



February 2026

Club News

Rotary
District 7780



Bethel

Holiday Meals Baskets & Gifts for Kids!

For more than 30 holiday seasons, the Bethel Rotary Club has prepared and delivered complete holiday meal baskets to families in need. This year, we partnered with employees from the SAD 44 Transportation Center to prepare, wrap, and deliver 40 baskets—a true community effort.

We also raised funds for our annual Christmas for Children project, helping parents provide gifts for their kids during the holiday season.

With these initiatives wrapped up, we close out one of our busiest times of the year and turn our attention to planning the next round of service.



Biddeford-Saco

A cherished tradition with Rotarians in Bideford, England!

The Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club kicked off 2026 with a delightful luncheon in mid-January, after a storm canceled the previous week's meeting. A highlight was our annual toast with fellow Rotarians in Bideford, England—a cherished tradition celebrating fellowship and the spirit of Service Above Self.

Our monthly Social, held on the third Thursday, continues to strengthen connections while supporting local businesses. This year, we'll rotate locations in the community to broaden that impact.

The Club is also developing a new fundraising event. Once the date is confirmed and promotional materials are ready, we'll share more about what promises to be a fun activity for all.

This month's service project will take place at Seeds of Hope in Biddeford.



Bridgton-Lake Region

Bridgton-Lake Region Teams with Red Cross!

The Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club is partnering with the American Red Cross to help promote the new location for upcoming community blood drives. All drives will now take place at the Bridgton Community Center, 15 Depot Street, from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Next three are on February 3, April 7, and June 2.

President Dr. Lisa Ryan noted that supporting blood donation is “an important thing we can do for the community,” adding that the club is pleased to renew its collaboration with the Red Cross. Local Red Cross representative Geoff Allen emphasized that the new location will make it easier for donors to find them and encouraged community members to schedule appointments at RedCrossBlood.org (enter BridgtonME). Donors can also save time by completing RapidPass on the day of their appointment.

Rotarians, family and friends in the area, join us.

For more information about our club, see lakeregionrotary.com or our FB page.

Give blood.
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive

At Bridgton Community Center

In the Community Room
15 Depot St, Bridgton, ME 04009

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: BridgtonME to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a \$20 e-gift card to your choice of merchant. See rcblood.org/heart



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Brunswick

Launch of a Fun New Fundraiser: Best Pizza Contest!

The Rotary Club of Brunswick is launching a fun new fundraiser: a **Best Pizza Contest** on **February 7, 2026, from 4:30–7:30 p.m. at Brunswick Landing, 29 Sewall Street on the SMCC campus.**

Admission is \$5 per person or \$20 per family, and donations are welcome. Families, local businesses, and pizza lovers of all ages are invited to enjoy great food, activities, and the chance to vote for the best slice in town.

Proceeds support the Rotary Club of Brunswick Community Fund, which helps organizations including Midcoast Hunger Prevention, Tedford Housing, Oasis Free Clinic, Harpswell Aging at Home, People Plus Teen Center, and local scholarship programs. The Club also contributes to international efforts such as the Dominican Republic Audiology and Prosthetic Clinic and global campaigns to eradicate polio and malaria. Brunswick Rotarians remain committed to active, innovative service throughout the year.

The Rotary Club of Brunswick Is Having a Fundraiser

Best Pizza Contest



February 7

4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Cost: \$5 per person

\$20 per family

Rotary Club of Brunswick fundraiser, featuring local businesses, delicious pizzas, and fun activities for kids, adults and families. Donations are welcome.

**Location: On the Brunswick Landing
29 Sewall Street at SMCC
Campus of Southern Maine Community College**

Join the fun! Everyone gets a vote.

**VOTE FOR YOUR
FAVORITE PIZZA**

Rotary
Club of Brunswick



Damariscotta -Newcastle

**Family Fun in June.
Mark your Calendars!**

In spite of the bitter cold and snowy weather in January, we are planning for June: Our first Family Fun Fair, Saturday, June 20th, 10 am-5 pm. (Rain day Sunday, June 21). Come one, come all!



SAVE THE DATE

Family Fun Fair!

By the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle

June 20th, 2026

10-5pm

Food • Crafts • Bouncy House
Music • Dunk Tank

Location: Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust
12 Round Top Lane, Damariscotta

Questions? Please contact Don Cameron at
dcameron@mindspring.com

Dover

New Members, Paul Harris Awards & Checks to the Community. A great month!

Committee chair Steve Pappajohn inducted 3 new members - Kendra Lewis, Suzanne Weete, and Jen McNeil.

Paul Harris Awards to Phil Rinaldi and Malcolm McNeill by Foundation Chair Harry Cheney and President Cathy Beaudoin. And PP Gregg Dowty received a Paul Harris +6 recognition pin from Harry Cheney.

Two \$1000 checks awarded to community projects: One to Zebra Crossings to help fund Day Outings for their clients and another to The Children's Museum of NH for their Visiting & Performing Arts program.



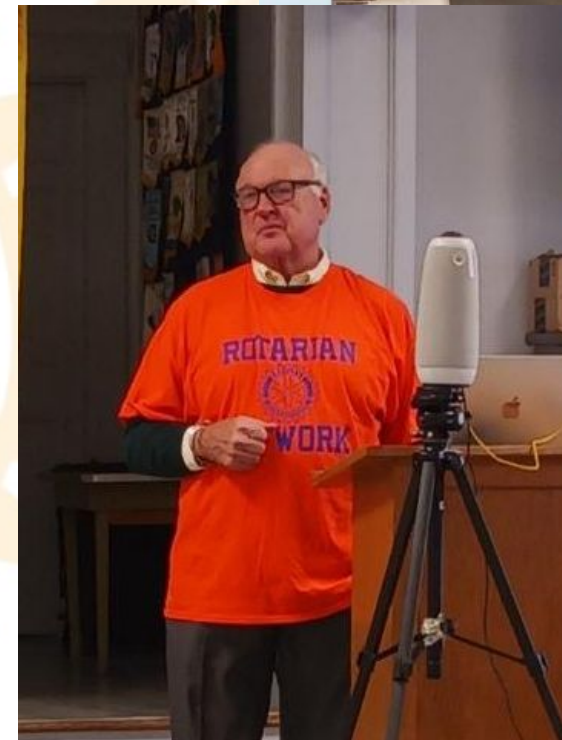
Oxford Hills

A New Member, An Inspiring Speaker!

OH Rotary welcomes its newest member, Tiffany Leahy who works at the Paris Town Office as the Parks & Recreation Director. Shown L to R: Club President Jeff Noblin, Tiffany and sponsor Liz Knox presenting her with her Rotary pin.

A recent guest speaker, PDG Elias Thomas from the Sanford-Springfield Club shared his history and experiences of Rotary Service Project trips to India to build water dams. He leaves 2/8/26 for his 16th trip along with Rotarians from around the world. The dams restrain flow of rain waters during the monsoon seasons in catchment basins to help replenish the groundwater and provide irrigation to crops and livestock. They have been named 'the Dam Rotarians'! Invite Elias to come share at your Rotary meeting and learn how our Foundation dollars do good work!

For more information, visit www.oxfordhillsrotary.org or find the Club on Facebook.



Portland

Portland Holds Flags for Heroes Ceremony before Maine Celtics Game!

Portland Rotarians, along with family and friends, presented "Flags For Heroes" to a sold-out crowd at the Maine Celtics game, Portland Expo! 25 American flags, each one chosen to honor a personal hero; a parent, a teacher, a coach, perhaps a veteran or first responder, a best friend. Behind every flag is a story, and Flags For Heroes is about saying thank you. Proceeds from flag sponsors goes to support community projects right here in southern Maine. Thank you to the Maine Celtics for giving us the opportunity to share this program. It was an honor, and it was fun! Learn more about the Portland Maine Rotary and FFH at www.flagsforheroesmaine.com. #RotaryClubPortlandMaine #FlagsForHeroes A full video of the event is on Portland's FB Page.



Portsmouth

Big Wins, Fresh Faces, and Global Impact!

The holiday tree lot wrapped up with an impressive \$53,000 in profit—just shy of the record—until seventeen members jumped in with Happy Dollars to close the gap and then some.

Kudos to John St. Pierre, our incoming president, and Karen Conard, who will serve as vice president beginning in July.

Members are sporting new name badges, thanks to the efforts of Priscilla MacInnis and Brandi McKay-Berry, replacing versions that had been in use for 40 years.

On the international front, Ann Bliss secured \$95,000 in grants to support Sister Lucy's Maher program in India, with help from Dave Underhill and Aileen Dugan. The funding will aid 10 villages and 4,000 people, supporting training and services for vulnerable women, children, and elders.

Finally, we warmly welcome Lara DuBois, a longtime Thanksgiving Dinner volunteer and next year's co-chair.



River Valley

River Valley Rings In 2026 with Talent and Big Ideas!

The River Valley Rotary Club opened the New Year with two engaging programs. On January 5, members enjoyed a lively musical celebration led by siblings and fellow Rotarians Fawn Ouellette and Noel Palmer. Raised in a musical family in Mexico, they shared their talents and stories, setting an upbeat tone for 2026. (They are available for performances at 207-364-3291.)

The following week, January 12, the club welcomed speakers Tom Saviello and Tom Brennan. Saviello, a longtime public servant, forester, and Franklin County Commissioner, discussed his work on pump-hydro storage in Dixfield. Brennan, Director of Public Affairs for Western Maine Energy Storage, highlighted his extensive experience in regional energy initiatives, including past collaborations with Saviello at International Paper.

Photos feature Rotarians of the Day and club leadership alongside the presenters and performers.



Saco Bay Sunset

Some Speakers are Intimidated, but not DG Emma!

Some Rotary speakers are intimidated when they have to speak next to Paul Harris but DG Emma had no issues at her visit to Saco Bay Sunset.

