



Please enjoy this edition of the Sunrise Rotary Club newsletter. Sunrise Rotary is an active club of about 50 members who take pride in our community. Through our service projects and fellowship, we are changing lives and making a positive difference. If you would like to subscribe a friend to our newsletter, please send their [email to Dorothy Zimmerman](mailto:Dorothy.Zimmerman) and we will add their name.

This Week--Harvey Ward, Gainesville Mayor



Harvey Ward was elected mayor of Gainesville in November 2022 after being first elected to the Gainesville City Commission in March 2017 and re-elected in 2020. Mayor Ward is passionate about growing the middle class across our city, empowering east Gainesville, creating safer and more effective transportation infrastructure and generally telling the Gainesville story more proudly.

Mayor Ward is a native of Gainesville and a graduate of Eastside High, Santa Fe College and the University of Florida. He has worked in the Gainesville non-profit community for decades, formerly serving as Executive Director of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Foundation and in several leadership capacities at WUFT-TV/FM. Harvey is married to Gillian Lord-Ward, and their three daughters attend local public schools.

Speakers

March 20, 2025
[Harvey Ward](#)
Mayor of Gainesville

March 27, 2025
[Brian Kramer \(8th Circuit State Attorney\)](#) and [Stacy Scott \(Public Defender\)](#)

April 03, 2025
[R. D. Bonnaghan](#)
Rebuilding Together (Meeting at Watson Realty Office)

April 10, 2025
[Jennifer Webb](#)
Shakespeare Animal Fund

April 17, 2025
[Kevin Golden](#) and [Dan Rodkin](#)
State of the Club

Theresa Beachy from Ctr for Nonprofit Excellence Speaks to Our Club



Events

March 19th
[Board Meeting](#)

March 22nd
[Ichetucknee Springs Paddling Social](#)

April 16th
[Board Meeting](#)

April 26th
[District 6970 Assembly](#)

May 14th
[Board Meeting](#)

June 6th
[District 6970 Conference](#)

June 11th
[Board Meeting](#)

Last week, we had the pleasure of hosting Theresa Beachy, organizational strategist for the Center for Nonprofit Excellence since 2024, following her long tenure as director of Peaceful Paths. Theresa shared insights into the Center's mission—helping our region's nonprofits operate more effectively and sustainably.

Many may also recognize her as the board chair of the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, a role that underscores her deep expertise in community building.

Her presentation highlighted the Center's commitment to strengthening local nonprofits through training, resources, and networking opportunities for executive directors and board chairs. She also emphasized the importance of viewing nonprofits not just as service providers but as vital community investments.

If you're looking to enhance your nonprofit's operations, launch a new initiative, or serve on a nonprofit board, visit cnecf.org. **Hot tip!** At the end of this month, the Center is hosting a day-long training on nonprofit management, covering accounting, IT, daily operations and strategic planning—seats are limited, so register soon!

Sunrise Social and a Rotary Best Wishes Send-off

Many Sunrise Rotarians attended the Social Event last Tuesday at Spurrier's Gridiron Grill. Not only was a good time had by all, we wished fair winds and smooth sailing to Ron and Dianne Farb, as they start their next venture in their move to Crozet, Virginia, which is near Charlottesville. Ron has been a member of Sunrise Rotary since January 15, 2004, a total of 21 years. Sunrise Rotary has partnered with Ron and Dianne's Climb for Cancer Foundation on many projects over the past 21 years. Dianne recently retired from the University of Florida. We are sad to see them go, but will always remember them as good friends and can think of no one who has contributed more to Sunrise Rotary and the Gainesville community than Ron and Dianne.





Now the rest of the story! Apparently, the real reason for the move to Crozet, Virginia, was to return to their hippy roots. Look at this! They'll probably buy a couple of Harley Hogs in Virginia, or see if they can find some of those funny smokes. The Appalachian Mountains are probably not ready for this.



Meanwhile, President-elect Bobbie and Bulletin Editor Jim did not miss the chance to schmooze it up with the Head Beer Coach, who was at the event for the entire time.

Food4Kids Food Drive Continues Through March



We have heard from the Executive Director of Food4Kids, have completed a service project by packing bags of food, but the food drive continues through March. The overall goal is to reduce food insecurity issues for kids in Alachua County. Food4Kids works directly with schools in Alachua County, serving about 9,400 kids each week. Even with this coverage, there are still lots of kids going hungry each day. The Sunrise Rotary Club is collecting nonperishable food items throughout March to support the **Food4Kids Backpack Program**. The most successful food drives focus on food pairings that will make it easier for children to prepare meals, such as:

- Cereal & shelf-stable milk
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Soup & crackers

Thanks to the leadership of Karen Thomas, please bring your donations to each Rotary meeting in March. Together, we can help fight food insecurity for kids in our community!

Join the Sunrise Rotary Paddling Trip – March 22!

By William Menadier

Ichetucknee Springs State Park



2025 Paddling Social

Rotary Club of Gainesville Sunrise

Join us for fun & fellowship paddling the Ichetucknee River, experiencing one of Florida's iconic spring fed waterways. Then bring your appetite as we gather for lunch and tales from the river at Great Outdoors Restaurant.



**GREAT OUTDOORS
RESTAURANT**
18587 High Springs Main Street
High Springs, FL 32643

Rentals:

Paddle Board: \$60.00
Single Kayak: \$45.00
Double Kayak: \$65.00
Double Canoe: \$65.00

"Bring Your Own":

\$15.00 per "boat"
\$15.00 for first person +
\$13.00 per extra person

Parking: \$4.00 - \$6.00

Saturday, March 22nd
Paddle @ 9:00am | Lunch @ 12:00pm

12087 Southwest, US-27, Fort White, FL 32038

Sunrise Rotarians, grab your paddles and get ready for a day of adventure on the beautiful Ichetucknee River! Our annual Paddling Social is set for Saturday, March 22, starting at 9:00 AM. After a morning on the water, we'll gather for lunch and camaraderie at the Great Outdoors Restaurant in High Springs. Club members not able to kayak or paddle: Join the exhausted group of outdoors folks at the Great Outdoors Restaurant around noon to enjoy the merry-making and lunch.

Rentals are available, or bring your own kayak, canoe, or paddleboard. Spaces are limited, so sign up soon and don't miss this chance to experience one of Florida's iconic spring-fed rivers with fellow Rotarians!

For pricing and details, [download and print out the event flyer](#) or reach out to the trip organizers, Bill Menadier or Dan Rodkin. See you on the water or at the Great Outdoors Restaurant!

Sunrise Rotary Represented at the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament

The Florida Gators made an impressive showing at the tournament in Nashville, Tennessee. Mitzi, Wayne, Becky and Jim represented Sunrise Rotary and brought home wins against Missouri, Alabama and Tennessee and the tournament title. There was a great group of Gators fans in Nashville, and fun was had by all. We saw lots of games, attended a Gator Gathering sponsored by Florida Victorious at Chiefs on Broadway, and another at Friends and Low Places Bar and Honky ton, which was Gator headquarters for fans before each Gator game, sponsored by Florida Victorious, Gator Boosters and the UF Alumni Association. Jim traded a few growls with Albert at this event, with lots of Gators in attendance.



Quote of the Week March 20, 2024



Join Us

Gainesville Sunrise
Meets at Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville
1714 SW 34th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607
Time: Thursday at 07:00 AM



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