

Creating

Hope



Delores Edwards Harding
District Governor 2023-2024



Report from District Governor Delores Edwards Harding

District 7620 Rotarians and Rotaractors,

Welcome to April as we acknowledge and embrace the freshness of Spring! The April showers are definitely here preparing the Earth to produce beautiful May flowers. It's all perfect timing, as April is Environment Month in Rotary; and also World Earth Day on April 22nd.



As the seventh Area of Focus in Rotary, members in District 7620 have been working hard to protect our environment, address climate change, and raise awareness by hosting meaningful environmental service projects district-wide. Our District's Environment Committee chaired by Hande Apaydin of the Rotary Club of Rockville, meets monthly and hosts open meetings to discuss various topics of concern regarding the environment. Whether it's community clean-up projects, trash recycling, food waste reduction, water purification, tree planting or pollinator gardens, we are busier than ever, as People of Action working to help save our planet.

Take a few minutes to look at the Rotary International website for more information on what's happening in Rotary Clubs all around the world with our environment.

You will also find more information on World Earth Day, an annual event to support Environmental protection.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-and-earth-day>

2024 Spring District Conference - April 19th-21st in Cambridge, MD

With the Spring 2024 District Conference in Cambridge, MD right around the corner, we will be celebrating our achievements this year, and our various Rotary and Rotaract Clubs who have earned distinction by achieving the annual District Club Awards and EnviroAwards for hosting an environmental project or initiative within their local communities. Come to the District Conference to see who has earned recognition this year as a "Champion" leader and/or Club in District 7620!

As a reminder, we are hosting an Environmental Track during our break-out sessions; a thought-provoking Peace Track and inspirational Peace Concert; and will have a vast array of District leaders and members as engaging speakers and trainers. Register for Golf and book a relaxing Spa appointment. The House of Friendship is filling up with vendors, Rotary Club and District Committee tables sharing their local and global projects this year. Multiple Service Projects await at the District Conference too!

Come fellowship and meet new friends by the water at 2024 District

Conference in Cambridge! Hope you will join us! Please register TODAY via our District 7620 Website:

<https://www.rotary7620.org/districtconference/>



District 7620 "Champion" for the Environment - Advika Agarwal

It is with great pride that we spotlight a District 7620 "Champion" for the Environment, Rotaractor Advika Agarwal, for being recognized in this month's Rotary magazine for her bold environmental advocacy in Maryland, and in Dubai, at the COP 28 Environmental Summit. Advika is a member of the MoCo Rotaract Club, and was one of several Rotaractors invited to participate in this year's Summit. She is now recognized worldwide as an exceptional young leader in Rotary, and has worked closely with our District's Environment Committee.

Advika is the Co-Founder and Co-President of both the Maryland Coalition to Re-Imagine School Waste and Compostology. Please read more about Advika in the April edition the Rotary magazine, and in our April newsletter below. You'll see why we are so excited for her! Congratulations Advika!

Wishing you all an Amazing April!

Yours In Rotary Service,

DG Delores Edwards Harding

District Governor 2023-2024

Rotary District Conference - April 19-21, 2024

Only 12 Days until the District Conference - Are You Registered?



Visit rotary7620.org/districtconference ASAP to find:

- Conference registration (Weekend and Daily options available)
- Discounted hotel rooms for Fri, April 19 - Sun, April 21 (\$159/night inclusive of resort fees!)
- Golf discounts for Friday tee times
- Secure your table in the House of Friendship to highlight club projects
- Pre-Conference Rotary Leadership Institute training registration
- MORE!

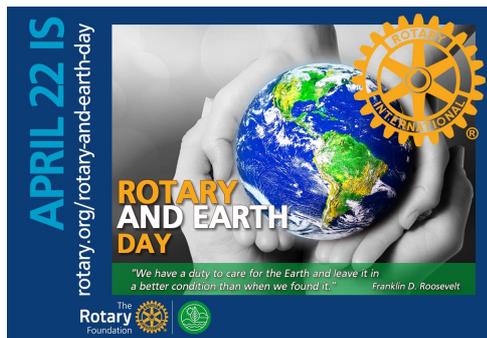
This event and hotel is bringing together:

- Great keynotes and breakouts focusing on peace, environment, and more!
- A beautiful venue that is pet and family friendly
- Opportunities to connect with fellow Rotary members
- Time for some restorative time through Rotarian-led self-care activities each morning

We can't wait for the 2024 District Conference - April 19-21, 2024 - in Cambridge, Maryland!

On behalf of the District Conference Committee,
Ashley Waters
Conference Chair & Member of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek

April is Rotary's Environmental Month



2023-2024 Global Scholarship Award - Saoirse Bodnar

By Jennifer Hara, District Chair

Out of the three great applications the Global Grant Scholarship Committee received from the Rotary Clubs of Washington, DC, Baltimore, and Metro Bethesda, the Committee selected Ms. Saoirse Bodnar, who was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Baltimore. Saoirse will be attending Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and is focusing on disease prevention and treatment, specifically on preventing addiction. She grew up in Baltimore and attended Princeton University for college. She has already found a host Rotary Club in Dublin, and she also demonstrated the most financial need. The \$30,000 award will not cover all of her expenses, but she has saved some, and plans on continuing to save to pay for the rest of her tuition. Her future plans include medical school, and she hopes to one day be a physician scientist specializing in addiction medicine. On behalf of District 7620, congratulations to Saoirse!



Mental Health Conversation with Rotary International President Gordon McInally

Don't Bottle It Up

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD
Rotary District 6990

A conversation with Rotary International President, Gordon McInally on Mental Health.

Thursday, April 11th
6:30pm - 7:30pm

Join us via Zoom for an important conversation on addressing Mental Health issues in our communities and within ourselves.

TOPICS:

- Bringing awareness to the growing Mental Health crisis in our communities
- Providing tools and resources to those in need.
- Prioritizing self-care to avoid burnout

Gordon McInally
Rotary International President

Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9545576781>

U.S. Consul & DC Rotary Club Check for Ukraine



Rotary Clubs Combine To Help Ukrainians **Date: 21 March 2024** **Subject: Rotary Clubs Combine To Help Ukrainians**

The Rotary Clubs of Edinburgh and Washington DC combined their efforts recently to help Ukrainian refugees living in Edinburgh.

At a Rotary Edinburgh Club Meeting in the Scotsman Hotel, the Consul General of the United States, Jack Hillmeyer, presented a check for \$1000 to Hannah Beaton-Hawryluk, Chair of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) Edinburgh branch. The funds were donated by the **Rotary Club of Washington DC**, following an approach to them by the Rotary Club of

Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh Rotary Club has been assisting AUGB Edinburgh financially recently, to enable their program of cultural activities to enhance the mental health, well-being and integration of Ukrainian people in Edinburgh.

Many of them are mothers and young people, and they often struggle with mental health issues and have difficulty integrating with the local community.

[Read More](#)



Frederick Rotary Club along with Community Organizations Provided \$200K Home Renovation

By Gabrielle Lewis, Frederick News Post, March 24, 2024 [Excerpted]



Pat Gaither is shown in the kitchen of her newly renovated home on South Bentz Street. Mark Lancaster of Lancaster Craftsmen Builders rallied several local organizations to renovate the duplex belonging to Gaither, who was the first Black woman to graduate from Frederick High School. Photo by Ric Dugan

Pat Gaither often sits in the armchair tucked in the corner of the living room of her South Bentz Street home, pondering the people who made the massive renovation to her duplex possible.

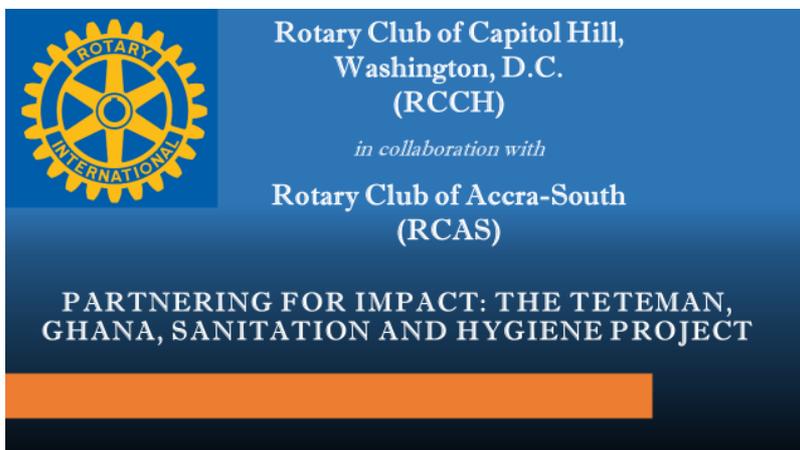
Multiple local organizations collaborated to completely renovate Gaither's home and the adjoining unit.

Gaither, 81, is the first Black woman to graduate from Frederick High School after it was integrated. She began attending Frederick High in 1958 and graduated in 1960

alongside two other Black students.

Rebuilding Together Frederick County, Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County, the Rotary Club of Frederick, the Frederick County Housing Trust, the Frederick County Building Industry Association and SOAR Frederick worked together to complete the renovations, donate materials and provide housing for Gaither during the project. [Read More](#)

Final report and presentation re. Teteman, Ghana, Sanitation and hygiene project



[Click HERE](#) to view the entire presentation !

Crafting Personalized Easter Baskets for Hospitalized Children

Middle River Rotary supports Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health at MedStar Franklin Square Hospital through Easter Baskets.

MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center plays a vital role in the Baltimore community by providing comprehensive Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health services. With over 300 pediatric admissions annually, the medical center's inpatient program serves patients aged 11-17, offering full psychiatric care alongside individualized and group therapy.

Due to increasing demand for inpatient services, compounded by system-wide challenges like adolescent placement delays and limited external housing capacity, there have been more extended stays for pediatric patients. Many arrive without basic essentials, underscoring the importance of community support.

Recognizing this need, the Middle River Rotary sprang into action, providing multiple donations to enhance the comfort and well-being of young patients. From clothing and toiletries to sensory toys and school supplies. The Rotary club generously contributed items to make each child feel at home during their hospital stay.

But the support didn't stop there. The Middle River Rotary club went above and beyond, ensuring that patients felt cherished during special occasions. Gifts for the holiday season, Christmas stockings, Valentine's treats, and most recently, Easter baskets brought joy and comfort to both patients and staff alike.

The impact of the Middle River Rotary's generosity was profound. Young patients no longer faced discharge with empty hands, but instead left with essential items to support their continued recovery and success. The children and staff expressed heartfelt gratitude for the kindness shown by the Rotary club, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships in promoting healing and well-being.

In times of need, it is heartening to witness the power of community support. Through their compassionate actions, the Middle River Rotary has made a lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable children and adolescents, embodying the spirit of service above self.



World Immunization Week is 24-30 April



Help Rotary raise awareness for polio eradication and the importance of vaccines during World Immunization Week on 24-30 April. As a Rotary member, you have played a critical role in helping us reduce polio cases by 99.9% since 1988, but we know our work isn't done until we end polio for good. You can find a variety of resources to help spread the word on the [End Polio Now Resource Center](#).

MoCo Rotaractor Spearheaded Effort to Redistribute Food Waste in Schools

[Article by Geoffrey Johnson published in the *Rotary Magazine*, April 2024, page 15]

Six years ago, when she was in seventh grade, Advika Agarwal was looking for a topic for a science competition. She and her friend Angelina Xu were aware of the cafeteria food waste at Xu's old elementary school and devised a plan to have it composted, diverting it from landfills where food adds to greenhouse gases. From there, despite the pandemic shutdown, the modest plan took off.

With help from a \$48,000 grant from the World Wildlife Fund, the Coalition to Re-Imagine School Waste today coordinates the redistribution of food waste in 78 schools in Montgomery County, Maryland. The program is expanding to other states, and after a successful lobbying effort led in part by Agarwal, the Maryland Legislature enacted a bill to provide \$1.25 million over five years to support similar programs.



Those accomplishments did not go unnoticed: Last summer, Agarwal, Xu, and their classmate and collaborator Shruti Amula were among 34 students who received the President's Environmental Youth Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



After serving as president of the Interact club at her high school, the 18-year-old senior joined the Rotaractor Club of MoCo in September. Two months later she was in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as one of 12 Rotaractor representatives at the COP28 climate summit. She made connections with other environmental activists and presented on combating food waste and hunger.

"Seeing the ripple effect of smaller actions that can be replicated around the country and around the world is what gives me hope," Agarwal says. "It motivates me to not fall prey to climate pessimism. We can't just sit back. We have to do something about it." [Read More](#)

Rockville Rotary Packed Backpacks for Comfort Cases

On Thursday, March 7, Rockville Rotarians gathered at [Comfort Case's](#) new facility on Gaither Road. Together, we packed dozens of backpacks that will be distributed to children entering foster care.

Comfort Cases are backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system. Typically, children are given a trash bag to pack up their belongings when they are removed from their homes. By helping to pack these backpacks, Rotarians are working to end this practice while providing the essentials for a child's first few days in foster care. Here's a quick reel that highlights our service and fellowship: <https://www.instagram.com/p/C4fpsplO1vq/>.

Comfort Cases was established more than 10 years ago by founders Rob and Reece Scheer. Rob is a Paul Harris Fellow and past speaker at the Rotary Club of Rockville. The organization supports foster children across the United States and in the UK.



Comfort Cases
Service Project,
March 7

Rotary Red Line Happy Hour - REGISTER NOW!

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill

REGISTER NOW!



**RD ROTARY RED LINE
HAPPY HOUR**

Hosted by the Capitol Hill Rotary Club

**THURSDAY,
April 18, 5-7 PM
THE DUBLINER
4 F STREET, NW**

RSVP to vesselinarcch@gmail.com

the
DUBLINER
an IRISH PUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Come NETWORK with fellow Rotarians from clubs along the Red Line: Bethesda-Chevy Chase • Capitol Hill College Park • Downtown Silver Spring Dupont Circle • Metro Bethesda • North Bethesda Olney • Silver Spring-Kensington • Washington DC • Washington Global • and Washington Area Rotaract Clubs

Rotary Red Line Happy Hour

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2024-25 Committee Chair Positions Open!



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As the curtain draws on this year, and we stand on the threshold of a new beginning, I wish to express my profound gratitude to DG Delores Edwards Harding for her exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to steering Rotary District 7620 towards greatness, along with her dedicated team.

After a successful Presidents Elect Training, I'm inviting all district

members to consider stepping into leadership roles. We aim for volunteering to fit easily alongside your family and career commitments. As your youngest incoming District Governor, I'm focused on making involvement in Rotary rewarding yet manageable. We have several open positions and are open to your ideas for new roles. Your involvement is key to our success, and I look forward to working together to make a positive impact with Rotary.

[Read More](#)

Disaster Update – Deployment for Ohio Tornadoes

By Bob Grill, President, Disaster Aid USA; Paul Mahata, Co-Chair, District Disaster Relief Committee

District 7620 Disaster Relief Committee continues to coordinate with Disaster Aid USA to respond to recent disasters including Ohio Tornadoes. We are helping the disaster victims, and we request that you and your club consider donating money to DAUSA. We thank you for your past donations. Please see below a detailed description of DAUSA deployments for Ohio Tornadoes.



Ohio Tornadoes: Disaster Aid USA team, led by Dave Roasa from Grove City Rotary Club, OH, was deployed to Delaware County to address the damage done by severe Tornadoes. The team scouted and got permission to do the relief work in the week of March 18. Two additional team members from North Canton, OH joined the team in the last 2 days of the deployment. Here are some details of this deployment.

Deployment in the Week of March 18: [Read More](#)

District 7620 Club Leadership Training is now open for registration.

This event is for **all Rotarians**, particularly those in any club leadership (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board Member Committee Chair), and those Rotarians who aspire to be able to contribute more to the leadership of their clubs.

[Register NOW](#) for **District 7620 Club Leadership Training.**

Saturday, May 18th, 10am-1pm

* Coffee and light breakfast snacks as well as a boxed lunch that you can eat in the fellowship of your fellow Rotarians, or take for the trip home.

Cost - \$25 per person.

Location: Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Pkwy Columbia, 21044

Let the district staff help you help your club to have the best possible 2024-25 Rotary year!

Other important events: [Read More](#)

District Grant Final Reports due 15 May

By Barbara Jean Chamberlain-Skinner

District Grant Final Reports are due mid-May . . . so start working on them now!

[Read More](#)

Register Now for the 26th Annual Charity Golf Classic!

By Robert Parkinson on Thursday, February 15, 2024

RIGHT CLICK on image to access information at www.rotarylp.org/golf2024.php

Lexington Park
Rotary 

26th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024



08:30AM REGISTRATION 18 holes & cart, goodie bag, door prizes, coffee & donuts, drinks & lunch, post tournament oyster bar, dinner.

Breton Bay GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
21935 Society Hill Rd.
Leonardtown, MD 20650

10:00AM SHOTGUN START Best Ball Tournament with prizes for the top 3 teams, mens and ladies longest drive, closest to the pin, and more!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SERVE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Sponsorship Levels:

Tournament Sponsor	\$ 1,500	Two Foursomes, Inside or Back Cover of Program, Listings in Program, Sponsorship Banner.
Platinum Sponsor	\$ 1,000	One Foursome, Full Page Ad in Program, Listings in Program and Sponsorship Banner.
Gold Sponsor	\$ 500	Half Page Ad in Program and Sponsorship Banner.
Silver Sponsor	\$ 250	Quarter Page Ad in Program and Sponsorship Sign.
Hole Sponsor	\$ 150	Sponsorship Sign at one of 18 Holes and Listing in Program.

Players Only:

Foursomes	\$ 550 ea.	Team and player names listed in program.
Individual Players	\$ 150 ea.	Name(s) listed in program. Individuals will be paired with others to form teams.

[Click HERE for tournament flyer, registration form and online registration and payment.](#)
or visit us at www.RotaryLP.org/golf2024.php

PLEASE submit your registration and logo ASAP to allow time for signage and program production.
Payment must be made prior to production of signage and inclusion in the tournament program.

CONTACTS: Al Gardiner (301) 904-7448, algar34@gmail.com
or Bob Parkinson (301) 751-2114, bobparkinson@hughes.net
Lexington Park Rotary Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 202, Lexington Park, MD 20653

DC Rotary Club - 2023-34 ShelterBox HERO!

Greetings Washington D.C. Rotary Club,
Congratulations on achieving ShelterBox HERO club recognition for Rotary Year 2023-2024. Attached is your digital award to use on your clubwebsite and please share this recognition on your club and district social media outlets. The pdf is perfect for club and district newsletters. By promoting your HERO achievement, let's see how many more HERO clubs you can inspire. At the end of the 23-24 Rotary year, all HERO clubs will be listed at www.shelterboxusa.org/hero

In 2023, ShelterBox supported more than 325,000 people (approximately 65,000 households). It is our second biggest year, behind the 420,000 supported in 2022, in terms of people reached since ShelterBox began in 2000.

[Read More](#)



Dupont Circle RC Celebrates World Rotaract Week!

What an extraordinary gathering! Our inaugural bi-lingual, bi-national, quinti-club meeting was an absolute success, thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Rotary Club of San Pedro in Monterrey, Mexico. We were also joined by the Rotaract Club of Howard University, two Monterrey Rotaract clubs, and Monterrey interacters.



A heartfelt thank you goes out to the dedicated board members of the **Howard University Rotaract Club!**

[Read More](#)

APR - DC Rotary Celebrates World Rotaract Week



The visit from our sponsored **Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.**, and our sponsored Interact Clubs at CHEC and Richard Wright Schools and students from Cardozo EC, for World Rotaract Week truly was inspiring.

Our Rotaractors shared an impressive list of accomplishments, ideas and success stories with our members, as well as ideas for building a stronger relationship between Rotaract and Rotary. Through continued programs and coordinated service projects, it was suggested, Rotaractors will continue see there place in our Rotary Club.



We were thrilled to hear how our Interactors and other students have learned leadership, team-building, project management, and public speaking skills through their participation in RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).

Then, they treated us to a newly-minted song commemorating RYLA that was created about a month ago at RYLA 2024. [Read More](#)

Rotary Youth Exchange: Your passport to adventure

For more than 40 years, Rotary clubs have been sending students abroad with the aim of promoting international understanding and friendship through Rotary Youth Exchange. Youth Exchange students often say their experience abroad was the best time of their lives. Being part of the program can be life-changing for the Rotary members who host students as well!

[Read the article](#) for real-life stories from Youth Exchange participants and members alike.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



Apply for a Rotary Peace Fellowship by 15 May



Rotary offers fully funded master's degrees and professional development certificate programs for young professionals with three to five years of experience in peace and development. They study at premier universities around the world, gaining knowledge, skills, and global networks to be effective peacebuilders. [Learn more](#) about this unique opportunity and [apply now](#) or in future years.

[APPLY NOW!](#)

Take action this Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day, **26-28 April**, is the largest youth service and civic action event that celebrates youth and their communities working together for the common good.

[Learn ways to join the celebration](#) and honor the service impact of Rotary's

Young Leaders!

[LEARN MORE!](#)



New Loyola Rotaract Club's Stony Run Clean-Up Initiative



The Rotaract Club of Loyola University Maryland was officially chartered on February 6th, 2024. The Loyola students are extremely excited to work with our sponsor club, the Baltimore Rotary Club, and other members of the Rotary family to provide continued and meaningful service to our community. Despite operating for only a few months, our club has already made great strides in service.

Recently, our club demonstrated its commitment to protecting the environment through an extremely successful initiative: Stony Run Clean-Up. The Stony Run Trail is a three-mile trail that is accessible from several points,

including the West side of the Loyola University Evergreen Campus. On Saturday, February

24th, 12 members of Loyola Rotaract, including our club advisor, Dr. David Gordon, gathered in front of Newman Towers, one of Loyola's residence halls. Before embarking

on our clean-up, volunteers received their materials: plastic gloves, trash bags, trash grabbers, and Rotary International string bags.

[Read More](#)



Annapolis Rotaract's 13th Annual Rock the Dock



Annapolis Rotaract Club's annual fundraising event, Rock the Dock, is set to occur on June 6th from 6-10pm at the Annapolis Maritime Museum. The Annapolis Rotaract Foundation is excited to announce the 13th Annual Rock the Dock Beneficiary: Pretty Girl Academy. Rotarians are invited to attend on the Chesapeake Bay at the beautiful Annapolis Maritime Museum on June 6th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and include access to unlimited food, drinks, live music, raffles, a silent auction, and more. This event always sells out, so get your ticket while supplies last:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rock-the-dock-2024-tickets-863030817407> [Read More](#)

Rotaract Club of Washington, D.C.

After a productive club assembly, our Rotaract Club of Washington DC is buzzing with excitement! Members discussed upcoming projects, heard project updates, and brainstormed innovative ideas to make a positive impact in our community. To celebrate our hard work, we ended the evening with a delightful happy hour. Stay tuned for more updates on our upcoming initiatives!



[Read More](#)

Webinar: Become a Champion for Youth



Rotary’s youth programs, Interact, RYLA, and Rotary Youth Exchange, introduce young people to service and develop leadership skills. When Rotarians and Rotaractors learn to engage with youth in a way that makes young people feel seen and heard, young people develop a life-long relationship with Rotary. Learn directly from Rotary’s Youth Advisory Council during this webinar on **15 May at 10:00AM (UTC-5)**. By the end of this session, you’ll be able to:

- Understand how young people find Rotary and become involved
- Explore the barriers to youth participation and find strategies to overcome them
- Develop a plan to create continued engagement with youth members and alumni

REGISTER NOW!

HU Rotaract Inducts 8 New Members!

Congratulations to the Rotaract Club of Howard University for inducting 8 new members. Special thanks to DG Delores Edwards Harding for being the guest speaker and conducting the induction. Much appreciated!



In Memoriam: Floyd "Buddy" Owens

Wednesday, April 3, 2024



The Rotary Club of Lexington Park is sad to announce that Floyd "Buddy" Owens, left this world on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at his home with his wife, Joyce, and loved ones by his side. Buddy joined Rotary 22 years ago in January 2019. Buddy was a strong believer in community and giving back. He was very active in Rotary, the community, and his church. Buddy is survived by his wife Joyce Owens. To know Buddy was to be his friend. Buddy will be very missed.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Friday, April 12, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a memorial service beginning at 12:00 p.m., at Leonardtown Baptist Church, 23520 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow the service at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

[Read More](#)

Four-Way Test

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

District 7620 Newsletter Team:

Bob Nelson, PDG, Chair
Ashley Waters, District Public Image Chair

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

TOGETHER WE SEE A WORLD
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES