Rotary Club of Thomasville

Newsletter

MARCH 18, 2026

TODAY

Coffee Chat

Join us today, Wednesday, March 18, at Grassroots Coffee anytime between **7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.** for a cup of coffee and a casual conversation with fellow Rotarians! Stay long enough to enjoy breakfast and get to know your fellow Rotarians better or grab your coffee to go. No agenda, no program.



Thursday, March 19 and Saturday, March 21

Sort, Pack & Distribute Fresh Produce

The club will meet on **Thursday, March 19** at **11:30 a.m.** at Second Harvest Food Bank to pack food boxes for this month's fresh produce distribution. After we finish packing, enjoy a box lunch with the team or grab one to go. Please join us!



MEETINGS

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

3/19	Second Harvest: Pack & Sort Produce
3/26	Dr. Czaky, Son of First Generation GRSP Student
4/2	Chris White: City Manager
4/9	Easter Seals Southern Georgia
4/16	Second Harvest: Sort & Pack Produce
4/23	GRSP Student Farewell
4/30	Orvis, by Truel Myers
5/7	Narcotics Panel with City of Thomasville, Thomas County, and GBI

EVENTS

3/18	Coffee Chat
3/21	Fresh Produce Market at Weston Park
3/21	The Ritz Music Festival
3/26	Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend
3/27	GRSP Lunch at Pebble Hill
4/6	Vashti Student Luncheon at Gentian Creek
4/15	Coffee Chat
4/18	Fresh Produce Market at Weston Park

LEADERSHIP

President	Nathaniel Tyler
President-Elect	Joe Tarver
Immediate PP	Marta Jones-Turner
Vice President	Joe Tarver
Treasurer	Warren Ballard
Secretary	Anne Candelaria Flores

We'll distribute our fresh produce boxes on **Saturday, March 21** at Weston Park. Set-up begins at **7:30 a.m.**, and distribution begins at 8:30 a.m. or as soon as we are ready. This month, our distribution will include tomato plants in grow bags, so we'll need all hands on deck to help. Please join us. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or trying it out for the first time, we'd love to see you there. Bring your energy, your smile, and maybe a friend or two!



GRSP Update

By Debbie Goodman, Committee Chair:

Annual Giving Campaign

I want to continue to thank our members for supporting the Annual Giving Campaign for GRSP. We are on countdown, with a mailing deadline to the Foundation of **Thursday March 26, 2026** for donations to be at the Foundation Office for funds to be considered for the Jake Cheatham Award at upcoming District Conference.

Teri White and I have written to members who are close to first or new giving levels to inform them of their current status. Donations continue to be accepted through our next two meetings or can be

Executive Secretary/Director	Teri White
Past President	Wayne Newsome
Past President	André Marria

Directors

Club President Nominee	Chandler Giddes
Public Image	David Sofferin
Foundation	Jason Goldman
Membership	Arthur Wigfall
Service Projects	Melanie Cromartie
Youth Service	Chandler Giddes
Admin	Sally Bowman

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
The Plaza Restuarant
217 Broad St
Thomasville, GA 31792

ROTARY ONLINE

https://thomasvillerotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

YEARS OF SERVICE

3/19	Angela Williamson (11)
3/19	Copper Comita (6)
3/19	John Comita, Jr. (6)
3/20	William Felts (12)
3/22	Irene Gleason (14)
3/24	Janet Liles (10)
3/27	Rankin Smith, Jr. (12) 26 years in Rotary
3/31	Gregory Adams (10) 54 years in Rotary
4/1	Andy Vann (37)
4/1	William Blackburn (50)
4/8	Warren Ballard (5) 8 years in Rotary
4/13	Will Brown, III (7)

mailed to P.O. Box 1277, Thomasville, GA 31799 to be received to Warren Ballard by **March 26**. Or, contact me and I'll pick up any contributions.

Our GRSP student, Helena, will be giving her farewell speech reflecting on her year in Georgia on **April 23** at Rotary. We will also be presenting any new GRSP awards that have been achieved by **March 26**.

Volunteers Needed at Pebble Hill for Friday March 27, 2026

We are very excited to again be a part of the **60th annual Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend** on March 26-29. Clubs from Pelham, Camilla, and Thomasville have joined together to provide a great time and learning experiences for this year's international class of GRSP Students.

Mary Beth Donalson is organizing our part of the weekend program for our members to participate at Pebble Hill. Rotary volunteer members are asked to sign up and be at the Pebble Hill Plantation-Learning Center on **Friday, March 27** at 11 am to set up for lunch, join the students for lunch serving as table hosts, and help with clean-up after lunch. Angela Williamson is handling sign-up for volunteers. Thanks for your support and help. Please let Angela Williamson know how you can help: 229-977-2657 or angelapwilliamson@gmail.com.

Questions: Contact Debbie Goodman at dgoodman@116dawson.com or (229) 227-8249.

District Learning Assembly

Discover the Future of Rotary

Make plans now to attend the **District Learning Assembly** (formerly District Training Assembly).

April 11, 2026
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Columbus Convention & Trade Center – Historic Ironworks
801 Front Avenue, Columbus, Ga.

This assembly is designed for current and incoming club leaders, committee chairs, and all Rotarians who want to strengthen their clubs and increase their impact. Connect, grow, and lead with your fellow Rotarians! Topics include:

- Rotary's Action Plan, Membership, Public Image, Service Projects, Club Administration, and the Rotary Foundation
- Comprehensive Leadership Training

- Community Service Project Insights and Template

You need to register and attend this assembly if you will be an officer or director in 2026-2027. The Thomasville club will reimburse the fees for any of our members who attend. Some of our club members will travel to Columbus on Friday evening, and some will leave early Saturday morning. Carpooling can be arranged.

Hotel Recommendation
Hampton Inn Columbus Downtown
1201 Broadway Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901, 706-507-4204

Volunteer: Saturday, March 21

Thomasville Ritz Music Festival

Volunteers are needed for the **Thomasville R.E.A.D. Foundation** and Rotary Club of Thomasville's inaugural **Thomasville Ritz Music Festival** on Saturday, March 21. All volunteers will receive free entrance to the festival. Volunteer slots are available in two-hour segments and all volunteer jobs are simple:

- Band Attendant
- Check in at Hubs & Hops
- Check in at VIP
- Check in at Jackson St.
- Drink/Raffle Ticket at Hubs & Hobs
- Drink/Raffle Ticket at Jackson St.
- Patio at T'Velo
- Unvacant Lot Security

Come volunteer with friends and enjoy a fun music festival!

The Ritz Music Festival will feature an incredible variety of music performances – country, R&B, country rock, pop, southern soul funk, and music from some of the best DJs in the Southeast – and proceeds will power R.E.A.D's literacy initiatives and support other life-changing programs and partnerships for children in K-12 schools in our community.

To become a sponsor or for more information about the festival, contact Stephan Thompson (404.488.2761). To volunteer, contact Angela Williamson (229.977.2657) or **sign up here**.



Price Increases

To account for increasing costs, the price for lunch for guests has increased from $15 to $20 each, beginning at our first March meeting this year at the Plaza. Lunch for guests has been $15 since 2022, but our costs for lunch have increased incrementally over that time.

Additionally, international and district Rotary fees have increased, but the Thomasville club has not increased dues since 2015. The board of directors is considering a dues increase to accommodate these higher dues and higher costs of living.