

**CONGRATULATIONS YEARLINGS  
NEW BLUE BADGERS**

Congratulations to the Yearlings who recently received their blue badges! This group completed their Special Training for Action in Rotary (STAR) suggested requirements. These requirements help build meaningful relationships and build leadership skills. They finished STAR with their service project partnering with The Nest- Center for Women, Children, and Families. The Yearlings helped to organize donations in the storeroom and clean up the outside play area for a safer place for children that visit The Nest. This class is made up of very active Rotarians and one that is sure to make an impact in our community and club.



L to R: Gary Wilmhoff, Lead Anderson, Cliff Gookin, Louis Hatcher, Kristie Woodrum, Zack Moscow, Abby Vaughn, and Bryan Dollins. Not Pictured: Dick Carroll, Monica Owens, Ruth Anne Palumbo, John Rich, and Marianna Taulbee.

**NEW MEMBER PROPOSALS**

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

**Debbie Cain**

Classification: Service Industry, Home Remodeling  
Sponsor: Crystal Newton

Objections should be made in writing within seven (7) days to The Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Lexington, 401 W. Main Street, Suite 305, Lexington, KY 40507. Objections are kept in strict confidence.

**ENJOY HORSE RACING AS  
IT WAS MEANT TO BE!**

Join Fellow Rotarians, Friends and Potential Members for a Fun Day at the Races!

Our Keeneland Spring Meet Outing will be in The Lexington Room on Wednesday, April 22. The gates open at 11am. The buffet is open until 4pm. We have 4 six top tables.

Races start at 1pm

The dress is business formal, including a tie for gentlemen, and NO denim of any kind-for anyone.

Only 11 tickets remain! \$125/ticket

Have fun betting from the comfort of The Lexington Room! You can also come and go, so you can watch races from the rail as well.

The deadline to purchase tickets is April 7.

Get your tickets now!

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/Jjp/>

# The ROTARY Club of Lexington

## WHEEL HORSE

April 2, 2026  
— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Dean Hammond  
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test:  
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie  
Introduction of Speaker: Bill Straus

Speaker: Chris McCarron, Hall of Fame Jockey  
**Location: The Mane on Main**

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**MEET OUR SPEAKER**



**CHRIS McCARRON**

Kentucky Derby Day is rapidly approaching and what better time for Rotarians to hear from Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron!

Chris was an instant sensation in the irons, winning the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Apprentice Jockey in 1974. That year, he set a record with 546 wins, which stood until surpassed by fellow Hall of Famer Kent Desormeaux in 1989. Chris led all North American riders in wins again in 1975 and 1980 and topped the standings in earnings in 1980, 1981, 1984, and 1991. He won the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Jockey in 1980.

His mounts throughout his career

included horses whose names are etched in the memories of horse racing fans and among the best horses of his era. Those rides include Hall of Famers John Henry, Alysheba, Precisionist, Lady's Secret, Sunday Silence, Paseana, and Tiznow. He won each of the Triple Crown races twice, the Kentucky Derby with Alysheba (1987) and Go for Gin (1994); the Preakness with Alysheba (1987) and Pine Bluff (1992); and the Belmont with Danzig Connection ((1986) and Touch Gold (1997).

Our speaker was equally successful in the Breeder's Cup. Among his nine overall wins in that elite event, five were in the Classic, including consecutive wins with Alysheba (1988) and Sunday Silence (1989) and back-to-back wins with Tiznow in 2000 and 2001. He also won the Classic with Alphabet Soup in 1996, defeating Hall of Famer Cigar and Preakness winner Louis Quatorze. Other notable wins included multiple editions of the Kentucky Oaks (three), Del Mar Handicap (six), Del

Mar Futurity (four), Del Mar Oaks (four), La Jolla Handicap (seven), Clement L. Hirsch Handicap (seven), San Felipe Stakes (seven) Santa Anita Handicap (three), Santa Anita Derby (four) and San Diego Handicap (six), among others.

Chris retired in 2002 with a remarkable 7,142 wins and purse earning of \$263,986,005, a record at that time. He also served as technical advisor and racing designer in the 2003 blockbuster movie Seabiscuit, in which he also had an acting role as Hall of Fame jockey Charlie Kurtsinger. He founded the North American Racing Academy in Lexington to help hone the skills of young riders and played a hands-on role in that organization until his retirement in 2014.

A native of Massachusetts, Chris lives in Lexington, where we understand he plays a lot of golf!

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**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

- Apr 9** Navy Rear Admiral Mike Brown
- Apr 16** Doing Rotary Differently
- Apr 23** TBA
- Apr 30** Keeneland/Derby Meeting, Gabby Gaudet & Tom Leach
- May 7** Leon Hirsh, Rotary's Fight for Polio Eradication
- May 14** Tommy Bell Award

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Apr 16** Volunteer, Hope Center Don Ball Campus Center, 298 W. Loudon Ave., 11:30-1:00 pm
- Apr 18** Opening Day Miracle League, Shillato Park, 10:00 - 2:00pm
- Apr 22** Keeneland Outing, Lexington Room, \$125
- Apr 24** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am
- Apr 25** RYLA, Life Adventure Center, Versailles, 8-6pm
- Apr 27** God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm

**FAB 4 CONTINUE TO SERVE!**



As we enter the fourth quarter of our Rotary year, we are excited to welcome our fourth Past President, Dean Hammond, to take the reins and carry forward the strong momentum built throughout the year. Following the outstanding leadership of Past Presidents Jamie Schrader, Jim Richardson, and Bill Wilson, Dean has been sworn in to serve through June 30th.

What a fantastic way to finish an already remarkable year!

**THE BUSINESS OF ROTARY IS BUSINESS**

Though best known for service, Rotary International was created in 1905 in Chicago to bring together business professionals from all fields to exchange ideas, build networks, and form friendships. Rotary International's general secretary, John Hewko, has called the organization the "original LinkedIn."

We encourage you to network with fellow club members and support their businesses. The person sitting across from you shares your values, commitment to service, and dedication to ethical leadership. They could be a CEO, entrepreneur, or nonprofit leader—it's a room full of potential partners, advisers, mentors and mentees, clients, and even future job opportunities.

This information can also be found in the published roster book.

*Rotary in Review*

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN LEXINGTON: AN OVERVIEW**

At our Club's last meeting in March, we heard about an issue affecting Lexington, as well as communities across the country to varying degrees: affordable housing or, rather, the lack of it. Addressing this issue for us was Ed Holmes, a Lexington-based certified planner with over thirty-five years of experience focusing on incorporating sustainable planning strategies into redevelopment, master planning, environmental justice, and land use plans.

Mr. Holmes used the findings of an affordable housing study to highlight a signifi-

cant gap in Lexington's housing needs. In addition to defining the affordable housing gap, he addressed the specific efforts and challenges facing Lexington and the housing strategies that are currently being explored to address the problem. He concluded with a look into the future, addressing trends, future considerations, and presenting some next steps and action items.

**Affordable Housing Gap**

- Lexington faces a significant gap in affordable housing, estimated at 22,000 to 23,000 units.
- The rental housing gap is approximately 13,000 units, making up about 74% of the need.
- Homeownership gap accounts for 20% of the housing needs, continuing to grow.
- The cost of rental units in Lexington has surged, with figures as high as \$1,800 monthly, reflecting a 44% increase over recent years.
- A substantial portion of residents earning 80% or less of the median income are unable to find affordable housing.

**City Investments and Challenges**

- The city's affordable housing fund invested \$47 million, resulting in 3,400-3,500 newly built or rehabilitated units.
- Despite this allocation, the impact

remains limited against a background of ballooning costs.

- Average cost per unit from city funds has increased, necessitating more strategic approaches to affordability.

**Existing Housing Strategies**

- Proposals include expanding work force housing, prioritizing rental unit development, and promoting public-private partnerships.
- Encouraging increased density and zoning reforms are considered pivotal.
- Addressing regulatory and infrastructure improvements, such as reducing parking requirements and allowing for mixed-use developments.
- Recent city measures to allow more flexible density options are a part of efforts to enhance affordability.

**Notable Trends**

- Significant proportion of renters are cost-burdened, many paying over 50% of income on rent.
- Student housing has increased, contributing to overall housing demand.
- Corporations purchasing property impacts affordable housing availability, though no regulatory measures are yet in place.

**Future Considerations**

- Focus on the "missing middle," where current housing does not cater to moderate-income earners.
- Proposals for zoning reforms, including

the possibility of incentivized or inclusionary zoning offerings.

- Discussions around innovative financing mechanisms like tax increment financing and leveraging public-private partnerships.
- Addressing regulatory pressures and community opposition, particularly with urban infill and density projects.

**Next Steps/Action Items**

- Expand workforce housing options to support middle-income earners in need of affordable rent and ownership.
- Increase development of rental units, ensuring regulatory and infrastructure improvements facilitate this growth.
- Enhance public-private partnerships to streamline the development process and increase affordable housing stock.
- Explore zoning reforms, allowing for developments like duplexes, triplexes, and other mid-density solutions.
- Investigate possibilities for inclusionary zoning, incentivizing developers to integrate affordable units in broader plans.
- Diversify funding streams to include a mix of local, state, and federal resources, expanding leveraging efforts like successful models in other regions.

– Jim Richardson

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