

TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
November 5, 2025**

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH!



Upcoming Dates:

Pickleball – dates may vary - contact Dave Bagdasarian Sr. if you're interested in participating.

November 12 – Club Assembly – mainly focused on preparation for tree sale

November 18, 5:30 – Board meeting

November 19 – Sam Wilkens-O'Brien "Classification Talk" (i.e. what he does in his professional life)

November 19 - Community Grant Committee meeting following the club meeting. This is an ad hoc committee – anyone can participate on a meeting by meeting basis – no commitment involved.

November 22 – Tree Lot Setup

November 26 – NO MEETING

November 28 – First tree delivery; tree sale starts

December 3 – Internal Business, including election of 2026-27 Board

December 4, 5:30-ish – Food Processing at South Portland Food Cupboard (this is a change in schedule from the usual 4th Thursday of the month)

December 10 – Rotary Jeopardy!!

December 17 – NO MEETING (Party the next day instead)

December 18 – Holiday Party at Purpoodock

May 15-16, 2026 – SPRINGFEST!

November 12 Duties

Opening Words – Dobson

Raffle Gift – McDonald

November 19 Duties

Opening Words – DeGennaro

Raffle Gift – McGovern

Meeting Setup Reminder: Locker Combination is **11-21-11**

Opening Words – President Peter read from item 1a. in the handbook that Sari put together after chairing 2023 Springfest, with this advice for anyone leading SpringFest:

Adopt the Zen of Planning – Relax, breathe deeply, and enjoy the experience. Planning and managing SpringFest is mostly fun with a few stressful moments now and then. If/when you get frustrated, remember you're constructing an awesome community event and that the funds you raise do make a difference in the lives of our community members.

What's New With Our Members (& Friends)

Happy Birthday to

 *Matt McAleney - November 8*

 *Nicole Albert- November 13*

Happy Anniversary to Adrienne & Steve Murphy - November 12

Congratulations to Kathy Cotter who won the raffle for the second week in a row - but this time she actually won a prize: a Shoppers Hardware gift certificate courtesy of Matt McAleney.

Guests – We were joined by Drew Walker, a guest of John LoBosco, who has lived in Cape Elizabeth for two weeks! Leland O'Reilly's mom also sat in on her son's presentation.

RYLA Alumni! – We heard from two CEHS students who attended RYLA in June – Cameron Branch (the taller one) and Leland O’Reilly. We are always impressed by the poise and self-confidence of students who have participated in the RYLA program and they were no exception. They were very enthusiastic about their RYLA experience despite the fact that one of them was freaked out by a spider crawling across him in the middle of the night! We look forward to hearing from a couple more RYLA students next week.



Tree Sale Preview – If you want to schedule ahead, the signups for the tree lot setup (Saturday, Nov. 22), the first tree unloading (Friday, Nov. 28), second tree unloading (Saturday, Dec. 6) and the tree sale itself (Friday, Nov. 28 – Sunday, Dec. 21) are live on the club website. The tree lot will be open:

- 🌲 Mon – Thurs: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- 🌲 Friday: 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 🌲 Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Shifts are two hours each and each member is expected to sign up for six shifts. The Tree Sale committee requests that if at all possible, you sign up for 3 shifts before Dec. 10 and 3 shifts after Dec. 10. If you are unable to work on the lot itself, please contact the tree sale chairs (Kathy Cotter & Mike Tranfaglia) to discuss alternate ways that you can contribute to the success of the tree sale.

Several people have already signed up to help with the lot set-up – thank you! But the more the merrier!

It’s (Almost) Time for Jeopardy! – Past President Ellie Spheh will be tempting fate on December 10 by resurrecting Rotary Jeopardy, in which we will answer questions about each other (well, I guess we’ll actually ASK the questions since it’s Jeopardy). We’ve played this in the past and it was a lot of fun and created a LOT of laughter. And I say tempting fate because it also brought out our competitive nature - we might need to have instant replay involved. I still say our table rang in first on the question about Rotary history last time!! See Ellie’s email (that was sent by Scott) and please email Ellie directly (elliespeh@yahoo.com) with any interesting factoids about your lives - careers/jobs, volunteer gigs-past or present, family history, talents (hidden or not), etc.

An Upcoming Opportunity! – Chris Speh told us about a chance to take on the “easiest and most rewarding job in the club.” So who wouldn’t want to do that!! He has been our program chair for 3 ½ years (and been doing a fantastic job!) but will be stepping down from that role at the end of this Rotary year (to take on a new role on the board of directors). Things you should know about the position:

- It is not hard to find speakers and he has never been turned down by a potential speaker.
- To give you an idea of how easy it is to fill the slots for speakers, between now and next May, there are only two openings for speakers left!
- He has an efficient system of communicating with speakers and he will turn over his email templates to you (details about time and place, meeting format, etc.).
- In that role, you get to learn about the interests of fellow club members.
- You also get to learn a lot of interesting things about what’s going on in the community.

Feel free to talk to Chris – no strings attached – if you’d like to learn more about the position.

Another Tiebreaker! – Once again the football pool winner was determined based on the points tiebreaker. Founding Father (Dick Yerxa), Mr. Rotary (Mike McGovern) and Daddy Wags* (Tony Wagner) all had the same number of correct picks but Tony was the closest on points (only one point away!).

*They told me this was the name of a baseball player and turns out he played for several major league teams in the 50’s and 60’s.



SpringFest Staffing – Former SpringFest chairs Jim Britt and Sari Greene spoke about the experience of leading SpringFest and the need for a full committee so that the tasks can be divided up. A big thank you to Marge for agreeing to be a Saturday co-chair but she needs another half – please consider working alongside her. And if that’s more than your plate can accommodate right now, there are several discrete roles on the committee that will ensure that the work is spread around and no one is unduly burdened. We have done SpringFest for a few years now so re-invention of the wheel is not required – and former chairs have left documentation in their wake and are more than willing to serve as mentors. Thank you also to

Nicole for agreeing to chair the Friday event at Redbank, and to our amazing sponsorship sales team of Tony, Bev and Adrienne! I reiterate from the Opening Words above: “you’re creating an awesome community event!”

And oh by the way, as the leader of a gnome-themed event, you just might be presented with a gnome such as this Grateful Dead gnome (courtesy of Matt).



SOMEONE AT SMCC WAS CREATIVE AGAIN FOR HALLOWEEN!



The photos are a little dark because it's already dark when we go to the SMCC Dining Commons to eat - aargh!

**ROTARY CLUB OF
SOUTH PORTLAND-CAPE ELIZABETH**

Officers

President – Peter Bennett
President-Elect – Laurenz Schmidt
Vice-President – Chuck Redman
Secretary – Kathy Cotter
Treasurer – Marge Dugan

Directors

Club Administration – Bev Altenburg
Youth Services – Ray Healey
Community Services – Sari Greene & Nancy Hawes
International – Patty Sprague & Chris Speh
Membership – Scott Irving
Director-At-Large – Nancy Irving

Committee Chairs

Tree Sale – Kathy Cotter & Mike Tranfaglia
Program Chair – Chris Speh
Foundation Chair – Nicole Albert
Social Media - Matt McAleney
Publicity – Jim Britt
Web Administrator – Scott Irving
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes
Club Protection Officer – Nicole Albert

DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR

Emma Bodwell, Rotary Club of Bridgton-Lake Region

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Francesco Arezzo, Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

PMB 239, 50 MARKET ST STE 1A, SOUTH PORTLAND 04106