Rotary Club of Thomasville

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Rotary Fact: What is the Rotary Foundation?

The Rotary Foundation is the non-profit arm of Rotary International, created in 1917 to support humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs that foster world understanding and peace. It is funded by volunteer contributions from Rotarians and others. The Foundation funds projects through grants, with major initiatives including the fight to end polio. Its motto is “Doing Good in the World."

Tomorrow

Hannah M. Palmquist to Speak on Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors

Our Rotary program tomorrow (Thursday, Nov. 5) will focus on the domestic sex trafficking of minors, both at the state level and more broadly across the southern United States. This is an issue many do not expect to find in our own backyard, but sadly, it is not an uncommon problem.

We are pleased to welcome **Hannah M. Palmquist** as our speaker. In 2019, Attorney General Chris Carr appointed Hannah to establish the state's human trafficking prosecution unit. Prior to that appointment, she developed a specialty in prosecuting cases that are notoriously difficult to prosecute, particularly special victims cases. She stood up the human trafficking unit and has recently moved into a new role within the Attorney General's office.

MEETINGS

November is Rotary Foundation Month

11/5	Hannah Palmquist: Human Trafficking in Georgia and across the Southeast
11/12	Thanksgiving Meeting at Vashti
11/19	Second Harvest: Sort & Pack Produce
11/26	Happy Thanksgiving – No Meeting

EVENTS

11/6	61st Annual Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend
11/9	Board Meeting @ Chamber of Commerce
11/18	Coffee Chat
11/19	Wine or Whine
11/21	Fresh Produce Market at Weston Park
12/3	Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction Finale

LEADERSHIP

President	Joe Tarver
President-Elect	Chandler Giddes
Immediate PP	Nathaniel Tyler
Treasurer	Teri White
Secretary	Angela Williamson
Executive Secretary/Director	Mary Beth Donalson
Past President	Wayne Newsome

Directors

Public Image	David Sofferin
Foundation	Tony Lloyd



Here is more information about Hannah and the human trafficking unit:

- An overview of the Human Trafficking Unit
- Hannah's Background
- Recent Announcement

Friday, Nov. 6

GRSP Picnic

Thomasville will host a GRSP student lunch on Friday, Nov. 6 as part of the **61st Annual Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend** at the Pebble Hill Learning Center.

Talk to **Debbie Goodman** if you would like to participate and have not signed up yet.

Membership	Arthur Wigfall
Service Projects	Melanie Cromartie
Youth Service	Stephan Thompson
Admin	Sally Bowman

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
The Plaza Restuarant
217 Broad St
Thomasville, GA 31792

ROTARY ONLINE

https://thomasvillerotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

YEARS OF SERVICE

11/4	Carol Jones (22)
11/6	Ronald Salter (18)
11/8	Renee Oliveto (19)
11/10	Morgan Bailey (10)
11/14	Katie Chastain (2)
11/29	Tom Harrison, Jr. (25)
12/1	Scott Rich (49)
12/1	Tom Shaw (4)
12/1	Brigit Smallridge (4)

Monday, Nov. 9

Board Meeting

5:15 p.m., Chamber of Commerce

The board will meet **Monday, Nov. 9 at 5:15 p.m.** at the Chamber of Commerce. All directors and/or their deputies should attend and send reports to their fellow board members at least a day in advance for review.



Members are welcome to attend. In fact, all red-ribbon members are required to attend at least one board meeting during their time as a red-ribbon member.

Rotary Online Auction & Holiday Party

Our third annual online auction begins next week and we need your help to make it our best auction yet. Once the auction is live, please bid on items and share various items up for bid with your social media networks!

The auction benefits the Big Impact Project, supporting fresh produce markets — which distributed **70,000 pounds of food last year,** provides vegetable grow bags at two markets each year, and more.

Items available on auction will include:

- **10 vacation stays**, including in the mountains, at the beach, and local stays
- Guns
- A band performance at your next event
- Lessons for tennis, fly fishing, and Mahjong
- Athletic pursuits including a pickle ball session at a private court, a YMCA family membership for a year, and hot yoga sessions
- Infrared sauna visits
- A Taste of Thomasville food tour
- A Vespa scooter
- Ceramic art

Other ways you can help: If you would like to help underwrite the costs of the auction and our closing

holiday party, please connect with **Marta Jones-Turner** or auction team members **Marcy Sizemore, Gretchen Bickel, Mary Beth Donalson, Laura Pike, Kellie Merck, James Bue, Arthur Wigfall** or **David Sofferin**. Underwriters will be featured on the auction website and on social media posts.

Additionally, if you have anything to add to the auction, this is your last opportunity to have it included. Contact a member of the auction committee ASAP.



The auction will end on **Thursday, Dec. 3** at our annual holiday party. RSVP for the event **here**.

Thursday, Nov. 12

Annual Thanksgiving Celebration at Vashti

On Thursday, Nov. 12, we'll host our annual Thanksgiving meeting at Vashti. Since our club's founding in 1921, we've supported Vashti in various ways, including this traditional Thanksgiving meeting. Members who choose to do so often make a contribution to the center for the children who benefit from the mission and services of Vashti.



Please join us to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal, an update from Vashti executive director Suzanne Litherland, a Wildlife Arts Festival update, and the induction of two new members to our club.

Thursday, Nov. 19

Wine or Whine

November's Wine or Whine will be Thursday, Nov. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at President Joe Tarver's home. **Please RSVP** by logging into thomasvillerotary.org or text Sally Bowman at 229.220.8123.

We look forward to gathering together and enjoying a relaxed evening with friends.



Gridiron Challenge

Repeat upset weekend for some teams! Everyone picked Ohio State to win! And they did not. The Baylor vs UCF had most people picking the loser, UCF!!

On a brighter note, both Thomasville High and Thomas County Central are region champs!! Proud of our local high school teams.

We had 2 new weekly winners. Stay tuned for Thursday's announcement! Don't forget, weekly winners take home $20 in downtown dollars!

The Touchdown Divas did it again!!! Keep up the great work ladies!!



Turn in your sheets to Janet by 6 p.m. Thursday. She'll have copies at the back table at tomorrow's meeting.

Saturday, Jan. 30

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)

You are cordially invited to attend the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2027, at Southern Regional Technical College.

RLI offers a valuable, ongoing learning experience for both new and seasoned Rotarians, providing opportunities to strengthen leadership skills, deepen your understanding of Rotary, and connect with fellow members.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to grow as a leader and enhance your impact in Rotary and your community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Arthur Wigfall
Membership Director

Calendar

Calendar is subject to changes. View the full **Rotary calendar** anytime and:

- Add individual **calendar items** to your personal calendar.
- **Subscribe to the Rotary calendar** for automatic updates.

Attend a club meeting via Zoom. Meeting ID: 867 7770 1621