

ROTARY RAMBLINGS

ART, CRAFTS, AND COMMUNITY

The Owego Rotary Club’s annual Craft Fair on November 17th at the Owego Elks Lodge was a fantastic success, with a great turnout from the community. Attendees were treated to a surplus of beautifully crafted, locally made items, ranging from jewelry and home decor to seasonal gifts and more. The vibrant atmosphere highlighted the incredible talent of local artisans and the strong support for handcrafted goods.

A steady stream of visitors came through to explore the booths, mingle with the creators, and enjoy the festive spirit. Many vendors reported selling out of popular items, showcasing the strong community support for local craftsmanship. The event also raised funds to support Rotary’s mission to eradicate polio, turning creativity and connection into a force for global good. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this fair a memorable celebration of community and compassion!



*"Where Crafts Meet Community:
Just Follow the Banner"*



*A Roaring Good
Time with Our Zoo
Keeper and Lion!*

GHOULS AND GIGGLES TAKE OVER OWEGO

Downtown Owego transformed into a Halloween wonderland on October 25th as families flocked to Lake Street for the annual Halloween Fest. The turnout was incredible, with children of all ages showcasing their creative costumes and enjoying a fun-filled evening. The Owego Rotary Club joined in on the festivities, distributing candy and small gifts to the excited trick-or-treaters.

Rotarians greeted families with warm smiles, ensuring the event was both welcoming and delightfully spooky. The street buzzed with laughter, festive decorations, and a shared community spirit that made the evening unforgettable. The Owego Rotary Club was proud to contribute to the success of this cherished local tradition!



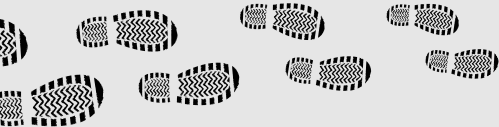
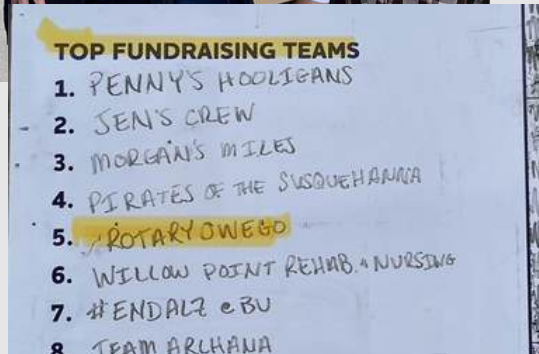
WALKING TOWARD HOPE: OWEGO ROTARY'S ALZHEIMER'S EFFORT!

On September 28th, the Owego Rotary Club joined the Walk to End Alzheimer's® to raise awareness and honor loved ones affected by the disease. The turnout was fantastic, with many team members walking in solidarity for a future without Alzheimer's. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Team Rotary Owego proudly earned a spot in the top 10 teams for fundraising, making a significant impact on this important cause.

The walk was a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all involved, as participants shared in the camaraderie and hope for a world without Alzheimer's. Team members had a great time walking, supporting one another, and contributing to the Alzheimer's Association®'s mission. Together, we're helping bring hope to families and fighting for a future where Alzheimer's is no longer a threat.



Team Rotary Owego: Proof that we can walk the talk!



I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.

Angela Davis



NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTTS: ROTARY TACKLES LITTER WITH STYLE

On a sunny Saturday, September 28th, the Owego Rotary Club held its fall Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, gathering at the Southside Fire Station at 9 AM. With around 17 volunteers pitching in, the group worked hard to clean up Route 434 and the roads leading into the village. Their efforts helped ensure Owego looked its best just in time for the 3rd Annual Owego Porch Fest the following weekend.

The beautiful weather and strong turnout made the event a great success, showcasing Rotary's commitment to keeping the community clean and welcoming. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making a visible difference for both residents and visitors. Together, we proved that a little teamwork goes a long way!



Turning trash into triumph on a beautiful fall day.



Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 large egg

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F
2. Mix peanut butter, sugar and egg together in a bowl until smooth & creamy
3. Roll Mixture into 1-inch balls and place 1 inch apart on an ungreased baking sheet
4. Flatten each with a fork, making a criss-cross pattern. Bake in the oven until edges are firm - about 10 minutes
5. Let cool completely, then enjoy!

A DAZZLING TRADITION: LIGHTS ON THE RIVER RETURNS

Owego's beloved annual holiday tradition, Lights on the River, returns on Friday, December 6th, transforming Front and Lake Street into a magical winter wonderland. Starting at 5 PM, the event features live music, festive vendors, and twinkling displays that capture the season's spirit. The night will culminate with a dazzling fireworks show at 8 PM, generously sponsored by Pumpelly Estates, lighting up the night sky over the Susquehanna River.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, Owego Rotary Club members will be roaming the event with free hot apple cider to share with attendees. Keep an eye out for a friendly Rotarian offering a warm drink and a smile as you take in the lights and enjoy the festivities. With community spirit at its heart, Lights on the River is the perfect way to celebrate the season with family and friends.



2023 Lights on the River Christmas Tree - can't wait for this years!

National Cookie Day!

December 4th

The perfect excuse to indulge in your favorite sweet treat!

Try baking a fresh batch at home or head to your local bakery!

Consider getting creative with a new recipe.

Share some cookies with neighbors and loved ones to spread the joy!



SEEDS OF SERVICE: ROTARY IN THE GARDEN!

The Owego Rotary Club has officially taken over the garden plots at the Countryside Community Center, with plans to make it a thriving space for the community. This fall, the club has winterized the plots to prepare for the colder months, ensuring they're ready for planting come spring. With a goal of a large and plentiful garden, the Rotary Club hopes to share the harvest with local families, creating a space where everyone can benefit from fresh, homegrown produce.

As always, help is welcome! Whether you're an experienced gardener or just looking to lend a hand, there are many ways to get involved. If you're interested in contributing to the garden's success, reach out to contact@owegorotary.org for more information. Together, we can cultivate something special for the community next year!

COMITTEE MEETINGS

Membership Committee: 1st Thursday of the month - Countryside Community Member

Youth Committee: 2nd Thursday of the month - Countryside Community Center

Service Committee: 4th Thursday of the month - Countryside Community Center

Care Committee: 1st Tuesday of the month - Email Judy Quigley for Zoom link

Website/Social Media Committee: TBA - Email Natalie Montefinese for date & location

A BIG APPLE ADVENTURE

From October 18th to October 20th, Bella joined fellow exchange students for an unforgettable trip to New York City. During the weekend, she explored iconic landmarks like Times Square, and the Statue of Liberty, soaking in the energy of the bustling city. Bella returned with stunning photos and stories to share, describing the trip as one of her most exciting experiences in the United States so far.



Big Apple vibes with Bella and friends!



TREE-MENDOUS UPDATES AT CANAWANNA PRESERVE

In early September, Rotarians Kathy West and Kevin Millar conducted an inventory of the trees and shrubs planted last year at Canawanna Nature Preserve. Many plants, unable to survive the hot, dry weather, were marked for replacement. By October, members of the Binghamton University Audubon Club joined forces with Rotarians Kevin Millar, Kathy West, and Gary Williams to plant new trees, continuing the effort to restore and enhance the preserve's ecosystem.

The preserve also welcomed a visit from Southern Tier Land Conservancy (STLC) board members in June, as they prepared to accept a generous donation of ten parcels from Adam Weitsman. These parcels, to be maintained by Rotarians, will strengthen conservation efforts in the region. Meanwhile, students from Owego Free Academy's FFA Club, who contributed to tree planting in spring 2023, remain engaged in the preserve's ongoing transformation.

*Canawanna Nature Preserve:
Where Trees Hug Back*

Rotary International President: Stephanie Urchick
 District 7180 Governor: Lizzy Martin
 Owego Rotary President: Scott MacDonald
 President Elect: Rob Fairlie
 President Nominee: VACANT
 Immediate Past President: Carolyn Wright
 Secretary: Judy Quigley
 Treasurer: Cookie Schaeffer