



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



June 18, 2019: Volume XXVI, Issue 48  
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

## HISTORIC DOUGLAS PARK



Mike Bell a member of the Friends of Douglas Park Board of Directors was guest speaker at today's Rock Island Rotary meeting. Bell was part of the group called together by Darell Reynolds in 2003. Mike said that he is a life long Rock Island resident and grew up playing baseball at Douglas Park. Many in the group had similar ties to the historic field. The group formed the Friends of Douglas Park, an IRS

501c3 not for profit organization in 2007 to raise money through donations to refurbish the large, lighted baseball field. Subsequently the group entered into a public-private partnership with the City of Rock Island and expanded their goal to renovation of the entire park area.. To date the large baseball field has been upgraded with underground irrigation equipment installed and a dirt infield converted to grass. New dugouts and backstops have been built and the restrooms are being upgraded and brought into compliance with federal accessibility standards. The parking lot has been expanded and paved and now can accommodate team busses and large trucks. The concessions building was renovated. Next on the renovation list is the smaller softball field in the northwest corner of the park and an entirely new multi-purpose field on the northeast corner. The multi-purpose field will be 100 yards long and can accommodate football, soccer, softball, baseball, and other recreational activities. Also on the "to do" list are new lights for the entire park, including the large baseball field. They are also considering adding pickle ball courts. Mike gave much credit to current Rock Island Parks Department director, John Gripp, who he said has worked tirelessly to develop the entire park area. Mike also said they have benefited from a number of generous donations from private citizens and from several grants from sources such as OSLAD and major league baseball. He noted that even the Moline Foundation made a substantial contribution to the project, noting that Douglas Park is viewed as a community asset, not just a Rock Island facility. Bell also pointed out that 60% of the youth in the Douglas Park area are free and reduced lunch children, indicated poverty is prevalent in the area. He also said the area is home to the largest refugee population in the Quad Cities. The Friends of Douglas Park have reached out to the area neighborhood for ideas, suggestions, and guidance on what park features will most benefit the area. He said two things frequently come up. Citizens want less fencing and more open green areas; and, they also want plenty of lighting, both for the safety of the sport participants and to help ensure that crime stays away from the park. The organization has raised \$1,200,000 in the past 3 years and is anxiously awaiting decisions from several grant sources that have accepted applications from the Friends of Douglas Park. He said the project has broadened its outlook and has also helped develop urban garden areas on the site of the former Franklin school and hope to host farmer's markets at Douglas Park in the future. It is great to see local efforts bringing Douglas Park back into its former glory. After all, it is a former National Football League venue. It was the site of the first NFL game on September 26, 1920. The stadium was home to the Rock Island Independents from 1907 until 1925. The Independents were an original franchise of the National Football League (1920–1925). Numerous Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductees, including NFL legends George Halas, Curly Lambeau and Jim Thorpe, performed at Douglas Park. It was also the site of the first college football game in the rivalry between the University of Iowa and the University of Illinois; played at Douglas Park on November 30, 1899. Thanks Mike, and good luck!

### June – August Calendar

June 25 - President Sue Cassatt  
July 2 - District Governor Bobbi Burke  
July 9 - New President, Mark Mayeski  
July 16 - Norm Moline, "China"  
July 23 - Cathy Jordan – DeLaCorda Home  
July 30 - IDOT - I74 Bridge Update  
Aug 6 - TBA  
Aug 13 - TBA  
Aug 20 - TBA  
Aug 27 - TBA  
Sept 3 - State of the Schools – Dr. Reginald Lawrence II  
Sept 10- Andy McCray Chief Meteorologist, WHBF-TV



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## Officers

Sue Cassatt, President  
Mark Mayeski, 1st VP  
Angela Campbell, 2nd VP  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Bruce Peterson, Past Pres.  
Bob Swanson, Sergeant at Arms

## Program Chairs 2018-19

Aug – Sept: Stan Coin  
Oct – Nov: Mike Locander  
Dec – Jan: John Wetzel  
Feb – Mar: John Wetzel  
Apr – May: Gary Rowe  
June – July: Tom Hammar

## Board Members

Rick Emery  
Sarah Gorham  
Kathy Lelonek  
John Oliger  
Justin Peterson  
Molly Shattuck  
Bill Stengel  
Tammy Weikert

## Club Notes & Announcements!

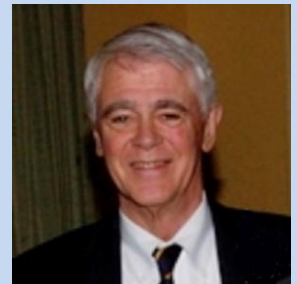
☐ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Guests at today's meeting included Virginia Houlton, a guest of hubby Fred. Jennifer Vandracek from the Day Foundation was a guest of Dave Geenen, as was Terry Wilson, a prospective member from WQPT-TV. Kim Vandygriff a member of the Friends of Douglas Park board was a guest of our club. We had two visiting Rotarians; Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

☐ **JUST 1 WEEK LEFT** in our Birdies for Charity campaign. So far Kevin reports we will reach our donation goal but are falling short in our pledge participation goal. If you haven't yet pledged, please do so next week. A 1¢ pledge per birdie will, in all likelihood cost you around \$20. That entire \$20 will be returned to our Club foundation plus a 4-6% bonus from the John Deere Charitable Foundation. Please make your pledge at next week's meeting

☐ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). If you attend a Rotary event and take pictures, please also email or text them to Bob. The newsletter is much better with lots of photos!

## JAY STANLEY REMAINS A DEDICATED ROTARIAN

Rock Island Rotary was thrilled to hear from long time Rotarian and friend, Jay Stanley. Jay suffered a devastating stroke several years ago and resulting paralysis. Although unable to attend meetings with us, Jay's "Service Above Self" spirit could not be crippled! He sent a \$1,000 donation for our water project. Thanks Jay, we miss seeing you at Rotary!



## FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT

Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar, and three one day passes to the Figge Art Museum. The first lucky ticket was held by John Oliger who opted to take the cash and donated it to the Rotary Augustana Scholarship Fund. The second lucky winner taking home the wine was Jim Moran. Clarence Darrow had the third winner received the Museum passes. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

## FUN AT THE BALL PARK!

**Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** is the date of our annual Rotary Night at the Ball Park! Don't miss the fun of professional baseball and see some of the future major league stars as they begin their pro careers. Thursday night is also "Thirsty Thursday" at Modern Woodman Park with \$2 beer and soda specials.

Rock Island Rotary has a reserved block of prime box seats and the cost is just \$10 per seat. This is a family event so bring grandma, grandpa, and the kids! While you're at it, invite the neighbors and work colleagues. It's a great social night out under the sun and stars! Rotarians from all over the metro area will be in attendance and we want Rock Island to be the largest and the most fun delegation!

The game starts at 6:35, but the fun begins ever earlier. See president Mark Mayeski display his blazing fastball as he throws out the ceremonial first pitch! **Get your tickets from chairman, John Oliger.**

## DINING BOOKS ARE BACK SOON!



Chairman Bud Phillis will have the new 2019 – 2020 Quad City Dining Books at our July meetings. The cost remains just \$35 per book and the Circa 21 coupon alone is worth more than \$35 if you use it to attend our club's Holiday Christmas Party. \$10 from each purchase is donated back to Rock Island Rotary, so besides being a great money saving coupon collection, it is also a fundraiser for our club. Dining books make great gifts and are always appreciated by anyone who enjoys eating out. Featuring over 150 high quality Quad Cities area restaurants, every coupon offers two for the price of one deals.

Let Bud know how many books you want!

## HELP US FILL THE BASKET!!

Rock Island Rotary is building a huge basket of adult beverages! Bourbon, Gin, Rye, Rum, Wine, Vodka, Brandy, Tequila, Vermouth, Champaign are all needed! Rotarians are asked to donate a bottle (minimum value of \$18) which will go towards building our gift basket to be auctioned off at our annual Trivia Night. Raffle tickets will be sold in July. The winner can pick from one of two prizes. One prize will be our huge basket of wine/spirits. The other will be a \$1000 travel voucher for a cruise through Picture Perfect Travel and Rock Island Rotary. Then a second winner will be chosen for the other prize. Proceeds will go to Earl Hanson Elementary School and our Community Grants program. Please call/email Kathy Trone with any questions. Please bring donations to next week's meeting.



## HAVE YOU MADE YOUR BIRDIES PLEDGE?

Just one week left to make your Birdies for Charity pledge! Pledge sheets are available from chairman, Kevin Koski, and at the Sergeant at Arms table. All money pledged will go to our local Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation which funds projects solely for the benefit of Rock Island and our citizens. If you plan to support the Club Foundation, pledging your contribution through the Birdies program means that John Deere will add a matching contribution to your own donation, making your gift even larger! Our goal is 46 pledges and \$2.20 per birdie. You also have a chance to win our Club's \$50 best guess prize or even the John Deere Classic's new car grand prize! Get your pledge in NOW.



## Greeters are Needed

Our list of greeters is running bare! Please stop by the Sergeant at Arms table and sign up to welcome fellow members as they enter our meeting room. Most Tuesdays in July are open. It's a great way for members, old and new to say hello and get better acquainted with fellow Rotarians! Stop by the Sergeant at Arms Table and sign up! Rotary needs your smile and handshake!



## FOUNDATION MINUTE

There are 33,000 people with albinism in Tanzania – albinism is a congenital absence of pigment in the skin and hair which appears white and the eyes that usually are pink. Over the years, superstitions have led to a wave of grisly albino killings, dismemberments and even grave robberies. At least 76 Tanzanian albinos have been murdered in the last decade; 72 others have survived attacks, often with severe mutilations.

In answer to this horrific circumstance, Tanzania-based Rotarians have partnered with local individuals and groups to dispel the myths that have led to so many murders through literature that has been distributed in primary schools across the country and have touched on nearly every aspect of the condition itself.

Club to club projects in several districts have supported albino students with mattresses, mosquito nets, vision aids, hats and sunscreen and financed livelihood-building projects in remote communities. A current grant, active since late 2015 has focused on education. It has supported more than seventy community outreach meetings and has focused on cancer prevention and treatment that affects the albino through training health workers and providing medical equipment. In five Tanzanian hospitals Rotary provided cryotherapy instruments and flasks of nitrogen, which are highly effective in removing precancerous lesions.

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation enables this to happen. Giving to the Foundation is much easier – just go to [rotary.org/donate](http://rotary.org/donate), Thank you

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

President Sue Cassatt had the great pleasure of inducting another new member into Rock Island Rotary today. Laura Fontaine, Program Officer with the Doris and Victor Day Foundation was officially welcomed to the club and received her Rotary pin and club name badge. Monta Ponsetto will be her mentor. Laura is currently very busy gearing up for the 2020 US census. The Doris & Victor Day Foundation in attempting to educate residents on the importance of the 2020 census and the impact it will have for Rock Island County and the state for years to come, hired Laura to work full time with local communities to promote, educate and urge participation in the 2020 census. Her actual title is Program Officer of Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives. No doubt she will be involved in numerous community activities once the census is completed. We're happy to welcome Laura as a Rock Island Rotarian and urge all members to say "hello" and greet her at upcoming meetings.



## ERIC WESTPHALL STEPS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Today's spotlighted Rotarian was Eric Westphall. Eric is a lifelong Rock Island resident, going through Audubon Elementary, Washington Jr. High, and graduating from Rock Island High School in 1977. Eric then attended Black Hawk College and earned his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University. He is employed as Associate Business Account Manager at MidAmerican Energy. He consults with and assists area businesses, schools and the City of Rock Island. He described himself as the "eyes and ears" of MidAmerican and urged people to let him know of any concerns or issues involving the power company. He said that "one on one" attention with customers is his calling. Eric has two sons, one in college and one attending Bettendorf High School. He is also a passionate golfer and recently returned from attending the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, California. Besides his busy career, family, and golf, Eric is very community minded and in addition to his Rock Island Rotary membership, is a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, actively works with Jr. Achievement, and is a member of the Orion Lions Club. Although he didn't mention it today, previously Eric revealed that he is often the guy inside the MidAmerican Energy's safety mascot, Louie the Lightning Bug costume!

