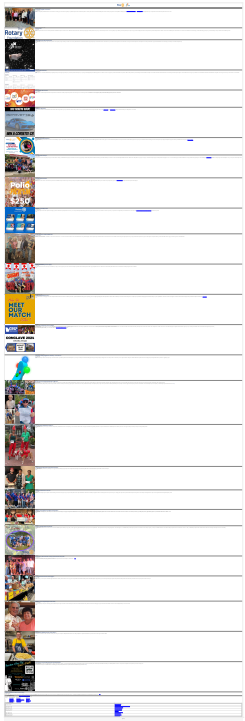
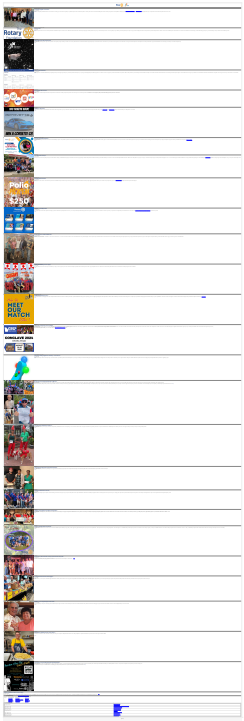
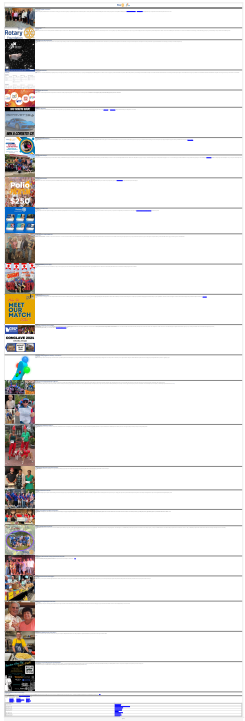
Rotary
District 6900



August 5, 2024





Expanding Our Reach

RI President Stephanie Visits Atlanta

It's rare for a sitting Rotary International President to visit our district, but on Monday, July 29 we had the honor of spending the day with RIP Stephanie Urchick at the Atlanta Rotary Club. The club had a packed schedule for her that included meeting with their senior leadership, learning more about the Early Childhood Champions program, **speaking at their club meeting** and **recording a podcast**. The highlight of the day was a reception before lunch that included club presidents from around our district. This not only gave them a chance to meet RI President Stephanie but an opportunity to build relationships with the Atlanta Club's leadership as well. There was a real buzz in the room as new connections were made and potential collaborations on projects discussed. We can't wait to see the impact we have together as we show our community the Magic of Rotary. A special thanks to Atlanta Club President Adrian Cronje and his team for hosting a great event!

Posted by Gordon Owens
August 1, 2024

District Rotary Foundation Committee

Meet The Team

The district designated funds we receive from our Rotary Foundation are the life blood of the impact our clubs have in their communities and around the world. Based on Rotarians generously giving to our Rotary Foundation a few years ago, our district has been granted $345,779 to use for global grants, peace fellowships, scholarships and district grants this year. The group tasked with managing these funds and raising future funding is the District Rotary Foundation Committee. I was honored to be nominated by our DG, DGE and DGN to serve as the chair of this committee and look forward to helping our clubs maximize every opportunity to do good in the world through our Rotary Foundation. We have assembled a great team to help you with every aspect of utilizing our Rotary Foundation grants and supporting our Rotary Foundation with giving. I would like to introduce you to the entire committee:

- District Rotary Foundation Chair - **Bob Hagan**
- District Governor - **Gordon Owens**
- Grants Subcommittee Chair - **Mike Mudd**
- Global Grants - **Olga Navarez**
- District Grants - **Kay Williamson**
- District Scholarship Subcommittee Chair - **Eleni Bafas**
- Stewardship Subcommittee Chair - **André Marria**
- Endowment & Major Gifts - **Lee Hollingsworth**
- Annual Fund & Paul Harris Society - **George Granade**
- DRFC Advisor - **Cheryl Greenway**
- DGE - **Steve Ivory**
- DGN - **Cynthia Dorsey-Edwards**

Please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the team with questions, we are here to help and look forward to working with you.

Posted by Bob Hagan
August 1, 2024

Magic of Rotary

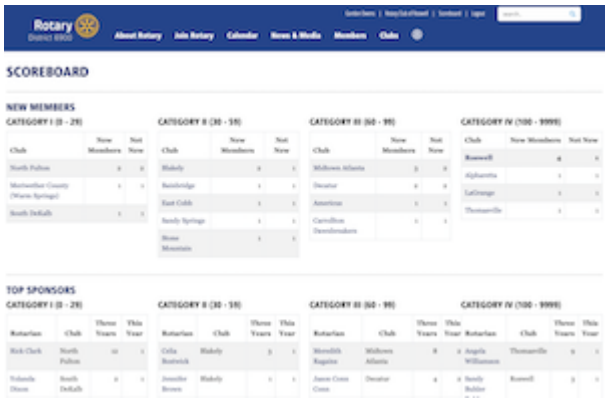
What Would You Do With A Magic Wand?

I have been asking clubs during my visits, "*If you had a magic wand and could do anything to help your community, what would it be*?" So far, early childhood education is the common theme with literacy being the primary focus. I've heard statements like, "*I would make sure every child could read before they start school*" from several clubs. I encourage you to think about this question and dream big! There isn't a thing we can think of that a group of dedicated Rotarians can't turn into reality in your community. Let's show them the Magic of Rotary.

Posted by Gordon Owens
August 1, 2024

District Awards

District & Club Scoreboards



While we may focus on an issue like mental health last year or spreading the idea of peace through peace poles this year, the goals for Rotary remain consistent year over year; growing your club's impact by adding new members, giving more to our annual fund to increase our capacity to do good around the world and have every Rotarian contribute to Rotary's effort to end polio. With the help or our district webmaster, Alec Smythe, we have created a district & club scoreboard that tracks how each club is doing on these three goals in comparison to the other clubs in their same category. Every month in the footer of the newsletter we will include a leaderboard that shows the top clubs. We encourage you to check out your club's scoreboard on our district website.

Posted by Gordon Owens
August 1, 2024

District Grants

Don't Spend It Until You Get It

We have requested our District Designated Funds from our Rotary Foundation which will fund the community and competitive grants in our district and we expect to receive that funding this month. **As a reminder, do not start to spend any money associated with district grants until you receive a check from us.** This year we had 85% of our clubs take advantage of the $2,000 that was available to each club and we can't wait to see the positive impact that has in your community. In addition, we made $25,000 available for competitive grants. With $154,000+ in requests for this $25,000, the process will be competitive indeed. The District Rotary Foundation Committee is considering the competitive grant requests and will select which projects get funding. We hope to have the selection process complete by the time our district receives its DDF so the projects can start as soon as possible. If you have any questions about district grants, please feel free to **reach out to me**.

Posted by Kay Williamson
August 1, 2024

RotaVette.com

The Race To 1000 Tickets

We've sold the first 100 tickets for the RotaVette Raffle! When we sell 1000 tickets we are guaranteed to give away a Corvette C8 or $50,000 to one lucky winner. Be sure to get your tickets early and often as there are only 3000 available. Purchase **1 entry for $100** or get **6 entries for $500**. All the proceeds from the raffle go to our Rotary Foundation so it's a win-win.

Posted by Will Daniel
August 1, 2024

MAP Webinar - August 12 | 5:30PM

Improving The Member Experience

RIP Stephanie has challenged all the clubs around the world to make the membership experience, *Simply Irresistible*. If you want to learn more about how to improve your club's membership experience join the next Membership Action Plan webinar on Monday, August 12 at 5:30PM. Here from Rotary leaders about how they have taken their own club's membership experience from good to great and how that translates into membership growth. An awesome experience is key to keeping existing members engaged and welcoming new members into the family of Rotary. Register on DACdb.

Posted by Dave Schwickerath
August 1, 2024

Global Grants

Let's Talk About Your Project

Does your club have an idea for a new global grant project? Let's talk! Our first chat will help your club summarize the grant project and consider what to include in your project budget. Our District Rotary Foundation Committee reviews these project summaries and budgets as it considers how to allocate the District Designated Funds (DDF) we have available from our Rotary Foundation. If your project is ready to go, then submit a summary of the project and budget estimate to me by August 30, 2024 so we can review all of the projects and allocate available funds accordingly. The Global Grant application process can be intimidating but **I am here to help** clubs make sure their grant project checks all the right boxes. Let's go do some good in the world together!

Posted by Olga Narvaez
August 1, 2024

PolioPickem.com

Who Will Win Our First Pool

The Olympics have started and so has our first Polio Pick'em game. Based on the number of entries

purchased we have a pool of $250 to give away to one lucky winner and the other half of the money will go to support Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio. As the medal counts get updated, keep an eye on our **district Facebook page** for updates on who's leading the Polio Pick'em Olympics.

Posted by Gordon Owens
August 1, 2024

Public Image

Templates For Monthly Themes

Our zone public image team has created a template tool that helps you spread the word about Rotary's monthly theme's. These are easy to use and setup to meet Rotary's brand standards. Just make one for your club and share the theme on your social media accounts. This is a great way to show your audience the impact Rotary has around the world in our 7 areas of focus.
Visit **http://elevaterotaryzones3334.org/Design-Template-App/** to create these for your club.

Posted by Mandy Timmons
August 1, 2024

Member Engagement

It tastes good to be a North Cobb Rotarian!

The **Rotary Club of North Cobb** has 110 members, 27 of whom were born outside of the US, or are married to someone born outside the US! Our club's international flavor is strong and beautifully helps create the "Magic of Rotary!" We celebrated with an International Potluck Social, where all members were asked to bring a dish representing their heritage. We enjoyed favorite dishes from Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Ireland, England, and many other countries, plus some American fried chicken and apple pie. YUM! It tastes good to be a North Cobb Rotarian!

Posted by Nancy Prochaska
August 1, 2024

International Convention 2025

Exciting Times Ahead: Join Us in Calgary!

The Rotary International Convention is set to take place in the vibrant city of Calgary, Canada, from June 21 to June 25, 2025. This annual event brings together Rotarians from around the globe to share ideas, engage in impactful discussions, and celebrate the achievements of Rotary clubs worldwide.

Special Early Bird Discount

We are pleased to announce a special early bird registration rate of $525, available through December 15, 2024. This discounted rate offers a great opportunity to secure your spot at one of the most anticipated events in the Rotary calendar. Don't miss out on this chance to save and be part of an inspiring and memorable convention. Register for the convention at **convention.rotary.org/en-us/**.

Accommodations

For your convenience, we have arranged a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Calgary Downtown. This modern and comfortable hotel is centrally located, providing easy access to the convention venue and the many attractions Calgary has to offer. The hotels will need to be booked through our district. Please fill out the **attached form (click here)** if you are planning to attend so that we can insure we have blocked the appropriate amount of rooms for D6900. There will be additional information provided as we near deadline dates for deposits and payments, but this form will help us get contacts of those planning to attend so that we can all stay together.

Why Attend?

- Networking Opportunities: Connect with fellow Rotarians and professionals from around the world.
- Inspiring Speakers: Hear from renowned speakers and leaders in various fields.
- Workshops and Sessions: Participate in a wide range of workshops and sessions designed to help you enhance your Rotary experience.
- Explore Calgary: Experience the unique culture, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality of Calgary.

Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to Calgary for the Rotary International Convention 2025. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to make a difference in our communities and beyond.

Please reach out to DGE Steve Ivory or D6900 Public Image Chair Mandy Timmons with any questions.

Posted by Steve Ivory
July 30, 2024

Laws of Life Essay Contest

Double Your Sponsorship For Free

We are thrilled to announce a matching program from the John Templeton Foundation, available until October 1st. This means every dollar raised - up to $60,000 will be doubled, making your club's

sponsorship go twice as far in supporting the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest.The Contest has made a tremendous impact on the lives of over 840,000 Georgia teens. For twenty-five years your dedication to fostering strong character and ethical literacy in our youth is unparalleled. Now, more than ever, we need to stand together to continue this vital work. Please make your sponsorship contribution before September 15th and help us **Meet Our Match**!

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
August 1, 2024

GRSP News

GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 23-25 in Columbus

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director

Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2024-25 in Columbus August 23-25, 2024. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6900 and under the direction of the **R**otary Clubs of Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus. Registration is still open, please visit the GRSP Calendar at https://grsp.org/calendar-of-events/

Conclave is the kickoff event for GRSP and allows the international college scholarship students to interact with one another as well as Georgia Rotarians. Students, trustees, officers and host families will participate in important informational sessions beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Friday at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center and throughout the day on Saturday. A special welcome dinner for registered Rotarians and guests will be held 6-9 p.m. at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Moore, featuring dinner and the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Jazz Ensemble for $45 per person. Students will provide a short introduction along with naming their trustee as well as their sponsoring Rotary club or clubs. Saturday evening attendees, business/smart attire, will enjoy a dinner and program at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center for the “GRSP Cabaret,” the popular variety-style performance and parade of flags, which is scheduled from 6:15-9:15 p.m. The dinner will be $55 per person. Saturday concludes at the Columbus Marriott with a social for the students and a separate mixer for Rotarians, including a cash-bar option from 9:15-11 p.m. On Sunday morning, the students will experience a whitewater rafting excursion before leaving at 11 a.m. to return to their respective colleges and universities or their club host family.

The Columbus Marriott, located in downtown Columbus, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who will need lodging with July 24 as the deadline to reserve the special GRSP limited-availability hotel rate. The hotel link is in the registration link information as well as the registration for meals at Conclave, see below. The deadline to register for Conclave is August 15. A special thanks to Columbus-area Rotarians who will serve as weekend hosts to our students.

GRSP scholars are pre-registered for the event and meals. Rotarians and guests may register for Friday and/or Saturday dinners through the registration information below as well.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
June 3, 2024

An Innovative Approach To Literacy

Emerging Technology Supports One Of Rotary's 7 Areas Of Focus

In alignment with Rotary's mission to create lasting change, we are excited to introduce a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming literacy across the globe. Utilizing the innovative Kibeam Reading System, this program leverages emerging technology to foster a love of reading in children, enhance literacy rates, and empower communities. Through the collaborative efforts of Rotary members and clubs, we are lighting the path to a brighter future where every child has the opportunity to prosper.

The Kibeam Reading System is an interactive educational tool designed to make reading accessible and enjoyable for children of all ages. By integrating advanced technology with engaging content, Kibeam captivates young minds and ignites a passion for learning. This system not only helps children develop essential reading skills but also builds their confidence and curiosity, laying a strong foundation for their academic and personal growth.

This initiative begins with us – the dedicated members and clubs of Rotary. We have the unique opportunity to implement the Kibeam Reading System in schools, libraries, and community centers worldwide. By adopting this technology, volunteering our time, and raising funds, we can ensure that children in underserved communities have access to the educational resources they need. Together, we can make a significant impact on literacy rates and demonstrate the power of Rotary's collective efforts.

Let us join forces to bring the magic of Rotary and the transformative power of emerging technology to children around the world. By lighting the path to literacy, we are not only improving lives but also creating a legacy of education and opportunity. Join us in this inspiring journey to make literacy a reality for every child, and let us display the extraordinary impact we can achieve together.

Posted by David Cochran
August 4, 2024

Club News

Rotarian of the Year Fernando Duenas Makes a Difference

RAND PRIX SERIE
EPLES PUMPKIN R

ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR

Rotary

Rotary
Peachtree City
happy
independence
day

Every so often you get to cross paths with an extraordinary person. A member for less than two years and a retired executive of FedEx, Fernando Duenas has attended every service project, every social and every lunch meeting. As a recipient of the 2023 Rookie of the Year award as well as 2024 Rotarian of the Year award, there is no question about his dedication to Rotary.

At the Peachtree City 4th of July parade, consisting of 20 Rotarians and their families, made a memorable impression. In addition to the meticulous planning, stunning decorations, and perfect weather, Fernando had a touching encounter with a young parade spectator. When Fernando ran out of candy but offered an American flag to a little girl, she graciously accepted and even presented him with a beautifully crafted Independence Day drawing as a token of her appreciation. Moved by the girl's kindness, Fernando reflected on the emotional impact of the gesture, emphasizing how heartwarming and special the moment was for him.

When asked about his deep involvement in Rotary, Fernando replied, "*Rotary enriches my heart.*" Fernando particularly enjoys the 5K races sponsored by Rotary, where participants from all walks of life, including 90-year-olds and young children, compete fiercely to beat their personal bests.

Taking charge of Coffee Chats, a popular weekly social gathering, Fernando has successfully increased attendance from just 5 members to an average of 15. He personally invites Rotarians to attend. When asked about his passion for Rotary, Fernando expressed, "*Rotary keeps me bright and alive.*"

Fernando epitomizes the quintessential Rotarian - a generous individual who consistently demonstrates kindness and exemplifies the motto of "Service above Self." Serving as this year’s Community Service Chair, Fernando effectively utilizes his skills to coordinate impactful projects that benefit the community. The entire Rotary club has been enriched by Fernando's contributions and dedication.

Posted by Patti Kadkhodaian
August 4, 2024

Club News

Run with Vinings Cumberland on August 10

The **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club** is gearing up for the much-anticipated Vinings Downhill 5K Run for the Kids. For nearly thirty years, this event has been a beloved tradition and a highlight in the Atlanta running community. What started as a simple race has blossomed into a fun-filled family event, now featuring a Kids 1K race and a Doggie Dash.

The primary goal of the Vinings Downhill 5K is to raise funds for local children's charities, including longtime beneficiaries Calvary Children's Home and the Good Samaritan Health Center. To date, the event has successfully raised over $1.5 million, thanks to the generous support of sponsors and enthusiastic participation of runners.

This year’s race will take place on Saturday, August 10, 2024, at the top of Vinings Mountain. Registration is currently open, but spots are limited to 2,000 entrants. Don't miss your chance to be part of this exciting event. For more details and to register, visit https://viningsdownhill5k.com

Come join the Vinings Cumberland Rotary for a day of fun, fitness, and philanthropy!

Posted by Thomas House
July 31, 2024

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Helps Provide Food for Kids and Seniors

The **Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club** President Dylan Blasingame was happy to start off the new Rotary year by presenting checks to Backpack Food for Kids Program Coordinator Trebony Dillard (center) and Senior Center Nutrition Supervisor (Meals on Wheels) DC Carter (right).

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant
July 21, 2024

Club News

LaGrange Leads March into New Year

The **Rotary Club of LaGrange** was proud to begin the new 2024-2025 Rotary year with our first service project on July 6. Each year LaGrange Rotarians serve as parade marshals for the Annual Sweet Land of Liberty 4th of July Parade which is now hosted by the Junior Service League of LaGrange. The LaGrange parade is unique in that only children march in the procession. The parade is now in its 40th year and LaGrange Rotarians are proud to march along with the children ensuring their safety along the route.

This celebration was the idea of Annette Mills Boyd, the wife of Rotarian Jim Boyd. This parade was established to give the children of LaGrange an opportunity to participate in a festive celebration of the birth of our great nation. Although both Annette and Jim are no longer with us, the parade is still held in their honor. Each year this children's parade is well received by all. The parade route is lined with families and neighbors.

This year the parade was entitled "Red, White and Boots" and the parade's Grand Marshal was Anthony Talley, creator of the $1 Thursday Program. Our Rotary members act as parade marshals to help keep the children on route and safe on their various non-motored vehicles. The parade is also a great opportunity for a time of fellowship among our club members.

Posted by Jeff Wright
July 30, 2024

Club News

Paulding County Supports CAYA Summer Lunch Program

The **Rotary Club of Paulding County** has donated $10,000 to CAYA's Summer Lunch Program. The program has provided individual lunches to needy children in the County each weekday, Monday through Friday throughout the nine-week summer break from school. More than 27,000 meals were delivered to the children by the end of July. Paulding County Rotary helps make that possible not just with donations but also with volunteer service.

Posted by Roy Strickland
July 30, 2024

Club News

Peachtree City Helps Harvest for Real Life

Established in 2011, the Harvest for Real Life Fruit Orchard is a vibrant haven with blueberry bushes, blackberry vines, grape vines, peach trees, apple trees, pomegranate bushes, plum trees, fig trees, pear trees, and persimmon trees. The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** recently participated in the U-Pick 4 Others program - a FUN and FREE activity for families and groups who want to make a difference in their community. All produce goes directly to the families of the Real Life Center, distributed weekly through their Market. Fresh, nutritious food can be hard to come by on a limited budget, making the Orchard and Garden (and the volunteer work this morning) a true blessing to those in our local community!

Thanks to the Real Life Center for allowing PTC to participate in July! With each of us picking on average 5 lbs of blueberries and normal containers being around ½ pound each, we were able to serve over 150 families with our efforts this morning!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
July 30, 2024

Club News

Roswell Rotary After Hours Raises Nearly $5,000 at Annual Comedy Show

After Hours, Roswell Rotary Club's young professionals satellite club, recently held their second annual Comedy for a Cause fundraiser. Six local comedians took the stage at Rock 'N' Taco in Roswell for a night of laughs, margaritas and philanthropy. Between the six event sponsors, dozens of tables and slew of donations, After Hours raised $4,890 for Giving Grace! The organization provides a safe space for single-parent families, persons experiencing homelessness and the extremely poor, and the money raised at Comedy for a Cause will directly support their summer camps.

Roswell Rotary After Hours (RRAH) meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at The Artillery Room @ Gate City at 6:30. Follow the club on Instagram: @RoswellRotaryAfterHours.

Posted by Kathryn Igou
July 30, 2024

Club News

North Fulton Provides Back-to-School Supplies

To start off the new year, the **Rotary Club of North Fulton** supported North Fulton Community Charities in their back-to-school supply drive for needy families in the North Fulton Community. More than 450 families registered to participate in this program, so the backpacks and supplies we provided and organized were definitely needed. Our club believes every child deserves to have the things they need to start the new school year!

Posted by Lisa Gelber
July 30, 2024

Club News

Dunwoody Creates Augello People of Action Award

At its year-end gathering, the Rotary Club of Dunwoody presented its first annual Augello People of Action Award to Anita and Charlie Augello award. We honored Rotarian Charlie and Honorary Rotarian Anita for their never-ending support of people. Charlie has served as co-chair for our FORE the Memories! Golf Tournament and one of the key drivers behind our support of Alzheimers - from the global grant we worked on with Rotary Clubs in Italy, to selecting The Longest Day program as our primary recipient of golf tournament funds to leading the way with Anita for our most recent effort to support Anchor Place Respite Care in Dunwoody. Charlie also leads our long time association with the USO - and collects donations from his customers at the East 48th Street Market to help support that effort, and has been involved with programs to End Human Trafficking. Anita leads our efforts at Kingsley Elementary School, where we help provide Thanksgiving baskets for needy families within the school as well as a book for each student during the holidays. And that's just a little of what they do for the community.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 30, 2024

Club News

Being a North Cobb Rotarian Tastes Good Volume 2!

Meet the man, Keith Altobelli, the Master Chef of North Cobb Rotary Club. His day job is Accounting/CPA. Multiple times winner at 'Smoke on the Lake' bbq competition. The wings master extraordinaire. This photo was taken at our service project at The Men's Extension. Keith shows up there at 3pm to start prepping, slicing, chopping, grating, marinating and everything that needs to be done to turn out a great meal for the guys. The likes of us show up at 6.30pm with the attitude of 'what can I do to help'. I slice up the dessert made by someone else '. The meal spread is gourmet, thanks to members of North Cobb Rotary Club. Special thanks to the man, Keith! And who is Keith and the crew cooking for, you may ask? The Men's Extension is a rehabilitation facility for folks dealing with addiction. It has over 60 men in residence. North Cobb Rotary serves dinner once a month to the residents and the staff.

Posted by Ada Wikina
July 30, 2024

Club Fundraiser

Join Peachtree City for Evening of Elegance and Entertainment!

Join the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** for Bourbon and Bow Ties, Pinot and Pearls on Thursday, October 17, 2024 in the Central Plaza at Trilith. Indulge in an unforgettable night of glamour and goodwill at the Rotary Club of Peachtree City's exclusive fundraiser! Whether you're celebrating with friends, a loved one, or colleagues, this event promises an evening of fine dining, live music, and top-tier spirits.

- **Entertainment**: Experience the soulful rhythms of the Bourbon Brothers Band, setting the tone for an evening of celebration and joy.
- **Culinary Delights**: Savor exquisite cuisine crafted by ENZO, renowned for their culinary mastery and dedication to taste.
- **Spirits**: Enjoy a premium selection of beverages from Twisted Taco, ENZO, Cathead Distillery, Bulleit Bourbon, Caymus Vineyards and MORE.

Proceeds from the event support local charitable initiatives and community projects led by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City.

Ticket Information: For tickets and more information, visit **https://bbpp.cbo.io** or contact ptcrotarysecretary@gmail.com.

- Individual Ticket: $125
- Couples Ticket: $200
- VIP Ticket Add-on: $100 (Limited availability)

Secure your tickets now and be part of an evening that combines elegance with the spirit of giving. Don't miss out on this opportunity to make a difference while enjoying an enchanting evening at Bourbon and Bow Ties, Pinot and Pearls!

Mark Your Calendar: Gather with friends and colleagues under the stars at Trilith's Central Plaza for a night of sophistication and generosity. Let's make October 17, 2024, a night to remember!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
July 30, 2024

District Newsletter Update

August 25 Newsletter Deadline: Share the Magic

by Jackie Cuthbert, District Newsletter Editor

Keep the stories about the magic of what's happening in your clubs going for September; articles received by **August 25** will be included! We hope you will share the ways you are serving your communities and the world, the youth programs you support, your strategies for membership and fellowship and more! We will publish the newsletter on the 5th of each month and include articles received by the 25th of the prior month. We'll take your story as a Word document or typed in the body of an email. We love pictures - jpg and png files work well. And you don't need to worry about formatting; we'll take care of all of that.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 4, 2024