



Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

August 31, 2020

Editorian: Amy Remmert

Today's meeting was called to order by President, Seth Weeldreyer at 12:15 p.m.

President Seth led us in the Pledge of Allegiance as Tim Kilmartin was unavailable for today's meeting.

Invocation: The invocation was offered by Steve Charnley and focused on redoubling our efforts for equity.

Arts News: Rotarian Troy Thrash hailed us with Happy Monday and an early start to our meeting. Local arts activities have slowed somewhat however, visit the Rotary website to see a full list.

Announcements: Denise Hartsough introduced a Strive student standout, he improved his grade point average over the two years in the program. Darryl Smith Jr. received technology equipment to help with his education. He informed us that his mentor has been a very supportive person. He was motivated to do his utmost in order to advance his education. Darryl moved to attend Grand Rapids Community College. He was an athlete, and is a musician. Strive put him in a position for success.

Denise is looking for female mentors for some of her Strive students. Strive has a majority of male mentors and a shortage of female. Call Denise for further details on becoming a mentor. She can be reached at 269-599-1801 or denise.hartsough@gmail.com

Party in the Park. The Party in the Park event is ROLLING FORWARD, Thursday the 3rd at 5 at Hays Park. Bring a chair. There will be music, good food – by pre-order only and good friends. Orders accepted until Tuesday, September 1. Check out the Rotary website for the link to Eventbrite to order.

Happy Bucks: I regret not getting all the happy bucks but one notable was from Judy Padgett whose husband had been to Mayo Clinic for treatment of a stage four cancer. He is now cancer free. Congratulations.

The Program Diane Shaffer introduced our speaker.

Megan Scott, from Gryphon Place was our presenter. Topic of today's program is **Suicide Prevention**

I'm sharing information from their website:

[When a person is in conflict or crisis, we can help. The helpline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Just call **269.381.4357**. Calls are confidential and answered with respect, empathy, and compassion. Any time a person feels overwhelmed by life stressors, needs someone to listen to them, needs to sort through their thoughts, or needs help solving a problem, the helpline can be used. We are expertly trained in suicide prevention and are fully certified by the

American Association of Suicidology. Gryphon Place is part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and meets national standards for Best Practices for Suicide Prevention Hot Lines.

- From general overwhelming stress to thoughts of suicide, no crisis is too big or small for the line
- Trained, skilled staff listen with compassion when callers need support or connections to long term mental health care
- Promotes community safety and provides support for those in need
- Provides immediate emotional support and crisis intervention

If you or someone you know is in crisis or experiencing thoughts of suicide, call 269.381.HELP (381.4357) for Kalamazoo, or your local crisis center. You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.TALK.]

[Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group

A bi-monthly drop-in support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide

Provides connection and fellowship for suicide loss survivors

Whether your loss was 30 years or 3 months ago, pre-screening will connect you with the appropriate support

Free of charge for participants

Call 269.381.HELP before attending your first meeting and for details]