



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 9, 2023: Volume XXX, Issue 28
MEETING MONDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



State of the City

Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms



Today Rock Island Rotary met in joint session with the Rock Island Noon Kiwanis Club to hear the 2023 State of the City Address presented by Mayor Mike Thoms. He presented a fact packed 40 minutes backed up by PowerPoint slides. He began by recognizing City Council members Mark Poulos and Randy Hurt and former Rock Island City Manager John Phillips, (all are members of our Club), Jack Cullen Rock Island Downtown

Redevelopment Director and Todd Thompson, current Rock Island City Manager. Also attending were East Moline Mayor Reggie Freeman, former Rock Island Mayor Mark Schweibert, and former Moline Mayor Stan Leach. He then stated "2022 was a successful year", and the facts started flowing! Rock Island received 26.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the federal government. Citizens input was sought for suggestions on how best to use the money. Many different areas will benefit from the funds including capital investments, technology upgrades, and city equipment. It allowed the city to have a \$1.5 million surplus at the end of 2022 and to keep city taxes flat. Capital expenditures included street repairs, water treatment plan upgrades, software, funding for downtown improvements, removing the old downtown parking garage and replacing it with a new lot with over 200 parking spaces. The city also purchased a new ambulance and other service vehicles. Grants were created to help local businesses. The Mayor said a total of \$7.5 million will be invested in downtown renovations with \$3 million coming from state grants. The Mayor stated he has not retreated from his strong belief in community partnerships and cooperative programs and said the city continued its partnership with the Friends of Hauberg where the Carriage House renovation is now completed. The city also continued a partnership with the Friends of Douglas Park that lead to the City providing new lights for the park. Other ongoing partnership are with DARI (Development Association of Rock Island). The City partnered with the Rock Island/Milan School District in a school safety project in which the City installed or repaired sidewalks used by the children to go to and from school. They also partnered with Augustana and repaired several streets in the Augustana College campus area. With the pandemic now mostly behind us he said the City has renewed it's commitment to the West End Revitalization Committee and pledged significant outcomes in 2023 and 2024. As part of that effort the city provided Christmas gifts for 600 children and added a community health worker targeting needs in the West end. The Mayor then began a Department by Department report on 2022 activities. Starting with Business Development he noted that private sector businesses in Rock Island invested \$65 million in Capital improvements. He also said there were 13 new businesses started and 89 business expansions during the year. He said the City is committed to a 5 year \$5 million capital improvement plan. Turning to the Library he noted that 5,000 adults were served in various library programs in 2022. The Library also held a successful Card drive and in one month issued over 300 new library cards. They also completed a major funding campaign for the purchase and renovation of the QC Jewish Center into a new branch library and YMCA. In Housing Thoms reported 40 rehab projects were funded by the city to upgrade and renovate housing in Rock Island. Fifteen vacant lots were sold by the city moving these properties back onto the tax rolls. Housing inspection of rental units to ensure safe housing in compliance with existing rules and regulations continued at an increased pace. Turing to the Parks and Recreation Department the Mayor said the Park department offers 21 safe, clean, parks covering 480 acres in Rock Island. He noted that the First Tee Program has been a great success and will be occupying a portion of the new Highland Springs Clubhouse.

Jan.- Feb. Calendar

- Jan 17 - Kai Swanson "A Trip Through the South"
- Jan 24 - Laura Eberlin & Brent VanDamme, Deere & Company
- Jan 31 - John Lohman - Quad City Regional Business Journal
- Feb 7 - Club Assembly - President Cindi Gramenz Leading
- Feb 14 - TBA
- Feb 21 - TBA
- Feb 28 - TBA



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Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President
Eric Westphall, 1st Vice Pres.
Sue Rector, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Justin Peterson, Past President

Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director
Amber Brummit, Director
Rick DeVinney, Director
David Hodge, Director
Mariah Johnson, Director
John Phillips, Director
Monta Ponsetto, Director
Kathy Trone, Director
Bob Swanson, Sergeant at Arms

Program Chairs

2022-23

July	- Tom Hammar
Aug-Sept	- Tyla Sherwin-Cole
Oct - Nov	- Rebecca Arnold
Dec-Jan	- John Wetzel
Feb-Mar	- David Hodge
Apr-May	- Gary Rowe
Jun-Jul	- Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we welcomed two visiting Rotarians, Jason Gordon from the Davenport Club and Reggie Freeman, Mayor of East Moline and an East Moline-Silvis Rotarian. Other guests were Kim Moran guest of husband Jim Moran; Jack Cullen Downtown Redevelopment Director and Todd Thompson, Rock Island City Manager, both guests of Mayor Thoms; Tom Martin new Editor of the Quad City Times/Dispatch/Argus was a guest of John Wetzel; and former Moline Mayor, Stan Leach, was a guest of Bud Phillis. We love having guests at our meetings and encourage all members to invite a friend or colleague who might be a potential Rotary member to visit an upcoming meeting of *The Number 1 Club*, Rock Island Rotary!
- ❑ **ANNUAL ROTARY RAFFLE COMING SOON!** – For the past several years our wine raffle has been a major club fundraiser, largely responsible for funding our “Service Above Self” scholarship for Rock Island High School students. How about helping out and joining the committee. Plans are being made, will we raffle wine or something else. Help us decide. Let President Cindi know you are interested and join the committee!. The meeting will be this Thursday at 7pm via ZOOM so you can join from the comfort of your home!
- ❑ **ROTARY’S 2ND ANNUAL ROCK N ROLL BINGO** – is set for Friday, March 24th at the Rock Island Holiday Inn Ballroom. Detail will be coming so SAVE THE DATE. It is a fun filled, fast paced evening that everyone can enjoy. You don’t have to be a music trivia buff to participate! You just need to enjoy having fun and raising money for Rotary projects and grants!
- ❑ **ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE** – What better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day than to open your heart and share the gift of life. The folks from *ImpactLife* will be at our February 14th meeting! *ImpactLife* is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, independent, community blood center, founded in 1974 as Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center in Davenport, Iowa. Over the years, They have extended into Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and in 2021, united under one new name: *ImpactLife*.
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to bobdebswanson@att.net
The Weekly Review is distributed each Tuesday afternoon. To ensure inclusion in the next issues it must be received by 10am Tuesday morning.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

NO RAFFLE TODAY – KIWANIS WAS OUR HOST AND
THEY PROVIDED A GAME THAT INVOLVED A BOTTLE OF WINE
A KIWANIS MEMBER SUCCESSFULLY WON THE WINE



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

THERE WERE NO FINES OR HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS TODAY
DUE TO MEETING JOINTLY WITH KIWANIS AND RESERVING
TIME FOR THE MAYOR’S PRESENTATION



Welcome our Newest Rotarian!

We are very happy to report that Charlotte "Char" Flickinger is our most recent new Club member. Char is Vice-President of Development of the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation, a national 501(c)3 community-based development organization dedicated to enhancing the overall image and economic vitality of underserved communities. She works in the corporation's home office at 100 - 19th street, #109, Rock Island and lives just a few steps from her office at 110 - 19th Street. She now holds the distinction of being our first member to join in 2023. Please be sure to say "Hello" and welcome her to our Club. We are delighted to have her as a member!

AMBER TURNS BLUE!

In a very short time Amber Wood has become an active and important member of our Club. She came to us with a wealth of Rotary Experience having belonged to several Rotary clubs, most recently in the Monmouth, IL Club. We were fortunate that a job change brought her to the Quad Cities and she chose our Club as her new Rotary home. She has actively joined in on projects, volunteered for committees, served as greeter with her mentor Marcy Bell, and attend a recent Board of Director's meeting. All of that has resulted in her earning her Blue Club Name Badge and turning in her Red New Member badge. Congratulations Amber and THANKS for making Rock Island Rotary even better than before!



Time to Brush Up on Your Trivia Skills!



VP Sue Rector has come up with another fun game that will be kicked off at Next Week's meeting. Members will pay \$1 to enter. Each week Sue will provide those who enter a sheet with several multiple choice trivia questions. Players will complete the sheet and turn it in to Sue before the end of our meeting. Participants will be "on their honor" to do their own work and not seek or accept help from others. Sue will keep a tally of correct responses for each player. There will be 6 weeks of play. Questions will be a mix of American and Rotary Trivia. The winner(s) will spin the prize wheel after the sixth week. All proceeds will go to the Rotary International Foundation.

**SAVE THE DATE! March
24th**

**RI Rotary Fundraiser-
Holiday Inn, Rock Island,
6pm start
R & R BINGO 🎉🎊**



The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center invites the Quad Cities community to attend the 40th Annual Memorial Service and Awards Celebration in honor of the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on January 16, 2023 from 10:30 am to noon. The theme for this year's event is "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."

The keynote speaker will be Dr. LaDrina Wilson, and Redrick Terry will emcee the event. The program will include a variety of performances and presentations in honor of Dr. King, and two scholarships will be awarded. The "I Have A Dream" Award will be presented to a Rock Island citizen for exemplary community service and enormous contributions made to the community.

AN INVITATION FROM JEFF CONDIT AND ROCK ISLAND KIWANIS ...

Dear Cindi,

The Kiwanis Club of Rock Island (basically me) reserved the Friday night (2/10/23) , original performance of Ballet Quad Cities "Love Stories." My wife and I have been for a few years now. It is absolutely lovely and most enjoyable from dinner, ambiance, performance, etc.

Anyhow, our Club can invite guests and we'd like to invite the Rotary Club of Rock Island members to consider coming along too. The details, cost, etc. are on the flier below.

You'll be hearing a brief announcement mention of this event on the 9th of January at Kiwanis/Rotary joint meeting, but I wanted you to know about it sooner.

You're welcome to print fliers for tables, or I will. Just let me know. Hopefully you'll include this flier in a future email to your club.

BQC is uplifting and beautiful. We're honored to have a chance to support them as a club, and invite Rotary to join in that celebration of and performance by a fellow nonprofit in our community. Some have invited a couple to join them, other an entire table. Others prefer a private intimate table. People can make of it what they want.

Any questions or thoughts or ideas?

Jeff Condit

Rock Island Noon Kiwanis Club



Presents...an exclusive ballet private event

- Date:** Friday, February 10, 2023
- Time:** Cash bar & music at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. (Italian buffet including dessert)
- Where:** The Outing Club 2109 N. Brady Davenport
- Performance:** Ballet Quad Cities "Love Stories" at 7:30 p.m.
- Cost & Terms:** \$60.00 per person, all inclusive!
RSVP to Jeff Condit at jeff.condit@friendshipmanor.org ASAP.
Payment to Kiwanis Club of Rock Island by January 31, 2023.



There's no better way to celebrate Valentine's day than an intimate, romantic evening. This special opportunity is exclusive to Rock Island Kiwanis Club and our guests, specifically our friends in the Rotary Club of Rock Island.

Invite your friends, clients and family. Seating is limited to 80 people. Ballet Quad Cities has given only Rock Island Kiwanis Club, and our guests, this exclusive offer.

If you've never been to a BQC performance, you're in for a treat!



ANNUAL ROTARY RAFFLE HAS A NEW TWIST!



For the past several years Rock Island Rotary has held a successful raffle with the prizes being \$500, \$300, and \$200 in wine. Hoping to make 2023 even bigger and more successful, the raffle committee had decided to make more participants winners and to add variety to the prizes. For 2023 five area business establishments have been selected and a \$200 gift certificate from each will be raffled. Five lucky winners will be able to wine and dine, perhaps multiple times with their \$200 gift card. More details will be coming including naming the businesses, kick off date and drawing date for the raffle!

The Rotary Raffle

IF YOU ATTENDED VIA ZOOM TODAY – LISTEN UP!!

We used the Kiwanis Zoom hookup today so we couldn't see who was on. We think Cindi looked on the Kiwanis screen and got most of you, but we're not sure. If you attended by ZOOM today, please send a quick email to our secretary Anne McGlynn at amfm1924@gmail.com and just tell her you were on ZOOM! That way we will be sure to give you credit for attending.

STATE OF THE CITY -

The Park Department also contributed to City funds with \$375,000 in sponsorships, 5,000 rounds of golf played, and 10,000 participants in recreational programs. The Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center has 3,900 members and continues to grow. Youth Leagues offered through the fitness center served 1,800 participants in 2022. Moving to the Martin Luther King Center Mayor Thoms said 3,000 people participated in the 2022 Family Fun Day. 150 kids were served by the after school and summer day care programs. 7,000 free dinners were served this year at the MLK Thanksgiving feast program. 1,000 students were served through the prevention services program. Turning to the Public Works Department the Mayor reported numerous water mains were replaced, streets were renovated, and storm water sewers were upgraded. Public works is now also serving Arsenal Island with water, sewage, and other municipal services. The Federal Government pays Rock Island for the services making it an income producing partnership. In the area of Police and Fire Thoms said the City has fully complied with the recently enacted Safety Act requiring additional training, reporting, and new procedures in policing. He said one of the most difficult tasks to accomplish was to bring all of the area cities together into one new radio network. Now all of the cities are in the same network and have instance access to information, alerts, and calls for assistance. The Rock Island Police have also partnered with Family Resources to provide victim counseling services as needed. He also noted that in Rock Island every firefighter is required to be a fully trained and licensed EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). They also are now equipped with mobile defibrillators and have received training in heart trauma treatment. A program the Mayor says will save lives! The fire department has also continued their service of providing free smoke detectors for Rock Island homes and provide child restraint seats to needy families. He noted that the Fire Department responded to 7,000 calls in 2022. Finally in his long list of accomplishments for 2022 Thoms praised the recent passage of the Downtown Special Services Area which he said will result in a much improved, cleaner, and safer downtown. To conclude his report Mayor Thoms turned his attention to projects he anticipates for 2023. He named completion of the new Federal Building in downtown Rock Island that will house Federal Courts and many other Federal offices and agencies. Just across the street from that projects he anticipates the completion of the demolition of the old parking garage and replacing it with a new parking lot. He also expects the new Branch Library and YMCA facility on 30th Street will be opened to the public. Thoms also mentioned the Rock Island/Milan School District's new Administrative Center/Supply Warehouse/Central Kitchen located on 7th Avenue at 20th Street as potentially opening later in 2023. In Questions and Answers the Mayor was asked if there was any truth to the rumor that the City is considering selling Sunset Marina to a private owner. The Mayor said that is not true. Asked if there is anything happening with the 11th Street site previously cleared for Walmart. He said there has been no new developments and the City plans to list the property for sale with a professional Realtor. We thank Mayor Thoms (one of our own Rotarians) for his detailed and thorough report on the status of our City!