

Monthly Newsletter



Message from Heidi:

We are in full swing of summer and I hope you are taking some time to travel or simply enjoying a staycation. Many of us having been working behind the scenes to ensure a successful 2025-26 Rotary year. This year, we are placing an even stronger emphasis on **Youth Services** - investing in programs that nurture and inspire the next generation. From RotaKids and Interact to Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, the Four-Way Test Essay contest, Josh the Otter, and YMCA Little Libraries, our club is making a meaningful impact in the lives of children of all ages. These initiatives reflect our commitment to building a brighter future, starting right here in our community.

We are also deeply grateful to our Wheelchair Heroes, Jim Fabry and Gary Dworkin, for their long-standing dedication to raising funds to provide mobility and hope to those in need abroad. The next Wheelchair Foundation distribution will take place this August in Kingston, Jamaica, continuing their remarkable legacy of service.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to all who are working behind the scenes, especially Joerg Meyer and John Varsames, to plan our family-friendly Oktoberfest fundraiser, scheduled for October 4th. Your efforts are critical and invaluable! Now it's up to each of us to ensure its success - please purchase your tickets and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us. The funds we raise will allow us to continue supporting these important programs and serving our local and global community.

Heidi

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Happenings

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Birthdays

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Other Happenings:

In case you were wondering, one of the ways our club supports our community is through our food packing for the Cafe of Life Outreach Program. Each month we are told how many households requested outreach, with numbers ranging from 35-55 families. Through a generous donation from Bruce Hayes, Campbell Gault places a weekly order of 50 lbs of oranges, apples, and bananas, and 50 lbs of potatoes, onions and carrots. Every Tuesday from 10:30-11:00, Campbell's staff sets up tables at The Stage with the produce, and four volunteers pack individual fruit and vegetable bags for the requested households.

Cafe of Life picks up our bags and then distributes them the next day along with basic items including one chicken, one dozen eggs, bread, about 20 canned goods, diapers, cooking oil, meseca, sugar, beans, laundry and dishwashing detergents, snacks for the kids, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene, products, dog food, and sometimes cat food.



Wishing all the best to:

8/4 - Dee Fabry

8/31 - Daniel Martens

Happy belated birthday to Janet DiBenedetto who celebrated on 7/30 and was inadvertently missed in the July newsletter.

"On your birthday, take a moment to reflect on the amazing person you are and all the incredible things yet to come."



Oktoberfest Update

Planning for Oktoberfest 2025 is in full swing:

- Venue, Entertainment, and Food Truck all confirmed.
- Promotion & email campaign under way.
- Ticket sales began with goal of 150 tickets sold before the event.
- Sponsorships coming in, with \$1000 in cash donations and nearly \$2000 in-kind donations received.

🍷 Your help in getting more sponsors, as well as in selling tickets would be greatly appreciated. We need your help at the event and will begin volunteer signups in August.

Stay tuned for further updates.

Speaker Highlights



John Varames & Joe Pokorney

Spoke about Hurricane Preparations, Emergency Management and District Response Mechanisms

John and Joe's presentation about Disaster Preparation not only told of the recovery playbook that was created within our district, but also outlined next steps for the project, our club, and ourselves. The project, which began in 2019 by the Charlotte Harbor Sunrise Club, and become a model for clubs and districts throughout southeastern U.S.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in 2022, Past District Governor, Kelsey Sola, worked to bring Florida's eight districts together to create a detailed statewide recovery plan. She says, "Disaster relief has not always been a top priority for people until it hits home, but everybody needs to have a plan." To read more about his amazing project, and learn what needs to be done to create a proper plan, you can access the full presentation here:

<https://tinyurl.com/RCBN-DisasterPlanning>

Upcoming Speakers & Events

- **8/7** - Falon Tabares - The Healthy Earth
- **8/21** - Alicia Farricielli - The Science of Staying Calm: How Leaders Can Regulate Their nervous System for Better Performance
- **No meeting 8/14, 8/28**
- **8/6 - 5:30-7:30** - Area Rotary Social Event at Bone Hook Brewing
- **8/27 - 5:30-7:30** - Area 2 Social Event at Brass Tap
- **9/18 - 5:30-7:30** - Area Rotary Social Event at Palm City Brewing

10/4 - 3:00-8:00 Oktoberfest

- save the date and use the QR code below to buy your tickets:



Jan Napolitan

Golden Paws Assistance Dogs -

Their mission promotes independence for combat-wounded veterans, first responders, and children with life-changing disabilities through partnerships with skilled assistance dogs.

Past Area Governor Dee Fabry (right) thanking to Laurie Wireman (left), Jan Napolitano (center) and of course Roxie from Golden Paws for all that they do.



Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight is on Tamton Mustapha, MD. Tam has had an interesting life both pre- and post-retirement. He was the founder of Prime Columbia Greene Medical Associates, a multi-specialty medical group in Columbia and Greene counties of NY, and built several medical office buildings in these two counties. He was board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology, member of the American College of Physicians, the American Gastroenterology Association, and the Medical Society of State of NY. He was Chief of Medicine and President of the Medical staff at Columbia Greene Medical Center in Hudson, NY, President of Columbia County Medical Society, and President of Capital District Association for Physicians of Indian Origin. Tam was also on the town planning board in Kinderhook, NY for 10 years, member of board of trustees at Columbia Greene Community College for 17 years and Chairman for 2 years. He was appointed by the Governor of NY to the NY State Medical Advisory Board. He was on the board of Health Care Consortium in Columbia County, NY.

He joined the Hudson Rotary club in NY in 1974 and served on the board and chaired various committees, both at the Club and District level, as well as holding the positions of District Governor, Zone Coordinator, RLI Secretary, RLI Vice Chair, and international RLI trainer. He received the Meritorious Service Award from The Rotary Foundation.

Tam, along with his late wife Rahma, started the Kinderhook Tri-Village Rotary Club where they started the Bicycle for Kids program, and several projects in India including village self sufficiency, an eye hospital, cataract surgeries for thousands, and building toilets for girls schools in Kerala, India. After moving to Naples, Tam joined the Rotary Club of Bonita Naples in 2018.

He loves gardening and playing tennis, and spending time with his three grown children and their families, all of whom are Paul Harris fellows. Tam is a member of the Arch Klumpf Society, Major Donor, Benefactor, Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society of the Rotary Foundation. Tam has enjoyed his life in Rotary, especially as RLI vice chair and international trainer traveling to more than 30 countries, and interacting with Rotarians from different countries, different religions and different walks of life. He says "that is the most precious gift I received from Rotary. I truly see all the human beings as fellows and I don't see differences." He is also very proud that all his children are involved in community activism.

ROTARY CLUB OF BONITA NAPLES	MEETING THURSDAYS AT NOON
<p><u>BonitaNaplesRotary.com</u></p> <p>Past newsletters: <u>https://www.bonitanaplesrotary.com/newsletters-past</u></p>	<p>The Stage Restaurant 9144 Bonita Beach Rd Bonita Springs, FL 34135</p>