

# Rotary



## Club of Orange Park Sunrise

### Club Meeting

Orange Park Sunrise  
Meets at Club Continental  
2143 Astor St  
Orange Park, FL 32073-5624  
Time: Friday at 07:15 AM

### Events

April 4th  
[Orange Park Sunrise  
Weekly Club Meeting](#)

**Speaker:** District 6970  
Governor Mickey Ulmer

April 11th  
[Orange Park Sunrise  
Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** Coach Pickett  
**Subject:** Women's Soccer  
Coach of SJCDS State  
Champions

April 18th  
[Orange Park Sunrise  
Weekly Club Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** NO CLUB  
**MEETING:** GOOD FRIDAY

### Birthdays



[Vicki Gibbs Lee](#)  
April 19th

### Wedding Anniversaries



[Chris McNees](#)  
April 3rd



[Jenielle E.  
Holderfield](#)  
April 28th

## A WORD FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

### What's On My Mind:

I have had an interesting last two weeks. Doing research and reaching out about contacting past presidents (thanks Susan) and working on the agenda for the club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. This club has made an immeasurable impact for 25 years in Clay County. Can't wait to see all of you on Tuesday 15 April 6pm at Club Continental for the celebration.

-Duane Mallicoat, Club President



[Read More](#)

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Giving is living. What is important is how much of yourself you put into the giving. That is what makes the living sublime. – Rajendra K. Saboo

## CLUB 3RD ROTARIAN OF THE QUARTER RECOGNIZED

The club's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the quarter is Guy Lynch, the club's membership chair. His accomplishments included finishing the membership business cards, videos for the website of "why join rotary", and incorporating the club's new member mentoring program. When you see Guy, please congratulate him.



## DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISIT IS FRIDAY APRIL 4TH

The District Governor, Micky Ulmer, will be our guest speaker on Friday 4 April. Randy Robb will be doing the introductions and, thanks to Susan, we will be having omelets. The format of the meeting will be a little different.

### ***We hope to have 40 at the meeting!!!!***

- Our usual Openings
- Recognize our guests
- New Member Induction for Rich Carey
- Mickey as GS

Please plan to join us.

## WELCOME TO THE ORANGE PARK MALL HISTORY 101

If you missed last Friday, you missed an AWESOME History lesson. Back when Blanding was two lanes and Wells was a dirt road. Since it opened it has seen over 195,000,000 visitors. Remember the carousel??, and the fireworks, and, of course, Santa. Lots and lots of great history from the doors opening to today. Many thanks to Randy and Catharine. Awesome job by a fellow club Rotarian.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We will be starting up the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Flags for Heroes Event Planning. Yes, it will be at the Town of Orange Park Again. We plan to have a planning meeting zoom early in May followed by a second planning meeting with the other Clay County Rotary Clubs that wish to join us on our fundraising team. WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR NOW are more volunteers for the Planning Committee. So far we have Duane, Steve, Lee, Jenielle, Gordon, Linda, Brianna. We could use 4-6 more. Interested please see Duane or Steve.

## EYEING A MIRACLE

## Eyeing a miracle

Rotary clubs forge together to give the gift of sight to Bahamians

By Kyle Woodard  
kx@visionofvision.com

CLAY COUNTY – As Rotary members arrived at a Salvation Army center in the sunny Grand Bahama, they were met with a sight.

Hundreds of citizens wrapped around the building. Some had been standing for hours.

What were they waiting for? The chance to see.

In a partnership with the Rosani Lens Project and Bahamas Rotary Clubs, four local rotaries—the Rotary Club of Fleming Island, the Rotary Club of Green Cove Springs, the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Orange Park Noon – traveled to the city of Freeport early last month to provide vision tests and glasses to those who needed it the most.

The program, which ophthalmologist Dr. Benjamin Thomas founded in 2019, aims to expand children and adult access to vision care globally, according to the organization. 150 million people can't see, and sometimes glasses are all they need.

From Feb. 4 to Feb. 9, the group volunteered, giving eye exams and creating personalized glasses on-site – all for free.

Fleming Island Rotary Club member

Spring, the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Orange Park Noon – traveled to the city of Freeport early last month to provide vision tests and glasses to those who needed it the most.

The program, which ophthalmologist Dr. Benjamin Thomas founded in 2019, aims to expand children and adult access to vision care globally, according to the organization. 150 million people can't see, and sometimes glasses are all they need.

From Feb. 4 to Feb. 9, the group volunteered, giving eye exams and creating personalized glasses on-site – all for free.

Fleming Island Rotary Club member



In a partnership with the Rosani Lens Project and Bahamas Rotary Clubs, four local rotaries traveled to the city of Freeport to provide vision tests and glasses to those who needed it.

SEE ROTARY, 6

CLAY COUNTY – As Rotary members arrived at a Salvation Army center in the sunny Grand Bahama, they were met with a sight.

Hundreds of citizens wrapped around the building. Some had been standing for hours.

What were they waiting for? The chance to see.

In a partnership with the Rosani Lens Project and Bahamas Rotary Clubs, four local rotaries—the Rotary Club of Fleming Island, the Rotary Club of Green Cove Springs, the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise and the Rotary Club of Orange Park Noon – traveled to the city of Freeport early last month to provide vision tests and glasses to those who needed it the most.

The program, which ophthalmologist Dr. Benjamin Thomas founded in 2019, aims to expand children and adult access to vision care globally.

According to the organization, 150 million people can't see, and sometimes glasses are all they need.

From Feb. 4 to Feb. 9, the group volunteered, giving eye exams and creating personalized glasses on-site – all for free.

Fleming Island Rotary Club member Randy Robb said for the last three years that they've participated, the experience has been unlike anything he has seen.

"Everybody who's ever been wants to go back, every single person, because of how rewarding it is," Robb said.

During the open clinic, each person 13 years of age or older, was given a simple eye test, using a vision chart. Covering one eye with a hand, the patients were directed to call out each letter they saw. If they were below 20/30 vision, they moved on to the portable eye tester to get a better look at what was needed.

The numbers they received on that machine matched with the numbers on the lenses, providing an easy way to customize their glasses. From there, rotary members popped in the lens on a pair of neutral-fitting frames and retested the patient with new glasses on.

Robb said the results showed massive improvement.

"It's almost miracles," Robb said.

The partnership began back in 2022 after Robb said other members got involved following a presentation at a club meeting.

The first time they participated, he said, they only had 100 glasses and about 40 readers to give out.

The demand was palpable. Hundreds showed up, but they didn't have nearly enough.

The next year, they went with 200 glasses and 400 readers. He said they went through almost all of them.

Robb said this is because vision care is scarce there due to the costs.

In the Bahamas, revenue comes from imports. Without property taxes, income taxes or even sales taxes, everything is based on consumption.

This makes the costs of glasses go through the roof.

Robb said Grand Bahama only has two optometrists in total, making it hard for some to obtain an appointment.

"Optometry and ophthalmology is very scarce in the Bahamas," said Rotary Club of Green Cove Springs member Rianna Barbary. "Which is why what we're doing is so important, because they don't have [an] eye doctor on every corner there."

Another concerning factor: the sun.

Although the Caribbean is well known for its bright skies, Barbary said prolonged sun exposure is linked to cataracts.

"If we take sunglasses, they go in a heartbeat," Robb said.

As an optometric technician, Barbary works closely with vision care. She said seeing this was heartbreaking.

"They were maybe 40, 50 years old and they said this was their first eye exam," she said.

Her attendance on the trip was the group's first time having a professional join the cause. Helping

with the project fed her passion.

"You don't understand [that] something as small as a pair of glasses can be life-changing," she said. "We just take it for granted."

Rotary Club of Fleming Island member Preston Mangus said the look on their faces once they received the care was priceless, especially the children.

"Probably the most moving thing we do is set aside a day just for young people," he said. "So, we get a lot of students in. Ordinarily most of them, their eyesight is very good, but more than I'd expect have very bad eyesight."

He said that tears are inevitable.

"They've never been able to read anything on the blackboard, and they get ostracized a little bit because of that," Magnus said. "And when you put those glasses on them, everybody starts crying."

Robb said it's even more heartwarming seeing and hearing of people wearing the glasses months and years later. He said it speaks to the impact the rotaries are continuing to make not only in the community but internationally.

With hundreds served, the rotaries will be headed back to the island soon again with a variety of frames and lenses to go around – and a line of people who look forward to them every year.

## CATRINE AND GORAN: PROUD NEW U.S. CITIZENS

### Göran and Catrine: Proud New U.S. Citizens

After over 30 years in the U.S., we planned to renew our green cards—until USCIS suggested naturalization instead. Since green cards offer nearly the same benefits as citizenship (except voting), we hadn't considered it before.

Renewing a green card takes 18–24 months, while naturalization took just 10! After passing our interview and Naturalization Test, we proudly took our oath on March 28. Now, my present Swedish wife is officially my first American wife—something to think about!



## INTERACT CLUB AT RIDGEVIEW NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

On April 7th, The Interact Club at Ridgeview High are decorating totes to be delivered to shut-ins at a Life Care Center.

What they need from our club:

1. permanent fabric markers
2. plain colored totes
3. hand towels with cute colors & patterns.

Please bring these items to the next two Fridays Meetings.

Thanks for your help.

## ART AUCTION IS LIVE! PLACE YOUR BIDS TODAY



We are thrilled to announce the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise's first-ever virtual art auction! This virtual event brings the excitement of the auction straight to your screen, allowing you to participate from the comfort of your own home. All proceeds from the auction will support the club's vital community service projects. We are proud to feature an exquisite collection of artwork generously donated by Rotarian Ronnie Munsey.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE AUCTION SITE](#)

## CLUB UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- Friday 4 April DG visit and omelets
- Friday 4 April is the last day to sign up for the 25th anniversary celebration.
- Friday 4 April: Last day to provide markers, totes, and hand towels for the Ridgeview Interact.
- Wednesday 9 April: Rotary Club OP Sunrise Community Service Day at the Clay Fair.
- Friday 18 April: **NO MEETING, Good Friday.**
- Friday 25 April: Meeting will be at the Eagle Harbor Tennis Club.
- Friday – Sunday 25-27 April: Tennis 4 Cancer. We Still need volunteers.

## INVITATION TO SYMPHONY NIGHT IN PALATKA-A SPECIAL ROTARY EVENT



I am excited to invite you and your Rotarians to a special evening of music and culture at our upcoming Symphony Night in Palatka, presented by the Rotary Club of Palatka. This one-night-only event will feature the renowned Gainesville Orchestra, under the direction of Evans Haile, performing a stunning program, including Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, and selections from Disney's Aladdin.

This is more than just a concert—it is an opportunity for Rotarians from across the region to come together in support of the arts, cultural enrichment, and community engagement. It will also be the last major performance at the venue before its renovation, making this a truly historic occasion.

### Event Details

Date: Friday, April 18, 2025

Location: St. Johns River State College Auditorium, Palatka, FL

VIP & General Reception: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Doors Open: 7:30 PM

Concert Begins: 8:00 PM

### Ticket Options

VIP Ticket – \$100 (Includes hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine, and an exclusive meet-and-greet with the Maestro)

Premium Seating – \$60 (Reserved seating with optimal views)

General Admission – \$40 (Includes up to two complimentary drinks)

Student Ticket – \$25 (Discounted admission for students with valid student ID)

Tickets available here: [Symphony Night in Palatka: Tickets](#)

Event Info: <https://www.facebook.com/share/18PTxo72DA/>

This event is a great opportunity for clubs to attend together, bring guests, or use it as a special Rotary fellowship night. We encourage clubs to consider reserving group tickets and making this a Rotary-wide celebration of the arts. I would love to see our regional Rotary clubs well-represented for

this evening of music and community. Please feel free to share this invitation with your Rotarians and let me know if you or your club would like to attend.

For ticket reservations or additional information, please contact me at [ccalderonrx@gmail.com](mailto:ccalderonrx@gmail.com) or 352-502-9251.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this extraordinary event.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
Christian Calderon  
President, Rotary Club of Palatka  
[ccalderonrx@gmail.com](mailto:ccalderonrx@gmail.com) | 352-502-9251

## 2025 TENNIS 4 CANCER SPONSORSHIP LETTER



January 29, 2025

Sponsors, Players and Patrons,

We're pleased to announce the Tennis 4 Cancer Eagle Harbor Doubles Championships will be held April 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

This past year's event was one for the record books! We received almost \$40,000 in sponsorships, and a donation in the amount of \$50,000 (total revenue) was made to The American Cancer Society/Hope Lodge. It is because of Sponsors like yourself who have shown to be as dedicated to this event as we are. This year these funds will once again be used to help defray the ongoing transportation expenses incurred in assisting Hope Lodge guests. Currently Hope Lodge is at full capacity, and 50% of the guests will require transportation services.

In the 14 years since the inaugural event in 2010, the tournament has raised over \$500,000 to help local cancer patients and local charities.

Through the loyalty of sponsors and participants, event proceeds have supported the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge at Mayo Clinic as well as hundreds of grants to local individuals and institutions in support of the Rotary mission. That mission consists of Promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Providing Clean Water, Saving Mothers and Children, Supporting Education, Growing Local Economies, and protecting the environment.

We are more than halfway in our promise to assist in underwriting transportation costs of \$100,000, which will go towards the lease or purchase of vehicles to support the Hope Lodge Mission. We would appreciate any sponsorship or donations to help us achieve this goal.

The Tennis 4 Cancer Committee is a collaborative effort of the Eagle Harbor Tennis Community and the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise. Each year roughly 300 tennis players from all over the North Florida, and their friends join the Rotary Club in participating in this event.

There are several ways to participate:

- Become a Tournament Sponsor
- Donate an item for auction
- Donate an item for the raffle
- In-kind donations of food or drink for the tournament

All donations may be mailed to:  
Tennis 4 Cancer  
2169 Autumn Cove Cir.  
Fleming Island FL 32003

With Thanks,

James Ellison | Tournament Chairperson  
[james.a.ellison@gmail.com](mailto:james.a.ellison@gmail.com) | (904) 318-0382

Erica Washkill | Sponsorship Chairperson  
[ewashkill@yahoo.com](mailto:ewashkill@yahoo.com) | (904) 422-5530

Josie Schiazza | Auction and Raffle Chairperson  
[josieschiazza@gmail.com](mailto:josieschiazza@gmail.com) | (904) 866-2581

Tennis 4 Cancer is operated under the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise Charities Inc., a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization. Tax ID Number 83-00500212, Florida Sales Tax Exemption Certificate Number 85-801568899C-8

Sponsorship Information: <https://www.tennis4cancer.org/sponsor-info>

## T4C ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



EAGLE HARBOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS- April 25,26,27 2025

#### What will you be doing?

Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs all weekend. Whether it is registration, tournament management, food service, event set up, traffic control, match official, or many other exiting jobs, **WE NEED YOU!** All Proceeds go toward The American Cancer Society and Rotary Club Charity Missions.

**TO SIGN UP**

[www.Tennis4cancer.org](http://www.Tennis4cancer.org)



For Youth Volunteers



<https://www.tennis4cancer.org/>



## THIS WEEK AT THE CLAY CHAMBER

As the club is a member of the Clay Chamber, we want to encourage you to enjoy the benefits of our membership by attending some of their functions. Remember to indicate that you are a member of Rotary Club Orange Park Sunrise when you register.

Click the calendar link for a complete list of events.

<https://business.claychamber.com/events>



## PICTURES FROM FRIDAY'S CLUB MEETING

Where you captured in the spot light?







Click the link for more images brought to you by Linda Reynolds :) [Read More](#)

## ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI), MAY 3RD

Our next **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)** is a great opportunity for presidents and presidents-elect to strengthen their clubs:

- Saturday, May 3
- 8 AM to 3 PM
- Daytona State College at **Deland**

Please encourage your new members and new leaders to attend so your club starts the new year well. Here are some quotes from our most recent RLI graduates about why members should attend:

- "Know what Rotary is."
- "Network and hear different ideas."
- "Learn that Rotary is way bigger than your club."
- "Self-confidence: I can now present good ideas to my club."

We've attached a Table Flyer for use at your meetings. Our facility at Deland is limited, so register now to reserve your spot.

**There are three ways for members to register:**

- Use your phone to scan the QR code on the attached flyer.
- Use DACdb's calendar in the "district" tab.
- Use the link, below.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Your members will need to use their DACdb login to sign in and register.

**ROTARY LEARNING LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

**Join the Next RLI & Transform Your Rotary Experience!**  
Connect with fellow Rotarians and explore how Rotary can impact your club, your community—and you. Don't miss out—register for the next RLI today!

Daytona State College-Deland. 1155 County Rd 4139  
**Saturday, May 3 | 8 AM-3 PM**

**District 6970 Home**

**Welcome to District 6970**

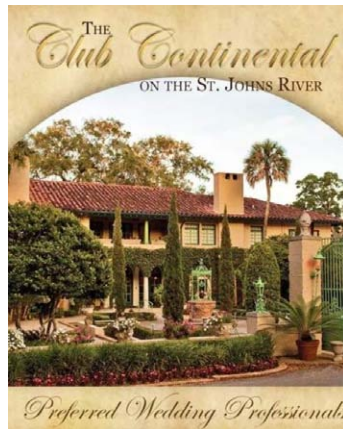
**Rotary**  
District 6970





Click here for up-to-date information: <https://rotarydistrict6970.org/>

## CLUB CONTINENTIAL



### "Spread The Word"

The Club Continental is now offering **25% off weddings and receptions** (Friday, Saturdays & Sundays) for dates between **January 2025 – Sept. 2025!!!**

Hurry as **dates are limited** and on a first-come, first-served basis! For those planning a more intimate affair, we also offer **micro-weddings and elopement packages** offered mid-week and booked within **4 months of the date!**

**Reservations are required** and we will require credentials. You can reach the club at (904) 264-6070 to make reservations.

**Come, be a part of our history!!!**

## NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT: WASTE NOTE-WANT NOT

This year, Waste Not Want Not is celebrating 35 years of fighting hunger and poverty in our community. To commemorate this significant milestone, they will be holding several fundraising events throughout the year. For a full list of events please visit: <https://wastenotflorida.org/help-fight-hunger/fundraisers/>

Their next event is their Spring Yard Sale featuring new and gently used products. The sale will be held on:

April 4, 2025 - 8am -7pm

April 5, 2025 - 8am -1pm

at:

Challenge Enterprises Plaza, 500 Kingsley Avenue in Orange Park.

This indoor yard sale is a great way to spend your tax refund while supporting Waste Not's mission!! All proceeds from the sale will ensure Waste Not is able to continue to rescue food to fight hunger.

