

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

In This Issue

[Greetings From Governor Felix](#)

[Augusta's Community Service Project](#)

[Blackshear Rotary Club's April Update](#)

[Camden County's GRSP Weekend Event](#)

[Centerville Rotary Club Kept Busy in April](#)

[Community Champions: Perry Rotary Club Making Waves in April](#)

[Jekyll's Packed Month of April](#)

[Downtown Macon's Monthly Service Project](#)

[Metro Savannah's Month of April](#)

[St. Simons' Full Month of April](#)

[Tifton's GRSP Student Gives Presentation](#)

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District Leaders

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District Governor

Todd A. Freesemann
District Governor Elect

William T. Adkins Jr.
District Governor Nominee

Bev Trainor
Governor Nominee Designate

Heather Ann Kellen
iPDG

Paula K. Goodnow
District Communications Officer

H. Bruce Montgomery
District Co-Treasurer

Elizabeth W. Hardin
District Co-Treasurer

Stephen D. Williams



Greetings From Governor Felix

Hello, Rotary Club Members!

As April dawns upon us, I'm reaching out to each of you with renewed enthusiasm and gratitude. Over the past month, I've had the pleasure of connecting with our remarkable clubs, witnessing firsthand the passion and dedication that define our Rotary family.

Our club visits have been nothing short of inspiring, showcasing the transformative projects and unwavering commitment each of you brings to your communities. Your resilience and enthusiasm leave an indelible mark on our district, and I'm immensely proud of the collective impact we've achieved.

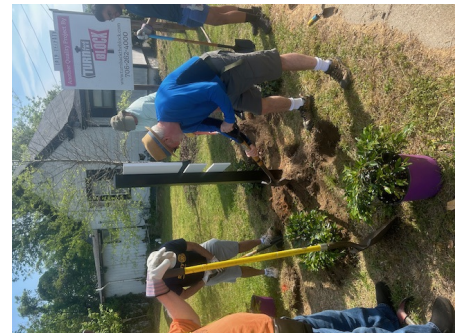
In our ongoing quest for a polio-free world, your tireless efforts are truly heroic. As we press forward, your commitment to eradicating this disease embodies the essence of Rotary's force for positive change.

But our journey doesn't end here. With excitement and anticipation, I eagerly await the unfolding of 2024. Together, we'll embark on new initiatives, explore innovative avenues for service, and strengthen the bonds that make our Rotary family truly exceptional.

As we pause to reflect on the achievements of the past month, let's celebrate the impact we've made, the lives we've touched, and the enduring difference we continue to create. My deepest appreciation goes out to each of you for your unwavering dedication. Here's to an even brighter and more impactful year ahead!

Augusta's Community Service Project

The Rotary Club of Augusta worked on a community service project in Harrisburg, an historic neighborhood in town. We helped to beautify the gateway entrance, as well as a home built by a local nonprofit that is leading the restoration of Harrisburg.



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Mattingly**
RYLA Chair

Hamsa Thota
District Rotary
Foundation
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Island

Pam Waters
Glennville

Blackshear Rotary Club's April Update

Our favorite project of the year is giving every first grader in our county a new book! Photos from each school attached.

What does being a Rotarian look like? In Blackshear it looks like Rotarians giving out free books to every first grader in Pierce County. So much fun!

This week, with the help of Pierce County Foundation for Excellence in Education members, we delivered a personalized book to each student. "I Like Me" features the student, their best friends, teacher, principal, and school.

This wouldn't be possible without the help of our business sponsors, corporate Club members and community partners: Crossway Realty, Ace Farmers and Builders Supply, Riverbend, Thom's transport, Dan Bennett - Attorney at Law, Hospice Satilla, Compass360, Pierce County Board of Education and Pierce County Education Foundation!



Camden County's GRSP Weekend Event

We had our morning meeting and then took the students to Two Rivers Gun Range where they learned firearm safety from Rotarians and instructors.



Centerville Rotary Club Kept Busy in April

Members of the Rotary Club of Centerville Make Needed Restoration to the club's Rotary Pointe Park!

Rotary Club of Centerville members shown painting the gazebo located in Rotary Pointe Park are (L to R): Angela Clayton, Club Secretary; Billy Tucker, Club Immediate Past-President & Foundation Chair; Elizabeth Filholm, Club President; and, Ken Asbury, Club Co-Founder & Past-President. Photos taken by Pat Filholm, Elizabeth's husband & participating volunteer.

Rotary Club of Centerville members painting the gazebo located in Rotary Pointe Park are (L to R): Elizabeth Filholm, Club President, and Angela Clayton, Club Secretary.



Rotary Club of Centerville member painting the gazebo located in Rotary Pointe Park is Ken Asbury, Club Co-Founder & Past-President.



Rotary Club of Centerville member painting the gazebo located in Rotary Pointe Park is Ken Asbury, Club Co-Founder & Past-President.



The Rotary Clubs of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins form a partnership to sponsor a local “Saving Lives with Medicine” Community Project!

The Rotary Club of Centerville partnered with The Rotary Clubs of Perry and Warner Robins in sponsoring a “Saving Lives with Medicine” community service project to assist with medical needs in the Central Georgia Area. The Rotary Club of Centerville contributed \$1,000.00 toward start-up of the new multi-club project.

Members of the Rotary Clubs of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins conduct a joint meeting to discuss forming a partnership for participation in a “Saving Lives with Medicine” project to assist with meeting medical needs in the Central Georgia Area. The project is designed to assist those who need financial support with purchase of critically needed medications.



Members of the Rotary Clubs of Centerville, Perry and Warner Robins present club donations to fund start-up of a new “Saving Lives with Medicine” multi-club partnership project to assist those with funding needs for purchase of critically needed medications. Perry Rotary Club President, Marietta Lomboy (center), collect the clubs’ donations!

Participants in organizing the start-up of a new local “Saving Lives with Medicine” program sponsored by a multi-club partnership including the Rotary Clubs of Perry, Warner Robins and Centerville are medical professionals Dr. Tehrani, Cardiologist; Dr. Poku, Electrophysiologist; and, Dr. Lomboy, Internal Medicine. Local Rotary representatives include: Felix Smith, District Governor of Rotary District 6920 and member of the Rotary Club of Perry; Elizabeth Filholm, President of the Rotary Club of Centerville; and, Marietta Lomboy, President of the Rotary Club of Perry.



Community Champions: Perry Rotary Club Making Waves in April

Congratulations to Perry Rotary Club for achieving the highest Rotary Club Awards, the District Gold Award, Club of the Year Award, and the Blankenship Cup!





ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

Bienvenidos Argentina Rotarios!
Welcome Argentina Rotarians!

What a fun evening of meeting new friends from Argentina at Steve and Laura Bellá's home in Macon, GA.

Thank you Macon Rotary for hosting the event. Thank you to Rotarians George Peake and Steve Feitshans for facilitating this friendship exchange.



Heart Health Update

We are so honored to have 2 brilliant speakers in our Rotary Club meeting on April 16, 2024.

Dr. Nick Tehrani, MD, Cardiologist/ Intervention Cardiology, talked about overall heart health.

We are grateful for Dr. Tehrani's years of generosity to the Perry Rotary Club.

Dr. Joseph Poku, MD, Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist, spoke at the Rotary Club about Atrial Fibrillation (AFib), emphasizing its impact on heart health and the importance of early detection and treatment. During his talk, he highlighted the significance of raising awareness about AFib and its management to improve patient outcomes. Additionally, Dr. Poku is a generous Gold Sponsor (\$1000) for our annual fishing tournament, supporting the "Saving Lives with Medicine" project aimed at enhancing access to life-saving medications.

Their contributions exemplify commitment to community health and underscores the collaborative effort needed to combat cardiovascular diseases effectively.



NEW PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

Congratulations Jason Poole for becoming our newest Paul Harris Society member!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Perry Middle Student of the Month, Brayden Baker, and Westfield's Student of the Month, Macy



Maybe an image of 7 people and text

Preston Johnson Speech Contest -Zone Competition WINNERS

April 13, 2024

Georgia Christian School.

Congratulations Gianna Castro(HOCO)- 2nd Prize Winner and Joy Sanders(WRHS) -3rd Prize Winner!

We are so proud of you ladies!

Thank you Cecilia Koon, Western Zone Coordinator and Candice Christian for serving as the District Chair of this contest!

Morrone.

Keep up all your hard work. Perry Rotary is proud of you guys!



APRIL IS ENVIRONMENT MONTH!

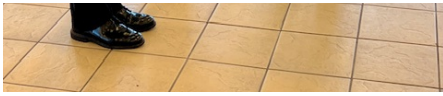
Thank you to all Perry Rotarians who participated in planting the White Oak trees!

Jekyll's Packed Month of April

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Rev. Franklin Duncan, a Jekyll Rotarian who shared a "remember talk" with the club. He spoke about his pastoral counseling career. Pictured are Rev. Duncan on left and Club President Joe Gore.



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently presented the Captain Tise Eyer Award to Cadets Mariah Kirksey and Kingston Demontagnac at the 2024 Brunswick High School Navy Junior ROTC Awards Ceremony. Pictured from left are Demontagnac, Kirksey and Rotarian Glenn Cook.



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Jekyll Island Authority, The Jekyll Island Lions Club, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, the Garden Clubs of Jekyll Island and the Courtyard Hotel recently conducted a Jekyll Island Cleanup where the groups picked up trash on the entire island. The project is conducted many times per year in order to preserve the clean natural state of the island. Pictured are members from all groups in the cleanup effort.



Downtown Macon's Monthly Service Project

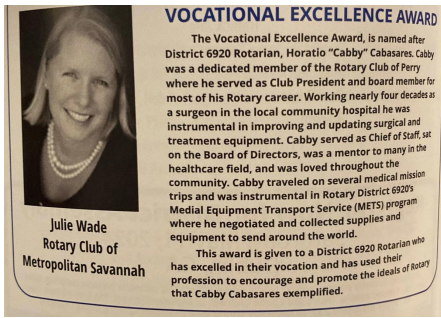
The Rotary Club of Downtown Macon is piloting a new club format in 2024 that includes a monthly service project. Since January, our club has served lunch at Macon Outreach, picked up trash at DayBreak Homeless Day Shelter, Read to Children for Reading Across America, held a meeting for the Academy for Classical Education's Interact Club, sorted books for the Friends of the Library's annual book sale, and prepared and served breakfast at Houston on Heritage's breakfast ministry.



Metro Savannah's Month of April

Our own Julie Wade doesn't need any trophies to know she is a winner in our book! We're lucky she is a founding member of Metropolitan Savannah Rotary and in awe of the numerous things she has done for our community. The Horatio Cabby Cabasares Award is given to a District 6920 Rotarian who has excelled in their vocations and has used their profession to encourage and promote the ideals of Rotary that Cabby exemplified. You can read more about the many reasons Julie was nominated for the Vocational Excellence Award [here](#).





This year's Preston Johnson Speech Contest winner, Serani Hassan, featured in [Connect Savannah](#), with quotes at the bottom from MetRotarians Principal [Alfred McGuire](#) and SCCPSS school board member, [Denise Grabowski](#)! Link [here](https://www.connectsavannah.com/community/woodville-tompkins-high-school-preparing-women-for-success-21991829) (or copy and paste <https://www.connectsavannah.com/community/woodville-tompkins-high-school-preparing-women-for-success-21991829>)

The Preston Johnson Speech Contest on March 27 was a success! Pictured below are all 7 contestants with the Metro judging panel (top) and the panel with fellow Metro Savannah Rotarian and Principal Alfred McGuire and the top 3 winners (bottom). Congratulations!



â€¢1st place = Serani Hassan
â€¢2nd place = Santos Celestin
â€¢3rd place = Maleik Clausell

St. Simons' Full Month of April

St. Simons Rotary hosts local IT expert

St Simons Island Rotary Club recently hosted Ryan W. Marks, owner of *Simple Solutions IT*. Manager of the Former Simply Mac store on St. Simons Island, Ryan is now running his own IT Business providing in-home and remote tech support around the Golden Isles. Ryan's story is one of courage and determination as he described growing up with a medical condition that brought along a handful of struggles. He endured and overcame them and went on to excel in his own career. His services include virus removal, email and account issues, computer repair, tech support, data recovery, operating system issues, printer setup - he is extremely patient and loves to teach! Ryan is pictured.



St. Simons Rotary Club hosts District Eastern Zone Speech Contest

St. Simons Rotarian Jim Kielt hosted the Eastern Zone competition for the Rotary Preston Johnson Speech Contest at the Golden Isles Duplicate Bridge Club. 10 high school students from clubs in Rotary District 6920 competed. Each gave a 3-4 minute speech. The first-place winner was Nathan Hayes from Effingham High School. Nathan gets to present his talk at the annual Rotary District Conference at Jekyll Island in April and receives \$1,000 award.

Pictured from left: Jim Kielt, contest coordinator, Nathan Hayes from Effingham High School 1st place, Grace Rogers from Pinewood Christian Academy 2nd place, Abigail Jordan from Tattenall County High School 3rd place, Candace Christian District Speech Contest Chair, 2023-2024



St. Simons Rotary Club gets LiveOak Fiber update

St. Simons Rotary Club hosted Bryan Bennett, Sales Rep for LiveOaks Fiber since 2023. Bryan has been working in the telecommunications industry for more than 10 years. LiveOaks Fiber is currently bringing in the exciting new concept of fiber-based network infrastructure. Bryan explained that LiveOak Fiber is providing access to fiber internet to St Simons Island and Sea Island, an option to the current cable system. Fiber-based internet features faster browsing, gaming, working, streaming (goodbye buffering), with more reliable internet connection, fast download and upload speeds, and unlimited data. Residential plans are cheaper than current cable. Bryan emphasized this is only for Internet and does not bundle with TV/landline phone: TV service, for example YouTube TV, can be used independently. LiveOaks Fiber can supply landline telephone service separately if requested. Pictured is Bryan Bennett



Tifton's GRSP Student Gives Presentation

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tifton, Antonia Platzbecker, 19, from Essen, Germany, gave a PowerPoint presentation to the club on Wednesday, April 17, about her experience with the Georgia Rotary Student Program.

Platzbecker said her three goals when she came to the U.S. were 1) to travel and see as much as possible, 2) to try new foods, 3) to improve language skills, and 4) to make new friends.

She enjoyed a trip to New York City over the Christmas break. Other places she visited include Savannah, Disney World in Orlando, and the Providence Canyon, Georgia's Little Grand Canyon. .

She also went to a Savannah Bananas baseball game. "It was not how I imagined baseball to be. It was better."

In the area of trying new foods, Platzbecker said she learned mac and cheese is not her thing she said, and neither is boiled peanuts. "They gave them to us and didn't explain how to eat them, and some people ate them with the shell. It was not good," Platzbecker said.

"I really like cornbread," she said. "I like the sweet kind. And I love peach cobbler with ice cream; it's really good. We've really gotten into Milk Duds. I don't know if they're American, but we've never seen them in Europe."

She said she has learned colloquial Southern phrases, such as "you all. I didn't know that was a thing," she said. "And 'I'm fixin' to.' That can be very confusing," she said to the club's laughter.

A major accomplishment she cited has been making many friends, not just international friends through GRSP, but also many American friends at ABAC. She shared pictures from her first Waffle House experience and Buc-ee's, which she called "the peak of American culture."

She participated in a service project in Dunwoody where GRSP students packed meals. She went rafting in Columbus, and she broke a shooting record at a shooting range in St. Mary's.

She said she didn't think ABAC would be her kind of college, and she really loved it, especially the rodeo. She attended Advanced Broadcasting where she did a live broadcast weekly with another GRSP. Another class she really enjoyed with Line Dancing.

"I'm very grateful for being here and having this experience, Platzbecker said. "I can't thank you enough." She plans to pursue advanced education to study medicine, with interests in neurology, psychiatry, and forensic medicine.

Cutlines Antonia participated in a photo shoot with her friend and fellow GRSP student attending ABAC, Ana Pereira Gonnzalez from Columbia, who is sponsored by three clubs in District 6900.

Antonia wore an ABAC T-shirt when she spoke to the Tifton Rotary Club about her experiences.





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District Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Rotary6920

Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org/en

Rotary International Foundation: www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation

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