

**Birthdays**

Thomas Kemp Hooper  
July 22nd  
James Harris McConnell  
July 22nd  
Robert Voorhees Sytz Sr.  
July 25th

**Wedding Anniversaries**

Robert Harold Collis  
July 23rd  
Darrell C. Current  
July 26th  
William T Stetzer  
July 28th

**Years of Service**

Clifford Burgess Carver  
07-28-2011  
13 Years  
Joan Carol Martin  
07-27-2017  
7 Years  
Phillip Bryson Welch Jr.  
07-25-2019  
5 Years  
Elizabeth D Crosby  
07-22-2024  
0 Years  
Angela C Karchmer  
07-22-2024  
0 Years

**Club Leaders**



Luke Lucas Upchurch  
President



Sharon Jenkins Padgett  
President-Elect  
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

**President's Message**

Monday, July 22, 2024

Greetings Gastonia Rotary Club,  
I was pleased to see several fellow members at last Thursday's meeting, especially after some had been away due to illness and family challenges. It's heartening to witness our Club's strong support for each other during difficult times.

For those who may have missed it, I would like to extend congratulations to our newest Paul Harris Fellow, Jim Morris. The Gastonia Rotary Club has a proud tradition of backing the Rotary Foundation. In the past fiscal year alone, our club raised over \$21,000 for the Rotary Annual Fund. This support not only contributes to projects worldwide but also plays a vital role as approximately 25 percent is allocated back to our club through district grants. These funds help initiatives like Operation Christmas and the 4-way Test Scholarships thrive.

As we embark on another promising year, I encourage each of you to get involved by joining a giving group (contact Barbara Vorhees for details) or by making a direct contribution through Rotary.org. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in our community and beyond.

YIRS,

Luke

**This Week's Program - July 25: Emily Williams - Gastonia Baseball Club**

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Join us this week as we Emily Williams from the new Gastonia Baseball Club to discuss the new team, current season, and owner, the fun naming campaign, and their vision of the team's future in Gastonia.



Per her LinkedIn: "Armed with a degree in American Studies with a focus on communication, I've transitioned seamlessly into Gastonia Baseball as an Account Executive. Here, my role encompasses not just sales but also building enduring relationships and strategizing for diverse audience engagement.

My tenure at the YMCA of Coastal Georgia honed my administration and team management skills, which now fuel my drive for impactful sales initiatives. I thrive in evolving environments, leveraging my problem-solving skills to navigate and excel in the competitive sports industry."

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=SUJpSGpWUHQyOHp6VTJzclBOUYvdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955  
Passcode: 522413



Martha Adams Burris  
Club Director



Nancy Anne Kuney  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



Andrew Charles Pierce  
President-Nominee



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 Birthdays: July 22 - July 28



*Kemp Hooper - July 22*  
*Jamie McConnell - July 22*  
*Bob Sytz - July 25*



[Read More](#)

## This Week's Years of Service Anniversaries: July 22 - July 28

Rotary  Thank you for your  
Rotary Service!

*Cliff Carver - July 28 (13 Years)*  
*Joan Martin - July 27 (7 Years)*  
*Phil Welch - July 25 (5 Years)*



[Read More](#)

## Next Week's Program - August 1: Ernest Sumner and Elizabeth Patton - Community Foundation

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Join us next week as we hear from Ernest Sumner and Elizabeth Patton from the Community Foundation of Gaston County to discuss the organization's future, and the current state of our club's endowment.



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

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## PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

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#### **Angela "Angi" Karchmer - Gaston County Director of Social Services**

Angi has served as the Gaston County Director of Social Services since 2016. A native of Gaston County, she graduated from North Gaston High School and then attended Appalachian State University where we received her Bachelor of Science in Communication.

Having been with the County for over 30 years, Angi was a Child Support Enforcement Supervisor from 1998 to 2003 and was promoted to Economic Services Coordinator in 2003. She then served as Economic Support Services Administrator before being promoted to her current position.

In 2022 she completed the Public Leadership Academy at UNC-Chapel Hill and is currently enrolled in the Organizational Leadership Certificate Program at Queens University in Charlotte.

Angi currently services on the Dream Center Academy Advisory Board, the Salvation Army of Gaston and Lincoln County Advisory Board, is co-chair for the North Carolina Association of Directors of Social Services - Economic Services Committee, is a JCPC Advisory Council Member, a HealthNet Gaston Advisory Board Member, and was appointed to the Centralina Economic Development District Board in 2023.

In her spare time, she volunteers for the Gaston County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners Program and services on the Keep Gastonia Beautiful Committee.

#### **Proposed New Corporate Member - Elizabeth "Beth" Crosby - Principal of H.H. Beam Elementary School**

Beth is currently the Principal of H.H. Beam Elementary School. Prior to this she was the Assistant Principal at Cramerton Middle School.

Beth received her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development and K-6 Teacher's Certificate from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. She received her Master's Degree in School Administration and Licensure in Instruction and Curriculum from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Currently, she is pursuing a Doctorate in Education Leadership, with a Concentration in Superintendency at Gardner Webb University.

Community involvement includes South Point Baptist Church, Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte, and Measl on Wheels of Gaston County.

She enjoys cooking, NASCAR races, reading, college football and traveling with her family.

**\*\*\*This serves as a two-week notice. First week on the table started 7/11/24\*\*\***

## Hurricane Beryl Zone 33-34 Relief Efforts

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Our new District Governor Kevin Kendrick has asked all clubs in District 7680 to consider helping our friends in our Zone 33/34 in the Caribbean with their recovery efforts in the aftermath of the devastation left by Hurricane Beryl. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, see the link/graphic below:

[Zone 33/34 Hurricane Beryl Relief Donation Link](#)



## Service Project Opportunity - Rotary Garden Harvesting

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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!

September 24th  
September 26th  
October 29th  
October 31st

## July is Transition or New Leadership Month

### July is Transition or New Leadership Month

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](#)



## Events

July 25th

[Gastonia Club Meeting: Emily Williams, Gastonia Baseball Club](#)

August 1st

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 8th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 15th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting](#)