comes in and that helps us make it into January and February hopefully."

"It's amazing to live in a community where people really show up and help each other out," said Oddsen. "That's the best part of this work."

The food can be collected at any time. There are food tables at the exit to the park and people can come through during the day when the lights aren't even on and leave bags of food to be collected that night. Anyone that would like to make a donation can also visit [rotarylights.org](http://rotarylights.org).

The lights provide a safe alternative to big holiday gatherings. People can stay in their own cars and practice social distancing while just enjoying. Rotary Lights opens the day after Thanksgiving this year with a fireworks display for the community to enjoy.

**Daniel Island Rotary Club donates hand-built desks to students at Cainhoy Elementary**



Members of the Daniel Island Rotary Club ♦s Nail Bangers Club ♦ Bob Schroeder, Dr. Jay Sands, Jim Morrill, Dee Ring and Ray Battocletti ♦ hand-built 115 desks for Cainhoy Elementary School. Provided CAINHOY ♦ The coronavirus pandemic has created a slew of unforeseen issues for Cainhoy Elementary School.

Among the most challenging problems for the tiny, rural Berkeley County school has been the administration ♦s effort to effectively teach their students who are learning virtually.

School Principal LaWanda Glears wanted her virtual students who are learning from home to feel like they were still in a classroom.

When Glears would drop in for online sessions, she noticed that some of her virtual students were stretched out on a couch, lying on their beds or sitting at the kitchen table. It wasn ♦t the most optimal learning environment.

Glears, with a little help from the Daniel Island Rotary Club, came up with a solution ♦ handmade desks that her students could use at home.

♦ It doesn ♦t sound like a lot, but it can make a big difference, ♦ said Glears, who has been the school ♦s principal for the past three years. ♦ Just having a desk, that place to work to do homework, can give the students some sense of normalcy and make all the difference in learning. ♦



Cainhoy Elementary School principal LaWanda Glears has been at the school for three years.

A little less than half of the 160 students enrolled at Cainhoy Elementary are taking classes virtually or doing the county ♦s blending of distance learning.

In September, Glears had seen a story where other communities had built desks for students that could be used at home during the pandemic. Glears loved the idea and applied for a grant with the Daniel Island Community Foundation. The foundation gets its funds from assessment fees from real estate transactions on the island.

The Foundation in turn reached out to the Daniel Island Rotary Club and Bill Greene, a retired urologist, who enjoys woodworking. Greene is the head of the club ♦s Nail Bangers contingency. Over the past couple of years, Greene and members

of the Rotary Club have done several small construction projects like building wheelchair ramps and access ramps for residents in mobile homes.



The Daniel Island Rotary Club has delivered about 50 desks to Cainhoy Elementary School to help children learn at home.

Making some desks was right in the Nail Bangers' wheelhouse.

◆ We recognized how devastating that COVID has been to the schools and especially a school like Cainhoy Elementary, which doesn't have the resources of some other schools, ◆ said Greene, who retired to Daniel Island three years ago. ◆ We went on the web found a good plan for building desks and went from there. ◆

In all, the Nail Bangers have churned out 115 desks over a six-week period. Of those, 50 desks already having been distributed to the Cainhoy students.

The total cost of the project was \$2,900, or about \$25 per desk. The task was made easier when Home Depot cut the wood into squares for the tops and bottoms of the desk.

◆ It takes about an hour to finish a desk, ◆ Greene said. ◆ It's not a terribly complicated job. We had about a dozen people from the club help out. Then we had some friends and neighbors drop by, too. They just wanted to be involved. It was probably about 120 man hours of work. ◆

The Nail Bangers loaded up a truck and trailer full of desks and made their delivery to the school a couple of days before Halloween. Students and parents have been stopping by the school to pick up the desks ever since.

◆ The children and parents love the desks, some have even decorated them to make them their own, ◆ Glears said.

The Greene's are no strangers to Cainhoy Elementary. Greene's wife, Mary Ellen, is the literacy chair for the Rotary Club. She has been spearheading a project to create a reading room separate from the library.

Several other local organizations have also rallied around Cainhoy Elementary by donating about \$30,000 to the school and lending support during the pandemic. BP Cooper River plant donated \$20,000 toward constructing an outdoor classroom, something that has been on Glears' wish list for some time.

◆ I've always believed that learning goes beyond the four walls of the classroom and that kids really need to go on and have hands-on experiences, ◆ she said.

The school has also received \$1,571 from the Community Neighborhood Watch, which Glears said she is going to be earmarked for student and staff recognition ◆ like making plaques and certificates.

◆ The community outreach has been just wonderful, ◆ Glears said. ◆ It just makes me so proud of how supportive they've been during the pandemic. ◆

There has been a surplus of desks, and Greene said he's hoping to donate them to the Seven Farms low-income housing area to help furnish a new computer lab.

## Morristown Rotary Supports Homeless Veterans

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, November 30, 2020



Morristown Rotary Club members along with a Vietnam veteran friend of Morristown Rotary. The Morristown Rotary Club started a project on Veterans Day of 2019 to distribute backpacks, boots, socks, and other clothing items to veterans in transitional housing at the Veterans Affairs campus in Lyons, NJ. This effort is now a monthly project that involves both the Morristown and Westfield Rotary Clubs.

According to Nick Walsh, Immediate Past President of MRC: "On behalf of all club members, I want to thank the veterans in our community for their service to our country. This project of providing some basic essential items to these brave men and women while they get back on their feet is the least we can do."

The next visits to the Lyons VA facility will be on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. This is one of the many ongoing community service projects sponsored by Morristown Rotary.

## RI President's December Message

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, November 30, 2020



**Holger Knaack**

**President 2020-21**

**December 2020**

As I look back on 2020, I reflect on how our lives have changed. The global COVID-19 pandemic brought pain and loss to many of us. And for almost all of us, our daily lives, family time, and work also changed this year. But we've made it to the end of this difficult year, not on our own but by reaching out to one another, as we always do in Rotary. With each passing year, I become prouder of our organization.

I will choose to remember 2020 as a year of great change and strength for us; Rotary didn't stop, despite the pandemic. We removed obstacles, found new ways to connect, and embraced new approaches to service, such as online projects and virtual fundraising. I have invited two Rotarians to share their stories about how Rotary grew stronger this year.

*When the pandemic shut everything down, our emerging e-club was already providing digital service, including internationally. Fourteen U.S. women and I, members of multiple Rotary clubs, were using WhatsApp to mentor women entrepreneurs in rural Costa Rica, helping them to grow their ecotourism business, RETUS Tours [the subject of the magazine's May cover story, "Nature & Nurture"]. The project has grown, with 30 Rotarians now providing consulting and help with the RETUS website and social media. Most importantly, we continue building relationships and empowering these women to transform their own lives, and we are doing it online. I've even helped one of the women, Rosa, prepare a presentation in English for an online international conference. While our engagement with the Costa Rican women still requires some hands-on activity, the most transformative impacts haven't had to be in person.*

◆ *Liza Larson, Rotary E-Club Engage and Rotary Club of Plano East, Texas*

*I was president of my club when COVID-19 hit, and many members didn't yet have Zoom. Only 10 of our 53 members participated in the first Zoom meeting during the pandemic. I thought that reaching out and getting guest speakers from around*

*the world to engage our members would help. Many Rotary leaders, a Rotary Peace Fellow, and even RI President Holger Knaack visited virtually and spoke to our club. Meeting attendance improved, while we reduced running costs by cutting out meals. Some members who worked outside our city and had missed our meetings even rejoined us. Registering our online meetings on My Rotary enhanced contacts with clubs across the world, and the joint meeting addressed by Holger attracted more than 300 visitors. We also raised more funds as members and visitors contributed to our projects. To continue being flexible for all, we are now offering hybrid meetings. For me, 2020 has been the best year in Rotary as I've made many new friends.*

◆ *Blessing Michael, Rotary Club of Port Harcourt North, Nigeria*

These stories should give us all reasons to be optimistic about Rotary in the year ahead. We are not just surviving; we are gaining strength. We are discovering how resilient our organization truly is. We are seeing for ourselves how Rotary Opens Opportunities ◆ even during pandemics ◆ to grow, connect, and engage our members and the communities we serve.

From our home in Ratzeburg to yours, Susanne and I would like to bid you and your family the warmest of season's greetings. We can't wait to see the good things that 2021 will bring.