

# The Trail



Rotary  
Huguenot Trail



August 14,

## Coming Events

### August

- 14 **Rose Bowl Special**  
Meet with James River Club  
7:30 am; Richmond Alarm  
14121 Justice Road
- 21 **Governor Clenise Platt**  
Official Visit  
Board meets at 11:30 am

### September

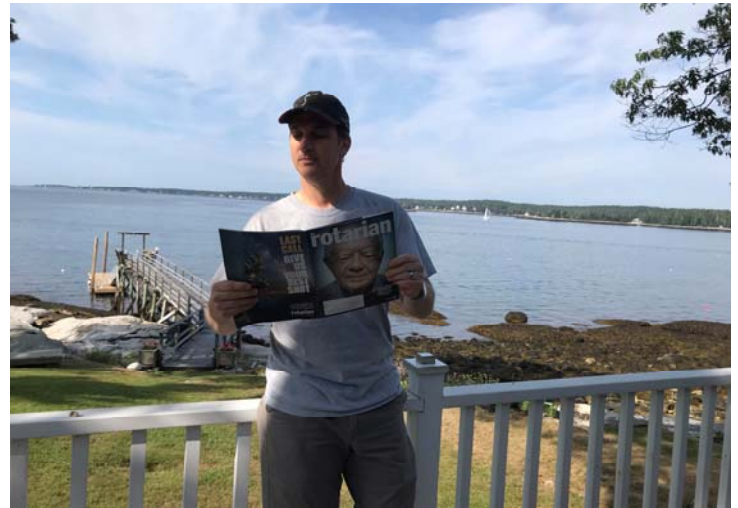
- 4 **Mike Strom**  
Virginia State Archivist
- 11 **Rachael Ramirez**  
Lifelong Learning Institute
- 25 **Carolyn Clements**  
Chesterfield Chamber

## We Shopped and Shopped

*With the Y's Bright Beginnings Youngsters*



Membership  
Our Greatest Asset



*The Traveling Rotarian* made it to Girls' Nation with Lisa and all the way to Boothbay, ME with Ian. It's putting in some miles this summer!

# POLIO GLOBAL ERADICATION INITIATIVE every last child



On a sunny afternoon in September 1979, Rotarians and Philippine Ministry of Health delegates looked on as RI President James L. Bomar put the first drops of the lifesaving Sabin polio vaccine into a child's mouth. This launched Rotary's first Health, Hunger and Humanity grant project to immunize about 6 million children in a \$760,000 drive.

The success of the project led to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, whose goal is to eradicate polio worldwide. When the initiative began, polio paralyzed more than 1,000 children worldwide every day! Since then, more than 2.5 billion (!) children have been immunized, thanks to the cooperation of more than 200 countries and 20 million volunteers, backed by an international investment of more than US\$11 billion. There are now only 3 countries that have not stopped polio transmission and the global incidence of polio cases has decreased by 99%.

As of August, Afghanistan had only 12 cases this year; Pakistan-48 cases; Nigeria-0 new cases for two years. A country must remain polio free for three consecutive years to be declared polio free. India reached that status on March 14, 2014.

Tackling the last 1% of polio cases has still proved difficult. Conflict, political instability, hard-to-reach population and poor infrastructure continue to pose challenges. Thus, in 2013, the initiative launched its most comprehensive and ambitious plan for completely eradicating polio. There also has been success in eradicating certain strains of the virus: of the three types of wild virus, the last case of type 2 was reported in 1999; the most recent type 3 was in 2012.

Based on guidance and requests from member states, the GPEI partnership has developed the Post-Certification Strategy to define the technical standards and guidance for the essential functions required to sustain a polio-free world. The three goals are: to contain polio viruses, to protect populations and to detect and respond to polio viruses.

"Day Zero," the day that polio is fully eradicated, is anxiously awaited. It is important, however, to recall what has already been achieved.

Thanks to the global initiative, more than 17 million people are walking today who otherwise would have been paralyzed. More than 1.5 million childhood deaths have been prevented through the administration of vitamin A during polio

immunization activities. The initiative's infrastructure contributes significantly to broader public health issues.

Most importantly, the world stands on the brink of an historic public health success. Globally, a polio-free world will reap savings of over US\$50 billion, funds that can be used to address other pressing public health needs. Most importantly, no child will ever be paralyzed by this terrible disease.

Failure to eradicate polio would result in a drastic resurgence of the disease globally and, within the next 10 years, the world could again see 200,000 new cases each year. This is why the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations maintains its position that the eradication of polio continues to represent a public health emergency of international concern.

The good news is that the eradication strategies in the Endgame Plan, if fully financed and implemented, form the correct approach to achieve a lasting polio-free world. It is in our hands to achieve success and to secure the world polio-free for the generations to come.

*Excerpted from an article by D7610 PDG Sandra Duckworth*