



This must be November Fool's Day because this weather is not for real! It can't be. This is November... We all know it is supposed to be cold, maybe even snowing, but here it is ... a beautiful, wonderful day filled with sunshine and 60 degree weather, and it will continue to be like this for the next several days, I vote to keep this weather just the way it is

## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Janet Radde (Program Coordinator) and Doug Ferrell (Director of Programs and Evaluation) both of United Way of Southwest Michigan were the speakers this week. Janet is the wife of Rotarian Don Radde.

The pair were at Rotary to speak about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). The Program has but one mission: to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. Janet said, "We don't focus on improving lives on just the poor or just the middle class. We want to help the community as a whole, people from all walks of life.

VITA is program that offers free tax help for low-to-moderate income individuals and families who need assistance preparing their taxes.

It is an IRS program coordinated locally by the United Way of Southwest Michigan for Cass and Berrien Counties. Community volunteers are trained as tax preparers and meet with clients one-on-one to file their taxes.

Why is this program so important? The average tax return costs a taxpayer \$200-money that can buy groceries or help with rent. This program helps those who need it most keep their hard earned money.

Program Benefits: The average refund for a VITA client is \$1,172.00. VITA brings money back into the local economy through refunds and valuable tax credits. Since 2011, VITA has generated \$4,192,915 in total refunds.

To date, site locations include:

- Orchards Mall
- Southwestern Michigan College
- Niles Community Library
- Andrews University
- Cass District Library

There are two ways that anyone can help:

1) Become a VITA Greeter. Greeters-make sure client has their required paperwork in order. There is a one hour training class in January.

2) Become a VITA tax preparer. A preparer prepares basic federal and state returns after becoming IRS certified through free training in January.

The IRS provides free training and materials. This is offered at UWSM on Thursday evenings in January.

Preparers become IRS certified with 15 hours of free training in January either in the classroom, online or a combination provided by United Way of Southwest Michigan.

Join a program that has helped millions of people file tax returns at no charge for more than 40 years.

Your help will make a difference. It is people helping people, and yes, it is that simple.

Please write or call if you can volunteer at least one hour per week for the next 15 weeks.

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWESTERN  
MICHIGAN

[www.uwsm.org](http://www.uwsm.org) - (269) 982-1700



Matt Gibiec

## GIBIEC EARNS COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT FIRST TEAM HONORS

MEN'S SOCCER - SAT, OCT. 31, 2015 AT 3:00 PM

### CoSIDA Academic All-District Teams

**SOUTHFIELD, Mich.** – **Matt Gibiec** (SO/Saint Joseph, MI), of the men's soccer team, became the first Lawrence Technological University (LTU) student-athlete to earn the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District First Team honor in the College Division, the committee announced early this week.

Gibiec, a sophomore computer engineering major, has a 4.0 grade point average and leads the team in goals (7), assists (5), and points (19). Being a First Team honoree, Gibiec advances to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Team Ballot. First, Second, and Third team honorees will be announced later this month.

*To be nominated for this honor, a student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve with at least a 3.30 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) at his/her current institution. No student-athlete is eligible until he/she has completed one full calendar year at his/her current institution and has reached sophomore athletic eligibility. A committee is responsible for selecting the teams from the nominations submitted by the institutions. Follow @LTUAthletics on Twitter and Facebook | #WeAreLT*



Matt is an Exchange Student from Poland, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saint Joseph – Benton Harbor in 2013-14. Matt had a dream to come to America and to stay here. In fact, he contacted Debra Trapikas to see if he could come to our club in Saint Joseph. Wheels turned, things fell into place and the perfect family (the Huie's) were found for him. He has continued to make everyone proud to be a part of his journey.





**Saving lives  
is as easy as pie!**

Make it a tradition. Help save lives.  
Donate blood.

**American Red Cross**

## **Blood Drive**

**Hilton Garden Inn  
Chateau B**

1300 Cinema Way  
Benton Harbor

**Friday, November 20, 2015  
12:00 PM to 5:45 PM**

Come to donate for a chance to win one of three turkeys!

To schedule an appointment, log onto [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code:  
HiltonBH) or call -1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

## **GIVE BACK NIGHT BENEFITS INTERACT**

Silver Beach Pizza and the local Interact Clubs are teaming together to have a "GIVE BACK NIGHT" on Wednesday, November 18, 2015. The family favorite restaurant will be donating 10% of ALL sales between the hours of 4—9 pm to the Interact Club.

How can you help? Simply dine in or carry out from Silver Beach Pizza on Wednesday, November 18 from 4-9 pm.



## **JOKE OF THE WEEK!**

While waiting for my first appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, I noticed his certificate, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered that a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 30 years ago. Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was too old to have been my classmate.

After he had examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended the local high school. "Yes," he replied.

"When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered, "In 1964".

"Why, you were in my class" I exclaimed,

He looked at me closely and then asked, "What did you teach?"



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## **NOW THAT I AM OLDER, HERE IS WHAT I HAVE DISCOVERED.....**

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and all bran.
3. I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. If all is not lost, where is it?
6. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
7. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
8. Some days, you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
10. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
11. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you are in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he's have put them on my knees.
15. When I am finally holding all the cards, why does everyone want to play chess?
16. It's not hard to meet expenses .... They're everywhere.
17. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
18. These days I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter. I go to get something,  
and then wonder what I am here after.
19. The only difference between a nut and a grave is the depth.
20. DID I SEND THESE TO YOU BEFORE?

# Board Meeting

## 2015-16 Board of Directors

Mike McKinney, President  
Steve Smith, President-Elect  
Rick Villa, President Nominee  
Bob Peirce, Secretary  
Steve Ross, Treasurer  
Maria Kibler, Past President  
Dwight Bowman Director, Membership Chair  
Mary Spiegel, Director, Int'l Service Chair  
J.C. Anderson, Director  
Gary Bruce, Director  
Wendy Edwards, Director  
Charles Jespersen, Director  
Lori Marciniak, Director  
Debra Trapikas, Director, Comm. Chair

## 2015-16 Committees

Club Service, Patti Kutz  
Sgt. At Arms, Mike Ahern  
Invocation, Dave Kirshenbaum  
Programs, Steve Smith  
50/50 Raffle, Rick Villa  
Music, Dennis Bowen/Allen Westmaas  
Community Service,  
SJBH Rotary Foundation, Jackie Huie  
Foundation Investments, Mike Cook  
Bell Ringing, Sean Ebbert  
Park Cleanup, Rick Villa  
Rural Ag Day, Art Cotter  
Law Day, Steve Smith  
Rotary Showcase, Emily Hosinski  
Vocational Service  
Track Meet, Randy Bettich  
Track Scholarship, Dennis Bowen  
Student Program, Jackie Huie  
RYLA, Lori Marciniak  
Youth Exchange, Jennifer Kirsch  
Essay Contest, Patti Kutz  
International Service, Mary Spiegel  
Bio-Sand Water Filter, Charles Jespersen  
RI Foundation, Tom Chapman  
Polio Plus  
Membership, Gyl Kasewurm  
Orientation, Lynn Kellogg/Christine  
Vanlandingham

Diversity, Dwight Bowman  
Communications, Debra Trapikas  
Photographer,  
Website, Debra Trapikas  
Social Media,  
E-Wheel, Debra Trapikas/Emily Hosinski/  
Lisa Cripps-Downey, Jennifer Kirsch  
Public Relations, Debra Trapikas  
Membership Directory, Christ Newland

## Calendar of Events

*Mon., 11.9.15 - Court - Appointed  
Special Advocates (CASA)*

*Wed., 12.2.15 - Holiday Party at  
SJRYC, 6:00-8:00 p.m.*



Bob Peirce tells us about his love of Rotary!

