

**Rotary**  
Club of Riverside Jacksonville



*Invocator: Dale Orr / Greeter: Nick Pulignano / Reporter: Chris Eidson*

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

Rotary

Riverside Rotary Meets  
at Timuquana C.C.  
4028 Timuquana Rd.  
7:30 am Wednesdays

**Upcoming**



**December 2**  
Fireside Chat  
(Introduction to Rotary)  
5:30 pm, Timuquana CC

**December 10**  
No breakfast meeting due  
to club Christmas party.



**December 11**  
Club Christmas Party  
6:30-9 pm, Timuquana CC

**December 13**  
Jacksonville Children's  
Christmas Party  
8 am-1 pm, Prime Osborn  
Convention Center

**December 17**  
Weekly breakfast meeting  
Speaker: Kristin Keen,

## This Week: Club Business Meeting

My Fellow Rotarians,

As we approach the halfway mark of our 2025-26 Rotary year, I want to thank each of you for your energy, service, and commitment to our club's goals. From welcoming new members to strengthening our social, service, and public image efforts, we've already made great progress... and I'm excited for what's ahead! Thank you for everything you do to "Unite for Good."

This week's business meeting will help us end 2025 aligned, informed, and ready for an even stronger 2026. We have a full and important agenda as we review progress, vote on key items, and hear updates from across the club.

We will begin our meeting by presenting a donation check to the Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville, supporting one of our community's most cherished holiday traditions.

**Club Goals Review:** We'll then revisit our 2025-2026 goals – Expanding engagement, launching a satellite (Impact) club, elevating our public image, strengthening signature projects, fostering leadership – and review our progress so far.

**Committee and Officer Updates:** Each board member will provide a brief update on his/her area of responsibility.

**Impact Club Vote:** Members will vote on proposed additions to our bylaws and constitution regarding creation of an Impact companion club. I believe this step will have the effect of inviting more people into Rotary who want to serve but may not be able to attend traditional weekly meetings. The Impact model strengthens our ability to grow, diversify involvement, and broaden our reach in the community. Please review the proposed language sent to you by email in mid-November and again this week and be prepared to vote.

**Election of Officers, 2026-27:** Nominations Committee Chair Eric Sherman will present the club leadership slate for next year, to be followed by membership vote. The board has reviewed and approved the proposed nominees.

**12th-annual Riverside Craft Beer Festival:** Chair Morgan Williams will share an update on our Feb. 22 fund-raiser, including sponsorship progress, timeline milestones, and promotion table sign-ups for this Saturday at Riverside Arts Market.

I anticipate an informative, fast-paced and productive meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

## Nov. 12 Meeting Honors Veterans, Highlights JAA

**Reporter: Will Lewis**



CEO, Rethreaded  
Invoker: Marisol Harrell  
Greeter: Tim Gaskin  
Reporter: Andrew Hensch



**December 20**  
Salvation Army  
Kettle Drive Bell-ringing  
10 am-7 pm, Ortega Park  
Publix

## Birthdays

Ashley Horn - Dec. 6  
Patrice Austin - Dec. 15  
Chris Berdy - Dec. 16  
Tom White - Dec. 19  
Phillip Hobbs - Dec. 21  
Madison Behrens - Dec. 23  
James Holyer - Jan. 1



### **James Holyer... Newest Rotarian**

James Holyer, director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, became the newest member of Riverside Rotary with his Nov. 19 induction into the club.

In a way, James steps into the Rotary shoes of his recent St. Mark's colleague, the Rev. William Stokes, who was a member of the club until accepting a call to become the rector of St. James Church in Lake City in October 2024. While Bob Kidd and Nick Pulignano are

Last week's meeting commenced with a Veterans Day observance, including President Marisol sharing a poem expressing gratitude for the service of all Veterans and recognition of all club members who have served in the armed forces.

Sandy Ralston introduced speaker Bill Gulliford former Jacksonville City Council president, Atlantic Beach mayor and current member of the Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA).

Bill shared a presentation about the breadth of JAA's responsibilities, including Jacksonville International Airport (JIA), Cecil Field, and JaxEx (Craig Field). He highlighted Boeing as Cecil's largest tenant and announced the pending partnership with start-up aircraft manufacturer Otto Aerospace, which primarily elected to base its facility at Cecil due to its separation from typical commercial aviation operations. Bill also highlighted the ongoing Terminal B construction at JIA, which will primarily be used by American Airlines. He also high-lighted airlines recently initiating service from JAX including Breeze Airways and Avelo Airlines.

He further touched on the continuing repairs to the short-term parking garage after it sustained substantial damage from a serious vehicle fire in May and gave an overview of reporting data showing the city's potential market impact for servicing international flights to and from major European destinations.

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Also on Nov. 12, the club conducted its first blood drive of the current Rotary year, as a LifeSouth Blood Donation Centers blood-mobile made its first visit to our club and Est Jacksonville Rotary. Turning out for our club were Jack Ball, Jon Cagan and Ashley Horn, along with prospective member James Holyer.



*Nov. 12 speaker Bill Gulliford visits with friends after his update presentation on the JAA. From Left: Bert Ralston (guest), President-elect Sandy Ralston, Gulliford, and Tim Gaskin.*

## **Nov. 19 Program Highlights City's 'Grand Old Lady'**

**Reporter: Ashley Horn**

Riverside Rotary's final meeting of November highlighted Jacksonville's 98-years-young grand old entertainment lady, the Florida Theatre. Guest speaker Numa Saisselin, president of the non-profit corporation that manages the city-owned venue, reviewed the theatre's rich history, including its early adoption of technology that allowed for talking films, the addition of a stage, and visionary architectural planning. The theater, which was built in only 10 months, opened in April 1927, just as the silent movie era was ending.

Numa shared impressive growth figures during his tenure, including an annual budget increase from \$3 million to \$14 million, \$18 million annual economic impact, and an increase in show nights from 50 in 2012 to 212 last fiscal year.

Major improvements since 2020 include new seating, upgraded sound and lighting systems, a VIP room, and ongoing modernization projects totaling \$19.5 million, with an additional \$2 million planned for a new green room and \$15 million in upcoming renovations.

James's official sponsors, it was William who began talking up Rotary membership to his friend months before being called westward, where he is now a member of the Rotary Club of Lake City.

James, who has led the St. Mark's music program for 17 years, is husband to Sarah and dad to Jacob, Louisa and Alice.



*[Numa Saisselin, third from right, visits with club members after his Nov. 19 presentation.](#)*