



December 4, 2023



From Our District Governor

Gratitude



"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision of tomorrow."

"Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs forth from the soul."

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others."

"When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you." - Lao Tzu

We find ourselves at the beginning of another month and with that comes **thanksgiving** and **gratitude** for the blessings we have received. Thank you so much for all that you've done to Amplify Rotary! Thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and your determination to make a difference in the world, especially in our district!

Let us ever be mindful of those who are less fortunate than we are as we serve humanity in our Seven Areas of Focus. Let me challenge you to continue to work towards our Foundation, **Membership, and especially our commitment to our Mental Health Goals**, *beginning with ourselves*. We have so many reasons to do this work. Most importantly, we need to consider ourselves just as valuable. Take time during this season to reflect, reenergize and we recommit to better self-care; this will aid us in providing care to others.

I'm appreciative of ALL of our programs, specifically: Be the Voice, Interact, Laws of life, RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange, GRSP, DEI, CART, ROTARACT, and Human Trafficking just to mention a few. WE ARE AMPLIFYING ROTARY! Your efforts to Tell Your Rotary Stories, Projects, Public Image Post and special programs you have shared with me, and Walter have been EXCEPTIONAL!!!! I may not have mentioned you in the work you have done, BELIEVE ME, IT HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED, I praise your efforts!!!!

As we move forward into our New Year, lets "Reach" forward to complete 100% of our goals, as we race toward the finish line. There are many more dynamic things we can accomplish! I ask that you Refocus and together, we dedicate ourselves to making our clubs and this District "Better than the Best!

"You were designed for accomplishment, engineered for success, and endowed with the seeds of greatness." - Zig Ziglar

Posted by André Marria
December 3, 2023

Peach State PETS

March 1-3, 2024



If you will serve as a club president for the 2024-2025 Rotary year, be sure to [register for PETS](#) and [book your hotel room](#). If you are a leader of a program and want to have a booth at PETS, [vendor registration is open](#) as well. We have some great speakers and programs on the schedule and look forward to hosting you for weekend of fun, fellowship and learning.

Posted by Mary Ligon
November 13, 2023

Carol Lipphardt Recognized for Dedicated Service to District 6900



Since Carol Lipphardt was not able to attend the 2022-2023 District Conference in April, PDG George Granade along with PDG Margie Kersey and PDG Raymond Ray visited Carol and PDG Al in their home on November 14. PDG George presented Carol with recognition for her 18 years of dedicated service as the District Secretary/Manager. Carol was also presented with a thank you book containing letters from each of the DGs she served beginning with PDG Claudia Mertl, 2005-2006, through PDG George Granade, 2022-2023. PDG Margie expressed regrets to Carol from the PDGs who could not attend.

PHOTOS:





Posted by George Granade
November 29, 2023

District Conference 2024

Register Now for 2024 District Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia AND 2024 District Training Assembly



Join us as we Amplify Rotary and feature the Lady with a Song, none other than our District Governor André Marria. The conference will be at the beautiful Jekyll Island Convention Center March 21-24, 2024 - and it will be filled with music, laughter, fun and fellowship. Let's celebrate all the ways our clubs make Rotary BIGGER, BETTER, AND LOUDER!

To register, login to rotary6900.org and click on "Register for the 2024 District Conference at Jekyll Island." The registration fee is \$295 for Rotarians, with special rates for guests, Rotaractors, and children.

There is a new Cancellation Policy in place for the Registration Fee only. Hotel cancellations will be per the hotel policy. Any cancellation before November 1, 2023 will receive a full refund less \$25. Cancellations between November 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 will receive a 75% refund. Cancellations between January 2, 2024 and March 1, 2024 will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations between March 2, 2024 and March 15, 2024 will receive a 25% refund. There will be no refunds after March 15, 2024.

District Governor-Elect Gordon Owens will also be hosting District Assembly in Jekyll Island on Friday, March 22, 2024 - Come early and enjoy our Beach Party (separate ticketed event) on Thursday night, March 21, participate in our service project on Friday morning, and participate in District Assembly on Friday afternoon. There is truly something for everyone at the 2024 District Conference. You can register for District Assembly right on the Event Page for District Conference.

Make your plans to attend District Conference March 21-24, 2024 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center in Jekyll Island, GEORGIA. We look forward to seeing you there!

Service Opportunity

Why should you go on the Rotary Wilderness Team trip to Honduras in March?



Cabin fever is getting to you. After a long, gloomy January and February you are still looking at probably most of March before life begins to bloom, right?

Our trip to beautiful/ tropical Honduras is from March 2-9, 2024. You can start your tan in the beautiful Honduran sunshine, meet 59 new friends, and do a lot of good in the world! And it's the 25th anniversary of the start of this work in Honduras.

In Honduras the sun is up later. It is warm! Around 85-90 degrees! Cools down nicely in the evening.

The day after you return home, March 10, the time changes from doom and gloom time to our favorite Daylight Savings Time!!! You will only have a couple more weeks of cool weather, but spring is on the horizon.

Give yourself some mental health! Come on down and make a difference in Honduras and yourself. It is like summer camp for big people in a beautiful part of the world.

This trip is open to all. Rotarians, friends, family, young and old, any religion. This is a working trip, but

we have tasks for all skill levels, capabilities. And according to Bob Hope from the Atlanta Rotary Club, "It is hard not to find joy in making new friends will doing good in a remote area that is literally a paradise."

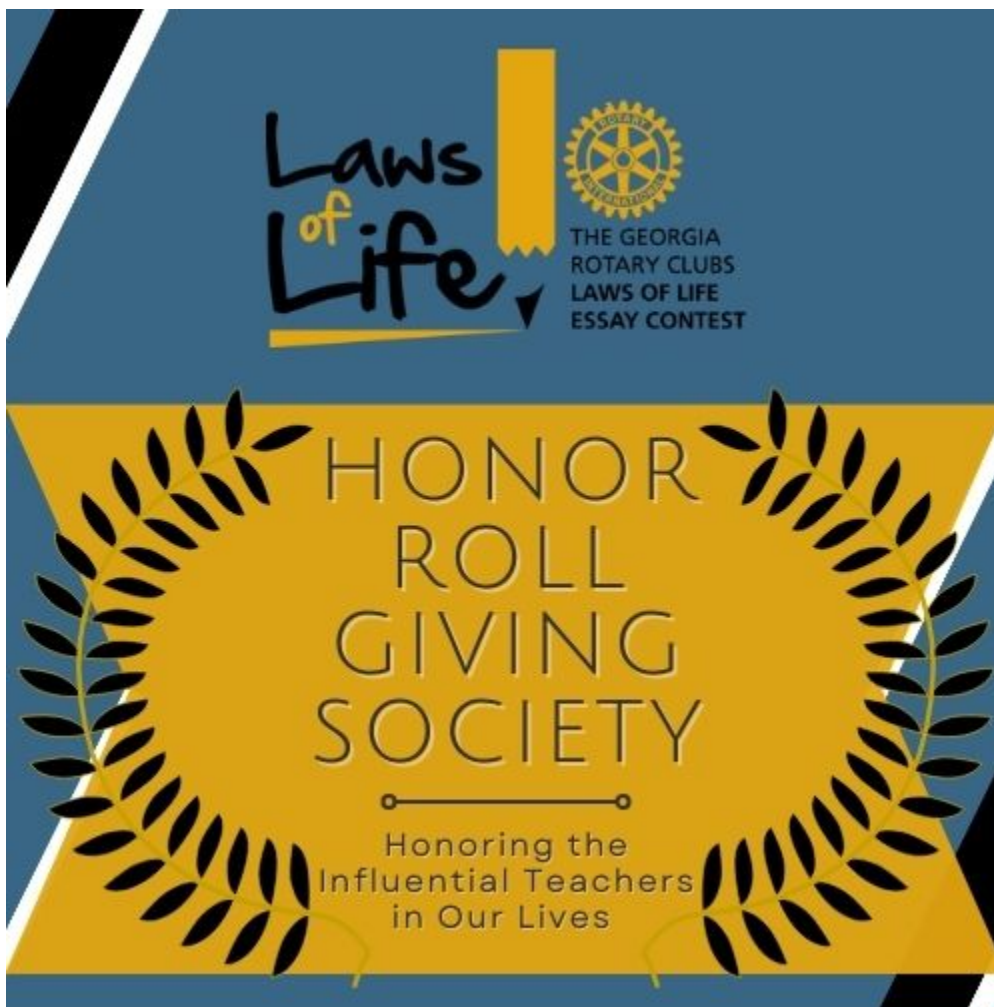
Contact Paul Ray, Rotary Club of Alpharetta at 901-412-4434 or by email at paulray60@gmail.com

Posted by Paul Ray
November 29, 2023

Laws of Life

Recognize a Teacher in the Honor Roll Giving Society

by Carol Walker, Executive Director, Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest



"The duties of a teacher are neither few nor small, but they elevate the mind and give energy to the character." - Dorothea Dix

Our teachers – past and present – hold a very special place in our hearts and often have a life-long impact. No matter how old we are, or how far removed we are from our formative school years, most of us never forget the teachers who made the greatest impression on us.

Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest (GLL) proudly dedicates our 25th Anniversary to the

teachers who have shaped young minds and ignited a passion for learning. We cannot think of a better way to show our appreciation to every teacher who has devoted their life's work to education.

In keeping with this spirit, we invite you to celebrate the special teacher(s) in your life through Georgia Laws of Life's newly minted Honor Roll Giving Society. Your tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or more will support our mission to transform lives by engaging Georgia high school students to reflect upon, express and affirm strong character values. It will also pay tribute to the very heroes in education who have given so much.

The Honor Roll Giving Society was created to support the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, which is offered free of charge to high school students around the state. To date, more than 807,000 Georgia high school students have written their personal Law of Life essay, and we aim to achieve one million students by 2028.

May we count on your support? Please visit our Honor Roll Giving Society donation page to honor teachers of the present and past, and to make it possible for more students to experience this impactful character education and ethical literacy program.

When you donate to honor your teacher, we encourage you to share via Facebook and tag #GeorgiaLawsofLife for additional exposure. The teacher with the most nominations will be announced in January. For gifts of \$100 or more, we will list your teacher's name on our website, send them a special recognition card (if mailing address is provided), and extend an invitation to the GLL annual teacher's workshop (\$250 or more). Let's give our teachers the honor they deserve!

[Follow this link to the Honor Roll Giving Society donation page](#)

Posted by Linda Hatten
November 27, 2023

Alpharetta Celebrates Success of Multi-Club Brazil Project



The **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** is celebrating the shared success of a global grant and construction project made possible by clubs from D6900, New England D7780 and Pelotas, R.S. Brazil D4680.

In all, 14 Rotary clubs across three districts have partnered financially and with in-kind contributions to establish a \$70,000 Down Syndrome occupational therapy program and construction of a 6,200 sq.ft. education and headquarters facility for APADPEL - The Association of Parents of Down Syndrome Persons in Pelotas.

KUDOS to the Rotary Clubs of **Roswell, Dunwoody, Stone Mountain, Peachtree City and Atlanta-Brazil** for supporting this international success!

During a November project Zoom call, Pelotas-Oeste PP Luiz Bernardi and incoming D4680 DG Conrad confirmed \$240,000 of pledges from local/regional Brazilian businesses, and confirmation from the State of Rio Grande do Sul to fund remaining phases of the APADPEL Training & Education building...on land donated by the city of Pelotas. Classes, therapy and occupational courses enabled by the 2022 global grant will take place in the new building. The city of Pelotas and the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul have embraced work set in motion by Rotary International, and corporate/government partners have

committed to support this project for ongoing community benefit. Now that's sustainability!

A January 2024 celebration trip to Pelotas is in the works. Any and all D6900 Rotarians are invited to attend.

Acquiring the Brazilian equivalent of a Certificate of Occupancy is close at hand, and fundraising is underway for a final contribution to finish facility construction. A photo show and project update presentation are available for any/all clubs interested. Contact Anthonia Berry, Alpharetta International Projects Chair, or Bob Koncerak for more information.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Bob Koncerak
November 28, 2023

GRSP News

Spend A Summer In Oslo



While GRSP spends the year hosting international college students, we are thankful for this opportunity allows college students from Georgia to spend the summer attending school and exchanging cultural

customs in Norway. Oslo International Summer School includes students from all over the world in a diverse cultural program in the beautiful city of Oslo, Norway with six weeks of academic achievement and international goodwill. Students must have a valid passport. Applications will be reviewed and all applicants will be notified by the end of January 2024. The opportunity is open to undergraduate and graduate college students who have completed their sophomore year of college by the end of Spring Semester 2024. Students must be between the ages of 20 to 24, single, in good health and academic standing plus willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia Rotarians.

Scholarship includes air fares from Atlanta to Oslo and return to Atlanta. Scholarship also includes 12-credit hours of undergraduate coursework or one graduate course, one weekend-excursion, administered by the University of Oslo, room, board and administrative fees for the International Summer School at the University of Oslo.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
November 12, 2023

GRSP News

Applications Open for the 2023-24 Barbara M. AND Donald L. Thomas Peace Award



One of the Thomas Peace Award recipients for 2023, Kathryn Gunning, sponsored by the Bainbridge, Camilla, and Pelham Rotary Clubs (from L to R): James Eubanks (Pelham), John Carruth (Roswell), Kathryn Gunning, PDG George Granade, David Cooper (Camilla), and Melinda Taylor (Bainbridge).

Since 2002, the **Rotary Club of Roswell** has administered an annual award recognizing a deserving GRSP student from the current class who exhibits the spirit of GRSP and is in need of financial assistance.

Don and Barbara Thomas were always strong supporters of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. They both were Will Watt Fellows, Hue Thomas Fellows and Kendall-Weisiger Fellows. In June 1992, Don and Barbara created a substantial Charitable Remainder Trust to be given to GRSP. In June 2001, they moved forward to establish the Barbara M. and Donald L. Thomas Peace Award so that each year a deserving GRSP student would be given a generous award.

We are pleased to announce that applications are open for the award for the 2023-24 Rotary Year. Each Club President will receive a copy of the application form and instructions. Forms are to be returned to the Peace Award committee chair, Roswell Past President John Carruth, where a committee of Past Presidents review the candidates and make the selection. The award is presented in the spring at a club meeting either at Roswell Rotary or the GRSP student's home club.

Club Presidents, keep your eye out for the email documents and send your Club's application to John Carruth at jcarruth46@gmail.com by the January 31, 2024 deadline included on the form or in the email. John can be contacted directly by phone at 404-245-4915 for clarification and assistance.

Posted by John Carruth

November 26, 2023

RI Convention In Singapore

May 25-29, 2024



The Rotary International Convention will be in Singapore from May 25 to May 29, 2024. We hope you will consider joining the 14 Rotarians from our district who are already registered and can't wait to go. These conventions bring together 10's of thousands of Rotarians from around the world in a unique destination. There are unique opportunities to experience local culture, see the sights around town and explore the surrounding countries before or after the convention. We have a hotel room block setup so we can stick together, we will host a district dinner during the convention and have a suggested trip for afterwards. Visit the [convention page](#) for more information.

Posted by Gordon Owens
November 13, 2023

Register For District Assembly

Friday, March 22, 2024 - Jekyll Island



We have combined [District Assembly](#) with the District Conference weekend this year. This gives you a weekend of your life back! If you will serve in club leadership for the 2024-25 Rotary year plan on arriving Thursday night and join us Friday morning for a leadership development and vibrant club workshop. District Assembly will start with lunch on Friday, followed by breakout sessions to help your club become *irresistible* in your community.

For more information visit the [District Assembly page](#) or to register visit the [District Conference page](#) and add Assembly to your registration.

Posted by Gordon Owens
November 13, 2023

RLI Update

Consider Visiting Thomasville This February



The next in-person opportunity to participate in Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) will take place January 13, 2024 in Thomasville, GA at Southern Regional Technical College. Parts 1, 2, and 3 will be offered, along with a Graduate Class. You can sign up online at RLItraining.org. If you have any questions, please email tracy.vannorman@gmail.com

Posted by Tracy Van Norman
November 29, 2023

Visit MAP International While You're at Jekyll



“MAP International is a Christian organization providing medicines and health supplies to those in need around the world so they might experience life to the fullest. MAP serves all people regardless of religion, gender, race, nationality or ethnic background.” MAP is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization, headquartered in Brunswick, Georgia and led by Rotarian and polio survivor Steve Stirling. MAP was started in 1954 by Ray Knighton, an administrator at the Christian Medical Society in Chicago. Since then MAP has served millions of people all over the world to fulfill its mission “to provide life-changing medicines and health supplies for the world’s poorest, most vulnerable people.”

Steve is offering a unique opportunity for District 6900 Rotarians to tour the headquarters of MAP International at 4700 Glynnco Parkway, Brunswick, Georgia, on Saturday, March 23, 2024 as part of the 2024 District Conference. Steve has spoken at Rotary events all over the world, to include many clubs in District 6900.

To learn more about Steve and MAP International, visit the website at map.org. While you’re there, checkout Steve’s courageous story and order his book “The Crutch of Success.” All purchases go to support MAP.

Posted by Stephanie Windham
November 29, 2023

Rotary Foundation at Work

Celebrating Our Global Scholars



District 6900 is fortunate to have two wonderful Global Scholars. Both are from Japan and pursuing a Master's in Public Health at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Tetsuro Sato - sponsored by the **North Atlanta Rotary Club** - is pictured here with his family and host, Club President Mike Emanuele. His family is living here for the two-year Master's program. Dr. Taiko Nakazawa is sponsored by **Decatur Rotary Club**. Art Rosser is the Decatur Rotary Club contact for Ms. Taiko Nakazawa. Mike Emanuele is North Atlanta Rotary Club contact for Mr. Testuro Sato.

Posted by Mike Emanuele
December 3, 2023

GRSP News

UGA Dean Welcomes GRSP Scholars



Such an honor to witness Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 1993-94 alumna Dr. Anna Westerstahl Stenport of Sweden in her newly appointed role as dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Georgia. Stenport hosted current GRSP students at UGA in November and expressed her appreciation via her LinkedIn post:

The power of international education and student mobility in action: the Georgia Rotary Student Program has advanced Georgia as global state since 1946, placing over 3,800 international students in the state's universities and colleges. I was one of those students, thirty years ago. GRSP changed my life. I had the pleasure of getting to know five current The University of Georgia ambassadorial scholars in a celebratory dinner hosted by the University of Georgia - Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. Thanks Georgia members of Rotary International for maintaining this unique program of international goodwill and understanding. And, GO DAWGS. With Moira La Fuente, J. Michael Sweigart, Rick Siddons, Hedvig Rask, Regina Czniel.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
November 29, 2023

Club News

Busy Fall for North Cobb Rotary - from Real Crime Center Tour to



North Cobb Rotarians recently sponsored the coffee at the first-ever City Foster Friendly event! Acworth has declared itself Foster Friendly, encouraging the whole city to “lean in” and support Foster Families! The club also hosted and served a luncheon for 200 veterans and their families, with North Cobb Rotarian Brian Moore, PhD as the featured speaker.

The club also toured the Real Time Crime Center operated by the Cobb County Police Department. This is among the most high-tch crime-fighting centers in the country. It gathers information from cameras all over the county and feeds it to police so that they can improve the accuracy and speed of criminal arrests. Amazing technology! So proud of how Cobb County works to keep you all safe!

PHOTOS:

ACWORTH CARES

BY

FOSTER FRIENDLY

BY GEORGIA KIDS BELONG



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Posted by Nancy Prochaska
November 29, 2023

Rotary Foundation at Work

East Cobb Shops for 300+ Veterans



The **Rotary Club of East Cobb** recently demonstrated its commitment to community service by successfully executing a heartwarming project in collaboration with United Military Care, a non-profit organization based in Cobb County. This impactful endeavor was made possible through the generous support of a Rotary Foundation Grant and the unwavering dedication of East Cobb Rotary's members, to grow local economics and help veterans through a rebound relief program after the devastating impact of COVID-19 and the economic aftermath.

In this noteworthy undertaking, the club shopped on behalf of 308 homeless veterans, ensuring that their essential needs were met. The shopping list was substantial, involving the procurement of 616 t-shirts and 924 men's briefs. Each deserving veteran received not one, but two t-shirts and three pairs of briefs. In addition to this generous support, club members went the extra mile by donating an additional \$700 out of their own pockets, specifically earmarked to address other essential needs not covered by the grant.

Confronted with the monumental task of handling such a considerable quantity of items, the members of East Cobb Rotary exhibited exceptional teamwork and banded together after their weekly meeting. They efficiently organized themselves into an assembly line, streamlining the packaging process. With the clock ticking before most people even hit the snooze button, this early morning breakfast club showed that they were not just early birds; they were the ones who caught the worms and cooked up a hearty breakfast of positive change. Their incredible mission, completed before 9 am, illustrated the power of Rotarian involvement in local economic growth and providing crucial assistance to veterans in their time of need.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Brenda Beshara
November 29, 2023

Club News

Dunwoody Spearheads Local Fundraising for Maui Relief

In September, the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** initiated a community fundraiser for the Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii fire victims, chaired by Charlie Augello. The club enlisted the support of Dunwoody's vibrant culinary and retail community to raise funds - by sharing part of their receipts for September sales and encouraging patron donations. We are pleased to announce that \$11,330 will be sent directly to the Maui Rotary Club to be distributed to local individuals and families in need.

We thank all the participating restaurants, retail shops, real estate offices and private individuals who made this donation possible: Carbonara Trattoria, Dash Hospitality, Dunwoody Restaurant Group, E. 48th Street Market, La Petite Maison, Nai Thai Cuisine, Novo Cucina, Nowack's Restaurant, Porter Brew & Que, Vintage Pizza, G.E. Haynes Inc., Harry Norman Perimeter Office (C. Morelle & C. Tran). If you're visiting Dunwoody, consider patronizing one of these organizations and let them know you appreciate how they helped Rotary help the people of Maui.

Inspired by the club's effort to raise funds for the Maui fire victims, Charlie's friend and local Dunwoody resident Dr. Greg Smith, founder of InStep Ministries International, offered a \$10,000 donation to a Maui church pastor for distribution to those in need of assistance and aid.

A special thank you to Mark Galvin for expediting the graphics, press releases and social media postings and to Huw Thomas of the Dunwoody Restaurant Group for soliciting many of the restaurants to participate.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
November 3, 2023

Club News

Columbus Presents Nearly \$7,000 and In-Person Support to Community Groups



The **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently completed two projects that work with local organizations to serve local youth in Columbus. First, the club presented grants totaling \$6,860 to five local nonprofits to support their work in the community. Second, 16 Rotarians, including the District Governor, collaborated with Cure Violence, Girls Inc, and Parks & Recreation to provide a program to youth at the Frank D. Chester Recreation & Senior Center on Wednesday, October 11.

The club invites its almost 300 members to donate the number of dollars greater than or equal to their age on their birthday every year. Those funds are earmarked for the club's Children's Fund, which disburses grants to local nonprofits. This year, five grants totaling \$6,860 were awarded to Clement Arts for a student-led art show, Open Door Community House for a STEAM robotics program, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra's Making Music Matters program, the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus for their Whitewater Music Festival, and the Chattahoochee Council, BSA for their Scouting program. The grants were awarded at the August 30 meeting at the Columbus Trade Center.

In October, Columbus Rotarians collaborated with Cure Violence, Girls Inc, and Parks & Recreation to provide food and a program to youth at the Frank D. Chester Recreation & Senior Center. Rotarians spoke inspirational words of encouragement that it is possible to choose a productive path in life and shared career advice with the youth. Volunteers served the youth a meal and engaged in some friendly competition on the basketball court to round out the evening. "Thank you so much for the encouragement and push." Sharon Calhoun, Columbus Parks & Recreation.

"First and foremost, don't let this be the only time you visit Sharon, Frank Chester center and her boys. As stated on Wednesday evening at the project, "they need someone who may not necessarily look like them, let them know that they are loved." Gail Burgos, CEO of Girls Inc.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Julie Bond
November 29, 2023

Club News

Thomasville's Fresh for You Hits New High



In November, the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** made the BIGGEST IMPACT to date since starting its "FRESH FOR YOU - Free Produce Market" project in partnership with Second Harvest of South Georgia and the Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Clubs by serving 396 households in one day!

In addition, the club "harvested" \$50,000 in their annual golf classic to help with their big impact project, which includes their work with Second Harvest and helping the United Way in its efforts to provide for 18 agencies that serve all the socio-economic citizens and groups throughout Thomas County.

Posted by Shanna Derby
November 27, 2023

Club News

Douglas County Brings Thanksgiving to School



The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** partnered with The Pantry to provide Thanksgiving baskets complete with a turkey and all the trimmings for 17 families in need at South Douglas Elementary and Fairplay Middle School. Rotary member Joe Williams headed up the project. He is pictured with fellow Rotary members and staff from each school.

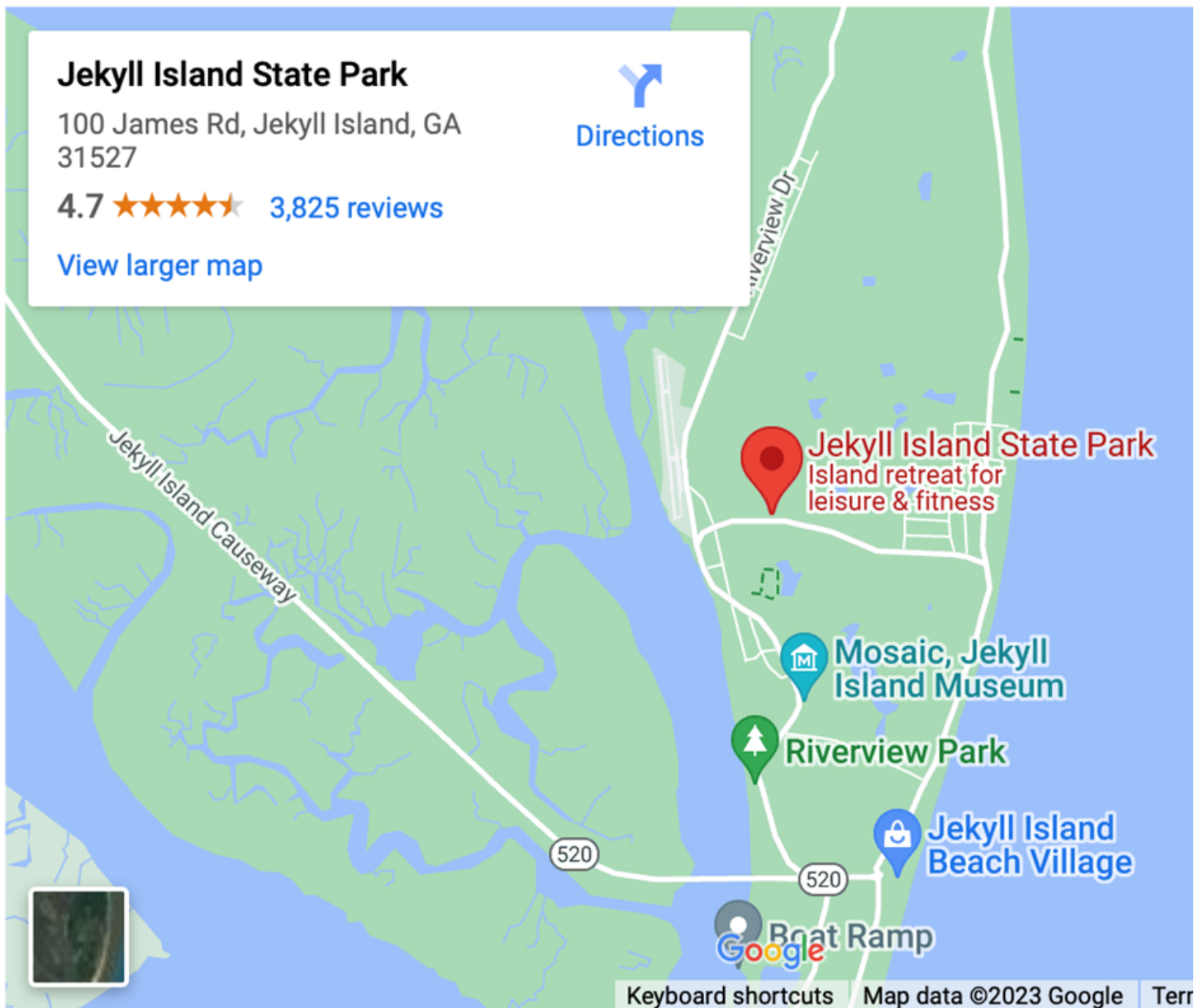
PHOTOS:



Posted by Nell Boggs
November 29, 2023

District Conference 2024

The Secret of the Jekyll Island One-Day Pass



Did you know that Jekyll Island is a state park? In 1950, the Jekyll Island-State Park Authority was established by the State of Georgia to govern and manage the island. The Jekyll Island Authority serves as steward of the island, overseeing all natural areas and commercial operations of the island.

When you cross the bridge onto the island you will pay a \$10 entry fee. The receipt shows it's a "1 Day Pass." The truth is, as long as you remain on the island all you will pay is \$10. Whether you stay one night or ten nights, you will only pay if you leave the island to visit a nearby attraction away from Jekyll and then return.

Here's more information about Jekyll Island - Jekyll Island is a barrier island off the southeastern coast of Georgia. In 1886, Jekyll Island was purchased by a group of millionaires for use as an exclusive, private retreat known as "The Jekyll Island Club." Jekyll Island was purchased by the State of Georgia in 1947 from the Jekyll Island Club. This part of Jekyll is now the Historic District.

The Authority oversees the operation, maintenance and promotion of the island's amenities and Historic District, and the provision of municipal services for the island's residential community, 10 hotels, rental cottages and businesses.

Various amenities are operated by the Authority, which include the Historic District, 63 holes of golf, a tennis center, miniature golf and bike rental, Summer Waves Waterpark, an oceanfront soccer complex, a 55,000 square foot Convention Center, restaurants, and a campground. The Authority provides a fire department/emergency medical service and maintains several public picnic areas, beach crossovers, bike paths, a boat ramp, and a small airstrip.

Jekyll Island is a place where nature and humanity peacefully co-exist. The most accessible of Georgia's protected barrier islands, most of Jekyll remains in a natural state, and development is tightly limited to preserve the balance. The island is home to more than a thousand acres of mature maritime forest, an icon of the coastal South that has become threatened by over development throughout its range.

From the moment you see the vast marshes that line the causeway, you'll know you've arrived in a place blessed with natural beauty. The terrapin-crossing signs along the way tell you this is a place where people truly cherish our natural resources and are working hard to protect wildlife.

In 2011, the Jekyll Island Authority established a thoroughly vetted Conservation Program with the mission of preserving and enhancing the island's natural bounty, while providing nature-based educational and recreational opportunities. Conservation remains a central pillar of the parks' mission—from protecting nesting loggerhead turtles and dune systems to preserving the integrity of the tidal marshes and everything in between. Over the last decade, the visitor experience has been enhanced to sustain Jekyll Island's economic viability; yet, all revitalization has occurred within existing, developed land, without reducing the island's protected undeveloped land by a single acre.

Whether through Ranger Walks or educational trips to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, guests can celebrate the island's natural history, and natural future, by learning from it - and by seeking harmony with it.

Posted by Stephanie Windham
November 29, 2023

Club News

Marietta Metro Celebrates Veterans



Last month, the **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** hosted a special Tribute to Veterans at the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta. The free event was hosted by Senior Pastor Joe Evans who gave the invocation. The program celebrated the contributions of all veterans, past and present.

Chris Stokes, Club President, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Lassiter-Kell-Pope Navy Junior ROTC presented the colors. Marietta Metro Rotarian and WW II Navy veteran Bob Brown lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The First Presbyterian Church Choir and The Church Street Brass provided patriotic music, including "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "The Star Spangled Banner" and the "Armed Services Medley."

Branches of the military were individually honored when their service anthems were played. The program included a special introduction to Veterans Day by Army veteran and Rotarian Dr. Robert Harper and an observance of the Missing Man Table by Navy veteran and Rotarian Bob Thomas.

The guest of honor was Maj. Gen. Thomas Carden, Adjutant General of the Georgia Department of

Defense, introduced by Rotary Club Past President Buck Buchanan. Maj. Gen. Carden's remarks focused on thanking veterans who stand in the gap every single day and have continued to do so between tyranny and freedom.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Rene Lanier
November 29, 2023

Club News

Roswell Hosts Veteran's Bus Trip



Roswell Rotary honored 50 veterans, their family members and Rotarians with a day at Ft Moore (formerly known as Ft Benning). We want to ensure that our community knows that we value and appreciate our veterans and the service they provided. We left Roswell with a Georgia State Patrol and Roswell Police escort early on Friday. We had front row seating to a US Army Ranger Demonstration which was amazing, lunch at the Heritage Hall and a tour of the impactful infantry museum. American Legion Post 201 provided dinner, capping off a really special day for all who attended and fully supported this event.

Posted by Becky Nelson
November 29, 2023

GRSP Update

Alpharetta Combines Service with Recreation for GRSP Weekend



Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars were hosted by the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** as they toured Alpharetta and vicinity for a packed weekend of fellowship, service and fun in early November. From Angry Steer BBQ and a bonfire on Friday night, courtesy of Rotarian Mickey Rogers, to a service project at Wills Park, team-building exercises and Laser Tag, our international college students combined service and recreation for an action-packed student weekend. GRSP appreciates our Trustee and weekend coordinator John Norton for putting on a stellar weekend and thanks the 15-plus host families for their hospitality.

Students will spend the holidays with host families, guests and traveling. Students will gather February 9-11, 2024 for the GRSP Leadership Weekend in Dunwoody.

PHOTOS:





Club News

North Fulton Brings Art to the Big Creek Greenway



Rotary Club of North Fulton began a project to beautify the Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta, while also sharing the importance of "Clean Water for All". Club member Richard Matherly's home overlooks the Greenway and he walks the trail often - which led him to envision the idea of bringing art to cover the large cement manhole covers along the trail.

Local high school students provided the art concepts around the "Clean Water for All" theme and were mentored by a professional muralist, Annalysa Kimball. One of the newer members of the club, Thomas Nolf, played a key role in coordinating the necessary approvals from Fulton County Public Works, City of Alpharetta Parks Recreation & Cultural Services, as well as Alpharetta's Arts Commission.

Student artists, supported by Rotarians, friends and family members, recently completed two days of painting on their masterpieces. Nine manhole covers are being covered in student art and community

members have provided tremendous support for this worthwhile project. the club plans to do more sections of the Greenway over the next few years to create the longest continuous mural trail!

PHOTOS:





Posted by Lisa Gelber
November 29, 2023

Club News

Dunwoody Brings Food, Books and Toys to Local Homes



As we celebrate 40 years of the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody**, this year members are participating in three projects that have become Dunwoody traditions.

For the last seven years, the club has joined forces with other local community organizations to provide Harvest Baskets to 86 needy families at Kingsley Elementary School - with a turkey and enough food to support Thanksgiving and more. In addition to our financial support, this year club members helped with a major pick-up at Costco, with sorting foods, and what might be our first annual "turkey trot" at our local Publix, where members gathered together one morning to buy turkeys two or three at a time until we had the 86 we needed.

After Thanksgiving, about 15 of us gathered to put bookplates in 900+ elementary school books - one for each child at Dresden and Kingsley Elementary. This Dunwoody tradition started more than 20 years ago at Dresden. Honorary Member Anita Augello chaired both the Harvest Basket and the Book project this year. And long-time member Roy Ethridge was on hand to help with the books - a project he spearheaded for many years.

And finally, this week's holiday luncheon will feature tables stacked high with toys for the Marines' Toys for Tots drive. Thanks to Jim and Janet Glass for coordinating this effort.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
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