



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

October 14, 2024
No Meeting – Columbus Day

What does the federal holiday Columbus Day mean to you? It's a day to reflect on the enduring spirit of exploration and discovery, recognizing the impact of his journey on world history. While the holiday has evolved over time and sparked debates (some communities have chosen to celebrate Indigenous Cultures Day instead), it remains an occasion for reflection on exploration, discovery, and the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our nation.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our October 7 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/ykgjqw6>. Please note that a technical difficulty caused the first few minutes to be omitted.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

October, 2024

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------|
| 14 | No meeting – Columbus Day | |
| 15 | <i>Board meeting</i> | |
| 19 | <i>Macon Beer Fest, sponsored by Downtown Rotary to promote prostate cancer awareness (volunteers needed)</i> | |
| 21 | Georgia Farm Bureau | Jeffery Harvey, CAO |
| 24 | <i>Read for the Record</i> | Burdell-Hunt Magnet School |
| 28 | <i>Crimestoppers Luncheon at Centreplex, no regular meeting</i> | |

November, 2024

- 2 *Pickleball Tournament* sponsored by Downtown Macon Rotary Club
- 4 Rotary Foundation – Birthday Tables Day Elizabeth Harden
- 11 No meeting, Veterans Day
- 18 Georgia Ports Authority, joint meeting with other two Macon clubs
- 19 *Board meeting*
- 21 *Stuff the Truck* Club service project
- 25 No meeting – Thanksgiving

MEETING October 7, 2024

Attendance: 53% - 58 in person, 14 Zoom, plus 10 guests

CART \$153, Raffle \$33

Club Membership: 145 (including today's induction)

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Past President and Past District Governor Albert Reichert to lead the singing and pledge. Albert chose *Vive la Compagnie*, which seems to be a favorite of his. Cameron Bishop then offered the prayer.

President Danny welcomed our many guests, which included two potential members.

CART brags followed. This is a special time when members can brag about just about anything, but must put at least \$2 in the blue buckets which benefit Alzheimer's research. Of course there was the usual sniping about football games, but the terrible destruction of Hurricane Helene was also mentioned. Danny said that at their next meeting the Board will look into how our club can help.

Here are just a few of the members who offered brags (thanks to Lori Palmer for today's pictures):

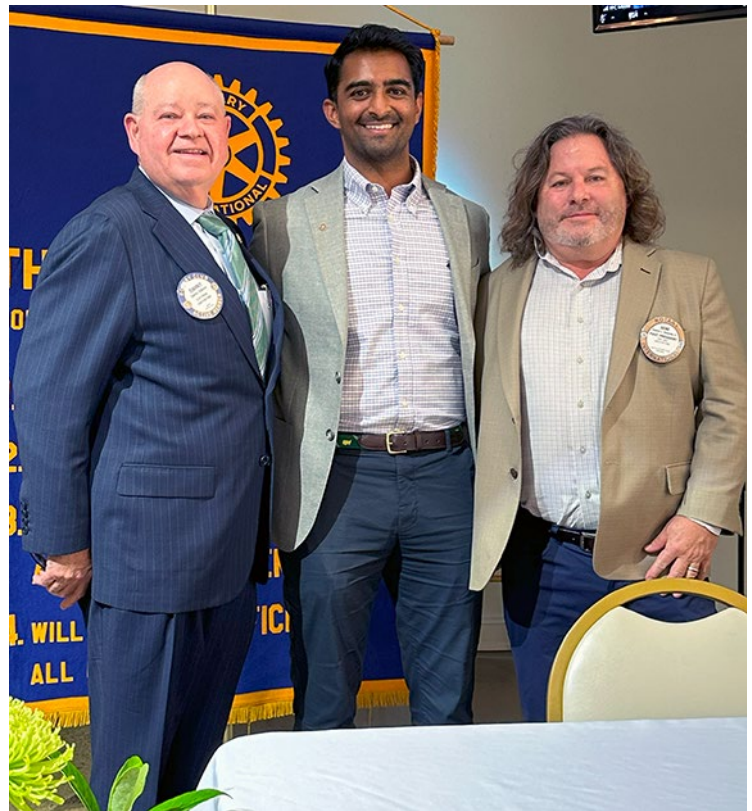


Danny reminded the members we have no meeting next week, the 14th, but there will be a board meeting on the 15th. October 19 is the Macon Beer Fest, and we could still use more volunteers (sign up at <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/RSVP/Index.cfm?EventID=77785181>). October 24 is Read for the Record, and we are still waiting on the exact time but please go ahead and sign up (see article below).

October 14 is World Polio Day, and we will have a presentation on Rotary's polio fighting efforts at our October 21 meeting. There is no regular meeting October 28, but the annual Crimestoppers luncheon will be held from noon at the Centreplex and members are encouraged to attend.

In the interest of time, President Danny skipped Rotary birthdays and club anniversaries, but they are noted here. Ten members celebrate over the next two weeks, and eight members have club anniversaries October 1 through 20. Cater Thompson has seven years, Josh Rogers and Immediate Past President Stephanie Folsom have 14, Lee Gerdes has 24, and Past President Bert Maxwell celebrates an amazing 52 years of Rotary service.

It was then time to induct our newest member, Mayur Patel, who will hold the classification of Physical Therapy. He was introduced by Gene Dunwody. Originally from Chicago, Mayur graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in sports science, and worked as a trainer for UA while a student there. He has a Ph.D. in Physical Therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. Mayur has an impressive background, and Gene read from a CV prepared by our member Dr. Van Van De Water. One of the highlights is that "he treats patients one-on-one, helping them to avoid surgeries and any unnecessary injections to get them back to active and pain-free lifestyles." When he first moved to Macon he worked at Ortho Georgia before opening his own practice in 2020. His staff includes three other Ph.D. physical therapists and their assistants.



Mayur was born a first-generation American in the Chicago suburbs to parents who immigrated from India, and was brought up in the small town of Andalusia, Alabama. His work ethic was instilled by his parents, who worked long shifts at Dunkin Donuts to support the family and also to aid their Indian relatives. They eventually bought a hotel in Macon and Mayur always worked in the family business.

We welcome Mayur to our club!



Our program was presented by River Edge CEO Cass Hatcher, and he was introduced by member Sherrie Marshall. Cass Hatcher serves as CEO of River Edge Behavioral Health. He leads a team of more than 600 healthcare employees whose goal is to make life better for individuals and families across Georgia who are seeking help with mental illness, substance use disorders and developmental disabilities.

As CEO, Cass also presides over the River Edge Foundation and its respective nonprofit companies that have placed in production more than 200 affordable housing units for the homeless, a woman-focused treatment center, and a new \$14 million-dollar recovery

center serving individuals in crisis. He is currently overseeing the development of a \$23 million-dollar Crisis Service and Diagnostic Center, the first of its kind in Georgia, serving individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities.

Before joining River Edge, Cass was director of the Hope 6 neighborhood revitalization program for the Macon Housing Authority. Under his leadership, the Authority completed this Federally-funded program ahead of schedule, and under budget.

Cass began his career as a U.S. Air Force architectural engineering officer, retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. During his career he managed large, complex construction programs as a base civil engineer. Cass served in Saudi Arabia, among other missions supervising the construction and delivery of the \$1.6 billion-dollar Peace Shield air defense system for the Royal Saudi Air Force.

He earned his Bachelor's degree in architectural design from Tuskegee University, and holds a master's degree from Central Michigan University in public administration.

Cass came to the podium saying his mother would be proud to hear that introduction. He launched a PowerPoint presentation outlining River Edge's history and operations.

ABOUT RIVER EDGE

- ❖ **Founded in 1950**
 - Ratified by Georgia State Law in 1994, revised in 2014 by the Georgia General Assembly as a Community Service Board (CSB)
 - Contracted through Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
- ❖ **Wide array of services & supports for persons with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and adults with an intellectual/developmental disability**
 - **\$125,196,120** economic impact in Central GA in FY24
 - **1,732** jobs in Central GA in FY24
 - **New Individuals Served 8,110** in FY24
 - **Total Individuals Served 25,471** in FY24
- ❖ **Receive no direct allocation of state or federal dollars**
 - Accepts Medicaid, Medicare, & Most Private Insurances
 - Offer Sliding Scale Fee for the Un-Insured

He began by asking how many in the room knew about River Edge Behavioral Health. Most hands went up, but it's likely that most were unaware of the full extent of River Edge's operations. They also operate in Fulton County, and were recently asked to oversee operations of the Oconee Center in Baldwin County.

A large part of their operations involves housing and support services for homeless with disabilities. They also operate a jail in-reach program in conjunction with the Bibb County Sheriff's office. Much of this involves suicide prevention. One of their staff is embedded with the Sheriff's department and wears a bullet-proof vest when responding with them on crisis interventions.

River Edge has contributed to construction and/or operations of a wide variety of housing, including:

- Grove Park, on Clinton Road in Macon
- Billingslea Recovery Residence for long-term substance abuse treatment
- LifeSpring shelter for women and children
- Macon Recovers peer-led environment on Wimbish Road
- Intune on Carl Vinson Parkway in Warner Robins
- Many residential developments, including duplexes, apartments, cluster homes, rehabilitation of single-family homes mixed-income developments, tiny homes, and much more.

River Edge is currently constructing a new headquarters on Riverside Drive, replacing the old shopping center behind the QT. Their operations are truly impressive, and even though the presentation ran overtime it was apparent Mr. Hatcher had just touched on the highlights. If you missed it, or want to go back over the details, the entire presentation is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ykgjquw6>.

The raffle pot stood at \$816. The winning ticket was picked by longtime member, Past President and Past District Governor Albert Reichert. However, his credentials failed to impress the Queen of Hearts who is still hiding in the deck. The pot will be even higher at our next meeting of October 21.

As always, the meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.



Read for the Record

Read for The Record is coming up again, on Thursday, October 24. Once again, we will be reading at Burdell-Hunt Elementary School. This is always a fun event where we read to school children, and many Rotarians are needed for this. This year's book is *Piper Chen Sings* by Grammy Award-Winning *Hamilton* star Phillipa Soo and Maris Pasquale Doran.

Exact times are still being decided, but please sign up now at <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/RSVP/Index.cfm?EventID=77785181>.

World Polio Day is a time for Rotary members, public health advocates, and all who want a world free from polio to come together, recognize our progress in the fight to end polio, and talk about the actions we need to take in order to end polio for good.

All donations are matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, tripling your impact!

You can donate online at <https://my.rotary.org/en/polioplus-fund> but be sure to sign in so you and our club get credit! Also, at any meeting you can leave a check made to Rotary Foundation and designated Polio Plus.



Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. These online donations qualify as a tax deduction (but ask your accountant). Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**. (This link requires logging in to DACdb. If you have trouble with that, use <https://mycartfund.org/NewUser.cfm> instead.) All donations to CART go to support cutting-edge research on Alzheimer's.

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Anytime	Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past <i>Throbs</i> link
Oct. 19	Macon Beer Fest
Oct. 24	Read for the Record

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. **Members are encouraged to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/> They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in

person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Gene Dunwody gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate. Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask the Membership Chair to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!

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