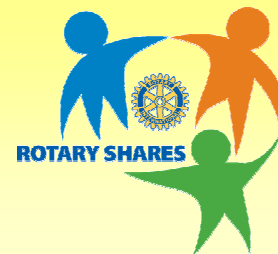


It's a Small, Small World

District 6900 Newsletter

November 2007



Bill's Calendar

Watch for sightings of Governor Bill this month as he travels the roads of District 6900!

NOVEMBER

- 1 CAMILLA
- 3 GRSP—SANDY SPRINGS/ALPHARETTA
- 6 SMYRNA
- 7 JOHNS CREEK-NORTH
FULTON
- 8 QUITMAN
- 9 DUNWOODY
- 13 THOMASTON-UPSON
- 15 FORSYTH MORROW
- 20 NORTH FULTON (THE END
AND THE BEGINNING ...)
- 22 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- 24 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



DECEMBER

- 14 DUNWOODY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
- 21 JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JANUARY

- 18 GRSP ONE PERSON, ONE GROUP MAKING
A DIFFERENCE — WEEKEND IN ATLANTA
- 12 ASSISTANT GOVERNOR TRAINING FOR
2008-2009
- 19 FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Special Foundation Insert

Maddox Woulfin may have become a Paul Harris Fellow at an earlier age than anyone else in District 6900, but he's far from being the only recent addition to the ranks of those supporting our Rotary Foundation. See the special "insert" in honor of Foundation month — a special tribute and "thanksgiving" for the people who are helping to make a difference in the world.

Our Rotary Foundation ... Making a World of Difference

This month is the month I enjoy the most. I get to ask you to give to the Rotary Foundation. I have been to most of the clubs at this point and **you should know how I feel about the Rotary Foundation. It is the heart of our organization.** I believe we have an obligation to give to the Foundation every year. EREY is not optional, the amount you give is. Every Rotarian has an obligation to give to the Foundation every year. It is an obligation we accept when we join Rotary.



We often give what our clubs ask us to give. I ask you to give what you can. The \$1000 it takes to become a Paul Harris Fellow is the start down the right path; but, it is a start; it is not the finish. This District leads the world in Paul Harris Society members. This requires that you give \$1000 per year to the Foundation until you become a major donor. We have 212 Paul Harris Society members in our District. We are trying to reach 250 before the end of the Rotary year. This District leads the world in Level 4 Major Donors (over \$100,000). The District leads the world in active multi-million dollar projects. All of this is due to your generosity in supporting your Rotary Foundation. Let's continue to show the world that District 6900 is the best.

When you decide the level you feel is best for you, **consider this – a US \$1000 contribution provides one of the following:**

- ◆ Cataract surgery for 40 people in India
- ◆ 60 desks for a school in Mexico
- ◆ Basic medicine for 20 clinics in Indonesia
- ◆ Textbooks for 10 schools in Zambia
- ◆ 10,000 trees to help reforest an area in Guatemala
- ◆ 10 hearing aids for deaf children in Pakistan
- ◆ Construction materials for a deep bore well in India
- ◆ A tree nursery for 5000 trees in Jamaica
- ◆ Mattresses, pillows and blankets to 100 children in Bangladesh
- ◆ Vaccine to fully immunize 2000 children against Polio

The needs are great and the list goes on forever, but it is up to us to shorten the list. Be generous with your Foundation giving this month.

I want to close with this Ralph Waldo Emerson quote that was used by a Past District Governor in his speeches: *"To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affections of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!"*

That's what Rotary is all about and that is "Why I am a Rotarian."

Check the District website. **The District Conference registration is available.** Do it now. Don't wait until the last minute. It is going to be the best conference the District has ever had.

Hope you are having a great year.

BILL

District 6900 Support of Georgia Special Olympics ... An Update

From Softball in LaGrange ...

On September 29, 20 Special Olympic softball teams traveled to LaGrange to participate in ANTS (Athletes Named Troup Special) Softball Fall Bash which was sponsored by the **Rotary Club of LaGrange**.



According to LaGrange Rotarian, Jim Boyd who coordinated the event, "We had 240 athletes participate in the Bash. It was a great day of fun not only for the athletes but for the numerous Rotarians who came out and volunteered their time." Rotarians keep track of the score, serve concessions, provide live play-by-play announcing, present awards and cheer on the teams. Jeff Todd, President of the LaGrange Rotary Club summed it up best: "Volunteering to help with the Softball Fall Bash was one of the rewarding things I have ever done. It was a real pleasure to watch, cheer and celebrate with the athletes. They all gave 110% and reminded us of what being a good sport is all about." Special congratulations to all the athletes and to Jim Boyd from the LaGrange Club who organized the event.



Financial support for Special Olympics from the clubs in District 6900 now exceeds \$25,000. Watch for more news next month! And share stories of your Special Olympics activities!

To 4th Annual Special Olympic Bocce Invitational in Camilla



The small town of Camilla was filled with over 400 Special Olympians on September 15 as the town hosted the Bocce Invitational. The **Camilla Rotary Club** has been the primary sponsor of the event for the entire four years. The club not only volunteers in any way to assist

with the event, but also provides lunch to the 400 athletes in attendance. This is a big undertaking and a tremendous help to the organizers of the event. This year, two Rotarians from Camilla also competed in the Unified Competition. Club President, Carl Shiver competed with athlete Arthur Dukes and they brought home the gold medal. Rotarian Judge Rick Waters competed with athlete Travis Dixon and they won the bronze.



The Special Olympic coordinator for the event, Shari Hogan, states that "the Rotary Club is a huge help. Without their help throughout the last four years, this event would not have been possible". It was a great day for the community, the athletes in attendance and the Camilla Rotary Club.

Pres. Carl Shiver with his Bocce partner, Arthur Dukes and the second one is of Carl and fellow Rotarian Judge Waters, who both competed in the event as an Unified Partner.

Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

District Literacy Celebration Set For Rotary's 103rd Birthday ... February 23, 2008

Literacy in District 6900 resembles a tapestry – with the threads varied in length, texture, and design. The weaving sparkles. The quality of projects and seemingly endless energy and commitment to literacy demonstrated in the individual clubs are striking. What can we do with our great body of experience and our abundance of projects that will advance the work for literacy in Rotary? We can gather together and share!

Rotary at Work for Literacy is on Saturday, February 23, 2008. It is a District 6900 project to share the work of literacy and to celebrate 103 years of Rotary. This event is a **one-day gathering of literacy representatives from each club.** We are delighted that it is being held in the Cyprus Room at The Carter Center in Atlanta. The primary purpose of Rotary at Work for Literacy is to highlight, cross fertilize, and inspire the work of literacy in District 6900. Each club is being asked to display, in a choice of designated formats, a favorite literacy project. Watch for more details



Email your news for the November newsletter to cuthbert@mindspring.com by November 24

We plan to publish the newsletter by December 1. Send stories about interesting projects or people as Word documents or in the body of an email — we want photos too. We'll take care of the formatting and print as much as we can based on timing and the electronic file size!

The photo with District Governor Bill is of him receiving a check from the Dunwoody Club in support of the Rotary at Work for Literacy conference on Feb 23. The t-shirt is the shirt to be received by all attendees at the event. The second photo is the Rotary Club of Henry County supporting the event with a check to Rotary District 6900 for \$100.



Interact Making a Difference

Celebrating Literacy With Gifts That Count



The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City and Counterpane's Interact Club** celebrate literacy by giving the gift of dictionaries to all the children in the third grade in Peachtree City Elementary School and North Fayette Elementary School. Excited comments such as "Do you mean this is really mine to keep!" were heard from the children. Each child put



their name on the special name plate inside the front cover. Literacy is a priority for Rotary International and all Rotary

When "Boo" Means We Care

The **Dunwoody High School Interact Club** has an annual Halloween tradition ... to sponsor a party for the school's Special Education classes. And if that's not "treat" enough, the Dunwoody Interactors are also busy:

- ◆ Playing Bingo with residents of Campbellstone Senior Center
- ◆ Collecting children's glasses for Dunwoody Rotary's Costa Rica Eye Project
- ◆ Delivering welcome bags to teachers at their school at the start of the school year
- ◆ Raising money to buy a Shelter Box.



This is one of many Interact Clubs who are already living the Rotary Motto of Service Above Self

Congratulations to Interact President Lexi!

Lexi SantaRomana; Interact President for Upson-Lee High School in Thomaston was chosen as a student delegate representing electric cooperatives from 44 other states on the 2007 Washington Youth Tour. The Rotary Club of Thomaston-Upson congratulates Lexi, a leader in her school and the community.

Literacy in Action

The **Counterpane Interact Club** has opted to focus on literacy both locally and globally. One of the attached photos is of a Counterpane Interact student working with refugee children at the International Rescue Committee's First Things First Class for infants to preschoolers in Atlanta, Georgia. Each week two to three Interact students from Counterpane School in Fayetteville visit the refugee children and teach the letters in association with their sounds – the Souns program. The refugee parents are coached on how to reinforce the work with the children at home, as they learn the letters and sounds themselves. The materials for the Souns program are donated to the IRC by the Interact Club.



This Interact Club has sponsored a support Youthact club that also works with literacy during monthly meetings at the Fayette Family YMCA and the Peachtree City Public Library. Included is a photo of Youthact students working with a young child at the YMCA.

The Counterpane Interact Club makes up a large percentage of the Upper School in this relatively small Montessori environment. Members of the club feel much of the dynamics of the club comes from the ongoing focus of literacy and from the "Rotary style" meeting they have each quarter at a local restaurant. They have adopted this format from their sponsoring club, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City. One student responded: "Attending our official Interact Club meeting at the Village

Cafe gave me great pleasure. There was a sense of being official, and an atmosphere unattainable in the classroom. This is a great way to get things done well. Add catering and a PA system into the mix, and serious, efficient work is guaranteed."

Next on their literacy agenda is work with a small school in Darling, a town on the western cape of South Africa. They will provide Souns literacy materials and communicate regularly to help with the program. Funds for these literacy activities come from a yearly golf tournament for literacy - Counterpane Golf Classic.

Rotary Club Provides Support to Family Life Ministries



The **Atlanta Airport Rotary Club**, East Point, GA, in a cooperative effort with District 6900, provided a District Simplified Grant (DSG) in the amount of \$1,250 to Family Life Ministries in East Point, to support the purchase of food to feed those in need throughout the tri-cities area of College Park, East Point and Hapeville.

Jane Gunter, Family Life Ministries, accepting District Simplified Grant check from Cam Sutherland, Director, Services Projects and New Generations

This grant will provide food for one month to feed 16 people per day. Family Life Ministries (FLM) has been in the business for more than 25 years helping those less fortunate people in the tri-cities area who need help. Jane Gunter, the FLM Director and member of the club, accepted the check on behalf of FLM. The club also has a member on the FLM Board of Directors.



Rotarians Save Planet Earth

The Save Planet Earth Committee upholds the **Rotary Club of Griffin's** longstanding commitment to a cleaner environment by participating the Georgia Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program. Rotarians volunteer to pick up trash along a one mile stretch of Georgia 19/41 in North Griffin. Pictured are (L-R) front row: Jerry Walker, Clay Tingle, Scott Searcy, President Bill Ward, Charles Penny, Vice President Wayne Gardner, back row: George Granade, Nat Doughtie Save Planet Earth Committee Chair and Charlie Doughtie.

Northlake Sponsors Happy Club Beach Trip

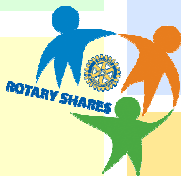
The 2007 Happy Club Beach Trip to Santa Rosa Beach, Florida was our 8th annual trip and the largest ever! We had 76 people attend the trip this year, including 49 participants and 28 chaperones. The event has



become like a family reunion for the 4 chapters of the Metro Atlanta YMCA Happy Club with volunteer chaperones coming from as far as the Skyland Fire Department in Asheville, NC as well as Raleigh, NC. Past volunteers have come

from Savannah, GA and even New York! Once someone comes, they're hooked -- and the trip keeps growing (our first trip 8 years ago was with 22 people -- 14 participants and 8 chaperones -- to Jacksonville Beach, FL). We even have our "own" bus driver, James, from American Coach in Atlanta who has become part of our Beach Trip family!

The \$500 from the **Northlake Rotary Club** helped pay part of the cost for a group home ("Edgewood") of 4 adult males - Randy (in wheelchair), Joey, Phil and Tim - and their two staff (who go free as chaperones) to attend the beach trip for the VERY FIRST TIME. Randy was carried down to the beach in his wheelchair by 2-3 men and he was able to swim free (with a life-vest of course!) in the ocean. This was a first in his lifetime!!! The men went out to dinner on the beach at The Crab Trap in Destin; danced the night away at a local Santa Rosa Beach disco -- the 3-Thirty-1; dined to acoustic beach tunes at the Mango Grill in Sandestin's Baytown Wharf. All



Pictures That Can Save Lives

Every year the **Fayette Day-break Rotary Club** mans a booth at the Tyrone Founders Day Festival where we hand out free Kids Care ID's. The ID kit consists of a picture of the child, a card with the child's fingerprints, and a booklet with the child's current age, weight, and height. The booklet has space for the parents to then update the picture and vital statistics yearly. This year, we handed out 88 ID's. That makes 88 more children that may be more easily found if kidnapped or lost.



from the group home had a great time and are looking forward to the opportunity to attend again next year!

Since we did the first trip in 2000, the trip has been coordinated (led) by 7+ other individuals, and each year the leadership expands to numerous integrated teams to support the growing number of attendees. This past year 8+ individuals did the "leg-work" to make it happen while my husband and I were the co-leaders of the trip (it really takes a village!). Of course EVERY SINGLE chaperone is instrumental to the success of the trip as each chaperone is assigned 2 participants to supervise throughout the trip. All of us function as an integrated well-oiled team... and we have a lot of fun and laughter while doing it. While it's a lot of work... we all look forward to it each year!

Dunwoody Rotarians Visit Hindu Temple

The **Dunwoody Family of Rotary** outing at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Hindu Temple) was enjoyed by 30 Rotarians, their families and friends. Our guide told us about the construction of the temple, answered our questions and explained the architecture and symbols inside the temple. The beauty of the hand carved decorative ceilings, archways and pillars were amazing. The construction of this astonishing structure had 900 volunteers giving their service which kept the cost down. The total man hours to complete it was 1.3 million hours. After our tour we enjoyed various India food and drink out side under the tents. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed learning about the Hindu religion, the fellowship and the sampling of food The visiting hours are daily from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.



Henry County Rotarians Help Celebrate New Humane Society

Henry County Rotarians grilled and served hot dogs to the masses who attended the grand opening of the new home of the Henry County Humane Society on September 29. Rotarians Adam Stanfield, Vickie Loper and Denise Sowell enjoyed serving lunch to the guests.



Supporting Local Education ... from Pre-School to University



David Parkman (left), club president, presented a check to Dr. Andrew Leavitt, associate vice president for development and alumni relations at the University of West Georgia, in support of the Rotary Scholarship Fund.

The **Carrollton Rotary Club** has a strong tradition of supporting educational needs throughout the community, ranging from providing books to pre-schoolers to providing scholarships to college students.

Adopt a Greyhound Campaign Visits Vinings

Sleek greyhounds, Wes Sargenson from 11Alive, and naked ladies all descended on the Wednesday October 10th meeting of the **Vinings Rotary Club**. Suzanne Lipson, a Vinings Rotarian, was the guest speaker, and brought four Greyhounds and handlers to the meeting to show us the beauty of the dogs, and to talk about how the dogs are treated after their racing days.

After a plea for many of those in attendance to think about adopting a Greyhound, Suzanne announced a new fund raising campaign for the Greyhound organization - calenders. Oh, not just your ordinary calender, but a beautiful different Greyhound every month, with a beautiful lady handler posing with the Greyhound.....naked.....the handler.....the dogs' already naked.....all fifty calenders sold out in ten minutes. That night on Wes's Wes Side Story on Channel 11 all of the glory of the Greyhound's, and their calender, was revealed for all to see. The calenders are back ordered.....and by the way, Suzanne Lipson is Miss June.



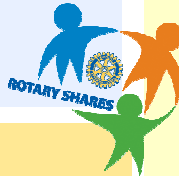
Singing A Song of Service ...

The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** successfully held its 7th annual Concert in the Park in September. This is our major fundraiser and we were pleased to add \$40,000 to our budget. This will allow us to continue our support of dozens of local charities, including but not limited to: The Child Development Association, Habitat for Humanity and the Roswell Neighborhood Senior Center.



The annual event features the music of The Swingin' Medallions, an entertaining band who always performs well into the evening for an enthusiastic audience. Guests bring coolers of food and have a Chastain-style evening.

This concert does not happen by itself. We are only able to pull it off thanks to the hard work and dedication of a small but very active Rotarians. Founded in 2000, The Rotary club of North Fulton has 28 active members representing business and civic leaders from our community who are dedicated to the needs of the North Fulton area as well as worldwide service through Rotary International.



Small Thanks for Big Heroes

The public school teachers of Tyrone, Georgia have a special fondness for October. No, not for the baseball playoffs, no, not for high school football, and no, not even for the political debates. October means Apples For Teachers from the **Fayette Daybreak Rotary Club**. Fayette Daybreak has developed a tradition of giving every teacher in the Tyrone public schools an apple and a wallet size calendar for the next year. Not just any apple, but hand picked fresh apples, hand delivered to every teacher's school mail box by club members. While not an extravagant gift, the teachers deeply appreciate our effort at recognition and thanks. Rotary teaches us that all efforts, large and small, contribute to the total good. Teachers chasing us down the hall as we walk in with a box of apples remind us that every effort counts, every sole matters, and every apple makes a difference.



Golfers Raise Thousands to Help Rotary Charities

From Carrollton ...

The morning of Friday, October 5 started with a drizzle as **Carrollton Dawnbreakers** and fellow golfers started a Shotgun Tournament at Oak Mountain Championship Golf Club. The weather cleared up and with a net income of over \$15,000 the tournament was a success. StoneCo came in as the first place winner and many others were awarded door prizes.



... To North of Atlanta

Several thousand dollars were raised for charity with the help of approximately 40 golfers who took to the links for the **Windward Rotary Golf Tournament** recently at Alpharetta Country Club.



Our theme was "Supporting Special Olympics & Rotary GRSP," and we had help from Special Olympians in our activities. After a long day on the course, golfers came back to the clubhouse for prizes and a

Tournament organizer Brad Serff gets ready to hand off the dubious "third" prize in the golf tournament, three cans of tennis balls to the golfers with the lowest score. That honor went to a foursome of Windward Rotarians mostly new to the sport, but game to hit the links to help a good cause.



raffle.

Racing for the Kids

The **Rotary Club of Vinings** held its' 5K race and one mile fun run on Saturday, September 8, and raised close to \$50,000 for the Calvery Children's Home, the Good Samaritan Health Center, and the Vinings Rotary Charity Fund. Over 700 runners, volunteers, and Rotarians enjoyed a beautiful Saturday morning at Atlanta's fastest 5K race and refreshments and awards afterwards at the Vinings Jubilee. Attending the race and left to right in the photo is Calvery Children's Home President Snyder Turner, Rotary District 6900 Governor elect Ted Propes, Rotary District 6900 Governor Bill Woulfin, Rotary Club of Vinings past president Gant Adams, and Vinings Rotary President Ken Honeyman.



Bainbridge Project Reflects Rotary Cornerstone ... the Four-Way Test

The **Bainbridge Rotary Club** is now a driving force in providing support for Character Education initiatives throughout the schools in Decatur County. The club will promote the principles of the Four-Way Test to every 4th grader, both private and public, in Decatur County. A Four-Way Test plaque will be placed in each classroom and markers/poster board will be supplied for every student. Each student will draw a scene that depicts a principle of the Four-Way Test. The top winner of each class will receive a medal and \$25 savings bond. In addition, every 4th grade student will receive a T-shirt.



The Four-Way Test

Created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor (who later served as RI president) when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy. This 24-word code of ethics for employees to follow in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with dealers and customers, and the survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy. Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The 4-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. (Rotary E-learning Center-Guiding Principles)



Happy November Anniversary to District 6900 Rotary Clubs!

- ◆ **Americus**—sponsored by Albany on 11/18/1918
- ◆ **Harris County** — sponsored by LaGrange on 11/29/1999
- ◆ **Peachtree City** — sponsored by Newnan on 11/13/1967
- ◆ **Vinings** — sponsored by Smyrna and Cumberland on 11/30/1989



History in the Making ... Alpharetta FunFest Biggest and Best Ever!



Alpharetta Rotary's signature fundraising event makes our entire year's Service Project budget possible. We officially quote attendance as Spectacular but was anticipated to be in a range of 20,000 to 25,000. This family event with something for everybody took place on a beautiful sunny fall day September 29. In past



years, different activity types were staged in different areas. This year we shuffled the deck. At center was a stage with live entertainment ranging from magicians to ballet surrounded by a mix of games, rides, a petting zoo, crafts, our areas best restaurants, 100 gorgeous classic show cars, and a train ride that meandered among the collection of events. Businesses of all kinds displayed goods and services, the Alpharetta Fire Department showed off its newest equipment and taught fire safety, . Fun seekers, vendors, and club members agreed it was a simple and remarkable improvement to an already outstanding community event.

The club has had other memory-making events this year. GRSP Trustee Jack Stephens recently introduced GRSP Anne Marit Pederson of Mo I Rana Norway. Anne entertained our breakfast meeting with some dry humor and background on home and family. "My mum taught me how to be creative, my dad gave me a love for computes, and my brother helped me realize that I can do whatever I want with my life as long as it makes me happy."



Community Service project Rotary Reads kicked off the year in September with an enthusiastic group of readers trying to keep the attention of 4, 5, and 6 year olds. The kids love the attention and show their appreciation with smiles and big hugs.

Happy Thanksgiving to the Georgia National Guard

On November 13, the **Rotary Club of Bainbridge** will host a Thanksgiving-style meal and a patriotic program for some very special guests - the loved ones and family members of the soldiers of the 1230th Transportation Company of the Georgia National Guard. As a club dedicated to "SERVICE ABOVE SELF", the intent of the club is to honor the sacrifices these spouses, mothers, fathers and children have made to us and our country for the sake of the War on Terrorism. Past District 6900 Governor and decorated Veteran Al Lipphardt will address those in attendance.



The **Rotary Club of Fayetteville** was pleased to hold its annual Vocational Services Day on October 15. Receiving honors were Kevin Ingram, Police Officer of the year, Donnie Davis, Public Safety Employee of the year, Angel Nauck, Teacher of the year and Kathy Ann Marshall, Healthcare Employee of the year. The club President, Jeoff Hamilton and Al Dapkus were proud to honor each of these recipients and allow their employers to introduce them to the club with an overview of their accomplishments.



Roswell Rotary President Gene Beckham welcomes Georgia House Majority Leader Jerry Keen to speak at the Roswell club. Georgia Trend Magazine recently named Jerry Keen as one of its 100 Most Influential Georgians.



The **Americus Rotary Club** has tweaked its meeting format by inviting area school groups to perform during Rotary. Pictured here is the Americus Sumter High School Jazz Band. Franklin Smith, trumpet player is the son of Rotarians Don and Sybil Smith!



Thanks to the **Rotary Club of Bainbridge** the Friendship House has a new addition - a playground set! The Friendship House of Jesus offers a multifaceted out-of-school-time program combining academic, physical, spiritual and arts education with practical job search training to give at-risk minority children from between the ages of 4 to 21 the skills and knowledge to overcome the effects of poverty in their lives (Friendship House of Jesus website). Our club was able to provide funding to help install and add to the set donated to Friendship House by a school in Thomasville.

Beautifying Local Fire Hydrants

Barnesville residences may have noticed driving that many of the fire hydrants are in need of a fresh coat of paint. Not after November 3, when the **Barnesville Rotary Club** takes on painting.



President Jim Granum said this project is dedicated to Barnesville Firefighter Britton Cauthen, Mayor Dewaine Bell and their families. Project Chair Mark Stone said the day will begin by checking in at the Barnesville Fire Station to "adopt" a fire hydrant. Each individual or group will be assigned a location and provided with a can of bright red spray paint and a wire brush. The project takes about 30 minutes for each hydrant – there are 160 in the city limits. The Lamar County High School JROTC, the local Boy Scout Troop #17, and Scholarship House have signed on.

From Thomasville Rotary ...

Up to this point, Thomas University's satellite academic operations have been relatively local – the school's nursing program offers courses at medical centers in Moultrie and Tallahassee. TU's next academic venture, however, will be much more far-reaching, as the school prepares to take select programs to two of the top universities in the People's Republic of China.

Thomas University President Gary Bonvillian, Academic Dean Ann Landis and Board of Trustees Member Joe Brown recently spent two weeks in China, cementing unique educational partnerships.

The group visited HuaQiao University in the city of Xiamen and Eurasia University in the city of Xian, where TU will provide programs in business and career development. In addition to these partnerships, the group also began discussions with an educational institution in Singapore.



On the Thomas University trip to China, Thomasville and Chinese Rotarians exchanged banners

Bonvillian said he's particularly excited about the career development course for China. "The whole notion of career development in China is a new idea, and TU is now assisting a university in presenting this material to undergraduate students," he said.

"These are people who, in the past, have not had to think a lot about where they're going to get their jobs,

because in a Communist country, at least in the past, their jobs were determined for them," Bonvillian said. "Now, the government is welcoming principles of a market-driven economy and TU is proud to have been selected as part of this effort."

Bonvillian said China has only recently stepped up efforts to prepare young people for work in an increasingly competitive job market. "That includes how to write a resume, how to interview, how to begin a job search," he said. "This is hardly being done at all in the country, so we're really doing ground-breaking work with this course."

At Eurasia -- one of China's largest private schools with an enrollment upwards of 20,000 students -- Bonvillian anticipates anywhere from 300 to 500 Chinese students enrolling in TU's career development course within the next few weeks. The partnership at HuaQiao University is primarily focused on TU's Master of Business Administration program,

Dragon Boats Race to Support the Foundation

Peachtree City's first Dragon Boat competition proved to be a major success in terms of the overall enjoyment and fun had by all that watched and participated. And, most of all, success shown in the spirit of giving. At a recent **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** luncheon David O'Rear, president, accepted a \$500. donation check for the Rotary Foundation from member Bill



MacDonald who sponsored a dragon boat manned by the Fayette-Coweta Rotary Club. MacDonald's boat came in behind the dragon boat sponsored by member Scott Bradshaw, manned by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City. As boat sponsors, MacDonald and Bradshaw had a gentleman's agreement that basically said, the loser will donate. All in good fun, the winner Bradshaw, was extended an opportunity to match MacDonald's donation to the Rotary Foundation, which he graciously accepted. The Foundation is the true winner!

Bonvillian said Chinese education officials partnering with TU are equally excited about the venture. During many previous trips to China, and through his experience in developing and launching partnership programs, Bonvillian has seen first hand the demand for Western higher education.



"China sees the U.S. as a critical economic partner, and this also means improving their educational system. Even small American colleges and universities like TU can get a foothold in the China market, if you understand how to work within such a unique culture."

As high as the demand is for Western-oriented educational programs in China, the country is still very particular about which U.S. schools are allowed to

operate there. In actuality, a relatively small number of U.S. schools have been successful in launching China partnerships. TU's partnership with China has come by way of Bonvillian's relationships with educational contacts in China. While serving as provost and vice president at Keuka College in New York, Bonvillian helped forge a partnership between that school and China – a partnership that now serves some 4,700 international students.