



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

eWheel

Your Rotary News
Straight
To Your Inbox

February 15, 2016

LOVE WAS IN THE AIR AFTER JUST COMING OFF VALENTINE'S DAY: FLOWERS, HEARTS, BEE'S, KISSES, YOU NAME IT LOVE WAS EVERYWHERE. HOPE THE REST OF YOUR YEAR IS JUST AS LOVING AND KIND. KEEP THOSE PRECIOUS TO YOU, CLOSE TO YOU. BE SURE AND TELL THOSE YOU LOVE, HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM and TELL THEM OFTEN! REMEMBER THE "60'S" - "MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR".

Southwest Michigan Regional Airport What does our airport mean to our community?

Today's guest speaker was Southwest Michigan Regional Airport Director Vince Des Jardins. He gave us some amazing facts and figures about our airport:

- There are hundreds of visiting aircraft each year – business and tourism.
- Numerous emergency response and medical flights utilize the airport – medical flight, Coast Guard, military and rescue helicopters.
- Supports Senior PGA, Steelheaders Triathlon, Blossom Time Festival, Lest We Forget, Civil Air Patrol, Boy Scouts, Operation Good Cheer, etc...
- 70+ aircraft are based at the airport.
- It is the largest airport within a 40 minute drive.



Carol Sizer, Chair of the Day, and Vince Des Jardins, Airport Director enjoy a few relaxing moments before the presentation begins

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Five businesses are based at the airport:

1. Skyway Aviation - a fixed based operator of aircraft services – our first impression.
2. Flying Colors Aviation – Renowned aircraft painting, from small to business jets.
3. Higher Power – specializing in hangar doors, A global supplier which has the fastest door on the market.
4. Nexus/CAD – Aircraft heating and air conditioning systems. New business.
5. Whirlpool Business Travel Center and 3 based aircraft.

Plus, there are two flying clubs providing flight training and aircraft rental.

May of the tenants at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport utilize their aircraft for business:

1. Visiting clients
2. Product delivery and support
3. Flight instructions, etc.

\$30 MILLION in Economic Impact to the immediate area, per MDOT for tourism and indirect business impact.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Three of the based businesses are growing: there will be more jobs and expanding facilities in the next two years.

Major terminal updates are underway and will include conference and community meeting space. A flight planning room and a pilot lounge are also being planned.

There will be additional hangars this spring.

They are attracting additional based businesses and charter service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our regional airport was the **2012 MDOT AIRPORT OF THE YEAR?**

For Runway Expansion: ACEC Award for Quality Engineering and FAA Airport Environmental Innovations.

INTERNATIONAL SNOW AND ICE HANDLING AWARD in 2012 and 15 other years in the last 40 years?



MILLAGE

Did you know that Saint Joseph owns 16/43rds of the airport? Benton Harbor owns the rest.

Six communities contribute financially to the airport operations enabling continued growth. Each community has a member who sits on the airport board – meeting monthly. They are looking for 2 to 3 additional communities to join the Airport Authority.

The millage enables continued airport growth. This funds activities such as attracting business, capital improvement, growth. Without the millage, the Airport Authority would be greatly restricted in their ability to fund these activities. The millage is only about 15% of the income, but enables critical activities to grow the airport.

This small increment helps support \$30 million in economic impact to our community.

IS THIS OUR FUTURE?



ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

DEBRA TRAPIKAS BROUGHT HER HUSBAND, BRUNO
and ALLAN WESTMAAS BROUGHT FRIEND JACK ZUKA. (sp??)

VISITING ROTARIANS

ANDREW WILLIAMS from ELKHART, IN

FINES: IF YOU FAILED TO WEAR RED ON 2/14 YOU OWE A BUCK!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Mary Anderson and Charles Jespersen will give a presentation on their recent trip to Cuba on February 22nd!

Whitney Behnke will give an update on St. Joseph Today on the 29th!

As we approach our 100-year anniversary for the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, we want to create the momentum to have a large community celebration at that time. To accomplish this, we have decided to build upon our annual spring evening event and reimagine it.

We've set the date for April 13 and that evening at Shadowland on Silver Beach, we'll be opening the doors to the general public for a prestigious, once-a-year event and inviting the community to learn more about what Rotary does both locally and globally.

You'll be hearing more and more about it as that date draws closer but we wanted to put the bug in your ear now for a few reasons:

1. We want you to put 4/13/16 on your calendar and attend the event.
2. In order to actually raise awareness of our work, we would like to have a number of booths at the event representing some of our various projects such as the Track Meet and Clean Water Project so we may be asking some of you to help support this effort.
3. Because we're inviting the general public to this event, we want to make sure we're making it easy to attend--so we do not want to have to charge a fee at the door. We'll continue to do a cash bar but we want to eliminate that entrance fee. To offset that loss of revenue, we will be seeking sponsorship for this event. We're only looking to raise around \$750 with sponsorship levels at \$100 and \$250 with an additional "member support" option at \$50.

4. And finally, if you are interested in being involved in the planning process for the event or you have any questions about the changes, please email Emily Hosinski at emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com.



ALL WE NEED IS LOVE LOVE MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND AND I LOVE HER LOVE, LOVE, LOVE LOVE ME DO LOVE ME TENDER, LOVE ME TRUE ONCE IN LOVE WITH AMY ... CHAPEL OF LOVE ... SHE LOVES YOU, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, LOVE THEME.... LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING HOW DEEP IS YOUR LOVE?..... IT'S A GROOVY KIND OF LOVE ... STOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE LOVE STORY

