

Rotary
District 7780



News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS
SERVICE, FUNDRAISING AND
CELEBRATIONS
DECEMBER 6, 2021





Bethel

The Rotary Club of Bethel has been having terrific weekly programs on Zoom, with speakers from organizations we are partnering with, including the Bethel Recreation Committee's Ice Rink projects, the Mahosuc Kids Association after school and summer enrichment program, and the River Fund Maine's program to provide online enrichment support for students from both Telstar High School and Gould Academy.

We are also in "full swing" with our holiday initiatives. Our Christmas for Children program provides gift support for more than 130 children ages 18 and under in the Bethel area. We also pack full holiday meals in boxes, complete with a turkey and all the fixings, for 34 families in need throughout our region. Additionally, we will serve more than 100 complete ham dinners to go to Seniors throughout our area on Tuesday, Dec 14th.

Learn more about our club at www.bethelrotary.org



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Bridgton-Lake Region

ROTARY DELIVERS DICTIONARIES TO 3RD GRADERS IN
CASCO & BRIDGTON

On November 22nd, Rotarians Elizabeth Gemme and Erin Nelson of Norway Savings Bank-Naples and Bridgton delivered 130 dictionaries to three elementary schools in the lakes region.

In the past 10 years over 2600 dictionaries have been distributed to third graders by the Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club. Again this year, Rotarians were not able to hand the dictionaries to the students directly, but each youngster will have an opportunity to enjoy their very own dictionary nonetheless. The Dictionary Project is one of the Club's most important literacy efforts.

A big thank you to Erin Nelson for taking the lead on this important Club project for the past 5 years. It is especially important that Corporate Member Norway Savings Bank is continuing that lead with Rotarian Elizabeth Gemme participating again this year.

For more information about our programs and our Club in general, check out <https://lakeregionrotary.com> and Like Us at our Facebook page.



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Brunswick Coastal

Brunswick Coastal Rotary (BCR) is very fortunate to have Dr. Susan Black as our current club president.

While battling terminal cancer, Dr. Black is actively engaged in BCR pursuing a \$74,200 global grant to provide the Kigutu village in Burundi with a 4-wheel drive vehicle outfitted as an ambulance. Please contact us to get involved at

<https://rotary7780.org/clubinfo/Brunswick-coastal>,

<https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickcoastalRotary> or email Dr. Black at lowelldoctor@hotmail.com.

PICTURED IN KIGUTU, BURUNDI are Deogratias Niyizonkiza, second from left, founder of Village Health Works, which Brunswick Coastal Rotary is supporting in its quest for a clean, nearby water supply. On the far right is Dr. Cathryn Christiansen, Brunswick native and clinical director of Village Health Works. Next to her is Dr. Susan Black, Rotarian, a Harpswell resident and fundraiser for the project. The others are volunteers and workers. *Javier Manirakiza, photographer*





Damariscotta- Newcastle

SEASON OF SERVING

While a number of our members volunteer at local food pantries and non-profit organizations, our club has several extra projects this month.

Our L.E.G.S. group filled 40+ boxes with Thanksgiving dinner ingredients to be distributed to individuals. We supported the monthly Fill The Bus collection, decorated the Twin Villages bridge with lights and garlands for Villages of Light, and began the annual bell ringing with the local Lions club and local businesses and community volunteers. Photos clockwise, Pres Billy Claflin, Paul Tenan and Lions Club partners; Pres Billy Claflin bell ringing; and Reven Oliver, AG Lorraine Faherty and PP Jane Gravel packing Thanksgiving boxes.

Seasons Greetings to one and all from The Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle Maine.



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Dover

Dover RC cleans-up the Rotary Gardens to prepare for the Spring planting.

It was a chilly day, yet the Rotarians and families of Rotary Club of Dover got together to clean-up the Rotary Garden Rotary Arts Pavilion and get it ready for Spring planting 🌱 🍁



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Kittery

R.W.Traip Academy Interact Club is very active this year. On November 8th the Club met to build tables for Shapleigh School (Kittery's middle school) students to sit outside for learning or lunch. They have been checking with the local Rotary Clubs for opportunities to help. As a result they will be supporting the Rotary Club of Kittery as they hand out hot cocoa and cookies at the Holiday Parade December 4th and will be there again to support the Club's Red Cross Blood Drive on December 16th.



Ogunquit

The Ogunquit Rotary Club has a lot to celebrate with some fantastic new members joining our club, several community projects happening simultaneously, and a very successful Ogunquitfest weekend. With generous donations of bread from When Pig's Fly and Borealis, along with baked goods made by club members, we exceeded our financial goal for the event and met a lot of locals and visitors. A wonderful day was had by all. We are now getting ready for a reimagined holiday party for Ogunquit seniors. Rotarians John Clancy and Erin Haye have done a wonderful job transforming an annual luncheon into a festive meal pickup event – more on that next month. You can keep up to date with OGT Rotary at: <https://www.ogunquitmerotary.org/>

Pictured left to right are Rotarians Erin Haye, Joe Boyle, Naomme Paris and Tracy Smith.





Oxford Hills

We recently donated \$1,000 and labor in memory of fellow Rotarian, Jay Partridge, a 15+ year former member who passed away in 2021. The funds and volunteer labor will go towards building 'Jay's Shade', an 8x12 structure to provide shade for dogs and helpers inside the Responsible Pet Care dog yard. Shown in the picture, L to R: Mitch Shaw, RPC Director, Rotarians Deb Partridge, George Rice, and Club Co-President Peter Kaurup.

The Club is also donating 150 pillows to their Christmas for Teens local program and financial support to their Christmas for Kids Program.

And lastly, a very heartfelt 'THANK YOU' to all those around the District who helped support our annual cheese wheel fundraiser! All 600 wheels have been sold!





Portland

District Governor Dick Hall, led Portland Rotarians with cooking and serving hot turkey dinners, including dessert, to clients who came to the Saint Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen in Portland on Wednesday, November 24th . In fact, Dick has been supporting the community service program to help feed the homeless for over 20 years. Thanks Dick!





Portsmouth

Our in-person attendance continues to grow with each meeting.

Ann Bliss and Betsy Scott put in a yeomen's effort preparing over 500 Thanksgiving Dinners prepped by Portsmouth Hospital's kitchens, prepackaged and delivered by a fleet of Rotarian drivers.

The club donated \$1000 to support VP Yvonne Legge's cancer run. She raised \$5200 dollars. In charge of this year's Christmas Tree sales, Yvonne has already filled most all the volunteer slots for the two-plus week effort. This year's ornament is the Yoken's sign.

Francoise Meissner directed the club's effort.in donating a truckload of clothes to Friends in Action Thrift Shop

We welcomed Katie Fleisher and Billie Tooley (a former Rotarian) as new members . We'll have another potential new member in Dec.

Guest Speakers in Nov included members of the Portsmouth 400 planning committee. The city turns 400 in 2023 and will celebrate all year. Our Veterans Day program included a UNH ROTC color guard. The executive officer of that program, a highly decorated Army Ranger and combat veteran, gave a memorable talk. Finally, we welcomed Portsmouth Fire Chief Todd Germaine.

Photo l-r Valerie Rochon, Pres Justin Finn, Susan Labrie, and Pres Elect Joanie Dickinson.





River Valley

RVRC received this email recently.

“If there is an opportunity for someone local to be a recipient of one of the Thanksgiving Food Baskets, please contact me. There is a woman and her daughter who struggle. And this week, because she had to have her cat put down, is even worse. If there is an extra food basket, please let me know and I will give you the information. She’s right here in town! Thank you for all you do!” RVRC partnered with KVBR again this year to donate 60 Thanksgiving Baskets in their region. The next we heard.

“She got her thanksgiving dinner 🍽️ yesterday and she’s very grateful!”





Sanford-Springvale

We are growing by Leaps & Bounds - On November 18, the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club inducted four new members. Pictured from left to right are Colleen Adams, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Sanford Police Department; Jason Rice, an attorney with Cordell & Cordell; and Robert and Jessica Lane, Corps Officers (Lieutenants) with the Sanford Salvation Army. Co-President Lawrence Furbish officiated.

In addition, just a couple of weeks ago, we inducted three new members - Kaitlin Burnell, co-owner of the Aroma Joes near the Sanford Airport; Troy Richard, manager of the Sanford Aubuchon Hardware store; and Bob Myott, owner of 12 Subway franchises in southern Maine.

In a couple of weeks, we will induct two more new members, Ericka Sanborn and Jessica Rice, a teacher and principal respectively at St. Thomas School in Sanford. Great to have more helping hands as we try to do good work for our community and the world beyond through Rotary.





S. Portland-Cape Elizabeth

The South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club sells Maine grown Christmas trees and handcrafted wreaths from its Mill Creek Park tree lot every year. This holiday season, under the theme, *Serve to Change Lives*, the Club welcomed customers starting Friday, November 26. Freshly cut trees are available for purchase in person on the tree lot, and online with complimentary curbside pickup. For six decades, our Christmas tree sale has been the centerpiece of our annual fundraising. All of our proceeds are donated back into our community and to life changing Rotary International initiatives," *said SP-CE Rotary Club spokesperson Fran Bagdasarian.* "The joy of celebrating the giving spirit of Christmas on our tree lot never grows old and serves as inspiration for the continual volunteerism of our Rotary Club."



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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

If you didn't see your Club News in this issue of the District Newsletter, it is likely we did not receive it. We love to hear from all of you. About 75 words and a couple of photos. Send your material to: RotaryNews7780@gmail.com.

Thank you for all you do for your Club, the District and the World.

Carol Madsen, District Newsletter Editor