

**Come Celebrate
with Us!**

**A SOCIALLY SAFE
GATHERING TO MARK
THE END OF OUR
WATER FOR
CAMBODIA PROJECT**



**ST JOHNS
RIVERKEEPER**
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP OUR
WATERWAYS HEALTHY



**NEW PARTNERSHIPS
FOR RUBBER DUCKY
REGATTA**



NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 22 AT 5:30PM
TREYLOP PARK RESTAURANT
PATIO - NOCATEE

THE.32081. ROTARIAN



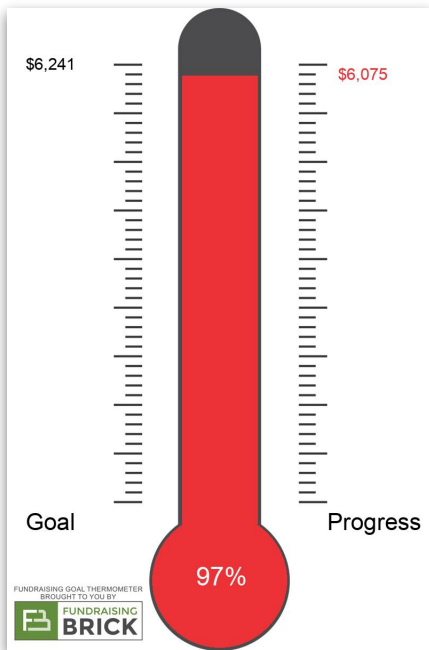
We Can Do It!!!

By Andy Erickson

The final minutes of our project are passing, much as water dripping drop by drop through one of our bio-sand water filters. It won't take much to propel us onwards, to reach and exceed our target of 75 or more water filters to help the needy villagers of Cambodia. Let's finish this effort in style!

**Our original club goal
was to fund 30 bio-
sand filters for Water
for Cambodia. We will
end with enough for
75+!**

How fortunate we are to live in a land where clean water is so prevalent it is often taken for granted. Involvement in this project has shown us how the lives of many people in Cambodia and other third world countries can be significantly improved by receiving the gift of bio-sand water filters.



Generosity of Rotarians is legendary, and our club's acts of humanitarian concern can truly make a difference in leaving the world we were born into in better shape than we found it. Please give, and give generously in this Home Stretch of the very first International Service Project of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra.

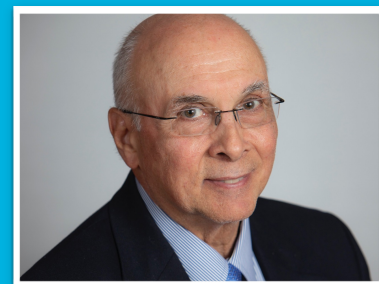
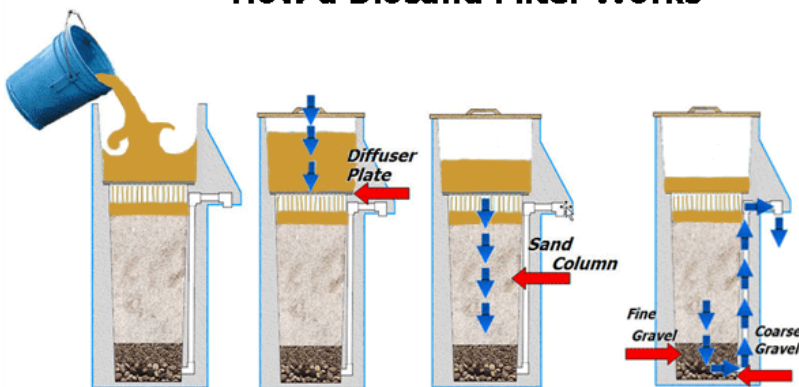
Celebrations!



Meet the adorable Austen Cate Clarkson, daughter of Darrell and Casey Clarkson who was born on March 16 weighing in at 5 lbs. and 14 oz. She joins her siblings, Andi and Max, and we wish them all the best!

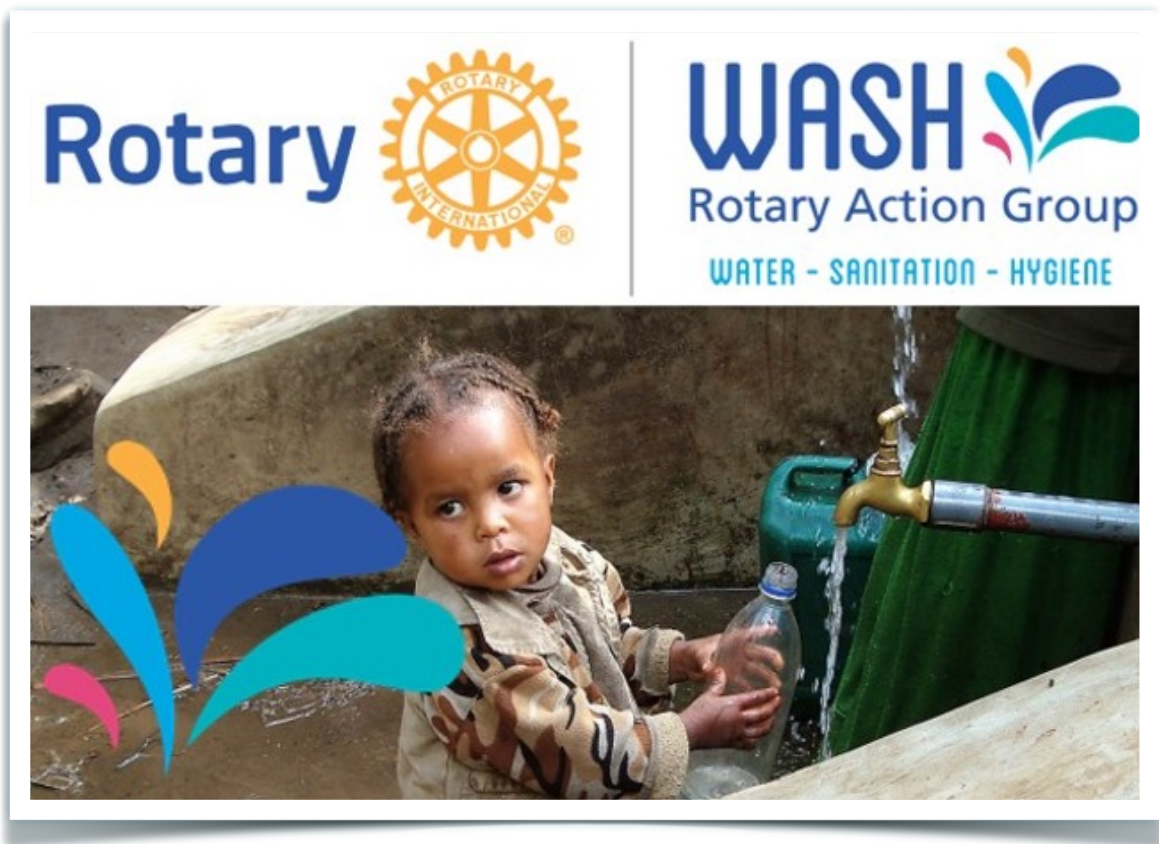


How a Biosand Filter Works



Belated Happy Birthday to Gary Smith whose birthday coincided with St. Paddy's Day on March 17! Gary joined RCPV on April 2, 2018 and his classification is Financial Planning.

Don't forget to join with fellow Rotarians on **Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 PM** for our **Victory Celebration on the patio of the Treylor Park in Nocatee Town Center**. Social protocols of Covid-19 regarding masks and awareness of social distancing will be observed.

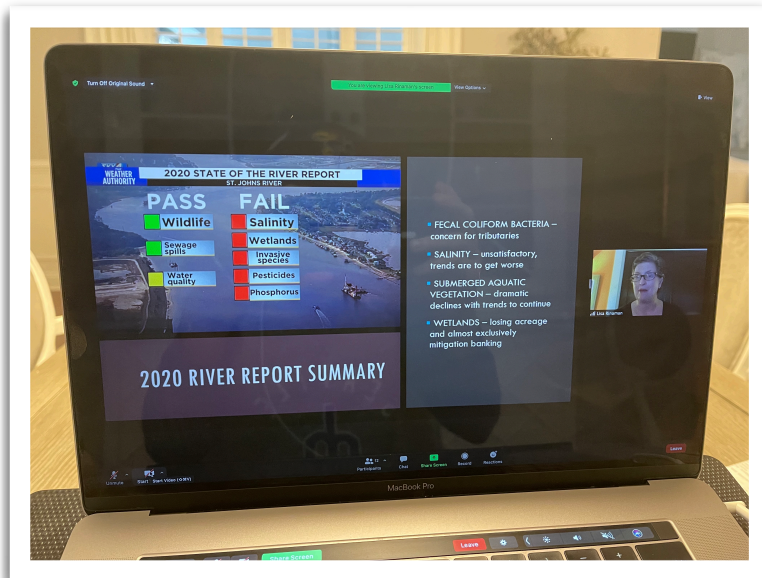


Three Things You Can Do to Make Our Local Water Supply Healthier

By Bob Wiltfong

At our club meeting last week (March 16) St. Johns Riverkeeper, Lisa Rinaman, gave us the latest "State of the River Report" on our local waterways. St. Johns County scored passing marks this past year when it came to handling its wildlife, decreasing sewage spills and maintaining good water quality. However, we received failing grades for salinity levels in our waterways, maintaining our

wetlands, controlling invasive species, limiting pesticide usage and keeping phosphorous levels down.



Rinaman said there are three things you and I can do every day to help raise our failing grades. They are:

- 1.) **Scoop Poop** - if you have a dog, pick up after yourself on walks. Animal waste runs off into our local streams.
- 2.) **Use Lawn Fertilizers Wisely** - organic fertilizers over chemical ones; used when necessary
- 3.) **Conserve Water** - don't needlessly waste your tap water



Summary of Last Week's Meeting

By Denny Baldwin

About 12 hearty souls joined us last Tuesday morning as we Zoomed yet another Ponte Vedra Rotary meeting—when can we resume in person meetings, you ask? Shortly, we hope as more and more folks are being vaccinated.

President Ian Aguilar called us to order shortly after 7:30 AM with the usual pledge of allegiance. He also welcomed several guests to our meeting including Becky, Jennifer and Kim. We wished a very happy “Irish” birthday to Gary Smith and a happy prospective 10th wedding anniversary to Meagan and Matt Perkins who are praying they can take their long planned return trip to Italy later this year.

We enjoyed a great update from Andy Erickson on our very successful Water for Cambodia project where we're at 93% of goal with 70 water filters already pledged. Especially interesting was a terrific validation of the project from a University of California at Berkeley professor who praised the filter program as an excellent way for otherwise impoverished people to obtain critically needed fresh water. Andy urged all of us to bring our filled donation jars to the **Victory Celebration on Monday, March 22, 5:30 PM at Trelor Park** to help push us over the finish line.



Kelly Altosino-Sastre and her 10-year-old granddaughter, Star, get ready for our Water for Cambodia Celebration.

Everyone expressed kudos to Bob Wiltfong for undertaking to publish an amazing new version of our 32081 Rotarian newsletter. It arrives in your email box every Sunday evening with all sorts of interesting features, so please read it, and please consider contributing "copy"—as Bob would say in the news business.

Ian showed another example of Bob's handiwork as he shared his screen to show an impressive testimonial video promoting our partnership with Learn to Read on this year's edition of the **Rubber Ducky Regatta — coming up on Sunday, May 16, noon at Ponte Vedra Outdoors Restaurant near the Nocatee Bridge over the Intracoastal**. Everyone was encouraged to "adopt" some ducks as we again get behind the vital educational programs of St. Johns Learn to Read under Gary Smith's leadership.

Following Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman's presentation (details above), Prez Ian thanked everyone for attending, urged good attendance at our Water for Cambodia celebration on March 22 and closed the meeting with a recitation of the our timeless Four Way Test.



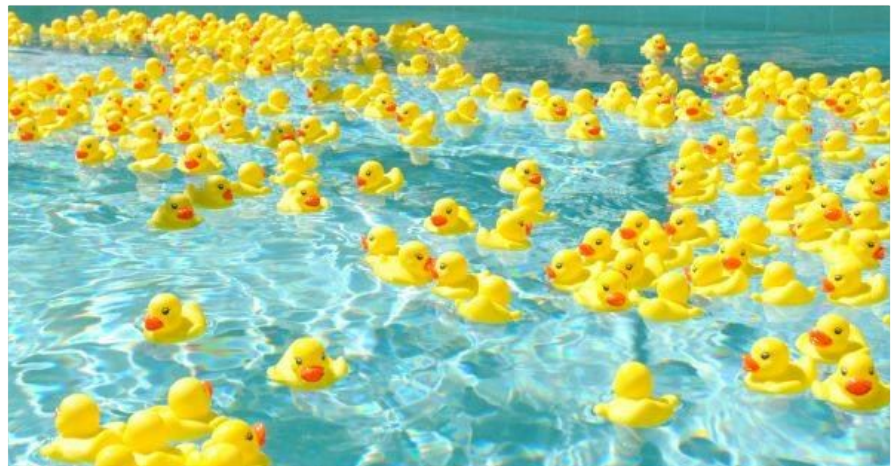
All 4 Local High Schools Will Join our Rubber Ducky Regatta Effort This Year

By Bob Wiltfong

Hundreds of local high schoolers will be helping us adopt out ducks for this year's Rubber Ducky Regatta! The National Honor Societies at all 4 local high schools — Bartram Trail, Creekside, Nease and Ponte Vedra — have signed on to partner with us for this year's event. Partnership coordinators, Denny Baldwin and Bob Wiltfong, say these relationships are a major lift to our fundraising efforts and should result in a lot more adoption sales than years past. "National Honor Society students need so many service hours each year to fulfill their member obligations," says Wiltfong. "Partnering with a service organization like the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra on our Rubber Ducky Regatta makes perfect sense for both sides."

The 7th Annual Rubber Ducky Regatta raises money by encouraging people to "adopt" a duck (or group of ducks in the race). Adoption fees

range from \$5 for one ducky up to \$100 for the "Quacks Galore" package of 25 duckies. You can adopt your duck(s) by going to <https://learntoreadstjohns.org/product/rubber-ducky-regatta-adoption/>. All proceeds from the event benefit Learn to Read of St. Johns County and our Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra.



For the first time in race history, the duckies will be dropped from the north side of the Palm Valley/Ponte Vedra (210) bridge. The ducks will waddle to the finish line opposite the **Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill (377 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082, headquarters for the event)**. Top finishers will win fabulous prizes including multiple \$100 gift cards and four 1-way tickets from Southwest Airlines to anywhere in the United States including Hawaii and Puerto

Rico. The event will take place on Sunday, May 16, 2021 beginning at 12PM. Please make plans to attend.



From the Desk of President-Elect, MaryBeth Murray



Thinking of our Water for Cambodia project...I am now often reminded of how blessed and lucky we are to have a warm shower or a cold drink of water right from our faucets! Thank you to Andy Erickson for bringing this project to our club, and all the members that have participated! I'm looking forward to our Victory Celebration outside (masks and distancing, please) on the patio at Trelor Park on Monday, March 22! Our club, as well as other local Rotary Clubs have been so generous! We have much to celebrate! Cheers to all with a tall glass of cold water!



Every newsletter, we'll try to celebrate our members' various businesses and professions. This week, we're celebrating Mark Hulsey, our Club's venerable Membership Chair, who joined RCPV on August 7, 2018 with Jeremiah Blocker as sponsor.

Rotary Means Business

Mark practices law with the firm of Ludwig Hulsey, PA in Jacksonville. He was admitted to the Bar about 10 years ago and is presently a partner with his firm, having been with them for about 6 years. Prior to that, Mark was an assistant state attorney. Although the firm offers a variety of additional legal services, Mark's primary focus at Ludwig Hulsey is civil and business litigation, immigration and criminal defense.

Mark welcomes all inquiries by phone at 904-281-0145 or by email at mhulsey@ludwiglaw.net. For more information on his firm, go to <http://www.ludwiglaw.net>.



Did You Know?

World Water Day was first formally proposed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. In December 1992, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/47/193 by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water.

Rotary has a deep connection with the UN. In fact, November 2 is designated as Rotary Day at the UN as it celebrates the two organizations' shared vision for peace and highlights the critical humanitarian activities that Rotary and the UN lead around the world.



Area 7 & Beyond!

By Kelly Altosino-Sastre

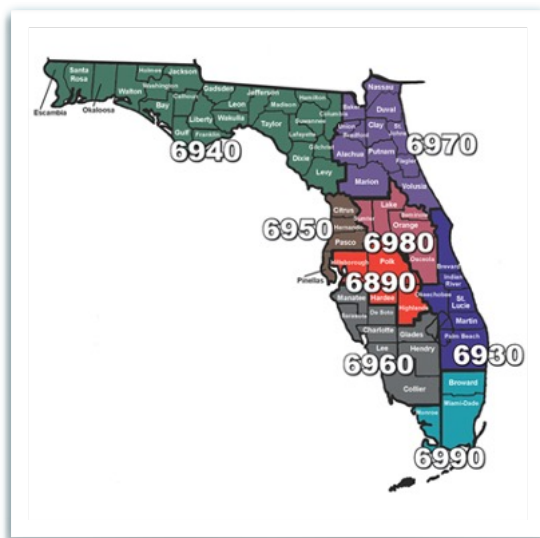


What zone is our club in?

Last week we talked about the four Rotary clubs in Area 7 (that includes our club) in District 6970. Now, let's get a better picture of where the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra (RCPV) fits in to the scope of Rotary.

There are 12 Areas in District 6970 which comprises 64 Rotary clubs. District 6970 is one of eight Districts in Florida and our District along with 30 other Districts makes up Rotary International Zone 33-34. They are 34 Zones in the World. So, our club is in Area 7, District 6970, Zone 33-34.

Rotary is governed by CLUBS. Think inverted pyramid. Clubs are at the top.



Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

Monday, March 22 at 5:30pm - Water for Cambodia Celebration

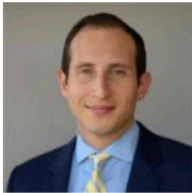
Meeting Location: Treylor Park patio in Nocatee (for in person attendance) OR Zoom (Meeting #: 388 019 0662; Password: 263. 227)

Present your collection jar with loose change, bills and/or checks as we celebrate World Water Day at our victory celebration for Water for Cambodia! The goal is for each club member to donate at least one water filter for \$83.22 to help needy villagers in Cambodia as part of a Rotary effort there.

Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30am - regular meeting

Meeting Location: Zoom (Meeting #: 388 019 0662; Password: 263. 227)

Speaker: Ann Breidenstein, CEO of Learn to Read of St. Johns County



President

Ian Aguilar



President-Elect

Mary Beth Murray



Vice President

Kelly Altosino-Sastre



**President-Nominee
Secretary**

Meagan Perkins



**Public Relations
Chair**

Bob Wiltfong



Membership Chair

Mark Hulsey



**Community Service
Chair**

Denny Baldwin



Speaker Chair

Karen Everett



General Counsel

Edward Sarnowski