

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

In This Issue

[Greetings from Governor Felix](#)

[GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 23-25 in Columbus](#)

[Busy Spring for Augusta Rotary](#)

[Effingham Serving The Community](#)

[Seminar at Jesup Rotary Club](#)

[Jekyll's Packed Month](#)

[Macon Rotary Club Installs Peace Pole](#)

[Metro Savannahs 9th Annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser](#)

[Full Month of May for Perry Rotary](#)

[St Simons Productive Month](#)

[Tifton's Send Off Dinner](#)

[Vidalia Rotary Essay Contest Winners](#)

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District Leaders

Felix M Smith Jr.
District Governor

Todd A. Freesemann
District Governor Elect

William T. Adkins Jr.
District Governor Nominee

Bev Trainor
Governor Nominee Designate

Heather Ann Kellen
iPDG

Paula K. Goodnow
District Communications Officer

H. Bruce Montgomery
District Co-Treasurer

Elizabeth W. Hardin
District Co-Treasurer

Stephen D. Williams
District Membership Chair

Glenda H Kessler
CART Chair

Leslie Davisson Mattingly
RYLA Chair

Hamsa Thota

Rotary District 6920



Greetings From Governor Felix

Hello, Rotary Club Members!

As June dawns upon us, I'm reaching out to each of you with renewed enthusiasm and gratitude. Over the past month, I've had the pleasure of connecting with our remarkable clubs, witnessing firsthand the passion and dedication that define our Rotary family.

Our club visits have been nothing short of inspiring, showcasing the transformative projects and unwavering commitment each of you brings to your communities. Your resilience and enthusiasm leave an indelible mark on our district, and I'm immensely proud of the collective impact we've achieved.

In our ongoing quest for a polio-free world, your tireless efforts are truly heroic. As we press forward, your commitment to eradicating this disease embodies the essence of Rotary's force for positive change.

But our journey doesn't end here. With excitement and anticipation, I eagerly await the unfolding of 2024. Together, we'll embark on new initiatives, explore innovative avenues for service, and strengthen the bonds that make our Rotary family truly exceptional.

As we pause to reflect on the achievements of the past month, let's celebrate the impact we've made, the lives we've touched, and the enduring difference we continue to create. My deepest appreciation goes out to each of you for your unwavering dedication. Here's to an even brighter and more impactful year ahead!

GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 23-25 in Columbus

Rotarians and guests are invited to **Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2024-25 in Columbus August 23-25, 2024**. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6900 and under the direction of the Rotary Club of Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus.

Conclave is the kickoff event for GRSP and allows the international college scholarship students to interact with one another as well as Georgia Rotarians. Students, trustees, officers and host families will participate in important informational sessions beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Friday at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center and throughout the day on Saturday.

A special welcome dinner for registered Rotarians and guests will be held 6-9 p.m. at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Moore, featuring dinner and the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Jazz Ensemble for \$45 per person. Students will provide a short introduction along with naming their trustee as well as their sponsoring Rotary club or clubs.

Saturday evening attendees, business/smart attire, will enjoy a dinner and program at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center for the GRSP Cabaret, the popular variety-style performance and parade of flags, which is scheduled from 6:15-9:15 p.m.

The dinner will be \$55 per person. Saturday concludes at the Columbus Marriott with a social for the students and a separate mixer for Rotarians, including a cash-bar option from 9:15-11 p.m. On Sunday morning, the students will experience a whitewater rafting excursion before leaving at 11 a.m. to return to their respective colleges and universities or their club host family.

The Columbus Marriott, located in downtown Columbus, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who will need lodging with July 24 as the deadline to reserve the special GRSP limited-availability hotel rate.

The hotel link is in the registration link information as well as the registration for meals at Conclave, see below. **The deadline to register for Conclave is August 15.** A special thanks to Columbus-area Rotarians who will serve as weekend hosts to our students.

GRSP scholars are pre-registered for the event and meals. Rotarians and guests may register for Friday and/or Saturday dinners through the registration information below as well.

Registration is now open for Conclave, please visit the GRSP Calendar at <https://grsp.org/calendar-of-events/>



CONCLAVE 2024

Columbus, Georgia



Harris Ford
District Rotary
Foundation
Chair

Erin Andrews
District Public
Image Chair

Lily Kovacheva
District
Newsletter
Editor

Rob Kellner
GRSP Chair

**Assistant
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**Shana Dean
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Valdosta North

**Candace
Spicer
Christian**
Dublin

**Taylor Keith
Everett**
Tenille

**William F.
Franke III**
Augusta

**Kingman P.
Herin III**
Vidalia

**Charlene
Hutchinson**
Ocilla

Heather Klemm
Byron

Michael O'Neal
Savannah West

**Jessica G.
Pedigo**
Metropolitan
Savannah

Jim Seifert
Blackshear

Abby W. Smith
Effingham
County

**Beverly J.
Trainor**
St. Simons
Island

Pam Waters
Glennville

Busy Spring for Augusta Rotary

We recently heard from Col. Reggie Evans, the Garrison Commander of Ft. Eisenhower (formerly Ft. Gordon). The colonel explained the incredible growth and local impact of the missions carried on at the installation.



We also celebrated the graduation of former GRSP student Kaushini Pathirana (center) from Augusta University!

Effingham Serving The Community

The Rotary Club of Effingham was proud to serve the students, teachers and families during the Effingham County Board of Education's Family Fun Day on Wednesday, May 15th at South Effingham High School.

This year, the group had the pleasure of feeding roughly 1,000 individuals delicious hamburgers and hotdogs, the largest group thus far. Rotary club members look forward to this event each year as a way to serve our future generations.





Seminar at Jesup Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Jesup, Anchored, and the Shine The Light on Human Trafficking Seminar committee donated blankets and stuffed animals to our local Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center.

It's such an honor to work with Safe Harbor and help children and families in need.



Rotary Club of Jesup is on a mission to bring LifeVac to every needed establishment in Wayne County. LifeVac is an upper airway clearing device in order to bring the safest, simplest method to save an aspirating person.

We are honored to announce the Wayne County Sheriff's Department & Jesup Police Department are now fully stocked with LifeVacs.



Jekyll's Packed Month



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Noel Jensen, the Deputy Executive

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Mark Jensen, the Deputy Executive Director for the Jekyll Island Authority. Mr Jensen supports Mark Williams, Executive Director and oversees most day-to-day operations and all construction projects on Jekyll Island.

He reviewed projects currently underway and planned for the near future on the island. Pictured from left are Rotarian Ron Dickerson, Jensen and Club President Joe Gore.



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Chief Frank Allen from the Georgia Forestry Commission. He explained the Forestry Commission's roll in our district and state as well as their available equipment and personnel to respond to any fire events and their role in reforestation as required.

Present were members of the Jekyll Island Fire Department and the Jekyll Island Authority. Pictured from left are Rotarian and Secretary Elect Al Tate, Allen and Club President Joe Gore.

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Will Wagner, the Director of Historic Resources for the Jekyll Island Authority.

He is responsible for directing and managing activities and budgets for the Historical Resources departments: Curatorial, Preservation, Archives and Mosaic, the museum. Pictured from left are Rotarian Al Tate, Wagner and Club President Joe Gore.



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Jamie and Adam Sanders, the owners of At Your Service Errand Girl on Jekyll Island.

Their company provides a multitude of service to local residents such as deliveries, household help, shuttling residents to appointments, house and pet sitting just to name a very few. Their motto is: "If it's not illegal, we can probably do it." Pictured from left are Rotarian Randy Gardner, Jaime, Adam and Club President Joe Gore.

Macon Rotary Club Installs Peace Pole

On Monday, May 6 at 6:30pm the Macon Rotary Club will dedicate a Peace Pole outside the West Gate of the Atrium Health Amphitheater.

Peace Poles have been erected throughout the world and usually convey the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four or more languages. The Atrium Health Amphitheater will welcome visitors from all over the country, and all over the world, to our community.

The Macon Rotary Club is honored to be able to gift this symbol of peace that beautifully represents Macon-Bibb County culture and commitment to the arts," said Macon Rotary Club President Stephanie Folsom. The Peace Pole project was led by Rotarian Julie Wilkerson, of Macon Arts Alliance, and was built and installed by Macon Rotary Club member and owner of Georgia Artisan, Andrew Eck.

The Pole is about eight feet tall, with each side about nine inches wide, and includes the languages of English, Japanese, Muscogee and Braille. Four artists have been commissioned to complete the project, with each one completing a side.

Artists include the following:

- Oklahoma based Muskogee artist Hotvkuce Harjo - Muskogee side
- ? Macon graphic design and mural artist Erin Hawkins - Japanese side
- ? Macon muralist Kevin Lewis - English side
- ? Macon mosaic and tile artist Rudy Mendes - Braille side

A plaque at the bottom of the Peace Pole will include the following:
Dedicated May 6, 2024



Updated May 9, 2024

Rotary Club of Macon

Of the things we think, say or do:
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

May Peace Prevail on Earth

The Peace Pole will be dedicated during the Macon Rotary Club annual spring picnic which will be held at the Atrium Health Amphitheater Monday evening beginning at 6:00pm. Press are invited to attend the dedication ceremony which will be held around 6:30pm.



Metro Savannahs 9th Annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser

Metropolitan Savannah Rotary's Interact Clubs at St. Andrews School celebrate their annual fundraiser's impact as school adjourns for the year. St. Andrew's School's 9th Annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser, held earlier this year, was Metro's first joint service project with the St. Andrew's School's two Interact Clubs. Together several Metro Rotarians and Interact students supported [Children Inspiring Hope](#) by working together to prepare and serve dinner, and with general set up for the event.

Children Inspiring Hope's [mission](#) is to connect children cross-culturally through arts and education, to engender a deepened social consciousness and to create compassionate citizens of the world. [CIH](#) brings the world into the classroom, bridging minds and hearts, via arts and education projects based on our shared humanity, peace building and Earth stewardship with primary and junior high students.

Amy Gaylor Nedriga, Executive Director for Children Inspiring Hope (CIH), shared with Metro Rotary's President Jasmine Mills, "I am reaching out to you to send gratitude for Metro Rotary's support of the 9th Annual Empty Bowl Dinner at St. Andrew's™, which was the most successful to date, thanks to you all supporting with the dinner. We extend our gratitude to all those present who supported and know you all will also be fulfilled with how far an evening of sharing a meal together can go in creating compassionate global citizens and timely tangible impact! Many of the students reflect in their CIH surveys that Empty Bowl event engagement, both the process of making bowls and coming together as a community, is a highlight of their CIH participation this year. Nearly all students shared that this made them feel like global citizens with compassion for others."

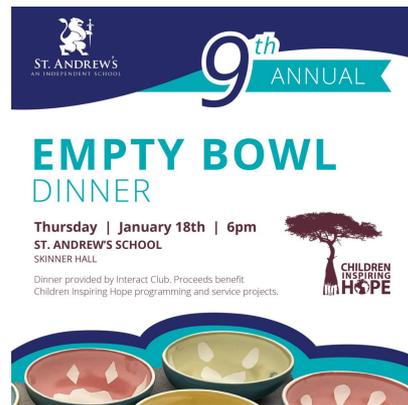
Luke, a 7th grader, reflected: *'My lasting impression is that spending money in the right places can help a lot of people.'*

Savannah shared, *'Finding out we were helping to get fresh water really had an impact on me and made me feel grateful for what we have.'*

Proceeds so far have impacted:

- 100 people gaining access to clean water through filtrations systems delivered on Easter giving **Water to Drink**
- Support for 5 students school fees, and meals on campus supporting **Chance to Learn**
- Constructing of 750 yam beds, and yam seeds supporting **Farm to Feed**

There are still funds that will be distributed to support all these service projects, and the tangible impact of the lives of our brothers and sisters in Ghana.





Full Month of May for Perry Rotary

ROTARY READS: LITERACY VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON Perry Rotary Literacy Volunteer Luncheon!

On May 20, 2024, we gathered to celebrate and honor the remarkable dedication and hard work of our literacy volunteers. Over the course of this school year, these volunteers have collectively led 55 sessions of reading for our 3rd graders at Morningside Elementary School, fostering a love for books and learning in their young minds.

Their commitment to nurturing these children's education is truly inspiring. Each session, each story, and each moment spent with the students has made a significant impact on their lives. Their efforts are helping to build a brighter future for them, one page at a time.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers for their invaluable service and unwavering support. Thank you for being the champions of literacy and making such a profound difference in our community. Together, we create hope in the world!

Thank you Dr. Mitti Smith for guiding this project.
Thank you Walon Smith, District 6920 Literacy Chair for coming.




Read United/Rotary Reads
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
 May 20, 2024 @ 12N, Rozar Park
 1060 Keith Dr. Perry GA 31069









DR. HORATIO CABASARES SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Through our Summer Reading Program, each child at Morningside Elementary School and Tucker Elementary School received 3 books. This program helps bridge the reading gap during summers and get the students ready for the next grade level

Trinity School of Medicine ROTARACT Fundraiser and Recruitment Fair!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our last 2 students of the month for this school year- Sincere Young from Perry Middle School and Ayan Patel from Westfield! We are so proud of all the hard-working middle school students we have had the privilege of recognizing this year.



ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to these amazing young ladies as recipients of this year's Perry Rotary Scholarship Awards. Great job and good luck in your future endeavors!

PERRY HIGH SCHOOL AWARDEES

- Hugh Hill Award â€” Briten Wood
- Bobby Arcos Vocational Award â€” Layla Brown
- WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AWARDEES
- Hugh Hill Award â€” Chase Abney
- Bobby Arcos Vocational Award â€” Kylee Gates





SHERIFF CANDIDATE FORUM
May 13, 2024

Thank you to all five candidates for participating in today's forum and to the community for engaging in this important conversation. Remember to exercise your right to vote on May 21st, as we mark the end of an era with the retirement of Sheriff Talton after 52 years of dedicated service. Let's shape the future of Houston County together!

CONGRATS to our Paul Harris Fellow recipients this month.

Thank you for your service and financial support.

- Keith Beckham, PHF +8
- Jade Harbin- PHF + 2
- Dana McCracken- PHF + 7



PERRY GA Water Provision Wastewater Treatment Updates

We are honored to have Ansley Fitzner as our guest speaker for the May 6th, 2024 Rotary meeting. Ansley is a UGA graduate with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree. She grew up in Metro Atlanta and worked for a landscape company on Hilton Head Island and architecture firm Niles Bolton Associates after college. Ansley started working at the City of Perry in 2017 and has been the Public Works Superintendent for 4 years.

UPDATES

Perry has been awarded top honors for its water and is investing over \$4 million in upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure.

- *New Wastewater Plant*: The city is partnering with Perry Public Facilities Authority to provide utilities to subdivisions and new developments through a new wastewater plant.
- *East Perry Wastewater Treatment Facility*

ANTI-VAPING CAMPAIGN

Great job Trinity School of Medicine ROTARACT for Anti-Vaping Campaigns at WRHS Demon Fest!

Trinity School of Medicine's ROTARACT Club recently made a significant impact at WRHS Demon Fest with their compelling anti-vaping campaigns. Demon Fest, a popular annual event at Warner Robins High School (WRHS), draws students, parents, and community members together for a day of fun and informative activities. This year, the festival took on a critical public health issue with the help of the dedicated ROTARACT members from Trinity School of Medicine.



EARLY ACT RECOGNITION CEREMONY



Perry Rotary Club attended a heartwarming event to celebrate the outstanding efforts of its youngest community leaders. Early Act Clubs, sponsored by Rotary International, aim to instill the values of leadership, service, and good citizenship in elementary school students. At Tucker Elementary, third and fourth graders have embraced these principles wholeheartedly, participating in various projects that benefit their school and the wider community. We are grateful to their wonderful advisers, Ms. Kaki Whiddon and Ms. Holly Owen, for their guidance. As the students left with their certificates and smiles, it was clear that the future of community service is in good hands.

St Simons Productive Month

SSI Rotary new "After Hours Club" completes first Service Project

St. Simons Rotary Club sponsors the Satellite "After Hours" Club, which currently holds one formal meeting and one service project every month, offering more flexibility for those who find attending traditional Rotary weekly meetings difficult due to busy schedules or other commitments.

5 members of the SSI Rotary After Hours Club recently worked on a service project to help spread mulch (organized by the Brunswick Housing Authority, BHA) on the main playground circle of the McIntyre Court Playground.

Pictured from left: Andre Hunt, Brunswick Housing Authority; SSI Rotary After Hours Satellite Club Members Linka Lewis, Sharon Medford, Maria Jennings, Mary Beth Wester and Vicki Lambert.



Salvation Army Captain thanks St Simons Rotary members

St. Simons Rotary Club recently hosted Captain Jim Dillinger of the Salvation Army. Capt. Dillinger thanked members of St Simons Rotary Club who by volunteering regularly to be bell ringers at Christmas time, raise funds to help provide essential services for the homeless, rental assistance, food, shelter, disaster relief, children in the local community.

Capt. Dillinger presented a Certificate of Appreciation to St. Simons Rotary President, Janice Lamattina.

Pictured: on the left Capt. Dillinger with SSI Rotary President, Janice Lamattina.



GRSP Student presents to St Simons Rotary members

Mohit Sadhwani, 2023-2024 Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) student from the island of Monserrat, gave a power point presentation to St Simons Rotary Club members about his experiences during his year here, including attending classes and living on campus at the College of Coastal Georgia.

He very much appreciated the "Southern Hospitality" extended him, discussed differences in the cuisine and presented his travels to places including Disney World. He said he learned a lot, enjoyed meeting new people and was grateful for the opportunity to come to USA and expressed his thanks to Rotary/Rotarians for making it possible.

Pictured: Mohit Sadhwani



St. Simons Island After Hours Rotarian and Reading Rockets

St. Simons Rotary After Hours Club member Linka Lewis volunteers every week as a Rotary Reading Rocket for a local Kindergarten Class, in support of the Rotary International initiative toward literacy. For the final day of "class" this year each student was awarded their very own book to take home.

Pictured: Linka Lewis, center, with her Reading Rockets class from Oglethorpe Point Elementary School.



St. Simons Island Rotary members volunteer at Manna House

Members of St. Simons Island Rotary Club recently volunteered to prepare meals for those with food insecurities at Manna House of Brunswick. The Rotarians then toured the Brunswick Golden Isles Veterans Village, a "neighborhood" of 30 tiny-homes and a



community center geared toward educational and job training opportunities for homeless veterans, currently nearing completion.

Pictured from left: St. Simons Island Rotarians Tom Jackson, Paul Pieschel and Pamela Hamilton.



St. Simons Rotary Club hosts K9 Unit of Glynn County Police Department

St. Simons Rotary Club hosted 4 Officers of the K9 Unit of Glynn County Police Department with their dogs Bety, Ghost, Rossi and Roscoe.

Office Shipskie explained that these highly-trained police dogs are certified in tracking lost people and fugitive criminals, suspect apprehension, article searches and narcotics detection.

The dogs live with their officer trainers; the teams work on patrol shifts but are on call 24/7. The 4 teams gave rotary members demonstrations of tracking people and articles, and narcotics detection.

Pictured left to right: Officer Monks (Rossi), Officer Lane (Roscoe), Officer Dinkins with Bety in background and Officer Shipskie (Ghost)



St Simons Rotary Club hosts annual Taps at Twilight

St. Simons Rotary Club presented Taps at Twilight on Memorial Day at Neptune Park on St. Simons Island, free to the Community in keeping with its annual tradition since 1991.

This tribute is to honor those who have fallen in the service of our country, those who have valiantly served and returned, and those who are serving today. Included was the Golden Isles Community Band, an honor guard, the presentation of a floral wreath with a bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace.

The Memorial Day address was given by retired U.S. Army Colonel Kevin "Red Eagle" Brown and Invocation by returned U.S. Air Force Major General William B. "Burt" Davitte. Battle Hymn of the Republic was sung by Jim Broussard, music director of Christ Church Frederica.

The event concluded with the traditional Taps anthem.



St. Simons Rotary awards 4 year Scholarships to 7 area High School Students

St. Simons Rotary Club recently presented four-year scholarships to seven students graduating from area Glynn County high schools. This will bring the total number of local students receiving college education awards from St Simons Rotary in 2024 to 22.

The St. Simons Rotary Scholarship was started in 1954 and the Club has continued to make this a primary initiative through the years.

Pictured Left to Right: Cohen Coolidge Glynn Academy, Ama Kodua and Henlie Hipchen Brunswick High, Grayson Caine and Kathleen Eckert Frederica Academy, Chanthony Andrews Brunswick High, Jr. Not pictured Mallory Reiss Glynn Academy.

Tifton's Send Off Dinner

The Rotary Club of Tifton had a send-off dinner for their GRSP student Antonia Platzberger of Essen, Germany, at the Local at the Lankford restaurant.

District 6920 GRSP Chair Rob Kellner attended as well as GRSP Executive Director Katherne Fields and GRSP Trustee Renata Elad. The club thanked the local host family, Andy and Cindy Marzen.

Antonia invited some of her classmates from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and fellow GRSP students Ana Pereira Gonzalez from Cartagena, Columbia, sponsored by three clubs in District 6900 and Emilio Ybarra Ibarra from Guadalajara, Mexico, sponsored by the Valdosta Rotary Club.

Antonia thanked the Tifton Rotary Club "for the best year of my life," and said she was thankful to the Marzens and to Valdosta Club President Deanna Smith and her husband Terry for taking her to so many interesting places during her year in Georgia.



Vidalia Rotary Essay Contest Winners

Vidalia Rotary held an additional fundraiser this year to enable the Club to increase the amount of money given to multiple causes, including awarding more student scholarships. Congratulations to our local scholarship winners! We are so happy that our Club was able to give \$6,000 in scholarships to these students!

Rebecca Proenza, Vidalia Heritage Academy
Jasie Cleghorn, Vidalia High School
Max Beverly, Vidalia High School
Julia Oneal, Vidalia Heritage Academy
Aleah Ajohda, Vidalia High School
Caroline Thompson, Robert Toombs Christian Academy
Raymond Florez, Toombs County High School
Catherine Wilcox, Vidalia High School
Dottie McDaniel, Vidalia High School



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District Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Rotary6920

Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org/en

Rotary International Foundation: www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation

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