

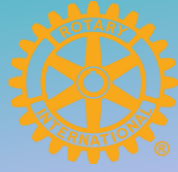
# BING

Newsletter

# Rotary

Dover, NH

Doing good. Very good!



THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY

## Feb. 5, 2025 – In-person and zoom.

President Harry called the meeting to order, via new found microphone, and welcomed all to the Rotary of Dover, NH.

### Program: Ryan Crosby, Exec. Dir. of Dover Housing Authority

In a sweeping perspective of Dover Housing Authority's evolution, Exec. Dir. Ryan Crosby took Rotarians on a journey that began in the 1948 with a directive from the City of Dover to construct housing for low income families, focused on returning WWII veterans. The original structures were barely better than shacks and became known as "Shanty Town." A slum abatement project in the 1950s began the rebuilding efforts on Mineral Park to provide high quality, safe, comfortable homes for low-income families, seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Today, the area, known as Whittier Falls, provides 184 units of housing. Each unit was extensively renovate in a project that began in 2017 under the leadership of former Exec. Dir. Alan Krans and carried on with the arrival of Crosby in 2021, following his 25-year career in the US Army, retiring as Lt. Col.

Crosby reviewed the expansive scope of Dover Housing Authority with details of its organizational structure emphasizing three areas of concern currently funded through federal grants. The programs include a Senior Services program, a Family Self-Sufficiency program and its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center. Crosby stressed the vital importance of each program - saving seniors from becoming wards of the state, giving families the tools necessary to build better lives through training and savings goals, and avoiding systemic poverty by enriching education for children.

In addition to the 184 units at Whittier Falls, Crosby said DHA owns and operates Addison Place, Waldron Towers, Central Towers, Jack Buckley Commons (St. John's), Niles Park, Union Court, Edgar Bois Terrace and homes on Avon and Maple Streets. A home on Union Street is leased to Community Partners and serves as a model for potential new partnerships. The home has a house manager and 3-5 brain injured or developmentally challenged residents that live independently but may need help with

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

#### Meetings:

**Feb. 12:** Club visioning, 4:30 – 8 pm, at Broadway

**Feb. 19:** Meeting, Broadway: Club Assembly

#### Events:

**Feb. 7:** Kids Closet Shopping – BJs, 10 am

**Feb. 15:** Concert, 3 pm, St. Thomas

**Mar 3:** Senior visit – Riverside, 2 pm

**Mar. 12:** Food Packing, 3 – 7 pm

**Apr. 5:** District Learning Assembly, 8 am – 2 pm, Westbrook High School

**Apr. 8:** Senior visit – Covered Bridge, 2 pm

**Pledge:** Harry C.

**4-Way test:** Melissa L.

**Guests:** Ryan Crosby, Cathanne Potvin

*Today's newsletter authored by Noreen B.*

food preparation or laundry chores. DHA is also in a joint venture with Haven to build a 6-unit home for survivors of domestic abuse.

Affordable housing needs continues to escalate in our growing community. “There is not enough affordable housing especially enough accessible housing,” Crosby said. Income rates have not grown with the cost of housing and despite Dover’s rash of new multiple unit buildings, only a quarter or less of new construction has been designated as affordable.

The good news, Crosby said, is partnerships. Since his arrival at DHA, he has explored a variety of partnering possibilities including a non-profit venture to bring 100 units of rental space, called Garrison Crossing to a 19-acre parcel of land off Rt. 108 near Hannaford’s. The space would include child care and special needs facilities. Another parcel of land on Broadway, opposite the fire station, is being considered in a partnership to build a 4-story building with 38 housing units.

*Funding request:*

*Ryan Crosby thanked Dover Rotary multiple times for its financial support of kids programming and presented a new request for consideration – funding a scholarship for up to 8 students to attend summer camp at Camp Quinebargue in Moultonborough, a camp his children attended that has made a significant difference in their lives. The camp has agreed to a discounted fee of \$1,000 for two-week stay. Crosby said, “this would give our kids the dignity of a full, life changing experience.” Funding would need to be approved within 2-3 weeks.*

**Announcements:**

**Visioning – Feb. 12:** Pres. Harry asked members to arrive by 4:30 pm for the 3-hour visioning program. He also asked for a few members to arrive at 3:30 to assist in room setup. Anyone arriving after 5:15 may be turned away.

**Crutches for Africa:** Held last week, Pres. Harry said 8 Rotary clubs including Dover filled a 40 ft. van with mobility accessories for people in Africa who often have no other means to move than crawling on the ground.

**February 15 Social Event:** Kathy F. announced a concert will be held on February 15 and this will serve as our social event for February at 3 pm, St. Thomas Church. A \$20 donation or any amount may be given at the door.

**March 25 Social Event:** The social committee will be holding a Together on Tuesday gathering at a Dover restaurant – time and place to be announced.

**July 26 Hands-On event:** The social committee will be joining Don’t Trash Dover at Beckwith Park on Hillside Drive.

**Sandy Hill Farm Winter Wonders:** Greg D. said the 14 people attended last week and several gathered for dinner at the Outlook Tavern in South Berwick. He thanked new member Maggie S. for picking up the tab for the entire group!

**District and Global Grants:** Gregg D. noted our club will be partner in a global grant project in Mexico to provide refrigeration for food to feed 200 kids. Also two people are needed to attend District Grants training – contact Gregg.

**Bingo:** The Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> Bingo was cancelled due to a snow storm. Team 4 up next week. Gregg handed over a check for **\$48,117 from the Revu Casino** for our 10-day participation in their non-profit funding effort. All are invited to visit the newly renovated center and their restaurant has good reviews – may hold a lunch meeting in the future.

**Senior visits:** Melissa L. announced a change in date for the Covered Bridge visit originally scheduled for Feb. 11 – it will now be held on Apr. 8, 2-3 pm. The Riverside Rest Home visit will be Mar. 3 at 2 pm. She noted last week's visit to Maple Suites was a great success with 20 interact students – 10 seniors beat them at trivia!

**Kids Closet – shoppers needed for Friday, Feb. 7 at 10 am.** Gregg D. invited all to help shop for snack items at BJs for Horne Street school.

**7-Day Notice for new members:**

Rod Bryce, Cathanne Potvin and Maggie Sinclair – Pres. Harry said membership is up to 51!!!

**Happy Bucks:**

**Melissa L.** for 31 sleeps before traveling to Puerto Rico and for WDH and dad's care (Jerry D. knows!)

**Gregg D.** for Sandy Hill and solar panels installation in his home

**Bjorn S.** for Ryan Crosby's presentation and learning so much about DHA

**Kathy F.** for performing in Exeter and for WDH & EMS care of husband who torn his quad (Jerry knows)

**Marion C.** for attending 2026 Zone event in Evanston, Illinois

**Jon N.** for successful PT and for 5 1/2 years in Dover Housing – "so many services to help me"

**Cathy B.** for visit to Barbados with Rinaldis (she has an incriminating photo of Phil she will share for \$)

**Cindy I.** for today's presentation

**Steve P.** for Spring Hill and next week's visioning event

**Rod B.** \$2 for no reason

**Harry C.** \$5 to see Phil's photo

**Phil R.** for happy to see Ryan Crosby

**Noreen B.** \$5 for Ryan Crosby – amazing!

**February birthdays:**

Kathy L. Feb. 15

Simon V. Feb. 21

**February anniversaries:**

Naila Aslam 5 years