



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](#) and we will add their name.

Speakers from the 8th Judicial District

Speakers

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

May 01, 2025
[Ann Collett](#)
Dexa-Fit Gainesville

May 08, 2025
[Dr. Mark Bleiweis](#)
UF Health Pediatric Heart Surgeon

May 15, 2025
[Stevie Doyle](#)
CEO Ronald McDonald House

May 22, 2025
[Jeffrey Forbes](#)
Alachua Conservation Trust

May 29, 2025
[Michael Holmes](#)
President UF Health Shands Hospital



Above: Brian Kramer is the State Attorney for the 8th Judicial circuit. He was elected in 2020 and re-elected in 2024. Brian is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the 8th Judicial Circuit, which includes Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Union counties. He represents the people of the state of florida in criminal prosecutions and defined civil matters.



Right: Stacy Scott has been the Public Defender for the 8th Judicial Circuit since 2010. She defends the rights of indigent people accused of crimes and has dedicated her entire career to ensuring fairness and integrity in our criminal justice system.

Events

April 5th
[Lois & Jim Hensel Firefighter Appreciation Picnic](#)

April 16th
[Board Meeting](#)

April 26th
[District 6970 Assembly](#)

May 14th
[Board Meeting](#)

June 6th
[District 6970 Conference](#)

June 11th
[Board Meeting](#)



Mayor Harvey Ward and the City of Gainesville

Politicians like to talk and Mayor Harvey Ward did just that in giving us a great overview of what is going on in the City of Gainesville. He reminded us of Gainesville's principal attributes: medical care, education, and a great place to live. In addition, we have sports and are a center of cultural events. Mayor Ward reminded us that Gainesville has a mayor and six commissioners, five charter officers and a great staff supporting all of them. Due to the efforts of IMPACT Gainesville, gun violence and other types of criminal activity are trending downward. Efforts including medical facilities are enhancing East Gainesville and the downtown areas are being improved to be more citizen-friendly.



Right: President Kevin gave Yvonne Gilbert the "best dressed award of the day," by pointing out Yvonne's very professional office outfit of a pin-stripped black suit and kickin' black-strapped high heels. Way to go, Yvonne!



Food Packing Party at Food4Kids TONIGHT

This month, we have been collecting food for the Food4Kids Project. We packed food there to start off the month. **TONIGHT**, Tuesday, March 25, we are finishing the month with a **FOOD PACKING PARTY**. Let's make it a family affair: Bring your spouse or partner, teenage kids, and let's PACK SOME FOOD! The time is from 6-8PM and the address is 350 NW 39th Avenue, Suite D. It is in the big warehouse behind the Enterprise Car Rental location on 39th. R85 member, Dick Tarbox, has given our donation effort a big boost by bringing enough food to fill the back of the editor's car using excess food from The Villages Dining Area (see photo below). Show up to help pack food for the **Food4Kids Backpack Program**. Bring some food with you when you come: The best food focuses on food pairings that will make it easier for children to prepare meals, such as:

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

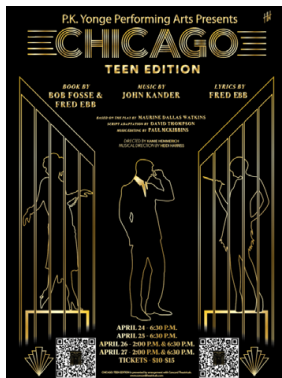


Thanks to the leadership of Karen Thomas, we'll see you there tonight!. Together, we can help fight food insecurity for kids in our community!



RYE student playing male lead in Chicago: Teen Edition

By Dan Rodkin



Victor Malmgren, the Rotary Youth Exchange student our club is hosting, has been cast as Billy Flynn, the male lead in PK Yonge's spring musical, *Chicago: Teen Edition*, which plays from April 24-27. He is one of the two students playing this role; Victor will be performing at three shows: Thursday, April 24 (6:30 PM), Saturday, April 26 (6:30 PM), and Sunday, April 27 (2:00 PM). Sunrise Rotary Club members are encouraged to purchase tickets to see the show and to support Victor: <https://pkyonge.ufl.edu/business/ticket-purchases/>.

Rotary Youth Exchange Student Reaching His Goal

By Dan Rodkin

Back in January, when I took Victor kayaking to see manatees, I asked him about his goals for the year – specific things he wanted to see or do during his year in the US – that were still pending. The only goal he had set for which he did not have a plan to complete was to shoot a gun at a firing range. Last Wednesday, he could check that item off that list! Victor, along with his host family, received a full tour of the Santa Fe College Institute for Public Safety (IPS) and completed a firing arms demonstration with shotgun, pistol, and machine gun. They also participated in the 270-degree immersive simulation room. Below are photos from the experience. Also shown is Jerry Hunter, Associate Director of the IPS.



Celebrity Bingo Event at Gianna's Place

By Cindy L Hooker

New member, Cindy Hooker, would like the opportunity to speak with you about being a sponsor of our upcoming fundraising event for Gianna's Place? If so, please give me a call, 352-810-0954 or email me at chooker@giannasplace.org. We are rolling out the red carpet for our Celebrity Bingo Event on National Bingo Day! Join us for a thrilling evening of Bingo, raffles, and fantastic prizes, all in support of Gianna's Place. Whether you're a bingo pro or a first-timer, this is your chance to play for a purpose—all while dressed to impress!

Gianna's Place is committed to empowering women in higher education who are navigating the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy. Our mission is to provide housing, resources and support necessary for them to confidently continue their academic journey and achieve their goal of graduation. With a strong community network, we strive to create a culture where no woman has to choose between motherhood and education.



Bryan Harrington in Estes Park, Colorado

By Bryan Harrington

Here's a photo from Estes Park, CO featuring the Rotary wheel on the town's overlook entrance monument. I was in CO with my oldest daughter, Kiley, along with 28 others, including a mix of junior and senior high school students, college students, young adults and adult leaders on a mission trip with Westside Baptist Church.



Quote of the Week March 27, 2025



Wisdom Waves

"A body of men holding themselves
accountable to nobody ought not to
be trusted by anybody."

Thomas Paine

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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