

Unite for
Good

Rotary
District 7620



ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER

Message from District Governor Mandy Warfield Granger

Dear Rotarians and Friends,

Today marks the beginning of a new Rotary year — a fresh opportunity to serve with purpose, grow with intention, and **Unite for Good**.

This 2025-26 year, we are called to strengthen the connections that make our work meaningful: within our clubs, across our communities, and throughout the world. By working together, we multiply our impact and show what's possible when people of action come together around shared values.

But service alone is not enough. To expand our reach and inspire others to join us, we must also **tell our story**.

Whether it's a short social media post, a powerful image, or a personal testimonial, storytelling is one of our most effective tools for increasing awareness, attracting new members, and engaging partners. Every project, every meeting, every act of kindness has a story worth sharing — and this year, we encourage every club to be bold in how they share theirs. As we move forward, I am not dictating specific projects but rather encouraging clubs to increase their storytelling activities and collaborate effectively around service, membership, and The Rotary Foundation. Remember, while we are part of a district, our strength and vibrancy originate from individual clubs.

Let's show the world what "Unite for Good" truly means — in action and in voice.

And speaking of unity and celebration... **District Governor Installation and Awards Celebration** is just around the corner, and I can't wait to welcome you. It's going to be an inspiring afternoon full of connection, recognition, and Rotary spirit. Join us wearing your Rotary casual attire. The event will run from 12-4, but there will be plenty of time at the beginning and end of the agenda for fellowship and unity.

New Rotary International Theme: Unite for Good

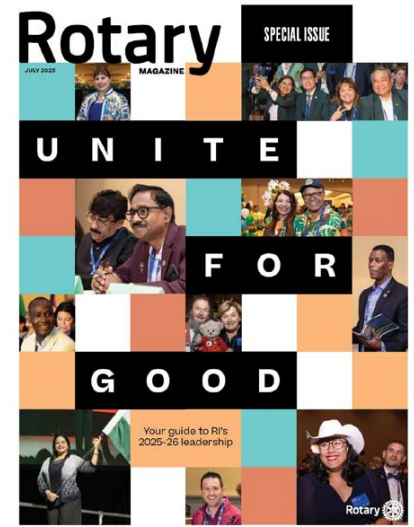


The Rotary International theme for 2025-2026 is "Unite for Good". This message encourages Rotary members to work together to create positive change in their communities and around the world. The theme emphasizes the power of unity and collaboration in achieving Rotary's goals of service and impact.

The "Unite for Good" theme replaces the traditional annual "presidential theme" with a more consistent "presidential message" to streamline branding and communication. This message aims to inspire members, participants, and the public to unite and work towards a shared purpose of doing good.

Rotary's focus on unity is particularly relevant in a world often divided by various factors. By emphasizing the power of collaboration, Rotary aims to demonstrate that people from diverse backgrounds can come together to address global challenges and make a positive impact. The theme encourages

members to connect with others, build relationships, and work together to achieve common goals.



Meet Our New Rotary District Governor Mandy Warfield Granger

Mandy Granger is a seasoned marketing professional and currently runs a marketing consulting agency focused on increasing profits for professional services firms, including accountants and lawyers. She is an active volunteer for City Dogs Rescue and a board member for Friendship Place, a nonprofit providing services to those experiencing homelessness in the Washington DC region, and Historic Dupont Circle Main Streets, a volunteer-driven, commercial revitalization organization that serves to educate businesses about government relations, business issues, and historic preservation.



Mandy joined the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle in 2014, driven by a dual passion for community service and building a sense of community in a busy city. Her Rotary journey is marked by numerous leadership roles, including Club President; Assistant Governor for the Washington, DC, clubs; Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) courses and teacher certification; participation in the Rotary Southland Young Professionals Summit in 2016; and Emerging Leader participation at the Zone 33-34 Atlanta Zone Summit 2019.

She is a proud member of the Paul Harris Society and a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation. Mandy's Rotary journey reflects her ongoing commitment to service, leadership, and community engagement.

Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. 2024-25 Recap

Congratulations to DC Rotary Club **President Robert Schott** on an extremely job well as he presided at his final Club assembly and meeting of the Rotary year. Though Bob has been a Rotarian for 43 years, he's been a member of the DC Rotary Club for 10 ten years. As soon as he joined the Club he jumped right in. He truly thrived in the Club and made huge significant contributions for the better of the Washington, D.C. community. Including but not limited to, his selfless dedication to disasters across the U.S. and abroad, making the Club a Platinum Hero Club with ShelterBox USA, hosting Mongolian students at one of the weekly meetings, being the first to take on a challenge when duty called, joining the MIRPS MOU in partnership with the OAS, inducted 20+ new members this Rotary year, always being the first Club to sponsor District events (DGE installations, DisCon and hospitality suite), selling his Tesla and donating the proceeds to Casa de Maryland, and overall a magnificent leader all around. Thank you for your dedication and your Service Above Self. To add a cherry on top, he awarded some of the most beautiful and thought awards to recognize members of the club at his final club assembly. It's been an honor to serve under your leadership. Congratulations again!





Rotary Club of College Park Celebrates 90 Years of Service

By Janet Wagner

The Rotary Club of College Park celebrated its 90th birthday on June 25, 2025. Two local leaders, Eric Olson of the Prince George's County Council, and Dr. Ron Brathwaite of the Adventist Hospital of Fort Washington, were designated as Community Paul Harris Fellows, and Nomie Hamid was recognized with a plaque thanking him for "bringing the magic of Rotary" to us during his tenure as District Governor. [Read More](#)



Honoring Heroes, Building Community: Rockville Rotary's Flags for Heroes 2025



For the fourth consecutive year, the Rotary Club of Rockville proudly hosted its signature community service and fundraising event, Flags for Heroes, over Memorial Day Weekend.

A sea of 300 American flags graced the King Farm Homestead Park, each one a powerful tribute to heroes who inspire and serve - from active-duty military, veterans, and fallen service members to first responders, educators, healthcare workers, public servants, and everyday individuals who have touched lives in extraordinary ways.

Each flag carried a story. Some honored national heroes; others were dedicated to quiet champions - mentors, parents, neighbors, and friends. This year, Rockville Rotary extended special recognition, through anonymous dedications, to the City's sanitation workers - often-unsung heroes whose service keeps our community healthy and thriving.

Flags for Heroes is more than a fundraiser - it's a heartfelt expression of gratitude and a reminder of Rotary's mission to serve above self and unite our community in appreciation of those who make a difference.



The Flags for Heroes Opening Ceremony was held on Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the historic King Farm Homestead - a cherished Rockville landmark at the corner of Route 355 (Rockville Pike) and Ridgemont Avenue.

The ceremony brought together civic leaders, community members, and Rotarians to honor the spirit of service and sacrifice. We were honored by the presence of Rockville Mayor Monique Ashton and Councilmembers Barry Jackson, Marissa Valeri, and Adam Van Grack. 2025 Miss Rockville Anna Dieme lent her voice to a moving rendition of the National Anthem, adding to the emotion and pride of the moment.

Also in attendance were members of the Rockville Rotary Club, our 2025 Foundation grant recipients, and many local residents - all gathered in celebration of heroes past and present, near and far.

Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our supporters, the Rockville Rotary Club Foundation will distribute \$44,400 in 2025 to 25 outstanding nonprofit organizations that are creating meaningful change across our community and our world. Each grant is a reflection of our mission to serve and a tribute to the power of collective goodwill.

Congratulations to the Rockville Rotary Club on the successful completion of our fourth annual Flags for Heroes! This year's display was once again made possible through the incredible dedication, planning, and teamwork of our members and volunteers. Together, we created a powerful and moving tribute to the heroes who inspire us every day. We were deeply honored to receive a Proclamation of Congratulations from the City of Rockville - a meaningful recognition of our Club's ongoing commitment to service and community pride.



The Mayor and Council – City of Rockville

Congratulate

ROCKVILLE ROTARY CLUB

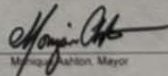
and Honors

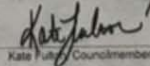
FLAGS FOR HEROES

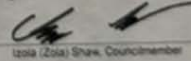
Honoring Heroes Past and Present...

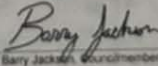
The City of Rockville, Maryland, is happy to honor the *Rockville Rotary Club* as it plants a field of 300 American flags at the King Farm Homestead, to pay homage to Heroes, past and present, whether they wear scrubs, or uniforms, a helmet, or a suit, or plain clothes. Each Hero has performed some service or act to assist and support our community or others throughout the world. The City celebrates this important recognition!

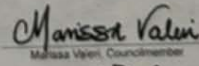


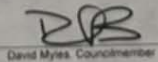

Marissa Valeri, Mayor

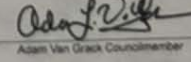

Kate Fulton, Councilmember


Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember


Barry Jackson, Councilmember


Marissa Valeri, Councilmember


David Myers, Councilmember


Adam Van Grack, Councilmember

May 24, 2025

Visit <https://www.rockvillerotary.org/flags-for-heroes.php> to learn more and to sponsor your heroes!



Rotary Club of Capitol Hill 2024-25 Recap

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill on a wonderful and magical Rotary year. Thank You to **President Pauline Simmons** for her Service Above Self and on a job well done! Rotary is a Life Style!

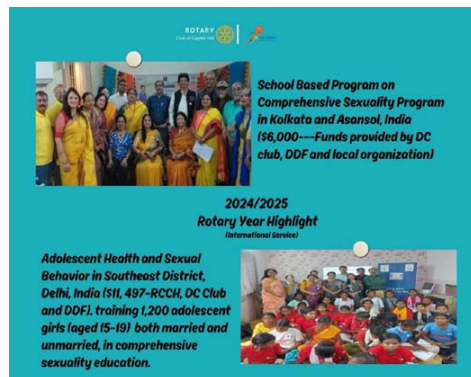


On Saturday, August 3, 2024, Dr. Sarma Singam spearheaded the club's blood pressure initiative at the Eastern Market community in Washington, D.C. This event received support from Coldwell Banker.

2024/2025 Rotary Year Highlight (Community Service)

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington:
On Monday, August 12, 2024 Pauline participated in a summer-ending picnic service event organized by the DC Rotary Club at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington.





The Guard has changed at Rockville Rotary!



On Saturday, June 14, We gathered at the home of Hande Apaydin - a Rotary Club of Rockville Past President and the current Rotary District 7620 Assistant Governor, Area 6 for the Rotary Club of Rockville Changing of the Guard Ceremony.

On a lovely summer's evening, we shared food and conversation as we celebrated the past year's Board and welcomed the incoming Board. We thanked our outgoing Rotary Year 2024-2025 President Susan Gordon, Rotary Club of Rockville Board Members, Committees Chairs, members of Rotary Club of Rockville, among others.

We inducted our incoming President Ukpeme Akpan Okon and the Rotary Year 2025-2026 leadership team.

President Susan Gordon spoke about the achievements of the Rotary Club of Rockville in Rotary Year 2024-2025 and President-Elect Ukpeme Akpan Okon spoke about the plans for Rotary Year 2025-2026 - which starts on July 1, 2025.

During the event, we were excited to welcome new member Hitesh Agarwal as he was inducted into the Rotary

Club of Rockville. We congratulate Hitesh Agarwal for becoming a Rotarian and a member of the Rotary Club of Rockville.

Many Rotarians and guests attended the Changing of the Guard Ceremony. We enjoyed good fellowship at the event. We thank Hande Apaydin for hosting the Rotary Club of Rockville Changing of the Guard Ceremony.

PDG and Delegate Greg Wims Received African American Living Legends Recognition in Montgomery County



I am delighted to support my friend, [Greg Wims](#), as he receives the prestigious African American Living Legends recognition in Montgomery County by the Office of Human Rights along with others. It was fascinating to hear how historical events I had studied played out in the county. I take pride in being from the most diverse County in the country, one that acknowledges its past to build a better future. -- Dr. Pallavi Gowda



Nancy Newmister named Rotary Club of Frederick's Quiet Hero

Nancy Newmister, a 10-year member, was recently recognized as a Rotary Club of Frederick Quiet Hero. The award showcases members whose contributions to Rotary's mission are significant but often behind the scenes.

A devastating accident in 2023 left Newmister facing significant mobility challenges and in a wheelchair for nearly a year afterward. Unable to help with service projects due to these challenges, Newmister has focused instead on what she could do behind the scenes to support the club's efforts and the good work of Rotary International. She has continued to attend weekly meetings via Zoom, and has remained dedicated to her Rotary engagement obligations while completing hundreds of hours of physical therapy, as she also continues to perform admirably as the president and CEO of Frederick Mutual, the third largest insurance company in Maryland. *[Excerpted from the Frederick News-Post, June 7, 2025]*



Experience as Breakout Presenters at the RI Convention in Calgary!

Mentorship is a topic of interest for Rotaractors and Rotarians from around the world, the recent 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary revealed. **District 7620's Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Nevy Cruz and Zone 33 Assistant Rotary Coordinator,**



Past Rotaract President, Liz Moody were invited to present their workshop "Elevate Rotary: Effective Mentorship Strategies". The session was a

revamped version of a breakout they'd piloted at Ascension Rotaract Multi-District Information Organization's 2024 conference in Chicago, Illinois. The interactive workshop invited participants to examine generational differences and stereotypes, discuss thought-provoking case studies, and explore different types of mentorship. "I enjoyed that the session walked you backwards through potential challenges you might face to help you identify important components of a mentorship program," a participant shared. The primary goal was to spark continuing discussion, and with many of the 250+ participants eager to share their experiences and swap ideas, it seems that this will continue to be an area of focus for many.





Rotary Club of Dupont Circle

Service Opportunity

youth AND THE FUTURE OF culture

July 1: No Meeting

**Volunteer with us at the
Smithsonian Folklife Festival.**

Rotary
Dupont Circle
Washington, DC

Happy Rotary New Year!

July 1st is the beginning of the Rotary Year. In true Dupont Rotary fashion, they will be participating in a service project in lieu of a meeting on Tuesday, July 1st. They will exemplify the theme of the new Rotary Year "Unite for Good" and volunteer at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Held on the National Mall each summer, the [Folklife Festival](#) honors contemporary living cultural traditions and celebrates those who practice and sustain them. With free performances, workshops, demonstrations and other activities, it is a chance for visitors to be immersed in song, dance, crafts, games, food and skills of the unique culture. This year, the festival will be held on July 2 - 7. Volunteer opportunities for the Club are being coordinated by President Guillermo. Please contact him at ggaldamez@gmail.com to sign up.

DC World Pride Parade!

The 2025 World Pride in Washington, D.C. was a complete success! We are

so happy and thankful that all Washington, D.C. Rotary International area clubs took part in this event! Thank you to our friends from Rotary District 7610 for partnering with us this year. To our DGEs Mandy Warfield Granger & Ravi Kat Cooper thank you for inclusiveness and support. LOVE always wins! Happy Pride Month!





DC Rotaractors in Calgary!



Feeling inspired after spending this past week in Calgary, Alberta for the [Rotary International](#) Convention!

From powerful conversations to new friendships across borders, it was an amazing opportunity to connect with people who are truly passionate about making a difference. We listened to moving discussions on polio vaccination, cervical cancer treatment, climate change, women's health, literacy, AI integration, mentorship—to name a few. I'm so grateful to be part of a global movement committed to peace, service, and positive change as President of our [Rotaract](#) Club of [Georgetown University](#).

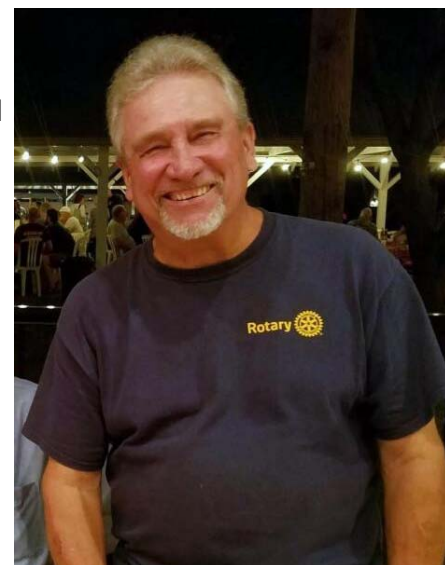
Thank you [Marilyn Nevy Cruz](#) for your support and guidance to help bring me to this event. Looking forward to carrying these values through in the following year of Rotary as we [#UniteForGood](#). -- Reese Oakes, President, Georgetown University Rotaract

Club.



John Stephen Clark November 2, 1953 ~ June 11 2025 (age 71)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lake Shore–Severna Park President John Stephen Clark, who departed this life on Wednesday, June 11th, 2025, at the age of 71. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, on Monday, November 2nd, 1953, John was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, dedicated community member, and a cherished friend to many. He resided in Pasadena, Maryland, where he created innumerable memories with his beloved family and friends.



Celebration of Life for John Clark

Date: Thursday, July 24

Time: 1:00-3:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm

Location: [Venice on the Bay Community Hall](#), 1919 Arundel Rd., Pasadena, MD 21122

This will be a very informal gathering; come to share memories, enjoy some heavy appetizers, and toast a life that was lived to the fullest.

RSVP to Bunnie Clark at bunnie4946@gmail.com or Bob Sartwell at bobsartwell@gmail.com

[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

Dave Vogel, LTG

ROTARY'S VISION STATEMENT

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