



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

**Date: March 1, 2026**

This edition provides a quick snapshot of what's happening within our club and throughout the community. Inside, you'll find updates on the CART Fund, current volunteer opportunities, and highlights of the meaningful work underway.

We're also looking ahead to several fun and impactful events — including our Spaghetti Dinner with the Easter Bunny benefiting Orange County TRIAD's Emergency Pendant Program, the community Easter Egg Hunt, our Pickleball Fundraiser, and the annual BBQ supporting scholarships. Be sure to note the important Save the Dates and join us as we continue serving our community together.

I've also included a Rotary Moment that truly lifted my spirits and is well worth taking a minute to read.

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

This newsletter is also available on our website at <https://orangerotaryva.org/> under *Club Links* → *Monthly Newsletter – Orange Wheel*, so you can stay up to date anytime, 24/7.

### **Check it out!**

Take a moment to explore upcoming events, club news, volunteer opportunities, and all the ways we're making a difference right here in Orange at <https://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 <https://www.facebook.com/OrangeVARotary>. 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.

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## 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, Age Better Orange, Community First Response 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  
Age Better Orange – 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  
Community First Response – Deanne Marshall

Don't see a committee that aligns with your passion? Rotary is built on member ideas and initiative. If there's a cause you care deeply about, share it with the Club President and fellow Rotarians. Your passion could spark the creation of a new committee and a meaningful new way to serve.

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## Looking for meaningful ways to serve our community?

Rotary opens the door to *many* opportunities to make a real difference right here in Orange County.

Visit **Find Your Place to Serve** on our website to explore current volunteer opportunities and discover where your time, talents, and interests can have the greatest impact:

 <https://orangerotaryva.org/volunteer-opportunities.php>

Know of another organization or service opportunity we should highlight? We'd love to expand this list and strengthen our community connections. Please email [joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com](mailto:joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com) with details.

Together, Rotarians don't just volunteer — we build relationships, meet real needs, and turn service into lasting impact.

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## **The CART Fund Update – The Missing Piece is You! – Club goal \$2000.00**

Our goal for this Rotary year, starting July 1 is **\$2,000**, and so far, we've raised **\$518.91**. That means we have only donated 25.95% of our goal — and we have work to do.

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.

### **Did You Know?**

You can support CART online at [www.cartfund.org](http://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**.

**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,**

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### **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 February 20, 2026, we have **\$153.79**. Funds may be used at the Club's discretion to support CART, Triad, Scholarships, the Food Bank, and more.

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## **Age Better Orange Launches First Community Educational Series**

Age Better Orange proudly held its first Community Educational Series on February 25 at the Orange Community Room, welcoming 34 community residents for an afternoon focused on awareness, prevention, and connection.

Deputy Ron Kesner presented an engaging and informative program on **Scam Prevention and Community Safety**, along with an overview of the services provided through the Triad program. His real-world examples and practical guidance gave attendees clear steps they can take to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors from fraud and emerging scams.

The strong attendance and discussion demonstrated the importance of accessible, local education opportunities that help residents remain safe and informed. When neighbors come together to learn and share resources, the entire community benefits.

We are grateful to Deputy Kesner for his leadership and to everyone who attended and helped spread the word. Age Better Orange looks forward to continuing this educational series and building on the momentum of this successful first program.

Our next Educational Series event will be held on April 22 and will feature Shawn L. Smith, State Director of Senior Medicare Patrol, presenting on avoiding everyday phones, email, text, and artificial intelligence scams. We hope you will join us as we continue working together to create a safer, better-informed Orange County.

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## **“How Can We Help?” Community Meeting**

The “How Can We Help?” meetings bring together local residents, churches, nonprofits, and community partners to share current needs, coordinate resources, and identify practical ways to serve within Orange County.

**Date:** March 19

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** Orange Church of the Nazarene

All community members and organizations are welcome to attend.

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## Upcoming Fundraiser and Community Events

Age Better Orange is organizing a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** to benefit Orange County TRIAD and support the purchase of additional emergency pendants for local seniors.

**Date:** March 26

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Orange Community Room, 235 Warren St.

Volunteers will be needed, and additional details will be shared as plans are finalized.

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The Rotary Club of Orange will also host its **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** on **Saturday, March 28 @ 9:30am, Veteran's Park, Newton St., Orange, adjacent to the Orange Elementary School. Volunteers will be needed, and members are asked to please bring donations of candy to the March 3 and March 17 meetings.**

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Age Better Orange and Orange County Triad will co-host a two-day **Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser** on **June 13–14 at Orange County High School**, with proceeds shared to support community safety and aging initiatives.

The event will feature food trucks, awards, and plenty of on-court action for players of all levels. **Registration will go live on or about March 1.** More details will be shared as planning continues.

Volunteers and spectators will be needed, and community members are encouraged to come out and support the event — even if they don't play.

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## Fundraiser Committee Update

The Fundraiser Committee has been hard at work planning the Rotary Club's Annual BBQ, scheduled for April 11. This signature event is a longtime favorite in our community and plays an important role in supporting scholarships.

Planning is well underway to ensure another successful and well-attended gathering filled with great food, fellowship, and community spirit. More details will be announced soon.

As always, this event requires all hands-on deck. From preparation and setup to serving and cleanup, every helping hand makes a difference in making the BBQ a success.

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## **On The Horizon!**

### **Save the Date!**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8:00a – 9:00a Club Meeting**

Hannah Barton – Community Navigator, Hospice of Piedmont  
Host: Jess Thompson

Location: Orange Community Rm., Public Works Bldg.

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### **Save the Date!**

**March 17<sup>th</sup> – 8:00a – 9:00a**

Orange Chiropractic

Host: Mack Cowan

Location: Orange Community Rm., Public Works Bldg.

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### **SAVE the DATE!**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> – 12:00p-1:00p**

**This is not a Rotary event – but all are welcome**

“How We Can Help” Community Meeting

Host: Pam Eldman

Location: Orange Church of the Nazarene, 159 W. Nelson St.

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**Save the Date!**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 2:00p-3:00p**

Rotary Board Meeting

Location: Cowan Realty – 151 W. Main St.

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**Save the Date!**

**March 26<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 - 7:30**

Dinner with the Easter Bunny

Host: Age Better Orange

Location: Orange Community Rm., Public Works Bldg.

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**Save the Date!**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> – 9:30a**

Veteran's Park, Newton St., Orange

Easter Egg Hunt

Host: Rotary Club of Orange, Va

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**Save the Date!**

April 4 – Time TBA

Clean the Barn – BBQ Event

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## Save the Date!

April 11 – Time TBA

BBQ Event

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## Save the Date!

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 11:00a – 12:30p

Avoiding Everyday Phone, Email, Text, and Artificial Intelligence Scams – Shawn Smith

Host: Age Better Orange

Location: Orange County Public Safety Building, 11282 Government Center Dr., Orange

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## Save the Date!

June 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Time: 9:00a each day

Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser

Host: Age Better Orange and Orange County - Triad

Location: Orange County High School

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## Share Your News!

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

[joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com](mailto:joanlmcgregor0@gmail.com)

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## Rotary Moment

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”  
— Margaret Mead

## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

*Of the things we think, say or do:*

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?