

*The*  
**SPARK**

Chartered Sept. 1, 1921



September 2020

The world's first Rotary Club in a town of less than 10,000

**99!**

September 1, 2020 marks the 99<sup>th</sup> birthday of The Rotary Club of Easton, Maryland— a rare accomplishment for any organization. It has been a faithful servant to the citizens of Talbot County and has endeavored to identify the best and brightest members regardless of race, gender, creed, or color to fulfill its mission of “Service above Self.” We have been successful because of the dedication and hard work of our members, year after year without fail. As we hurtle toward our centennial, it should be clear to everyone that no catastrophe has swayed us from our mission— not war, nor Depression— not even the invisible enemy of COVID-19. Read on to see some of our history and the exciting groundbreaking of the new Rotary Centennial Flags for Heroes Flag Court in Idelewild Park adjacent to the Rotary Pavilion. On this page is an article from our very first year of 1921 showing our commitment to education. It’s echoed on page 8 of this issue and in our 2022-2023 President, Dr. Kelly Griffith, Superintendent of Talbot County Public Schools.

WILMINGTON MORNING NEWS, WILMINGTON,

DELAWARE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1921

**ROTARY CLUB WORK  
IN EASTON SCHOOLS****Back of Movement to Induce  
Pupils to Continue Course of  
Education****Call for a Public Meeting of  
Talbot County Citizens to  
Consider Matter**

Special to The Morning News

EASTON, Md., Oct. 19—At the meeting of the Easton Rotary Club this week plans were made for taking up the Back-to-School movement of the children who leave school when about to enter high school and start to work instead of finishing their education. The committee on boys' work made a report in which it was announced that a public meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Easton high school building Wednesday evening. Frank Greenhawk, of Wilmington, in charge of the Boy Scouts of that city, will address the meeting.

There has been a tendency during the past for boys to leave school early in order to earn money, but the Rotary Club believes that statistics prove more money can be made in the end by the boy remaining in school until he is graduated than by stopping after the grammar school is completed. There are thousands of boys of high school age who have performed two hours work when the school session begins in the morning, and this is not a good condition for the youngsters and experts tell us that it tells on them in after years. Boys and girls must have their youthful days, and if they do not get them at the proper time they will get them in after years when it is too late.

The business meeting and luncheon will be held by the Rotary Club at Hotel Norris on Wednesday evening, and then the members will go to the high school to attend the public meeting. Boy Scouts, Y. M. C. A., and other organizations will be asked to take up the survey of the county in order that the Rotary Club may ascertain the conditions.

Oscar M. Fogle, the new school superintendent of Talbot county, has planned to hold regular conferences of the high school principals during the winter for the furtherance of educational work. The first one was held in the office of the school board.

# HISTORIC FIRST

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF EASTON ADMITS FIRST WOMEN MEMBERS

Monday, September 25, 1989 The Star-Democrat Page 5A



### ***New members***

Photo by Roxane Doster

The Easton Rotary Club has inducted its first women members. They are (from left) Barbara Ortt, executive director of the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce and Linda Sullivan, executive director at the Academy of the Arts. Also inducted on Wednesday, Sept. 20 were (from the left) Mike Whelan, George Hatcher and Dr. Rick Heaton.

**September 20, 1989**, was an historic day for The Rotary Club of Easton. With no requirement from Rotary International to do so, and with no pressure coming from any external or internal forces, our club proactively admitted its first women members. Only eleven years later, Easton Rotary had its first female president, Shari McCord. See the next page for Shari's story and more!



## Easton Rotary elects first female president

By TARA TOBIAS  
Community Editor

**EASTON** — The Rotary Club of Easton recently celebrated a milestone as the first woman president in the history of the organization was elected.

Shari McCord's term began on July 1 and will continue for one year. She has owned Chesapeake Travel since 1993 in Easton and said she is ready for the challenge.

"This is a double honor for me not just to be elected as president but as the first female president is really great," McCord said. "This is a wonderful club and I wholeheartedly believe in rotary and its concept of service before self. It's nice to be part of a club that is so strong," she added.

According to George Hatcher Jr., a director of the rotary club here, McCord was a solid choice for the role.

"Shari is a leading business woman in Easton and is highly regarded by the community for her attitude and special talents in dealing with people," he said. "There is a lot to do as president, not only for Easton Rotary, but giving of herself for travel to better serve the community and world. She was a good choice for the first woman president."

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage ethical standards in vocations and help build goodwill in the world. Easton began its chapter in 1921 and until the late 1980s was comprised as male members exclusively.

"As women became leaders in the church and business they have also become so in organizations and positions such as this," Hatcher said.

Also elected was Susan Coulston as Rotarian of the Year. Coulston also serves as secretary of the Rotary Club. This year's Rotary Community Service Award went to Della Denny. The service award is in memory of J. Howard Anthony.

"People who become Rotarian of the Year really sacrifice their time ... it is for the love of Rotary that she is involved,"



**Elected the first woman president of the Easton Rotary, Shari McCord has owned Chesapeake Travel since 1993.**

Hatcher said. "She is a kind and forthcoming person."

Past Rotary President and current Board Member Mike Hiner said "women are an attribute to any organization like the rotary club. Being a local club, we are glad to see Shari elevated to president ... it is a turning point for the club to recognize these fine women," Hiner added.

Easton Rotary makes numerous contributions to the community each year such as providing an academic incentive program at Easton Middle School where any student who meets the requirements receives a trip. In addition, the club makes contributions to various non-profit groups and organizations, participate in a Rotary student exchange program, and presents college scholarships to seniors attending high school in Talbot County.

The Rotary Club also has sponsored the Easton Little League team for the past 50 years, participates in Easton's Meals on Wheels program, organizes the Waterfowl Festival parking each year, and presents a Talbot County worker an Employee of



**Shari McCord smiles as she is presented a president's pin by outgoing Rotary President Mike Hiner.**

the Year Award.

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Ill. was formed on Feb. 23, 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents, and the organization adopted the name Rotary International a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need.



**Susan Coulston is presented the Rotarian of the Year award by Bruce Armistead. Coulston serves as secretary of the Rotary Club.**

Shari McCord was Easton Rotary's President for the 2001-2002 Rotary year, and it's important to note that Past Secretary Susan Coulston received the Rotarian of the year Award (now the Donald E. Osburn Club Service Award) at Change of Officers night that year. Susan has an enviable record of service and attendance. In fact she has 29 years of perfect attendance and rivals Jacques Baker for her commitment to makeups! Shari, Susan, and the many other women members and leaders of our club have helped us in our century-long journey of "Service above Self."



With women playing such an important role in The Rotary Club of Easton's 100-year mission of "Service above Self," your editor thought it might be appropriate to recognize another centennial—that of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. The original resolution was passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 (see below) and was ratified on August 18, 1920. That time period of the late 1800's and early 1900's brought significant and meaningful advancement to the United States and the world. Electricity, telephone, radio, the automobile, aviation, and countless other ideas became a normal part of the fabric of everyday life, allowing citizens to explore a brave, new world. See the next page for a personal family story of one of the first generation of women who seized the opportunity the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment created.

H. J. Res. 1.

**Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;**

**At the First Session,**

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May,  
one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage  
to women.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States  
of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein),  
That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution,  
which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when  
ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.*

**"ARTICLE ———"**

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or  
abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate  
legislation."

*F. H. Silet*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Thos. R. Marshall*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*

This year marked what would have been your editor's grandmother's 122nd birthday. Mary Stuart Brugh was born on August 5, 1898, and her life spanned a time of unprecedented growth and technological change and some of the most challenging world events. In 1920, **the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** was ratified, and only 30 years later, she made her contribution to women's rights. Your editor's daughter, Lynn Brugh Hatcher, captured this in her essay for "Women in Leadership" at the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College. Entitled "Mrs. Mary Stuart Brugh—Igniting the Flame," it read in part:

*I am proud to say that my great-grandmother, Mrs. Mary Stuart Brugh, was one of the few who ignited the flame on equal equality for women's rights in America. Running for the Maryland House of Delegates in 1950, she surpassed social boundaries that had been set in place since the beginning of time. Mrs. Mary Stuart Brugh lived in Hagerstown, MD, and at one point in her campaign for office, a few women were quoted in Hagerstown's **Daily Mail** saying, "in Washington County it is only fair and just to have one woman representative in our State legislative body, not to usurp man's power, but to express the woman's point of view." With an even temperament and a powerful will, **she was the first woman who had won a nomination for any office in her county.** Coupled with her strong work ethic, my great-grandmother continued to provide her three children with selfless devotion. It was devotion in every sense of the word, and it remained firm until the day she died. Another woman spoke of my great-grandmother, remarking, "I am voting for Mary Brugh not only because she is a woman but also because she is a homemaker and a mother."*

THE DAILY MAIL, HAGERSTOWN, MD., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1950.



## FROM THE PORCH

*With President John*

Rotarians,

Well, summer came and went and now we will turn the corner on fall.

I am disappointed that we had to postpone our annual golf tournament, but the Board and Golf Committee felt it best. We will now reload and plan this event in the spring of 2021. Anyone interested in becoming part of the golf committee please contact Ron Flohr and/or Pat Fitzgerald.

We have not given up on modified meetings while we still continue our Zoom broadcast. Outside has been too hot, and inside we are still dealing with COVID-19 restrictions. Stay tuned for updates.

Our groundbreaking ceremony for the Rotary Centennial Flags for Heroes Flag Court at Idlewild Park was a beautiful ceremony. It shows what a great relationship we have with our town and its officials. It's hard to believe that the Centennial Committee has been working on projects and events for our 100<sup>th</sup> year for 2 years.

With the Waterfowl Festival postponed this fall, we will turn our attention our annual dictionary program and the fall food drive.

August is the layback month so that's all I have to report.

One last thing—let's all reach out to members once a week and see how they are. It means a lot.

That's all from the porch.

John Flohr



In 1934, we were a mere child of 13, but we already were showing our commitment to  
"Service above Self!"

THE EASTON STAR-DEMOCRAT

FRIDAY, MARCH-16, 1934

## Rotary Club Is Thirteen Years Old This Week

Has Been Helpful To The Community In Many Ways—  
Has An Ideal Of Service Always  
Before It

The Easton Rotary Club this week completes its thirteenth year of service in this community, and its birthday on Wednesday it determined to extend its work and influence for community betterment. It has been a distinct help to Easton and to Talbot County.

The Easton Rotary Club this week completes its thirteenth year of service in this community, as its birthday on Wednesday found it determined to extend its work and influence for community betterment. It has been a distinct help to Easton and to Talbot County.

Rotary is a philosophy of everyday living. It undertakes to inspire men to realize fully their individual capacity for patriotic service and citizens in their State and Nation, to give a square deal to their employees, their customers, and their business professional associates and individually and through their Rotary clubs to bring about understanding, good will, and international peace, through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

Rotary is not merely a state of mind. He who serves must act. Their philosophy demands the consideration of service before self, based on the practical ethical principle that he profits most who serves best.

Rotary is exemplary of the present spirit of this country. "Get Together" is almost the national motto. This passion has taken one of its most vigorous and, in the main, wholesome forms in what are known as service or business men's luncheon clubs, Groups of which Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Exchange and numerous others are typical have developed rapidly into a smoothly functioning national force of the first grade of importance and influence. The ser-

vice club is a new and virile factor in a thousand communities.

There is a cheap assumption that a sordid business point of view dominates the service clubs. If this is so, then the numerous clergymen, school superintendents, college professors, high school principals, physicians, farmers, chemists, engineers, editors, and other professional men who invariably belong must be equally at fault.

Then there is a type of critic who finds in the service club merely a commonplace group of boosters. But that taunt fails to penetrate those who are seriously interested in ideal service. Why should it when the unfortunate are assisted and the community helped to be a cleaner and better place to live in? There is nothing which we as a people need more than a keener sense of civic duty. Any organization which can stimulate our rather latent faculty of responsibility toward others is doing a useful work.

The Club has been directed by men who have always had the idea of community service in mind. The first president was Chas. F. Brougham and he was followed by Dr. W. N. Palmer, and then W. Mason Shehan, S. E. Shannahan served two years and Norman M. Jefferson succeeded. Frank Pilsch, Roscoe Wheatley, Chas. H. Bradley, Wm. P. Kemp, Rudolph Brown, Rev. Edgar Read followed. John Noble is now president.

Easton Rotarian, Program Chair, & TCPS Superintendent, Kelly Griffith, will be glad to know that The Rotary Club of Easton has always been a supporter of our great educators!

"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

"HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

## THE ROTARY CLUB

OF EASTON, MARYLAND

NO. 982



1921

RICHMOND W. HILL, PRESIDENT

WALTER H. BARNES, VICE-PRESIDENT

CHARLES D. FORNEY, SECRETARY-TREASURER

1949-50

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY-TREASURER

PAUL M. DETRICH

CHARLES W. HAMPP

NORMAN W. HARRINGTON

OREN B. HARRISON

May 29, 1951

Commissioners of Talbot County  
Easton, Maryland

Gentlemen:

At the regular meeting of the Easton Rotary Club on May 23rd the Club discussed the matter of teacher's salaries in this county and passed unanimously the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Easton Rotary Club recommend that the Commissioners of Talbot County grant a \$200 per year increase in teacher's salaries as an emergency measure until replaced by the Maryland Legislature in February 1952.

Very truly yours,

EASTON ROTARY CLUB

Louis S. Welty,  
Secretary



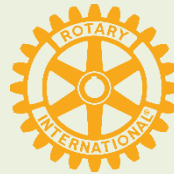


## Jack Wheatley

This is a big week for Jack Wheatley on his road to recovery from acute myeloid leukemia. Please keep him, Richie, and the whole Wheatley family in your thoughts and prayers.

The significant Easton Rotary date of September 1<sup>st</sup> is even more significant for Jack– it's his **stem cell transplant** day. September 2<sup>nd</sup> is his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Going forward, and when this is all over, Jack will have two back-to-back birthdays, and how grateful he will be for both!

God bless you, Jack. All of us love you!



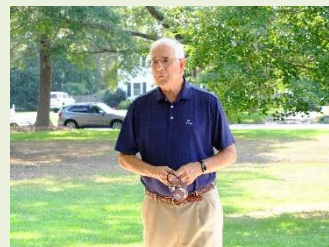
Do you recognize this location or any of the “young fellers” in the photos? Email your editor at [hersheyhatcher@yahoo.com](mailto:hersheyhatcher@yahoo.com) with you answers. What year might this have been?



# GROUNDBREAKING!

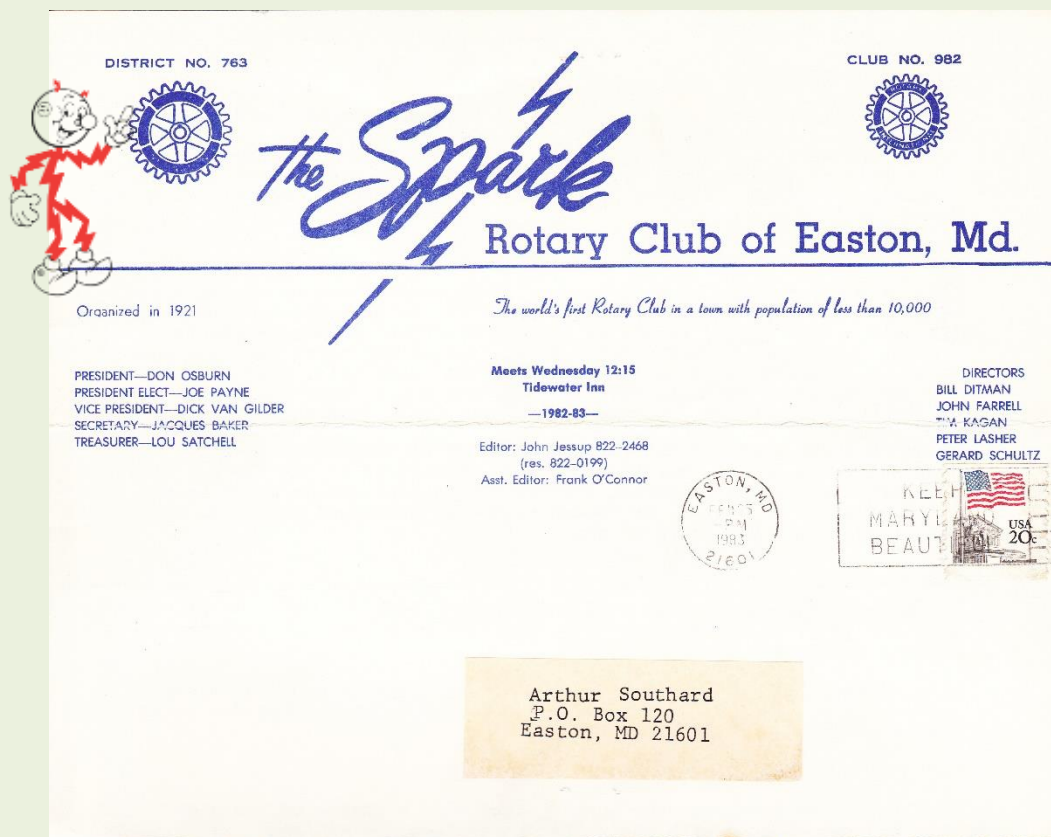
Thursday, August 27, 2020

What a great day at Idlewild Park for the groundbreaking of the new Rotary Centennial Flags for Heroes Flag Court immediately adjacent to the Rotary Pavilion! This new flag court will be a gift to the Town of Easton from The Rotary Club of Easton on the occasion of the club's centennial on September 1, 2021. It will consist of a new yardarm-style floodlit flagpole that will fly three flags, a large brick courtyard flanked by benches, a display honoring the first 100 presidents of Easton Rotary, space for the next 100 presidents, and an interpretive plaque explaining the club's history. Many thanks to everyone from the Town of Easton, Talbot County, and Easton Rotary for participating and making it a meaningful and fun ceremony. All of us in The Rotary Club of Easton are grateful to live in this wonderful community and are proud to have served it for nearly a century. We look forward to the next 100 years of "Service above Self" and to celebrating this milestone accomplishment throughout the upcoming year! Much more to come!





**SPARK FLASHBACK!** The March 1983 issue of *The Spark* is on this page and next- John Jessup & Frank O'Connor were editors (Frank was your editor's original sponsor). Dig those crazy youngsters! Jacques Baker & Lou Satchell are still members, and Joe Anthony is still Jack Anthony's twin brother and Jed & David's uncle, although they may never admit that in public!



#### PROGRAMS FOR MARCH 1983

- Mar. 2 - Bay Country Figure Skating Club, Ellen Rajacich, President, and members Sallie Cadell, Denise Swope, and Kim Reynolds, with a program available to all from 2 to 82.
- Mar. 9 - Robert L. Taylor, Md. Nat'l Bank, will present a Closer Look at Interest Rates and Housing.
- Mar. 16 - To Be Announced.
- Mar. 23 - "Unity Day Program", in which representatives of various service clubs will present brief outlines of their groups' programs.
- Mar. 30 - NO MEETING AT INN - at Vo-Tech Center, Glenwood Avenue, at Twelve Noon for lunch. Program will follow, and a tour will be available for those who can stay and who may not have been on prior years' tours.

#### INVOCATION LEADERS

2nd - Bradley      9th - Barton      16th - van Gilder      23rd - Rebmann  
30th - Payne

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

7th - Swann/Slaughter      8th - Wood  
14th - Slaughter/Levin      15th - Snead  
21st - Levin/Wanner      22nd - (covered, others)  
28th - Wanner/Fountain      29th - Snead

## ROVING ROTARIANS

1/18 - Lawrence, Brandon, Fla. 1/19 - Lawrence, Bahia Beach/Ruskin, Fla.  
1/25 - Murdoch, Belize, Brit. Honduras  
1/27 - Lawrence, (illegible), Fla. 1/31 - Pelstring, Harrisburg  
2/2 - Huckins, Phila. Pa. 2/3 - both Latham Sr. and Baker, St. Michaels  
2/10 - Foster, St. Michaels, and Woodman, Georgetown, Grand Cayman Is.

## SERVICE BEYOND SELF VIGNETTES

This is a new feature of your Spark. It is open to any community service messages concerning which a Rotarian may be actively and prominently involved. This should result in filling the Spark with messages from various causes led by Rotarians. If it becomes excessive (how can good works be excessive?), it will be curbed. To begin with, your editor was for two years Daffodil Day Chairman/Business & Industry, Talbot Unit of the American Cancer Society. This year, Gerry Schultz is the Chairman for the entire Talbot Crusade, and is also Daffodil Day Chairman. It is doubtful that any Rotarian is ignorant of the daffodil theme. This year, the Day is Thursday, March 17 (the green of the flowers should be appropriate). Any Rotarian who sees Gerry approach is urged to say "yes" if asked to assist, or to subscribe for dozens of daffodils - this year, \$3.50 the bunch of ten.

## HUMOR

A propos of the above, this from the Reader's Digest: "What do we live for if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" (George Eliot said this)

Same source, by Sam Levenson: "Love at first sight is easy to understand. It's when two people have been looking at each other for years that it becomes a miracle."

Definition of imitation spaghetti - impasta.

What about the prankster who hung a sheet over a statue of Venus de Milo and was charged with statutory drape?

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD: (Star Democrat article)



## **Rotary's new leaders**

New Easton Rotary Club officers are, left, Dick VanGilder, president-elect, Joe Anthony, vice-president, Don Osburn, past president,

Jacques Baker, secretary, Lou Satchell, treasurer, and Joe Payne, president. The officers will assume their new positions in July.

February 25, 1983



## September Zoom Meetings

03 - **Joe Gamble** Sheriff,  
Talbot Co - **Talbot Purple**  
10 - **Robert Nakagawa**  
Delmarva Boy Scouts  
17 - **Katie Sevon** Talbot  
Family Network  
24 - **John Horner** Easton  
Utilities

## September Birthdays

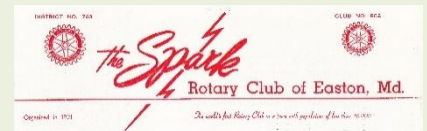
03 Scott Patterson  
07 Kelly Griffith  
16 Megan Miller  
22 Blenda Armistead  
29 Lisa Felts

## September Anniversaries

01 - Tom Hill - **52**  
20 - George Hatcher - **31**  
28 - Connie Loveland - **15**  
02 - Scott Kane - **5**  
05 - Susan John - **1**  
05 - JB Spear - **1**

## Invocation Leaders

03 - George Hatcher  
10 - Al Silverstein  
17 - Fran Jenkins  
24 - Steve Shearer



*Each issue of The Spark is in honor of Past-President Richie Wheatley for his vision as President and for resuming this significant publication when it seemed as if it were lost forever.*



## September

02 Andrew Walsworth/Deena Kilmon  
04 Buck Duncan/Josh Deutsch  
07 Closed  
09 Brad Watts/Derek White  
11 David Lee/Richie Wheatley  
14 Barc Upchurch/Mike Kopen  
16 Peter Dietz/Bill Skelton  
18 Albert Pritchett/Marc Alderfer  
21 Dana Newman/Steve Shearer  
23 David Anthony/Jed Anthony  
25 Caron James/Connie Loveland  
28 David Fike/Curry Wilford  
30 Tracey Johns/Liz Connelly



THE ROTARY CLUB of Easton, MD  
P.O. Box 1444, Easton, MD 21601  
District No 7630 - Chartered 1921  
Meets Thursday at 12:15 P.M.  
Scossa Restaurant  
8 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD  
2020-2021 Cub Officers

President ..... John Flohr  
President-Elect ..... Reza Jafari  
President-Elect Nominee ..... Kelly Griffith  
Immediate Past President.....Pat Fitzgerald  
Secretary ..... George Hatcher  
Assistant Secretary ..... Mike Jacobs  
Treasurer ..... Andrew Walsworth

### Directors

Club Service ..... Megan Miller  
Personnel Service ..... Terri Charest  
Community Service ..... Rosemary Fasolo  
International Service ..... Patti Campen  
Vocational Service ..... Casey Baynard  
Youth & Community Fund ...Steve Shearer