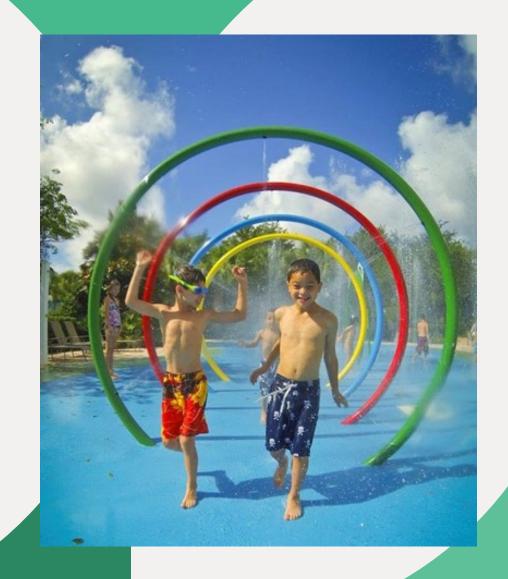


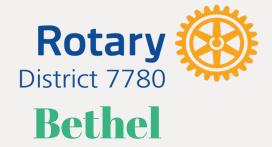
# Good News from the Clubs

**ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS** 

SERVICE, FUNDRAISING, CELEBRATIONS & COLLABORATIONS

**OCTOBER 1, 2024** 





It is such an honor to be a member of an organization that both facilitates projects that have a tangible benefit to our communities, and also help with other organizations' events when they ask us! As a result, our membership continues to grow. New member, Mary Ellen Gilbert, provided her classification talk which provided us with a glimpse of her passions and back-story. Over the course of the first half of the month, we assisted with the Mahoosuc Arts & Agriculture Tour, serving as greeters and information staff at seven area farms. On September 15th, we held our annual 5k Run/Walk and one mile fun youth run, Presented by our Major Sponsor HealthReach Community Health Centers, where we raised significant funds to help support after school and enrichment programming for area youth. See more at bethelrotary.org











### **Biddeford-Saco**

We are thrilled to announce the development of the community's first splash pad, located at the Saco Community Center. The Club provided \$15,000 in seed funds and corporate sponsors added an additional \$61,000. The splash pad will feature eight dynamic water elements, including 3–6-foot water rings, dumping buckets, a lighthouse, and more. Designed to accommodate all ages and abilities, the splash pad will offer a refreshing experience for the entire community from May 1st to October 10th each year. Most of the funds were raised through a private lobster bake, hosted in August at the home of Rotarians Pierre and Cynthia Giroux. For more information about this project or to donate, please visit www.biddeford-sacorotary.org.











## **Boothbay**

Our Club has been loaning bikes to seasonal workers and others for nearly 20 years. The brainchild of Seth Hedgcock who noticed a young man walking to work every day. It turns out he was a summer international worker critical to the Boothbay Region as they fill many of the restaurant jobs. In photo are (I-r) Rick Mitterling, John Skoglund, and Bill Prince outside the Bike Barn, 3 of the several mechanics, mostly Rotarians, who take older bikes and make them usable. They loan out about 100 bikes each summer. A Rotary project which makes a difference in the community, promoting economic development, the Rotary theme for this month. It's evident that these Rotarians are involved in doing something they love.





## **Bridgton-Lake Region**

Our Club received a \$4000 District grant to promote literacy training at Stevens Brook Elementary School. The Club will contribute \$500 to the project. All of the funds will be used to purchase books for classroom teaching and the school library.

Perhaps even more important, Rotarians and community volunteers will help third and fourth grade classroom teachers during literacy classes. According to Akaila Scorza, the literacy advisor for the Stevens Brook Elementary School, it is the current third and fourth graders who were most affected by the loss of classroom teaching during the Covid pandemic. They lost a full year in the classroom and then were disadvantaged by the masking that was required once school resumed. The masks prevented the children from seeing the teachers' lips in literacy classes and made listening more difficult.

We are enthusiastic to have this opportunity to help promote a lasting positive change in the academic lives of these young readers. Children who struggle with reading will have difficulty in all their classes and are more like to drop out of school. Pictured I-r are Rotarian project leader Joanne Cohn, Aliza Wyman, SBES Librarian; Valerie Young, SBES Principal; Jess Emery, SBES Instructional Coach; Linda Soutier, Community Volunteer and Friend of Rotary. For more information about this project, contact Joanne at joanne.cohn643@gmail.com





#### **Brunswick Coastal**

"Join us for a delicious three-course Pulled Pork Harvest Dinner Buffet (also vegetarian option). Live Music! Cash bar available. All proceeds support Brunswick Coastal Rotary's local community and international projects. Friday October 4th, 5 to 7 PM, Topsham Fairgrounds, 54 Elm St, Topsham, Tickets on line (\$40) at Eventbrite: Search "Coastal Rotary", \$50 at the door."

#### For info menu is:

Pulled Pork (Jackfruit in BBQ Sauce vegetarian option), Baked Beans (made with local beans), Corn muffins and Buttermilk honey rolls, Sweet Potato and Gruyere Gratin (made with local sweet potatoes), Local Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette, ending with Pumpkin Pie or Sweet Potato and Dried Cranberry Layer Cake

Specific eventbrite address

is: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brunswick-coastal-rotarys-harvest-dinner-tickets-704825611377">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brunswick-coastal-rotarys-harvest-dinner-tickets-704825611377</a>

### \*BRUNSWICK COASTAL ROTARY \* PRESENTS A

#### Harvest Fall Dinner







## DATE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 4, 2024 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

EARLY DONATION: \$40.00 PER PERSON / \$50.00 at the door

#### Search 'Coastal Rotary 'on Eventbrite

Pulled Pork (Jackfruit in BBQ Sauce vegetarian option)
Baked Beans (made with local beans)

Corn muffins and Buttermilk honey rolls

Sweet Potato and Gruyere Gratin (Local Sweet Potatoes)

Local Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Pumpkin Pie and Pumpkin Sweet Potato Layer Cake

Food prepared by Chef Sandy Holland of Union Street Bakery & Cake Shop

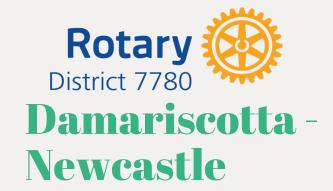
FALL HARVEST DINNER BUFFET

Live Music & Cash Bar

#### LOCATION: TOPSHAM FAIRGROUNDS,

54 Elm Street TOPSHAM, MAINE

Donations may be sent to: Brunswick Coastal Rotary P.O. Box 1010 Brunswick, Maine 04011



The Community Involvement Person of the Year Award was given to Rotarian Tom Anderson of Damariscotta by the Damariscotta Region Chamber of Commerce. This honor is given to a person who has contributed their time and resources to the community in a way that has had a positive effect.

An active member of the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary, Tom is also a member of the Damariscotta Select Board, and has volunteered with the chamber frequently. Tom is pictured on the left, receiving this award from Chamber President Larry Sidelinger.





The Dover club stocked up recently with over \$1k worth of snacks for the local Dover schools "Kid's Pantry". We love hearing how much the kids love the extra snacks they receive from the Rotary Club of Dover. In Photo (I-r) Rotarians Greg Dowty, Cindy Imbro, Harry Cheney, Phil Rinaldi, Nick Pellman.





September was a busy month for Hampton Rotary, working back to back weekends volunteering at major events! September 7th at Hampton beach's seafood festival gates, selling wristbands at the entrances for the Hampton area Chamber of Commerce.

On September 14th, we volunteered at the finish line of the Reach the Beach race working the beer tent. This is something we put together every year for the runners. Huge shoutout to Rotarian Charlie Davidson, who took the lead this year organizing the beer tent and all the volunteers.

Photos from Reach the Beach: Above. Two volunteers from Sail Portsmouth on the left with Rotarians Charlie Davidson (in yellow) and Jim Waddell (right). Below. Rotarians selling beer tokens behind the table (left to right) Carolyn Eastman, Ann Keiser, Christina Hickey, and Dakota Bockus







23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Capriccio Festival of Kites with Rotary Club of Ogunquit

It was a perfect September day at Ogunquit Beach and the Rotary Club of Ogunquit was ready to work at the 23rd Annual Capriccio Festival of Kites. Professional kite flyers, live music, and hundreds of free kites ready for decorating made for a fun and festive day at the beach. The Rotary Club assembled the kites, assisted with kite decorating, sold baked goods and t-shirts, and gave out prizes to kids who decorated and flew kites. It was a great community activity and young and old came together for some kite flying magic. Top photo from left to right: Rick Barber (President), Erin Haye (Treasurer), Barbara Leazes (member), Connie Griffin (member), and Tracy Smith (member). Bottom left photo credit: Barbara Leazes. Bottom right: Jim Anliot, club member, helps a young kite decorator.









The Oxford Hills Rotary Club has some special treasures for sale! Antique cast iron bean pots! Often found bricked into the "summer kitchen". Most recently used by our Club for baking bean hole beans that we served during a Bean Hole Bean Festival for over 50 years. FMI, pricing, etc., please contact Club President Dan Allen at 207-592-4262 or dallen49@hotmail.com.









On September 13, The Salvation Army honored Portland Rotary with the rarely given "Others" award which recognizes individuals or organizations that exemplify an extraordinary spirit of service to others. Just like Rotary's Service Above Self, their oneword motto "Others" encapsulates the essence of their mission – to serve others selflessly.

Besides the Club, several Rotarians were recognized individually for their extraordinary lives in service to the community: Bob Traill (posthumously), Mark Stimson, and Drs. Liz and Roger Fagan. Photo with Rotarians Roger Fagan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and President Patty Byers (right).

Notice Dr. Fagan is holding a key. In a touching moment, Mark Dion, Mayor of Portland presented the Fagans with the key to the city, acknowledging the profound impact of their work with the hearing impaired in the Dominican Republic since 2002.





## River Valley

The Featured speaker at our River Valley Rotary Club's Fellowship Luncheon Monday, 9/16/2024 was Donald Fournier, Maine Virtual Academy! Which was established in 2015! One of Maine's 9 Public Chartered Schools!

Chartered schools are public schools which operate with autonomy than District Schools! They are contracted with an authorizer, which can be a school district or the state's public education authority!

Currently Maine Virtual Academy has 495 students, 35 GE & SE Teachers, 14 GE & SE Ed Tech, 14 Administrators. It's Home Office is in Augusta and Funded through Maine Department of Education! Website: Mainevirtualacademy.org

https://maps.google.com/maps/place//data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x4cb20 133e057d8f7:0xa3d9e0d099ac898b?entry=s&sa=X&ved=1t:829 0&ictx=111. In Photo: (I-r) Charlie Leduc, Rotarian of The Day, Don Fournier, and Curtis Smith, Club President!





### 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: <a href="mailto:RotaryNews7780@gmail.com">RotaryNews7780@gmail.com</a>.

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