



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

February 26, 2025

The Rotary Club of Fort Smith meets weekly on Wednesday at noon at [Rolando's Restaurante](#) at [917 North A Street](#) in downtown Fort Smith.

Rotary 

THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Chaffee Museums Return!

Cassie Burkard, director of the Entertainment and Historic District at Chaffee Crossing, shared the rich past and exciting future of the Chaffee Crossing Historic District at this week's meeting.

The newly renovated Chaffee Barbershop and Military Museum now features interactive exhibits showcasing Fort Chaffee's role in global conflicts and its impact on the local community. Visitors can explore the famous "buzzcut heard round the world" when Elvis Presley was drafted, along with stories of soldiers, community members, and stories of the more than 50,000 Indochinese refugees who called Fort Chaffee home in 1975.

The museum will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Indochinese refugee resettlement with an event on June 20, 2025. For details on sponsorships, tickets, and more, visit the [Chaffee Crossing Historic District website](#).

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Past District Governor Pam Crawford will visit on March 19 to present our club with a Rotary Foundation award. Please make plans to attend so that we can give her a warm Rotary welcome.

We have a great slate of upcoming speakers. I encourage you to bring a guest to join us for a future meeting. It's a great way to introduce them to Rotary and grow our club!

Yours in Service to Rotary,

Cindy Gilmer - President
Rotary Club of Fort Smith

Future Programs & Events

- March 5: Sara Deuster - [Fort Smith Parks and Recreation](#)
- March 12: [Tim Hearn](#) - Fort Smith EMS
- March 19: Dr. Alex Zacharella - History of Irish Music
- March 26: Dr. Jon Hendrickson - Rotary SMART Program
- April 2: Elizabeth Johnson - Farmers Insurance
- April 9: Shea Foldvery - Fort Smith United Way
- April 16: Claire McClure - Fort Smith Public Schools, Northside Rising Freshmen Night
- April 23: Beth Presley - Fort Smith Boys and Girls Club
- April 30: TBD
- May 7: TBD
- May 14: [U of A Chancellor Robinson](#) - University of Arkansas Update

If you have suggestions for program speakers, please contact [Cindy Gilmer \(gilmercindy@att.net\)](mailto:gilmercindy@att.net) or [Chris Kelly \(cjkelly1012@gmail.com\)](mailto:cjkelly1012@gmail.com)

**** Talk Business & Politics.** (2024, August 12). *Forty Under 40: Sara Deuster.* <https://www.talkbusiness.net/>

Next Week's Speaker



**Sara Deuster,
Director, Fort
Smith Parks &
Recreation**

Sara Deuster is committed to public service. Having a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees in fields that will help that public service, Deuster is now a doctoral student of public administration at West Chester University.

She joined the City of Fort Smith's Parks and Recreation Department full-time in January 2014, became deputy director in 2016, interim director in 2023, and direction March 2024.

She designed the city's first all-inclusive playground at John Bell Jr. Park and is supervising the redesign of all the city's park playgrounds into inclusive areas suitable for all ages regardless of their mental or physical limitations. She has also supervised the demolition of the 85-year old bath house at Creekmore Park and design of a new one.**



Rotary's Action Plan

People of Action know that turning a vision into reality—big or small—starts with a plan. For over a century, Rotary has led with a service-driven model built on personal connections. That approach remains just as powerful today. Explore the **Rotary Action Plan Toolkit** for insights, skill-building tips, and ways to take action. Don't forget to share your input through the survey. Visit the [Action Plan website](#) to get started.

2024-25 Rotary Club of Fort Smith Officers



Cindy Gilmer
President



Chris Kelly
President-Elect



Jon Hendrickson
Past-President



Andrew Hudgens
Past-President &
Foundation Chair



Drew Linder
Treasurer



Mary Lee Frase
Secretary



Phil Whiteaker
Sergeant-at-Arms



Charlie Platt
Assistant Governor

Important Dates for District 6110

- **2024/2025**
- March 6-10, 2025: Wheelchair trip to Mexico
- March 20, 2025: Assistant Governor (AG) Training - Fort Smith, AR
- March 20-22, 2025: MAPETS - Fort Smith, AR
- May 2, 2025: Legacy (Foundation) Dinner - Rogers, AR
- May 3, 2025: District Conference - Rogers, AR
- June 21-25: Rotary International Convention - Calgary, Canada
- March 19-21, 2026: MAPETS - Fort Smith, AR

