

## Meetings

April is Environment Month

- 4/28 Dr. Greg Coffman with Rick Clark
- 5/12 Speaker: TBD
- 5/26 Sylvia Cardona: North Fulton Community Charities
- 6/9 Speaker: TBD
- 6/23 Speaker: TBD

## Events

- 4/22 The Sandwich Project
- 4/22 Board Meeting
- 4/25 Alpharetta Flower Market Pick Up at Farmer's Market
- 4/29 Roswell/North Fulton Blood Drive
- 5/6 Prayer Breakfast Set Up and Social
- 5/7 Rotary Club of North Fulton Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
- 5/20 Board Meeting
- 6/17 Board Meeting

## LEADERSHIP

President	Erik Bykat
Vice President	Dan Jenkins
Treasurer	Mike Mudd
Secretary	Steve Siders
Public Image	Lisa Gelber

## Our Rotary Family BIRTHDAYS

- 4/10 Joy Manbeck
- 4/18 Andy West

## April 14, 2026 Meeting Recap

North Fulton Rotary gathered for our 2nd Tuesday meeting and welcomed a number of special guests on April 14th. Past District Governor Gordon Owens was in attendance and he brought Brandon Williams, CFO at Wellstar as a guest. Dave McDougal, guest of Doug Higgins, made a second visit to our club. We were also happy to welcome Jennifer Swindell and Spencer Maxwell, today's Guest Speaker, from Heart from Africa.

### Happy Dollars

Today's Happy Dollars was led by Steve Cory. **PDG Gordon Owens** got things started with a generous donation, sharing that our club has inspired the Roswell Rotary club to give generously with their Happy Dollars.

**Brad Serff** donated some Happy Dollars to share that the Milton First Responder's Foundation Concert was coming up in Milton on April 18th. Anyone not attending the District Conference should go to the concert to support this worthy cause.

**Louis Weiland** had a wonderful visit with his grandson in Houston, where he has relocated to pursue his PhD.

**Cliff Wilcox** is thrilled that Michigan basketball are the National Champions!

### Guest Speaker

Today's featured Guest Speaker was Spencer Maxwell with Heart for Africa, an organization that is especially near and dear to our hearts. Founded nearly 20 years ago by Ian and Janine Maxwell, Heart for Africa's mission is to bring **hope**, fight **hunger**, care for **orphans**, reduce **poverty** and provide **education** for more than 450 children.

Over the years, Heart for Africa has launched several number of initiatives aimed at long-term sustainability, including farming operations, a dairy, a woodworking center and an artisan craft shop. Like many organizations, they have recently faced significant challenges. Their farming initiative has been temporarily paused due to financial losses, though they are actively seeking investors to relaunch efforts centered around vanilla farming. A regional livestock disease has made raising dairy cows more costly, leading them to purchase milk instead. Additionally, rising production costs have made it more economical to buy furniture rather than produce it on-site.

One of the most difficult decisions they've faced was pausing the intake of new children beginning in January 2026. With an annual cost of approximately \$3,000 per child, the organization made the thoughtful decision to prioritize and honor their long-term commitment to the children currently in their care.

Despite these challenges, Spencer shared a message of hope. With continued prayers, support and a renewed focus on sustainable vanilla farming, Heart for Africa is confident they will overcome these obstacles and continue their impactful work.

Thank you, Spencer, for sharing your story and inspiring us with the resilience and mission of Heart for Africa.

## YEARS OF SERVICE

### ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH FULTON

Tuesdays, 12:00 pm  
Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern

### Rotary Online

<https://northfultonrotary.org>  
<https://rotary6900.org/>  
<https://rotary.org/>

## District Conference at Lake Lanier

Members of North Fulton Rotary had a fantastic time celebrating the Rotary year at the Annual District Conference at Lake Lanier this past weekend! It's always meaningful to connect with fellow Rotarians across the district and learn how they're making an impact in their communities.

We're proud to share that our club was awarded **Club of the Year (Category 2)** during the weekend festivities. Congratulations, President Erik! We appreciate your leadership and dedication to *Service Above Self*.



Several of our members were also recognized by District Governor Steve Ivory:

**Mike Mudd** received the **Rotary International Meritorious Service Award** for his continued leadership of The Rotary Foundation at the district level. This prestigious award is presented to very few Rotarians — a truly well-deserved honor for Mike!



□ **Lisa Gelber** received a **Rising Star Award** from District Governor Steve Ivory for her work as an Assistant Governor for five clubs: Atlanta, Alpharetta, East Cobb, Sandy Springs, and Atlanta Brasil.



**Rick Clark** received the **AI Daniel Membership Award** for making a significant impact on membership growth and retention. He was also recognized as a top new member sponsor. Keep up the great work, Rick!



<https://dpw1d901g0s8f.cloudfront.net/21513.jpeg><https://dpw1d901g0s8f.cloudfront.net/21513.jpeg> **Joy Manbeck** was recognized for her three years of service as an Assistant Governor, supporting four clubs in the district: Dunwoody, Marietta Metro, Roswell, and Johns Creek-North Fulton.



Many thanks to our members who were able to be there to help celebrate our success and commitment to serving our community!



## Alpharetta Flower Market

The Flower Market order deadline has passed, but we can still use a few volunteers on the "pick up" date of April 25th. Please click here to volunteer on April 25th: [Flower Market Volunteer](#)

Questions: Contact Rick Clark at (704) 807-0083



**Rotary**  
Club of North Fulton



# ALPHARETTA FLOWER MARKET

Support local non profit charities while adding beautiful flowers to your home or garden. Every purchase helps fund community programs across the Atlanta area.

**Place your order online by April 18th** and pay through the secure web portal. **Pick up your flowers on Saturday, April 25th between 8:30am and 12:30pm** in front of **Alpharetta City Hall**. Volunteers will be on site to load your car so pickup is quick and stress free!

When placing your order, please select the North Fulton Rotary option so your purchase supports children's charities in our community.

SCAN THE QR CODE    PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE    PICK UP AT CITY HALL



2 Park Plaza, Alpharetta  
April 25th between  
8:30am-12:30pm

SPONSORED BY  **crabapple**  
landscapexperts

## Roswell and North Fulton Rotaries Join Forces for a Blood Drive

The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** and **Roswell Rotary** are hosting a **community blood drive on Wednesday, April 29 at Roswell Junction**, and we **need your help** getting the word out so we can raise 60 pints.

Use the QR code on the flyer below to sign up to donate blood or use this link: [Sign Up to Give Blood](#)

The **Red Cross is currently facing a critical blood shortage**, and this is a great opportunity to support a life-saving cause while connecting with our community.

### Event Details



Roswell Junction - 340 S. Atlanta St., Roswell



Wednesday, April 29



8:00am - 2:00 pm

If you have questions, please contact:

Mark Hutchins  
770-371-7407  
[mhutchins75@gmail.com](mailto:mhutchins75@gmail.com)

The poster features the Rotary Club of Roswell and Rotary Club of North Fulton logos, a large red cross, and a photo of hands holding blood vials. It includes the text 'BLOOD DRIVE' in large red letters, the date 'April 29th from 8am to 2pm', and the location 'Roswell Junction - 340 South Atlanta Street - Roswell, GA'. A QR code is provided for registration. Sponsors include Variant Brewing, Vitality Living-Milton, and Leapfrog IT Services. Promotional graphics include a blood drop with 'Give A PINT' and a beer mug with 'Get A PINT'.

Rotary Club of Roswell AND Rotary Club of North Fulton

# BLOOD DRIVE

April 29th from 8am to 2pm  
Roswell Junction - 340 South Atlanta Street - Roswell, GA

**+** Please register as a DONOR at

Give A PINT

Get A PINT

SPONSORED BY

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## **Interfaith Prayer Breakfast: May 7, 2026**

This year, our signature community service event, the Rotary Club of North Fulton Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, will be held on May 7, 2026 at St. David's Episcopal Church. Please save this date on your calendar now, as we need everyone's help to make this a continued success for the community.

Our keynote speaker will be fellow Rotarian, and Past District Governor, Kirk Driskell, founder of Vision Warriors.

All members are encouraged to attend as a sponsor or table host. Consider splitting a table with someone else. Otherwise, we'll find a seat for you as a volunteer for the event (more to come on that).

**Sponsorships are currently available to everyone - our club members, other Rotarians, or anyone in the community. Please reach out to friends and acquaintances and invite them to participate in this inspirational event:**

- Gold - \$1,000 (nearest to front plus table sign, recognition from stage and name listed in program)
- Silver - \$800 (next nearest to front plus table sign and name listed in program)

**Tables are available for sale (\$400 each).**

Please complete the registration form Steve sent via North Fulton Rotary e-mail on March 16th and reach out to him with any questions.



**THURSDAY | MAY 7, 2026**

A Celebration of the National Day of Prayer

Featured Keynote  
Speaker:



## **Kirk Driskell**

Founder of Vision Warriors

Kirk Driskell is the founder and director of Vision Warriors, a faith-based ministry providing transitional housing and a supportive community for men recovering from addiction - reflecting his deep passion for helping individuals reclaim their lives. A longtime Alpharetta resident of more than thirty years, Kirk began his career in real estate after graduating from Reinhardt University. In 2002, he founded Power Realty, which served clients across Alpharetta and Greater Atlanta before being acquired by Century 21 in 2017. He continues to work at Century 21 today. Kirk is a serial entrepreneur and committed servant leader and has been an active member and volunteer of the Alpharetta Rotary Club, earning honors such as "Rookie of the Year" and "Rotarian of the Year" and participating in numerous international and local service projects. Kirk served as 6900 District Governor in 2021. Kirk and his wife, Deena, live in Alpharetta's Academy Park neighborhood with their three children - Cambri, Knox, and Kolton and are members of Restoration Church. Kirk serves on the Alpharetta City Council.

### **2026 Theme:**

**Glorify God Among the Nations - Seeking Him in All Generations.**

Questions? Jonathan Stelling | 678.699.1018 | [jstelling@aretescholars.org](mailto:jstelling@aretescholars.org)  
Please Contact or Steve Siders | 678.488.3545 | [steve.siders@gmail.com](mailto:steve.siders@gmail.com)

**7:00-9:00 am | Breakfast Buffet 7:00-7:45 am | Please be seated by 7:45 am**

**Jeffords Fellowship Hall at St. David's Episcopal Church  
1015 Old Roswell Rd, Roswell, GA 30076**