



Weekly eWheel for the

# Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

## JUNE 6, 2016

A patriotic spirit was in the room as we remember the significance of this date, D-Day. On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy, France to fight Nazi Germany. While more than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded on this day, their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe to defeat Adolf Hitler.

## WHERE WE'RE GOING...WE DEFINITELY NEED ROADS



The mission of the Berrien County Road Commission is to maintain a county road system that is safe and convenient for public travel. That county road system includes 1,478 miles of roads, 102 bridges, 4 maintenance garages (Benton Harbor, Eau Claire, Baroda and Bakertown), 52 plow/dump trucks, 2 graders, 6 front end loaders, 3 gradalls as well as other road maintenance equipment. All that and funding is only received through the state from fuel taxes.

When preparing to hear an update about the current state of roadways in Michigan...you don't generally expect an entertaining and lively presentation but that's just what we got from Louis Csokasy, Managing Director of the Berrien County Road Commission!

I guess you have to have a sense of humor when you're tasked with "turning around" the Road Commission, an almost 100-year-old organization, in your first six months on the job. For those of us who live year-round in Michigan's great Southwest, we know that this is no easy task.

There are two things that everyone knows about the roads: 1) taxes and 2) the conditions of the road in front of your house. And in general, people are not happy about either.

*Continued on page 6*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 6/13 Meeting: Jim Grandholm, Green Earth Electronics Recycling
- ❖ 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

# 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

Why did the turtle cross the road...?



**...to get to the Shell Station!**

*(compliments of our Sergeant-at-Arms, Matt Hanley)*



### VISITING ROTARIANS

Terry Bush, South Bend

### ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Randy Bettich brought Sam Hanau  
Emily Hosinski brought Erich Kirchner  
Gyl Kasewurm brought Jim Grant  
Bill Schalk brought Sharon Coleman



### ROTARIANS WITH JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

- 6/2 - Mike Kinney & David Offord
- 6/5 - Jack Keller
- 6/6 - Rick Villa
- 6/9 - Chris Newland
- 6/10 - Art Fenrick
- 6/13 - Jack Kinney
- 6/20 - Stephen Ross
- 6/21 - Jerry Alberts & Stephen Townsend
- 6/22 - Brian Sauer
- 6/23 - Bill Downey

# Happy Anniversary

### 10+ YEAR ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Years - Millicent Huminsky
- 15 Years - Rae German
- 18 Years - Dixon Bieri
- 22 Years - Jackie Huie
- 24 Years - Bill Benner & Kurt Marzke
- 27 Years - Bob Dolsen
- 32 Years - Bill Johnson
- 35 Years - David Peterson
- 42 Years - Charles Duncan
- 43 Years - Mike Cook
- 48 Years - Steve Upton
- 52 Years - Jack Porritt & William Rahn
- 53 Years - Jack Kinney
- 54 Years - Bob Starks



### CONGRATS TO ALL GRADUATES!

We know many Rotarians are celebrating graduations of children, grandchildren or other loved ones right now. Congratulations to all who have reached this milestone and we wish all graduates the best of luck on the next phase of life!

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.sjbhrotary.org) or [www.district6360.com](http://www.district6360.com) and click on the DACdb icon.

*Questions? Please contact Debra Trapikas at 269-861-0718 or [tawana53@aol.com](mailto:tawana53@aol.com)*



## RIBBONECTOMY!

Congratulations to Jennifer Kirsch on the removal of your yellow “new member” ribbon! Jennifer actually sought us out when she moved to Southwest Michigan because her father is a Rotarian and she thought it would be a good way to connect with the community. Jennifer is our new Youth Exchange Officer and is an active member of the Communications Committee.

## ON THE MOVE

Major Mike McKee shared with us that he is being transferred from Benton Harbor to The Salvation Army National Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia to work with International Relief projects. Major Mike will be heading out of town on June 26 and his replacements will be here later that week. Majors David and Marina Womack will be our new contacts at the Benton Harbor location and they are currently serving in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Major Mike and his wife have served here in our community for 9 years and will greatly miss being in Southwest Michigan and being part of the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor.



Major Mike asked that I pass along his gratitude to the Club for ALL of the support--in so many ways--over the past 9 years.



DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD<sup>SM</sup>

## UPTON HONORED

The St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation selected Stephen and Elizabeth Upton as the 2016 recipients of its Distinguished Philanthropist Award. [You can read more about this honor in the Herald Palladium.](#)

Steve also received a standing ovation at Monday’s meeting in recognition of his military service in WWII where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge under General George Patton. Steve was also present in Normandy 72 years ago on D-Day.

## EXCITING NEWS

There’s a lot of excitement in the Huie household and JohnsonRauhoff as Jackie transitions from the role of President to CEO and her husband Mike joins the team as COO. [Read more about it in a recent article in the Herald Palladium.](#)



## SPECIAL THANKS!

Much appreciation was expressed for the supporters and donors of the Lighthouse Forever project. A dedication ceremony took place over the weekend at Tiscornia Park. The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center will soon begin offering lighthouse tours to the public. More details are expected to be released in the coming weeks.

---

---

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Honorary Club Member and U.S. Congressman, Fred Upton provided us with a quick legislative update:

### #Path2Cures: Putting Patients First

Congressman Upton recently wrote a blog detailing the inspiration, journey, and the future of *21st Century Cures Act*, a bill he sponsored which passed the House last July and is currently waiting for passage in the Senate. This act will fund research with a focus on finding cures for diseases like cancer and Parkinson's. [Read the blog post here.](#)

### Strengthening our Military so they can Protect Us

Last month, the House of Representatives came together to pass H.R. 4909, the *National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017*, by a bipartisan vote of 277-147. The NDAA will fund the U.S. Department of Defense for the next fiscal year starting October 1. This act means the advancement of meaningful programs that give our troops a pay raise, fund their training, and block the government from transferring Guantanamo detainees to United States soil.

### Keeping Energy Affordable and Secure for SWMI

Last month, the House of Representatives passed S. 2012, the *Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016* which had passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 85-12. This legislation will help enact important parts of Congressman Upton's bill, H.R. 8, the *North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act*, which passed the House by a strong vote last December. Congressman Upton was appointed to a "Conference Committee" by House Speaker Paul D. Ryan to help lead House negotiators in finalizing a compromise comprehensive energy bill with the Senate.

### Zika Update

Warmer weather brings with it the threat of the Zika Virus. Zika is a mosquito-borne virus, which is spreading rapidly across the Western Hemisphere and within the United States. The House of Representatives is absolutely committed to combating Zika and preventing it from becoming a public health crisis here in the United States with a focus is on making common sense, targeted investments to combat this threat.

Thus far, the administration has reprogrammed \$589 million and the House acted to pass an additional \$622 million to fight the virus. Additionally, the House passed the *Adding Zika to the FDA Priority Review Voucher Program Act*, which is now law. This will prioritize research and development of vaccines and potential treatments related to Zika. The House also passed H.R. 897, the *Zika Vector Control Act*, which removes burdensome regulatory barriers to killing mosquitos carrying the virus.

The receive more frequent updates from Congressman Upton, you can follow his office on Facebook, Instagram, Medium, Twitter and YouTube.

## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

Wayne C. "Bud" Hatfield went to be with The Lord on May 30, 2016 after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's Dementia.

Wayne was born August 25, 1926 in Scottsburg, Indiana to Helen and Wayne Charles Hatfield, Sr. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois school of Architecture and a proud member of the United States Navy, serving aboard the USS Sheraton during World War II.

Wayne was a very talented, highly respected and well-loved man. His kindness and compassion were among his greatest qualities. He was quick to give of his time and talents and served as a mentor to several young, aspiring architectural students in pursuit of their careers. He was, above all, a devoted family man. His love for his family was always his first priority and evident in everything he did.

Survivors include his wife, Carol Hatfield; daughters Lynn (John) Korff, Tricia Hatfield, Taylor Hatfield and grandchildren Jason Korff, Brian Korff, Shelby Hatfield and McKayla Hatfield. He was preceded in death by his parents, beloved son, Mark Charles Hatfield and dear sister Patricia Hatfield.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks and Menchinger Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2650 Niles Rd., St. Joseph, MI. Those wishing to share a memory of Wayne may do so at [www.starks-menchinger.com](http://www.starks-menchinger.com).

## SENIOR PGA IN SWMI!

A big thank you to all who volunteered and supported the Senior PGA's visit to Southwest Michigan. As you may have heard, KitchenAid has increased and extended this partnership by committing to a title sponsorship through 2024 with the tournament returning to Harbor Shores every other year.

Steve Banyon and Charles Thomas LaSata IV are shown here doing their marshalling duty on Hole #15. Steve dubbed himself as the official "Goose Whisperer" and the young LaSata as "C4" as their duties expanded to chasing geese off the course.

Steve is also looking to purchase any non-golfing volunteer 2016 volunteer badges for \$25. If you're interested, please call Steve at 429-4616.



## SILVER BEACH THIS SUMMER

Sheriff Paul Bailey shared the news that more funding has been allocated to allow more deputies to be on patrol at Silver Beach this summer. He asserted that Silver Beach will be a safe and family-friendly destination throughout the summer and that the 4th of July holiday will receive special attention to ensure as much.

## ROADS (CONTINUED)

There are some things that are important to know about the Road

Commission. If you look at

An organization chart, you'll notice that there is

no link to county government. This

separation is intentional

so that the state of the roads stays out of politics as much as possible.

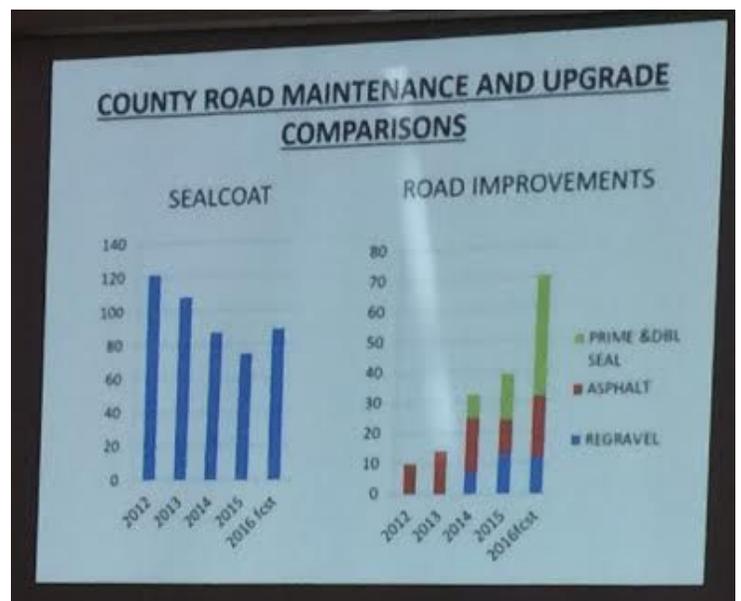


They operate on an \$18 million annual budget but that will grow to \$25 million by 2020 because of a fuel tax that will be rolled out between now and then.

There are various actions that they take when it comes to improving the roads. A lot of the time you'll see workers putting on a sealcoat which is only a "bandaid" solution--it's like putting a new coat of paint on a broken wall. The preferable course of action to really fix a roadway is to prime and double

seal which costs approximately \$70k per mile.

Csokasy assured us that we should see much improvement in the next 5-10 years as more emphasis is being put on the prime and double seal approach rather than sealcoating.



---

---

## **ROADS (CONTINUED)**

The Road Commission works closely with the townships to determine areas of most need. Currently, there are 22 five-year plans in the works throughout the county.

The responsibilities of the Road Commission extend beyond just roadways. They are also responsible for culverts, bridges, signage, right of ways, drainage, safety, weighmaster and permits.

The calendar year can pretty easily be split in half between the winter work of salting and sanding roadways and the summer construction, although potholes are actually being filled year-round. Csokasy also brought to our attention that the issue of salt use is currently being debated as salt is a pollutant that is particularly dangerous for the agriculture in our community.

At this given moment, there are over 240 distinct projects taking place. We have 102 bridges in the county which we replace at a rate of 1-2 a year at a cost of \$600k each. We generally also undertake 5-10 major culvert projects a year as the metal rusts over time which causes road cave-ins. The cost of a major culvert project is around \$100k.

Csokasy referenced the Territorial culvert collapse which recently took place. What was a crack one day was a 2-foot-wide hole two days later. Once the culvert collapsed, there was also a major back-up of

water which rose 15-feet above the normal level. This caused concerns about a catastrophic failure as they worked to drain the water down slowly. The cost of this project is within the \$750k range.

In terms of signage, we have around 13,000 in place around the county. We're lucky to have a sign shop in Berrien County and are able to take care of these ourselves. When it comes to signage, the Road Commission is on call 24/7. If they receive a report that a sign is missing, they need to replace it immediately.

Did you know that the Road Commission doesn't own the land that the road is on? The responsibility of the Road Commission is actually to protect the Right of Way for the traveling public to make sure people have appropriate access and that these areas are safe.

The Road Commission is also responsible for roadside drainage that's not already designated to a county drain with a focus on getting water off the road. They are also responsible for safety on county roads. We currently experience 5-10 fatal accidents per year but that trend is moving downward. Additional responsibilities include making sure that vehicle weight limits are followed and that heavy vehicles have the appropriate permits and scheduling.

For news, current construction activities, road closures, board meeting minutes and more, you can visit their website at <http://bcroad.org/>.

## **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](mailto:emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com).

**Connect with the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-  
Benton Harbor**  
online at [www.sjbhrotary.org](http://www.sjbhrotary.org)



[Like us on Facebook!](#)