



Bethel

The Bethel Rotary Club is headed into its prime fundraising season. We just held our popular Country Breakfast. And we are planning for our 5k Race in May, while at the same time collecting donated items for our huge annual Yard Sale in August. We recently awarded funds generated by past fundraisers to the local Mahoosuc Kids Association after-school program. And we continue to add new members and award Paul Harris Fellows!

For more see us on Facebook or bethelrotary.org.



Boothbay Harbor

The Boothbay Harbor Rotary Barn is reopening on Saturday, April 5th for another Rotary Barn season of great deals on furniture, dishes, pots, pans, art, boats, well just about anything. We are open from 8:30 to 11:00 am every Saturday until December. We had a clean out day in March in preparation for our new season. Many Club members joined in the fun, packing up last year's tired merchandise to make room for the new donations from our amazing community. Volunteers from "Inn Along The Way" in Damariscotta joined us and helped the clean up go super quickly, a good thing, because it's still cold and the Big Gray Rotary Barn doesn't have heat. The sales from the Big Gray Rotary Barn help support our Club's mission.





Bridgton-Lake Region

In an effort to learn more about recovery, a club speaker in March was Tracey Martin, ED of the Lake Region Recovery Center. We were thrilled with the turnout. Not only were residents from the Recovery Centers in our 5 town region, but others in the field. And, a highlight of the event was a surprise visit by DG Bob MacKensie. One thing we learned that we can do is invite folks in the recovery community to events where we need volunteers, such as community kettles, environmental cleanup projects and more. Photo: l-r Carol Madsen, Tracey Martin & Bob MacKensie.

For more about our club, go to lakesregionrotary.com or our FB page.





Brunswick

On March 17th, we awarded Jerry Reese his Honorary Brunswick Rotarian Certificate. Pictured here is PP Kyle Morrison on left and Jerry on right. Jerry joined Rotary in 1980 and has been a member of several clubs in New England during his career. For his great contributions and dedication to all his clubs, we enthusiastically voted him as an Honorary member of our club.





Damariscotta - Newcastle



This past month, the Community Service Committee, focusing primarily on combating food insecurity, is providing monetary support to Farms At The Y (teaching the value and joy of growing, preparing and eating healthy local foods to children), Meals on Wheels (meal delivery to homebound adults 60+ or disabled adults under 60 who are unable to shop, prepare or cook meals for themselves), Veggies to Table Farm (growing top-quality organic produce and flowers to donate to local people experiencing hunger) and much more.

We are also proud of our vocational and tools grants, which we give instead of academic scholarships. Available to anyone living or working in Lincoln County, without age restrictions, we've provided grants for plumbing, welders and HVAC technicians, all of which we need in Maine.



Dover

Always so much happening in Dover. Photos clockwise from top left, then into the middle with PHF. Over 200 dictionaries distributed to 3rd graders. New members: Maggie Sinclair sponsored by Marian Cheney and Cathanne Potvin sponsored by Melissa Lesniak shown with Member Chair Steve Papajohn and President Harry Cheney. Students of the Month Imogene McKenny and Gibson Bonner surrounded by family and teachers. And Paul Harris Fellows honored: Jim Munroe, Jay Stephens, Gregg Dowty and Malcolm McNeil.



Rotary

District 7780

Hampton

Congrats to Joan Correll on Her Incredible Work with Rotary's "Gives a Dam" Project in India!

Joan, a longtime member of our Hampton Rotary Club, recently traveled to India as part of an international project. Despite the challenges of the journey, she joined Rotarians from around the world to build a small dam to address the community's critical water needs. Joan, your dedication and Service above Self are truly inspiring. You are a true Rotarian in every sense!

Thank you, Joan, for making a lasting impact!



We worked mostly in a congo line with the locals.



Kittery

FOOTPRINTS FOOD PANTRY GETS TEA DONATION FROM ROTARY CLUBS OF KITTERY

This past month, the Rotary Clubs of Kittery delivered over 38.5 lbs. of tea as part of the community rotation of recurring support for Footprints Food Pantry at Mainspring in Kittery. This equates to approximately 70-80 boxes or over 7700 individual tea bags! Footprints Food Pantry serves individuals and families in Kittery, Eliot, and nearby areas. Photo top (L/R) Rotary Club of Kittery Co-President Brad Hirst, Kittery After-Hours Rotary Club President Patricia Bond, Pam Gray, Bob Guay, Rotary Club of Kittery Co-President Pauli Rines

Thanks to the generosity of the David A. Dionne Charitable Trust and the RC of Kittery, a check in the amount of \$2877 was presented to the Mitchell School Music Program. Attending the presentation were Music Teacher Saigelyn Green, Kittery School Superintendent and Rotarian Eric Weddell, RC of Kittery Co-President Brad Hirst, Rotarian Bob Guay, Interim Principal Kendra Downs, Interim Assistant Principal Tracy Collyer (taking photo), and a roomful of young music students quite thrilled about getting several new instruments!

For more information or to help, go to www.kitteryrotary.org



Got used hearing aids?

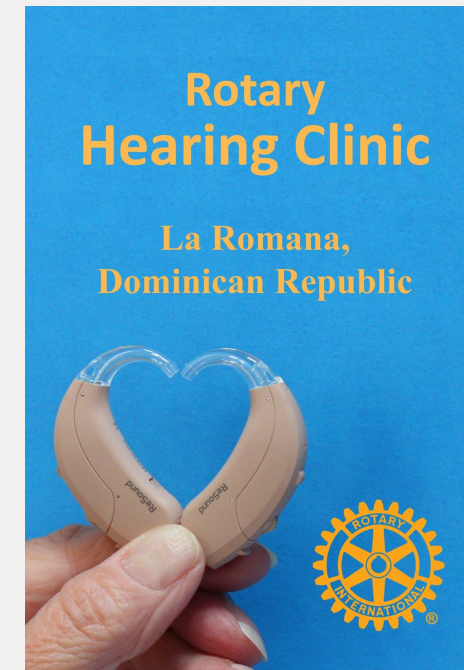
Instead of throwing them out, donate them to Rotary.

Your donated used hearing aids of any age, brand, or model, will be cleaned and refurbished, if possible. We take these donated hearing aids to The Rotary Hearing Clinic in the Dominican Republic and distribute them to people in desperate need.

Together, we can give the poorest of the poor a chance at a better life.

Please help us distribute these hearing aid donation boxes in prominent locations throughout the District – like your audiologist's office or community center, such as the library, town hall, or senior center.

Questions? Please contact Portland Rotarian, Dr. Roger Fagan, AuD at drrogerfagan@gmail.com.



Rochester

Rochester Rotary completed phase three of the Rotary District Grant for District 7780.

The club paid to install a new stove vent and previously used stove's "four prong" outlet at the Bud Carlson Academy to get the learning kitchen up and running.

The club donated new cookware, aprons and a full entourage of kitchen items along with the recently created rotary club cookbook for the students; with recipes focused on "five item" meals they can make at home to feed a family with items from the Red Raiders Food Pantry that the club outfitted and stocked in the first phase of the project!



Rotary

District 7780

Saco Bay

The Saco Bay Rotary Club is growing! President Dan Letellier led the induction of four new members over the past few months. We welcome our new Rotarians and look forward to their contributions as they share in our commitment of Service Above Self. Top photos (clockwise): Tony Alaimo, Bill Doran, Chris Bedard and Shawn Descoteaux

We celebrated both February and March 2025 Saco Bay RC Students of the Month!! Five students were honored for their outstanding contributions to their high schools. Each student shared their accomplishments and were presented with a certificate and a \$50 gift card sponsored by Maine Community Bank. Congratulations to all. Pictured, L to R Brady Plante, OOB High School; Colby Thomas, OOB High School; Dominick Tremblay, Biddeford High School; Emily Labbe, Biddeford High School and Matteo Patino, Thornton Academy.

March !! Our online auction is available at 32auctions.com/sacobayrotary2025 and began on Thursday, March 27th. It will run to April 10th followed by the Live and Ticket Auction on Saturday, April 12th which will be held at the Biddeford-Saco Elks Lodge at 68 Ocean Park Road, Saco beginning at 5pm. Join in on the fun!





Sanford-Springvale

Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club President, Bob Myott, recently presented a \$10,000 check to the Sanford Housing Authority - the direct result of funds raised at the Club's annual January Thaw event - to assist the unhoused in our community. Shannon Bentley, Mental Health First Responder for the Sanford Police Department (left), and Diane Small, Executive Director of the Sanford Housing Authority, accepted the check from Myott.

Over the past four years, the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club has raised and donated \$40,000 to the Sanford Housing Authority. In addition, the Club has collected countless items of warm clothing for our unhoused neighbors, helped to underwrite the free meals program at the York County Shelter, and assisted with the funding of a program at the YMCA to provide warm showers to those in need.





South Berwick-Eliot

Rotary Helps Create a Local Newspaper - A year ago, the South Berwick – Eliot Rotary Club helped launch a local newspaper by funding the initial web design. Recently, the South Berwick Reporter, now an on-line newsletter available for those interested in what is happening that affects the town, celebrated its first anniversary at the Spring Hill Lodge in South Berwick. Some of us Rotarians were on hand to share the joy and hear sports news writer, Ted Ballou, share his newsroom experience, especially during the years the Red Sox were in the World Series.

Once the website was designed, the editors recruited people in the town who enjoyed writing and gathering information and sharing it with their fellow citizens. These former and newly-minted journalists have been providing an invaluable service and do a fantastic job keeping us all informed. And these are all volunteers!

In this time when so many communities, including our own until now, are in news deserts, and when even unbiased national news is so hard to come by, the local Rotary helped make sure people in South Berwick know what is going on in their own town. This helps protect the age-old New England practice of an involved citizenry.

Dictionaries are Back! Club Rotarians distributed over 150 student dictionaries to all the third graders at the Central School in South Berwick and the Eliot Elementary School in Eliot. This longtime tradition was brought back this year after a Covid interruption. Five Rotarians visited the schools and talked about the usefulness of dictionaries. Richard Donhauser and Robin Wheeler gave students the extra bonus of performing magic tricks for them! All of us are delighted to have resurrected this popular project.





South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

SpringFest 2025: A Gnome-tastic Fellowship Opportunity in South Portland

Our Annual South Portland SpringFest Community Celebration, in partnership with the City of South Portland, will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 16-17. This fun and festive Rotary-powered event is all about community spirit, family fun—and, yes, gnomes!

On Friday evening a kickoff at the Redbank Village Community Center will feature a cheerful celebration with a giant inflatable gnome perfect for photo ops, an ice cream social, and fun surprises.

Saturday, the festivities move to Mill Creek Park starting at 8:00 a.m. with a SpringFest Community Road Race—affectionately known as “The Unstoppable Gnome.” Then, starting at 11 a.m., you’ll find live music, interactive art, great food trucks, healthy activities, and plenty of fun. All activities are free and open to the public. Another of this year’s highlights will be our Hometown Heroes ceremony, where we will recognize exceptional community members with the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

This event celebrates community, volunteerism, and Rotary values—and we’d love to have Rotarians from across District 7780 join us! Gnomable Rotarians Jim Britt and Nicole Albert are co-chairing this year’s event. Jim will lead Saturday’s big celebration with his signature creativity and flair, while Nicole will bring the Friday night magic to life. Their leadership has brought together our club and community in a big way, and we’d be thrilled to have fellow Rotarians join in the fun.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jim Britt or Nicole Albert at springfest@sp-ce-rotary.org or call Jim at (207) 450-1385.



Westbrook-Gorham

On Saturday March 1, a group of W-G Rotary members & friends hosted a free community dinner. In honor of Read Across America week, we also gave out new children's books courtesy of Altrusa of Portland.

Our "big check" made the rounds in March!! On March 11, \$1000 was given to support senior programs of the Westbrook Community Center. Earlier in the month we had donated the same amount to Lake Region Senior Center in Gorham.

On March 14, we were pleased to support the Hearing Center project of the Portland Rotary Club during their regular meeting. Then, on March 20, we made \$500 donations to both the Westbrook Police Dept and to Courage Center in Gorham. These donations will be used to help folks in recovery.

Coming up on April 24 is our 2025 Pizza Challenge. As part of this community fundraiser, we'll be selling raffle tickets for two round trip tickets on JetBlue. We'll be selling tickets at DLA on April 5 or contact us at info@westbrookgorhamrotary.org



Join The Fun!

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary 2025 PIZZA Challenge

Thursday, April 24
4:30-6:30m

Westbrook Community Center - Open House
422 Bridge Street

12 PARTICIPATING PIZZA RESTAURANTS!

ADULTS = \$12 - UNDER 12 = \$6 - UNDER 5 = FREE

Help Determine the Best Pizza in Westbrook & Gorham!
2 1/2 Hour Open Eat + Sip with Award + Medal
Mini-Musical + Face Painting + Dance + DJ + Live + Drunking
Jenga & Connect 4 + Board Games + Bounce House + BOO!
for kids + live music + bar + food + drinks

PMI, Call PMI
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RAFFLE TICKET YOUR TAB RAFFLE TICKET

25 RAFFLE TICKETS - 100 TICKETS
ONLY BY HAND ONLY

No. C001 No. C001

1 tickets - \$5.00
5 tickets - \$25.00

TOTAL VALUE UP TO \$900.00

VALID 7/1/2025 to 7/1/2025

Check for value and resources app on
Internet and have cell for other best message

DRAWING - 2:00pm - 4:00pm
2025 PIZZA CHALLENGE
Westbrook-Gorham Rotary

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

If you didn't see your Club's News in this issue of the District Newsletter, it is likely we did not hear from your President or PR person. We would love to hear from every club. Forward about 75 words in a Word document and a couple of separate photos with the identities of people in them, especially Rotarians. Keep photos flattering, please. 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, Bridgton-Lake Region RC

Dennis Moulton, District Newsletter Publisher, Portsmouth RC