



Speakers

February 20, 2024

Mitchell Tofte - Edward Jones Financial
Edward Jones Financial

February 27, 2024

Bill Perkins, Vice President, Bremerton Raceway

March 05, 2024

Sara Hatfield Career Technical Education

March 12, 2024

Roy Harrington Chaplain, WA state Commander & Service Officer
State Patrol chaplain and helping disabled Veterans

Events

No Events found

Club Leaders



Wayne S. Wright
President



David Weatherill
President-Elect



Joe Higbee
Secretary



Jon W. Gailey
Treasurer



Janis Marack
Club Director
RYLA Club Chair
International Service Chair



Dave Montoure
Club Service Chair
President-Nominee



Matthew Shillingburg
Club Director



David Weikel
Youth Protection Officer
Public Image Chair



Nick Zar
Club Director
Youth Exchange Officer



Heidi Fenton
Membership Chair



Rob Sowell
Rotary Foundation Chair



Robin Jay Lawler
Community Service Chair
Club Service Chair



Gregory J. Wall
Past President

Birthdays

Newsletter 2/19/2024

February - World Understanding Month

Area if Focus: Peace and conflict prevention/resolution. The month of February is very special in the Rotary calendar because it includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on February 23, 1905, now designated as the World Understanding and Peace Day.

Tuesday, February 20th at 730 am is a morning meeting. Our speaker will be Mitchell Tofte, CIMA®, is a senior regional consultant with MFS Fund Distributors, Inc., a subsidiary of MFS Investment Management. If you choose to zoom. Code is 3602656691.

If you remember, we all received tickets from Dave Selbig. We actually need to go online to buy the tickets. If you haven't gone on portorchardrotary.maxgiving.bid then you don't have a seat at the auction. If you need help buying those tickets, call Dave Selbig, Dave Weikel or me. We'd be happy to walk you through it. So please go to the auction site and get your tickets.

Our Auction is 20 days away. We need your donations turned in. Please bring in Tuesday.

February 22nd, Thursday 730 am auction meeting at the bowling alley. I will have Zoom available at auction meeting. Sign in and put 3602656691 into code.

February 21st 5-8pm Please join Matt at this event. Active, Retired, and Reserve Veteran and Military Spouse Networking.
Western Red Brewing
19168 Jensen Way NE
Poulsbo, WA

March 2, 2024 The Military Affairs Committee of the Greater Kitsap Chamber is proud to announce that the 2024 Military Appreciation Day Carnival and Information Fair has been scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds in the Kitsap Sun Pavilion. Military Appreciation Day (MAD) is an interactive event that highlights the community support for our local military members, including Active Duty, National Guard Reservists, Retirees, and their families. MAD is the largest event of its kind in Kitsap County, and we hope to surpass the 3,500 that attended MAD in previous years. This year's Information Fair and Carnival will include games, prizes, military displays, and information on the duties performed by our area service members, as well as inflatables for the kids. We encourage all of our vendors to create their booths to show support for our Military Community. Meet at 9 am

March 5th, 630 pm Board meeting at Whiskey Gulch.

March 9th, 2024 PO Rotary Crab ?? Feed and Auction. I hope all will plan to be there.

This auction is an all-club event. We need everyone to come, potentially Friday, definitely Saturday, to help set up. We, also, need to have as many club members and your significant others to help clean up. The more we have to set up and clean up, the sooner we can all go home.

We will raise money for our funded item, Raise the Paddle, for KAVA, Kitsap Area's Veterans Alliance.

You might consider dressing to the theme. Red, white, blue attire. Amazon has wonderful looking items.

March 16th, Saturday, 10-1pm Distribution Day-After Auction Distribution. Location to be announced. We'd love the help.

March 27th 5pm Another Minister of Fun event at Olalla Bay Landing in Olalla. I, for one, is looking forward to learning more about restaurants and museums.

May 3 and 4th, 2024. Rotary District Conference. It's been a very long time since a conference has been in the USA. This really is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed. Two days of fellowship and learning about Rotary and how one person can help. It would be fun to see how many of our group could attend. Let's make a big splash. Hotel reservation: <https://d5020.com/2324HOTEL>

READY TO REGISTER? <https://d5020.com/2324REGISTRATION>

May 11th, Bremerton Raceway. It will be a day of racing. Details will come later, but the CEO will come up with a special place for us to watch the cars racing. It will be fun.

June 25th, 2024, 530 pm Dave Weatherill's Installation of Officers at Gold Mountain Olympic Room. It's always a beautiful night when we have our events there.

July 1st, 2024 New Rotary Year Starts with President Dave Weatherill and his Board.

Do you have anything you want me to put in the newsletter? Please write what you want to say and send to me.

Also, if you have speaker ideas. Please let me know.

Enjoy your weekend.
Leslie

Long Way Home - 2024 Port Orchard Rotary Crabfeed!



It's almost that time! Only 1 month until our favorite night of the year...our annual Crab Feed and Auction.

This year, Port Orchard Rotary wants to honor those who have served in any branch of the military and their families. So, we are thrilled to announce that proceeds from the raise-the-paddle section will be given to Kitsap Area Veteran's Alliance (KAVA). KAVA provides relief to Kitsap County's unsheltered, indigent veterans, their families, and the families of deceased indigent veterans. This amazing group of individuals truly care for the community who have defended our country since its inception. You can read more about the organization on their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/388972331231253/?ref=share&mbextid=K8Wfd2>.

You can purchase tickets to the event by visiting <https://portorchardrotary.maxgiving.bid/about-us>. Can't attend but want to support KAVA or the Port Orchard Rotary? You can do so by purchasing a golden ticket or donating online. The link above should get you there. Also, we need to give a special shout-out to [The BJC Group, Inc.](https://www.bjcgroup.com), our platinum sponsor, who has supported our organization's fundraiser for the past three years. Thank you!





2023 Laying of Wreaths at Retsil



On December 16, members of the Port Orchard Rotary club joined with the Veteran's Allegiance VMC and VFW Post 2669 for the Laying of Wreaths at Retsil as part of the Wreaths Across America program.



Port Orchard Rotary 50th Year Project – Givens Park Playcourts

By Wayne S. Wright on Sunday, August 27, 2023



It's a big deal to turn 50! As Port Orchard Rotary Club celebrates their 50th anniversary, Rotarians are once again redoubling their efforts to make their local community a better place to live.

Their chosen 50th anniversary project is a collaboration with the City of Port Orchard to revitalize a run-down park and play court facility in the heart of downtown.

The project is part of the community gathering space that includes the Givens Community Center, South Kitsap Western Little League fields, South Kitsap Peewee Association, Picnicking spaces, green space, and public restrooms. Several Port Orchard Rotarians remember playing on these courts as kids—oh so many years ago!—and this project will revitalize this essential facility for youth and adult recreation. Rotarians will refurbish the existing dilapidated basketball and tennis play courts, addressing the rough and uneven asphalt, surface cracks, rusty fencing, aged lighting, and overgrown surrounding landscaping.

The unusable Court surfaces will be ground down to make a strong base for newly installed court surfaces which will be strong and weather resistant.



The basketball court will be repainted to include striping for a Futsal court, the first in Kitsap County. (Futsal is also known as speed soccer and is played in a smaller arena set to the size of a standard basketball court).

The tennis courts will be refurbished and striped to include both tennis and pickleball striping. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation, and it was invented in Kitsap County. As you can imagine, there's a huge demand for Racquet sport courts in the South Kitsap area.

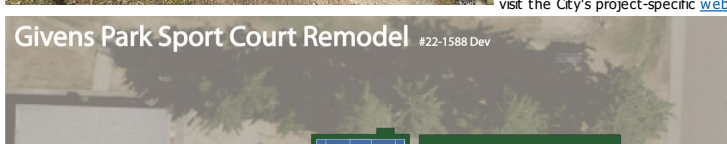
All new security fencing and lighting will be added for safety as well as a section of public seating along the perimeter of the facility.

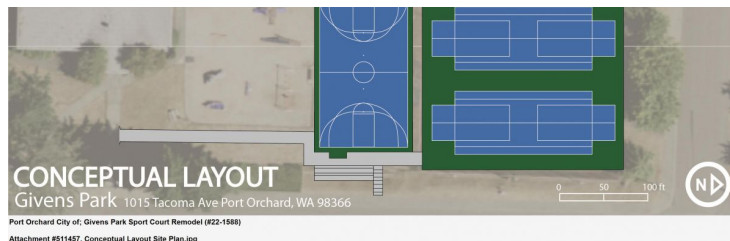
A grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office was awarded to the City of Port Orchard for approximately half the needed funds to build the project as planned.

The Port Orchard Rotary Club has pledged \$50,000 in match funds and is championing the fundraising effort to achieve full \$150,000 funding. Through a grassroots campaign of community engagement, project awareness, and grant writing, Rotarians hope to see this project built within their 50th year of service. To lend support, please visit the Rotary Club's [giving site](#) developed specifically for the project. For additional information about the project and plans, please visit the City's project-specific [website](#).

Givens Park Sport Court Remodel

#22-1588 Dev





Port Orchard
Rotary



Support from our Rotary for Peninsula BMX track!



The Port Orchard Community Service group continues its' giving in the local area.

Recently Leslie Reynolds-Taylor and Robin Lawyer attended a night of racing at the Peninsula BMX track. The check was for a total of \$1400 and will be used to help maintain the facility as well as provide a scholarship for a needy racer. The hardworking folks at the track appreciated the funds and said it "really helps". A Rotary sign will be hung and our efforts posted to their on-line sights. If you have not been there you should visit, they are a great resource for kids and parents alike. More can be found on their website <https://pibmx.com/>.

Port Orchard Library - the Community Service group provided \$500 to support the library's youth reading drive. What a great cause the Rotary has supported over the years.

East Port Orchard Elementary - snack time for kids efforts supported with a donation of \$500. These funds will be used to provide healthy snacks to needy students to help keep them focused on learning.

The Rotary roundabout has been decorated for the Holiday's and the lighting system repaired.

Just prior to the recent flooding at the South Kitsap food bank the Rotary donated \$2000 and provided two heaters to support the operation. The funds were greatly appreciated and helped them quickly respond to the disaster. Clients saw no disruption in service due to the flooding according to foodbank employees, despite the loss of many of their dry goods stores.

Rotary in action in our community!

Roundabout Holiday Lights are up.

By Robin Jay Lawyer on Sunday, November 19, 2023

The annual Christmas light display at the Rotary Roundabout has been completed. Thanks to everyone that was able to join in the fun. Special thanks to Dave Selbig for bringing the Coffee and Donuts. Rotary in action!



Update on the lokaukan sand dam from our NGO partners Hifadhi Africa

Water is life and is a natural resource which should be available naturally, in semi-arid area in Kenya water still a problem in some community. Baringo county is among the county in Kenya that is still struggling to make water available to every individual in some homes in east Pokot. [Hifadhi Africa](#) togetherwith [Port Orchard Rotary](#) have been working tirelessly to provide water both for animal and human being available by constructing sand dam in community .today the collapsed sand dam has been repaired to provide more water. This the new look of lokaukan sand dam. Hifadhi Africa 2023
[#TransformingLives](#) [#HumanitarianAid](#)
[#togetherwecanmakeadifference](#)



Hifadhi Africa
Transforming lives throughout Africa



Port Orchard Rotary Club Changing lives in East Pokot, Kenya

Thursday, September 14, 2023



The first two weeks in July, Chris Cairns and family (Ian, Michelle, Bruce, Evan and Ashley) went to Kenya to visit the recipients of the Port Orchard Rotary Club Global Grants that had been facilitated by Bob Cairns.

The family was enthusiastically greeted by the people of Natan in East Pokot, Baringo County who benefited from the first sand dam. As is custom they were greeted by traditional songs and dance. This time they were also surprised with gifts of blankets, head bands, necklaces and bracelets. The people of Natan expressed their gratitude for the sand dam and how it had changed their lives. They reported that they were using the ceramic water filters that had been given to them as part of the second global grant. The Cairns were not able to visit all the sand dams but did visit another one in Lokoukani that had been damaged. Currently, efforts are being made to have the sand dam fixed before the next rainy season.

Since this area was experiencing another famine, maize was passed out to the people of Natan and to schools in the area.

On the second day 2 schools that had been the beneficiaries of the Global Grant were visited. At the Chesakam school, they were also greeted by song and dance. The students who performed had come in second in a regional contest just a couple of weeks before they arrived. Soccer balls were given out to the students by Bruce and Evan Cairns. School supplies were presented by Ian Cairns. This school has a borehole



that was repaired with the first global grant. They currently are requesting that piping be put in from the borehole to the school kitchen so that the students don't have to take time to collect water for the kitchen in the morning before lunch. The borehole is available to the local people also. Chris had a chance to talk to some of them and again heard how access to water had changed the lives of the people in the area.



Cheptunoyo was another school that benefited from the Global Grant by rainwater harvesting. This has changed the school's ability to stay open during the dry season. Unfortunately, one of the water tanks had been damaged and needed to be replaced. Cheptunoyo is a boarding school. They have bed frames but no mattresses for the beds. The students tried putting cardboard over the bed springs to sleep but ended up sleeping on the cardboard on the floor. Soccer balls were distributed again by Bruce and Evan.



The Bob and Chris Library is next to the Cheptunoyo school. Christine the Cheptunoyo headmaster reports that the library is well used. More shelves are needed as many of the books are on the floor. Also, Christine reports more room is needed as students are coming from many other schools to use the library. Christine would like to find a way to make the library accessible to even more students as it is the only library in an area the size of Kitsap County. Again, they heard how much the library had made a change in the lives of the students and their families.

Florence and Patrick who were teachers that had attended the VTT grant that the Port Orchard Rotary Club had participated in with Rotary clubs in the Seattle district. The teachers reported that the training they received had had a significant impact on their lives and well as those of their students. Of course, they asked for more training.

Port Orchard Rotary Celebrates Over 30 Years of Exchange Students

By Wayne S. Wright on Saturday, August 26, 2023



It's a big deal to turn 50! It's an even bigger deal to celebrate the accomplishments of a strong and robust Rotary Club. On August 22, 2023, the Port Orchard Rotary Club celebrated our commitment to Rotary's Youth Exchange Program by including our 1993-1994 Inbound Youth Exchange student, Natalia Encinas in our ZOOM meeting from Buenos Aires, Argentina! Many members of the Club remember Natalia as an outgoing, gregarious student with a desire to do all she could to maximize her total experience during her stay with us! We have fond memories of our time with her. During our conversation she mentioned that Port Orchard is her home away from home and that her life was forever changed by my time with the Rotary Club in Port Orchard. Tears were shed in the room and on zoom! Natalia is now 47 years old and is the Legal Manager of the Port of Buenos Aires! She is married and has an 8 year-old daughter. As much as she says we changed her life, there is no doubt that she changed ours as well. And thirty years later it was evident that she had a most positive impact!

A secondary benefit of highlighting a past inbound is the timing, one week before our new inbound arrives! This meeting was not only a celebratory moment, but it also afforded the opportunity to remind our members of the important role they play in engaging with our new inbound. Clubs often get tired of the constant requests, pleads, haranguing, whatever from the YEO. Scheduling a zoom call with a past inbound allows the club to be reminded of their role without involving the YEO. The goal therefore of this effort was twofold; set the stage for member expectations moving forward and celebrating 30 years of friendship. We won on both counts!!!



The Youth Exchange program is an original "Bring Hope to The World" program. When a student from another country often one less developed than ours the exchange of cultural awareness, living experiences, family connections, and exploration forge bonds that time cannot break. Those bonds, combined with an increased awareness of the world we share with fellow humans, improve life in so many ways and maintains our common desire to

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