Rotary Club of Thomasville

Newsletter

MARCH 10, 2026

Price Increases

To account for increasing costs, the price for lunch for guests has increased from $15 to $20 each, beginning at our first March meeting this year at the Plaza. Lunch for guests has been $15 since 2022, but our costs for lunch have increased incrementally over that time.

Additionally, international and district Rotary fees have increased, but the Thomasville club has not increased dues since 2015. The board of directors is considering a dues increase to accommodate these higher dues and higher costs of living.

District Learning Assembly

Discover the Future of Rotary

Make plans now to attend the **District Learning Assembly** (formerly District Training Assembly).

April 11, 2026
8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Columbus Convention & Trade Center – Historic Ironworks
801 Front Avenue, Columbus, Ga.

This assembly is designed for current and incoming club leaders, committee chairs, and all Rotarians who want to strengthen their clubs and increase their impact. Connect, grow, and lead with your fellow Rotarians! Topics include:

- Rotary's Action Plan, Membership, Public Image, Service Projects, Club Administration, and the Rotary Foundation
- Comprehensive Leadership Training
- Community Service Project Insights and Template

You need to register and attend this assembly if you will be an officer or director in 2026-2027. The Thomasville club will reimburse the fees for any of our members who attend. Some of our club members will travel to Columbus on Friday evening, and some will leave early Saturday morning. Carpooling can be arranged.

MEETINGS

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

3/12	Kurt Stringfellow: TU President
3/19	Second Harvest: Pack & Sort Produce
3/26	Dr. Czaky, Son of First Generation GRSP Student
4/2	Chris White: City Manager
4/9	Easter Seals Southern Georgia
4/16	Second Harvest: Sort & Pack Produce
4/23	GRSP Student Farewell
4/30	Orvis, by Truel Myers

EVENTS

3/17	Honoring our local Heroes- Thomasville Police & Thomas Co Sheriff
3/18	Coffee Chat
3/21	Fresh Produce Market at Weston Park
3/21	The Ritz Music Festival
3/26	Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend
3/27	GRSP Lunch at Pebble Hill
4/6	Vashti Student Luncheon at Gentian Creek
4/15	Coffee Chat

LEADERSHIP

President	Nathaniel Tyler
President-Elect	Joe Tarver
Immediate PP	Marta Jones-Turner
Vice President	Joe Tarver
Treasurer	Warren Ballard
Secretary	Anne Candelaria Flores
Executive Secretary/Director	Teri White

Hotel Recommendation
Hampton Inn Columbus Downtown
1201 Broadway Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901, 706-507-4204

Thursday, March 12

TU President Kurt Stringfellow

Kurt Stringfellow will be our guest speaker at this week's Rotary meeting. Kurt has been a long-time member of the team at Thomas University and recently was named president of the university. He'll provide an update about TU, its students, and its impact on the Thomasville community.



Remember: Regular club meetings are at the Plaza again, beginning with the first meeting of March. See you there!

Tuesday, March 17

Heroes Cookout: Police and Sheriff's Department

Rotary will host a cookout honoring local police and sheriff's department personnel – heroes of our community – Tuesday, March 17. That's St. Patrick's Day, so be sure to put on your green and come on out to support our police and sheriff's department personnel.

Past President	Wayne Newsome
Past President	André Marria

Directors

Club President Nominee	Chandler Giddes
Public Image	David Sofferin
Foundation	Jason Goldman
Membership	Arthur Wigfall
Service Projects	Melanie Cromartie
Youth Service	Chandler Giddes
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

3/19	Angela Williamson (11)
3/19	Copper Comita (6)
3/19	John Comita, Jr. (6)
3/20	William Felts (12)
3/22	Irene Gleason (14)
3/24	Janet Liles (10)
3/27	Rankin Smith, Jr. (12) 26 years in Rotary
3/31	Gregory Adams (10) 54 years in Rotary
4/1	Andy Vann (37)
4/1	William Blackburn (50)

The BBQ will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jail Justice Center on Smith Avenue. Rotarians who are not involved in cooking need to arrive by 11 a.m.



Wednesday, March 18

Coffee Chat

Join us Wednesday, March 18 at Grassroots Coffee anytime between **7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.** for a cup of coffee and a casual conversation with fellow Rotarians! Stay long enough to enjoy breakfast and get to know your fellow Rotarians better or grab your coffee to go. No agenda, no program.



Thursday, March 19 and Saturday, March 21

Sort, Pack & Distribute Fresh Produce

The club will meet on **Thursday, March 19** at **11:30 a.m.** at Second Harvest Food Bank to pack food boxes for this month's fresh produce distribution. After we finish packing, enjoy a box lunch with the team or grab one to go. Please join us!



We'll distribute our fresh produce boxes on **Saturday, March 21** at Weston Park. Set-up begins at **7:30 a.m.**, and distribution begins at 8:30 a.m. or as soon as we are ready. This month, our distribution will include tomato plants in grow bags, so we'll need all hands on deck to help. Please join us. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or trying it out for the first time, we'd love to see you there. Bring your energy, your smile, and maybe a friend or two!



Volunteer: Saturday, March 21

Thomasville Ritz Music Festival

Volunteers are needed for the **Thomasville R.E.A.D. Foundation** and Rotary Club of Thomasville's inaugural **Thomasville Ritz Music Festival** on Saturday, March 21. All volunteers will receive free entrance to the festival. Volunteer slots are available in two-hour segments and all volunteer jobs are simple:

- Band Attendant
- Check in at Hubs & Hops
- Check in at VIP
- Check in at Jackson St.
- Drink/Raffle Ticket at Hubs & Hobs
- Drink/Raffle Ticket at Jackson St.
- Patio at T'Velo
- Unvacant Lot Security

Come volunteer with friends and enjoy a fun music festival!

The Ritz Music Festival will feature an incredible variety of music performances – country, R&B, country rock, pop, southern soul funk, and music from some of the best DJs in the Southeast – and proceeds will power R.E.A.D's literacy initiatives and support other life-changing programs and partnerships for children in K-12 schools in our community.

To become a sponsor or for more information about the festival, contact Stephan Thompson (404.488.2761). To volunteer, contact Angela Williamson (229.977.2657) or **sign up here**.



GRSP Update



This year's deadline to contribute to the GRSP Foundation – *and keep our club in position to potentially win the* ***Jake Cheatham Award*** *for the 17th consecutive year at District Conference in April* – is March 18. Please get your donations in now so that our club can get our final donation of the year submitted in time. **To make a donation:** Write a check to GRSP and either give it to a board member at the check-in table at a club meeting or mail it to Thomasville Rotary Club, P.O. Box 1277, Thomasville, GA 31799.

Additionally, GRSP will be the focus of our **Thursday, March 26** meeting, with **Dr. Czaky**, the son of a first-generation GRSP student as our guest speaker. He'll share interesting recollections and talk about how GRSP shaped his family.

Then, on **Friday, March 27**, Thomasville will host the **Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend** luncheon at Pebble Hill. There will be 40-50 international students at Pebble Hill for lunch that day and last year's group raved about their lunch with local Rotarians during their busy four-day weekend in the area. Please join us for lunch that day so that we can pair more Rotarians with smaller groups of students and see GRSP in action.

Questions: Contact Debbie Goodman at dgoodman@116dawson.com or (229) 227-8249.