

Rotary Club of Gainesville Newsletter



Meeting Location:

First Baptist Church
Banquet Hall
751 Green Street
Monday at 12:30 PM
Lunch begins serving at
Noon
Founded in 1923

Links

Club Website
Facebook
Instagram
LinkedIn
New Member Online
Form

Club Leaders



Amanda Willis
President



Mike McGraw
President -
Elect



Joseph Alan
Tripp
Secretary



Christina D.
Jones
Treasurer



Julia Gesch
Clay
Membership
Director



Carol M.
Colón
Club
Administration
Director

Amy Haralson
Kienle
Youth

Zoom Link for Today's Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88264247885?pwd=UE1lWU5ucHZ5ajA5OQxOZmJDRGdVdz09>

Meeting ID: [882 6424 7885](#)

Passcode: 024188

One tap mobile

[+13126266799](tel:+13126266799),88264247885#,,,,*024188# US (Chicago)

[+19292056099](tel:+19292056099),88264247885#,,,,*024188# US (New York)

Dial by your location

[+1 312 626 6799](tel:+13126266799) US (Chicago)

[+1 929 205 6099](tel:+19292056099) US (New York)

[+1 301 715 8592](tel:+13017158592) US (Washington DC)

[+1 346 248 7799](tel:+13462487799) US (Houston)

[+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833) US (San Jose)

[+1 253 215 8782](tel:+12532158782) US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: [882 6424 7885](#)

Passcode: 024188

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88264247885?pwd=UE1lWU5ucHZ5ajA5OQxOZmJDRGdVdz09>

Amanda Wilbanks, Founder and CEO of Southern Baked Pie Company

No one can cook like a Southern cook, and that's a fact. Amanda Wilbanks was born into this rich, regional legacy, but had no idea she would be perpetuating it. From the time she was small, she scurried around the feet of her mother, grandmothers, and aunts. She overheard dinner table conversations which began with "How did you make this?" and ended with "Well, it is simply amazing! I must have that recipe!" Amanda witnessed how family titans of cooking compiled cherished recipes into family notebooks, copied and distributed to the next generation. Heirlooms with "great taste", to be sure!

For their part, the men in the family contributed to the effort by planting summer gardens and tending them. For many years, behind Amanda's grandfather's house, her papa and dad had a bountiful garden. Her mother and grandmothers put up (that is, canned or froze) fresh-from-the-garden produce year after year after year. And, Amanda's great-great-grandfather was famous for growing his own rhubarb, then making a killer rhubarb pie! Farm-to-table was a way of life in Amanda's family.

Amanda never set out to be a professional chef, although she has always possessed a strong creative bent. Her first "career" lasted only about a year, because it did not feed her hungry soul. Amanda has the spirit of an entrepreneur, inherited from her daddy's daddy, who was not only a person with great charisma, but was also a dreamer of dreams. Like him, Amanda



has the tremendous ability to capture a vision and see it through. So, as 2012 dawned, she left that first job, and threw her talents into designing her own wedding, slated for April of that year.

Then, six months later, as new family met old, newly-wed Amanda spent two weeks in the kitchen with her mother-in-law, Sandy, two weeks which ultimately sent her life spinning off into a marvelous, new culinary direction.

Amanda discovered the magic and beauty of French pate brisee pie crust. This new love turned into a near obsession.

The Wilbanks home was soon filled with the constant aroma of baking pies, as Amanda perfected her signature crust and dug into old family recipes for fillings. Buttermilk pies became so plentiful that Alex, Amanda's husband, demanded she either stop baking or start selling those pies. His waistline was getting wrecked!

Not willing to give up her new-found addiction, Amanda went to her first, local craft fair in 2012, armed with a dream, 1500 business cards, a rented tent, her bemused family members (her aides-de-camp) and dozens of scrumptious pies. What a weekend! Each night, she and her (now amazed) family stayed up until the wee hours, baking, because each day she sold out of pies. Along the way, she schmoozed, shook hundreds of hands as she handed out business cards and smiled as she told each person, "If I can get just one bite of my pies in your mouth, you will be a customer for life."

Built on the back of hard work, vision, email and Facebook marketing, her company was born.

At first, Amanda continued to attend festivals and market the pies while still baking out of her home. As orders began to pour in over the holiday season she had to add another monster oven to her tiny kitchen. And, then, she had to add another!

One year later, since running 3 industrial ovens out of one's home is perilous, the first storefront opened.

Today, 9 years later, Amanda is the founder and CEO of Southern Baked Pie Company, headquartered in Gainesville, GA, with 4 beautiful retail bakery locations in Alpharetta, Buckhead, Vinings, and Gainesville, as well as online alliances with several retail powerhouses such as Dean & DeLuca, Garden and Gun Mercantile, and Williams-Sonoma. Southern Baked has an online ecommerce and wholesale division, where pies are purchased and shipped all over the United States and will soon have the capability to ship internationally.

Amanda is also a wife to Alex Wilbanks, mother to two precious boys, Austin (11) and Dalton (6), one daughter, Caroline Grace (2) and a cookbook author. In her most recent cookbook, Southern Baked: Celebrate Life with Pie, Amanda divulges the recipe that made her pies famous: the signature Southern Baked All Butter Crust. Her work has been featured in Taste of the South, Garden and Gun and various other esteemed publications. She is also a frequent guest lecturer. Visit www.southernbakedpie.com to learn more about Amanda.

Amanda's mantra and mission have remained unchanged since Day One: Celebrate Life with Pie! And that is what she does every day.



Services Director



Jon Peterson
Sergeant-at-Arms



Alison Bagwell
Smith
Public Image Director



Kathleen
Owen
Service Projects Director



Zachary T
Propes
Rotary Foundation Director



Bill Hall
iPast President

Hello September!

Hello September...



The Rotary Club of Gainesville is busy this month! Your response is needed and appreciated on the following topics--ramp building, shore sweep, fish fry, and belle candidate nomination.

RAMP BUILDING SEPTEMBER 17-18 --#135!

Ramp team leader Lou Henderson is looking for 6-8 volunteers for Friday, 9/17 and Saturday 9/18 for a large ramp build at 5021 Stoneridge Drive, Flowery Branch. If you can commit for one of these days, please contact Lou at peterhenderson@gmail.com. Experienced and novice ramp volunteers are all needed. See you there!

ROTARY FOCUSES ON THE ENVIRONMENT - SIGN UP FOR LAKE LANIER SHORE SWEEP 9/25

Our club is participating in the annual Lake Lanier Shore Sweep on Saturday, 9/25. We will meet at the Lanier Olympic Park, 3105 Clarks Bridge Road, by boat or by car at 8:00 a.m. [Please register your attendance](#) and select the Olympic Park as the location. (Your registration means you get a coveted Sweep t-shirt!) Please support this effort to protect and clean our treasured environment of Lake Lanier. See you there!

ANNUAL FISH FRY IS BACK WITH FRY MASTER MIKE GILES

Make plans to attend our annual club fish fry on 9/27 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Bring a guest or prospective Rotarian and share the Family of Rotary experience. This year's event is hosted by Rotarian and Riverside Military Academy President, COL Stas Preczewski, on the lawn of his campus home, Mitchell Quarters, 1907 Lake Warner Drive. Please RVSP the number of participants to carolmcolon@gmail.com no later than September 24. See you there!

CHARITY BALL BELLE

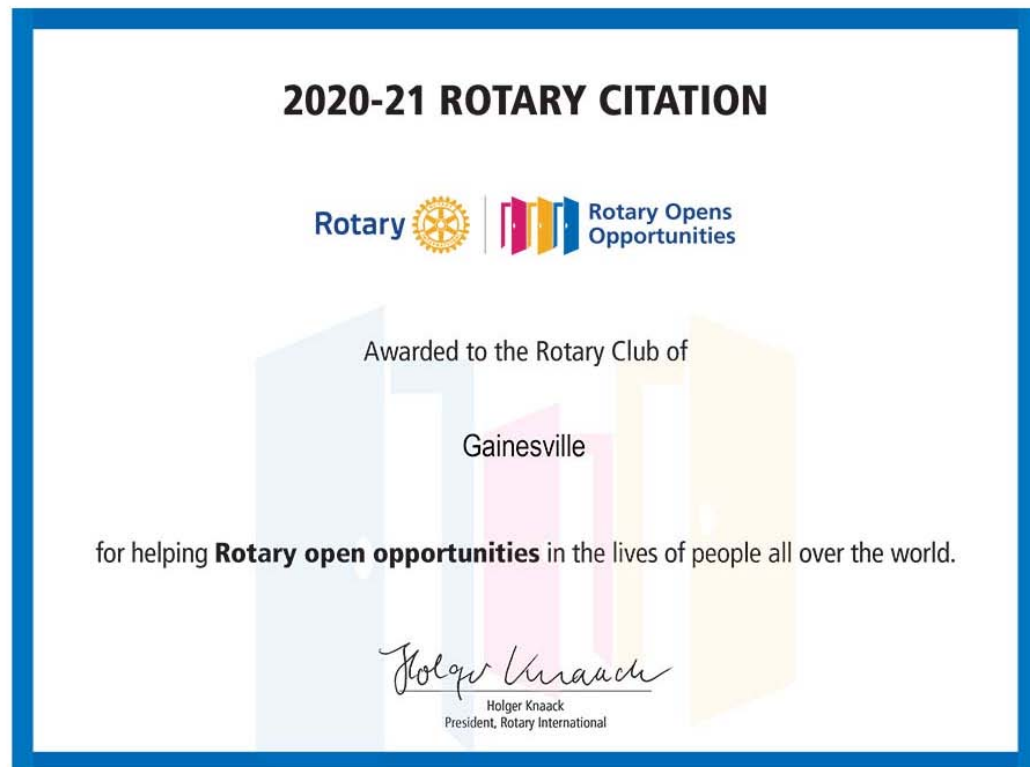
The Rotary Club of Gainesville has a long history of supporting the Junior League of Gainesville/Hall County's annual Charity Ball by sponsoring a Belle Candidate. The Board of Directors elected to open the nominations for our candidate only to a daughter or granddaughter of one of our members. The candidate should be either a high school junior or senior. Nominations will close on September 17, so please respond quickly if you have a daughter/granddaughter you would like to nominate for this honor. Please email President Amanda Willis with your nomination: akw.rotary@gmail.com

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Meeting or Event	Location
September 13, 2021	Amanda Wilbanks, Founder and CEO of Southern Baked Pie Company	Gainesville First Baptist
September 20, 2021	No Meeting	

September 20, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting ♦ Board of Directors Zoom Meeting - 11:00 am	
September 27, 2021	Rotary Club of Gainesville Annual Cookout	Mitchell Quarters, Riverside Military Academy
October 4, 2021	♦What the Pandemic has Taught Us♦ with Panelists Mike Giles, Carol Burrell and Rob Fowler	Gainesville First Baptist
October 11, 2021	No Meeting ♦ Holiday	
October 18, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting ♦ 11:00 am	Gainesville First Baptist
October 18, 2021	♦The State of Education in Gainesville/Hall County♦ with Panelists Anne Skleder, Bonita Jacobs, Jeremy Williams, Will Schofield, Kirsty Montgomery, and Stanley Preczewski	Gainesville First Baptist
October 25, 2021	Cheryl Legette, Chief Operations Officer, Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia ♦ ♦Herstory♦	Gainesville First Baptist

RC of Gainesville Receives Presidential Citation



Birthdays

[Rob W. Chambers](#)
September 14th

[Darla Jean Eden](#)
September 15th



[Ashton Meeks](#)
September 16th



[Joe C. White](#)
September 16th



[Philip A. Wilheit](#)
September 18th



[Dale McElveen Jaeger](#)
September 12th



[Kathleen Owen](#)
September 13th

Wedding Anniversaries



[LaDon T. Shaw](#)
September 16th



Mailing Address:
PO Box 382
Gainesville, GA 30503