



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

February 27, 2025

[Freddie Wehbe](#)
Domino's Pizza,
Spurrier's Gridiron
Grill and Florida
Victorious

March 06, 2025

[Margot DeConna](#)
Food4Kids Backpack
program

March 13, 2025

[Theresa Beachy](#)
Center for Non-profit
Excellence
(Community
Foundation of NCF)

March 20, 2025

[Harvey Ward](#)
Mayor of Gainesville

March 27, 2025

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

This Week: Gainesville Business Leader Freddie Wehbe to Speak

Our meeting this week will feature Freddie Wehbe, a Gainesville business leader and philanthropist known for his impact in marketing, entrepreneurship, and community service.

Wehbe founded Gator Domino's in 1995, growing it into one of the most successful Domino's franchises in the world before selling it in 2016. He now leads Wehbe Marketing and Make It Happen Consulting, working with clients in sports, finance, and hospitality, including the University of Florida and the Florida Gators.

A dedicated community advocate, Wehbe serves on the boards of SouthState Bank, Oak Hall School, and the Cade Museum. His philanthropic work includes Children's Miracle Network, Ronald McDonald House, and Bread of the Mighty Food Bank.

Freddie lives in Gainesville with his wife, Daurine, and their two sons, Ronnie and Dany

Join us to hear Wehbe share insights on leadership, business growth, and giving back. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of Gainesville's most influential entrepreneurs.



Events

March 6th
[Wild Game Feast](#)

March 11th
[Spring Social](#)

March 19th
[Board Meeting](#)

April 16th
[Board Meeting](#)

April 26th
[District 6970
Assembly](#)

May 14th
[Board Meeting](#)

June 6th
[District 6970
Conference](#)

June 11th
[Board Meeting](#)

Let the Good Times Roll: A Sneak Peek at President-Elect Bobbie's Year



Bobbie Robinson, queen of the party, decked out in Mardi Gras beads, gave us a festive preview of the year ahead.

Last week, President-elect Bobbie Robinson gave us a glimpse of the exciting year ahead under her leadership—and she made sure we looked the part, handing out Mardi Gras beads to all in attendance. Her message? *Let's get this party started!* Here's what's in store:

- Every holiday imaginable will be celebrated—including a month-long bash for America's 250th birthday next June.
- Expect some serious moments, too—Bobbie will emphasize learning about Rotary and the 4-Way Test. By year's end, we'll all know it and use it daily.
- Start brainstorming now for our next district grant—submissions are due April 1.
- Have ideas for club projects or membership growth? Bobbie wants to hear them!

It's going to be a year of celebration, growth, and impact—so grab your beads and get ready!

Get Your Wild Game Feast Tickets Now!



You have just a few days more to secure your Wild Game Feast tickets before prices go up! But individuals or purchase five and get one free! Contact Darleen Morgan or see her at our meeting this week. Act quickly because tickets go up to \$100 on the day of the event!

Wild Game Feast Prep Continues—Join Us for the Final Workday!



What a great turnout at the Wild Game Feast work day last Saturday! We got a LOT accomplished, and the site is looking great. Thanks to all who pitched in! Our next workday is this **Saturday, March 1**, following the same schedule—starting between 8-9 am and wrapping up with lunch, which we try to serve between 12 – 12:30 pm.

Tentative Agenda

- Spreading mulch
- Replacing a few dead plants
- Possible light wiring in the sponsor pavilion
- Assisting Colleen with washing, hanging, and prepping kettles at the veggie shack
- Rolling out, washing, and cleaning spools
- Washing tables, chairs, and remaining coolers
- Checking and possibly washing garbage cans
- Sorting and washing utensils and serving equipment with Kirk
- And more!

Wednesday, March 5, Day before event – needs TBD.

Workdays in general are a great time for fellowship, and picnic-style lunch with fellow Rotarians and other volunteers is an amazing time. Come and try it out this Saturday.

Matthew Braddy and the WGF Raffle Consolation Prizes



Thanks to all who are sponsoring, volunteering, selling event tickets and selling raffle tickets for next week's Wild Game Feast. Last week we were honored to have in our presence the Feast Master himself, Matthew Braddy. And he came with news that should put us all in good spirits!

For instance, the WGF raffle debuts multiple 2nd chance offers (2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place consolation prizes). So if you're not lucky enough to win the all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime to Western Europe, Iceland, Hawaii, or Alaska, you still might be able to score something like the special 40th anniversary WIF-branded aged bourbon that Matthew displays above. So buy more, with more chances to leave with a trip or something cool!

It's \$25/ticket, or 5 tickets for \$100. You don't even have to be present to win. Contact Darleen in our club and she will hook you up with tickets, or buy them at the Feast. See you there!

Feast Master Publishes List of Volunteer Opportunities

As promised, the much-anticipated Pre-Event and Event Volunteer Opportunities for the Wild Game Feast has been published. Grab your spot now by responding to feastmaster@rotarygainesville.org

REMINDER – ALL EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEED A TICKET!

Wednesday, March 5th – Pre-Event:

- **Table and Chair Setup** – 9 AM – 12 PM: **4 Volunteers Needed**
- **Tent Setup** – 9 AM – 12 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- **Meat Prep/Thawing** – 10 AM – 2 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Thursday, March 6th – Day of Event:

- **Wipe Down Tables, Chairs, and Table Covers:** **2 Volunteers Needed**

For all shifts, we will provide breaks for food consumption!

Parking:

- 3:30 PM – 6 PM: **4 Volunteers Needed**
- 6 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Ticket Sales:

- 4 PM – 7 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 5 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Will Call:

- 4 PM – 7 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 5 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Ticket Collection:

- 4 PM – 7 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 5 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Entry Coordinator:

- 4 PM – 7 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 5 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Raffle Sales:

- 4 PM – 7 PM: **3 Volunteers Needed**
- 5 PM – 8 PM: **3 Volunteers Needed**

Breading for Fry Line:

- 4 PM – 7 PM: **3 Volunteers Needed**

Wash Station:

- 4 PM – 6:30 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 6:30 PM – 9 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Dessert Prep/Serve:

- 3 PM – 5:30 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 5:30 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Chili Shack:

- 4 PM – 6 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 6 PM – 8 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**

Beer Barn:

(For sign-up, email feastmaster@rotarygainesville.org and mckeyd@bellsouth.net)

- 4 PM – 6 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed** (*shift includes setup*)
- 6 PM – 7 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed**
- 7 PM – 8:30 PM: **3 Volunteers Needed** (*shift includes clean-up*)

Wine Sommeliers:

(For sign-up, email feastmaster@rotarygainesville.org and Brendan.shortley.hh@gmail.com)

- 6:45 PM – 8:45 PM: **2 Volunteers Needed** (*shift includes clean-up*)

Pam Gretter, Dave Ferro Receive Recognitions from Watson Realty

TOP PRODUCERS!



Did you miss Sunrisers Dave Ferro and Pam Gretter at last week's breakfast meeting?

That's because they were at the Hyatt Place hotel in Vilano Beach for Watson Realty Corp's North Central Region annual awards luncheon. The pair walked away with several awards, with even more received by other Gainesville office associates.

Under Dave's leadership, Watson Realty Corp's Gainesville NW office received awards for first in the region in number of units sold and 2nd in dollar volume for 2024, outperforming offices in St. Augustine, Amelia Island, and north Jacksonville, among others.

And in individual categories, Pam received a President's Award, granted to associates who exceeded \$3,000,000 in dollar volume for 2024.

Congratulations Pam and Dave!!

Sunrise Rotary Club looking for high school students to send to RYLA

By Dan Rodkin

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a Leadership Conference held annually. It is designed for 100-125 high school students who have completed their sophomore or junior year. Students are selected by Rotary Clubs in District 6970; the Rotary Clubs select the students to send and pay the student registration fee, so the conference is free to the students.

The 2025 District 6970 RYLA will be June 6-8 at Stetson University in Deland. Please share this opportunity with eligible students, and encourage them to contact [Dan Rodkin](#) so we can select the students that will be sponsored this year. [Interested students may sign up directly at this link](#) by March 1, 2025.

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.

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!

From Here to There: Ron and Dianne's Next Chapter



WE'RE MOVING

March 16

Our new townhome address will be
3480 Rowcross Street, Crozet, VA 22932



come visit us soon

the Farbs

From London to Paris: A Week of Sights, Strolls, and Speedy Trains for the Catos

By James Cato

We successfully transferred from London to Paris using the Eurostar Chunnel Train, hitting top speeds of 150mph along the way. We spent a week in Paris seeing many of the same sights we had seen before, but some new ones also. About the time you read this, we will be making our way back from Paris to Gainesville. If you want more detailed information about any of these sights and others, [check out my timeline on Facebook](#).



Of course, one must visit The Musee du Louvre (again; was

The Eiffel Tower is a must see, and we saw it from afar as well as really close up. We took the Metropolitan (Metro) double decker subway from our neighborhood to the Eiffel Tower. The ticket was 2,50 euros which we gladly paid. We did not pay the 72 Euro fee to ride to the top to gaze over the rooftops of Paris.

there about 25 years ago). It is huge, an interesting contrast in architecture, and crowded. I saw Mona Lisa and got outta there quickly. Mona has not moved in 25 years and still has the same smile, or smirk, since no one knows what she was up to with that pesky Leonardo da Vinci while he was painting her portrait. No one will ever know (I can tell you for a price).



We took a long Metro ride to the northern part of Paris to Montmartre, one of my favorites of the places we visited. Montmartre is on a high hill overlooking Paris and is primarily known for the white-domed Basilica of the Sacre-Coeur on its summit, and as a nightclub district. There are lots of art galleries and the town square is full of artists selling their paintings; they will do an excellent sketch of you if you fork over 30 to 60 Euros.



We took a stroll down Rue Cler, which is a long pedestrian street with wonderful seafood, produce, flowers and other kinds of food and drink shops. Check out these colorful prawns priced at 58 Euros per Kg., or \$28 per pound.



Becky with a giant macaron in an upscale art gallery. This gallery now stands in place of a cabaret, where the French singer, Edith Piaf, sang in the naughty cabaret. Edith Piaf was Becky's mother's favorite singer.



Notre Dame De Paris has been mostly restored since the fire of five years ago. There is still some work ongoing on the exterior, but the interior makes something started in the 12th Century look really sparkling and brand new, compared to many of the dirty and dusty cathedrals in many other European cities. Over 340,000 donors contributed to fund the restoration.

Sunrise Rotary Spring Social Set for March 11

By Sherry Nungesser Houston



Mark your calendars! Our Sunrise Rotary Club is hosting a Spring Social on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Spurrier's Gridiron Grill.

Enjoy delicious appetizers and great company in a relaxed setting—it's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians and introduce a potential new member to the club.

This is our final chance to say good-bye to Ron and Dianne Farb, and a special send-off has been arranged!

Please RSVP to Sherry Houston at snhouston3@gmail.com to reserve your spot. We look forward to seeing you there!

Let's Get Behind Our Rotary Youth Exchange Student in PK Yonge's Chicago: Teen Edition

Our Rotary Youth Exchange student, Victor Malmgren, visited our meeting last week with exciting news—he'll be taking the stage this spring in PK Yonge's production of Chicago: Teen Edition!

This high school adaptation of the Broadway classic preserves the show's signature jazz-infused music and gripping story line while being tailored for younger performers. The musical follows Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly as they navigate fame, corruption, and scandal in 1920s Chicago, using the media and legal system to their advantage.

PK Yonge's performing arts program has a strong reputation for excellence, showcasing the dedication and talent of students and teachers alike. If you'd like to support Victor and his cast mates, sponsorship opportunities are available in the playbill. Options include:

- Full-page ad – \$75
- Half-page ad – \$50
- Quarter-page ad – \$25

New this year, students can also earn Thespian points through TV commercial sponsorships. [Download the sponsor form at this link for complete details.](#) Let's help Victor take full advantage of his year in the US and support him in this endeavor.



Dear Sponsor—
Funds raised through program ad sales support the talented students in our production of Chicago Teen Edition and future PKY Performing Arts Program events! Please return form with payment by April 1st to be featured in our playbill.

Make checks payable to University of Florida.

Please give ad information, graphic, and payment to the student, or email directly to khemmerich@pkv.ufl.edu

Advertising Size	# Ads	Amount	Total
Quarter page (7.5" x 7.5") GREAT FOR BUSINESS CARDS!		\$25	
Half page (7.5" x 15")		\$50	
Full page Sponsor Ad (15" x 17.5") Nice for personal messages!		\$75	
NEW! TV COMMERCIAL! Great deal & you help students earn Thespian points!		\$100	

Business Name: _____ Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Ad Copy: Included _____ OR Emailed from: _____

Credit for this ad sale goes to PKY Student: _____

Help Us Spark a Grant-Winning Idea—Time is Ticking!

Sunrise Rotarians, we're gearing up to apply for a Rotary District 6970 grant, but we need *your* ideas to make it happen! Whether it's a pressing community need, a potential partner, or a project with impact, we're looking for fresh, meaningful initiatives.

Think big—and think Rotary's areas of focus:

- Promoting Peace
- Providing Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- Supporting Education
- Saving Mothers and Children
- Fighting Disease
- Growing Local Economies
- Protecting the Environment

Don't delay—grant applications are due well before April 1, and the clock is ticking. Share your ideas at our next meeting or email them to Bobbie Robinson or Rory Causseaux ASAP. Let's turn inspiration into action!

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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