



# Centreville Rotary Club

Report to the Community  
2023–2024



*Founded 1927*

Centreville Rotary Club, PO Box 533, Centreville, MD 21617  
[CentrevilleRotary.org](http://CentrevilleRotary.org)





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TRUTH?

IS IT FAIR  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED?

WILL IT BUILD  
GOOD WILL  
AND BETTER  
FRIENDSHIPS?

WILL IT BE  
BENEFICIAL  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED?

## Who, What, Why is Rotary?

Rotary Clubs are where neighbors, friends and problem solvers come together to share ideas and work on projects for a community. They build connections with a motto, "Service Above Self."

Local clubs are part of Rotary International, a non-political and non-religious service organization that brings together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and advance goodwill and peace around the world.

Rotary is represented by 1.4 million members in 46,000 clubs in 144 countries. Rotary focuses resources to eradicate Polio; to provide clean drinking water for those without; to make food accessible; to promote health care resources; and to provide education opportunities for everyone.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT



## Dear Residents of Centreville and Beyond,

The Centreville Rotary Club was formed in 1927. Since then, men and women of the Centreville Community meet with one motto—"Service above Self." Today, our Club stands strong with approximately 40 members. These individuals are selfless community leaders who meet every Thursday morning dedicating their time to the betterment of our Town.

Worldwide, Rotary is comprised of 1.4 million people, across 46,000 Clubs, who unite to provide positive change, locally and internationally. The Centreville Rotary Club is a small, but important, piece to the puzzle. Together, the Centreville Rotary Club provides support to an incredible number of initiatives. As you read our Report to the Community, imagine how you would feel participating in these projects. Imagine, enjoying breakfast with a group of like-minded individuals planning our next project. Then, imagine going out and making it happen!

As you read our Report, you will see the lasting impact of the Centreville Rotary Club. Projects with goals such as: fighting the battle of food insecurity, providing housing for families of domestic violence, drilling clean wells in Africa, and providing scholarships to local high school seniors.

Unlike many who may not learn about Rotary until they are well into their adulthood, I had the unique opportunity to be involved at a very young age. My grandfather, Gunther Schiwy, my grandfather, Donald Blouch, and my own father, Michael Schiwy, were all, not only long time members of the Centreville Rotary Club, but had also served a term as President. I volunteered at Rotary fundraisers and events as a young boy, always aspiring to be invited into the Club one day. Five years ago, that dream came true. I couldn't be prouder to be a Centreville Rotarian.

Rotary is fun, rewarding, and can provide friendships for a lifetime. You may be the next Centreville Rotarian, and we would love to have you join us. We meet every Thursday morning from 7:30–8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at the Centreville Methodist Church. Please stop in and experience it for yourself. Learn more at [CentrevilleRotary.org](http://CentrevilleRotary.org).

Sincerely,

*Matthew M. Schiwy*

Matthew M. Schiwy  
Centreville Rotary Club  
President 2023-2024



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS LIST

### MEETINGS

Thursday 7:30 a.m.  
Centreville United  
Methodist Church  
608 Church Hill Road  
Centreville, MD 21617

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matthew M. Schiwy  
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*Past President*

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*Vice President*

William Chesshire  
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Jennifer G. Nowak  
*Secretary*

### DIRECTORS

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Gregory D. Torchio  
John A. Lewis IV  
Douglas Storck

### CONTACT US:

Centreville Rotary Club  
PO Box 533  
Centreville, MD 21617

CentrevilleRotary.org  
FB: Centreville Rotary



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# the **Town** of **CENTREVILLE**



## 2024 Town Sponsored Events

April 26	Arbor Day Celebration
June 15	Drink Maryland <i>A Maryland Makers Festival</i>
September 7	Fishing Derby & Movie Night
October 26	Centreville Day
December 04	Tree Lighting
December 6	Christmas Parade

101 Lawyers Row, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-1180  
TownHall@TownofCentreville.org

**Town Manager:** Carolyn M. Brinkley

**Town Clerk:** R. Gaye Adams

### Town Offices:

Open Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

### Town Services:

Administers, manages, and maintains, town infrastructure: streets, water, sewer, safety, and the Chesterfield Cemetery 410-758-1800

### Curbside Trash Pick Up:

Every Wednesday

### Town Council Meetings:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, 7 p.m.  
Liberty Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
107 North Liberty St., Centreville, MD

### Planning Commission Meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.  
Liberty Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
107 North Liberty St., Centreville, MD

### Centreville Police Department:

410-758-8437

### Queen Anne's County Emergency Dispatch:

410-758-0080 and request an officer

### Yard Waste Pick Up:

March through December

## RESOURCES IN THE AREA



### SHELTER AND HOUSING

**Haven Ministries** haven-ministries.org  
Kent Island United Methodist Church  
2739 Cox Neck Road, Chester, MD  
410-739-7859

**Martins House and Barn** martinshouseandbarn.org  
14374 Benedictine Lane, Ridgely, MD  
410-634-2537



### CRISIS INFORMATION

#### EMERGENCY 911

Eastern Shore Crisis Response Service  
888-407-8018 (24 Hours/7 Days a Week)

**Maryland Youth Crisis Hot Line** 410-422-0009

**Suicide Prevention Hot Line** 800-273-TALK (8255)

**Veteran's Crisis Center** 800-272-8255



### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

#### National Alliance for Mental Illness

Kent and Queen Anne's County  
443-480-0565

**For All Seasons** (Kent and Queen Anne's County)  
410-778-5147

#### Community Behavioral Health

(Kent and Queen Anne's County) 844-224-5264

#### Bridges Behavioral Health & Wellness

410-758-8750

#### Chesapeake Bay Psychological Services

410-604-0226



### MEDICAL RESOURCES

**University of Maryland Shore Medical Center**  
Chestertown 410-778-3300

**University of Maryland Shore Medical Pavilion**  
Queenstown 410-827-3900



### LOCAL CHURCHES

**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
102 Washington Road, Centreville, MD  
410-758-3748

**Centreville United Methodist Church**  
608 Church Hill Road, Centreville, MD  
410-758-0868

**Our Mother of Sorrows/St Peter's**  
303 Chesterfield Avenue, Centreville, MD  
410-758-0143

**St Paul's Episcopal Church**  
301 South Liberty Street, Centreville, MD  
410-758-1553

# RISE against hunger

**The Centreville Rotary Club partnered with Rise Against Hunger to play their part in the fight against world hunger.** On Saturday, February 3, our Club hosted over 50 volunteers to pack 10,000 dehydrated meals. The meals consisted of rice, soy, dried vegetables, and a pack of nutrients. The ingredients were measured and poured precisely, weighed, then sealed in a plastic bag. The meals were then boxed up and sent out on a truck to their eventual destination of Haiti.

Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is an organization with a mission to end World Hunger. They provide the ingredients in bulk, measuring and packaging equipment, and transport. The Rotary Club just needed to provide the volunteers! This event is not free though. To host a meal packing event of this size requires a \$4,000 payment to RAH. The Club was able to afford to do this with

the assistance of a Rotary District Grant. This grant covered close to 80% of the total cost.

The day consisted of an hour and a half set-up, a 2-hour packing shift, and an hour of clean-up. A total of five assembly lines were created. Each line consisted of 5 meal packers, 2 weighers, 2 sealers, a runner, and a boxer.

This event was open to the public, meaning more than just Rotarians came out to volunteer. Many students came from Queen Anne's County High School and Gunston Day School, along with parents, and various residents of Centreville. The volunteers ranged in age from 16–80—there was a place for everyone on the assembly line!

The day was a huge success! Everyone who came out seemed to have a great time and knew that they were making a difference to a community struggling with food insecurity. Two of The Centreville Rotary Club's current Primary Areas of Activity are 'Addressing Food Insecurity' and 'Providing Financial Support for National and International Projects.' This project hit the nail on the head for both areas!

**50** **10,000**  
volunteers dehydrated meals





# Annual CRAB FEAST Raffle



Addressing food insecurity is one of several priority activities set forth in Centreville Rotary's strategic plan. To help address this critical need, the Club holds various food drives and a Crab Raffle in the fall of each year to provide nutritious food supplies to those experiencing insecurity in our community.

With generous sponsorship support from **Draper Brothers, Cranky Crab, Buddy's Crabs, C. Legg's Seafood**, and **Minuteman Press** the raffle raised over \$4,000. The Club awarded grants to several local food bank programs operated by Haven Ministries, Centreville Methodist Church, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, and Wye River Upper School. The Club also made a grant to the Backpack for Kids program which provided food for over 2,000 local children.

In September, the lucky winning tickets were drawn. First place winner Jay Johns received two half bushels of crabs from Cranky Crab and C. Legg's Seafood along with two cases of beer from Drapers. The second prize winner Shore United Bank received one half bushel of crabs from Buddy's Crabs and a case of beer also from Drapers.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, our Community Service Partners and to all individuals and businesses that purchased one or more raffle tickets in 2023.

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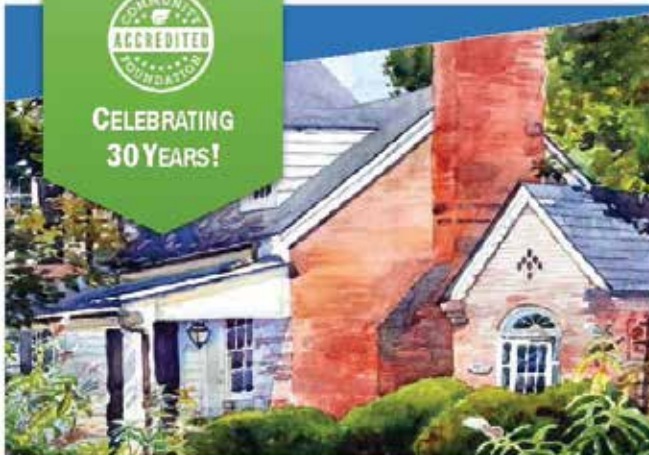

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## CENTREVILLE ROTARY HOUSE—A *'Safe Place'*

Even today, many women and children live in abusive relationships and have difficulty removing themselves from harm. The Centreville Rotary House came about 20 years ago when club members decided the community would benefit from a 'safe house' that would be available for women and children who suffered from domestic violence.

The professional and talented members of the Centreville Rotary Club initiated a capital fund campaign, acquired land, designed and built a two story home (divided into two, three bedroom apartments) and partnered with the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV) to identify and work with clients that would benefit from this safe haven. The Rotary House is maintained by the Centreville Rotary Community Fund, Inc. a 501c3 non-profit that funds the maintenance and upkeep of the house. The Centreville Rotary Club dedicates the funds they raise from the Flags for Heroes project to support the Centreville Rotary Community Fund, and also identifies additional fund-raising activities to ensure the house is well maintained.

From the beginning, the club formed a partnership with the MSCFV, which vets the families who live in the house, provides mentoring to the families, and makes additional resources available as needed. To have a safe and stable place to make a home is critical to the recovery of victims of domestic violence. We are extremely proud that since its inception the Rotary House has been home to 18 families and more than 50 children. To hear the real-life success stories of our former Rotary House residents is beyond gratifying.

The house costs approximately \$10,000 a year in general operating expenses (utilities, security, internet access, lawn and tree care, and overall maintenance of the house). When one family leaves, the apartment is cleaned, repainted and repaired so a new family can move into a sparkling fresh home. The Rotary House has been in continuous use since 2008. Donations can be made directly to the Centreville Rotary Community Fund, PO Box 533, Centreville, MD 21617

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Centreville Rotary Club **FLAGS FOR HEROES** Memorial Day May 27, 2024

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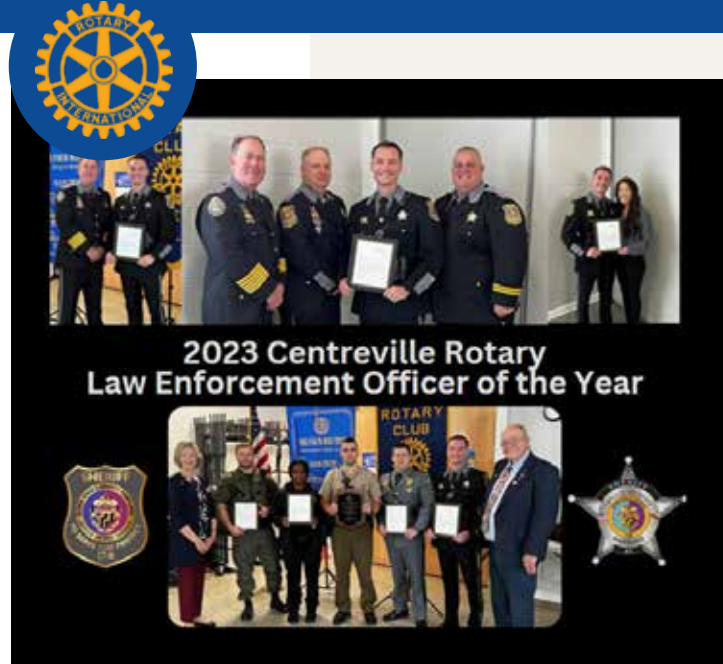
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# LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023



**The Centreville Rotary Club recently awarded the Sergeant Wallace J. Mowbray Memorial Award for Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer for Queen Anne's County to Trooper Christopher Severa, Maryland State Police, Centreville Barrack, in honor of his extraordinary service and performance as an officer as well as his commendable community service.**

Additional nominees from other law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in Queen Anne's County included Officer Shirelle Brooks, QAC Dept of Public Safety Corrections; Officer Mark Linton, MD Transportation Authority Policy; Deputy First Class Dominic Sullivan, QAC Sheriff's Office; and Officer First Class Devin Dieter, MD Natural Resources Police. Approximately 15 officers from the various agencies were in attendance for a breakfast held in May and each nominee received a certificate of appreciation for their outstanding service and dedication to the community.

As the 2023 award winner, Trooper Severa received an engraved plaque. A master plaque recognizing all past award recipients is displayed in the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County in Centreville. The Sergeant Wallace J. Mowbray Memorial Award has been presented by the Centreville Rotary Club since 1975 when Sgt. Mowbray was killed while investigating a suspicious vehicle. The club makes the award close to May 15th, which is the National Law Enforcement Memorial Day.

2022–2023 Centreville Rotary President Judy Price thanked all the officers for their dedication and professionalism in protecting the safety of the citizens, and the natural resources of, the county. She further commented "The profession you chose is a noble calling and we are indebted to you and the many other dedicated men and women who represent law enforcement in our community."

## LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES

### Centreville Police Department

460 N Commerce St, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-8437 | [centrevillepolice.org](http://centrevillepolice.org)  
8:30 am–4:30 pm  
After hours 410-758-0080

### Goodwill Fire Department

212 Broadway, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-1422  
[goodwillfirecompany.org](http://goodwillfirecompany.org)

### Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Service

Public Safety Office  
100 Communication Dr, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-4500 | [qac.org](http://qac.org)  
Open 24 hours

### Animal Services of Queen Anne's County

201 Clay Dr, Queenstown, MD 21658  
410-822-7178 | [animalservices.qac.org](http://animalservices.qac.org)  
Hours: Thursday–Tuesday  
11 a.m.–5 p.m.

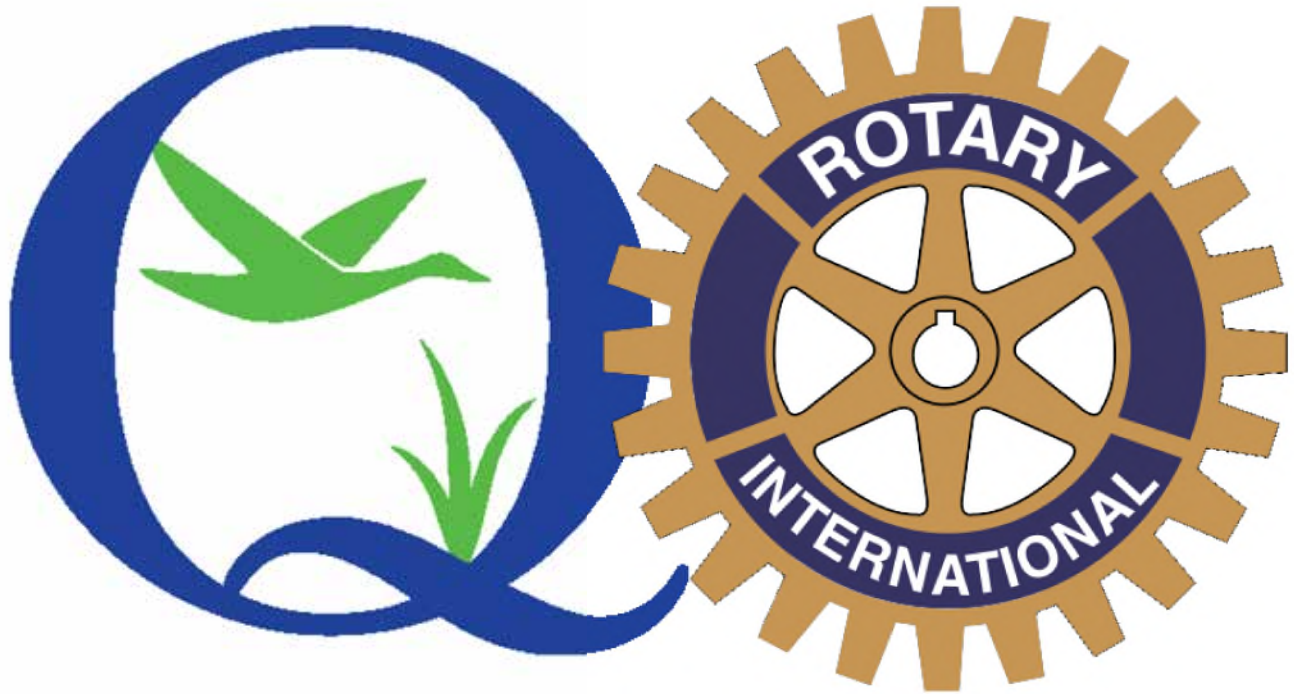
### Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office

505 Railroad Ave, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-0770 | [queenannessheriff.org](http://queenannessheriff.org)

### Queen Anne's County Detention Center

500 Little Hut Dr, Centreville, MD 21617  
410-758-3817 | [qac.org](http://qac.org)

# What do Rotary and Queenstown Bank Have in Common?



**Both Believe in  
Service Above Self.**



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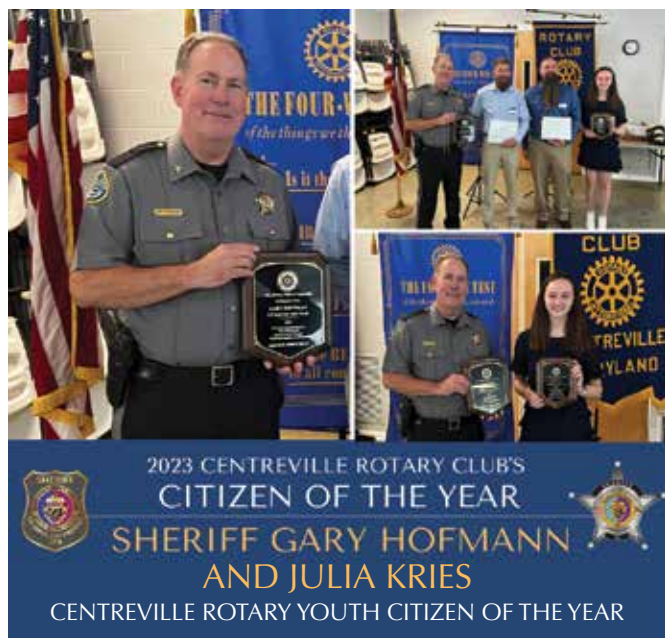
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# CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023



The Centreville Rotary Club awarded its 2023 Citizen of the Year Award to **QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY SHERIFF GARY HOFMANN** during its June 15 breakfast meeting at the Centreville United Methodist Church. The award has been presented annually by the club for several years and is intended to honor outstanding individuals who have had a major impact on the local community. Additional nominees included Dale Walls and Brian Tyler, both of Centreville, and Linda Austin of Stevensville. This year the club also presented a second award in the Youth category to **JULIA KRIES, A 2023 GRADUATE OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.**



Sheriff Hofmann received the award for his extraordinary efforts and compassion to support the citizens of Queen Anne's County above and beyond his service as the county's chief law enforcement officer. Examples noted during the ceremony of his exceptional community service were his active work with individuals and families affected by drug and alcohol addiction and those with developmental disabilities, as well as volunteering his time and expertise speaking to students, senior citizens and community groups on topics such as personal safety, scams, cyber bullying, substance abuse, and human trafficking.

Gary Hofmann has served as Sheriff for Queen Anne's County since 2006 and previously worked in law enforcement within the County for 13 years. He attended the University of Virginia and graduated from the FBI National Academy as well as the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development School. He serves on numerous

task forces and state boards while also actively supporting multiple charitable organizations within the County.

Upon accepting the award, Sheriff Hofmann said, "I am extremely humbled and thankful to be selected as this year's recipient among so many other well-deserving nominees. It is truly a pleasure and honor to serve our community. The hours may be long and sometimes stressful, but working for the citizens of Queen Anne's County is a privilege. It clearly is a career that I'm very proud to have and will continue to do with the public's support and trust."

Julia Kries was selected for the Centreville Rotary Youth Citizen of the Year Award for her leadership and service primarily as president of the Queen Anne's County High School Interact Club modeled after Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. In that capacity she spearheaded several community projects including canned food drives, Project Christmas Child and the Linus Project making blankets for hospitalized children. In addition, Julia is a member of Girl Scouts USA and has earned the highest distinction as a recipient of its gold and silver awards. She also played clarinet in her high school band and received the distinction of being selected for the All-Shore Band, the honor band of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Julia will be attending University of Maryland and has expressed a desire to become a physician. She lives in Centreville and is the daughter of Jill and Darrell Kries.

The award ceremony was hosted by Rotary Past District Governor Rich Graves, CPA, who served as chair for this year's Centreville Rotary Citizen of the Year Award Committee. Approximately 40 members and guests were in attendance for the event.



 The background of the advertisement shows a lush green lawn in the foreground and a garden bed with various plants and rocks in the background.
 

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The Centreville Rotary has proudly supported Lifetime Wells International over the years with modest grants to help fund access to clean water in Africa. Recently, the club decided to make an even greater impact by supporting a project that would result in 22 new wells in the Tamale and Gushegu regions of Northern Ghana. Through the generous support of several individual club members and friends, as well as contributions from the Maryland Rotary Clubs of Kent Island and Chestertown, plus Rotarians from Bonita Springs, Florida and Camden-Wyoming, Delaware, we were able to leverage these funds to secure a grant of \$40,000 from Rotary District 7630 plus a \$32,000 Global Grant from Rotary International.



The overall project is expected to cost nearly \$100,000. Centreville Rotary is the international sponsor, partnering with the Rotary Club of Tamale in Northern Ghana as the local host club overseeing the project on the ground. Hydrogeologic survey work was completed in December 2023 locating 22+ sites that were likely to have a sufficient water source. Once the survey work was completed, Lifetime Wells International, which was co-founded by Centreville Rotarian Kenny Wood, began drilling in January 2024.

As this publication goes to press, nearly all 22 wells have been completed, bringing clean water and vastly improved sanitation to thousands of community residents whose access had been extremely limited or non-existent. Training to sustain project outcomes has been conducted within each local community which will own and maintain the wells.

**Members of the public interested in contributing to the effort of providing clean water in Ghana can do so by visiting [lifetimewellsinternational.org](https://lifetimewellsinternational.org).**





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# YOUTH services

## Interact Club RYLA Career Day

### Interact Club

The Queen Anne's County High School Interact Club is a vibrant 77 member service-based club sponsored by Centreville Rotary. They hold bi-weekly events and meetings, traditionally involving a review of general business along with a focused activity or service.

**This year's activities included: making blankets for veterans in hospice care; making and delivering cards to the elderly; packing Operation Christmas children's boxes; constructing and entering a float in the Centreville Holiday Parade. Club members also participated in Make a Difference Day, the Rise Against Hunger project, and Project Linus, along with preparing appreciation bags for nurses serving local care facilities.**

In addition the leadership team has introduced an electronic newsletter that is sent every other week so that members are aware of upcoming activities and events. Through these improvements they have been able to create a marvelous club able to serve our community well.

The 2023-2024 Interact Leadership Team:

Kamer Khdayer, President  
Averie Mortimer, Vice President  
Everett Johnson, Secretary  
Emily Schroeder, Communications  
Lucy Taylor, Treasurer



### Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Our Centreville Rotary sponsored seven stellar students from our three high schools to attend the yearly RYLA conference in Ocean City, MD.

**The students awarded were Victoria MacGlashan from Gunston School and the following from QACHS—John Connolly, Lucy Taylor, Alexis Haag, Arianna Smith, Emma Parrinello and Nick Burleson.**

In our morning breakfast meeting, each student shared their experience at the conference and reported that they would do it again! They were given critical issues in society to help remedy (pollution, food insecurity, poverty) and each participated in presenting their projects on Sunday for the entire group of students and leaders. Students learned about leadership, met other students from varying backgrounds and made fast friends. Our Rotary sponsors several students to attend each year to help create strong leaders with a passion to serve in their communities.



The Centreville Rotary Club sponsors The Faye Lister Teen of Character Scholarship for \$500 every year. In doing so, we have been granted the Platinum Level Business of Character Partnership.





## Centreville and Kent Island Rotary Clubs Partner to Host "Career Day for QAC High School Students"

The Centreville Rotary Club, with the assistance of the Kent Island Rotary Club, hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Queen Anne's County Senior Career Day on April 20, 2023 at Chesapeake College.

**Approximately 80 high school seniors from Queen Anne's County High School, Kent Island High School and Wye River Upper School participated in the event, plus 25 local businesses and government agencies representing a variety of different career positions for individuals with a high school degree.**

Students began the day engaging with Dale Walls, a veteran Marine sergeant and founder of the IT firm Corsica Technologies, who recently established the company Lions Guide to inspire others on the values of courage, clarity and leadership in their personal and professional development. Walls shared his rags to riches life story with a focus on how these values guide everyday people in defining success.

Three breakout sessions then followed. One focused on the importance of financial literacy such as learning what to expect as costs of living and how to prepare and manage a budget. In



QAC Employers generously participated in Career Day and enjoyed sharing information with students.

the second session students learned job interview skills. After a brief lesson on how to prepare and what to do and not do in an interview,

they were paired up and then role-played interview questions with an experienced Rotarian providing feedback on the spot.

In the final session, students learned about Chesapeake College's health profession facilities and were amazed by a computer dummy that had the ability to single out different parts of the human body and how they interact with other parts. In the final session the College also demonstrated their CDL truck driving simulator so that students could get a virtual experience at driving a truck.

When not attending the breakout sessions, students were able to meet with representatives of the businesses and local agencies in attendance to discuss career opportunities.

At the conclusion of Career Day, Centreville Rotary Club President Judy Price extended her well wishes to the students and commented "As you develop your careers, please make time to give back to the community such as getting involved in organizations like Rotary and finding ways of helping others who are less fortunate."



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# Project Clean Stream

On April 2, 2023, the Centreville Rotary Club participated in Project Clean Stream, a Chesapeake Bay watershed, area wide effort to remove litter from roadsides, stream beds and wetlands. This program was developed and is facilitated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake and Shore Rivers. A dozen Rotarians, accompanied by spouses and children, put on their Sunday finest and gathered enough trash from Routes 213, Corsica Neck Rd. and Dulin Clark Road to fill the dump truck provided by the town of Centreville. The Rotary Club worked closely with members of the Corsica River Conservancy and Plastic Free QAC who filled another dumpster at the town wharf. Eight students from the Gunston School, led by their science teacher, Ms. Ronnie Vesnaver, removed over 300 pounds of litter from the stream bed of Earles Cove Creek. Vivid memories include Jay Yerkes with trash captured by his kayak, Stephan Strothe with Site Captain Bill Chesshire happily filling the dump truck, and Judy Price bravely handling a discarded stuffed deer head.



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# ANNUAL DICTIONARY PROJECT



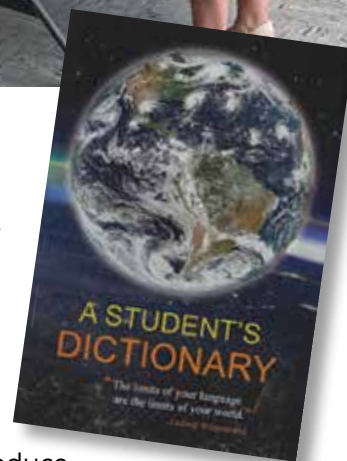
**Every year the Centreville Rotary Club gives each third grader in the school district their very own dictionary. The club provides a hard copy of a dictionary for the students to keep.**

When club members visit the classrooms to deliver the books, it is obvious how excited the children are to receive them. Some have anticipated having their own dictionary because an older sibling or classmate has one.

The dictionaries, which are also almanacs, help students learn new words, see the longest word in the language, go over a list of the presidents of the USA, and even learn a little about American Sign Language. Rotarians asked teachers if the dictionaries were widely used considering that students are now using more advanced technology. The teachers strongly supported the dictionary project and Rotary's

donation of the books indicating that they are used every day in their classrooms and students love them.

One of Rotary's goals is to support education, a goal "to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy." The Dictionary Project is one way to support education for all children and literacy for children and adults. In a time when many use technology in place of hard-copy books it is rewarding to give each third grade student their own dictionary to use and explore!



*Thank You!*  
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# CENTREVILLE ROTARY MEMBERS



## **WILLIAM CHESSHIRE**

Owner/Operator of Chesshire Design Studio, Queenstown, MD. I design new homes, additions and renovations providing architectural services to home owners, builders and

developers. I was introduced to this work by my uncle, Howard Wheeler, who was a lifelong Rotarian. The values, goals and principles of Rotary continue to inspire me. I am interested in providing economical, quality housing for First Responders, Caregivers, Educators and members of the Military. I also advocate and support renewable energy and responsible, sustainable development.



## **KATHLEEN COPPERSMITH**

I am a retired Medical Laboratory Technologist. Currently I make mixed media art, ornaments, greeting cards and more. I participate in Art shows with River Arts in

Chestertown as well as selling my work in other shops. Additionally, I volunteer as a Character Counts! Coach and serve in a leadership role for my church helping women and children in need. I want to be involved in volunteer work in the community in which my husband and I live and have found great friends in the Centreville Rotary. When I joined their club, I found warm and generous people who lived the Rotary motto, which is "service above self". I have had rewarding experiences working with others on scholarships, RYLA and my favorite, the Dictionary Project!



## **NANCY J. DAVIS**

Director of Accreditation-CT Division, Intersocietal Accreditation Commission, Ellicott City, MD. I joined Rotary as a means of serving my community once my three boys

were grown. My background is patient care as a medical imaging professional. In my adult life I live by the Rotary's motto "Service Above Self." This is my second year in the Rotary. I am so thankful to Jeanne Kent for inviting me to learn and join this amazing organization! My favorite projects are when we work with our community youth. I love meeting these extraordinary individuals and giving them opportunities to grow through RYLA. I also enjoy gifting dictionaries to 3rd graders in our community. Through Rotary I have found a wonderful group of friends that are passionate about helping others.



## **WENDY TAYLOR EMERSON**

Coast Guard Foundation Regional Director of Philanthropy in D5 (So. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina). I raise

funds to support Coast Guard members and their dependents, and have worked in fundraising for 20 years for several national organizations. In addition to Rotary, I belong to numerous civic organizations including Centreville Planning Commission, PEO, DAR, Junior League and Kappa Alpha Theta and have held leadership positions in most. Supporting and being involved in Rotary is important to me. I am committed to its mission of "Service Above Self".



## **DIANE EWING**

President, Ewing & Associates, Chester, MD. I joined Rotary approximately 15 years ago when I attended a Rotarian sponsored Casino Night and a member asked me how I spent

my charitable dollars and invited me to attend a breakfast. I did and I was hooked. I like knowing where my charitable dollars are being spent and that the resources and efforts go back to the local community. My favorite Rotary project is the RYLA FUND where high school juniors and seniors are sent to a weekend retreat to learn leadership skills and team building. My favorite Rotary activity is helping Kenny Wood dig wells and cure eye problems in Africa.



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**MARY FOSTER**

AVP Branch Manager, at Shore United Bank's Commerce Street Location in Downtown Centreville. I began my banking career with Shore United Bank in 2006. I have

been the Branch Manager at Commerce Street since February 2022. I joined the Rotary to give back to the community in which I serve. Giving back to the Community is important to me personally as well as Shore United's Vision and Values that include "Our Community will not want for our involvement." The Rotary allows a network of Business Professionals to collaborate ways in which we can best serve our community. Other rewarding clubs and Associations I am actively involved in is serving on the Advisory Board of Character Counts in Queen Anne's County, a Character Counts Coach serving Queen Anne's County Public Schools. I am also an active Board member for The Eastern Shore Leadership Program and a volunteer for the Veteran and Military Services Alliance (V.A.M.S.A).

**REVEREND MARY FRIEL**

Pastor, St. Paul's Church, Centreville MD. An important part of the mission of St. Paul's is to be a welcoming faith community and a center of outreach for those in need. I

became involved in the Centreville Rotary Club in 2015, when I came to St. Paul's and some very active Rotarian members recruited me. I enjoy working with the Scholarship Committee to review applications and help guide the scholarship award process. It has been inspiring to be able to help young people in their pursuit of higher education.

**SEMENE GILDEN**

Vice President, Merrill Lynch Wealth Advisor, CFP®, CRPC™, in Easton. I have been helping business owners, executives and families grow, protect and preserve their wealth for

decades. I joined Rotary as a way to help within my community. I am currently the President-Elect for our local club. I raised 3 sons who are adult age now which allowed me the time to volunteer with the Centreville Club. I have lived on the MD Eastern Shore since 1990.

**RICHARD C. GRAVES**

CPA & Associates, Accounting services with offices in Centreville, Easton and Stevensville, MD. I joined the Centreville Rotary Club because someone asked me to join. I

stayed because I asked others to join. Rotary has connected me to people I would never have the chance to meet otherwise. When we are working on Rotary projects, our friendships just get better. My most fun year was my year as Club President. We worked together as a club and completed all the requirements needed for the highest club award in Rotary, the Presidential Citation.

**KATHERINE BEANE HAGER**

Clerk of the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County. The Rotary Club has been a part of my life one way or the other and I am proud to be a 4th generation Rotarian.

My great-grandfather, grandfather and my dad were all Rotarians. Being a part of Rotary is very rewarding when we work on service projects together and knowing that we are helping people in our community. It was a great honor to serve as club president for the 2020-2021 year during the COVID pandemic. I am so proud of the members of the club as we did not let the pandemic slow us down during that time as we still held our meetings virtually every week and had a successful year with projects.

**THOMAS S HARLAN**

Retired Sales and Product Manager, DuPont Chemical, Wilmington, DE. I retired to White Marsh Road in Queen Anne's County with my wife where we grow peaches and

Christmas trees. Rotary membership provides an opportunity to 'give back' by helping others in significant ways. Rotary International leadership has almost totally eliminated polio from the planet for all people, so our youth can develop their abilities to the fullest. I am committed to the Lifetime Wells project and helping Ken Wood with funding to provide more wells to villages in Africa. My proudest moment at Rotary is seeing the positive impact on high school students who participate in the RYLA program.



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# CENTREVILLE ROTARY MEMBERS



## JUSTIN HOYT

Attorney with Stevens Palmer, LLC, located in Centreville, MD, a full service, general practice law firm. I became a member of Rotary in 2021 because I

have an interest in public service, developing new relationships and friendships, and becoming more involved in my community. I believe being a member of Rotary is a wonderful way to pursue all of these interests. I look forward to beginning my work with my fellow Rotarians in service to our community.



## MARTHA WENTZ KENDALL

Since 1993, Rotary has played an important role in my life, first when my husband served as member of the Centreville Rotary Club from 1994–2002, to

later when I joined Easton Rotary Club while working for The Waterfowl Festival. In 2022, I returned to the Centreville Club, where I had established many life-long friendships. I continue to gain a greater appreciation for the many ways our support and volunteer service helps those in need and engages other organizations with the goal of building a better community. I am particularly interested in projects such as Rotary House, Flags for Heroes, and helping to produce the Centreville Rotary Club Annual Report to the Community.



## JEANNE KENT

A successful Realtor with Chaney Homes, Stevensville, MD since 2009. Prior to entering real estate, I worked as a television advertising account executive selling on a

national level in New York City. My four children are grown and I felt it was time to give back to the community and get more involved with helping others. Rotary seemed to be a perfect match and I joined in 2021. In my short time with Rotary I have worked on the Meals of Hope and Delmarva Food Bank program; Interviewed high school students for the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference; helped distribute dictionaries to county 3rd graders; and served as Club secretary. The benefits of being a Rotary member are working with other stewards of the community, to learn and get motivated by them, which could make a difference in local/regional and global lives!



## JOHN A LEWIS, IV

Head of The Gunston School, since 2010, a college preparatory independent high school located in Centreville, MD. I'm an avid reader, traveler, and a busy, involved dad

with two children. I was inspired by the Rotary mission of 'Service Above Self', and I wanted to be involved with an organization and with individuals who give back to our local community. My favorite Rotary moment was making the introduction between member Kenny Wood of Lifetime Wells and Kevin White of Global Vision. That simple introduction created a partnership that now combines the gifts of water and sight to thousands of people in need.



## JENNIFER G. NOWAK

Attorney in DE and MD and business owner. Previously, I been involved with Rotary in Dover, DE and joined the Centreville Rotary in 2021. I appreciate the Rotary motto

of 'Service Above Self', as well as the ways Rotary supports the community both locally and worldwide. Through Rotary, I have been involved with many different local service projects including helping with food drives, distributing dictionaries to 3rd graders, sending high schoolers to the RYLA leadership training conference and supporting wells for drinking water in other countries. Rotary also helps in many ways globally. I have enjoyed getting to know other service oriented members of the community and making great connections.



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# CENTREVILLE ROTARY MEMBERS



## CHRIS PERKINS

Manager, Haven Ministries Food Bank, Queenstown, MD. My proudest Rotary moment was when I traveled to Kenya, Africa to work in a village with children who had been

orphaned due to the AIDS virus. As I stood by the guest house, a truck drove up with a Rotary Wheel poster on the side. I recognized Rotary from the United States. The manager of the village was a Rotarian, the local high school had an Interact Club and Rotaract members volunteered in the village gardens. I recognized Rotary as a worldwide organization and wanted to be part of it. As a member of the Centreville Club I asked for support to sponsor a Character Counts Scholarship (2005) that is still being awarded today.



## MALCOLM L. PETERSON

Retired Program Manager, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD. Retirement gave me an opportunity to join

Rotarians and give service to my community. Rotary has an international dimension and that also appealed to me, including Rotary's battle to eliminate Polio. My sister had Polio in the 1950s and barely survived. Today she is affected by Post-Polio Syndrome. I have found Rotary to be above politics and focused instead on our common bonds. I have made wonderful friends in the process.



## JUDITH WARFIELD PRICE

Retired Director of Aspen Institute's Wye River Campus; former Executive Director of the Waterfowl Festival and Deputy Counsel of the MD Attorney General's Office.

I'm a proud native of the Eastern Shore and enjoy time spent on or around our rivers and the serenity of our local waterfowl and wildlife. I followed my father's footsteps in joining Rotary because of the opportunities it provides to make a difference in the lives of members of our community, the nation, and the world who are less fortunate. I also find my involvement with Rotary particularly inspiring through its programs that support our youth in becoming future leaders. It was an honor to serve as club president in the 2022-2023 Rotary Year."



## HAROLD T. REECE

In 1958 I served in the United States Air Force, was stationed in England, and met and married my wife Heather. We moved back to the U.S. and I served 25 years with the

Maryland State Police. In 1985 I was appointed Chief of Police for the Town of Centreville and invited to join the Centreville Rotary Club. I remain active today on numerous committees. In 1990 I was serving as Centreville Club President and had the honor of being chosen to lead a Rotary Group Study Exchange Team to Brazil. I was then elected District 7630 Governor for Rotary 1993-94 and received the Presidential Citation for Balanced Club Achievement. I have been recognized with the Citation for Meritorious Service and the Distinguished Service Award by the Rotary Foundation. Today I serve as the Centreville Rotary Club Foundation Chair and am Chairperson for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Mostly, I enjoy the people who are members of the Rotary.



## WILLIAM G. RYON

Founder and CEO of Ryon Wealth Strategies. I have been helping successful business owners, executives, and professionals preserve, protect and pass on their

wealth since 1994. As a Financial Educator, Author, Speaker and Wealth Strategist I have contributed to Yahoo Finance, Morningstar, Wall Street Journal's Market Watch, and co-authored the book, *Retire Like A Shark*, with Kevin Harrington, original "Shark" on ABC TV's Shark Tank. I joined Centreville Rotary in December 2019 after moving to Centreville with my wife and two daughters, as a way to get involved and help serve our new community. My service to our country in the US Marine Corps expanded my leadership skills and experience and I am now active with many organizations, including Board of Centreville Rotary Community Fund, Hockey Players in Business, and Navy Youth Hockey.



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### **DINAH RIORDAN**

Branch Manager/Senior Loan Officer at Atlantic Coast Mortgage in Stevensville, MD. I joined Rotary because I want to give back to our local community. I love that the

Rotary club is supporting our local youth/schools and putting together things like the Career Day where the kids can learn about local trades and the opportunities that are available. For a relatively small club, we can still have a big impact on the local community in so many positive ways.



### **PATRICIA SAELENS, ED.D.**

Patricia Saelens, Ed.D. Superintendent, Queen Anne's County Public Schools, Centreville, MD. I joined Rotary to build partnerships and collaborate with local businesses

to better serve our community and specifically our students. Rotary provides opportunities for me to get involved and give back. Teamwork is the dream work as they say! I look forward to continuing my service with Rotary and making a difference in our community. My favorite Rotary Project is honoring those who have or who continue to serve our country with the Flags for Heroes.



### **MATTHEW SCHIWY**

Vice President, Gunther Electric, Inc. located in Wye Mills, MD. I enjoy a variety of outdoor, hands-on activities from hunting and fishing, to snowboarding and

woodworking. I have been fascinated by Rotary since I was a young boy, watching my father and grandfather participate in club activities for many years. I have always known that as soon as I was ready, I would want to become a member of the Centreville Rotary Club. It brings me great joy to volunteer my time to help my local and global communities.



### **2023 CENTREVILLE ROTARY AVENUES OF SERVICE AWARDS— ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

DG Cliff Berg visited the Centreville club on May 18th to present Avenues of Service awards to five members of the Centreville club. The five award recipients were nominated by President Judy Price for their extraordinary contributions to these four avenues of service.

Photo caption from right to left: DG Cliff Berg; Kathy Coppersmith, recipient of the Youth Services Award; Jeanne Kent, recipient of the Club Service award; Bill Chesshire, recipient of the Community Service award; and Ken Wood and Tom Harlan, recipients of International Service awards for their extraordinary support and efforts bringing clean water to villages in Ghana and Tanzania.



## DOUGLAS STORCK

Branch Leader for the Truist Bank (formerly BB&T) in downtown Centreville, MD since June 2019 with nearly 30 years in banking. I specialize in assisting small business customers of the area with all of their financial needs. I joined Rotary because I have always believed in giving back to the community in which I serve. Elected to the Centreville Rotary Board in 2020, and serving as the Vocational Chair, we will be working on our third Career Day in partnership with Queen Anne's County High School, and inviting local businesses to meet with seniors who are graduating without a career path, to help them find work in our community.



## STEPHAN STROTHER

Former U.S. Correspondent for the German news channel "WELT-N24". After retiring from the news front, I transitioned into real estate, and I recently joined the *Washington Fine*

*Properties* brokerage—with clients on both sides of the Bay Bridge and in Washington, DC. We have a small farm in Centreville, MD. Rotary is a family tradition: My stepfather was a Rotarian in Hanover, Germany. I love to give back to our great community. My favorite Rotary projects are those that address food insecurities and hunger in the richest nation on the planet.



## PAIGE R. TILGHMAN

Owner of *Set the Table For Me*, 'Elegant Table Settings Delivered to your Door.' As a small business owner in Centreville, I understand a healthy community is important

to the success of my business. Rotary offers a network of dedicated business people who provide service where it is needed, locally, as a district and internationally. My role as past Rotary President was rewarding in our efforts to support a better place for us all. I especially enjoy recruiting new members to the club. I am also an active member of Third Haven Friends Meeting in Easton; a member of the Queen Anne's County Garden Club; the Queen Anne's County Historic Society; and serve on the Central Committee for the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage; and on the Board of the Art Academy Museum in Easton.

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**GREG TORCHIO**

Architect, Torchio Architecture, Centreville, MD, since 1990. Soon after moving my family to Centreville I learned about the Centreville Rotary club through my veterinarian and

my attorney. After visiting the Club for breakfast, I was invited to join in 1995. Rotary opened up a world of service opportunities to me. Serving as Club President 2001-2002 was an honor but, the highlight of my Rotary time was heading the design and construction of the Rotary House, a project that continues to serve women and children who are impacted by domestic violence. The Rotary House was made possible through the support from our community and provides a chance for families to get back on their feet. I am grateful and proud of this ongoing project.

**KEN WOOD**

Owner and Operator, Lifetime Well Drilling Company, Denton, MD and Lifetime Wells International, a 501C3. I raise money to dig water wells in Ghana and Tanzania, Africa. Recently, the work has been

expanded to provide resources and services to correct the high incidences of sight impairment and blindness that I have personally witnessed in these villages. Every chance I get, I am on a trip to Africa to improve life for people living in remote villages. I work through Rotary to expand this mission.

**LELIA (LEE) WRIGHT**

CPA with Richard Graves, CPA, located in Centreville, MD. I was relatively new to the area when I was invited to join Rotary and I thought it would be a good way to meet people and to

serve the community. Eighteen years later I have done both, by making friends with Club members and serving as a Past President and as Treasurer for the Club for many years. I am especially proud of the Rotary House project that provides a safe place for women and children who suffer from domestic violence. It has been rewarding to help these families. I also enjoy listening to the reports from high school students whom we have sent to RYLA, and how much that weekend experience has impacted them.

**JAMES (JAY) E. YERKES**

Partner, Rosin Creek Collaborative, LLC. I am a general contractor for residential and commercial construction on the Eastern Shore of MD. This is a

family venture with my wife and partner Lisa Yerkes and both of our sons. My interests also include music, art, running, sailing and active involvement in my church. Rotary is important to me in many ways. Being a morning person, I enjoy our breakfast meetings with like-minded friends who give their time to the community. In Rotary, you can see the real effects we have on a community through programs such as the Rotary House or support of Lifetime Wells International to bring clean water to third world communities in Africa. In Rotary, you build friendships that broaden your life experience while being involved in many important, life changing programs for your fellow man. At each meeting we remind ourselves what is most important in our mission. "Is it the TRUTH and FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER friendships and is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?" Yes. Rotary does all this.

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TRUTH?

IS IT FAIR  
TO ALL  
CONCERNED?

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BENEFICIAL  
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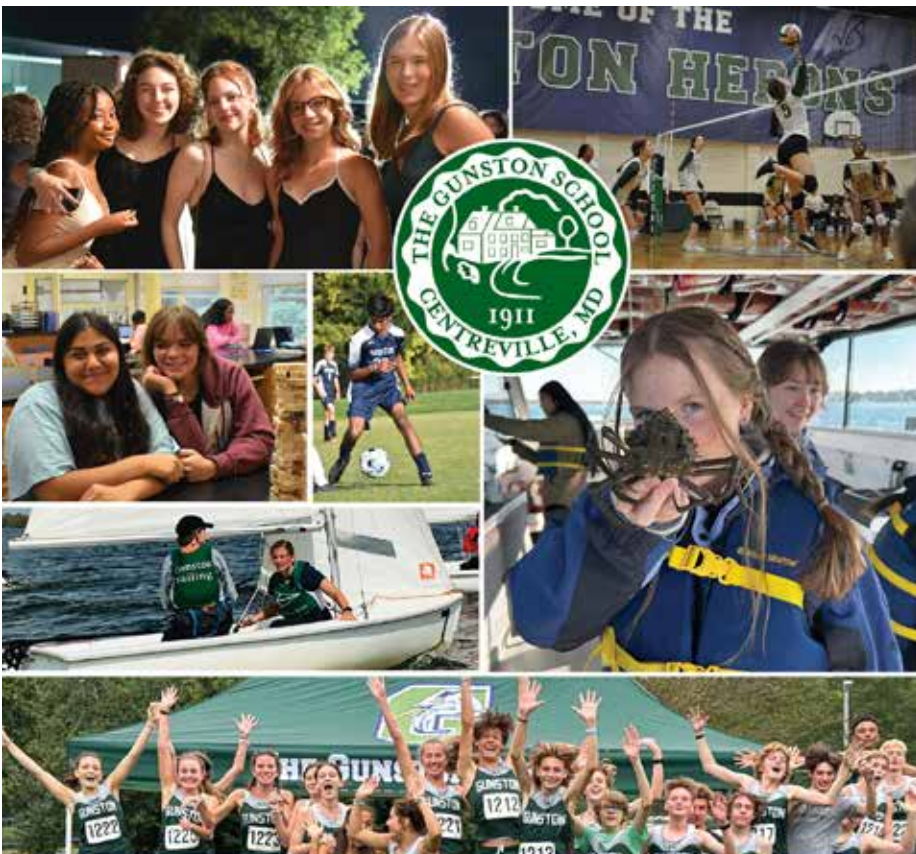
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