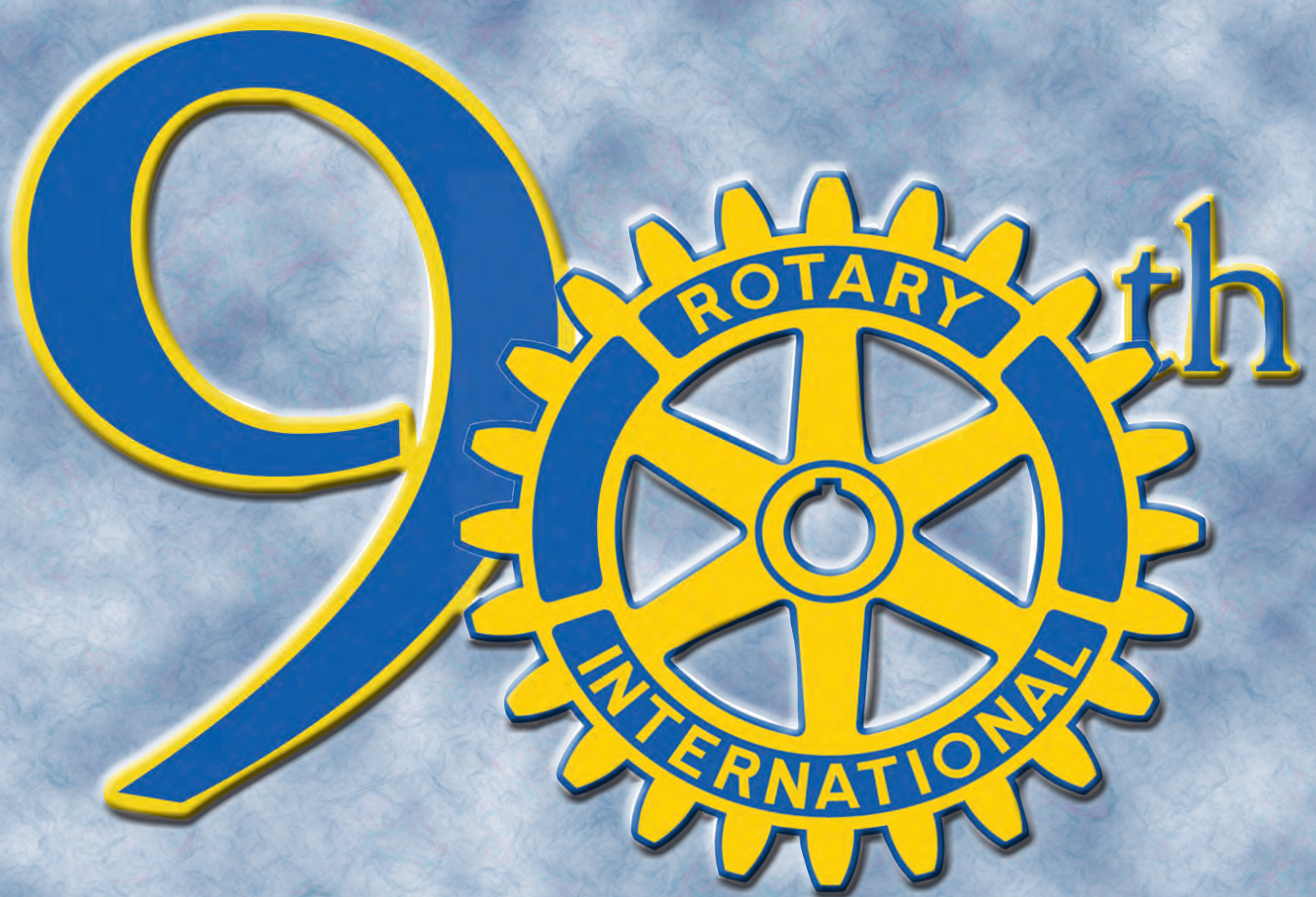


Rotary Club of Palatka



Anniversary

A Better Community...

A Better World...

Thanks To Rotary

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
PALATKA DAILY NEWS

"Thanks to the Rotary Club for 90 years of dedicated service to our community"

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M.D.,
Pediatrics



Parminder Singh,
M.D.,
Family Practice



Nancy Boyd,
A.R.N.P.,
Family Practice



Claudia Iantomo,
L.C.S.W.,
Mental Health



Bobby Lafferty,
D.O.,
Family Practice



Carol Bennett,
A.R.N.P.,
Family Practice



Brian Sprenger,
A.R.N.P.,
Family Practice

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Mental Health



David Jarosz,
A.R.N.P.,
Family Practice



Betty Krause,
A.R.N.P.,
Family Practice



Mike Vemacchio,
D.O.,
Family Practice



Ted Soldatos,
M.D.,
Internal Medicine

Hawthorne
Family Medical Center
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(352) 481-2700

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Brian Brooks,
P.A.-C,
Family Practice



David Graper,
D.O.,
Family Practice

Interlachen
Family Medical Center
1213 Highway 20 West

(386) 684-4914

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Kimberly Hess,
A.R.N.P.,
Family Practice



Lisa Burnett,
L.C.S.W.,
Mental Health



Ramesh Kumar,
M.D.,
Internal Medicine
& Pediatrics



Myriama Vasley,
M.D.,
Family Practice



Kristina Nadasy,
M.D.,
Internal Medicine





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Member Bill Huntley is honored for Rotary Foundation contributions.

“Four Way Test”

- 1 - Is it The Truth?
- 2 - Is It Fair to All Concerned?
- 3 - Will It Build Good Will and Better Friendships?
- 4- Will It Be Beneficial to All Concerned?

Dear Putnam County Residents:

When I was inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Palatka, I recall hearing that “only busy people are eligible to become members.”

As a doctor, I knew that was true for me.

Each Tuesday when I break away from my patients to attend our club’s noon meeting, I know that I will enjoy about an hour of peaceful fellowship. It will regenerate me for another busy week.

Even as I approached my year as the club’s president, I wondered how I would fit together all the pieces of my life to be of service to my fellow members and to this community.

I have made it work somehow. Actually it has been surprisingly easy because it is easy to believe in the power of Rotary. Things I could never accomplish as an individual have been accomplished in the company of others who truly believe in the power of the Rotary motto: “Service Above Self. They profit most who serve the best.”

It was a natural thing for me to be interested in the Rotary Club of Palatka. The major fund-raising effort of the club is a health-care project that would be a tremendous community service if it did not raise a penny.

More than 2,000 local people each year get a discounted blood screening through Rotary’s main project. I know of numerous people who say the program has saved their lives. I also know about the wonderful community improvements, such as Project P.L.A.Y. and the renovation of the civic center at Ravine Gardens State Park, that would not have been possible without the money raised through the blood screening project.

These and other improvements also would not have been possible without the volunteer spirit that blooms among local Rotarians.

For 90 years, this spirit has been alive and well in the Rotary Club of Palatka. It is my honor to serve as president in the club’s 90th year. It is my hope that our club will be a guiding light and helping hand for this community for another 90 years.

Thousands more will learn more and live longer because of blood screening and the annual health fair. Students will get help with college through scholarships. Worthy community efforts will be started by Rotarians or completed because of the generosity of Rotarians.

In our community and across the globe, Rotarians are promoting peace and goodwill. On the international level, Rotary also has a health-care mission. Rotary’s Polio-Plus campaign is very close to eradicating this crippling and deadly disease from the face of the earth.

Indeed, we enjoy “A better community. A better world. Thanks to Rotary.”

Sincerely,

Dr. Anand Kuruvilla
President
Rotary Club of Palatka





CURRENT MEMBERS

Iffikhar Ahmad

Member since June 1, 1994

Brenda Atkins

Member since June 17, 2008

Cynthia Barlow

Member since Feb. 10, 2009

Martin Barnes

Member since Feb. 5, 2006

Benjie Bates

Member since July 3, 2007

Bill Baxter

Member since Jan. 1, 1974

Woody Boynton

Member since Feb. 19, 2006

James Cammareri

Member since Nov. 14, 2006

Rusty Castleberry

Member since Oct. 1, 1994

Dennis Childers

Member since March 3, 2009

Bonnie Connor

Honorary member since Sept. 1, 2009

Joseph Connor

Honorary member since Sept. 1, 2009

Kevin Curry

Member since April 1, 2008

Barbara Engelkes

Member since March 31, 2009

Robert Fields

Member since April 29, 2008

Marsha Flowers

Member since Jan. 24, 2006

Patricia Freeman

Member since April 1, 2000

Gary Frost

Member since Aug. 4, 2009

Howard Gardner Jr.

Member since Jan. 1, 1946

Albino Gaw

Member since July 8, 2008

Role of Rotary International

End Polio Now; Do Good in the World

Started in Chicago in 1905 by attorney Paul P. Harris to foster business relationships, Rotary has grown into an international service organization that is about to stamp out one of the world's most crippling diseases – polio.

Harris joined with a handful of other Chicago businessmen and rotated meetings at the offices of club members. That rotation led to the name Rotary and the idea grew quickly. In 10 years, there were clubs coast to coast. In a few more years, clubs had been established on six continents, including the Rotary Club of Palatka in 1920.

The business acquaintances led to the idea of service, including Rotary's first project to build public restrooms in Chicago. To mark the 100th year of Rotary in 2005, the Rotary Club of Palatka built a restroom at the Project P.L.A.Y. playground.


As Rotary became Rotary International, a major mission of the organization became its effort "to do good" in the world. Rotary established ambassadorial scholarships to fund foreign study by bright young people. It established youth exchanges and group study exchanges to foster peace and understanding. Most recently, Rotary started scholarships specifically targeted for the study of peace and conflict resolution.

Rotary clubs across the globe often have service projects that target needs within their communities as well as international projects to help people in hard-pressed areas of the world. The Rotary Club of Palatka has a medical care project ongoing in Haiti.

The main mission of the world's

1.2 million Rotarians today through Rotary International is an effort called End Polio Now. Rotary started the eradication effort in 1986. Currently Rotarians are trying to collect \$200 million to match a grant from the Bill Gates Foundation. Rotarians have worked with the United Nations and national leaders around the globe to stage millions and millions of child immunizations. At present, new polio cases are only being reported in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Nigeria. In Afghanistan, days of tranquility are declared so immunization volunteers can hold immunization days without threat of violence. In India, thousands of Rotarians from around the globe are active in immunization days.

"The experience of an immunization day is something that touches deeply in your heart," said Cynde Covington, incoming district governor of Rotary in northeast Florida.

U.N. officials have said that Rotary's volunteers and contributions have taken polio eradication efforts farther and faster than would have been possible through such organizations as the World Health Organization. In addition to immunization days, Rotary has supported improved water and sanitary conditions to combat the disease through service projects around the globe. Success is getting much closer. So far in 2010, fewer than 100 new cases of polio have been reported. 



Marsha Davis Flowers checks a Haitian child's blood pressure during a clinic in 2008.

History of Rotary Club of Palatka

A Tradition of Community Service

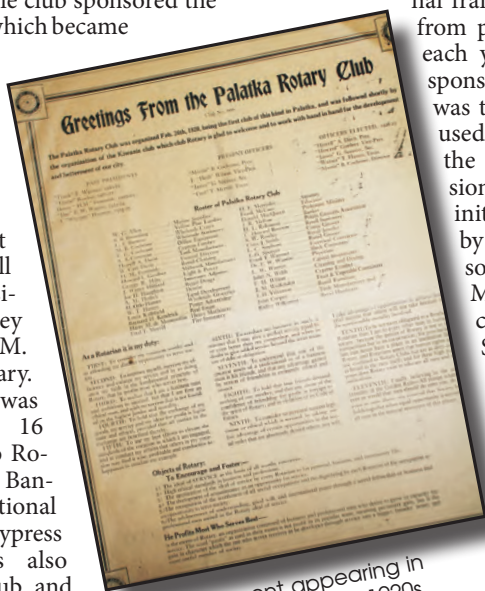
Born in the trying and turbulent era of the "Roaring Twenties", Palatka Rotarians would witness the final throes of an era of another day in which their community had reached a degree of grandeur and fame. Because of its easy access by the St. Johns River, Palatka was Florida to many people. Riverboat travel was one of the principal means of transportation.

In 1920 the Gainesville club sponsored the Rotary Club of Palatka which became club number 666 of Rotary International.

When the Rotary Club of Palatka began on May 6, 1920, the roster contained 16 members. Frank E. Waymer was the first president and Howell A. Davis was vice president. Thomas E. Mobley was treasurer, Henry M. Fearnside was secretary, and George R. Hilty was sergeant-at-arms. The 16 men were initiated into Rotary at a Charter Night Banquet held in the Recreational Building of Wilson Cypress Company which was also known as the Elks Club and the Athletic Club located on River Street. Earlier in the "royally prepared program of activities," the new Rotarians and their sponsoring club had witnessed the Palatka vs. St. Augustine base-

ball game, later motoring to the potato fields at Hastings.

The charter was presented to the club by W. M. Pepper of Gainesville substituting for Dr. Albert A. Murphree, President of the University of Florida, Gainesville, special representative of Rotary International. Dr. Murphree had been detained by bad roads between Macon and Waycross. The original framed charter is passed from president to president each year. A gift from the sponsoring Gainesville club was the Rotary bell that is used to this day to signal the start and the conclusion of each meeting. The initiation was conducted by members of the sponsoring Gainesville club. Members from Rotary clubs in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Ocala, Tampa, Orlando, and Palm Beach attended the charter night activities which included a banquet. Entertainment followed the more serious business of the occasion and selections were offered members and guests by the University of Florida Jazz Orchestra and the



Advertisement appearing in Palatka Daily News in 1920s



CURRENT MEMBERS

Gary Getchell
Member since Oct. 1, 2001

John Ginn III
Member since Jan. 1, 1993

David Harrell
Member since Jan 1, 1973

Patrick Harris
Member since Jan. 1, 2003

Ed Hedstrom
Member since Feb.3, 2009

Susan Helwig
Member since Oct. 10, 2006

Derek Hembree
Member since April 24, 2007

Brent Henning
Member since April 6, 2010

Michelle Hinderaker
Member since Feb. 19, 2008

Henry Hirschman
Member since Jan. 1, 1983

Don Holmes
Member since Feb. 5, 2008

Continued on page 6



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RN, BS, NHA, Administrator

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CURRENT MEMBERS

Bill Huntley

Member since Jan. 1, 1955

Don Jones

Member since Jan. 1, 1954

Normand Jutras

Member since June 6, 2006

Kenneth Kepler

Member since Oct. 23, 2007

Ramesh Kumar

Member since April 23, 2008

Anand Kuruvilla

Member since Jan. 1, 1991

Terry LaRue

Member since Jan. 1, 2004

Rick Leary

Member since Oct 1, 2001

Nadine Long

Member since Sept. 27, 2005

Skip Lorenzen

Member since Jan. 1, 2002

Joe Maltby

Member since Jan 1, 1964

Daniel Martinez

Member since Sept. 1, 1978

Quincy Masters

Member since Jan. 1, 1973

Taylor Matthews

Member since Jan. 1, 1985

Wayne McClain

Member since Jan. 1, 2005

Daniel McLean

Member since May 19, 2009

John C. Mikell

Member since Nov. 1, 1994

John L. Mikell

Member since Jan. 1, 1980

Dawn Miles

Member since Jan. 1, 2003

Melissa Miller

Member since Jan. 1, 2003

Continued from
page 5

University Quartet.

In a report of activities for the year 1920, the club financed a camping trip for Boy Scouts, held a boys luncheon to which the club invited the graduating class of the high school, and held a boys day at the country club. Other club projects included a Christmas tree

with gifts for every child in the city. Money was also raised to secure the purchase of nine blocks of park property. Early accounts of the club's activities said: "Our club goes on record for or against anything that is proposed for the community, but takes no hand whatever in politics."

During the 1920's several Palatka Rotarians were elected mayor of Palatka: H. M. Fearnside in 1921, Howell Davis in 1924, and Frank Waymer in 1926.

By the time the Rotary Club of Palatka celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 1940, it had faced challenges, even the challenge of survival. But survive it did. It had grown also despite the ravages of the thirties. Club membership had dropped from around 60 in 1925 to about 28 in 1940.

In 1945 the Rotary Club of Palatka celebrated its 25th Anniversary in the Coca Cola Auditorium. Membership at that time stood at 37. The scope of Rotary's community endeavors had broadened and the operating budget at that time was slightly less than \$1500.

By 1958 the operating budget for the Rotary club had climbed to \$3,400. Youth activities, underprivileged children's work and other local endeavors had increased considerably.

In 1966 the Rotary Club of Palatka sponsored the Interact Club at Palatka Senior High School. In 1968 Rotaract was chartered at St. Johns River Junior College. The Rotary club has sponsored Little League baseball teams and soccer teams. For many years the club sponsored an all-night party for graduating seniors at Palatka's high school.

In 1995, the club sponsored a Health Fair at the Palatka Mall with 25 health care providers and an attendance of 300-400. By 2008 the Fair had expanded to 45 health exhibitors visited by some 2000 participants. In 1996, the Blood Screening Project replaced the Red Carpet Ball as the club's primary fundraiser. The project is made possible by thousands of hours of volunteer work by club members



Rotarians enjoy a night out during the annual Red Carpet Ball.

and by the generosity of the club's medical partners, Putnam Community Medical Center and LabCorp. The \$40,000 - \$50,000 raised annually supports the club's service projects. Each year testimonials are received from attendees telling how the Health Fair and/or the Blood Screening Project has changed their habits, lifestyle, or even saved their life.

Also in 1995, to annually recognize appropriately those individuals who achieve excellence, practice high ethical standards and make significant contributions to the community, the club established the S.T.E.P. Awards and the "Service Above Self" Award. The acronym S.T.E.P. stands for Student, Teacher, Employer, and Practitioner (employee). The "Service Above Self" Award is given to an individual within the community who exemplifies the Rotary motto by freely giving time and talents to make the highest possible contributions to humankind through making the lives of others better.

One benefit to Rotary membership is that the club is a part of Rotary International allowing participation on a world-wide scale. One of the most phenomenal efforts since 1985 has been Rotary's commitment to eradicate polio. Rotarians have stunned the international health community by raising over \$600 million to support immunization projects.

The Rotary Club of Palatka sponsored the Rotary Club of Crescent City in 1927 and the Rotary Club of Palatka Sunrise in 1989. In 1997, the club reached out in an international venture to play a significant role in the establishment of a Rotary club in Palatka's sister city of Palatka, Russia. The club has contributed more than \$257,000 to The Rotary Foundation. It is a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club. Of special significance is the fact that it was the first in the district to achieve that status. The club has sponsored four Ambassadorial Scholarships paid wholly by The Rotary Foundation. The recipients, who pur-

Continued on page 8

Thank you Rotary Club of Palatka for your commitment and service to Putnam County!



The St. Johns River Community College Foundation plays an essential role in the growth of the College and its service to the community. The mission of the Foundation is to support the growth and development of SJRCC in whatever ways are beneficial to its students, faculty, staff and campus facilities. The Foundation fulfills this mission by actively encouraging private gifts from individuals, alumni, businesses, associations and service organizations.

Founded in 1970, the Foundation continues to build relationships within our community—connecting a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others through learning and cultural enrichment with giving opportunities at SJRCC. The Foundation sincerely appreciates the support of its donors, like the Rotary Club of Palatka, who not only impact today's students, but also help ensure that SJRCC will be here for generations to come.

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Florida School of the Arts





CURRENT MEMBERS

John Nelson

Member since May 20, 2008

Bill Odom

Member since Jan. 1, 1957

Charles Overturf

Member since Jan. 1, 1983

Richard Perallon

Member since Aug. 1, 1994

Joe Pickens

Member since Aug. 1, 1999

Tom Pierce

Member since July 1, 1999

Otha Powell

Member since Jan. 1, 1960

Shann Purinton

Member since Nov. 1, 1990

Michael Register

Member since Jan. 22, 2006

Mary Rich

Member since May 27, 2008

Quin Romay

Member since June 19, 2007

Kerry Rowell

Member since Feb. 19, 2008

Continued from page 6

sued graduate studies for a year abroad in the country of their choosing with all expenses paid, were Lonnie Keene, Jimmy Touchton, and Lory Howell from Palatka, Florida, and Oksana Samara from Palatka, Russia. The 2008 value of the scholarship was reported to be \$26,000. Over the years since 1977 Palatka has hosted over a hundred participants as a part of Rotary International's Group Study Exchange from countries such as Brazil, Argentina, India, Australia, Spain, Denmark, and the Philippines. The first female member was accepted into Rotary in California in 1987.

The first woman joined the Rotary Club of Palatka in November 1990.

In 2008, the roster of the Rotary Club of Palatka showed 82 members and a budget of \$179,000. When world-wide growth required a new numbering system for clubs, the Rotary Club of Palatka was assigned number 4381.


The Palatka club has consistently maintained high standards for its members and has produced four district governors: Jim Spencer 1951-1952, Frank Hancock 1961-1962, Bob Webb 1976-1977, and Shann Purinton, the first woman district governor in District 6970 for 2005-2006.

Rotarian "Doc" Harper was elected Mayor of Palatka in the 50's. Frank Hancock served two terms as Mayor of Palatka from 1962 to 1966.

Over the years the club has had many interesting and worthwhile projects including support of the Girl Scout Hut, building of the Rotary-Griffin Amphitheater on the riverfront, the Rotary Park ball field, providing \$10,000 seed money for the new library, contributing funds to pay for the entrance to

the City Dock, holding the Red Carpet Ball for 30 years raising funds to support local projects, supporting Meals on Wheels and the Science Fair, providing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families, assisting underprivileged children, purchasing a piano for Lakeshore Nursing Home, contributing to the construction of Edgar Johnson Senior Center, spearheaded the drive to construct Project P.L.A.Y playground at Johnny Theobald Park, contributed to construction of restrooms at the park, renovated the children's waiting room at Putnam Behavioral Health Care, provided dictionaries for every third grader in Putnam County, provided lighting for a Babe Ruth Field, furnished a room at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center, contributed funds to construct an obstacle training course at Camp Shands Boy Scout camp, and spearheaded the effort to obtain funds (\$1.8 million) to enlarge, renovate, and redecorate the Roy Campbell Civic Center.

Since that day in 1920, Palatka, Rotary International, and the Rotary Club of Palatka have been interconnected in many ways. Although the club has accomplished many goals, there is no time to rest. To founder Paul Harris, Rotary was meant to be always on the move, ever changing, ever seeking new opportunities to serve through addressing new needs. "We live in a changing world," he once said, "and Rotary must be prepared to change with it."

"Rotary stands; though the tempest rages about -Rotary still stands," said Harris. "Why and how? Because it is grounded not on fear, rivalry, suspicion, but on the eternal and indestructible rocks of friendliness, tolerance, and usefulness." As long as Palatka Rotarians continue to live by the mottos of "Service Above Self" and "They Profit Most Who Serve Best," there will be Rotary in Palatka. 



PALATKA DAILY NEWS

For 90 years, it has been the honor of the Daily News to chronicle the many accomplishments of the Rotary Club of Palatka. As another institution dedicated to the betterment of our community, it has been humbling for the Daily News to see and report the meaningful work of Rotary. Our community is better and our world is better because of Rotarians. We salute the founding of Rotary in Palatka in 1920 and those who provide "Service Above Self" here and across the globe today.

SALUTE!

90 Years of Rotary in Palatka

Palatka Rotary Turns 90

Strong Members Keep Club Strong



With 90 years under its belt as a “service above self” organization in Putnam County, the Rotary Club of Palatka is still making an impact on the community it serves with its 83-strong membership.



Don Jones

Just ask Don Jones of Palatka, a member who will also celebrate his 90th birthday this year.

“Oh yes, it’s still strong,” he said.

Jones smiles when he thinks about what it means for

him to turn 90.

“It just means I’m still here, he said, laughing. “And still going.”

And still going he is with 55 years of perfect attendance, the most of any active member of the Rotary Club of Palatka.

“I enjoy meeting the people and doing the things with them that we’ve done over the years,” he said. “I haven’t done as much as I used to, but I still try to help out.”

According to the Web site www.palatkarotary.org, the object of the club is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to

encourage and foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Additional objectives are to have high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society. The club also strives for application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business and community life, as well as the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace.

According to Bob Webb, who has been a Rotary Club of Palatka member since 1953, the local club meets and exceeds its objective in every way.

“Over the years, I’ve seen many acquaintances develop into lifelong friendships,” he said. “The club’s diversity is what makes it so strong. We seek members from every category of business, professions and industry. When you put together all of these leaders you’ve developed an organization that can exert tremendous clout in the community for good. It’s a system that works extremely well.”

Jones said some of his favorite things about working with Rotary are doing projects that helped or rewarded local students.

Bill Huntley has been a longtime member, too, with 55 years and has seen the good that Rotary does within the community.


“I think it would be hard to understate what Palatka Rotary has done for our community,” he said. “The club’s done a great deal in the health care area, which has been the number one project of the club for a number of years.”

According to Huntley, it’s meant a great deal to him to be a part of such a long-standing club that’s continuing to make its mark in Putnam County and beyond.

“The members are always so interested in helping their fellow man and reaching out to other people,” he said. “That’s what it’s all about. I’m very proud to be a part of that.”

According to Jones, the Rotary Club of Palatka is one of the oldest clubs and one of the most generous clubs in the country.

“It’s as strong as its members and the members are good,” he said.

Webb agrees. “We serve as a catalyst to get other people involved in fulfilling needs within the community and we unite them to come together for their community,” he said. “And it’s working.” 



Bill Huntley

RETIRING?

Perhaps we should talk

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CURRENT MEMBERS

K.K. Singh

Member since June 1, 1996

Clint Snyder

Member since June 27, 2006

John Sproull

Member since Jan. 1, 1974

Ted Stackpole

Member since July 7, 2009

Rusty Starr

Member since March 1, 1997

John Stephenson

Member since Jan. 1, 1979

Jim Surrency

Member since May 26, 2009

Ellen Talos

Member since Nov. 17, 2009

Robert Taylor

Member since Oct. 31, 2006

Austin Tilton

Member since Jan. 1, 1978

Ben Tippett

Member since June 17, 2008

Tim Turner

Member since Jan. 13, 2009

Greg Walker

Member since Nov. 7, 2005

Doug Webb

Member since Jan. 1, 1987

Mary Ellen Webb

Member since Feb. 3, 2009

Robert Webb

Member since Sept. 1, 1953

Richard Westbury

Member since Oct. 1, 1962

Bert Whitaker

Member since July 14, 2009

Peggy White

Member since Feb. 1, 1993

John Youell

Member since Jan. 6, 2009

Rotary Health Fair

Learn More. Live Longer

Educate, inform and provide opportunities and services to Putnam County residents by centralizing medical professionals is the purpose behind the Rotary Club of Palatka's annual Rotary Health Fair and it's something that is reaping big rewards.

According to Quincy Masters, the idea for the health fair was born out of a burden he had to restart the health fair and to help the county become more health conscious.

As the chairperson for Rotary's Senior Citizens Committee, Masters knew the annual health fair at the Palatka Mall was discontinued and he saw a need. "My goal was and still is to see the health and quality of life improve for the people of Putnam County," he said. Masters said Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad and Putnam Community Medical Center, who have been major exhibitors every year since the health fair started, were instrumental in getting the Rotary sponsored event going. He also credits Rotary members with the health fair's ongoing success. "We could not have put on the health fair these past years without the dedicated help of many members of the Rotary Club of Palatka," he said.

Nadine Long, Rotary member, works with Omni Healthcare and has been instrumental in helping take the health fair to a new level with the daily contacts she has with the medical community. Her job allows her opportunities to educate the public about the importance of the health fair, the impact the provider might have on the individual and the benefit it could have on his or her business. "I am also very passionate about the health of our Putnam County residents," she said. "We have such tremendous needs here." According to a news release from the Rotary Club of Palatka, the intent of the health fair is to provide information to those who participate, which enables them to make better choices in their health care. The health fair addresses not only the needs of local senior citizens, but also all ages to some extent. "We always hand out literature of all types and in many categories," Long said. "From dealing with the grieving process to eating healthy and relaxation techniques, the list goes on." Long said the Palatka Mall is the ideal spot for the health fair although it moved from the mall to St. Johns River Community College Palatka campus for



Rotary Health Fair is held each year at the Palatka Mall.

a few years and then returned in 2001. "It is in a central area surrounded by other local businesses in a covered building so weather does not affect the participation and provides a sort of one stop shopping experience," she said. "It also has a positive impact on the sales at the mall." Since the health fair started, the Rotary Club's health fair committee's goal has been to expand efforts and increase the number of health exhibitors who participate.

In 2008, more than 45 exhibitors took part in the three-day event that saw about 2,000 people. Long said the numbers were even better this year.

"We had 53 exhibitors," she said. "Actual numbers are hard to determine, but we all agree the numbers were up. In fact, we see the numbers growing each year."

Exhibitors included PCMC, radiology groups, chiropractic clinics, physical therapy groups, home health care agencies, hospice, durable medical equipment stores, specialty equipment store such as for diabetic supplies, community support groups, pharmacies and more. According to Long, people enjoy seeing the vendors and interacting with them at the health fair.

"They can experience hands on exams and demonstrations and receive free items to assist them in particular areas," she said.

"It is also a great reminder for the blood screening."

Long said having blood screenings available at the health fair this year for those who had fasted was a plus and just another way Rotary is trying to make the low cost testing more available to local residents. One hundred and thirty four blood draws were taken at this year's health fair with 200 total bookings filled out.


Long said many seniors have difficulty get-

ting to places for various reasons and that's why the Palatka Mall location works so well. "This way they could accomplish several things in one trip," she said. "I think it will become more popular and efficient for the seniors in years to come."

According to Long, for the past two years Rotary has enlisted the help of Palatka High School Interact Club members with the set up and take down. Interactors also sell drinks, lunch and snacks to health fair-goers as part of a fundraising effort for their group. "This allows them to fulfill the criteria the school requires for scholarships and graduation

plus helps the Rotary Club tremendously," she said. "Our satisfaction surveys from the vendors are very complimentary and they many times state this is the very best health fair around."

Each year, testimonials are heard from those who attend the health fair and from those who have blood screenings about how it has changed their lives and in some cases saved a life because of the screenings that are offered that include everything from prostate exams, glucose testing and bone density screens to hearing, vision and spine checks, to name a few. Masters said the Rotary Club of Palatka

continues to sponsor the annual health fair because it serves a need in Putnam County. "It has grown quite a bit over the years and the blood screening project has tied in nicely with it," he said. "Our hope is that over the years, Rotary has helped the people of Putnam County to be more health conscious." 

Rotary Blood Screening

Turning 50 turned out to be more than a milestone in age for Chip Laibl, a Putnam County commissioner and Palatka business owner.

Turns out it also gave him a new lease on life after being diagnosed and overcoming prostate cancer thanks to the Rotary Club of Palatka's annual blood screenings.

Laibl was diagnosed with the disease in 2006 after his blood screening results showed he had a higher than average PSA count. It was enough to prompt him to see his physician where he would eventually be diagnosed with a malignant tumor in his prostate and have to undergo treatment.

That treatment is something Laibl says saved his life and today he is cancer free thanks to the Rotary Club of Palatka's blood screenings.

"I felt like the weight of the world had been lifted from my shoulders," he said. "My quality of life did not change because of early detection. I owe a big thanks for the Rotary blood screening."

The Rotary Club of Palatka began its blood screening project in 1996 as a result of an extensive review of its fundraising and community service projects by a special task force

chaired by Rotary member Shann Purinton. The club adapted the project from the Rotary Club of Leesburg as a result of Web research by Peggy White and a trip to Leesburg led by Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad.

During the research, Rotary members found that blood screening is a very rewarding project because it contributes to better health for so many people in the community.

"Blood screening is a wonderful community service project and a major fundraiser for our club," said White, a past president of the Rotary Club of Palatka. "The project is made possible each year by thousands of hours of volunteer work by our club members and by the generosity of our medical partners, Putnam Community Medical Center and Lab-Corp."

Rotary Club of Palatka is also proud of the fact that the project has grown from 800 participants in its first year to about 2,000 participants each year.

"Historically, this project has resulted in an annual net income of approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 for our club," White said. "The funds raised are used to support our service projects; none of the money is used for club operating expenses."

Each year, the blood screening committee is responsible for coordinating the annual event with labs, local physicians and past participants, including large companies and organizations in the community. Planning begins in early October and screening begins in January.

Dex Blankenship, 66, of Hollister is thankful for all the work and planning that Rotary does to make the blood screenings affordable locally.

He and his wife, Karen, have

been participating in the screenings since they moved to Putnam County in 1997.

"I think it's fantastic because you can go there for whatever the cost and get your total blood screened," he said. "If people went to a doctor and hospital and had this done it would cost a lot more than it does through the Rotary Club's event."


According to Mary Rich, committee chairwoman for this year's 14th annual event, Blankenship is right.

"The \$35 charge for the Rotary blood screening would cost approximately \$450 if the same blood tests were obtained at a hospital or private lab," she said. "The blood screening is very thorough."

Individuals can also request a VAP (Vertical Auto Profile) cholesterol test for \$60, which provides a comprehensive coronary artery disease risk assessment. Individuals with diabetes are also able to receive a Glycohemoglobin A1C test for \$20, which measures how well the individual's diabetes has been controlled over the preceding 100 days. For men, a PSA blood screening for prostate was available for an additional \$20.

It was the latter test that Blankenship said saved his life.

"By ... doing the blood screening they offered and finding the cancer early, I've added another 20 years on my life," he said.

Rich said, "Over the years, this screening has detected abnormal conditions in so many so called 'healthy' individuals. The blood screening is a very economical way of monitoring one's health." 



Chip Laibl credits early detection of his cancer to the annual blood screening program.

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Rotary Project P.L.A.Y.

Community Comes Together for Kids

The seed may have been planted when a new member of the Rotary Club of Palatka, a man with four young children, turned to another member of the club and asked: "Where's the playground?"

Indeed, a playground was grown from that seed, but it was amazing how many green thumbs got involved. It was a small group of Rotarians who started watering an idea for a first-class playground for the central portion of Putnam County. After researching the previous successes of Robert S. Leathers and Associates in building playgrounds in other communities, the group approached the board of directors for the Rotary Club of Palatka. A \$25,000 pledge was made by the club.

The Rotarians moved quickly to form Project P.L.A.Y. (Putnam County Leaders in Action for Youth) and watched their idea sprout into a massive community undertaking. Leathers and Associates helped Project P.L.A.Y. stage planning sessions with school children and parents. School children figured out a wide variety of ways to raise funds to fulfill the dream that had become their dream. Parents joined in the efforts. Business leaders throughout the community added considerable fertilizer. Some made large contributions. Some made small ones. Other civic clubs joined the effort. Rotary's seed was blooming through community cooperation. As the money was mounting, the forces were staging. On an April morning in 2000, hundreds gathered at the county's park at the intersection of U.S. 17 and State Road 19. They had hammers. They had drills. They worked beside their neighbors. In five days, the playground was complete. Roughly \$130,000 had been necessary to pay




After the last nail was secured, children flocked to the new playground made possible by the Rotary Club of Palatka and many others from students to businesses.

for the lumber and other materials to do the job, but it was volunteers who actually put the pieces together with the same enthusiasm that school children, business leaders, civic clubs and Rotarians had displayed in the planning and fund-raising stages of the effort.

The ambitious funding and construction goals had been met with room and time to spare. Almost immediately, Project P.L.A.Y. became the birthday place to be. It remains so today for local youngsters. When construction was finished, the Rotary Club of Palatka's Project P.L.A.Y. account had more than the original \$25,000 pledge in place. Most of that fund has been reserved for maintenance projects at the playground. If something breaks, Rotary moves to get it fixed.

Club members gather almost annually to put a bit more sweat equity in the playground with mulching and painting and such. Portions of the excess funds along with additional contributions from the club's annual fund-raising efforts have been used to pave the playground parking lot and build a rest room at the facility. Of course, the power of this Rotary seed and the power of the community's generosity and volunteer spirit are easy to see on the smiling faces of the children and parents who enjoy the playground 10 years later. This seed will be growing smiles for many years to come.

"Of all the many good things that the Rotary Club of Palatka has spearheaded, I think one of the most satisfying was construction of

the playground at Triangle Park. On a Monday morning in April two hundred citizens assembled on an empty field with hammers, drills, saws, shovels, rakes, and other tools. By 5 p.m. on Friday of that week a completed beautiful fairyland playground stood there. There were men and women working on that project than I had never seen before and have not seen since. This community came together like I have never seen before to build a special playground for the children. It was inspirational," said long time Rotarian Bob Webb. 



The first pieces of lumber are unloaded at the site that would become Project P.L.A.Y. in this file photo from 2000.



Rotarian Rick Leary helps repaint parts of Project P.L.A.Y. during a service project in 2008.

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Rotary Youth Services

Building Leaders for Our Future

With programs that include youth leadership awards, financial support for local recreational projects and teams, providing judges and science fair awards and recognizing outstanding seniors and handing out scholarships to them, the Rotary Club of Palatka is committed to supporting annually local youth and their futures.

SCHOLARSHIPS

That future is what drives the club's scholarship committee to want to implement its ongoing and established tradition of its scholarship program, which last year saw Rotary Club of Palatka give out more than \$10,000 in scholarships to local high school students at Palatka and Interlachen high schools. Because of the state's Bright Futures scholarship program, which sometimes provides high achieving students with full tuition, the Rotary Club of Palatka took another look at its awards program and decided to expand its scholarship criteria to include other factors such as hardship, leadership and need.

According to Melissa Miller of St. Johns River Community College, who is the chair-

person of Rotary's scholarship committee, the community is blessed to have so many students with such impressive achievements.

"Many times these same students also have need for financial assistance to help them meet their educational goals at the post secondary level," she said. "The Rotary Club of Palatka has a tradition of helping these students. We know these students are our future leaders."

Miller said this year, Rotary has expanded its scholarship program to include awarding scholarships to students at the community college who are the first generation in their family to attend college and applicants must demonstrate financial need. "Many of these students are nontraditional older students returning to college," she said. Scholarship applications are available through guidance counselors at Palatka and Interlachen high schools for graduating seniors. In May high school counselors are notified of scholarship recipients. Rotary committee members attend high school awards ceremonies to present scholarship letters and certificates.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR RECOGNITION

An established tradition of the club is the annual recognition in May of the outstanding seniors during a Rotary Club luncheon where, based on enrollment, 15 seniors from Palatka High and seven seniors from Interlachen

High are guests of honor along with their school principal and guidance counselor.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

According to a news release, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training program for young people usually between the ages of 14-30. The Northeast Florida district, which includes Putnam and 11 other counties, on the other hand chooses to focus on a narrower age range of high school students, which are usually rising juniors and seniors.

The Northeast Florida district includes 63 clubs with 3,700 members.

According to Shann Purinton, past district governor and member, the Rotary Club of Palatka has supported RYLA since its beginning in its district. "We always need 'good' leaders and the RYLA program does an amazing job of helping selected high school students learn about and develop leadership and other related skills," she said. Leadership, citizenship and personal growth are just some of the emphasis placed on the RYLA program. The program's goal is to demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth, provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders, encourage leadership of youth by youth and recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.



Outstanding seniors are honored annually by the Rotary Club of Palatka.

"The students we sponsor often come back to speak to our club and it is evident from their overall presentation, as well as their words of appreciation that RYLA has had a positive and long-lasting impact on them," Purinton said.

One who can attest to the impact is Charlie Douglas who graduated from Palatka High School in 2000 as class valedictorian. He attended Rotary's RYLA Retreat in 1999 as a student and returned for two years after that as a counselor. Today he is an attorney with Harrell and Harrell, P.A. in Jacksonville.

"Year after year, RYLA assembles an all-star lineup of instructors who give high school students a unique op-



portunity to develop fundamental leadership skills," he said. "Our community's investment in RYLA produces an unparalleled rate of return measured in the firm commitment of young adults to uphold Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self.'"

A strong supporter of the program, Rotary Club of Palatka has been involved and giving its support since the RYLA Retreat began in the late 1990s. Each year, the local club has sponsored and sent four youth to attend, which costs the club \$350 per student. In 2010, the club will sponsor six students.

INTERACT CLUB



When you hear about members of the Interact Club at Palatka High School volunteering 700 hours of service in the community last year, you know they get what

their sponsor club's motto "Service Above Self" is all about.

Rotary Club of Palatka has sponsored the high school club since the 1965-66 school year when it was then Palatka South High School. Interact is Rotary International's service club for youth ages 14-18, with a goal of providing support and guidance for its members although each club is self-governing and self-supporting. The PHS Interact Club school

sponsor is art teacher Michael Everett.

"Our goals are to develop leadership skills and personal integrity while demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others," said Rotarian Benjie Bates. "We also want club members to understand the value of individual responsibility and hard work and to advance international understanding and good will."

Interact members participate in community projects such as Relay for Life and also coordinated a recycling campaign last year at PHS. Bates said the students' involvement and their efforts in the community have not gone unnoticed.


"A representative from the American Cancer Society noted last year that the club brought a new spirit and enthusiasm to the Relay and their presence was felt by all the other teams," he said. Bates said Interact is a great way for Rotary to give back and influence the next generation of leaders.

YOUTH AND RECREATION

Rotary Club of Palatka is not only interested in programs supporting youth education, but also programs that support physical fitness and that's why each year they choose to be a part of programs that support recreation and activities. In the past, the club has financially supported the Putnam County Recreational Department programs by sponsoring co-ed soccer and

girls softball teams. The club also supports Palatka Babe Ruth, Project Play and Rotary Field.

ROTARY AND THE SCIENCE FAIR

Another important project that Rotary Club of Palatka supports is the Putnam County Science Fair. For many years, the club has supplied the awards for the fair with annual budget at \$1,000. At the school's request, a number of club members volunteer each year to serve as judges of the projects and the club president assists with award presentation where trophies are presented to the winning students. 



Interact officers for 2008-09 are installed.

90 YEARS OF SERVICE...

is a milestone to be proud of for the members of Rotary Club of Palatka. As active participants in our community, Rotary has helped make Putnam a better place.

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Once again, we congratulate Rotary Club of Palatka on its 90th Anniversary. The club's commitment to the community is truly outstanding.



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Rotary Vocation Awards

Thanking Those Who Do the Right Things



Agnes Barnes was the 2006 winner of the Service Above Self award presented by Rotary Club of Palatka.

Recognition of outstanding community volunteers has become a heart-touching tradition for the Rotary Club of Palatka.

The club's annual vocational service awards are known as S.T.E.P and Service Above Self. Both awards involve a community-wide effort to seek nominations annually that lead to honoring an outstanding student, teacher, employer and practitioner (employee). That is the S.T.E.P. The process also involves selection of a person to receive the club's Service Above Self Award in keeping with the Rotary motto: Service above self. They profit most who serve the best.


"Rotary's annual vocational awards program has become one of our community's best volunteer recognitions," said Rusty Starr, who has emceed the annual awards program for many years. "Rotarians join Rotary for a wide variety of reasons, but eventually the vast majority of Rotarians experience a true Rotary moment when the value of their membership touches their heart and becomes crystal clear. For me, that moment came when our club honored a local teacher who spent her life working in amazing ways to help her students expand their minds, dreams and abilities. Rotary supports those in our community and across the globe who are doing the right things at the

right time. Sometimes saying thanks is the right support at the right time. These awards encourage continued service to community. These awards say thanks. That is important stuff and making the presentation allows me to repeat my Rotary moment time after time."

When nominations are complete, a committee of Rotarians reviews the information and makes selections of the volunteers to be honored. The committee considers the nominees based on success in their vocation and their service to community. Award winners must live in Putnam County or practice their profession in Putnam County.

When selections are complete, the committee researches the background of the winners. A presentation is prepared for each. The outstanding achievements of each winner are chronicled during a lunch meeting of the club.

"Sometimes we are able to keep the winners secret until the day of the presentation and that really makes the program extra special," said Starr. "However, the winners are dynamic students, dedicated teachers, beloved employers and hard-working employees who go way above the call of duty on behalf of Putnam County. These are people Rotarians seek to emulate, so it is an uplifting day for our club."

The Annual S.T.E.P. and Service Above Self awards are presented each May. 

Past Winners
Rotary Club of Palatka
Student, Teacher, Employer,
Practitioner
and Service Above Self
Award Winners

Students: Ben Heilman, Timothy Corey, Daniel Chronister, Deborah Eckhardt, Charlie Douglas, Brandi Akers, Terri Dew, Ozie Wayne Thomas, Natalie Alford, Allie Munch, Christine Hopkins, Brittany Palladino, Terri Ann Yonge, Amanda Starr and Desiree Perez.

Teachers: Jo Dunn, Grace Smith, Milton Speaks, Nick Albanese, Lisa Parson, Nora Michaels, Bert Whitaker, Jim Pignato, Karon Payne, Christina Crawford, Jane Crawford, Linda Matzke, Elizabeth Clacker, Jodi Shattuck and Jorge Milanes.

Employers: Hovey Creech, Bill Baxter, Anand Kuruvilla, Tom Miller, Mark Gordon, Sonny Phillips, Andy Jordon, Kate Povlich, Bob Rundle, Kirby Green, Geri Melosh, Richard Perallon, Jim Whittaker, Pat Freeman and Dana Jones.

Practitioners (Employees): Rudy Howard, Mary Makie Connor, Beverly Vigh, James Griffith, Janice Lemley, Charles Rabun, Monique Branch, Toni Mast, Edna Merwin, Judy Watson, James Shaw Sr., Pat Collins, Eddie Allen, Leanne Davis and Jacque Yingst.

Service Above Self: Wally Stembler, Ifti Ahmad, Terry Furr, Marie Colvin, Elizabeth Wood, Bob Mitchem, Wes Larson, Taylor Douglas, Rita Perry-Hill, Henry Hirschman, Edsel Redden, Agnes Barnes, John and Marsha Holley, Florinne Forbes and Ron Hornback.

Ravines Civic Center Renovations

Cooperation Fulfills a Community Need



A familiar local landmark got a much needed face-lift in 2002 when the Rotary Club of Palatka spearheaded a drastic renovation of the Roy E. Campbell Civic Center at the Ravine Gardens State Park.

The impetus for the project came in 1998 when then club president, C.L. Overturf, appointed a group of Rotarians to determine the greatest needs within the community.

The committee found the public lacked access to quality meeting rooms and banquet facilities.

The group explored the possibility of constructing a new building to be owned by the club but abandoned the idea after learning Rotary International does not allow clubs to own property.

At that time, the civic center was in poor condition with small meeting rooms, no working kitchen and restrooms that were overflowing and flooded almost weekly.

"When you stop and think about what the Roy E. Campbell Civic Center looked like prior to the year 2000, it was run down," said Dan Martinez, one of the members of the committee. "It was in poor shape and the kitchen wasn't really usable."

The committee agreed that renovating the civic center so that it could accommodate more than 200 people would fill a significant need in the community.

The club enlisted the help of state representatives Kelley Smith and Joe Pickens, who both represented District 21 at different stages

in the renovations. Together, Smith and Pickens were able to secure \$1.4 million in legislative appropriations for the project.

The club collected additional funds, bringing the total amount of funds to \$1.8 million.

With the money raised, a new two-story building with two meeting rooms on each floor was constructed.

The new structure included a suite of offices, elevator, board room, air conditioned lobbies, remodeled stage, a kitchen and serving areas, and sun deck.

The ravine room and auditorium were remodeled to accommodate 240 people.

In October of 2002, a dedication ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the remodeling.


In the eight years since the project has been completed, the civic center has hosted numerous social functions and events.

"We have about six rooms that we rent out and

they accommodate anything from weddings to birthday parties," said Nathan Sommons, park manager at Ravine Gardens State Park. "We've had business meetings, small convention meetings, and anything from political organizations to baby showers."

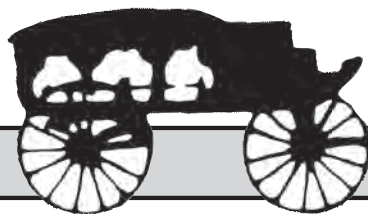
On average, the building is rented out for around 60 hours each week, Sommons said.

Currently, the Rotary Club of Palatka uses the center to hold weekly meetings.

"Today it's a great asset to the community," Martinez said. "It is a gift from heaven." 



Visitors to Ravine Gardens State Park utilize the Roy E. Campbell Civic Center. The building hosts numerous functions including weddings.



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Rotary Supports the Community

Club Projects Make Good Things Happen

Australia, Spain, Brazil and others.

One project that demonstrated Rotary's role as a catalyst to involve others in accomplishing a goal was the development of Rotary Park, the ball field adjacent to the Campbell Administration Building. The club succeeded in convincing the city, county, and school board to cooperate in a joint project to create the ball field. Additionally, Georgia-Pacific and Florida Power and Light were major contributors of materials and manpower. With Rotary leadership and \$18,000 from the club, an \$80,000 ball field was created that has had thousands of hours of use by the community, according to members.

Another project was lighting a field at Francis sports park that allows practices and baseball games to be played in the evening. The park is frequently used by the Palatka

Babe Ruth Association.


Member Peggy White said the Dictionary Project started the year she was president of the club and it has continued ever since. Each third grader in Putnam County is provided a dictionary. A dictionary in both Spanish and English is provided for the classroom. Along with the Dictionary project they also have Books for Babies which gives a set of books to each child born at the hospital. Members also partner with Communities in Schools to read in the schools. It is part of Rotary's focus on literacy. "Literacy in the single most important factor for economic advancement and a better quality of life," White said.

"The most rewarding experience I have had as a Past District Governor" noted Webb "was being part of the team for three years that examined candidates for Ambassadorial Scholarships. Most are 4.0 students, so we strive to select those who are the most articulate and gregarious who will serve as ambassa-

dors of goodwill from our district to the district where they will be studying for a year in another country. They were all so outstanding that selecting six from the group was challenging."

The Rotary Club of Palatka was also instrumental in the Rotary-Griffin Amphitheater, the Entrance to the Palatka City Dock and the Riverfront Beautification Master Plan.

Over the years The Rotary Club of Palatka has had many worthwhile and inspirational projects including support of the Girl Scout Hut in Palatka, supporting and offering seed money for the new library, supporting Meals on Wheels, contributing trophies for the Science Fair, providing Christmas gifts and Thanksgiving food baskets to needy and underprivileged children. They contributed money for a screen room at Barry Manor and helped fund the building of the Edgar Johnson Senior Center in Palatka. A Counseling Room was funded at Hospice and a Boy Scout Obstacle Course at Camp Shands in Hawthorne was funded.

They are very actively involved in a project to provide food and a better quality of life for the health screenings and treatment in one area of Haiti. They also partnered with St. Johns River Water Management District to sponsor "The Great Water Odyssey" for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in Putnam County. It was named the Best Community Service Project for Rotary District 6970. And they actively help other groups, organizations, and charities with contributions for their programs and projects. 



Rotarians Anand Kuruvilla, Gary Getchell, Bob Webb and Dan Martinez stand in front of Rotary Park in Palatka.

The good works of the Rotary Club of Palatka are almost everywhere you look from the riverfront amphitheater to Project P.L.A.Y.

Some projects are harder to see - such as the lives saved with the Rotary Blood Screening and the annual Health Fair.

Longtime Rotary Club of Palatka member Bob Webb said that Rotary participated in the first Group Study Exchange, a project of the Rotary Foundation, the year he was governor. The group consisted of four young business and professional persons (non-Rotarians) and a Rotarian team leader. The team visited a matched district in another country with travel expenses paid by the Rotary Foundation. The team would stay in Rotarians homes and moved from club to club over a one month stay.

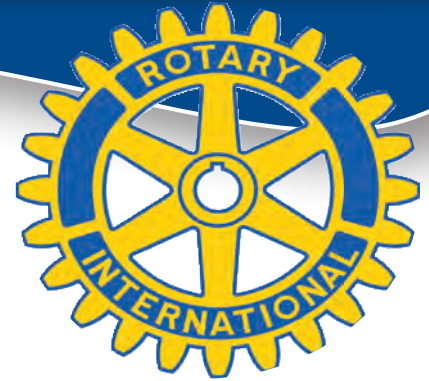
The object was to learn about business, industry, banking, health care, etc. while getting to stay with and to know Rotarians and their families in another culture. The team visiting the Florida District was from the Philippines and the following year the district sent a team to the Philippines. Since that time the club has had exchanges with India, Germany, Sweden,



Francis Ball field after lights were installed.

Four Rotary District Governors

Locals Extend Service in North Florida



Past District Governor Shann Purinton.

The Rotary Club of Palatka has a long tradition of service to the community and it has that same reputation across the state for service to Rotary. That's because there have been four Florida District Rotary Governors from Palatka.

"Back before I was Governor in 2005-06 there were only two Districts in Florida, now there are eight. It was a full time job traveling to all the clubs in the district," Purinton said.

The Governor's responsibilities included visiting each club's executive board the day before the meeting and then attending the actual meeting itself and act as the keynote speaker.

"I was retired at the time and very thankful because some weeks you would have to visit two or three clubs to get all the official visits in before the year would be half over," Purinton said.

"It was grueling but very, very, very rewarding," she added. "I was always in awe of the Rotarians, even in high school because if you made the honor roll you could walk

from Beasley (formerly Palatka High School and now a middle school) to the Civic Center at Ravine Gardens and join them for lunch."

Purinton was the first woman member of the Rotary Club of Palatka, joining in 1990, and said she considered it a very great honor and opportunity to be invited to join. Now some 20 years later she says she still feels honored to be involved with such a strong service oriented organization.

Purinton said when she was elected Governor, Past Governor Bob Webb told her he would be her staunch supporter and Past Governor Frank Hancock gave her his past president's diamond pin that he had specially made for him by Nelson's Jewelers.

"I was so honored that they were there for me and it helped me to know I could rely on their experience as past governors. Probably the most common misconception about Rotary continues to be that it is a club made up of only older men. Although there are still some clubs that fit this stereotype, our clubs in Putnam County definitely do not and are composed of outstanding and caring business leaders of both genders.

Another minor misconception is that people in Putnam County often think our two

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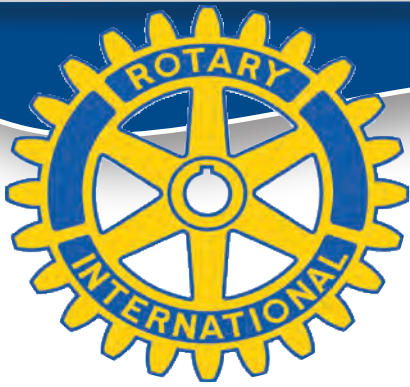
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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Don Holmes for Circuit Judge



Continued from page 21

Palatka clubs are one and the same. The Rotary Club of Palatka was chartered in 1920 and our club sponsored the Rotary Club of Palatka Sunrise in 1989.

The Crescent City Club was also sponsored by the Rotary Club of Palatka in 1927. Each club is unique and yet all clubs adhere to our Rotary values and in true Rotary fashion have contributed greatly to our community."

Along with her positions in the Rotary Club of Palatka, which included club secretary, president, and board of directors, she also received the "Rotarian of the Year", Distinguished Service Award and the perfect attendance awards. When she was President of the club it was named "Most Outstanding Club in the District."

At the District level of Rotary she was the Assistant District Governor for 3 years, coordinated the District Assembly for 8 years, served on the Ambassadorial Scholar Selection Committee for 3 years.

Robert W. "Bob" Webb was proposed for membership by Past District 694 Governor Jim Spencer and joined in September of 1953. He served as District Governor in 1976-77. Members of the club refer to him as "Mr. Rotary" for the loyalty and exuberance he has

for Rotary.

Webb said he was drawn to Rotary after the example set by his father. "My father was a member and past president of the local club, the third Rotary club to which he had belonged. As a store manager for a growing chain of stores, he was transferred from time to time. In each town he became a Rotarian except in one case where there was no Rotary club. There he became a member of Kiwanis. But whenever he had a choice, it was Rotary. I knew all about Rotary through him and I was flattered and honored when I was invited at age 23 by a Past District Governor, no less to join the Rotary Club of Palatka. To me, Rotarians were not just successful business and professional leaders, but men of honor and integrity," Webb said.

"When I was District Governor it was a wonderful time but it's the kind of thing that you only do once. At age 46, the youngest ever to be District Governor, I was still working at the time and between work and visiting each club in the District I put in 80 to 100 hours a week," Webb said.

Webb explained that the most common misconception about Rotary is that Rotary is a "millionaire's club" of old men who meet to do business together.

"I have actually heard that said, but nothing could be further from the truth. We have quite a few women in the club today and quite a few younger members. While all are not "millionaires" by any means, each is a leader in his or her chosen field of endeavor. When you band all these leaders from diverse backgrounds together you have created a force for doing good things in a community. And we do accomplish many good things, not only locally, but around the world through our participation in the Rotary Foundation,"



Past District Governor Robert "Bob" Webb.

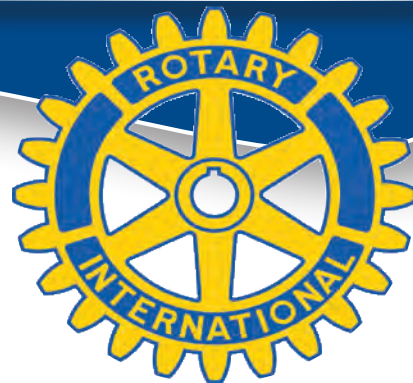
Congratulations, Rotary Club of Palatka



"Thanks for 90 years of service to our community and the world."

- Dan Martinez





Webb explained.

“Rotary is not a ‘civic’ club as some call it. It is a ‘service’ club that lives up to its motto of ‘Service Above Self’. Rotarians are some of the most caring, selfless people I have known. Being a Rotarian is not simply being a member of a Rotary club; it is a way of life,” Webb said.

He has held just about every office in the Rotary Club of Palatka and chaired most of its committees. He was elected President twice, which is unusual. He served as special representative for three district governors and for three years on the District 694 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars Selection Committee. He has been a featured speaker at District Conferences and Assemblies. After being District Governor, he served as District Chairman of Public Relations for two District Governors.

In 1963 Webb was chosen “Outstanding Young Man of the Year” by the Palatka Jaycees. He is a Paul Harris Fellow. He has received a “Rotarian of the Year Award”, a “Lifetime Service Award” by the Rotary Club of Palatka for a lifetime of exemplary service to his club and community. He also received the “Love of Rotary Award” and the “Lifesaver Award” from his club.

For sixteen years, Webb sponsored and hosted the annual Top 50 Scholars Awards banquet honoring the top 50 scholars of Putnam County and presenting the “Award of Excellence” to the top scholar. In 2001, the Palatka Daily News assumed sponsorship of the program and renamed the award the “Robert W. Webb Award of Excellence”. He was recognized by the Florida Commissioner of Education and received an award for his outstanding support of education.


The late Frank M. Hancock Sr. was a successful Palatka Rotarian and insurance man. He served as District 694 Governor from 1961-62.

Hancock moved to Palatka in 1950 after attending the University of Florida in Gainesville. He taught school and coached high school athletics for ten years. He was elected in 1961 to serve two years as mayor of Palatka and was later re-elected.

His service to Rotary included over fifty years of perfect attendance and service to the club. He served as a director, chairman of the Community Service Committee, chairman of Club Service, chairman of Youth Service, was district adviser for Interact and Rotoract, club treasurer, vice president, president and then finally District 694 Governor.

The late Jim Spencer was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Palatka and served as District 694 Governor in 1951-52.

Spencer devoted over 50 years to spreading Rotary’s objective of “Service Above Self.” He served as club secretary for six years and president in 1928-29. For 46 consecutive years Spencer maintained a record of perfect attendance at every weekly meeting.

He was a constant promoter of Putnam County and served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, and was honored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce as Palatka’s Distinguished Citizen in 1955. 



Past District Governor Frank Hancock.

Congratulations Rotary for serving the community for more than 90 years and keeping the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self.”

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Dr. Anand Kuruvilla is part of Florida with the latest techniques of Intensity Modulation and Image Guidance. Eligible Lung Cancer patients get “Gated” treatments which take respiratory motion into account and our patients get imaged with PET/CT and planning MRI’s, which facilitates tumor targeting and sparing of normal tissues.

The Cancer Center of Putnam has re-introduced Prostate Seed Implants for eligible patients in partnership with our local Medical Center and participating Urologists. We were the first center to introduce this technique to North Florida in 1991 ..Since then we have helped implement the procedure in Tallahassee, Lake City, St Augustine, Orange Park and Jacksonville Hospitals.

Our patients get treatment on our German Engineered Siemens accelerators

with the latest techniques of Intensity Modulation and Image Guidance. Eligible Lung Cancer patients get “Gated” treatments which take respiratory motion into account and our patients get imaged with PET/CT and planning MRI’s, which facilitates tumor targeting and sparing of normal tissues.

Recently we have been able to offer our Gynecological Cancer Patients High Dose rate irradiation, which dramatically reduces duration of therapy and avoids in-patient admission.

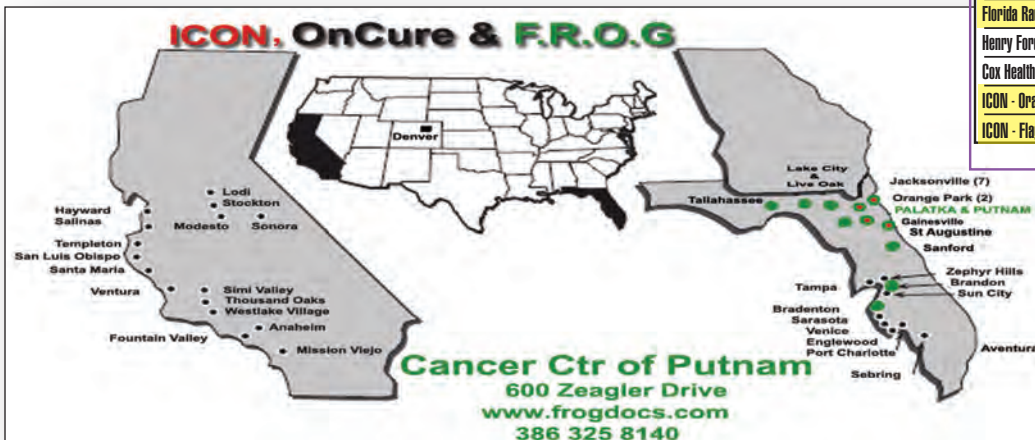


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Inst. Name	Accrual
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Moffitt South Cancer Center	4
Mayo Clinic Scottsdale	3
ICON Baptist Medical Center South	3****
Northern Indiana Cancer Research Consortium	2
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