



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

JUNE 13, 2016

It was a bit of a somber day as we reflect on the tragedy in Orlando as well as the passing of two Rotarians over the weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who are suffering during these trying times.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN



Jim Grandholm founded Green Earth Electronics Recycling in 2009 but he's best known for

other endeavors. As those in attendance may have guessed by his 7' height, Jim is a former professional basketball player. He played professionally for about a decade with a majority of that time spent playing internationally.

Jim's path to this profession came about in a very personal way. Over the years, he has owned and operated a number of small businesses and had stockpiled a good number of computers that he didn't know what to do with. He didn't know how to make sure that all his personal information was successfully removed from

the computers and so, he felt the safest place to store the equipment was in his basement.

Around the same time he identified this stockpile as a problem, the youth pastor at his church mentioned that he had started an electronics recycling business. In addition to being able to help Jim out of his cluttered basement debacle, he was interested in Jim's assistance in getting the word out to local businesses.

Jim then found out pretty quickly that most people were like him-- unsure what to do with this type of equipment. Not only individuals, but schools and businesses are struggling with this issue as well. It didn't take too long for Green Earth Electronics Recycling to become a booming business.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 6/20 Meeting: Aleksandra Yanushko, Exchange Student presentation
- ❖ 6/27: Installation Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn at 5:30 p.m. // NO AFTERNOON MEETING
- ❖ 7/4: Fourth of July // NO MEETING
- ❖ 7/11: Coach Elliott Uzelac
- ❖ 7/18: Clint Bosler & Kristen Weir, LOGAN Center Community Resources

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?

In lieu of jokes this week, our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mary Spiegel, shared a quote for our reflection...

On the death of a friend, we should consider that the fates through confidence have devolved on us the task of a double living, that we have henceforth to fulfill the promise of our friend's life also, in our own, to the world.

-Henry David Thoreau



ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Steve Smith brought student guest Victoria and her father Paul Dumke



STUDENT PROGRAM

Victoria Dumke, a junior at Michigan Lutheran, joined us to share her experience with the Student Mentoring Program.

Her Rotary host, Steve Smith, shared that Victoria had originally expressed an interest in Equine Law but after providing her with some information from a colleague, he successfully dissuaded her from that potential endeavor.

Victoria then turned her sights to video editing. She was able to meet with Jesse Cherniak at Whirlpool Corporation and is very excited to further investigate her career options in this field.



DO YOU FACEBOOK?

With the leadership change on the Communications committee, we will strive to be more active on our facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, make sure you "Like" the club page. You can search "Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor" or [click this link to go there directly](#).

We also need your help in collecting content for our page! If a Rotarian is in the news or if you have photos from a Rotary event, etc... please share with Emily at emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com or you can send via text to 269-405-6769.

HOST FAMILIES *STILL* NEEDED FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT

In July, Sasha will be returning to her home in St. Petersburg, Russia. For the Trapikas family, it will be very sad because Sasha has been just "one of the family" for the past year.

We have a lovely Brazilian girl who will be arriving in July or August, but we have no home for her. We need your help! We need two families to give her room and board. The first family will get her until the middle of January and the second family will have her from the rest of January through her return home in July.

All that is required of a host family is 1) they be a kind, caring, loving family who will treat the student as if she is their own child, not a guest; 2) a bed to herself. She can share a bedroom with a like student (near same age and gender); 3) Three meals a day (you will pay for her school meals, or send her with a lunch). Other than that, there just isn't much more to do. Take her around the city, the state, or on vacation to other states. Enjoy her. Learn as much from her, as she will be learning from you. Treat her kindly. Make her do chores around the house so she will be part of the family. Make sure she gets to school or school activities.

Please, if you have never hosted before, give it a chance. Give yourself a chance to grow and learn as well. Contact Jennifer Kirsch, our new Youth Exchange Officer at 985-8517 or email her at jennifer.m.kirsch@gmail.com.



You, your spouse and guests are invited to a "Pass the Gavel" Installation Celebration on Monday, June 27, 2016!

The Rotary Club of Saint Joseph - Benton Harbor invites you to join us in celebration of the 2016-17 Installation tradition of "Passing the Gavel" from outgoing President Mike Kinney to incoming President Steve Smith, along with the introduction of Officers and Board Members.

Social Hour 5:30 p.m. *** Dinner and Program 6:30 p.m

Hilton Garden Inn

1300 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Cash Bar and Live Entertainment
\$35.00/ Person

Choose one meal: Trotter Steak, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Salmon on Bok Choy
or Quinoa Stuffed Portabella Mushroom with Ratatouille

Payment Options:

Cash or Check, see Debra Trapikas before June 22, 2016
If paying by credit card (Mastercard and Visa only), register at
www.sjbhrotary.org or www.district6360.com and click on the DACdb icon.

Questions? Please contact Debra Trapikas at 269-861-0718 or tawana53@aol.com

BEING GREEN (CONTINUED)



Right now, electronics make up the fastest growing segment of refuse. Often times, the equipment is even still functioning but because technology changes so fast, people are frequently upgrading and disposing these items.

For example, Green Earth has a pallet on top of a pallet of old TV sets--80% of which are still working. No one wants these old CRT sets and on top of that they're heavy! These also contain 10-15 pounds of leaded glass which can cause a serious issue when put in landfills. Green Earth charges \$20 to take care of this type of TV set. There are also 470 million mercury-based LCD monitors out in the world so the problem doesn't stop with these old TVs.

The focus of Green Earth Electronics Recycling is to find a way to reuse the items they receive. While most people use laptop computers now, for someone who doesn't have a computer at all, a refurbished desktop computer can be a major asset. The challenge, shared Jim, is to make sure they're not investing \$10 in an item that they're only able to sell for \$5.

Green Earth is not a non-profit and so they do need to bring in a profit in order to support the 12 employees who are helping to provide this service to the community. They do charge fees to receive items and from there, their first priority is to refurbish and resell the item whenever possible. If they are unable to refurbish, they will separate the item for parts.

They are certified by Microsoft to refurbish computers. If they plan to take that approach with an item you're discarding, they do first ask for your permission and will wipe the machine to assure that none of your information is left behind. They will then add a MS operating system and sometimes additional RAM and improved processor.

Green Earth is not licensed to handle hazardous materials. If there's an item that contains hazardous materials, like those old TV sets with leaded glass, they outsource to have those hazardous components removed. Then the item can be successfully separated and safely recycled.

One thing they can do on-site is hard drive shredding. Jim compared it to a paper shredder but this device is able to grind a hard drive down to practically nothing to help maintain security of bank and medical records.

These days, many devices that you wouldn't think to inquire about contain a hard drive. Jim shared an example of picking up a copy machine from a business and the company was unaware that the machine contained a hard drive.

Jim stressed that it is very important to be careful who you give your electronics to. There are some people who will seek out these type of items for the sole purpose of data and identity theft. For Green Earth Electronics Recycling, security is the highest priority. They seek to not only meet but exceed expectations. The goal is really just to help people and they want their customers to feel assured that they are trustworthy with this delicate information.

Green Earth Electronics Recycling is located at 3621 Tennis Ct., St. Joseph. The items they will accept include: computer equipment, computers, laptops, LCD and CRT monitors (\$10 hazardous waste fee), computer peripherals, printers, copy/fax machines, wires and cords, audio visual equipment, LCD/plasma/tube televisions (\$20 hazardous waste fee), stereo equipment, game consoles, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators, car batteries, batteries, kitchen appliances and lamps. They will also shred CDs, floppy discs, data tapes and VHS tapes for \$0.65/pound (minimum charge of \$5).

For more information, you can visit their website at <http://www.greenearth1.com/>.

IN LOVING MEMORY



MIKE AHERN

Michael J. Ahern, 62, passed away June 11, 2016, at University Hospital, Madison, surrounded by his family.

Mike was born May 10, 1954, in La Crosse, to Arthur and Ruth Ahern. He attended University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, earning a degree in outdoor recreation. His love of the outdoors was

reflected in his 45 years of service to the YMCA community at facilities in both Michigan and Wisconsin. He began his time at the Y as a junior camp counselor at Camp Bradfield, later becoming camp director. Mike transitioned from camping to become the associate director of Battle Creek YMCA, advancing to executive director of Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA, where he spent the past 29 years. He invested significantly in the growth and development of the Y, most recently spearheading a new addition and enhancement initiative. Mike loved the community cultivated by the Y and worked hard to ensure that people felt welcomed and accepted.

Mike was a man of faith, guided by his belief in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He loved his family and demonstrated a genuine care for others throughout the community. He was known for his sense of humor and his love of a good story. He was a loyal friend, a loving husband and a gracious leader. He loved to spend time outdoors with his family, with many adventures over the years. He enjoyed biking along the lakeshore, camping in the Upper Peninsula, fishing, hunting and photographing beautiful sights along the way. Mike served as an elder at The Chapel Evangelical Free Church, was a longtime Rotarian and was actively involved in small group ministry.

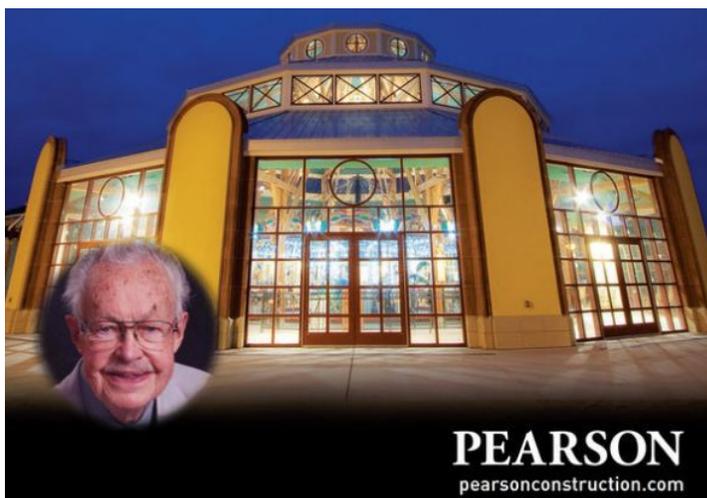
Mike is survived by his wife, Heidi, of 39 years; his son, Mark (Cali) Ahern; and granddaughter, Emma of Indianapolis; and daughter, Katy (Matt) Casburn of Grand Rapids, Mich.; his sisters, Kathy (Jim) Shurts of

Madison, Peggy Ahern of La Crosse; and sister-in-law, Carolyn (Bill) Bahr, of Atlanta. His parents, Art and Ruth Ahern, preceded him in death.

Services will take place 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, at The Chapel, 4250 Washington Ave, St. Joseph, Mich. Funerals services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, June 16, at The Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Mike Ahern Camp Scholarship, at Benton Harbor-St. Joseph YMCA, 3665 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085, or The Chapel, 4250 Washington Ave, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

from the La Cross Tribune



BURT PEARSON, SR.

The man whose company has built many of the landmark buildings we see or go into every day has died after a brilliant career in Michigan's Great Southwest. Burton H. Pearson of St. Joseph, a contracting superstar for decades, died Friday at the age of 92. He was the second of three generations in the Pearson family of prolific commercial construction throughout the region.

Pearson and his company built the Berrien County Courthouse, Lake Michigan College, the Silver Beach Carousel, St. Joseph City Hall, the Krasl Art Center, Whirlpool Corporation's Administrative Center, Great Lakes Eye Care, the Berrien County Jail, high school buildings for St. Joseph, Niles and South Haven and many, many more.

Continued on next page

IN LOVING MEMORY (CONTINUED)

Many of the commercial buildings and office structures throughout the region have been constructed by the Pearson Construction Company.

Burt Senior as he came to be known after his son joined the ranks of the company and took over in recent years, had been at Caretel Inns of Lakeland in Royalton Township at the time of his death on Friday.

He was born two days after Christmas in 1923 in Stevensville. His father, Joel Pearson was the founder of Pearson Construction, which is headquartered in Benton Harbor. Joel had come to the United States in 1914 from Sweden and his company was incorporated in 1931.

Burt graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1941 and attended Northwestern University Engineering School before being drafted in 1943 into the Headquarter Squadron of the United States Army Air Corps in Washington. After returning to St. Joe, he attended Kalamazoo College and graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in Business Administration. He then joined the family firm and eventually became President in 1964. He officially retired in 1999 when Burt II became the President.

He and his wife Jean were married for 66 years. She survives him along with his children Christine (Roger) Petzke, and Burton (Margaret) Pearson, II. He is also survived by six grandchildren, four great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Burt was a church council member of Saron Lutheran Church for 40 years, a former board member of Sarrett Nature Center, a former director of InterCity Bank and was a member of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club for many years.

Services celebrating Burt's life will be at 11am on Wednesday, June 15th at Saron Lutheran Church in St. Joseph followed by entombment at the North Shore Mausoleum. The family will receive friends and relatives from 5-8pm on Tuesday at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor, and memorials may be made to Sarett Nature Center or Saron Lutheran Church.

Burt was a strong, quiet leader to was totally dedicated to excellence in everything his company performed, and the sheer volume of buildings that have been built in the region and beyond are testimony to a company that has earned tremendous respect and admiration across the land.

from Moody on the Market

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Jennifer Kirsch, Brandi Smith-Gordon and Lisa Cripps-Downey. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com.

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online at www.sjbhrotary.org



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