

Unite for  
Good

ROTARY 7620 NEWSLETTER



## District Governor Mandy's Message

### Difficulties Mastered, Opportunities Won

Winston Churchill once said, *"Difficulties mastered are opportunities won."* That sentiment is at the heart of Rotary's focus this October during **Economic and Community Development Month**. Around the world, Rotarians are helping communities confront their greatest challenges—poverty, lack of access to education, or limited economic opportunity—and turning them into pathways for growth. By mastering these difficulties together, we help people move from surviving to thriving.



In our district, the sentiment aligns with our message, **Unite for Good**. When we unite to face challenges, we don't just respond to immediate needs—we create opportunities that ripple outward. A small business supported through a microloan can employ neighbors. A job training program can uplift an entire family. A partnership between clubs can spark lasting regional change. Each mastered challenge becomes a stepping stone toward a stronger, more connected community.



Churchill's words remind us that progress is not found in avoiding hardship but in transforming it. Rotary's commitment to economic and community development is proof: by uniting for good, we turn obstacles into opportunities, and opportunities into hope for a better tomorrow.

## October is Community Economic Development Month

# Rotary



## OCTOBER IS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH



Rotary members train people to become resources for their community, offering networking activities, advice on new business development, and mathematics and financial management training.



## DISCON 2025: Fear of Missing Out?

# Fear of Missing Out?



**REGISTER TODAY!**

Rotary   
Districts 7610 & 7620

# **DISCON 2025**



<https://www.rotary7620.org/discon-2526/>

**World Polio Day is October 24, 2025**

# Smallpox WAS Eradicated



## Polio Needs to be Next!

# END POLIO NOW



Join the PolioPlus Society  
at [EndPolio.Org/Donate](http://EndPolio.Org/Donate)



Pin Example

The 6th Annual Great Mt. Airy Duck Race was held on Sept. 14, 2025



The Mt. Airy Rotary Club held the 6<sup>th</sup> annual duck race on Sunday afternoon, September 14. Starting July 1 of each year, sales of duck tickets begin. Each ticket is registered to a numbered plastic/rubber racing duck. This year 2921 ducks were registered for the race. Then on a September Sunday, pairing with the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company, The rotary club holds the great race along with games, vendors, food, and fun, which is a magnificent family event.

Six heats are run, and between each heat, many other activities keep up the interest. Then a championship heat is held to determine the various winners. Also, a real live duck race caps off the day.

Duck ticket sales, sponsorships, and donations this year grossed approximately \$46,000. After about \$8000 expenses, \$38,000 net was split between the club and fire company.



## Towsontowne-Hunt Valley & Aberdeen Clubs Support Char Hope Foundation's Addiction Recovery Mission

The Towsontowne-Hunt Valley and Aberdeen Clubs partnered for a district grant to benefit the Char Hope Foundation, located in Harford County. Char Hope operates a residential program that blends the National Ag Literacy Outcomes with the renowned 12 Steps of recovery. Through its Rooting Recovery initiative, participants engage in hands-on activities such as homesteading, gardening, commodity marketing, equine therapy, and general farm life. This agriculturally based model creates a safe and supportive environment for residents to experience healing through vulnerability, trust, self-reliance, and personal growth. Hope and Wholesale, a grocery store operated by Char Hope, provides operational funding for Char Hope but is also used as an employment opportunity for the program participants, providing work experience and resume building. When asked what Rotary can do to support this amazing foundation, founder Derek Hopkins quickly indicated his need for 2 glass door freezers to support the related grocery store, Hope & Wholesale. Hope & Wholesale offers grocery products at a discount. The proceeds help fund the Char Hope operation. The grocery store benefits



community members seeking lower cost grocery items as well as program participants by providing work experience and resume building to help rebuild their future. A ribbon cutting was held on September 17 with members from the Harford County Chamber of Commerce, local political leaders, and Rotarians. Hope & Wholesale is open to the public ([www.hopeandwholesale.com](http://www.hopeandwholesale.com)).

## Parole Rotary Highlights Whitney Kerridge for Economic and Community Development Month

Since joining the Parole Rotary Club in 1998, Whitney Kerridge, now the third-generation owner of Admiral Cleaners, has continued the tradition of organizing the annual Call



for Coats campaign each October and November. Over the past three decades, this initiative has gathered and distributed more than 100,000 coats to local families in need.

Admiral works closely with its clients and more than 20 donation partners, including a variety of schools, businesses, and community organizations, and is deeply grateful for their generosity. They are the grateful recipient of the SBA's 2018 Small Family-Owned Business of the Year and was previously awarded the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for this program.

## Frederick's Oktoberfest September 26 - 27, 2025

Raise your stein (or glass Das Boot!) for another incredible [Frederick's Oktoberfest](#) September 26-27, 2025! All had a great time enjoying the authentic German food, live music, yodeling, alpacas, and of course, beer - all for a great cause, with proceeds benefiting local charities. Thank you to [Rotary Club of Carroll Creek](#) and volunteers for all the work you do to put on this special event.



# Big Pink Youth Dialogue Collaboration: A Cross-Border Alliance for Change



By Kuhu Maitra

The Big Pink is a global initiative led by Rotary Action Group for the Reproductive Maternal and Child Health (RMCH), designed to foster open, youth-led dialogue on sexual and reproductive health, mental well-being, and leadership.

The Rotaract Club Juventud Indígena Panamá and the Rotaract Club of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.—brought together through the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, Washington, DC—are forging a dynamic cross-border alliance to amplify youth-led dialogue and action. This collaboration will focus on key areas including health,

environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment, drawing on the leadership of Indigenous youth in Panama and university students in the United States.

Rotaract Juventud Indígena Panamá has already hosted two impactful Big Pink Youth Dialogues:

- One in the Indigenous community of Soloy
- Another in Panama City

Both events convened young leaders, health professionals, and advocates to exchange perspectives on mental health, gender equality, leadership, and HIV prevention. Dr. Miriam U. Rittmeyer—board member of the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health (RMCH) and CEO of Phalarope—joined as a featured speaker and met with the board of the newly formed Rotaract Club, underscoring the value of diverse leadership and International Collaboration.

The Rotaract Club of Georgetown University is now preparing to host the first Big Pink Youth Dialogue in the United States during the 2025–2026 Rotary year, continuing this vibrant youth-driven global exchange.

## Books for International Goodwill Book Sale

BIG had another successful book sale on September 19 and 20. While all our book sections do well, we had surprisingly large sales of myths/fairy tales/folklore, coffee table books, and LPs! BIG has regular customers we love to see and talk to at the sales and we are gaining new customers all the time – there were numerous first-timers at this sale. We continue to get positive responses from our customers. One of the book dealers that regularly shops at our sales remarked, “This is my favorite day.” Another customer posted about our upcoming sale, “We need our fix.” BIG appreciates the support from our customers at the book sales and for the many donations of books we receive.

We raised enough to pay for our shipment to Nigeria in the next few weeks and to start work on supporting an upcoming shipment to a new organization for us – the Rafiki Foundation, based in Florida, that distributes books across 10 countries in Africa. More to come on that in the near future. In the meantime, our last shipment to Pakistan is now scheduled to arrive in Karachi on October 13, 2025. BIG recently received a huge “thank you” from one of our recipients in Nigeria. This is a great example of what we are trying to achieve. [Read More](#)



## Rotary Presence Shines at the Ukrainian Festival



On September 13 - 15 in Silver Spring Rotarians from across the District 7620 came together in a powerful show of service and solidarity at the recent Ukrainian Festival, supporting the UAC and promoting Rotary's international partnerships. Volunteers from Rockville, Washington DC and Greenbelt Rotary Clubs brought energy, compassion, and community spirit to the event.

A deeply moving moment came with the display of a flag sent from the front lines. It's moments like these that remind us why we do what we do. The story was shared with the reporter, and to our surprise and pride, the flag was featured on ABC 7's evening news!

We also showcased the video ICC Ukraine – USA, featuring a beautiful song composed by Iryna Temanyuk, President of ICC Ukraine, in celebration of the fifth anniversary of ICC Ukraine – USA. It was a meaningful way to highlight the Rotary ICC's mission and presence at the Festival. Adding to the significance of the day, Ambassador of Ukraine Oksana Markarova visited the Festival on her final day in Washington. She was warmly thanked for her service and wished well in her future endeavors.

With gratitude, Yours in Rotary Service, Irina Tishchenko Lujan, Executive Director, Universal Aid for Children, Inc. Rockville Rotary Club Director, International Service Chair



## Anne Arundel Joint Rotary Happy Hour

Founders Tavern and Grille in Pasadena, Maryland was the location for our joint happy hour with D7620 Clubs in Anne Arundel County! The clubs of Glen Burnie, Lake Shore-Severna Park, BWI, Annapolis and Parole gathered sharing food, libations, friendship and project thoughts! It was a great evening with over 30 Rotarians in attendance starting at





5:30pm and continuing until 8PM. The photos are better than a thousand words at telling the story of this wonderful event. There will be more - we are talking about doing something like this once a month from now on an inviting even more clubs to participate!!! Rotarians having impact and having fun!!!!

## DC Rotary Club Peace Initiative Committee

Big thanks to the **DC Rotary Club Peace Initiative Committee** and **Rockville Rotary Club** for joining us in a special award presentation at the Spirit of Rockville statue. A beautiful symbol of knowledge and global connection. Grateful for the support—let's keep spreading peace here in the DMV and around the world!



## City Blossom Garden Day - Rotary and Rotaract Partnership

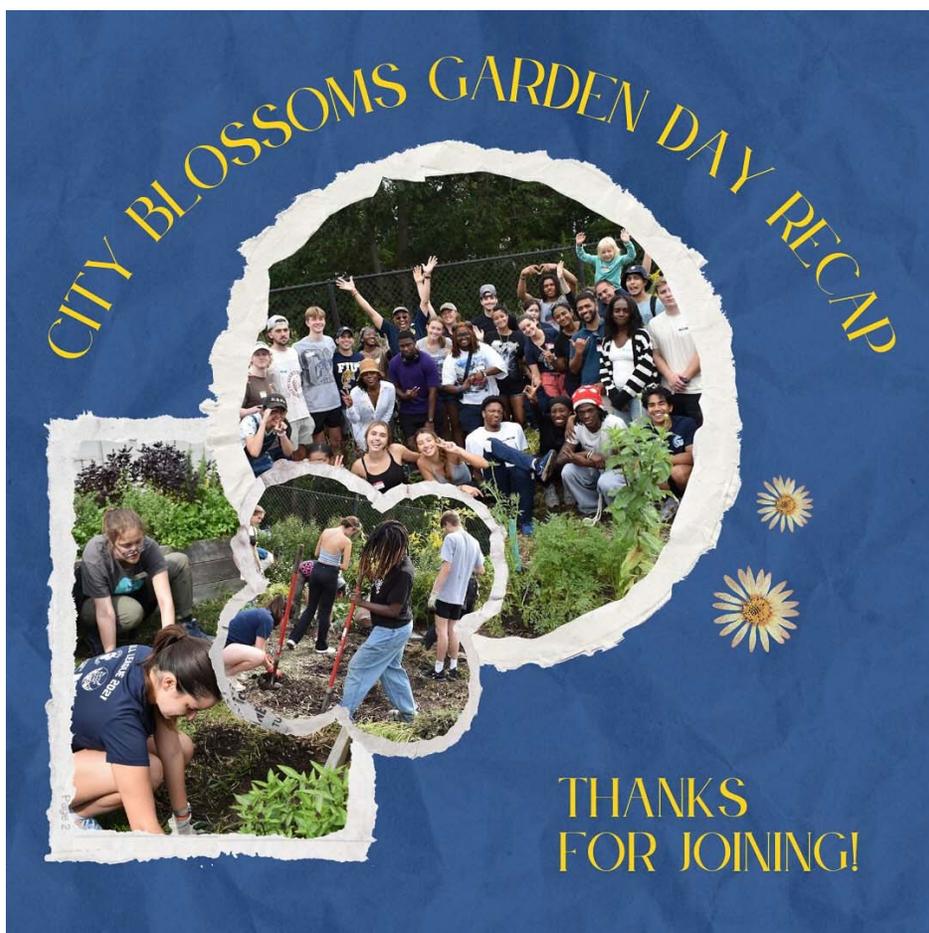


At the City Blossom Garden Day on September 25, 2025! Rotary and Rotaract Partnership Service the rent we

pay to the earth for letting us live. -- *Rotary Club of Capitol Hill*

On Saturday, September 20th, the eight Washington, D.C. Area 7 Rotary and Rotaract Clubs came together for a Service Above Self community garden service event with [City Blossoms](#). I couldn't be more proud of this area, which has truly embraced service, leadership, and fellowship with each other—regardless of Club size, type, or age demographics.

Thank you for Uniting for Good and making a meaningful impact in the D.C. community.



## Hoedspruit Village Grant Progress

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

### Grant Proposal 25-26 Rotary Year – HOEDSPRUIT VILLAGE PROJECT

Hoedspruit Village Grant Progress

The Lake Shore–Severna Park Rotary Club is excited to share the progress of our Hoedspruit Village Grant project. The first installment of \$5,000 was released to the Rotary Club of Hoedspruit on July 29th, followed by the second installment of \$5,000 on September 9th.

Construction began on August 5th, starting with the foundation for the new kitchen and the shaded area. Since then, steady progress has been made, and the following photos highlight the important steps taken toward completing this meaningful project.

### Update Report on the Vision Day Care Center Project

10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Funding:** The Hoedspruit Rotary Club received funds from The USA on 29<sup>th</sup> July. After exchange of funds to South African Rands we received R87 361.67 minus charges of R450 leaving us with R86 911.67.

A second payment was received on 9<sup>th</sup> September, for the amount of R86 015.37. A further financial update will follow.

**The Project:**

- Building at Vision began on 5<sup>th</sup> August with foundations for both the kitchen/store and the covered shade area.



- Since then, building has progressed and the shade and kitchen areas are moving up towards roof height.

[Read More](#)

## Parole Rotary Tells it's Story!

By Flora S Bartek



District 7620 LG Dave Vogel, a dedicated member of the Parole Rotary Club, led us through an engaging storytelling workshop at our Books For International Giving (B.I.G) warehouse. Dave used the 'Two Truths and a Lie' engagement technique and everyone shared their personal stories that showcased why our club is worth joining and why it's a story worth sharing. Storytelling is a top priority for our current president, Flora Bartek, who is committed to making sure the Parole Rotary Club is no longer Parole Annapolis' "best-kept secret." Our DG Mandy motivates us to use storytelling to boost our club's public image and build stronger connections

with the communities we serve. The workshop was not only educational but also a lot of fun!

D7620 Rotary Clubs, share your stories! Sharing stories is an effective way to express your enthusiasm for Rotary, demonstrate our impact on our communities and help draw in prospective members. It allows us to communicate meaningful experiences through a blend of spoken words, actions, and other various media. Impactful storytelling incorporates essential elements like a well-developed plot, relatable characters, and a consistent perspective, all of which help build an emotional bond with the listener. [Read More](#)

## DC Rotary Club Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

From September 15 – October 15, we proudly celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.!

This is a time to honor the diverse voices, culture, and contributions of the Hispanic community here in our nation's capital and around the world.

As Rotarians, we remain committed to unity, service, and inclusion—building bridges that uplift and strengthen communities everywhere.

Share in the celebration by reposting our graphic and joining us in honoring this important month. Together, we Unite for Good!

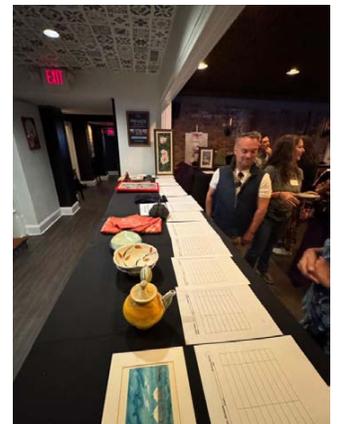


## Red Line Happy Hour

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Red Line Happy Hour hosted by the **Rotary Club of Washington Global** on Tuesday, September, 16th! A rainy night did not stop Rotarians from going.

The Silent Auction their club organized raised \$525 which will be used to fund DC youth to take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards as well as fund 75 Foldscope Microscopes to go to classrooms in low resource areas abroad. We appreciate the generous donation of silent auction gifts from their members.

Until the next one!





## Happy Hour at Founders Tavern & Grill

By Michael Naghdi on Thursday, September 25, 2025

What a fantastic evening it was as members of five Rotary clubs—Glen Burnie, BWI, Parole, Lake Shore-Severna Park, and Annapolis—came together for a joint happy hour at Founders Tavern & Grill in Pasadena, Maryland! The night was filled with fellowship, laughter, and the joy of connecting across clubs while celebrating the close of the month. With great food, refreshing drinks, and lively conversations, Rotarians enjoyed the opportunity to strengthen friendships and build new ones, all while sharing in the spirit of Rotary camaraderie and service.





[Read More](#)

## DC Rotary Club Flag Exchange in Stralsund: Bridging Cultures Through Rotary

During my personally designed group journey — *Bridging Cultures: Imperial Capitals, Saxon Serenades, and Baltic Shores*— I had the privilege of escorting 25 clients across Central and Northern Europe: from Budapest to Bratislava, Vienna, Linz, Dresden, Stralsund, and Berlin. Along the way, I was reminded that travel is not just about places, but about people — and few connections are as meaningful as those made through Rotary. In Stralsund, a jewel on Germany's Baltic coast, we were warmly welcomed by the Rotary Club of Stralsund. Stralsund itself is remarkable — founded in 1234 and once part of the Hanseatic League, it flourished as a maritime hub, its brick Gothic churches and merchant houses reflecting centuries of trade and culture. More recently, Stralsund's story includes its time under East German rule, where resilience shaped its people until reunification in 1990 restored its place in a united Germany.



With the help of local Rotarians, we explored Stralsund's historic streets, churches, and waterfront. We also visited nearby Peenemünde, where wartime history and technological innovation converge — a place that carries sobering lessons of the past alongside stories of human ingenuity. This is where Wernher von Braun and his team in Nazi Germany developed the devastating V2 rocket, which was also the first rocket to hit space.

Our day concluded in true Rotary spirit: sharing a meal together on Stralsund's beautiful harbor, exchanging stories of our cultures, histories, and dreams for peace. On behalf of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. and our president Donnie, I had the honor of exchanging flags with President Ivonne Honekamp of Stralsund Rotary Club.

It was a remarkable evening of international understanding,



friendship, and fellowship — a reminder that Rotary connects us across borders and generations, building bridges where once there were divides.

--Cynthia Schultz, President

## Leaders Building Leadership in RLI



Rotarians want to be involved. We can help people do that successfully...Like planning anything, if you go into it without the skills, you are in trouble. But we can give them those skill sets through leadership training...and that is what RLI does.

Jack Cohen has been honing his leadership skills for over 26 years in Rotary and for as long– or longer –in his work and in the broader community. A founding member of Rotary Club of Cranberry Township Sunrise in Butler County, PA, he served as president and held other offices over the last 20+ years, including as District Governor in 2022/23. At work, Jack has been executive director and then president of Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau (BCTCB). His civic leadership extends to serving on a variety of local Boards, and he was recruited to be a member of the transition team for the current Governor of PA.



Jack's District 7280 recently joined Mid-Atlantic RLI. After driving to the RLI Summer Sessions in North Carolina for a weekend of trainings in July, he is now certified to train others in the leadership skills that he has spent the last decades refining.

When I went to the North Carolina RLI training, it was really about leadership and Rotary being a part of it. I thought that was exactly how we should teach it. You talk about leadership and then add to that the things we do in Rotary, and it really makes a difference.

[Read More](#)

## New Member Induction & Paul Harris Award at Lake Shore-Severna Park Rotary

By Michael Naghdi on Thursday, September 25, 2025

At our Lake Shore - Severna Park Rotary meeting on Wednesday, September 24th, we were pleased to welcome guest speaker Sharon Smith from Partners In Care. Sharon gave an engaging and informative presentation about the organization's mission to support older adults in our community through services that promote independence, connection, and dignity. Her passion and dedication resonated with our members, reminding us of the importance of partnerships that strengthen our community. We are grateful to Sharon for joining us and sharing the impactful work Partners In Care continues to provide.

We were proud to induct our newest member, Debi Southward—welcome to the club, Debi! We also had the honor of presenting the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship to Dan Nelson in recognition of his dedication and

commitment to Rotary's ideals. Congratulations to both Deborah and Dan on these special milestones!



[Read More](#)

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## THANK YOU!

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## Promote Rotary's role in polio eradication

World Polio Day, on 24 October, gives your club or district a prime opportunity to promote Rotary's unwavering commitment to ending polio. Find social media graphics, videos, public relations templates, and more in the Brand Center to help your club raise awareness and donations for PolioPlus. New items this year include a template for a World Polio Day proclamation and End Polio Now social media graphic and [event flyer templates](#) that you can use to promote your World Polio Day event. More resources will be added to the Brand Center throughout September and October, so visit often.

**WORLD  
POLIO DAY**  
24 OCTOBER

Rotary  PolioPlus 

## Tell people about your club and Rotary

Rotary 

Rotary is a worldwide network of more than 1.2 million people of action who tackle the most persistent problems in our communities while building professional and leadership skills through meaningful connections.

The Brand Center offers many club and member resources to support your membership development efforts:

- Use the [brochure template](#) to show off your club's personality.
- Download and share a [prospective member flyer or What's Rotary? wallet cards](#).
- Promote your events for prospective members using the [event flyer and social media templates](#).

Visit the Brand Center today to explore these materials and more!

## Time to revisit your club logo?

Want to refresh your club logo? Or are you wondering if you're using it correctly? It's easy to make updates and create new logos with our Brand Center templates. Review guidelines and do's and don'ts on the **Logos and Graphics** page. You'll also find a link to a Learning Center course, Our Logo: Representing Rotary, where you can learn why it's important to use Rotary's logos correctly and consistently in all your communications.

[FIND YOUR LOGO GUIDELINES](#)



## Start using the new Learning Center mobile app



Rotary's Learning Center has a new mobile app that makes completing your public image courses (and others!) even easier. **RotaryLearn** replaces the GoLearn app and gives you a more direct and intuitive way to use the Learning Center. In addition to taking courses on your mobile device, you can review your progress and explore other Learning Center resources wherever you are. Search for **Rotary Learning Center** in your app store, download and open it, sign in to My Rotary, and explore!

## Rotary is About Making a Difference



**Rotary  
isn't about  
making a  
donation,  
it's about  
making a  
difference!**

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@rotarianevanburrell

#### **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  
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION  
TO **CREATE** LASTING  
**CHANGE** ACROSS THE GLOBE  
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES