

Rotary



Club of Gaithersburg

March 28th, 2021

Club Meeting

The Rotary Club of Gaithersburg, MD, USA now meets online at noon on Tuesdays. We open Zoom at 11:50 and meet from 12:15 until 1:15 p.m.

For logon information, email GaithersburgRotaryClub@gmail.com

Our meetings are on **Facebook Live**, and you can see us on our website, Facebook, Linked-in, Twitter and Instagram.

Club Leaders

Emmyrich Vicente
President

Janet Greiner
President-Elect

Kelly Grossberg
Secretary, with Kumba Brewah

Dan Dellon
Treasurer

H. Winfree Irvine Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms, with Dan King

Sara R. Torrence
District Foundation Advisor
Rotary Foundation Chair
- Dan King, Vice-Chairman
- Bob Bokma, Secretary
- Diana Swanson, Treasurer
- Nancy Scull, Member-at-Large

Frank E. Senk Jr.
Area Governor

Events

March 30th, lunchtime meeting
Speaker: No one in particular, for a change
Subject: **Flags for Our Heroes Planning, explanations, decisions -- preparaton for a successful event**

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April 1st, 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Rich Glover
Subject: Paul Harris Fellow vs. Paul Harris Society (part of the Foundation Learning Series)
See information on the district website Also April 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

About Our City

By Kenneth D. Weiss on Sunday, March 28, 2021



We are the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg, Maryland, USA. We are one club of thousands in the world but are one of one in our city.

Gaithersburg began in 1765, as "Log Town" and was incorporated as Gaithersburg in 1878. It seems to have been named for Benjamin Gaither, who married into the Brooks family, which owned a tiny plot of 1,000 acres in the western part of the city. Rich farmland and the railroad contributed to the city's rapid growth. It had its own "Charter Oak" for nearly 300 years until the mighty tree fell in 1997. It is still the town's symbol.

In 1975, Interstate 250 was constructed and, more or less, divided the city in half., with "Olde Towne" on the east side and newer developments on the west side. Think Rio/Washingtonian Center, the Kentlands and more. Then, NIST, universities and local governments invited biotech companies to settle here and facilitated their expansion. Now, there are many. As the city manager told us last week, at least five firms in Gaithersburg are involved in development of vaccines to protect against COVID-19.

Two members of our club (Diana and Frank) are active participants in the biotech industry, and guest speakers have helped us learn more about it. On a broader scale, speakers from different parts of the city's government have told us of plans and activities, and our club has worked with the city in numerous ways. Rotary has been a part of Gaithersburg since 1966 and will definitely continue to be so in the future.

The City Manager Speaks

Tanisha Briley seems to be very familiar with Rotary. She knew that the slang term for the dollars that fly at the end of a

April 6th
Speaker: All of us
Subject: Club Assembly
Fund-raising for the foundation, when and where to try meeting in person, and other matters requiring decisions

April 13th
Speaker: Dawn W Williams, author
Subject: Being Your Trojan Creative Horse
Sorry, folks, your editor has no more information.

April 20th
Speaker: Dr. Paul Chan, Climate Decisions LLC
Subject: Climate Change driven hazards
Dr. Chan's resume is amazing. More information later. We will WANT to hear him.

meeting are "happy bucks" (and her talk last week generated many for our foundation).

Ms. Briley has been our city manager for half a year now but has local knowledge like a native. She came from seven successful years as City Manager of Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Before that, she was Assistant City Manager of Davenport, Iowa.

She could have spoken for hours but limited her remarks to a few major topics including **planning, budgeting and the dedication** of the city staff. Janet responded by saying how well staff members had responded to her request for space to build a small garden for feeding caterpillars that will become Monarch butterflies. Later, Ken mentioned cooperation by the city on **Flags for Our Heroes** and other club projects.

Regarding **Lake Forest Mall**, Ms. Briley said that a draft plan was available but that many decisions still had to be made. That is a large land area in Gaithersburg - large enough to help accommodate "a sustainable mix" of 20,000 new residents in the next few years. They will be drawn, in part, by new jobs in **biotechnology**. She explained that we should not concentrate housing in such a way that it creates "demographic divides."

Asked how we could keep up to date on events in Gaithersburg, Ms Briley's first answer was to subscribe to the city's eNewsletter. That can be done at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/government/enewsletters> She concluded by saying that she would be pleased to talk to us again in the future - an offer we will certainly accept.



Our Meeting Last Tuesday

The Rotary Four-way Test

Of all that we think, say, and do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Some of our members had to miss the meeting on Tuesday, but they were replaced by guests who wanted to hear Ms. Briley speak. They were **Margo Goldman, Susan Fonti, Gosha Bawiec and Payman Batheja**, all invited by Rob L. Well done, Rob!

After opening ceremonies, President Richie introduced **City Manager Tanisha Briley** (see the story above), finishing just as she signed in. Ken quipped that, since she didn't hear the introduction, we could say it was absolutely wonderful.

After Ms. Briley's talk, Richie installed, as **our newest member. Ms. Nia English**. She responded by saying that she was pleased to be a member of our club. She was born in Indonesia and worked in the UN mission in East Timor. In Gaithersburg since about 2006, she is

married to a "wonderful guy" and is the mother of three children. That is probably her full-time job. Her part-time jobs are studying and doing free-lance interpreting (English/Indonesian).

Janet said she was still seeking **Easter baskets** for children in the area. Thanks to the glories of Dollar Stores, she and Ken have each prepared baskets for about \$7 each. Richie said it was time to find sponsors for **Flags for Our heroes**.

Additional announcements had to wait for a week, but there is always time for **happy dollars**. Most were for the speaker and our new member. Sara said she had been a Gaithersburg resident for 51 years, and Rick also gave a high number. Acting Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Rob, **fined Ken \$1** for a comment about someone's (Rob's) "foggy mind," and the meeting was adjourned with laughter.