



Hello Rotary District 6080!

Many busy Rotarians are making things happen in different activities in District 6080. Clubs are collecting shoes for the Shoes for Orphan Souls project to be recognized at the district conference April 19-21, 2024. You can collect new shoes, shoe strings, and socks for the "Shoes" roll call by club. If you have more shoes than you can store, please let me know and we will find a way to store them until the conference.

December is Rotary International's Disease Prevention and Treatment Month. Rotarians here in District 6080 and throughout the world unite in many ways for disease prevention and treatment with diabetes, polio and other debilitating diseases.

Rotary International Convention 2024: Please note that Dec. 15 is the last day for the early registration discount for the convention. District 6080 is still looking for a few more people to register. See you in Singapore!

The year end is a reminder to plan for next year by updating your club information in DACdb. This includes updating your club president elect, president nominee, as well as club secretary and treasurer, and other club officers. While in DACdb, please update any member information. If you need help, please let me know, and I will get you the help you need.

Goals—be sure to go to MyRotary.org to sign in and look for the Rotary Citation. You can look at all the goals there, then select a minimum of half, and upon completion of your goals, enter them by June 30, 2024.

Foundation giving is easy with district-level donation opportunities: a \$300/year contribution and you are a District 6080 Foundation Promoter or \$600/year and you are a District 6080 Foundation Champion.

All this helps Rotarians to do your part to Create Hope in the World!!!

Jimmy Standfast, District Governor 2023-24
Rotary Club of Salem



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Send your news items and photos to District Secretary Mary Ann Beahon at beahon.rotary@gmail.com

Do you want to be an effective club president?

Plan NOW to attend:

Show Me Rotary PETS

(presidents-elect and presidents-nominee training)



We are moving to Springfield!

SAVE THE DATE

March 22 & 23, 2024

University Plaza, Springfield, MO

For more information, see Show Me Rotary's website: <https://showmerotary.org/>
or the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/showmerotary>

Meet Your 2024-2025 District Governors

Erik McGuire, District 6040



Erik joined the Rotary Club of Burlington, Kan., in 2008. After moving to St. Joseph, Mo., he joined the Rotary Club of St. Joseph East in 2012. Being a part of this great club inspired Erik to get involved with a variety of service projects, and to complete the Rotary Leadership Institute.

Erik had the opportunity to serve as the club's president in 2016-2017. Other roles he has served in at the club level include Meals on Wheels coordinator, sergeant-at-arms, spaghetti fundraiser chair, leading the 2015-2016 district grant to install a play-path at Northeast Park in St. Joseph, and Shoes for Orphan Souls cheerleader. Erik currently serves as St. Joseph East Rotary's newsletter editor and Rotary Foundation chair.

After graduating from Truman State University in 2007, Erik began what continues to be a rewarding career with the Boy Scouts of America, where he currently serves as District Director for the Pony Express Council. Erik enjoys running, and has completed nine marathons, although he now gets more enjoyment from shorter races.

Erik married Christy in 2016 and together they raise Jackson (16) and Maggie (14). Erik and Christy enjoy travelling, good Indian food, and volunteering to lead Cub Scout Pack 30 and Scouts BSA Troop 30, where Maggie and several of her friends are members. Erik and Christy are Paul Harris Society members and Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.

Jerry Nolen – District 6060



Jerry became a member of the Overland Rotary Club in St. Louis County, Mo., in 2002. The Overland Club became the Spirit of St. Louis County Rotary Club in 2022. Early in his Rotary journey, his family hosted a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Natal, Brazil - a fantastic way to get an introduction to the international aspect of Rotary!

Jerry has served as club president three times, club secretary three times, and youth chair for many years. On the district level, Jerry has served as RYLA chair and assistant governor. He has been a Rotarian counselor at Missouri RYLA Academy for many years and he serves on the board of directors. Jerry is a Major Donor, a member of the Paul Harris Society, and a charter member of the District 6060 Polio Plus Society.

After 30 years in education, Jerry retired from the Ritenour School District in St. Louis County in 2019. Jerry serves on the board of directors of the Ritenour Pride and Promise Foundation and is a member of the High School Hall of Fame Committee. In 2020, he led the Citizens for Ritenour's Future. Jerry also serves on the Board of Directors of the Ocean Landings Condominium Association, Inc., in Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Jerry and his wife, Mary Kay, have one daughter, Bridget, and two grandsons. Jerry enjoys spending it with his family, fishing, traveling, and attempting to grow vegetables in his garden in Montgomery County, Mo.

Rowland Geddie, District 6080



Rowland will serve as District Governor for 6080 in 2024–25. He joined the Rotary Club of Lamar, Missouri (District 6110) in 1995 and served in various roles, including President. In 2012, he moved to Springfield and joined Springfield Sunrise Rotary. He has served as Foundation Chair, International Service Chair and Youth Exchange Officer. In 2019, he was named Rotarian of the Year by his club.

On the District level, Rowland has served as Assistant Governor both in District 6110 and District 6080. Since 2018, he has served as District 6080 International Service Chair. In addition, he is a member of the District 6080 Youth Exchange Committee. In 2019, he received The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service from Rotary International.

Rowland grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi, and attended the University of Mississippi, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees. He is the General Counsel of Gardner Capital, Inc. Rowland is married to Peggy, and they have two adult daughters.

Foundation Gala Honors Generous Donors Nov. 4



Past Rotary International President John Germ speaks about the Foundation.

District 6080's first Foundation Gala in several years was held Nov. 4 at Camden on the Lake. It was a beautiful celebration of donor recognition, thanks to the meticulous planning of Past District Governor Sherry Biron and her committee. The highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Past Rotary International President John Germ, who spoke on "Creating Hope in the World by the Rotary Foundation." He was introduced by by District Governor Jimmy Standfast.

Past District Governor David Bixler served as the emcee. The pledge was led by District Governor Elect Rowland Geddie and the inspiration was given by District Governor Nominee Andrea Brady. Special entertainment was provided by Carol Reinert and Harry Beckett of Montage. Past District Governor Joe Beltz served as the night's auctioneer.

After District Foundation Chair and PDG Paul Reinert defined the recognition levels, awards were bestowed by Past International President John Germ and Past District Governor Jerry Franklin. New Paul Harris Fellows and new Major Donors were recognized. New Major Donors are: Fulton Rotary, Mary Ann Beahon; Jefferson City Evening Rotary, Nick Rackers; and Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary, Sherry Biron - level 2.



John Germ, Jerry Franklin and Mary Ann Beahon



John Germ and Nick Rackers



John Germ, Sherry Biron and Jerry Franklin

Special recognition, including crowns for the men and tiaras for the women, was given to "Triple Crown Winners"—donors who are Major Donors and are also members of the Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society. Triple Crown Winners honored were: Branson-Hollister, Dennis Newkirk; Camdenton, Ron Yarbrough; Central Missouri, Jerry Franklin; Columbia, Melvin Platt; Columbia Evening, Lisa Ryan; Columbia Metro, Susan Hart; Columbia South, Raymond Plue; Fulton, Mary Ann Beahon; Harrisonville, John M. Foster; Jefferson City Evening, Cathy and Jim Libey; Jefferson City West, Richard and Sally Graham and Lawrence D. Neill; Laurie-Sunrise Beach, Sherry Biron and Nancy Rogers; Mountain View, Joe Beltz; Sedalia, Everette Wood; Springfield Southeast, John Horton, Mary Lou Martin and James Towery; Springfield Sunrise, Andrea and Michael Brady and Susan Haralson; Springfield, Guy Roger Mace, James Moore and Paul Reinert.



Springfield Rotary Clubs Dedicate Musical Playground



Dedication of the new Roseann Bentley Musical Playground at Phelps Grove Park in Springfield took place Nov. 21. It was the culmination of two years of planning and a year of fundraising. This was a community effort between all five Springfield Rotary clubs (Downtown, Metro, North, Southeast and Sunrise), the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and many community donors.



The playground honors Roseann Bentley for a lifetime of service to the community. A member of the Rotary Club of Springfield, she is a former educator, Missouri state senator and Greene County Commissioner who spent more than five decades in public service advocating on behalf of families, children and education.

This interactive and fully accessible musical playground is designed for kids of all ages and abilities to make a merry noise. Eight playground-grade instruments, including xylophones, drums and other percussive tones, built in colorful shapes of flowers and trees, were installed in the center of the current playground area at Phelps Grove Park.

Springfield Rotary Clubs Build All-City Christmas Float

Members of the Springfield Rotary Clubs collaborated to build an All-City Rotary Christmas float for the upcoming parade in December.



Belton-Raymore Rotary Cuts Ribbon for Pirate Pavilion



The Belton-Raymore Rotary Club and others celebrated the ribbon cutting for the Pirate Pavilion at Scott Educational Center on Nov. 2. Students now have a fantastic outdoor space to kick back, play games, and soak up some vitamin D.

The Pirate Pavilion started as a BEF building grant for Scott Educational Center and then grew with additional grant funding from the Belton-Raymore Rotary Club and Peculiar Charitable Foundation. Support from volunteers and community partners turned the original idea into a phenomenal space.

Partners in the project include the Peculiar Charitable Foundation, NorthPoint Development, Rock Brook Church, Ean Mata, Chris Molendrop, and Jack Bondon. Uplift Coffee Co. provided treats and hot drinks.

Columbia Rotary Fries Up Thanksgiving Turkeys



Members of the Rotary Club of Columbia hosted Missouri's largest turkey fry Nov. 22 to benefit those in need. Club members fried 395 turkeys for the Thanksgiving holiday.

This is the fifth year of the turkey fry fundraiser for the club, and it marks a record number of fried turkeys. Individuals purchased turkeys from the club for personal Thanksgiving meals as well as donations for 10 local organizations

including the Columbia Fire Department, Voluntary Action Center, St. Francis House, Powerhouse CDC, Welcome Home and Flourish Initiative. Customers also had the option of buying a second turkey for their favorite charity's Thanksgiving meal.



Columbia Rotary External Relations Coordinator Sheena Rice said, "A lot of the turkeys that we sold are for individual purchase so people will be enjoying them for their own Thanksgiving. We're also donating more than 100 turkeys to charitable organizations in town."

This year the Rotary Club of Columbia will provide 121 turkeys through donations from their turkey fry to community partners. Volunteers sold out this year's turkey fry by selling fully cooked fried turkeys for \$50 each. Profits of more than \$9,000 from the turkey fry will go to the Rotary Club's charity projects.

Branson-Hollister Rotary Provides Student Essentials

Branson-Hollister Rotary recently donated \$2,560 to Gift of Hope, which will go toward a new Student Essentials program in the Forsyth and Bradleyville High Schools. Gift of Hope facilitates a backpack food program in all local schools, but older students were not utilizing the program so a new program is being tailored to better fit their needs.

In talking with local school staff, it was learned there is a large portion of high school students who are technically homeless. They are either couch surfing, or have absent parents. They are essentially raising themselves. When trying to find food sources for them, it became apparent there are not many options. Rotarians want to assist them with healthy, age-appropriate food and personal hygiene products.

Rotary Club President Cody Fenton said the Branson-Hollister Rotary is happy to partner with Gift of Hope to launch the new program. “Gift of Hope has a long history of helping area students through their Backpack Program,” Fenton said. “To be able to help provide seed money to this new aspect is wonderful.”

The aim of the project is to create a program that provides food items and hygiene products to high school students in need. The program will be implemented in partnership with high school administration and Gift of Hope. The program will also include educational resources on nutrition and proper hygiene practices. It will provide bags that can be picked up in the principal’s, superintendent’s or counselor’s offices. The bags will contain food appropriate for high school students, as well as hygiene items. It is believed that students are more likely to access these items when they are in a more private location, such as the counselor’s office.

Overall, the program aims to ensure high school students have access to basic necessities, allowing them to focus on their education so they can succeed in school. It will be designed to be sustainable and scalable, with the potential to expand to others schools and communities in the future.



Jennifer Costello, executive director of Gift of Hope, accepts a ceremonial check from Cody Fenton, Branson-Hollister Rotary Club president.

Columbia Metro Rotary Supports Afghan Women

Columbia Metro Rotary's Stitch Initiative project supporting Afghan women had a good day selling at the Unity Art & Craft Fair Nov. 4. Metro invites all Rotarians in the area to visit the Stitch Initiative booth at the City of Refuge Winter Market in Columbia on Dec. 9.



Fayette Rotary Plants Bur Oak for City's Bicentennial



Fayette Rotary President Greg Stidham, local arborist Dakota Wells and Rotarians Roger Lembke, Kurt Rohr and Erik Martinez prepare to plant Fayette Rotary Bicentennial Tree.

Members of the Fayette Rotary Club were in city park on Nov. 10 to help local arborist Dakota Wells plant a bur oak near the Lembke Field. The club used funds from a District Simplified Grant to purchase the tree in honor of Fayette's Bicentennial. A stone marker designating the tree as the Rotary Bicentennial tree will be placed sometime in the future.

The tree committee consisting of Club President Greg Stidham, Roger Lembke, Erik Martinez, Kurt Rohr and Gale Schafer chose a burr oak because of its strength, longevity and size. A bur oak may live 200 to 300

years and grow to a height of 80 feet. Bur oaks provide food for squirrels and dense shade. They are resistant to air pollution and heat stress and grow well in mid-Missouri.

Recently, the club planted a dogwood tree on the courthouse square to replace the Rotary's red oak which was moved to city park in October. The red oak which was planted by Rotary members Rohr and Schafer in 2017 was moved because it was believed it would grow too large for the square.



Dakota Wells and Rotarians Linda Lembke, Kurt Rohr and Roger Lembke pose by the Fayette Rotary Bicentennial Tree.

Jeff City Rotary Clubs Honor Veterans with Poppies



Jefferson City's close-knit community created thousands of knitted and crocheted poppies to decorate the Bicentennial Bridge to commemorate veterans. Poppies to the Park was made possible by Jefferson City Rotary Clubs with support from JC Parks, Missouri River Regional Library, and community members.



Two Interact Clubs in Columbia Volunteer Their Time



Students from the **Interact Club of Columbia's Hickman High School** and the Impact Club at Columbia College recently volunteered at Coyote Hill under the watchful eye of Kelley Upham of the Rotary Club of Columbia (Downtown). Coyote Hill exists to give children in foster care a safe place to be a child. Coyote Hill not only licenses Foster Families, but they also give parents the support they need to succeed.

The students from Hickman High School and Columbia College prepared an outdoor breakfast for more than 70 people, including over 40 foster children and their foster parents. They peeled 40 pounds of potatoes to cook over the camp fire, scrambled eggs, made pancake batter and served a topping bar for the pancakes.

During the event they did face paintings and played with the children to give the parents a small, needed break. This is the third year the Interact Club volunteered at Coyote Hill and it has turned into a favorite event for both Coyote Hill and the students.



The Interact Club at Battle High School in Columbia sponsored this year's Out of the Darkness Kickball Tournament (which otherwise would have been canceled).

Columbia Metro helped them buy the food for concessions so they could raise funds for Suicide Prevention.

"Thank you for the Rotary Club's generous grant funding and donations towards the Out of the Darkness Kickball Tournament," Graham

Hoffman, Battle High School Interact president, said. "I am happy to say the tournament was a success! Over 40 people participated in the tournament, we were able to raise over \$400, and everyone who played had a great time. I think this event helped build a connection between Interact and the student body at Battle."



A Busy Month for Rotary Clubs Across the District



On Nov. 8 Centralia Rotary members continued their tradition of hanging Christmas lights on the gazebo downtown.



Rocheport Rotary Club members pick up trash on Hwy BB! Rotary exchange student from Taiwan, Nelson, does trash American style!



Clinton Rotarians have been busy passing out dictionaries to third graders in Henry County schools. This is a literacy project that Rotary has supported for many years!



Springfield Rotary partnered with the Discovery Center in Springfield and passed out candy to attendees at the MARVELous Discovery Halloween Event. Volunteers left to right are: Shelley Evans, Matthew Suarez and his daughter Mia, Syd Tippie, Melissa Briggs and Ram Nayar.



College of the Ozarks Rotaract President Sarah Winzenreid holds a banner she received from District Governor Jimmy Standfast during his recent visit to their club. The building they are standing in front of is a one room school house next to the Ralph Foster museum.



The Rotary Club of Table Rock Lake held its annual 5k race on Oct. 14 and raised over \$8,000. The money will be used to provide grants to nonprofits in the area.

Springfield Rotary Clubs Celebrate Friendsgiving



The Rotary Club of Springfield's annual Friendsgiving feast, sponsored by Great Southern Bank, raised \$1,000 to support Crosslines of Springfield.



Above: Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise.



Left: Springfield Rotaract