

**Birthdays**

Laurel Roe Morris  
July 8th  
Marcia Scheideman  
July 8th  
Lamar Kellar Jr.  
July 9th

**Wedding  
Anniversaries**

No Wedding  
Anniversaries Found

**Years of Service**

No Years Of Service  
Found

**Club Leaders**



Luke Lucas  
Upchurch  
President



Sharon  
Jenkins  
Padgett  
President-Elect  
Vice  
President  
Club Service  
Chair



Patrick Larkin  
Secretary



Pamela  
Peacock  
Overcash  
Secretary-Elect



Robin  
McDonald  
Loupus  
Club Director  
Treasurer



D. Scott  
Scarborough  
Assistant  
Treasurer



Scott  
Thomas  
Attaway  
Club Director



Martha  
Adams Burris  
Club Director



Nancy Anne  
Kuney  
Club Director  
Membership  
Chair



Andrew  
Charles Pierce  
President-  
Nominee

**Happy New Year!**

Monday, July 8, 2024



Greetings and Happy New Year!

Yes, you read that correctly: Happy (Rotary) New Year! As we embark on a new year, I am energized by the theme set forth by our Rotary International President: "The Magic of Rotary." For more information on the theme, [click here](#). This theme resonates deeply with us here at the Gastonia Rotary Club, where we have a rich history of creating magic through both local and international service projects while creating a space that is welcoming and supportive of each other.

This year, as we embrace the theme in Gastonia, I urge you to prioritize supporting your fellow members and participating in meaningful service. Together, we will create a balance between continuity and change as we continue to impact our community and beyond.

I hope to see everyone at our upcoming meeting on Thursday. This week's program will highlight our ongoing partnership with H.H. Beam Elementary School. Over the years, our club has collaborated closely with H.H. Beam, notably through Operation Christmas. This year, I challenge our club to expand our relationship with H.H. Beam through additional service opportunities to support students and teachers.

Looking forward to our collective efforts and the magic we will create together this year!

YIRS,

Luke



James Copeland Smith  
Club Director



Phillip Bryson Welch Jr.  
Club Director



Karen Walker  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Steven D. Long  
Club Learning Facilitator



Donald Benton Parrott  
Club Director



Les Davis  
iPast President

## This Week's Program - July 11: H.H. Beam Elementary School

### This Week's Program: July 11 - H.H. Beam Elementary School

Join us this week as we welcome Principal Beth Crosby and Vice Principal Dr. Tim Reed, prospective corporate members for our club, to discuss the successes and challenges of H.H. Beam Elementary School, as our club's Service Project's Committee sets its goal to adopt the school and improve the educational experience for faculty and students.



The meeting begins at 12:40pm and is offered in-person and by Zoom.

**If you are attending in-person, join us at noon for the lunch service.**

**The Zoom link will open at 12:15pm.**

**You can join the meeting here:**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85921621955?pwd=SUJpSGpWUUnQyOHp6VTJzdlB0UUYvdz09>**

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955  
Passcode: 522413

## This Week's Birthdays: July 8 - July 14



*Laurel Morris - July 8*  
*Marcia Scheideman - July 8*  
*Lamar Keller - July 9*



[Read More](#)

## This Week's Years of Service Anniversaries: July 8 - July 14



*No Service Anniversaries this Week!*

[Read More](#)

## Next Week's Program - July 18: Jennifer Killen - Piedmont Community Charter School

### Next Week's Program - July 18: Jennifer Killen - Piedmont Community Charter School

Join us next week as we welcome Jennifer Killen, Head of Piedmont Community Charter School to discuss the school, particularly their college preparatory curriculum and Associate's Degree program.



**Jennifer Killen, Head of School** is committed to serving Piedmont's staff, students and parents daily. She strives to have a servant leadership style. Every student matters every day, so Mrs. Killen is very focused on individual student achievement and growth. It is a strong asset to her leadership to have the perspectives gained from serving Piedmont as a substitute teacher, teacher assistant, teacher, curriculum coordinator, Assistant Managing Director, Elementary Director and Head of School. With 20 years experience at PCCS, a Bachelors in Business Administration from USC-Upstate and a Master's Degree in School Administration from the University of Phoenix, Mrs. Killen has the wisdom needed to lead Piedmont. Our Head of School is an instructional leader who uses data heavily to make informed program planning decisions.

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**You can join the meeting here:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85921621955?  
pwd=SUJpSGpWUnQyOHp6VTJzcllBOUYvdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85921621955?pwd=SUJpSGpWUnQyOHp6VTJzcllBOUYvdz09)**

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955

Passcode: 522413

## Pop Up Social - July 11 - CityCade

**Pop-Up Social - July 11 - CityCade**

Join us Thursday, July 11th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for our next Pop-Up Social at City Cade! Join us for a good drink and great fellowship!



The address is:

122 S Oakland St.  
Gastonia, NC 28052

We hope to see you there!

## Service Project Opportunity - Rotary Garden Harvesting

### Service Project Opportunity - Rotary Garden Harvesting

The Rotary Club of Gastonia, as one of the leading sponsors and supporters of the Rotary Garden, is excited to offer a service project opportunity to members of our club! For the following dates listed below, help is needed to harvest the bounty from the Garden. More details about specific times are coming soon!

July 16th  
July 18th  
September 24th  
September 26th  
October 29th  
October 31st

## Editor's Note

### Editor's Note

I have heard horror stories about driving in Los Angeles. I understand where people are coming from now that I have experienced it first hand. But I also think that you can learn some important life lessons from those experiences. So here are the four things I learned driving in LA:

1. If you want to stay alive, do not drive on the 405 - Almost every time Emily and I set off for the day, we would plug in our destination into the GPS, and set it to avoid the highways. Sometimes it meant up to 25 extra minutes on the road. But it helped us avoid the craziness of those highways, where people drive like they are auditioning for the next Mad Max sequel. Sometimes it's a good thing to take the long way around. We explored different parts of the city, saw landmarks we didn't know we were going to, and got to spend more time talking and catching up. Life Lesson: Take the long way around. The fastest route is often the most dangerous and the least fun.
2. There are a ton of pedestrians, and they often have the right of way with or without a stop sign or stop light. Also, they get very upset if you accidentally block their walkway. Seriously. I had a man yell at me, spit on my car, and flipped me off because I blocked a walkway. When you are a pedestrian, it is really nice to have such a walkable city. In the car, however, it was a real frustration. Life Lesson (x2) - The first lesson is that there will always be obstacles in your way. How you deal with them can determine a lot in your life. The second lesson is that you really do need to walk a mile in another man's shoes before you judge their journey.
3. There are no dedicated left turns in Los Angeles. Every time the GPS said "At the light turn left", a small part of me died, just a little. That could be a few seconds, or it could be 15 minutes and risking your life just to make a turn. Life Lesson - There are no easy turns in life. If you want to go on a different path, you have to sacrifice something. It can be small, or it can be big, but it is the baggage you have to leave behind to try something new.
4. Sometimes the GPS would recalculate, or we would miss a turn or a lane change, and we ended up off course. In a big city like LA, it was not always a quick fix to get back on track. So we ended up exploring, wandering around, and making a lot of unexpected detours. Those detours made us laugh, and sometimes ended up being some of the most interesting parts of the trip. We didn't worry that we didn't have it figured out, we just kept exploring till we found the right path. Life Lesson: You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't have to have your month planned, your year planned, your life planned. My fondest memories don't live in my calendar. My greatest moments aren't subject to any sort of monthly planner. So let's live today and connect the dots tomorrow. Because life will only make sense when it's behind you.

Stay tuned for my impending TED Talk.

YIRS

Andrew

## July is Transition or New Leadership Month

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This month's graphic is from the Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers in Yonkers, New York! Check out their website here: [Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers](http://Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers)



## Events

July 11th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)

July 18th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)

July 25th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 1st

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)