



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

MAY 8, 2017

Another packed house this week at our Monday meeting with a few visiting Rotarians, a few guests, Rotary Student Program participants and three brand new members! We're gonna need a few more tables in here!

A TALE OF...ONE CITY



CITY OF St. Joseph

Our program for the day was supposed to

Mike identified three areas that are of particular public interest--the parks master plan, public works equipment and asset management.

include both mayors of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor--Mike Garey and Marcus Mohammed but a last minute schedule conflict changed things up on us. We heard exclusively from St. Joseph mayor and Rotarian Mike Garey.

There are three parks that are receiving a lot of attention right now. One of those, Whirlpool Compass Fountain has been a huge summer attraction and we want to make sure we capitalize on all potential opportunities for improvement.

Mike kicked things off by offering a heartfelt thanks to the Blossomtime committee and the folks from the city public works who made the annual parade a possibility. In fact, Mike was quick to note that it really is the people who make up the local government and community. It's about the residents and the city employees and the respect they share for each other. Mike also acknowledged the 84 citizens who serve on various boards and commissions and the 15 members of the retired senior volunteer program.

The second park, Dickenson Park, is often thought to belong to SJHS as they use it for baseball and softball games and the upkeep of the field is financed through their booster program. It is actually city property and there are a number of ideas to improve that space such as the addition of a public restroom.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 5/12-5/13: District Conference
- ❖ 5/15 Meeting: Celebrating Our Youth // RYLA, Interact, Track Meet and More!
- ❖ 5/22 Meeting: Dave Peterson, Pokagon Tribes and Casinos
- ❖ 5/29: NO MEETING // MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
- ❖ 6/5 Meeting: Kevin Guzzo, Parent Involvement in Afterschool Programs
- ❖ 6/12 Meeting: Chuck Jager, Bicycling Territorial Road
- ❖ 6/19: Installation Dinner at Stonegate Manor--no afternoon meeting



Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK



VISITING ROTARIANS

Heather Brookstone, Oregon
Balint "Bal" from Hungary, Lakeshore Rotary Exchange Student

ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Mike Huie brought Matt Gibiuc
Les Miller brought Ron Goos
Christine Vanlandingham brought Pat Ater
Rick Villa brought Harvey Johnson

FLAG EXCHANGE

Both visiting Rotarians participated in a flag exchange with our club!

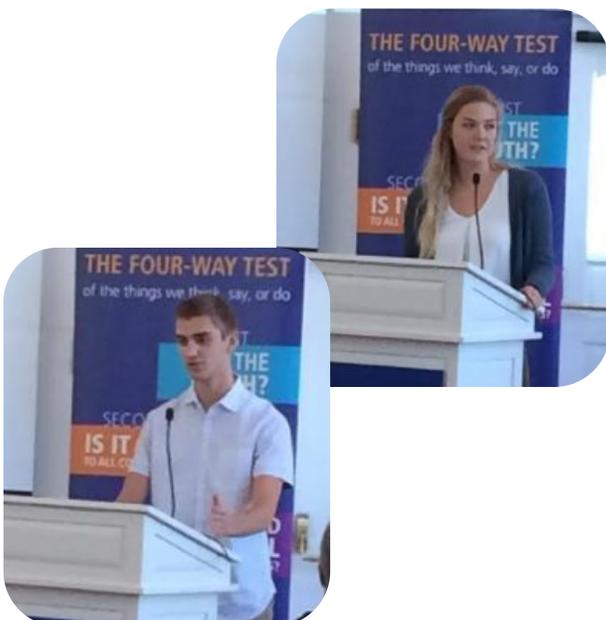


ROTARY STUDENT PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

We had two Rotary Student Program participants in attendance this week.

Larkin Johnson is a senior at St. Joseph High School and will be attending Loyola in the fall to study environmental science. Larkin spent time with Rick Villa at his business, Villa Environmental Consultants. She shared that it was very helpful to understand Rick's background in civil engineering and that she did not realize how technical the field was.

Jordan Shimunek is a junior at St. Joseph High School. Jordan spent his time at Whirlpool Corporation to learn more about engineering. After graduation, Jordan is considering Michigan State University or Michigan Tech and is leaning toward pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering.



AND THEN THERE WERE THREE...MORE!

Our numbers are up by three this week with the addition of Bruce Piekarski, Steve Borre and Cindy Igoe (pictured left to right). Steve and Cindy are both being sponsored by Jackie Huie and Bruce is sponsored by Bob Peirce.

Bruce has been commuting to St. Joseph for the last five years for his job at Horizon Bank. He and his wife and dog just moved to Stevensville so he's decided to join our club. Bruce was previously a member of the Elkhart Rotary Club. Bruce has two grown daughters who live out of state.

Steve is originally from the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor area and went to Michigan State University. He's been married 24 years and has four sons. His oldest son was actually the first president of the SJHS Interact Club and his next oldest is the incoming Interact president.

Cindy "retired" 12 years ago from Ford Motor Company to raise three kids. Two of her daughters will be busy with Interact next year--one is the incoming secretary for the SJHS club and the other is the incoming president at Upton Middle School. Cindy will also be taking on the role of advisor for Upton Middle School next year.



INSTALLATION DINNER

We sincerely hope that each of you will save the date of **June 19** to honor Steve Smith as our outgoing President and to welcome Rick Villa as our incoming President. Dress attire is casual (picnic style) clothes and we hope you will join in and enjoy lawn games, fellowship, good food and music. The location will be at Stonegate Manor, 2251 Riverside Road in Benton Harbor. There will NOT be a noon meeting on June 19. The cost is a reasonable \$30 per person. Sign up now by emailing Debra Trapikas at tawana53@aol.com and giving her the money in person at a meeting, OR by mailing to her at 3080 S. Lakeshore Drive, Saint Joseph, MI 49085.

SJ/BH ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION LOOKING TO ADD TO BOARD

The Board of Directors of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club Foundation (Foundation) comprises the three (3) most recent Past-Presidents and six (6) members-at-large. Current Board members are: Past-Presidents Gary Bruce, Maria Kibler and Mike Kinney, and members-at-large Dick Ward, Barney Whittier, Mike Hanley, Dale Park, Mike Huie and Tom Starks. Members-at-large are appointed by the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club Board of Directors and hold office for staggered terms of three (3) years and are eligible to serve an additional consecutive three (3) year term. Terms parallel the Club year beginning on July 1 and ending June 30. This year the second three (3) year term of two (2) members-at-large expire.

Members-at-large must be Club members in good standing and be either a Benefactor (have contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation) or are in the process of becoming a Benefactor by having contributed a sum towards a goal of \$1,000.

The Foundation Board meets four times a year, quarterly in January, April, July and October. The January, April and July meetings currently take place in conjunction with a Club meeting on Monday. The October meeting is the annual grant selection meeting. September and October is the active period for Foundation Board members reviewing grant applications and, at the October Board meeting, selecting the grant recipients and grant amounts for the year.

If you are interested in serving as a member-at-large please contact Steve Smith or Bob Judd by June 1, 2017. If you have any questions contact Bob Judd at rjudd2230@comcast.net or talk to one of the current Board members.

WIN TICKETS FOR TWO TO ESPN'S **PARDON THE INTERRUPTION SHOW**

Donate to Benton Harbor Promise for a chance to win tickets to a live taping of ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption* and a weekend in the nation's capitol! *

*Winners must schedule their airfare and hotel stay prior to December 31st, 2017.

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE:

- Tickets to a live taping of ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption*, starring co-hosts Michael Wilbon and Tony Kornheiser
- Round-trip airfare for two to Washington D.C.
- Two nights at the hotel of your choice
- One \$250 Visa gift card

Enter as many times as you wish to increase your chances of winning and contribute to an excellent cause:

- \$10 donation = 1 entry
- \$25 donation = 3 entries
- \$50 donation = 7 entries
- \$100 donation = 15 entries

On May 12th, the winner will be drawn at a Benton Harbor High School varsity baseball game!

All donations go to Benton Harbor Promise.

The Benton Harbor Promise is committed to ensuring that all students graduating from a Benton Harbor high school have the opportunity to achieve a post-secondary education. Since 2011, the Benton Harbor Promise has awarded more than \$380,000 in scholarships to Benton Harbor students attending a community college or career technical/vocational skilled trade program in the state of Michigan.

DONATE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN BY 5/12/2017 AT 12:00PM
BENTONHARBORPROMISE.COM/DONATE

The prize is not redeemable for cash value. If the contest winner is unable to attend, the prize will be given to the drawing's runner up.

Contact information: Alloyd Blackman | 175 West Main St. | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 277-5201 | bentonharborpromise.com

Raffle License No. C27894
The drawing will revery to a 50/50 if less than 800 tickets are sold.

BHP-23241 3/17



A TALE OF...ONE CITY (CONTINUED)

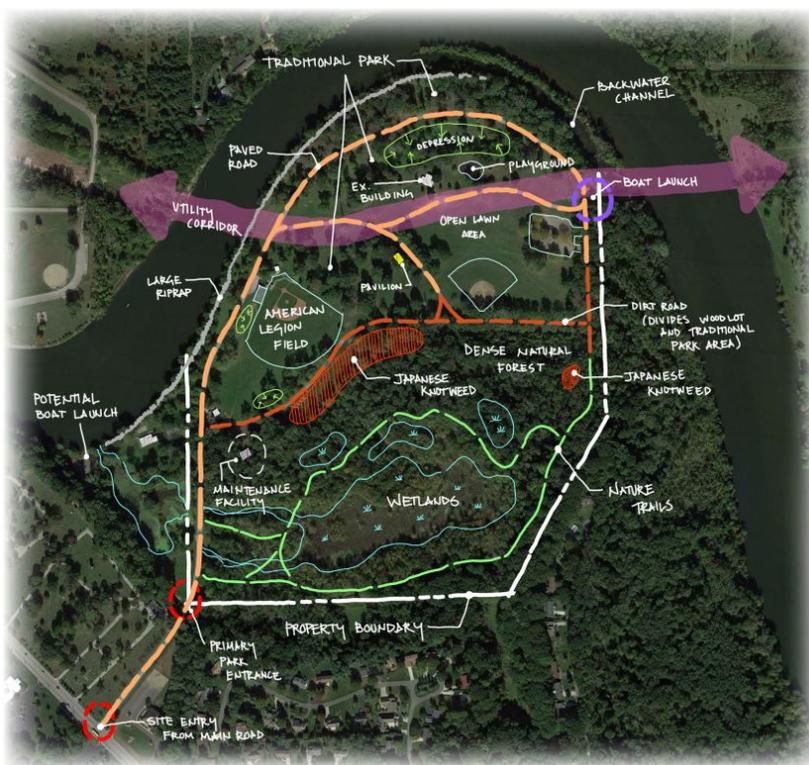
The third park, Riverview, has the greatest amount of potential. Located in St. Joseph Township and boasting 107 acres, the opportunities are just about endless. Could we partner with Sarett Nature Center to add nature trails or add a kayak launch point?

The main point of the parks discussion was to highlight the need for public participation in the long-term planning for these spaces. The next public meeting will be held on May 31. You can find out more and even submit feedback by visiting the [City of St. Joseph website](http://www.cityofstjoseph.org).

A few updates on the topic of public works equipment. One example Mike shared was the 2016 addition of a leaf vacuum truck. A service that used to take three people and three vehicles is now a one-person operation. City employees have also recently received safety training on the roadwork cone set-up process.

When it comes to asset management, Mike emphasized the need to maintain our infrastructure for the urban water cycle that includes both clean water and sewage disposal. When a stretch of road in Benton Harbor collapsed last year, for just a ¼ mile repair, the cost was around a million dollars. Our biggest efforts need to be focusing on rebuilding the infrastructure to avoid such issues.

With all of the work that happens in our local government, it requires a solid foundation of trust. Officials need a long-term outlook on government and the community and citizens must be involved to help drive that work forward. When you think of government, you might imagine it to be a far off place where people pass papers and try to navigate a maze of red tape but when you take a look at the local government, you see where the action really happens.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE eWHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Jennifer VanBeck, Brandi Smith-Gordon and Lisa Cripps-Downey with photography by Jen Cole. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to RotarySJBH@gmail.com.

Connect with the Rotary Club of St.
Joseph-Benton Harbor
online at www.sjbhrotary.org



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