



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

eWheel

Your Rotary News
Straight
To Your Inbox

November 16, 2015

Paris, France. ISIS. World terrorism. Fear. These are the daily thoughts of Americans throughout the country this week when the unthinkable happened. Pray for Americans. Pray for People around the world.



Miriam Groff, Stephannie Harvey-Vandenberg and Chair of the Day, David Kirschenbaum

Stephannie Harvey-Vandenberg was the guest speaker this week. She is the President of the Benton Harbor Parks & Recreation Conservancy. With her was Miriam Groff, President of a runner's organization.

The Conservancy was formed in January, 2014, as a directive of Emergency Manager Tony Saunder. The Conservancy is a private, non-profit entity with an independent 33-member volunteer Board of Directors.

Through a management agreement with the City of Benton Harbor, the Conservancy is responsible solely for the maintenance of 12 of the City's 13 park properties. In this agreement, the City maintains ownership of each of the properties. The City does not contribute funds to the Conservancy, so the Conservancy must seek private contributions from the

community for operational and any capital improvements. To date, the most successful program has been the Adopt-A-Park Program.

Funds generated through the Adopt-a-Park program have been used to secure various vendors for day-to-day operations, including administrative support, lawn care, and repairs. To date, the Conservancy has been able to raise \$171,603.00 in private contributions.

Other Conservancy successes include the 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Ceremony (Nov. 20th), the Inaugural AEP Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot on November 27th), Park improvements, including: installation of receptacles throughout the system, repairs at various parks, including Union and Hall Park, and Square 1 Visioning for City Center Park.

The Adopt-A-Park Program is a collaboration between civic, business, and religious organizations who have a vested interest in building and maintaining a strong public park system for the City of Benton Harbor. Each organization has agreed to make a financial contribution and has signed a three-year contract with the Conservancy. Currently, there are 10 organizations who have adopted 12 parks.

In addition to providing the necessary funds to advance the mission of the Conservancy, Adopt-a-Park organizations have contributed countless volunteer hours toward improvement projects throughout the system.

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JOKE OF THE WEEK

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and, realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So he told the Associate Priest that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Priest left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

When he arrived at the first tee, he was alone; after all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this same time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then, Father Norton hit the ball. It shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. IT WAS A 420-YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Jill Stone brought Whitney Behnke, the new Executive Director of St. Joseph Today.



TWO NEW ROTARIANS INDUCTED

CONGRATULATIONS

ELLIOTT BERLIN AND KRISTY AUBREY



Rotarian John Berlin introduces his son, Elliott while Mary Anderson (below) introduces Kristy Aubrey.



SIGN UP FOR BELL RINGING

It took just a few minutes to have the Bell Ringing sign-up sheet complete. Three spots remained unclaimed. Will you take one? Contact Sean Ebbert.



EDGECUMB PARK IMPROVEMENTS - BEFORE



EDGECUMB PARK IMPROVEMENTS – AFTER



**TRASH RECEPTACLE PROJECT
(PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTHBUILD)**



THANK YOU TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAINT JOSEPH – BENTON HARBOR FOR ADOPTING THE BOBO BRAZIL RECREATION CENTER!





The Rotary Clubs of Saint Joseph – Benton Harbor and Benton Harbor Sunrise invite you to the

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 2
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Joseph River Yacht Club
1 Lighthouse Lane
Saint Joseph, MI 49085

\$10.00 per person

Please R.S.V.P. at Monday meetings or write or call
Debra Trapikas at tawana53@aol.com or @269-861-0718
or Patti Kutz @ 269-876-9292



Our sign-up sheets are missing and have not been returned. So, please sign up again by emailing Deb Trapikas at tawana53@aol.com or by calling her at 269-861-0718. Everyone should be signed up before November 25th! Last call!



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 (sponsor code: HiltonBH) or call -1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



HAPPY BUCKS WERE |
FLYING ALL AROUND
THE ROOM!

\$9 was given by Mike Kinney as he announced the birth of his first child, Leonine Michael Kinney, weighing in at 9 lbs.

\$4 was given by Deb Trapikas for the magical musicality of the Westmaas-Bowen duo, who make her so happy each week. She noted she would have given \$2.50 each, but Sean and his fines lowered the amount she had to give.

And there were others

Jacque Winship encouraged people to go to the Light up the Tree in Benton Harbor and walk around the area to see the artistry of the local youth.

Carol Sizer announced the Acorn Theater has a new production worth seeing.

Sean Ebbert, Sgt. At Arms, offered everyone in the room to opt out of fines by answering one simple question: "What happened on this day, Nov. 16, in 1952?"

Silence More silence A few bandied suggestions. No one had the answer!!! It was the first time in the Peanuts comic strip that Lucy carried the ball for Charlie Brown! Awwwww....

