

Good News from the Clubs

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS & COLLABORATIONS

JUNE 2,2025





Boothbay Harbor

The Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club purchases, maintains and loans over a hundred bikes every summer to our Seasonal Workers providing them a reliable way to get from home to work. Many of our seasonal workers have several jobs, which would be impossible without these bikes. Local businesses owners told us the Rotary Bike Program makes a big difference for them.

We require a \$100.00 deposit when picking up the bicycle, which is fully refunded when the bike is returned in good condition. Additionally, a helmet, bike lock and lights are offered to each recipient. Recipient come from all over the world and speak many different languages. There can be a lot of gesturing and pantomime when explaining how the bike works. The Bike Program volunteers have fun together. Laughter and conversation are often heard coming from the Bike Shed while the Crew is there working together. The BBH Rotary Bike Program is fun for our club while benefitting our local community.





Damariscotta - Newcastle









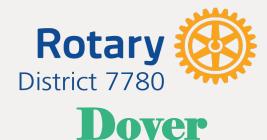
May weather may have been grey and gloomy and wet, but Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotarians were sunny and cheerful and welcoming! Three community service projects involving both club members and other community NGOs kept us busy.

On May 17th, Rotary District 7780 Epic Day of Service, we brightened River Road in Newcastle Maine as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. Seven Rotarians braved the sprinkles, creating rays of sunshine in their bright yellow vests!

Monday, May 19th, we hosted a Volunteer Fair at the Central Lincoln County Y (a corporate member of RC of Damariscotta-Newcastle) providing over 20 local organizations to recruit volunteers. It was also a wonderful opportunity for organizations to network. And it was fun!

Our Spring Cleanup of both the pollinator garden and the Rotary Way Bench & landscaping at Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust was storm-delayed until Tuesday (when we are promised sunshine).

Busy May but our communities are recipients of service above self!



Photos clockwise from top left: Dover Middle School student of the month Lilly Call is one of the founders of the Kindness Club at DMS. She shares goodness and is a positive role model. Never underestimate what 5 Rotarians and volunteers can accomplish in a morning. Thanks Jim Verschueren, Cathanne Bernegger Potvin, Maggie Sinclair, Beth Fischer, and Frank Cassidy for coming out to mow, weed wack, rake, mulch, prune, and sweep the grounds of the 30bed homeless shelter in our community! President Harry Cheney presented speaker Brandy Houe, St. Mary Academy Head of School, with a grant award of \$750 through the Community Giving Committee. Interact students honored. Pres Harry presented a check for \$1,050 to Ashleigh Moore-Hadley, Therapist, Reach For The Top Therapy Services.







Durham-Great Bay Rotary Club Brings Author Visit to Life for Mast Way Students

Third and fourth grade students at Mast Way Elementary School recently enjoyed a truly unforgettable literary experience with celebrated author Jacqueline Davies.

In preparation for the visit, Mast Way educators spent weeks reading Davies' books aloud and sharing her inspiring journey as an author. Students became deeply engaged with her stories—especially *The Lemonade War* series—and eagerly anticipated meeting her in person.

Our support made it possible for every student to receive a personally signed copy of Jacqueline Davies' latest graphic novel, helping ensure that all students—regardless of financial circumstances—could participate equally in this special event. In a fun twist, the new book included a Rotary Club contest as part of the plot, sparking laughter and surprise among students who quickly made the connection between the fictional club and the real-life donors behind the event.





The Hampton Area Rotary's Life Jacket loaner station is open for the 2025 boating season at the Hampton Harbor boat ramp. If you need a life jacket for the day, feel free to stop by, fill out the form, and grab one! Please return at the end of the day. Special thanks to the SeaTow Foundation and the NH Port Authority! (Top Photos)

Closing out our St Vincent de Paul Community Kitchen year with another awesome turkey dinner. We served 39 meals to members of the community. Thanks to Sophia's on Lafayette for again partnering to provide an amazing meal!

(Bottom photo left to right: Dave Considine, Bill Diabasio, Ann Diabasio, Ann Kaiser (in front), Maggie (in back), Cheryl Hildreth, and David Longo)









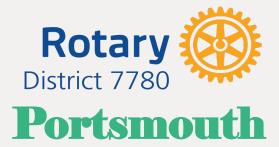
Packaging Food for those in Need

On Thursday, March 6, Kittery Rotary Club members got to serve at Table of Plenty at Mainspring's beautiful new facility on Shapleigh Road. Under the usual able direction of Diana and John, Rotarians Brad Hirst (left photo), Pauli Rines (right photo), and Bob and Shea Gray helped to assemble, bag, serve and hand out about 120 meals. Table of Plenty, with the help of several civic groups, provides meals for people who need them in Kittery and Berwick every week. Kittery Rotarians serve every other month.

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







The Club is preparing for its annual golf tournament at Pease Country Club on June 13. Come join us!

We presented 15 scholarships totaling \$49,000 to Portsmouth area high school seniors. (Bottom photo)

What began as a Rotary hands-on project is now this year's Presidential Project. We will partner with the city to restore a crumbling basketball court that serves underprivileged families living in Portsmouth Housing at Gosling Meadows. The Board approved \$33,000 to complement a \$110,000 Community Development Block Grant.

We were well represented at a Rotarians Raise the Roof Habitat for Humanity event, helping to build a home for a veteran in the Rochester area. (Top photo)

James Petersen successfully led a drive to amass and giveaway clothing, jewelry, etc. to benefit Friends in Action, an organization that enhances the lives of folks with developmental disabilities.

Our club has partnered with the Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth to support education in the Trades.

Long-time Rotarian Gene Bailey passed away in April. He was a huge figure both in our club and the community.

PP Yvonne Legge was awarded \$2,000 through Morgan Stanley's Volunteer Incentive Program and generously donated all of it to Rotary.







EPIC DAY OF SERVICE and SOCIAL

A break from all this rain opened the door for a group of Rotarians to gather at the Back Cove home of Rotarian Justin Lamontagne, as the rendezvous point for a Baxter Boulevard clean-up effort. It started with a social gathering around "Fawn's Coffee & Food Truck" with baked goods, breakfast sandwiches, and some double-shot expressos! After some good chatter, we headed out with our gloves and bags and proceeded to comb the area from Payson Park to Tukey's Bridge.

Pretty good haul, and the photos are just part of it. Citizens out enjoying the weather often stopped to thank us once they realized what we were doing. Hearing people say, "Thank You, Rotary", feels good. So did the sun!



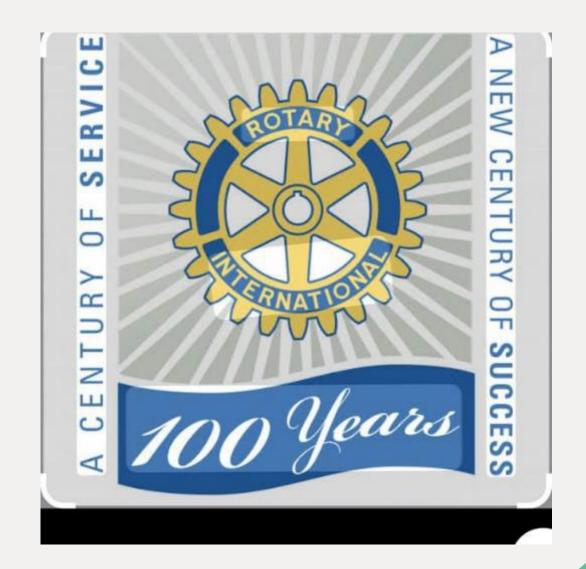




The River Valley Rotary Club celebrated its hundredth anniversary at 49 Franklin Street, Rumford, Maine on Monday, May 19, 2025. President Curtis Smith introduced Roger Whitehouse who started the celebration with a happy birthday River Valley Rotary song! Some 100 Rotarians from all around the state, including Bethel, Bridgton, Kennebunk and other clubs joined in Harmony wishing River Valley Rotary Club another hundred years!

Featured speakers included DG Bob McKenzie from Kennebunk who spoke about Rotary's impact in the community and the world. AG Julie Forbes, a polio survivor herself, talked about the importance of donating to the fund to eradicate polio!

For more information and photos of the event, go to the River Valley RC, Rumford Maine FB Page.





The final element, the lighthouse, of the highly anticipated Rotary Splash Pad arrived in time for the Memorial Day weekend. The grand opening celebration was held on Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m.

This marks the culmination of a three-year community-driven project to bring a safe, fun, and inclusive water play space to families in the Saco area. The celebration will include remarks from local and state officials, recognition of generous sponsors, and attendance by Rotarians from across the region, as well as schoolchildren and members of the public.

The Saco Rotary Club spearheaded the initiative, with support from community partners, donors, and the City of Saco. Rotarians Brenda Pollack and Paulette Bonneau were the thankful project leaders.





For the District 7780 EPIC Day of Service in May a group of RC Saco Bay Sunset members supported a fellow Rotary member by completing carpentry and yard work at their home. The "crew" that did this Service Above Self project were (L-R): Dennis Robillard, Kelly, Jim Steward, Liz Gottfeld and Leo Menard. Taking the picture is Rotary member Carol Marcotte.





Sanford-Springvale

It was an honor to celebrate eight outstanding local students at our annual Rotary Scholarship Breakfast on May 15th. An impressive \$15,000 was awarded to deserving individuals from Sanford High School, Massabesic High School, and Noble High School in support of their post-secondary pursuits.

On May 17th, Sanford-Springvale Rotarians joined forces with St. Thomas School Interact Club members to share in a special community service project: a neighborhood trash cleanup. Rotarians and St. Thomas students and families collected bags of trash from around the school campus, around St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, and up and down the entire span of North Avenue. May this small act of kindness create a ripple effect in our community, inspiring others to do what they can to make a difference!









Sebago Lake

The Sebago Lake Rotary Club's EPIC Day of Service. It was so fantastic to have partnered with the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber and Lakes Region BNI on this awesome event. The folks at the Windham Veterans Center were thrilled to get their property all cleaned and prepped so the crew from LJ Gagne Landscaping & Excavation could come in and mow and mulch. This got the Veterans Center all ready for their Memorial Day celebration.

Special thanks to our recent speaker Robb Cotiaux of Sebago Trout Unlimited. He spoke on their many projects supporting the health of Sebago Lake and surrounding brooks and rivers, keeping us informed on salmon and other species impacted in those waters. The Sebago Lake Rotary club was proud to present STU with a check for \$1400 to help further their work, especially in our region.

Pictured is Past President Robin Mullins and Robb Coutiaux of Sebago Trout Unlimited.









South Berwick-Eliot

Our club recognized a "student of the month" at Marshwood Middle School in Eliot, Maine. 8th grader Georgia Pendleton was the unanimous choice for our very first student of the month, thanks to her selfless work helping others in many ways. When a teacher at MMS came down sick, she organized a fundraiser to help him and his family. When fellow students are in need, she humbly and helpfully finds a way to assist. Georgia was given a framed certificate, a gift card, and was told she could name a worthwhile cause to which the South Berwick – Eliot Rotary would make a donation in her name. She chose a mental health organization - Connor's Climb Foundation.

The club also organized a Thanksgiving Dinner for senior citizens in South Berwick & Eliot and 75 people attended. York Hospital provided pies and caterer Marcia Gagnon prepared the meal. The local fire chief and staff from the rec dept helped serve meals. Rotarian Deb DeColfmacker organized the event, making sure it all went smoothly.









Westbrook-Gorham

Bee Pollinator Garden Project – On Word Bee day, May 20, 2025, we celebrated the completion of our District Grant project in Robie Park, Gorham. The idea began when our Ukrainian exchange student Dasha back in 2022-23 joined the Bee Club which was started in 2021 by a student interested in bee keeping. Led by advisor Catherine Paul, they maintain and harvest two bee hives in Robie Park and are the largest club at the school. The next year, our Youth Services Chair Kathi Perkins saw an article in Rotary Magazine about a similar project and approached the school and Gorham Parks & Rec Dept about adding a pollinator garden. River Drive Cooperage & Millwork supplied the barrels and Broadway Gardens provided the plants, both at discounts. Bensen Farm Earth Products gave us the planting soil. GHS Interact helped with planting. The signs for the barrels were designed by two Bee Club students and made by KLA Engraving. Parks & Rec Director Cindy Hazelton told the gathering that upgrades in progress at Robie park over the next few years include additional pollinator gardens. After the event, 6 cosmos plants were donated to the Baxter Library Bee Garden. We also donated the children's Book "A is for Bee" in honor of the Bee Club.

Epic Day of Service May 17, 2025 – In the morning, a team of Rotarians and students finished the barrels in preparation for the May 20th Bee Pollinator Garden Celebration. In the afternoon, Rotarians & friends assisted FBC Westbrook with their monthly Free Community Meal. Enchiladas were on the menu. They were delicious, if we do say so ourselves!!

Save the Date for our 31st Annual Rotary Classic Golf Tournament, Monday September 22 at Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland, Maine. For more info, or to sponsor or register: https://westbrookgorhamrotarygolf.org/





Yarmouth

In May 2025, the Yarmouth Rotary Club continued its commitment to enhancing community infrastructure by advancing the "Last Mile" campaign for the West Side Trail in Yarmouth, Maine. This initiative aimed to complete the final segment of the trail, emphasizing accessibility for individuals with limited mobility. The trail features gentle slopes and firm surfaces, making it navigable for wheelchairs and strollers, thereby promoting inclusive outdoor recreation. Rotarian Dan Ostrye has spearheaded this project for many years, The trail, which spans over 10 miles, connects various neighborhoods, office parks, and natural preserves, serving as a vital corridor for both recreation and commuting. Photos: Below, Dan Ostrye and the students from Yarmouth HS & Yarmouth Academy. Above: Rotarians Ed Nolde, Dan Ostrye, Bill Dunn and AG Carol Marcotte.







York

The York, Maine Rotary Club partnered with York Public Library to offer a monthlong series entitled "Embracing Wellness: A Community Collaboration" in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. The Club contributed a grant of \$1,250 to York Public Library toward the purchase of 50 copies of the book *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman for distribution throughout York for a Community Read; funds for a meditative sound bath to promote self-care; and supplies for 200 mental wellness kits for distribution to teens at York High School. The collaboration expanded to include such partners as Sweetser, NAMI, York Community Service Association (YCSA), Cornerstone VNA, York Hospital and Choose to be Healthy Coalition, York Recreation Department, the Center for Grieving Children, White Pine Programs, Yorkwise, York School Department, and Stay for Life. Over the course of the month, 14 programs were offered with 200+ attendees. Topics ranged from book discussions to Mental Health First Aid for Adults, Restful Nights: A Mindfulness-Based Sleep Workshop; Living Well with Anxiety; Developing Nature-Based Strategies for Emotional Regulation: A Workshop for Kids & Their Caregivers; Promoting Wellness from Substance Use: Prevention Through Recovery; a Wellness Fair and more... For a complete list of events see https://yorkpubliclibrary.org/embracing-wellness/





DISTRICT NEWSLEMMER

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