



Fresh off the presses — your latest *Orange Wheel* snapshot!

Date: December 1, 2025

This edition gives you a quick, easy rundown of what's happening in our club — from CART Fund highlights and a reminder about Happy Bucks to fresh volunteer opportunities and a look at what's on the horizon with a few important Save the Dates. And I've included a Rotary Moment that truly lifted my spirits and is worth taking a minute to read.

It's everything you need to stay connected, stay engaged, and keep the Rotary spirit moving forward.

Check it out!

Our Rotary Club website just got a fresh new look! Take a moment to explore upcoming events, club news, and all the ways we're making a difference right here in Orange at **orangerotaryva.org**. It's the easiest way to stay up to date and see what's on the horizon.

And while you're browsing, hop over to our Facebook page. If you haven't already, give us a "Like" and a "Follow"—and please invite your friends to do the same. A simple click from you helps our club reach more people, share our projects, and strengthen Rotary's presence in the community.

Calling All Holiday Helpers! – Counting down – 5 more days!

This year's Rotary Christmas Parade theme is "**A Hallmark Christmas**" — and we need a team to **lead the decorating of our Rotary float!** If you've got creativity, holiday spirit, or just love pitching in, this is your chance to shine.

But right now—our #1 need is a dedicated team of volunteers to design and put together this year's float.

👉 Contact **Jess** or **Curtis** to learn more and help bring the magic of Christmas to Main Street!

Will you help us make “A Hallmark Christmas” unforgettable?

How to Get Involved

Don't forget—there are plenty of other ways to get involved through Rotary committees, like **Membership, Public Image, Scholarships, CART, Grants, Finance, Social, Programs, Aging and Disabilities Committee and Fundraising**. Wherever your passion lies, there's a place for you.

Not sure who our committee chairs are? Look below — this quick list makes it easy to know who's leading what and who to reach out to when you need something.

Corporate Sponsorship – Doug Ponton
Aging & Disability – Jess Thompson & Joan McGregor
BBQ Fundraiser – Adrianna Cowan-Waddy
Membership – Doug Harris
Conservation – Jamie McConnell
Christmas Parade – Curtis Clark & Jess Thompson
Memorial Tree – Jamie McConnell
Grants – Martha Roby
Programs – Ellen Wessel
Public Image/Communication/CART – Joan McGregor

How many Rotarians does it take to bake 2,000 cookies?

Apparently a whole lot of us — plus music, laughter, and enough flour to dust half the kitchen!

A huge thank-you to every Rotarian who showed up and worked side-by-side with the Orange High School students to make this Christmas Parade project such a success. Your energy, teamwork, and good humor turned a big task into a really good time.

This is what Rotary looks like in action — serving our community with heart, connection, and plenty of fun along the way.

And a special thank-you to **Ellen Pitera** for coordinating supplies and bringing the Orange High School students to join us — we couldn't have pulled off this project without you. Your support helped turn this into a true community success.



The CART Fund Update – The Missing

Piece is You! – Club goal \$2000.00

Our goal for this Rotary year is **\$2,000**, and so far we've raised **\$376.09**. That means we're about **81% away from our goal** — and we have work to do.

But here's the good news: we've already cleared nearly 19%, and every single dollar gets us closer to funding life-changing Alzheimer's research. Small, steady contributions add up quickly when everyone participates.

Every dollar truly makes a difference. Drop your spare change into the Blue Bucket or make a quick online gift — and remember, **all CART donations are tax-deductible**. When each of us pitches in, even just a little, reaching our \$2,000 goal becomes completely doable.

Let's show District 7610 how Orange does CART.

Did You Know?

You can support CART online through **DACdb** or at www.cartfund.org. Donate once or set up recurring gifts—just be sure to include **Orange Rotary** so we get credit. You can also give through the **Rotary Ignite app** → log in, swipe right to *Impact Partners*, and select **CART Fund**.

100% of all donations go directly to cutting-edge research. Thank you, Orange Rotarians, for being part of the mission to end Alzheimer's!

And don't forget, look for the Blue Buckets at the coffee/snack station or the front door tables to drop **your coins, bills or a check (made out to Rotary Club of Orange, Va)**

Happy Bucks

Don't forget to bring your Happy Bucks! Share something you're grateful for, drop a little

in the smiley cup, and spread some joy.

As of November 18th, we've collected **\$241.09**. Funds may be used at the Club's discretion to support CART, Scholarships, the Food Bank, and more.

Rosco the Rotarian

If our famous paper plate with a face land in your hands, share a fun fact about yourself *and* why Rotary's special to you. Surprises, stories, and smiles—that's what Rosco loves most!

On The Horizon!

Save the Date!

December 2 – 8:00a – 9:00a Club Meeting

Orange County Public Schools Superintendent – Dr. Dan Hornick – State of our Schools

Host – Ellen Wessel

Save the Date!

December 6th – All hands-on deck for the Annual Rotary Christmas Parade!

Save the Date!

December 9th - Assemble Dental Kits for Toy Box – 9am - Piedmont Regional Dental
13296 J. Madison Hwy

Save the Date!

December 16th – 8:00a – 9:00a Club Meeting

Keswick Sensory Camp – Kensey Plum

Host: Sherrie Page

Keswick Sensory Camp in Orange, VA is a small nonprofit farm that gives children with autism and their families a calm, judgment-free place to explore, play, and connect. Through sensory-friendly outdoor activities and animal interactions, the camp offers free, supportive experiences that help kids learn, relax, and thrive.

SAVE the DATE!

December 19th – 11:30am – Orange Baptist Church – Pine Room – 123 W Main St

Host: Jess Thompson, Joan McGregor & Barry Barr

New Committee Launch: Aging & Disability Committee

We're forming a new committee dedicated to identifying, supporting, and advocating for the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities in our community.

We'd love to have you involved, it's the perfect time to come, listen, ask questions, and see how you can make an impact.

SAVE the DATE!

December 22 – 2:00pm – Board of Directors Meeting – Cowan Realty

SAVE the DATE!

December 30th – 5th Tuesday - TBA

Share Your News!

If you're involved in events or activities, you'd like the club to know about, please **send me the details**. I'd be happy to include them in our newsletter so we can celebrate and share everyone's contributions! Joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com