April 2026

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District Leaders

Patricia A. Edwards
District Governor

SuAnne Hardee Bryant
District Governor Elect

Camile L. Peter
District Communications Officer/District Secretary

Joy L. Kline
District Rotary Foundation Chair

Susanna Wu-Pong Calvert
Mental Health TF Chair

W. Hamilton Holloway II
District Public Image Chair

David S. Rosenthal
Lieutenant Governor

Charlette T. Woolridge, Ph.D.
Lieutenant Governor

Allan L. Mink II
International Services Chair

Thomas A. Arnold Sr.
Assistant Governor

Nancy J. Carter
Assistant Governor

William J. Crowder Jr.
Assistant Governor

Jennifer L. Fraley
Assistant Governor

Penny Guiles

District News

Happy Spring!!

I've always enjoyed this time of year. The days are getting longer, the grass greener, flowers are budding, and the birds are singing. It's fitting that the Rotary theme for April is the environment, since everywhere we look it's springing to life. The environment is one of my starfish. We need to be good stewards of the trees, fields, and all the many animals and birds. Thank you to the many clubs that are doing service projects and fundraisers that are helping to protect nature.

As you enjoy the warmer weather and the many club events, please remember two important things happening this month. The first is baseball, and who doesn't love a baseball game? Our first EPN baseball game is the Norfolk Tides on April 22nd. The following week is Giving Tuesday on April 28th. This year's goal is $150,000 and I know we can reach and even beat it!

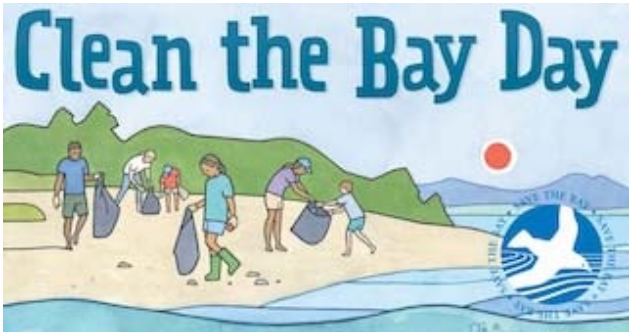
Thank you for all you do for Rotary!! Let's all continue to Unite For Good to Find Your Starfish!

DG Pat

Clean the Bay Day!
Janice Henicheck

Join an organization in your area on May 2, 2026 to support this important annual event! Since the launch of Clean the Bay Day in 1989, more than 177,000 volunteers have cleared over 7.1 million pounds of debris from waterways and landscapes throughout Virginia. For more information, click here.

Assistant Governor
Richard W. Harman Jr.
Assistant Governor
Jeffry C. Hume
Assistant Governor
Carolyn B. Jacobs
Assistant Governor
Ross Loomis
Assistant Governor
Rickey B Maddux
Assistant Governor
William M. Mulvihill II
Assistant Governor
Charles Lee Owens
Assistant Governor
Thomas A Powell Jr.
Assistant Governor
Patrick A Tamakloe, Ph.D.
Assistant Governor
Deloris Jones Thomas
Assistant Governor
Margaretha A. Valderas
Assistant Governor
Arthur Lee Weisiger
Assistant Governor
Susan G. Zachensky-Walthall
Assistant Governor



Community Services – Care Kit Backpacks
Jessica Gonzalez

Almost 9,000 people experienced a loss of housing over the past year in the greater Richmond region. As one of many community safety nets, public libraries often serve as a safe refuge for those who have nowhere else to go. Many unhoused individuals, as well as those in search of help, use services of the Chesterfield Public Library where they find comfort during cold or hot weather, access computers to look for jobs and other resources, or refresh themselves in the public restrooms. This is why five area Rotary clubs teamed with Chesterfield Public Library and the Friends of Chesterfield County Public Library to create Rotary District Grant No. 20867, sparking a joint passion to meet basic human needs while enhancing peace building and conflict resolution – Areas of Focus for Rotary.
For the full story and some great photos, click here.

Rotary Leadership Institute
Linda Sussman

"I think that the true power of RLI is that it brings us the opportunity to build community within Rotary - which is really amazing and key to the continuity of Rotary and connection of Rotary locally and globally."
Ashley Waters has been a member of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, in Frederick, MD District 7620, for a decade. Soon after joining Rotary, she participated in RLI 1, 2, and 3. To learn more of Ashley's story and to find out about future RLI opportunities, click here.

Club News

Farmville
Andrew Payne

On Saturday, March 21st, our club hosted Mid-Atlantic RLI - Rotary Leadership Institute Part II! Participants learned about Rotary and Ethics, Strategic Planning and Analysis, Targeted Service, Team Building and other topics. Four members from our club participated, and four others from other clubs in Rotary District 7600 made eight total participants. Thanks to all who were willing and able to attend this

very beneficial training!
Pictured: Miles Sadler, Julie Flores, Patti Wagner. Photo courtesy Le'Tina Giles.

The Rotary Club of Farmville is thrilled to announce the 20th Annual Taste of Farmville, a beloved community event showcasing the best culinary talents of the region. Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 23, 2026, as the Fireman's Sports Arena transforms into a vibrant hub of delicious food, live music, and community spirit.
This year doors will open at 5:30 pm and the event will run through 7:00 pm. Guests will have the chance to sample a diverse array of delectable dishes from local restaurants, caterers, and businesses.

TASTE of Farmville

"The Taste of Farmville is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the incredible culinary scene in our community while supporting vital service projects" said Bruce Davis, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Farmville. "We're excited to bring everyone together for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship."

For complete information, see this flyer.

Fishin' with a Mission! Catch bass, win money, and support local charities! Fish any publicly accessible body of water in Virginia from May 2 through May 16. **$700 in cash prizes!** Everyone who enters gets a chance to win one of three schwag buckets with fishing-related merchandise and goodies! Registration is just $50 and all proceeds will go to the many non-profit organizations that Rotary supports in central Virginia!

This is a catch, photo, and release tournament hosted by the iAngler app. Anglers will need to create a profile on the app and have their smart phone or digital camera with them as they fish to upload photos.

For complete rules and to register, please go to https://www.ianglertournament.com/2026-rotary-fishin'-frenzy.
For more information, please contact John Miller at (757) 407-9541 or millerjd@longwood.edu.

Go fishing for a good cause!

Franklin
Trish Tsitsera

The Rotary Club of Franklin held its ninth annual First Responder Dinner on Thursday, January 22. The event was organized jointly by the Rotary Club of Franklin, the Charles R. Younts American Legion Post #73, and the American Legion Post #73 Ladies Auxiliary.
The dinner served 280 individual first responders from 14 area agencies including the volunteer fire departments from Boykins, Branchville, Capron, Courtland, Drewryville, Hunterdale, Ivor, Newsoms and Sedley; Ivor Volunteer Rescue Squad; Franklin Fire and Rescue; Franklin Police Department; Southampton County Sheriff's Office; and Virginia State Police.

Rotarians and volunteers from the American Legion, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the community cooked, packed and served the meals, which consisted of steak, baked potatoes, salad and homemade rolls. About a third of the meals were served in person and the rest were delivered to those first responders who were on duty throughout the community.

The Rotary Club of Franklin celebrated in style at our Denim & Diamonds Gala on February 6 at the Hubs Vine. Over 100 guests enjoyed music by Wendy & Romeo, food and beverages from The Vine, and fellowship with one another.

Exciting Neil Diamond themed raffles and a silent auction brought in additional funding for community projects like the annual First Responders Dinner and our Student Scholarship Program.

As part of the Denim & Diamond themed event, the club is hosting a Diamond Pendant Necklace raffle. The necklace is donated by Smith Jewelers and valued at $950. Tickets are just $20 each and limited to only 100 chances. Our drawing will be held April 9 at our annual Charter Night dinner.

Goochland
Vassi Griffis

In every thriving community, there are individuals whose commitment to service quietly shapes the lives of others. In Goochland County, that spirit of dedication will take center stage at the Annual Community Partners Recognition Dinner—an evening devoted to honoring those individuals who consistently put "*service above self".*

Set for April 15, 2026, at the Camp Brady Saunders Cub Scout Adventure Camp Lodge, this special event brings the community together not only to celebrate excellence but to recognize the everyday heroes who strengthen Goochland through their work, leadership, and compassion.

Join us in honoring those who serve—and be part of a community that values dedication, leadership, and heart. For complete information on how to attend or participate in other ways, click here.

Hanover
Janice Henicheck

The Hanover Rotary Club presents the 41st Annual Shrimp & Suds Feast on Thursday, May 14 at the

Pavilion at King's Dominion. Join us for:

ENTERTAINMENT

- Live Music

MENU

- Shrimp, more shrimp, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls and cocktail sauce
- Suds: Domestic and local beers
- And: Sodas and hot dogs

RAFFLE

- 50/50 Raffle - split the pot with the Club

MORE INFORMATION? See this flyer.

Huguenot Trail
Steve Anderson

If you're wearing a hairnet at a food drive, you might be a Rotarian! Members of the Huguenot Trail Rotary Club braved the ice, snow, wind and cold to help pack meals for the Feed My Starving Children food drive on February 7.

Members of the Huguenot Trail Rotary Club gathered together to weave Fidget Pads. The Fidget Pads were then donated to From the Heart Stitchers to be distributed to Alzheimer's patients. Some patients dealing with Alzheimer's tend to pick at themselves, which causes bleeding and scarring. The pads serve as replacements for that uncontrollable habit.

James City County

Terrie Nathan

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the
Rotary District 7600 Golf Outing
The Club at Kingsmill Resort – River Course
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
This event is open to all Rotarians across District 7600. We encourage you to **register early** to secure your spot—or your team. It's always a fantastic day of fellowship, friendly competition, and Rotary spirit. A flyer with full details is attached.

Tournament questions:
Gary Chenault – Gary.Chenault@cox.net
Jack Clark – Jack.Clark201@cox.net

Registration questions:
Terrie Nathan – terrie@stronggirlspirit.com
We look forward to trading winter layers for golf polos and seeing you on the course this spring.

Midlothian
Andrew Landrum

March was an active and engaging month for the Midlothian Rotary Club as we welcomed the start of spring. Our meetings featured an outstanding lineup of speakers, beginning with Anne Rogers from RVA Survivors of Suicide Loss, who shared an impactful message on mental health and suicide prevention. We also welcomed executives from the Richmond Flying Squirrels, Anthony Oppermann and Megan Angstadt, who provided an exciting update on the upcoming season and the new CarMax Park. In addition to our regular meetings, March offered great opportunities for fun. Members gathered for our monthly social at Green Top Shooting Range in Ashland. Attendees enjoyed time on the range followed by a group dinner at a nearby Mexican restaurant, continuing a favorite club tradition.

Our annual Sportsman's Raffle is now in full swing and remains one of the most important ways we support our community. Proceeds from the raffle directly benefit impactful local organizations such as Sylvia's Sisters, Commonwealth Autism, ReachCycles, RampsRVA, Better2Gether, and Tech4Troops. We encourage all members to continue supporting the raffle by purchasing tickets and sharing with their networks ahead of the April 27 deadline. With strong participation, we can build on the momentum from March and continue making a meaningful difference in our community. Learn all about the Sportsman's Raffle here.

North Suffolk
Bob Thompson

The North Suffolk Rotary Club will host our Annual Golf Classic on April 23rd, 2026, at Sleepy Hole Golf Course in Suffolk. The golf classic is one of our major events for the year and promises to be a fantastic afternoon of golf, fellowship, and fun. Registration includes lunch, 18 holes of golf on a beautiful course, practice range access, golf cart, contest entries, dinner, and beverages. Along the course we'll have beer and crush tastings, and a golf ball rifle shoot to provide even more opportunities for bragging rights.

Registration deadline is April 16, so don't wait, secure your foursome today!
https://www.northsuffolkrotary.com/golf-classic

Oyster Point
Lindsey Watson

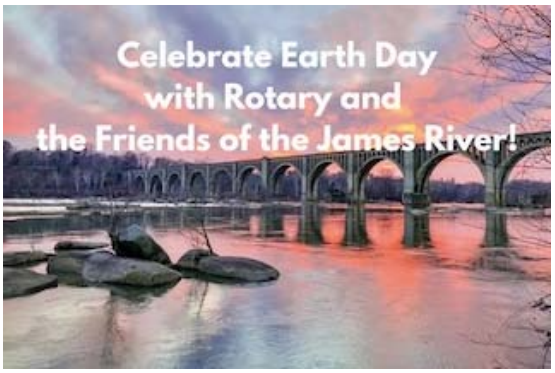
When Lindsey Watson, current President of the Rotary Club of Oyster Point, and Betsy Fink, the Club's Director of Charitable Giving, traveled

to New York City for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on March 16, 2026, they expected to listen and learn. What they experienced instead was a powerful convergence of global voices, shared challenges, and a renewed call to action. For the complete story, click here.
Pictured: Lindsey Watson

Richmond
Michela Worthington

Since 1976, Project W.A.R.M. has been dedicated to warming homes and hearts throughout Richmond, Virginia. This all-volunteer organization began when founder Lou Wilson heard a news story about a mother burning clothes to keep her family warm. Inspired to make a difference, Lou and his wife, Mary Ann, started collecting firewood for families in need.

Over the decades, many volunteers have joined the mission to collect, chop, split, and deliver wood to those in need. A recent example of this impact involved 98-year-old WWII veteran Ralph Lett. When Ralph needed to clear a wood pile from his yard, Mary Ann and Joe Kelleher from Project W.A.R.M. (pictured) stepped in to collect and distribute the wood to local families—benefiting both the donor and the grateful recipients.
Many thanks to Capital Trees for organizing the planting of over 8500 tree seedlings in Short Pump to help grow a new forest next to the Nuckols Farm Elementary School. This new forest will only take between 5-10 years and will help provide habitat for native wildlife as well as help cool the area within a 1/2 mile radius. We had 8 Rotarians from our main and satellite club help plant hundreds of seedlings in just 2 hours including Warren Aldrich, Paul Neumann, Paul Nardo, Barham Nardo, Katie Hellebush, Michela Worthington, Anna and Carlos Diaz.



EARTH DAY with the Rotary Club of Richmond and the Rotary Club of Short Pump, partnering with Friends of the James River Park organization -- April 25 at 1-3 PM at the James River (south side). Please email Marvi Ali (rotarysatelliteclubrichmond@gmail.com) to RSVP. Social event afterwards: 3:15 PM, location TBD. See you there!

Michela Worthington was fortunate enough to meet and share a meal with Kani Xulam on his journey as he walks

between the Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington, DC and the MLK Birthplace in Atlanta, GA to raise awareness for the Kurdish people and other oppressed people around the world. Here he describes why he walks:

My name is Kani Xulam.
I come from the land of the Kurds—Kurdistan.
Like you, I'm a part of this world.
Unlike you, I live under the gun to forgo my identity—Kurds are not allowed to speak for Kurdistan.
In Turkey, our children are forbidden from learning their mother tongue.

In Iran, our sons are hanged for "enmity against God."
In Iraq, our families were gassed.
In Syria, not long ago, our daughters and wives were sold as slaves.
This cycle of blood must end.
This law of hatred must cease.
This condemnation of an entire people must stop—now and forever.
Seventy years ago, another oppressed people fought for their rights.
One of their leaders, a preacher named Dr. King, called on ordinary Americans to break the chain of hate—with love.
Your grandparents heard him.
They joined his Revolution of Love—and changed America forever.
Seventy years later, I hear that same call.
I'm walking from the MLK Memorial in Washington, DC,
to the MLK birthplace in Atlanta, Georgia.
I'll begin my pilgrimage on March 21, 2026—and end it on May 14.
Walk with me for a mile, host me for a night, or support my pilgrimage in any way you can.
Let love lead you forward—let freedom ring in Kurdistan, and beyond.

More information about his pilgrimage can be found at his website: https://kurdistan.org/love-is-resistance/ If any Rotarians along his route would like to host him for a night or share a meal, it would be most welcome. The route is shown on the website and you may sign up there as well. We wish him safe travels.

South Hill
Lisa Clary

The South Hill Rotary Club held their annual Emergency Services Dinner last week with over 60 local ES personnel and volunteers coming out to enjoy a steak dinner and fellowship with each other. The club does this each year as a thank you for all they do for the community. Special thanks to all the businesses who donated wonderful door prizes for this event.
Pictured: Gavin Gwaltney with Southside Rescue, Club President Randy Cash, Ricky Bowen with South Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Chris Parrott with South Hill Police Department, Jonathan Davis with Virginia State Police, Eric Carley with Lake Gaston Volunteer Fire Department, Larry Clark with Palmer Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Tanner Campbell with Brodnax Volunteer Fire Department, Brent Evans with Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department and Mike Clark with La Crosse Volunteer Fire Department. Lisa Clary photo.

The South Hill Rotary Club welcomed current District 7600 Governor Pat Edwards and Past District Governor Kenny Janes to the Emergency Services dinner.
Pictured: Club President Randy Cash, DG Pat Edwards, past DG Kenny Janes. Lisa Clary photo.

Western Henrico
Bob Johnson

Carol Viola is a relatively new member of our club and is passionate about community service and giving back to her community. Carol solicited Helen Trevey, Executive Director of Belmont Community Resource Services, to speak and address our club about the mission, focus and impact of the Belmont Food Pantry and The Closet at Belmont on our local community, specifically during the Holiday Season.
Helen's message was passionate, inspiring and emotional, encouraging our support and need to know more. On Friday, December 12, beginning at 7am, a few of our members braved the cold to organize, assemble, pack, and distribute food items to needy families, including meats, fresh vegetables/ fruits, canned goods, breads, desserts and clothing as needed. Over 60 community volunteers from all walks of life assisted this weekly effort, many long-time, frequent supporters. The drive-through assembly line moved with precision clockwork, as roughly 550+ households (1400+ individuals) received 16,000 lbs. of food collected from 13 grocery stores/ chains, churches, donations and FeedMore.
Our participating members were also privy to a "behind the scenes" tour of the storage facilities and organizational expertise of the staff in the execution of the mission. Thanks to Helen and her first Lieutenant, Thomas Muradaz (Operations Mgr.) for the detailed descriptions of who, what, where and why! What an impressive operation!
Our club looks forward to continued support of this valued and worthy cause….Quite an impact on our community citizens with a true need!
Pictured L-R: Bob Johnson, Carol Viola, Helen Trevey (Exec. Dir.), Thomas Muradaz (Ops Mgr.) and Bobby Nelms

Western Henrico Rotary is proud to have supported the Coal Pit Learning Center Thanksgiving Dinner for 14 continuous years, serving nearly 250 families. CPLC is early childhood education (pre-Kindergarten) for families without the resources to help their children prepare for school. The families must qualify financially and apply for admission. If the family income exceeds a certain level (adjusted annually), which is basically at or near the established poverty level, OR they are enrolled in any other government-funded education program, they are not eligible. CPLC depends on various charitable sources and also receives direct funding from Henrico County.

Our Rotary provided Thanksgiving meals are designed to be everything needed to support a dinner for four: a turkey or turkey breast, sweet potatoes, green beans, stuffing, gravy mix, cranberry sauce, and a package of dinner rolls. It's all "ready to cook" so they can take it home the week of Thanksgiving.
The typical enrollment is 16 to 18 students. Usually, it is one student per family. Over the years, there have been a few times when two students are siblings, an average of at least 17 families served per year.

Pictured with children L-R: Barry Hofhiemer, Brad Reynolds, Bob Glasser and Stuart Myers.

On Thursday, November 20, several members of our club met at Aldi, Parham Road to shop, package and deliver needed food items for the Henrico Food Bank. Western Henrico Rotary secured 486 lbs. of food equating to 324 meals for those in need. Great job, guys!
Pictured L-R: Bob Glasser, Larry Wilson, Lee Muckey and Jim Heck. Great job guys!

The Western Henrico Rotary Club executed our third Keep Henrico Beautiful Henrico County roadway cleanup on Saturday, December 27 at Ridgefield Parkway between Pump and Gaskins Roads. Nine years back, our club had adopted the same portion of county roadway, supporting the program over a four-year period. We are excited to “re-adopt” this initiative and actively do what we can to keep our roadways cleaner!*Pictured L-R: Kenneth Blankenship, Walter Young (past member), Sam Baronian, Mark Deutsch, Jim Heck, Barry Hofhiemer, Bob Glasser and Stuart Myers.*

On Monday, December 16, our Club Rotarians proudly supported the Henrico Christmas Mother, helping deliver donated Christmas gifts to neighbors in need. We are grateful for the volunteers who make this meaningful work possible.
Pictured L-R: Bob Johnson, Kenneth Blankenship, Bard Kirkpatrick, Lee Muckey, Henrico Christmas Mother Ann McGee, Bobby Nelms, Bob Glasser, Larry Wilson and Jim Heck.

Our club members started the first phase of our service project at Circle Center Adult Day Services - which includes renovating a space used by those patients experiencing advanced impairments, with new paint, new furnishings, and reusable manipulative devices for daily use by the Center patients.
Circle Center provides daytime care for patients with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, giving some short-term relief for their caregivers, who are usually other family members.
Pictured: Jodie Rogish

Terry Lovvorn

Jess Raymond with Homes Fur Hounds presented her organization's purpose at our March 19th meeting. Jess is the Director of Media Communications for Homes Fur Hounds, a local group dedicated to rescuing and saving homeless, unwanted, abandoned, neglected, and abused small dogs.
Pictured: Jess Raymond, Williamsburg President Michael Harrison

Foundation News

End Polio Now with the Norfolk Tides!
Stan Wall

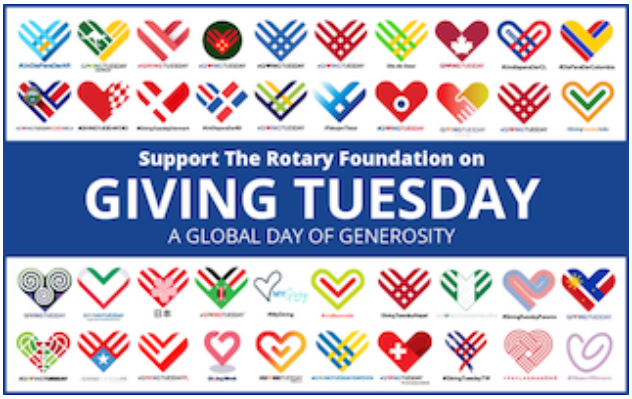
Spring is just around the corner and it's baseball time! Wednesday, April 22, 2026, will be the Rotary D7600 End Polio Now baseball game at Harbor Park. Game time is 6:35pm with gates opening at 5:30pm. Tickets are $19 each.

We are reverting this year to calling or emailing to order your tickets. Bailey Novellino is our contact (757-622-222 Ext. 106 or bnovellino@norfolktides.com). Bailey asks each club, if at all possible, to appoint one person to gather their club ticket order and call her to place the order. The deadline to order tickets is Monday, April 20, 2026, at 12pm. (This is an updated deadline from the published flyer attached.) Note: tickets must be picked up prior to game day.

A portion of each ticket purchased will be donated to the EPN fund in your club's name. Each ticket will also have the Gates Foundation 2:1 match.

Questions? Call Stan Wall at 804-835-1962 or email Stan at stan.debbie.rotary@comcast.net.

Giving Tuesday
Joy Kline



Each year, District 7600 hosts our annual “Giving Tuesday” online fundraiser. This year, the event will take place on April 28. Through your generosity, we will again offer recognition points at designated giving levels.

Guidelines for Earning Additional Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) Recognition Points:

- Contributions must be made to the Annual Fund.
- Donations between $100 and $500 will be matched one-to-one with PHF recognition

points.

- Contributions must be made on April 28th using one of the following methods:
    - Donate online through the RI “My Rotary” website.
    - Use your existing My Rotary account to make your gift.
    - If you do not have an account, coordinate with your Club Foundation Chair to submit your donation.
- If you do not already have a My Rotary account, it must be established at least one week prior.
- Rotarians at PHF +8 are not eligible for additional recognition points, as these do not apply toward Major Donor status.

Last year, our district raised $142,540—an incredible amount! This year, our goal is $150,000—and with your help, we can achieve it. Let’s Make Waves of Change! Thank you for your continued dedication to The Rotary Foundation and for all you do to make a difference.