

Rotary

Club of Asheville Breakfast



Lisa Raleigh Executive Director of Riverlink

By Nathan Patrick Moran on Sunday, July 30, 2023



Lisa Raleigh the Executive Director of Riverlink gave the club a presentation last week on the past, present, and future of the non-profit and the French Broad River's relationship with Asheville. The French Broad is one of the oldest rivers in the world and one of the few major rivers that flow North. The past ties with Asheville in how the city has developed in many ways. In the early 1800's the railroad came through Asheville and increased activity down by the river. Then the flood of 1816 happened and over time business and development retreated from the river, and it stayed that way until the early 1980's. The river was heavily polluted and there was lots of abandoned industry. Jean Webb and Karen Cragolin started to look at the river, and at the time there was an initiative from the Chamber of commerce to get people who came to visit Asheville to stay one more day. Riverlink was founded from that series of events and Karen Cragolin served as the first Executive Director.

Presently, Riverlink still aims to promote the economic and environmental vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed. The river has certainly improved since those abandoned industrial days but is still under pressure. The pressures today are related to development. The introduction of more hard surfaces (think roofs, roads, driveways, etc.) combined with increased rain causes more sediment, bacteria, and pollutants to be washed into the river. 19 miles of the river around Asheville was



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Club Meeting Place & Time

Asheville Breakfast
Meets at Four Points
by Sheraton Hotel
22 Woodfin Street
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Wednesday at
07:30 AM

Club Officers



Cynthia K. Ireland
President



Henry Watson
Jordan II
President-Elect



Ruth T. Summers
Vice
President



Randy S. Lehman
Treasurer



Carl T. Chesick
Secretary



Richard Anderson
Club Admin
Chair
Sergeant-at-
Arms

recently deemed impaired because of higher than acceptable levels of fecal coliform. There is work to be done to continue to improve the river and it is important economically as the estimated economic benefit of having the river stood at an estimated 3.8 billion dollars. The current program areas Riverlink is working in are youth education, land resources, and water resources. They can place easements and they want to continue to develop and promote greenways, water access, and parks.

In the future the area will continue to see increased population. Riverlink wants to promote a balance between development and the environment. Stormwater management needs to be thought about differently. In the past the goal was to move water as quickly as possible away to the rivers. Green infrastructure says we want to slow down the water, keep it on site, and let it soak in naturally. Things we can do broadly and at home are to disconnect impervious surfaces. An example is to introduce green portions in parking lots to allow water to be able to go somewhere other than the storm drain. At home we can disconnect downspouts that are directed onto impervious surfaces and redirect that water to a green space, rain garden, or water collection for use later. If everyone who is able to do that follows through it can lead to a meaningful impact. Lisa also encouraged us to lean on elected officials, city, and county staff and to ask more of developers when designing projects. Thank you to Lisa and to Riverlink!

Meeting Notes 7.26.23

By Nathan Patrick Moran on Sunday, July 30, 2023

Don thanked everyone who helped at Evergreen last weekend. The club will be back at Evergreen later this month to weed whack so be on the lookout to sign up to volunteer.

Carla reminded us of the Tourists game social event which is on August 24th. Please let Rod or Carla know of your plans to attend so they can figure out if we need to invite another club to fill the suite. The more people we have attend the lower the cost per attendee.

Cindy let us know to be on the lookout for bylaw updates which will be sent out soon. The plan is to increase the number of members on the board and decrease the frequency of board meetings to every other month. The dues are also changing from \$85 per month to \$65 per month effective immediately. Thank you to club treasurer Randy for his assessment of current dues structures leading to this decrease.

Cindy also reminded us of the upcoming opportunity to attend a DEI and membership summit held by the Rotary District. You do not have to be on the membership committee to attend so please sign up if you have interest.

The district grant was approved for the hygiene project so the club will have \$4,000 to put towards that project.

One of our global scholars has received their \$34,000 grand to apply to her education. There are lots of good things happening in the club so thank you for all you do!

Birthdays

[Stephanie Young](#)
August 6th

[Gwen G. Hughes](#)
August 8th



[Patrick J. Blackburn](#)
Membership
Chair



[David L. Hayes](#)
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



[Nathan Patrick Moran](#)
CCO-Club
Comm. Offcr



[Stephanie Young](#)
Club
Programs
Chair



[William Taylor Biddle Jr.](#)
International
Service
Chair



[Donald R. Swaby](#)
Community
Service
Chair



[Linda J. Ruhland](#)
Club Public
Image Chair



[Rodney Douglas](#)
Club Social
Chair



[Henry P. Zaremba](#)
CART Fund
Chair



[James O. Efland](#)
Club
PolioPlus
Chair



[James Hylemon](#)
Youth
Services
Chair



[Frank Ungert](#)
iPast
President

[Cynthia K.](#)



[Carl T. Chesick](#)
August 13th



[William Taylor Biddle Jr.](#)
August 19th



[Charles E. Killian](#)
August 15th



August 9th
[Steve Demeranville](#)
ShelterBox Carroll Hughes Hat Duty

August 30th
[Phill Pratt](#)



Ireland
Assistant
Governor

Speakers

August 2nd
[Jennifer Maneely](#)
Helping Families Dealing with Substance Abuse Trish Hord-Heatherley Hat Duty

August 23rd
[Dr. John Plant](#)
Climate Migration Carla Hughson-Schmitt Hat Duty

Events

August 24th, 5:30-8:30 PM
[Asheville Tourists Game in the Suite 5:30](#)
Monday, July 31, 2023

September 10th, 4:00-7:00 PM
[Club Picnic](#)