Rotary | Rotary Opens Opportunities

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR AUGUST, 2020

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By Kirk Driskell
While Covid-19 has changed our day-to-day activities, what are you doing to still stay connected? There are many that have not been able to adapt to the change as fast as others. We are all familiar with the most common CDC recommendations on limiting contact, but what about calling your friends?
Dr. Lim, a psychologist says, "Loneliness is about feeling disconnected, even when you have people around you." I have seen many clubs adapt quickly, but that does not mean that all of their members have. Now more than ever it is important to reach out and check on your family, friends and club members. If you have not seen them online or in person lately, give them a call. We never know how much a simple phone call can impact someone.
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This is a Matching grant, meaning that club expenses must total $500 or more to be eligible for the full $250, while any amount less than $500 will be divided evenly between club and District. So invite your family, friends, and prospective Rotarians - have fun!! Funds are limited, though, so this is a "First Come, First Serve" deal. Presidents and Membership Chairs have already received the appropriate documents via email, but anyone with any questions is welcome to contact District Membership Chair Jaclyn Donovan.
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By Diane Adoma
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By Narayan Sengupta
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Club News
### Moultrie Promotes Literacy Through Little Free Libraries
By Jaclyn Donovan
The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** launched its "Little Free Library" initiative this summer and just recently placed two libraries in town - the first inside of Main Street Park and the second in front of City Hall. Each library is a book-sharing box where people of all ages can come to take a book or leave a book, and the focus is promoting literacy and encouraging more people to read.
[more]

Club News
### Lake Spivey/Clayton County Brags on Its Rotarian of the Year
By Ron Swofford
The **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** celebrates the selection of Lata Chinnan as its Rotarian of the Year Award for 2019 - 2020. In her role as a dedicated club member and the club's Foundation Director, Rotarian Lata consistently supported all club projects and initiated important projects. An example would be the project she started this spring with a $10,000 matching grant to provide COVID-19 supplies to local hospitals and 11 other Clayton County community service organizations. This project succeeded in providing much needed gloves, masks, and sanitizer for these critically important organizations.
[more]

Club News
### Americus Awards Lifelong Learning Grant to Local Law Enforcement Professional
By Angela Smith
The **Rotary Club of Americus** recently recognized Maqueisha Smith, Communications Officer with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office with a Rotary District 6900 Lifelong Learning Grant "Thanks to the generosity of Rotary Clubs within District 6900, there were 10 awards made available to recipients who would benefit from financial aid to enroll in programs to advance their careers," stated club president Angela Smith. [more]

### DeKalb Rotary Council Thanks Ceasar Gaiters for His Leadership
By Cathie Brumfield
At the July DeKalb Rotary Council meeting, outgoing Council Chair Ceasar Gaiters was recognized for his leadership by a $500 donation to his charity, JABY INC.- an international 501(c) 3 non-profit serving people all over the world by Mentoring, Community Service, Scholarships and Endowments. For the last three years, the Council contributed to the Brookhaven Service Above Self Golf Tournament. This year the Council is also giving a $5,000 Grant to the Rotary Club of Emory Druid Hills to provide Bunk Beds for the Girls School they built in India.
[more]

From Facebook
### Offering Support in a Back Pack
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Alpharetta** and **Milton Rotary Clubs** both delivered back packs last month to the North Fulton Community Charities. Milton's president said, "Even though we don't know how long we will be virtually learning at least the kids can be organized at home and feel ready!" [more]

From Facebook
### Carrollton Clubs Make a Difference in Their Community
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Rotary Club of Carrollton** closed out the year by supporting six local nonprofits that epitomize Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto: THS Emergency Shelter, Carroll County Mental Health Advocates, Friends of the Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carroll County Training Center, the Blake House, and Carroll County Council on Aging. The club ... [more]

From Facebook
### Pine Mountain Fire Department Receives Grant Through Rotary Club of Harris County
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Rotary Club of Harris County** and Chief Thomas Scott of the Pine Mountain Fire Department successfully competed for a $500 district grant that will be used to buy materials to support training and continuing education of department members. "This grant is really important to us," said Chief Scott. "It allows us to take our training to an even higher level and keep our first responders sharp and professional." Pine Mountain Mayor Jim Trott said, "On behalf of the town, I thank the Rotary Club of Harris County for bringing this grant to us. And for helping us compete for and win the award." Pictured here: Chief Scott, past Rotary President Tom Shaver and Mayor Jim Trott
[more]

From Facebook
### Marietta Metro Awards Three Interact Scholarships
By Jackie Cuthbert
In June, the **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** awarded three $1,000 Interact College Scholarships ... one at each of the high schools where the club sponsors Interact Clubs. This year's recipients were:
• Temitope Kassim of Marietta High School, who will attend the University of Notre Dame
• Alyssa Emam of Pope High School, who will attend the University of South Florida
• Sam Thompson of Lassiter High School, who will attend the University of Georgia.
[more]

From Facebook
### Paulding County Donates Life-Saving Equipment
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Paulding County Rotary Club** reached out to local Veterans - donating two AED Defibrillators to American Legion Post 70 and Post 111. Local Veterans of all ages gather regularly at these Legion Halls. Having modern easy to use safety equipment on hand could potentially save the life of one of our veterans.
[more]

From Facebook
### Bremen Helps Scout Install Exercise Equipment for Community
By Jackie Cuthbert
Bremen High School student Bryce Calain recently installed Outdoor Exercise Equipment at Blue Devil Family Park for his Eagle Scout Project. The **Bremen Rotary Club** was proud to help sponsor this great addition to the Blue Devil Family Park. Congrats, Bryce, on a job well done.

From Facebook
### Peachtree City Involves Community in 47th Annual Smart Directory
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** put out a call to local photographers, asking for their best shot of what Fayette and Coweta County represents to them by submitting photos that highlight iconic places, landmarks or events! The club is in the final stages of preparing its 47th annual edition of the "Rotary Smart Directory" - the community's best resource for listings, advertisements and offers from businesses and service providers covering Fayette County, Newnan and East Coweta. The directory is still available in printed form as well as on-line at www.rotaryphonebook.com. And the winning photo will go on this year's cover.
[more]

From Facebook
### Sandy Springs Supports Community Assistance Center
By Jackie Cuthbert
Members of the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** made a mid-July visit to the Community Assistance Center (CAC) in Sandy Springs to present a donation of $1,315! The club raised the funds as part of a Derby Day fundraiser event in May that was organized by the **Alpharetta Rotary Club**. Pictured: Sandy Springs Rotary President John Neill, Benjy Dubovsky, Nancy Schroeder, Todd Lawrimore, Will Mackarthar, and CAC CEO Tamara Carrera.
[more]

From Facebook
### Entrants Run the Vinings Downhill From As Far Away as Norway
By Jackie Cuthbert
This year's Vinings Down Hill 5K race took place this past weekend ... virtually, allowing participants to walk or run wherever they chose. Former GRSP student Lars run the race in his native Norway. This year is in memory of race founder **Vinings Cumberland** Rotarian Charles Heinz. The local charities that benefit from the funds raised from the race need them more than ever to serve our neighbors in great need. You can register at **http://viningsdownhill5k.com/**
[more]

From Facebook
### Celebrating Rotarians and Rotary Years Making a Difference
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Rotary Clubs of North Cobb, LaGrange, Muscogee Columbus, North Fulton and Dunwoody** all recognized Rotarians who made extraordinary contributions to their clubs and their communities in 2019-20, then posted those recognitions on Facebook to share their story of Rotary. Check it out! [more]

Club News
### Thomasville Supports Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program
By Susan Backofen
Five years ago, when Scott Rich was the president of the Rotary Club of Thomasville, Rotarian Andre' Marria approached Rich and the board of directors to ask for their local financial support of a Morehouse College School of Medicine Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI).TPPI is a federally funded initiative designed to reduce teen pregnancy rates and to serve approximately 3,450 middle and high school youth over a five-year period in six Georgia Counties.
With the approval of the board, the club committed $3,000 in local funding for the TPPI project. In the next four years, succeeding club presidents and their boards recognized the extreme importance of the project and continued the yearly financial support of the initiative. During the five years of the project, the club has given a total of $15,500. in local support of the TPPI which concluded June 30, 2020. Under the direction of the local Rotary Youth Services committee the Thomasville Rotary Club secured an additional $3500 in local funding through a Rotary District Grant. Total local funding provided TPPI during the life of the grant has been $19,000.
[more]

## Upcoming Key Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 | **Dougherty County (Albany) Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Thursday, August 13th, 2020 | **Camilla Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Wednesday, August 19th, 2020 | **Johns Creek North Fulton Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Thursday, August 20th, 2020 | **North Atlanta Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Monday, August 24th, 2020 | **Henry County Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Tuesday, August 25th, 2020 | **Barnesville Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 | **Griffin Daybreak Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Thursday, August 27th, 2020 | **Griffin Official Visit & Board Meeting** |
| Tuesday, September 1st, 2020 | **Carrollton Board & Official Visit** |
| Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020 | **Carrollton Dawnbreakers Board & Official Visit** |
| Friday, September 4th, 2020 | **Atlanta West End Board & Official Visit** |
| Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 | **Americus Board & Official Visit** |
| Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 | **Cordele Board & Official Visit** |

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From Our District Governor

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Dr. Lim, a psychologist says, "Loneliness is about feeling disconnected, even when you have people around you." I have seen many clubs adapt quickly, but that does not mean that all of their members have. Now more than ever it is important to reach out and check on your family, friends and club members. If you have not seen them online or in person lately, give them a call. We never know how much a simple phone call can impact someone.

I believe that the only way we can keep what we have is to give it away every day. With that being said, I am more focused on the quality of the interactions that I have rather than the quantity. Reach out and give yourself the time to invest in the conversation. Send someone an invitation to a facetime / zoom call to virtually share a cup of coffee or go on a walk together. We can engage and have meaningful conversations even while we are not meeting in person.

A simple phone call letting them know you are thinking about them could save a life! Share with us on

social media if you join the challenge.

Posted by Kirk Driskell
August 10, 2020

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Membership

## Let's Get Social

Did you know that DG Kirk Driskell wants to pay for your club to have a party? It's true! In an effort to promote fellowship and membership growth, District 6900 will provide up to $250 to clubs for the express purpose of hosting a club membership social to attract new potential members and introduce them to the fun of Rotary.

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Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
August 3, 2020

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Women in Rotary

## Join the Infinite Possibilities: Women in Rotary Membership Series

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This Four-Part Membership Series offers you the unique opportunity to hear from some of the most dynamic speakers in Rotary. The topics focus on Rotary history, celebrations, challenges, vision, encouragement, enthusiasm and motivation to grow your membership! As we bring major Rotary International speakers to the forefront, we have every confidence you will find each one-hour webinar well worth your time and attention.

The following is our series schedule:

- July 31, 2020 - Sylvia Whitlock, 1st Female Rotary Club President, hosted by RI Vice President Johrita Solari and RI Director Valarie Wafer ... **click to view the replay**
- August 28, 2020 - Rotarian Jenny Stotts, Boldly Leading the Way, hosted by RI Director Peter Kyle and PDG Vanessa Ervin
- September 25, 2020 - Past RI Vice President Dean Rohrs, hosted by Past RI Director John Smarge and Zone 34 ARC Cyndi Doragh
- October 30, 2020 - Very Special Guest Speaker, hosted by RI Director Stephanie Urchick

Click to Register: **https://dacdb.com/index.cfm?EventID=77490067** for Infinite Possibilities.

We will be offering a second, Four-Part Series - INFINITE POSSIBILITIES: Diversity Equity Inclusion, beginning January, 2021, so stay tuned for more exciting news to come your way! We look forward to seeing you there!

Posted by Kirk Driskell

August 4, 2020

Club News

# South DeKalb Presents a Focus on Clean Water Issues … Join On Zoom

Join the **Rotary Club of South DeKalb** on Zoom on Wednesday, August 12 to hear  Rotary Club of South DeKalb environmentalist Dr. Jacqueline Echols talk about the difficulty of solving problems related to the lack of access to clean water. The Rotary Foundation includes water and sanitation as a key focus area. You must be registered to receive the private zoom link. Click here to register: **https://events.eventzilla.net/e/rotary-club-of-south-dekalb--2138794966**

Jacqueline Echols is a tireless advocate for Georgia's watersheds and works for their protection through both policy change and community engagement. She has served as Board President of the South River Watershed Alliance (SRWA) since 2010. As Board President, she has worked to ensure federal and state regulators enforce DeKalb County's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) sewer overflow permit, help to secure Georgia Department of Natural Resources grant support for the South River Water Trail, and hosted countless river cleanups; kayaking; and other stewardship and conservation events for the local community.

Jackie Echols' work on behalf of the citizens of this state, most particularly those living in DeKalb County and along the South River has been tireless. For example, DeKalb County sanitary sewer spills have huge negative impacts on the county's streams and rivers. They also cost ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in federal and state fines and environmental cleanup costs. Jackie has been more than an advocate for the South River. She is a keen strategist who fights to ensure that federal Clean Water Act requirements are enforced.

Under Dr. Echols' leadership, the SRWA became the sole intervener in the consent decree between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and DeKalb County. The projects and work of SRWA are intended to restore and protect the South River for wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy. Restoration is the return of a degraded ecosystem to a close approximation of its remaining natural potential (U.S. EPA). According to Dr. Echols, urban areas are where most people live and where waterways like the South

River are most threatened. Restoration of the South River depends on actively engaging individuals and communities through projects that raise awareness, educate, and connect people to the river.

Posted by Diane Adoma
August 4, 2020

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Food for Thought

## ‘Clubbing’ in the age of COVID

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You can **read the article now** and then think about DG Kirk's challenge to stay connected.

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The Rotary Foundation

# Smyrna Global Grant Approved for Pediatric Nephrology Center Project in Jamaica

The Rotary Foundation has approved A $40,000 global grant application for the Rotary Club of Smyrna Rotary Club of Smyrna and the Rotary Club of St. Andrew-North in District 7020 (the Caribbean). This project will help provide Continuous Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitors to pediatric nephrology centers in Kingston Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC) and University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI). It will also help develop a pediatric nephrology center at Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The project's lead clubs were connected by PDG Bobby Young of St. Andrew-North who is a frequent visitor to Smyrna Rotary Club and considered an unofficial member of the Smyrna club.

Thank you to D6900 and RI for so much matching and D6900's Anne Glenn for extensive guidance!

Posted by Narayan Sengupta
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

# Atlanta West End Uses Facebook for Public Service

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End** has used its Facebook page to post useful information for the community and its members. Recently, it posted a tribute and this photo of Representative Lewis with Assistant Governor Ceasar Gaiters.

The club also posted this in July: “On November 3, 1957, 80 Atlanta ministers published a manifesto on the front page of the Atlanta Journal Constitution addressing racial tension and integration. "Hatred and scorn for those of another race, or for those who hold a position different from our own, can never be justified. It is only as we approach our problems in a spirit of mutual respect of charity, and of good will that we can hope to understand one another, and to find the way to a cooperative solution of our problems." One of the authors was Reverend Bevel Jones, who six months later, on May 8, 1958, would become a charter member of the newly formed Rotary Club of Atlanta West End. “

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

# Rotarians Feed Local Communities

Check out the photo from the **Dougherty County Rotary Club**'s “Farmily” Day in late June. At this family affair, members of the club planted over 400 sweet potato plants at the Flint River Fresh Community Garden. The garden aims to make fresh, locally-grown produce accessible and affordable for people throughout the Flint River Region in Southwest Georgia.

And the photo of **East Cobb Rotarians** in action with its partner, the YMCA, to pack food bags!

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

# District Grant Creates Rotary Learning Lab in North Fulton

HomeStretch is a non-profit that helps families with school age children who are employed with transitional housing. As part of the program they help residents with job skills and their children with tutoring so they can be successful in school.

The **Rotary Club of Roswell** partnered with the **Rotary Clubs of North Fulton and Milton** on a grant that will provide HomeStretch with an onsite computer lab that children will use with their tutors to complete school assignments and further their education. Currently, students have to travel to another

site to receive tutoring. As you can imagine, with working parents and limited resources this is often difficult. Do to child safety and regulations tutors are not allowed in the residences at HomeStretch.

The Rotary Learning Lab will provide a common area for tutors to meet with students and provide the much needed leg up they need to get ahead in life. Once installed the shipping container will be transformed into the Rotary Learning Lab and painted Rotary blue. In addition to providing a great assist to HomeStretch this project will be a lasting symbol of Rotary's great work in our community as everyone who visits the lab will see the Rotary Learning Lab branding.

Between our club members and their connections to the trades we have volunteers who are excited to contribute to this project. Millard Architects, WS Nielsen Company, Choate Construction, Moncrief HVAC, Meer Electic, Kee Designs, Civil Logistics, Lummus Building Supply and more have donated their products or services to this project. These partners have allowed us to turn a $10,000 District Grant into a $100,000+ project.

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

## Atlanta Metro Rotary Club Featured in Rotarian Magazine

# Change agents

## Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro, Georgia

**Chartered:** 2019
**Original membership:** 20
**Membership:** 31

### CLUB INNOVATION:

**The club is designed to offer a seamless transition for young professionals who want to advance their careers and their Rotary lives. Focused on networking and mentorship, the club partners with other philanthropic organizations for volunteering opportunities, easing some of the organizational responsibilities of club members.**

### SPANNING THE AGES:

**Atlanta-area Rotarians have a long-standing focus on youth. Their robust RYLA infrastructure [illegible] student leadership program for intermediate [illegible] efforts. Looking to the future, the [illegible] gave rise to the nascent Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro.**

Despite playing an active role as a past president of the Rotaract Club of Atlanta, Alisha Rodriguez assumed that her demanding job would preclude joining a Rotary club. Rodriguez had heard that a lot of Rotary clubs required a large time commitment and that new members often "would get thrown into committees and get overworked," she says.

To David Gordon and Warren Turner, then members of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody with long involvement in guiding the Rotaractors, Rodriguez's apprehensions were familiar. So Gordon and Turner took action, enlisting Rodriguez and others to charter the new club. "Some of them came from Rotaract and some were friends of Rotaractors," says Turner. "We circled back with Rotarians from our club who had left. They found this type of model more accommodating and appealing."

To make the service and club commitments manageable, the club emphasizes volunteer partnerships. "We have structured volunteer opportunities by building relationships with other organizations," rather than inaugurating projects from scratch, says Rodriguez.

"The only charity we encourage members to support financially is The Rotary Foundation," says Gordon. "We support other charities with manpower, intellectual as well as physical." The club works with some of those charities in conjunction with the Rotaract club and other Rotary clubs.

An informal mentoring system is in its infancy, but Gordon already has seen strong bonds forged. "We've just started it, pairing people slowly but surely," he says. The older members also learn from the younger members, Turner says. "The younger [illegible] much more comfortable with emerging [illegible] doubly prefer email. They prefer Slack."

[illegible] balance between the young members [illegible]," says Gordon. As a smaller club, it has [illegible] that sometimes develop within larger clubs, Turner notes. "A trap that a lot of Rotary clubs come across is you tend to bond with the same group of people," he says. "Here, because we're a smaller club, you're forced to talk to everybody. It's about having a conversation, listening to what's important to people."

The club meets twice a month but has sometimes replaced a regular meeting with a fellowship session at different locations, such as an upscale pub with bowling. The club has often held social events at a hotel that, despite its location in Atlanta's trendy Buckhead area, charged the club only $100 for its event space. And a joint meeting with the Atlanta Rotaract club is held every two months.

**From top: Club members volunteer at the Adult Disability Medical Healthcare 5K/1K Run; with the Rotaract Club of Atlanta, the club co-hosted an event with Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold Melton (right).**

"It's a less formal club and people really enjoy it. It's a group of friends and we try to keep it that way," says Gordon. "We're spending a lot of time making sure that our members are happy and that they want to join in."

—BRAD WEBBER

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Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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Service Opportunity

# Join the Rotary Club of Atlanta in Honduras - March 6-13

The 20th annual **Atlanta Rotary Club** trip to rural Honduras is scheduled for March 6 through 13, 2021, pending the reopening of Honduras to foreign visitors. Rotarians from other clubs are welcome to join the trip.

According to Rotary International, the Atlanta club's trip is the largest Rotary club sponsored mission trip in the world, averaging more than 50 travelers each spring. The group has built schools and continues to work on education, healthcare, economic development and water projects each year.

The core of the group is from the Rotary Club of Atlanta, but members from all over the state and the South have been on trips. Notable Rotarians from other clubs include Paul Ray from **Alpharetta** who leads the clean water project, Lynn Clarke from **Bremen** who maintains school computers, and Vince Dooley from **Athens** who has the school soccer field named for him. Regular travelers from the Atlanta club include Bob Hope, who organizes the trip, Blake McBurney, Dave Moody, Clark Dean, John Lucht, Mike Passilla, David Allison and Paul Morris, among others. Each year the group delivers enough medicines on its trip to cover the medical needs of the rural Agalta Valley for a year. The group has raised and donated over $2 million to support education in the Agalta Valley.

The cost of the trip is $850 to cover all expenses once in Honduras. Travelers book their own airfare in and out of Tegucigalpa. Anyone interested should email Bob Hope at bhope@hopebeckham.com

Posted by Bob Hope
August 3, 2020

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From Facebook

## Staying Connected

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Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

Club News

# Moultrie Promotes Literacy Through Little Free Libraries

The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** launched its “Little Free Library” initiative this summer and just recently placed two libraries in town - the first inside of Main Street Park and the second in front of City Hall. Each library is a book-sharing box where people of all ages can come to take a book or leave a book, and the focus is promoting literacy and encouraging more people to read.

The libraries are actually repurposed newspaper boxes donated by the local paper, the Moultrie Observer, and spruced up with fresh paint and graphics. They have been very popular with the community and have

seen a lot of traffic in the first few weeks. Requests are in for more libraries across the town and county, so this is a project that will hopefully continue for quite a while.

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
August 3, 2020

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Club News

## Lake Spivey/Clayton County Brags on Its Rotarian of the Year

The **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** celebrates the selection of Lata Chinnan as its Rotarian of the Year Award for 2019 - 2020. In her role as a dedicated club member and the club's Foundation Director, Rotarian Lata consistently supported all club projects and initiated important projects. An example would be the project she started this spring with a $10,000 matching grant to provide COVID-19 supplies to local hospitals and 11 other Clayton County community service organizations. This project succeeded in providing much needed gloves, masks, and sanitizer for these critically important organizations.

A dedicated Rotarian, Lata lives the idea of the Club functioning like a family in which its members provide mutual support to each other and a strong sense of giving to the larger community. She demonstrates the values of the Four-Way Test daily. In her role as Club Foundation Director Rotarian Lata also is happy to acknowledge that her club members have demonstrated commitment to the values of Rotary by being Paul Harris Fellows. The accompanying photo catches the moment at this year's induction event just after Lake Spivey/Clayton County Rotary Club President Troy Hodges presented the Rotarian of the Year award to Rotarian Lata. Sharing the event with Lata is last year's award winner, Rotarian Tom Mertl.

Posted by Ron Swofford
August 3, 2020

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Club News

## Americus Awards Lifelong Learning Grant to Local Law Enforcement Professional

The **Rotary Club of Americus** recently recognized Maqueisha Smith, Communications Officer with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office with a Rotary District 6900 Lifelong Learning Grant

"Thanks to the generosity of Rotary Clubs within District 6900, there were ten awards made available to recipients who would benefit from financial aid to enroll in programs to advance their careers," stated club

president Angela Smith.

Rotarians were able to nominate current educators (including teachers and administrative personnel) or first responders, including firefighters, law enforcement professionals, and emergency medical technicians.

Officer Marqueisha Smith was nominated by Colonel Eric Bryant, Chief Deputy Sheriff and a Rotarian, who applauded her for her desire to advance her knowledge and career to serve both her family and community. "She is a dedicated employee who continues to work toward her degree even though she has a full plate as a mother and Senior Training Dispatcher," said Colonel Bryant.

Officer Smith is currently pursuing an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and was awarded $500 to assist with her education. Angela Smith, President of the Rotary Club of Americus, presented her with the check at the July 14 Rotary Club meeting and congratulated her for her commitment to and pursuit of lifelong learning.

“This has lightened my financial burden and allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school – learning,” exclaimed Officer Smith. “Rotary’s generosity has inspired me to, in return, one day help other students achieve their goals.”

Posted by Angela Smith
August 3, 2020

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## DeKalb Rotary Council Thanks Ceasar Gaiters for His Leadership

At the July **DeKalb Rotary Council** meeting, outgoing Council Chair Ceasar Gaiters was recognized for his leadership by a $500 donation to his charity, JABY INC.- an international 501(c) 3 non-profit serving people all over the world by Mentoring, Community Service, Scholarships and Endowments. For the last three years, the Council contributed to the Brookhaven Service Above Self Golf Tournament. This year the Council is also giving a $5,000 Grant to the Rotary Club of Emory Druid Hills to provide Bunk Beds for the Girls School they built in India.

Posted by Cathie Brumfield
August 3, 2020

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From Facebook

## Offering Support in a Back Pack

For the 12th year in a row, the **Alpharetta Rotary Club** stuffed backpacks for kids. Each pack is loaded with paper, pens, binders, and calculators. Over 50 backpacks were delivered to North Fulton Community Charities for distribution to children who need supplies for the school year.

The **Milton Rotary Club** also joined in the backpack party; Club President Susan Cammack posted a picture of herself shopping with this message, “Supporting NFCC Back to School Backpack Drive. Even though we don’t know how long we will be virtually learning at least the kids can be organized at home

and feel ready!”

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 3, 2020

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From Facebook

## Carrollton Clubs Make a Difference in Their Community

The **Rotary Club of Carrollton** closed out the year by supporting six local nonprofits that epitomize Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto: THS Emergency Shelter, Carroll County Mental Health Advocates, Friends of the Neva Lomason Memorial Library, Carroll County Training Center, the Blake House, and Carroll County Council on Aging. The club proudly donated $15,000 to their exceptional work in our community!

Across town, each year the current President of the **Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club** is given the honor of choosing the beneficiary of our Dawnbreaker Dash 5k/10k. President Ben Lambert chose Partners Advancing Student Success (PASS) for the 2020 Dash! PASS is a nonprofit organization that focuses on improving student success by providing support and services to students with the goal of increasing graduation rates and keeping students on track to finish high school.

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 3, 2020

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From Facebook

## Pine Mountain Fire Department Receives Grant Through Rotary Club of Harris County

The **Rotary Club of Harris County** and Chief Thomas Scott of the Pine Mountain Fire Department successfully competed for a $500 district grant that will be used to buy materials to support training and continuing education of department members. “This grant is really important to us,” said Chief Scott. “It allows us to take our training to an even higher level and keep our first responders sharp and professional.” Pine Mountain Mayor Jim Trott said, “On behalf of the town, I thank the Rotary Club of Harris County for bringing this grant to us. And for helping us compete for and win the award.” Pictured here: Chief Scott, past Rotary President Tom Shaver and Mayor Jim Trott

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 3, 2020

From Facebook

## Marietta Metro Awards Three Interact Scholarships

In June, the **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** awarded three $1,000 Interact College Scholarships … one at each of the high schools where the club sponsors Interact Clubs. This year's recipients were:

- Temitope Kassim of Marietta High School, who will attend the University of Notre Dame
- Alyssa Emam of Pope High School, who will attend the University of South Florida
- Sam Thompson of Lassiter High School, who will attend the University of Georgia.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 3, 2020

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From Facebook

## Paulding County Donates Life-Saving Equipment

The **Paulding County Rotary Club** reached out to local Veterans - donating two AED Defibrillators to American Legion Post 70 and Post 111. Local Veterans of all ages gather regularly at these Legion Halls. Having modern easy to use safety equipment on hand could potentially save the life of one of our veterans. Club President Jackie Crum and club member Brett Reece met with Bill Fleisch Commander of Post 111 and then with James E. Fultz, III Post 70 Commander, Tony D. Propst Post 70 Adjutant to presented the emergency equipment. Both Commanders gratefully accepted the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)

devices to protect the elderly in attendance at the Legion Posts.

Pictured: James E. Fultz, III Post 70 Commander, Tony D. Propst Post 70 Adjutant; Bill Fleisch Commander Post 111, and Jackie Crum

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

# Bremen Helps Scout Install Exercise Equipment for Community

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Bremen High School student Bryce Calain recently installed Outdoor Exercise Equipment at Blue Devil Family Park for his Eagle Scout Project. The **Bremen Rotary Club** was proud to help sponsor this great addition to the Blue Devil Family Park. Congrats, Bryce, on a job well done.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

# Peachtree City Involves Community in 47th Annual Smart Directory

The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** put out a call to local photographers, asking for their best shot of what Fayette and Coweta County represents to them by submitting photos that highlight iconic places, landmarks or events! The club is in the final stages of preparing its 47th annual edition of the "Rotary Smart Directory" - the community's best resource for listings, advertisements and offers from businesses and service providers covering Fayette County, Newnan and East Coweta. The directory is still available in printed form as well as on-line at www.rotaryphonebook.com. And the winning photo will go on this year's cover.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

From Facebook

## Sandy Springs Supports Community Assistance Center

Members of the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** made a mid-July visit to the Community Assistance Center (CAC) in Sandy Springs to present a donation of $1,315! The club raised the funds as part of a Derby Day fundraiser event in May that was organized by the **Alpharetta Rotary Club**. Pictured: Sandy Springs Rotary President John Neill, Benjy Dubovsky, Nancy Schroeder, Todd Lawrimore, Will MacArthur, and CAC CEO Tamara Carrera.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

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From Facebook

## Entrants Run the Vinings Downhill From As Far Away as Norway

This year's Vinings Down Hill 5K race took place this past weekend … virtually, allowing participants to walk or run wherever they chose. Former GRSP student Lars ran the race in his native Norway.

This year is in memory of race founder **Vinings Cumberland** Rotarian Charles Heinz. The local charities that benefit from the funds raised from the race need them more than ever to serve our neighbors in great need. You can register at **http://viningsdownhill5k.com/**

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

From Facebook

# Celebrating Rotarians and Rotary Years Making a Difference

The **Rotary Clubs of North Cobb, LaGrange, Muscogee Columbus, North Fulton** and **Dunwoody** all recognized Rotarians who made extraordinary contributions to their clubs and their communities in 2019-20, then posted those recognitions on Facebook to share their story of Rotary. Check it out!

- Photo 1: The **North Cobb Rotary Club** recognized four outstanding Rotarians for their work in 2019=-20. These individuals and other fine North Cobb Rotarians  contributed to the club's Best Club of the Year award!
- Photo 2: At a recent **LaGrange Rotary Club** meeting, immediate past president D Lindner presented awards. Congratulations to Service Above Self winner Mike Angstadt, Rotarian of the Year Ken Gordon, and our Citizen of the Year … the staff of WellStar West Georgia Medical Center! President Trae Long followed up with our plans and goals for the new year.
- Photo 3: The **Rotary Club of Muscogee Columbus** used its June newsletter to capture the best of 2019-20 Rotary year.
- Photo 4: At the **Rotary Club of North Fulton**, President Joy presented Lisa Gelber with the “Rookie of the Year” award! Congratulations, Lisa!
- Photo 5: **Dunwoody's** outgoing President Cathie Brumfield recognized Past President Rick Otness as Rotarian of the Year and Erica Brown as Rookie of the Year.

**PHOTOS:**

# MUSCOGEE MOMENTS OF 2019-20

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Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 4, 2020

Club News

# Thomasville Supports Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

Five years ago, when Scott Rich was the president of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville**, Rotarian Andre' Marria approached Rich and the board of directors to ask for their local financial support of a Morehouse College School of Medicine Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI).TPPI is a federally funded initiative designed to reduce teen pregnancy rates and to serve approximately 3,450 middle and high school youth over a five-year period in six Georgia Counties. Thomas and Grady counties were two of the counties served. TPPI strives to:

- Reduce teenage pregnancy and births
- Reduce sexually transmitted infections among adolescents
- Implement selected evidence-based curricula with fidelity
- Increase student bonding to school and academic performance
- Increase Community Awareness of Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Positive Youth Development Programs

With the approval of the board, the club committed $3,000 in local funding for the TPPI project. In the next four years, succeeding club presidents and their boards recognized the extreme importance of the project and continued the yearly financial support of the initiative. During the five years of the project, the club has given a total of $15,500. in local support of the TPPI which concluded June 30, 2020. Under the direction of the local Rotary Youth Services committee the Thomasville Rotary Club secured an additional $3500 in local funding through a Rotary District Grant. Total local funding provided TPPI during the life of the grant has been $19,000.

During that five years, 7,500 teens were served by the program. Of the 7,500 teens served, no pregnancies were reported and five of the teens began their college careers. T

Nationally the grant is funded through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and administered through the federal Office of Adolescent Health. The grant was awarded locally to the Margaret Neel Williams Boys and Girls Club with responsibility of reporting to a local Fidelity Manager on behalf of Morehouse.

A unique outcome of the grant was the formation of the MNWBGC Youth Leadership Council. The grant required the YLC be formed from graduates of the TPPI. Teens could not be a member of the YLC unless they had completed one of three Abstinence or HIV curriculums taught by TPPI.

The overall design of the program encompasses teen education encouraging personal responsibility regarding the actions and health of teenagers.

Currently, the grant is in a period of 'Sustainability.' The Rotary Club of Thomasville will continue to financially support the program in 2020-2021.

Posted by Susan Backofen
August 10, 2020