



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 19, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 29



## STATE OF THE CITY

### Rock Island Mayor Pauley

Rotarians gathered today along with guests from the Kiwanis



#### January - February Calendar

Jan 19 - Mayor Dennis Pauley – State of the City  
Jan 26 - Katie Benson - RI High School Orchestra  
Feb 2 - Scott Mullen, Exec. Dir. IWireless Center  
Feb 2 - Rotary Blood Drive  
Feb 9 - TBA  
Feb 16 - Jeff VenHuizen – Rock Island Police  
Chief and Tour of new station.  
Feb 23 - Rock Island H.S. Entrepreneur Class  
Mar. 1 - Dan Logan – Earl Hanson Principal

Club to hear Rock Island Mayor Dennis Pauley's 2016 "State of the City" address. It was obvious that Rock Island is a very active and thriving community. The mayor began by acknowledging the hardworking members of the city council, including Rotarians Chuck Austin and P.J. Foley. Alderman Stephen Tollenaar was also in attendance along with Rotarians Thomas Thomas, Rock Island City Manager; and Jeff Eder, Rock Island Economic Development Director.

Mayor Pauley proudly announced that Rock Island has a **balanced budget**, holds a "AA" bond rating, and for the fifth consecutive year will not be raising the city property tax rate. He then proceeded through a long list of ongoing city activities and achievements.

In the area of **public services**, the Mayor stated that technology has been significantly updated including 4G internet capability in all police and fire vehicles. Police vehicles have also been equipped with live video capabilities.

The mayor said the **Rock Island library** has had an extremely active year having more patrons than in past years and more resources checked out by citizens. Expanding the downtown library is currently under study. The **King Center** celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by hosting its first "black tie" event. During the year the center served 21,860 citizens, and hosted a summer day program for 160 kids. The Metro Youth Program drum and drill squad made 54 appearances during the year including the McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade in Chicago. The King Center served 1,224 meals at their annual Thanksgiving Dinner, and hosted nearly 500 kids for their Christmas party.

The **Parks and Recreation Department** introduced new programs to assist lower income citizens to ensure they could participate in camps, fitness activities, Whitewater Junction, and golf. New golf leagues were introduced and were successful. At Douglas Park all of the wooden bleacher seats were replaced and old wiring was replaced with underground wiring, both in the hope of promoting youth baseball at Douglas Park. Mayor Pauley announced that improvements in the Rock Island **Fire Department** led to the city's ISO improving from "4" to "3", meaning that insurance rates charged to Rock Island Residents should decrease. Communication equipment has been upgraded, a Rescue Boat was purchased allowing for improved emergency service on the Rock and Mississippi rivers. All emergency fire department vehicles now carry state of the art paperless reporting systems for our EMTs.

(See "Mayor" page 5)



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## Officers

John Phillips, President  
Steve Morenz, 1st VP  
Bruce Peterson, 2nd VP  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Mike Locander, Past President

## Board Members

Angela Campbell  
Sue Cassatt  
John Daly  
Lawrence Davis  
Jeff Eder  
Mark Mayeski  
Carrie O'Neill  
Billy Puckett

Co-Sergeant At Arms  
Vic Boblett & Bob Swanson

## Program Chairs 2015-16

Dec.- Jan: John Wetzel  
Feb – March: Bob Swanson  
April – May: Kevin Koski  
June – July: Diane Koster

### NEED A MAKE UP?

New Meeting Sites –  
The Bettendorf Rotary Club, Wednesdays at noon at the Tanglewood Pavilion located at 4250 Middle Road in Bettendorf. The Iowa Quad Cities Club meets at the J Bar in the Holiday Inn at 4215 Elmore in Davenport Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. These are both new locations!

## Club Notes & Announcements!

### □ Welcome Guests!

Alleman Student Guests Jordan Polito and Ally Zahringer; Virginia Johnson, guest of husband Don Peterson. Beth Payne, guest of Dennis Pauley. Bret Gardella, guest of Jeff Eder. Jay McEvoy, guest of Justin Peterson. Cathy Edwards, our Assistant District Governor and member of the Milan Club. Our exchange daughter, Camila Velasco from Peru. Visiting Rotarian, Mark Zimmerman (Davenport, IA Club)

□ **Rotary Blood Drive** Don't forget our Rotary Blood Drive, Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30am until 1pm. Be sure to sign up for a time slot. Non-Rotarians are welcome too, so invite and encourage co-workers and family members to join the crowd and give the gift of life.

□ **Plan Ahead ...** Jeff VenHuizen, Rock Island Chief of Police will present our program on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting will adjourn after his comments AND WILL RECONVENE at 1:30 for all who can attend at the new Rock Island Police Station/Jail. Jeff will then conduct a tour of the new facility. Adjust your schedule so you don't miss seeing Rock Island's newest facility.

□ **Rotary Membership Committee** Our Membership Committee will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:15pm just prior to next week's meeting. Notify Steve Morenz if you are unable to attend.

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** For January publication (just one week left) send newsletter items to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). For February publication send to Holly Sparkman at [hksparkman@gmail.com](mailto:hksparkman@gmail.com).



## ROTARY DISTRICT GRANTS

District 6420 Rock Island Rotary has successfully obtained a Rotary District Grant for each of the past two years to support some of our community projects. In 2014 we helped construct urban gardens at the Coventry Senior Residential Center and at ARC homes. In 2015 we distributed more than 200 books to Rock Island youth as part of a summer enrichment program.

In 2016 we have another opportunity to obtain up to \$1,500 from Rotary that can match a contribution from our club in the same amount. If you have ideas on a project you think would be a good initiative for our Rotary club, please contact President John Phillips, 1st Vice President Steve Morenz or Secretary Anne McGlynn for more information. Our Rotary Board will need to make a decision on a project no later than March.

### RAFFLE SUPPORTS FOUNDATION

Kiwanians joined in this week raffle helping fill the foundation coffers! Fred Luckenbill won the cash and donated his winnings to the Rotary Foundation. An unnamed Kiwanian won the fine wine selected from the Lo Milani cellars.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!!**



# A LITTLE OFF KEY

a dueling pianos event

hosted by Rock Island Rotary & Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours

Thursday  
**March 3rd**

**River Music Experience**  
129 N. Main St., Davenport

**7:30pm**  
doors open @ 6  
**\$45**  
includes heavy hors d'oeuvres

Come be entertained for the evening by FunPianos, a traveling dueling pianos group.

Tickets can be purchased online at **Eventbrite** or contact Sue Lerschen-Cassatt at 309-644-0101, SLerschen-Cassatt@FirstStateIL.com

Money raised from the event will go to support local youth programs and other Rotary projects!

**Rotary**

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF WINING ROTARIANS!

Please join your fellow Rotarians (and guests) at the first meeting of the Quad Cities Area Fellowship of Wining Rotarians. We have a unique opportunity to meet and sip at The Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge in Davenport, corner of Kimberly and Elmore. Recently purchased by Rock Island Rotarian Diane Koster and her husband Kevin Koster, The Grape Life offers an ideal spot for our group to gather. Diane and Kevin will close the store to the public on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., and we can mix and mingle until 7:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but it is expected that each of us will purchase at least one glass of wine or other liquor/beer. Just a little heads up, there is no corkage fee so you might consider purchasing a bottle to share, or take home your partially consumed bottle. The Grape Life offers munchies for purchase, but you are welcome to bring your own food/snacks. If you have a small group, for instance you might want to purchase a fruit or meat/cheese tray before you come. Your choice. Diane and Kevin will be available to answer wine questions. If we have sufficient interest, we would like to make this an ongoing Fellowship opportunity. We can discuss future planning on the 15<sup>th</sup>. So we have an idea of numbers, please email Ruth Lee at [rotarianruth@gmail.com](mailto:rotarianruth@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Include total number if you are bringing guests/spouses. We're anticipating a great time, and hope you will be part of it!



## WOW!! HOW ABOUT THOSE EARLYACT KIDS!

YOU MAY RECALL, LAST WEEK AT OUR MEETING ROTARIANS WERE ASKED TO HELP OUR JORDAN EARLYACT CLUB RAISE \$500 WHICH THEY WANTED TO USE TO PURCHASE WATER PURIFICATION EQUIPMENT FOR CHILDREN IN REMOTE NICARAGUAN VILLAGES. THE KIDS WERE CONDUCTING A "COIN DRIVE" AND WE PUT OUT A DONATION BOX TO HELP. THE EARLYACT MEMBERS (ALL 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS) WENT FROM ROOM TO ROOM AT JORDAN SCHOOL TELLING ABOUT THEIR PROJECT AND EXPLAINING HOW THE CHILDREN THEY HOPED TO HELP HAD NO CURRENT SOURCE OF SAFE, SANITARY WATER.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARIANS PITCHED IN AND SENT A BIG BAG OF CHANGE (AND BILLS) TO ADD TO THE TILL. BUT THOSE KIDS ... THOSE INCREDIBLE EARLYACT KIDS WITH A GOAL OF \$500, RAISED **\$2,256.84!** SO RATHER THAN PROVIDING SAFE WATER FOR KIDS IN JUST ONE VILLAGE, THEY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO SUPPLY EIGHT VILLAGES WITH THE PURIFICATION EQUIPMENT. IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EFFORTS, YOUR ROTARY BOARD VOTED TO PROVIDE A PIZZA PARTY FOR THE CLASS THAT RAISED THE MOST MONEY.



# Meet & Greet at Earl Hanson

On January 13<sup>th</sup> Rotarians had the opportunity to visit our adopted school, Earl Hanson Elementary. The school hosted a Meet & Greet session with all their faculty and staff present along with delicious cookies and beverages. Although the Hanson staff outnumbered Rotarians, we had a good showing of our members able to attend.



Principal Dan Logan welcomes teachers and Rotary members to the "Meet & Greet"



Mr. Logan shows off some special "Hanson Koozies" made for the event and tells his staff "Hands Off! These are for Rotarians!"



Tricia Barron and John Phillips chat with Hanson teachers. New member Chuck Austin in the background arrives to join the fun!

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE ROTARIANS IN ATTENDANCE

Tricia Barron, our liaison with the School talks with the group with attentive Fred Luckenbill and Tom Hammar & John Phillips looking on.



Mary Fislar mingles with Hanson staff.



Who could have said something so Funny to crack up Molly Shattuck and the Hanson Choir leader?



Recognize the guilty comedian? It's Tom Hammar!



Anne always has fun!

# Rotary condemns deadly attack on polio security personnel in Pakistan

Rotary members and our partners in the fight to eradicate polio offer our heartfelt condolences and express a deep sadness in the wake of a horrific bomb attack in Quetta, Pakistan, that took the lives of at least 15 security personnel on 13 January.

This tragic attack outside a polio immunization center is a stark reminder of the dangers faced by Rotary, our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and the brave women and men on the front lines of our effort to protect all children from the paralyzing effects of polio. While the bombing will be investigated, one thing is clear: The security personnel who were killed died because their job was to protect teams of polio immunizers. We applaud the government's commitment to continue the vaccination campaign throughout Pakistan, which is one of only two countries where the poliovirus is still endemic.

Today we pause to honor the sacrifice made by the heroic police officers killed. Yet our 30-year commitment to end polio remains steadfast. Even as we absorb the horror of this bombing, we are redoubling our efforts to educate families and build confidence in the safety of polio vaccines, and to engage community and religious leaders to support our campaign.

We are closer than ever to achieving a polio-free world. Vast improvements have been seen in Pakistan, with more than 80 percent fewer cases in the country than in 2014. In order to stop polio in Pakistan in 2016, we must ensure the safety of vaccinators to reach every child.

And today, our [release of \\$35 million in grants](#) for polio eradication signals our determination to finish the job to which thousands of courageous individuals have committed themselves, and to never forget the sacrifices made by those who lost their lives in this effort.

Rotary News

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Mayor – Continued

The Rock Island **Police Department** recently moved into our new state of the art police station featuring indoor parking for squad cars, a new crime lab, an “all under one roof” evidence storage area, and improved areas for police to interact with the public. An improved communications system is also part of the new facilities.

The **Public Works** Department didn’t have to deal with flooding this past spring and spent its time repairing streets, signs, and replacing sidewalks. They also undertook an experimental project sealcoating alleys and asphalt streets. The policy of charging assessments for new streets was eliminated, and a large 20 block sewer replacement project was undertaken on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mayor Pauley reviewed a long list of **Economic Development** achievements, including construction of more housing units, the new Metro bus station, Unity Health System’s new Emergency and Heart facility, the new RI Animal Hospital, Hawk technology, Medical Marijuana facility, and many more. He reported that plans for the new Walmart Super Center remain on track with a Walmart surveying team working the new site just in the past month. The Mayor also announced that the city is currently working on updating the city zoning code and listed a number of new housing developments in the city including the Zimmerman Lofts that will house both commercial and residential tenants and is owned by Rotarian, Mark Zimmerman. The Mayor also announced that on January 14<sup>th</sup> a new Heritage Harvest Grocery will open in the downtown area. The Mayor concluded his remarks mentioning that parking meters had been removed in the downtown area and parking hours increased to 4 hours in most areas. He also lauded the opening of Mo’s Burgers & Brews, Gunchies, Nila’s Chicken & Fish, Roosters, Cabanas, and several other new entities. In summary he said Rock Island continues to work with our partner cities and strongly supports regionalism. He said, “We can accomplish much more by working together”. Kind of sounds like a Rotarian doesn’t he!

