



THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

"Service above self"

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Next Meeting *December 24, 2002*
Meeting Place *Poinsett Hotel (Gold Room), Main Street*

Ronald McDonald to provide entertainment

Parent/Child/Grandchild Day Dec. 24

An appearance and a performance by Ronald McDonald will highlight the December 24th meeting, when Greenville Rotary celebrates its annual Parents/Children/Grandchildren Day.

Ronald made his first public appearance in Washington, D.C., and made his first national appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 25, 1963, with the world's largest drum. For the next few years, he delighted children in Washington, D.C.'s McDonald's restaurants exclusively. In 1967, McDonald's Corporation named Ronald the company's official spokesperson to children, and Ronald appeared on national television, starring in a McDonald's commercial.

Since 1963, Ronald McDonald has become a household name, more famous than Lassie or the Easter Bunny, and second only to Santa Claus. His red shoes carry him to children's hospitals, elementary schools, parades, community festivals and, of course, McDonald's restaurants. Although he has become an international hero and celebrity, Ronald remains the same friendly, fun-loving clown he was back in 1963. His favorite food is still hamburgers, and his favorite people are still children.



The Rotary Clubs of Greenville County have made it possible for another family to own their home.

"I thank God for this blessing. I've worked hard for this," Cheryl Bennett said December 14 at the dedication for her home at Saluda Bluffs, a Habitat community off White Horse Road. Rotarians, with some assistance from students at Furman University, built the house. The build started in early September, and Cheryl and her two sons, Chris and Rodney, are scheduled to move in shortly before Christmas.

Rotary House dedicated for 'blessed' owner

Rotarians raised the money for the home primarily through ticket sales to Greenville Braves' games and through several most generous in-kind donations. The Greenville Braves allowed Rotarians to sell tickets on two occasions to games and cook-

outs, with the proceeds going to the Rotary Habitat house.

Ms. Bennett said she worked at the house almost every weekend alongside the Rotarians. She thanked the Rotarians and Habitat for making her dream come true. "I am just blessed," she said. "I thank everyone who worked on the house."

This is the second Habitat house built by Greenville County Rotarians. In a touching moment, the owner of the other Rotary Habitat house and the leader of the Saluda Bluffs Homeowners Association, Karen Casio, officially welcomed the Bennetts to their new neighborhood. "I know firsthand what your home means to you, because I know what my home means to me," Ms. Casio said.

Both Ms. Casio and Ms. Bennett said previous efforts to own a home had failed, and they do not believe they could have ever become homeowners

(See "Rotary House" on back page)

The Greenville Rotarian

Newsletter of The Rotary Club of Greenville, South Carolina
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Bhichai Rattakul, RI President
Bruce Baker, District 7750 Governor

Nell Stewart, President **Frank Kolb, Acting Secretary**
Terry Weaver, President-Elect **David Karr, Treasurer**
Don Kirkland, Bulletin Editor

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What a pleasure it is to serve as your president. At Christmas, I tend to reflect on the past as I look to the future and the new year. I think of the Rotarians in our club who have had a big influence on the Greenville area and its people.

You have been responsible for much progress in Greenville over the years. You have been a good influence on people who have followed in your footsteps of success in the business world.

Most of all, you have taken interest in the lives of others in the community. You have volunteered through Rotary to help others and in more ways than we could list here. You have read to children, many of whom are not read to in their homes, you have worked on Holiday Lights; you have worked in soup kitchens; you have provided gifts for children

Presidential Pondering

who would have had none were you not involved; you have taken a troubled youngster by the hand and led that youngster into a productive life; you have been role models to many; and on it goes.

I just wanted you to know that I, and many others, appreciate all that you do. Being your president is a humbling and exciting experience. Thank you for the privilege.

My wish for each of you is that you have a wonderful, peaceful, loving, and happy holiday season. I look forward to walking into the new year with you, as we accomplish much together.

— Nell Stewart

Proposed New Members

Donald Eugene "Gene" Gibbs, Account Executive, Live Oak Capital Advisors Inc., under the classification of Investment Banking, sponsored by John Roberts and Glen Adkins.

Jim Sheets, Owner, Printmasters Professional Printers Inc., under the classification of Printing, sponsored by Bob Farris and Elizabeth Lyons.

Julian D. "Bucky" Tarleton, Partner, Hammond Tarleton Properties, LLC, (formerly member of Pleasantburg Club 1988-2001, President 1997- 98), under the classification of Commercial Real Estate, sponsored by Nelson Garrison and Jim Heinz.

Robert J. "Bob" Yax, District Sales Manager, Access Integrated Networks, (formerly a member of the Tacoma, Wash., Club, 1988), under the classification of Communications-Telephone Service, sponsored by Myles Golden and Lewis Freeman.

Caroline Schroder, Coldwell Banker Caine Real Estate, under the classification of Real Estate/Business Development, sponsored by Baxter Wynn and Bill Engle.

Rotarian Willie Smith dies; was civil rights leader

Willie Smith Jr., one of Greenville County's first black judges and a member of the Rotary Club of Greenville for 28 years, died on December 17th at the age of 82.

He was a leader in integrating the county's public schools, and, according to his son Willie Smith III, took great pride in the fact that the integration was accomplished without violence, unlike in some areas of the South.

Smith, a Paul Harris Fellow, received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest award to one of its citizens, and was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame.

The Sumter native, who received his law degree from South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, spent the prime years of his career in a legal battle with inequality wherever he saw it.

Greenville native Jesse Jackson was one of Smith's clients nearly 40 years ago.

When Smith argued the case of Elaine Whittenberg, a black girl whose father wanted her to have the best possible education, it opened the doors of Greenville's all-white schools in the 1970s.

Friends, acquaintances and adversaries recognized Smith as mild-mannered, but fearless.

The Family of Rotary

The five-point star created more than two centuries ago, and worn by such legendary figures as Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp, is now worn by **Johnny Mack Brown**, who was sworn in on December 9 as a U.S. Marshal for the South Carolina District.

And in the political realm, **Rush Wilson** recently played host to a special visitor to his store — Lindsay Graham, elected to succeed Strom Thurmond in the U.S. Senate.

Sympathy from our club is extended to the family of **Bruce McPherson** in the death of Bruce's father-in-law, Walter Griffin.

To the list of "Best Lawyers in America," add Rotarians **Gray Geddie, Fred Suggs** and **Mills Gallivan**.

Allen Grumbine has been certified as an expert in business bankruptcy law by the American Bankruptcy Board of Certification. He is the first attorney in South Carolina to receive that certification. **Hayden Hays** has received certification in long-term care by the Corporation for Long-Term Care.

And on a "lighter" note, **Trey Pennington** is reported to have set his pants on fire at Holiday Lights.

Rotary House dedicated for owner

(Continued from inside)

without assistance from Habitat for Humanity and the Rotary Clubs of Greenville County.

Clyde Glenn, a member of the Rotary Club of Greenville, was the volunteer construction manager for the Bennetts' Habitat home. He presented Ms. Bennett with a tool box, while Duane Jenks, a member of the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg who coordinated this build, presented her with a Bible. All the Rotary Clubs presented her with a washer and dryer, made possible through a generous donation from Sears.

Welch Bostick, a member of the Rotary Club of Greenville, was singled out by Clyde for his dedicated work on the home. Welch worked on the home almost every Friday and Saturday of the build.

A special thank you also goes to Bi-Lo and Joyce Smart, who also is a Greenville Rotarian. Bi-Lo provided the lunch and snacks for one weekend of the build.

Surendra Jain and Beth Padgett were the Greenville Rotary Club's representatives to the countywide Rotary Habitat committee. "I really want to thank all Greenville Rotarians who helped make this project possible," Beth said. "It was a humbling experience to see the Bennetts' joy and gratitude for their new home, and to realize the difference that Rotarians have made in the life of this family."

Health and Happiness Hour

The next Health and Happiness Hour is scheduled for January 7th, 5:30 p.m., at the Poinsett Club, in the bar on the main level.