

Rotary

DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE



Club Meeting

Downtown
Gainesville
Meets at Paramount
Grill
12 SW First Avenue
Gainesville, FL
32601
Time: Wednesday at
12:00 PM

Club Leaders



Stephanie Esposito
President



Brett Buell
President-Elect



William S. Combs
Treasurer



Megan Olson
Secretary



Steven Jeppson
Sergeant-at-Arms



Carl Smart
iPast President



Shelby Bobbett
Club Director



Marta M Hartmann
Club Director



Joseph E. Lowry Jr.
Club Director



Diane Marie Robar
Club Director
Membership Chair

Welcome



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

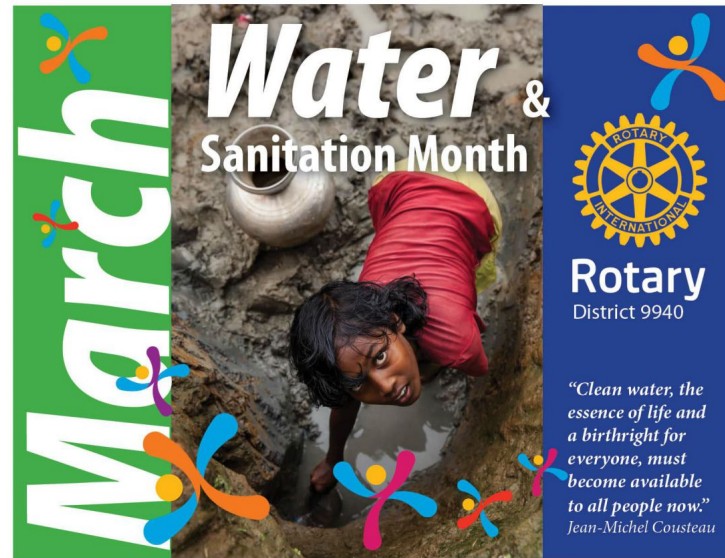
Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville





Jim
Skiles III
Club
Director
Speaker
Chair

Rotary theme for March



from DG John Tabor:

Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life.

When people have access to clean water and sanitation, waterborne diseases decrease, children stay healthier and attend school more regularly, and mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families.

[The Rotary Foundation](#) is changing the world by providing grants for projects and activities around the globe and in your own backyard:

\$148 million!

The Rotary Foundation has invested in water, sanitation, hygiene and water resource management interventions globally.

Four Way Test



Birthday wishes!



Haydee Britton

March 2nd

Clay Martin

March 3rd

Neal Cohen

March 9th

Stephanie Esposito

March 19th

Billy Combs

March 20th

Lunch Link Paramount Grill



Lets do lunch!!

As always, please submit your selection before 9 AM on Wednesdays. This is a request from Chef Ty as he needs sufficient time to prepare our 20+ lunches each week by noon.

And just to clarify our club's™ present policy regarding lunches for visitors: If you are bringing a guest, please be sure to have their lunch orders submitted either with yours or by the 9 AM deadline. *Guests* are expected to pay for their lunch or you may opt to be invoiced for their lunches. *Visiting Rotarians* are expected to pay for their lunch. If you bring a *potential member*, their lunches will be covered for 3 meetings by the club. Speakers and Law Enforcement lunches are covered by the club. Lunch cost is \$20

LINK:

<https://forms.gle/Y5oBC9n6srh6qhDN8>

Event Calendar 2024



~~ DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER ~~

PLEASE ALSO REFER TO ONLINE CLUB CALENDAR AT THE LINK FOR MOST UPDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS:
<https://rb.gy/jh7vx>

April 6	SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOG WALKATHON	Jimbo 352 538 0293
April 13	KEEP ALACHUA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL clean up	Ed Book 352 222 7968
April 20	RLI (rotary Leadership Institute) Daytona State College/Palm Coast	
May 3 -4	District Conference University Center UNF, Jacksonville	
May 18	GOC Bike Day 8:30	Brett Buell 352 872 3232

Welcome, Commissioner Eastman

By Brett Buell



We look forward to hearing from our speaker , City Commissioner Bryan Eastman, at our meeting on March 27th.

THANK YOU

Honored to present these Officer of the Month certificates to these outstanding deputies of the Alachua County Sheriff's Department.

THANK YOU, gentlemen, for your dedication to keeping our county safe.



Pictured here Sheriff Emery Gainey, Deputies James Leber, Mikell McKoy, Orey Swilley, David Thompson and David McClain.



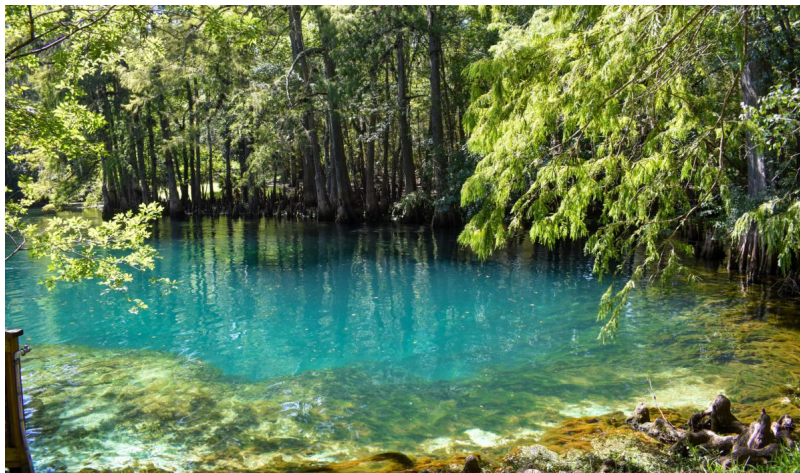
Our speaker for March 20th was Sheriff Emery Gainey , who gave us an update on the Sheriff's department since he took over the department last fall .

NEW EXHIBIT AT MUSEUM!

By Jim "Jimbo" E. Skiles III

***Water Shapes Florida* exhibit now open at the Florida Museum!**



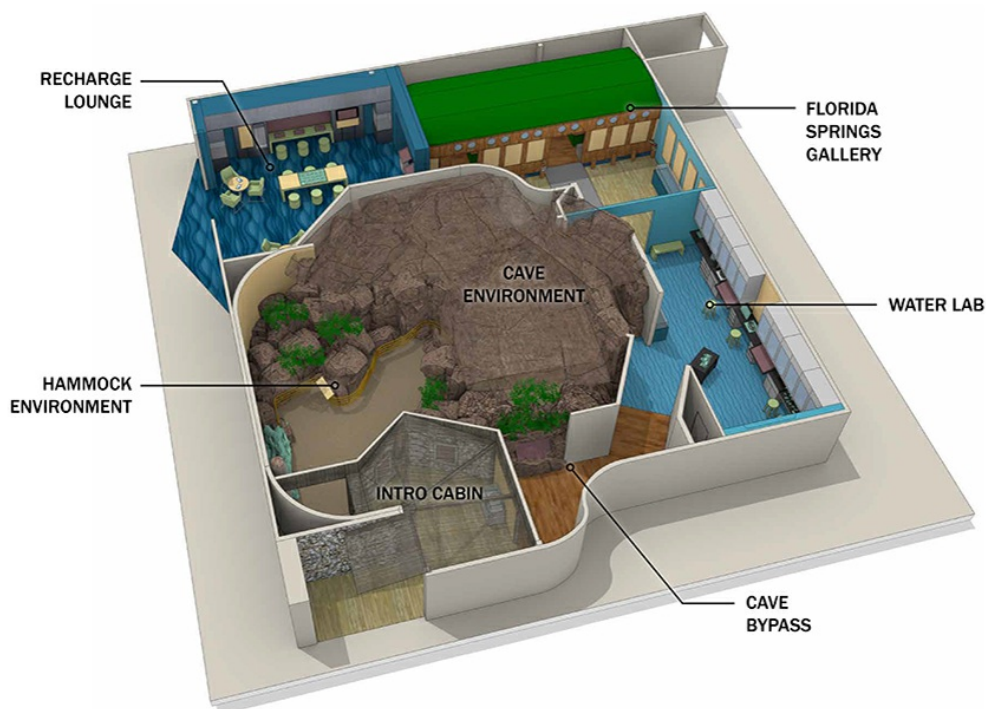


Free Admission | Now Open

Florida Museum of Natural History, at 3215 Hull Road, debuted its first bilingual aquatic exhibit, Water Shapes Florida, on March 23, 2024

Dive in and explore Florida's most valuable resource: water. This engaging exhibit tells the story of the state's fresh water, from the aquifers underground to the rivers and lakes to the clouds in the sky. Enter a magical glass-bottom-boat theater, and ride, dive and fly through some of the Sunshine State's most famous springs in a one-of-a-kind immersive experience.

Stroll through the iconic cave and surrounding habitat, updated with new stories, lights and audio to offer a refreshed look at this Museum classic. Examine a lush hammock forest and encounter the plants and animals that call it home. Learn more about the Floridan Aquifer, the source of most of the state's drinking water. Real objects and specimens from the collections showcase cultural items linked to water and the biodiversity of these biomes, past and present. Explore more about these unique sources of fresh water and see how people have been connected to them for thousands of years. Guests can share what they love about Florida's water and learn how to be good stewards of this crucial resource.



An overview of the "Water Shapes Florida" exhibit.

Some of the exhibits include:





The Water Lab features real objects and specimens to give visitors a deeper look into Florida's water and the aquifer below.



Visitors can traverse the limestone cave to gain insight on water's role in natural processes



Visitors will join Captain Bill on a simulated ride in a glass-bottom-boat theater to visit local springs and learn more about these unique environments.



The Recharge Lounge connects visitors to current water issues using a mix of multimedia experiences, interpretive graphics and hands-on displays.

Water Shapes Florida was made possible by the generous support of Museum donors and grants and is sponsored in part by the 1923 Fund, Florida Division of Historical Resources, B.J. and Eve Wilder Family Foundation Inc., Duke Energy Foundation, Felburn Foundation, Anne and John Shermeyen, Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Giovanna Holbrook, Jack Martin, PepsiCo Foundation, Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation and Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

In case you missed this email..

By Stephanie Esposito



I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you this Wednesday.

As we wrap up the 2023/2024 grant cycle, we look towards the next one in 2024/2025.

The deadline to submit for this upcoming grant cycle is 4/30.

Brett and I want to once again apply for grant support, but we want to hear from you about who would benefit from a grant (not higher than \$10k).

Do you have an idea? Visit the link below to share your idea! **We need all submissions by April 5th** to give us enough time to review all suggestions and then apply for the support of the district. We only need your *suggestion* at this time ..

<https://forms.gle/NCxYf2EXYG6MypQ76>

Please note, there is also a question in there about service project ideas that could be done either during a meeting or as a group social. We are looking for more opportunities to give back.

Thank you,

Stephanie

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!!

By Ed Book



ROTARIANS!!

C'mon down and help with the annual Keep Alachua County Beautiful Great AM Cleanup!!

Where: "OUR" road, Main Street, from Cade Museum to Winn Dixie. (cleanup materials provided)

Date: Saturday, April 13th

Time: 9 AM - 10 AM

This event is part of the KEEP ALACHUA COUNTY BEAUTIFUL day. In addition to our road cleanup, there will also be an opportunity to help refresh the VFW area at 1150 NE Waldo Road (painting sign, cleaning area and planting). This VFW service opportunity will run from 9 AM - 11 AM.

Both of these 2 projects are part of the

2024 Great American Cleanup, sponsored by Keep Alachua County Beautiful

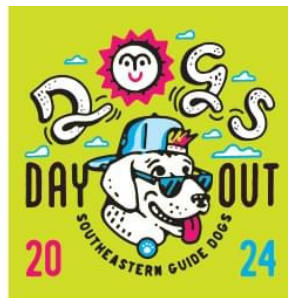
Saturday, April 13, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. There will be lunch, swag and music at noon, following the clean up, if you would like to head over to the park at noon

Albert Ray Massey (Westside) Park, 3100-3346 NW 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32605, USA

KACB will be able to accept tires at no charge on Sat., 4/13/23 at Massey Park, 1001 NW 34th St., Gainesville, from 9 a.m. until noon as part of our Great American Cleanup for litter.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

By Jim & Jimbo & E. Skiles III



Gainesville Walkathon

April 06 | Trinity United Methodist Church

Gates Open: 9:00 a.m. • Let's Walk! 10:00 a.m. • Raffle Drawing: 11:30 a.m.

Join us for fun, FREE, dog-friendly festivities

We're gearing up for Walkathon 2024, and it's paws down, the BEST day ever. Your furry pal has been waiting all year for Dog's Day Out. So grab the leash and say your pup's favorite phrase: "You wanna go?!" and join us for a tail-wagging good time to support our largest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds benefit our amazing dogs and the people who need them.



Bring your pack and celebrate while making an impact for people with vision loss, veterans with disabilities, and children who need a best friend.

A Dog Lover's Dream! 3K Walk ♦ Paw-ty in the park for all ages! ♦ Doggy friends of all shapes and sizes ♦ Southeastern Guide Dogs puppies in training ♦ Guide dog instructor demos ♦ Exciting raffle drawing ♦ Music, food trucks, and a doggone good time!



Raise funds and sell raffle tickets to earn exciting incentive items!

\$5 per raffle ticket or 5 for \$20

\$1,000 Cash Prize Raffle

Drawn at the Gainesville Walkathon at 11:30 a.m.



\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

Drawing May 31, 2024. Watch live at 1 p.m. on Southeastern Guide Dogs' Facebook page

Visit GuidedogsWalkathon.org/raffle for official rules & regulations.



Southeastern Guide Dogs WALKATHON

Sign up online at GuidedogsWalkathon.org



**JIMBO WILL BE LOOKING FOR SOME VOLUNTEERS
TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT!
CAN YOU??**

CONGRATS!!



**LESLIE WOOTEN, OUR FELLOW CLUB MEMBER,
IS THE WINNER OF THE RAFFLE AT THE WILD GAME FEAST.
HER PRIZE IS A WEEK'S ACCOMMODATIONS AND AIRFARE TO A
VACATION LOCATION OF HER CHOOSING IN THE US OR EUROPE!
CONGRATULATIONS, LESLIE!!!**

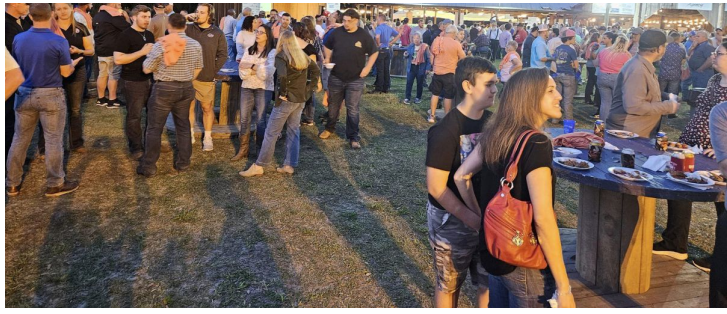
WILD GAME FEAST!

FABULOUS EVENING AT THE 2024 WILD GAME FEAST!

So much fun to mingle with fellow Rotarians and friends, not to mention the delicious food !

If you missed it this year, you'd better mark your calendars for next year's event (always the 1st Thursday in March). Downtown Gainesville was well represented by several club members including Ed Book, Jimbo Skiles, Stephanie Esposito, Brett Buell, Leslie Wooten, Billy Brame, Diane & Bob Robar, Megan Olson, Haydee Britton, Steve Jeppson, Ray Snook, April Green, Scott Hansis, Chessie Flanders, and Greg Fleming,







speaker sign up

By Jim æœJimbo æœ E. Skiles III

		ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES
JANUARY	Jimbo	Vocational Services
FEBRUARY	Haydee	Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
MARCH	Brett Marta	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene
APRIL	Clay	Maternal and Child Health
MAY	Scott Hansis	Youth Services
JUNE	Megan (5th&12th) need 19th&26th	Rotary Fellowships
JULY	Shelby	New Leadership
AUGUST	Michael	Membership and New Club Development
SEPTEMBER	Cheryl	Basic Education and Literacy
OCTOBER	Stephanie	Community Economic Development
NOVEMBER	Joe Jr	Rotary Foundation
DECEMBER	Al	Disease Prevention And Treatment

MONTHLY SPEAKERS

By Jim & Jimbo & E. Skiles III

MARCH SPEAKERS provided by BRETT BUELL and MARTA HARTMAN

MARCH 6 Dr. Benjamin Anderson UF College of Public Health and Health Professions.

MARCH 13 Kristen Sealey Supervising Engineer, Water/Wastewater Planning, GRU

Title of her presentation: *GRU Southwest Nature Park - Constructed Wetlands Replenishing the Aquifer*

MARCH 20 Sheriff Emery Gainey

MARCH 27 City Commissioner Bryan Eastman

Downtown Gainesville Rotarians

MEMBER	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF	POI
John Anderson	4/1/2017		* PHF	Brett Buell
Walt Barry	1/1/2003	PP 09-10	* PHF4	Pradeep Kumar
Shelby Bobbitt	9/21/2022	Sgt At Arms		Diane Robar
Ed Book	2/1/2009	PP 13-14 AG 1,2,AG	* BR PHF2	Ed Oehmig
Matt Bowman	12/1/2016		* PHF	Walt Barry
Billy Brame	7/1/1976	PP (RCGG)	* PHF+6	Neal Cohen
David Bridges	2/1/2019		*PHF	Matt Bowman
Haydee Britton	03/8/2023			Marta Hartman
Brett Buell	9/1/2015	President Elect	* PHF+1	John Anderson
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF	Megan Olson
Neal Cohen	7/1/1989		* PHF3	Billy Brame
Billy Combs	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8	Greg Fleming
Pat Craddock	9/1/2006	PP 10-11	* MD @ PHF8	Al Losch
Michael Ekblad	7 26 2023			Al Losch
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF	Ray Snook
Stephanie Esposito	6/12/2020	President 2023-24	*PHF	Brenda Chamberlain
Chessie Flanders	4/1/2017	PP 19-20, AG 1, AG2, AG	* PHF	Jennifer Reddish
Greg Fleming	3/1/1994	PP 05-06	* PHF3	Billy Combs
Megan Forbes	1/1/2001	PP 04-05	* BR @ PHF6	Joe Lowry Jr.
Dan Frowick		PP 94-95	MD/HM	n/a
April Green	6/21/2023			Jim Skiles
Scott Hansis	2//2023			John Sanchez
Marta Hartmann	05/2021	Director		Marina Jordan
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF7	Diane Robar
Jim Islam	9/1/1990	PP 95-96	* MD PHF8	Joe Lowry Sr.
Steve Jeppson	5/11/2022	Sgt at Arms		Jim Skiles
Marina Jordan	2/1/2019		*PHF	Diane Robar
Pradeep Kumar	5/1/2018		*PHF+1	David Bridges
Judy Locascio	3/1/2002		* PHF+6	Robert Taylor
Al Losch Jr.	4/1/1992	PP 00-01 LEOM	* MD @ BR PHF8	Pat Craddock
Joe Lowry Jr.	12/1/2004	PP (08-09) (17-18)Director	* BR @ PHF6	Megan Forbes
Joe Lowry Sr.	7/1/2013		* MD PHF8	Jim Islam
Clay Martin	11/1/2016		* PHF	John Sanchez
Rob Oglesby	5/1/2010	PP 14-15	* MD / BR PHF8	Bob Robar
Megan Olson	2/1/2019	Secretary	*PHF+1	Brenda Chamberlain
Cheryl T. Poe	1/1/2007	PP 15-16	* BR PHF6	Becky Hunt
James Russell	6/1/2000	PP 12-13	* PHF3	

Perry Pursell	6/1/2008	PP 12-13,	* PHF3	
Bob Robar	11/1/1991	PP 01-02	* MD @ PHF8	Perry Pursell
<i>Diane Robar</i>	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, 2, ,AG	* PHF+1	Marina Jordan
Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	Charter President	* MD	n/a
Lauri Schiffbauer	8 11 2021			Brenda Chamberlain
Jim Skiles	12/1/1998	PP 03-04; Speakers,director	* MD @ BR PHF8	Tom Sumrall
<i>Carl Smart</i>	3/1/2019	IPP, 2022-23,	*PHF	Zachary West
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3	Cheryl Poe
Zachary West	11/1/2013		* PHF	Carl Smart
Leslie Wooten	10/1/2023	PHF3		

* Paul Harris Sustaining Member (\$25 per quarter)

PHF Paul Harris Fellow

(for every \$1,000 gift to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund, PolioPlus or an approved Foundation grant)

@ **Foundation Benefactor** (provides for TRF at least \$1,000 in estate plan)

! Paul Harris Society (Members who agree to contribute \$1,000 or more annually to TRF)

MD Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation (combined giving reaching \$10,000)

Italic Name Board of Directors

BR Ben Rowe Rotarian of the Year

POI The person of interest is the Rotarian each member is charged to keep track of, representing the club to that person.

Bold Name Charter Member 9/18/1990

Club Information

Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, Florida #27544

Chartered September 18, 1990

Charter President J. Ben Rowe

We meet on Wednesdays at Noon at the

Paramount Grill,

12 SW First Avenue

Gainesville, Florida

Club Website: <https://downtowngainesvillerotary.org/>