



# News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS &  
COLLABORATIONS

JULY 1, 2022





## Bath

The Bath Club's Community Addiction Awareness Committee has been working tirelessly and patiently since before the pandemic to bring a family addiction support program to the Bath-Brunswick area. They hosted a public meeting on May 11th at Morse High School. Speakers pictured included Kennebunk Police Chief Robert MacKenzie, Eric Girard of The Family Restored, Thomas Kivler, Senior Director of Behavioral Health at Mid Coast Hospital and Maria Beauregard, OPTIONS liaison for Sagadahoc County (latter not pictured). About 40 people attended this inaugural event.

One of the many local programs the Bath Rotary likes to support is the Bath Area Backpack Program which provides meals and snacks to area students during the school year. At the June 14th meeting, the club presented Bath Area Backpack Chair Pamela Cox a check for \$2000. Several members of the Bath Rotary serve on the board of directors of the Bath Area Backpack Program including Jeff Labbe, Linda Sullivan and Caelie Smith.

Here Bath Rotary President Michael Princiotta presents Chair of the Bath Area Backpack Program Pamela Cox with a donation from the club.







## Bethel

### WORLD GLOBES PRESENTED TO EVERY STUDENT IN GRADES 3-5 IN SAD 44

On Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>, Stephen Smith, Rotary Club Secretary, presented world globes to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Woodstock Elementary School and Crescent Park Elementary School. Smith said that the students were a delight to interact with and very appreciative of the gift. Funding for the gift of globes came from donors in the SAD 44 community who wanted to do something for young people that might help them learn and remember the many aspects of residing on this earth. The donors wished to remain anonymous and asked the Bethel Rotary Club, which shares their goal, to present the globes to the students on their behalf.





## Biddeford-Saco

The Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club hosted the 27th Annual Rotary Essay Contest for eight grade students in Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach. Students were asked to write a 500-word essay on the topic **What the Word FAMILY Means to Me**. Faculty judged the essays based on the relevance to the topic, quality of composition, creativity, grammar, and spelling accuracy.

Each year, students from Biddeford Middle, Loranger Middle, Saco Middle, Saint James School, and Thornton Academy Middle schools participate in the annual event. Winners of the three top essays from each school (pictured at right) receive a cash prize, medal, and certificate. In addition, the Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club matches their winnings with a check in the same amount, for the student to donate to a charity of their choice.

“This is a powerful assignment for our students and some incredible stories and writing comes from the task. Thank you for doing this,” stated Carolyn Gosselin, a Biddeford middle school teacher. “This is certainly one of our Club’s favorite events each year,” said Rotarian Brenda Pollock, event coordinator. “It’s powerful and quite a moving experience for all.”







## Bridgton-Lake Region

The Club's major fundraiser, the Great Bridgton Duck Race, is in its 23rd year. Presidents Jessica Putnam (2021-22) and Carol Madsen (2019-20) are using their selling skills at Reny's Department Store in Bridgton. Cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100!! The proceeds are used to help our community (students, veterans, food pantries, etc). For more information about our club, go to <https://lakeregionrotary.com> or to our Facebook page.



## **Brunswick Coastal**

**Brunswick Coastal completed its International Grant to secure an ambulance for the Woman's Health Pavillion in Kigutu, Burundi. The 200-bed hospital will open this fall and will have the service of a modern ambulance in the community to transport pregnant women to the hospital if a simple home birth goes bad. This is all the result of the Rotary Grant. The hospital supports a catchment area of 42,000 people. There will be an ongoing training program for the community health workers and the ambulance drivers who will call into the ambulance center and arrange pick up posts for the women. The current one-in- 33 deaths in childbirth is simply not acceptable nor is the fact that getting married and becoming pregnant is the most common cause of death for these young women.**

**Our efforts to save Moms lives will be assisted by many Rotary branches who have contributed from District 7780 as well as Bujumbura, the chapter in Burundi, which is our partner in this endeavor. The women of Burundi, considered by most as the poorest women in the world thank you for getting them celebrated and honored. Project championed by Susan Black, MD, President Brunswick Coastal Rotary. This project is very close to her heart. *Editor's Note:* Thank you, Dr. Black, for all your hard work.**



## Damariscotta-Newcastle

**Don't miss the opportunity to win this fabulous kayak and paddle (Rotarians not included).**

**Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 (cash or check, please). We will be selling tickets in front of**

**Sherman's MidCoast Books, Main Street,**

**Damariscotta 10 am to 2 pm, weekends**

**Friday/Saturday/Sunday July 1-3 and July 8-10.**

**Drawing is 2 pm on July 10. Can't get to**

**Sherman's, contact Lorraine at**

**[townsend13@aol.com](mailto:townsend13@aol.com) for your tickets. Need not**

**be present to win. Proceeds will be used to help meet local needs.**

**Interested in a beautiful 17 ft Chestnut**

**Prospector wood and canvas canoe? Our Club**

**is selling it to raise \$\$ for its foundation. It is a**

**much sought-after canoe made in the 70's by**

**the Chestnut Canoe Co. in Canada. \$3,000**

**(OBO). Contact [billyv53@gmail.com](mailto:billyv53@gmail.com).**





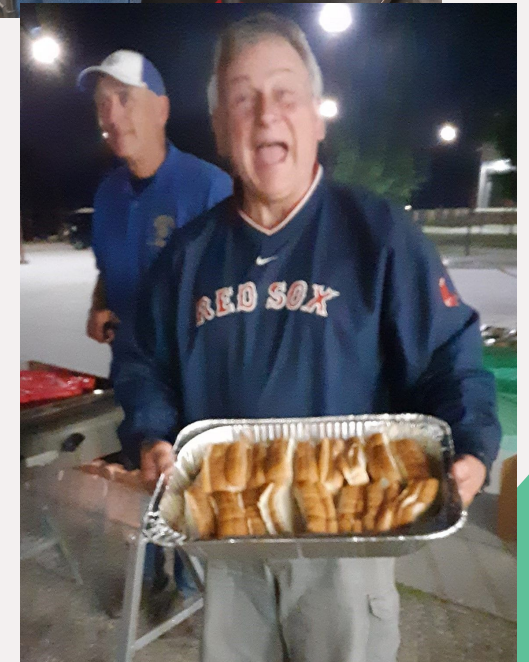


## Oxford Hills

At a recent breakfast meeting the Club recognized Retiring Principal Ted Moccia and the top 5% of the 2022 graduates of Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. The seniors' future plans and aspirations are extremely admirable! Retiring Principal Ted Moccia was honored with a Paul Harris Fellow Award to thank him for his interest, dedication and support of their Rotary Club as well as to the entire Oxford Hills community over his 32 years as principal!

And what did Dan Hart, Peter and Becky Kaurup and Beth Abbott do June 8th? They made 260 +/- sandwiches and other things for OHCHS seniors' picnic on Thursday, June 9th.

Club members had the honor of cooking burgers and hot dogs for the OHCHS 2022 graduates! Curtis Cole cooked hot dogs, George Rice and John Griffith (missing photo) cooked burgers, David Preble and Patty Rice had bun control. Project Graduation is **BACK!!** What a great bunch of very appreciative kids!







## South Berwick/Eliot

**Eighth grade students from Eliot and South Berwick are learning how solar energy can help other countries and are building solar units to be sent to Uganda.**

**The We Share Solar program was brought to Marshwood Middle School by the South Berwick/Eliot Rotary Club and will allow the students to send two solar 2-volt DC solar systems to Uganda. We Share Solar, based in California., works with U.S. schools to create “suitcases” to send places with little or no access to traditional power.**

**The South Berwick Eliot Rotary provided \$1,000 and Rotary District 7780 provided \$4000 to buy two suitcases. Students put the suitcases together and learn about electricity and energy from a set curriculum. Twelve more suitcases will be purchased with \$9,381 from the local Marshwood Education Foundation. This will pay to embed the project into the permanent curriculum and expand the program from 15 to 200 students for years to come.**

**Eliot Rotarian Richard Donhauser learned about the program from his daughter-in-law, who works for We Share Solar and spoke at a club meeting. Science teacher Scott Carson, who has a daughter working in neighboring Kenya, plans to accompany the suitcases to Uganda.**





## Westbrook-Gorham



The new VA Clinic on Commercial St in Portland serves veterans from around the greater Portland area and southern Maine, replacing older clinics in Portland and Saco. This new, state-of-the-art building provides most non-urgent medical services any veteran seeks. With so many services under one roof, some clients remain on site for long periods of time.

We learned from Honorary Rotary Member Carlo Giraulo (L), himself a Navy Veteran and clinic Ambassador, that there is a need for a variety of single-serve snack items and coffee that is not met by the small stipend available for such things. Needs include ground coffee (regular and decaf) and non-dairy creamers, in addition to individually packaged salty snacks and sweet snacks.

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary held a small Coffee & Snack Drive for our Veterans during May 2022. Folks were asked to donate items or cash, and we received a nice response. We were pleased to be able to make two deliveries during that period. However, items from the first delivery were used so quickly that we realized ongoing support is needed.

We encourage other clubs in southern Maine to consider creating their own drive for this VA Clinic or support our ongoing effort. We have established a special PayPal link for donations that will be earmarked for this purpose: [Coffe & Snack Drive for Our Veterans](#)

Contact Christine Johnson [cejinmaine@gmail.com](mailto:cejinmaine@gmail.com) for more information.



## **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](mailto:RotaryNews7780@gmail.com).**

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

**Carol Madsen, District Newsletter Editor, RC Bridgton-Lake Region**

**Michelle Lester, District Newsletter Publisher**