

## CLUB NEWS

### Vision for Local Inclusion Park Inspires Rotarian Interest



Brendan Bridges, Greensburg's former Police Chief and a School Resource Officer at Greensburg Community Schools, updated Greensburg Rotarians on the status of the planned development of an Inclusion Park at Rebekah City Park in Greensburg.

In 2018, Bridges took his son, Jackson, to an Inclusion Park in Ohio because local parks did not provide appropriate stimulus for Jackson's autism. After seeing how well the facility met Jackson's needs while also encouraging children of all abilities to play and interact together, he decided to pursue support, planning, funding, and development of a similar park in Greensburg to serve local children, including the over 300 in local schools identified with developmental, emotional, and physical disabilities.

Targeted for all children ages 2 to 14 years (but available for everyone), the planned park will reside just south of the current Splashpad at Rebekah Park and include such amenities as a zipline, hilly green area, track, and interactive musical instruments. The plan incorporates newer equipment already at the park while replacing outdated equipment. There will also be landscaping rock along North County Road 80, Northeast to provide safety from vehicle traffic.

With land already donated, city and county governments providing their full support, and a five person committee set to begin the project in earnest this Fall, Bridges said the biggest hurdle facing the Inclusion Park is its \$650K price tag, with at least half of that going toward the special ground-leveling turf that will ensure a safe, even surface to promote balance and mobility. With most grant money for these types of projects going to COVID-related causes for the past year, funding has had a slow start. However, Bridges is confident that funding will come available and is looking forward to financial and promotional support from companies, organizations, and individuals in the counties the park will most likely serve—Decatur, Rush, Fayette, and Franklin. To that end, the Decatur County Community Foundation has begun an online fund to accept and hold tax-deductible donations for the park.

<https://decatur.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list?showlist=1>



### Greensburg Rotarians Select, Celebrate County Educator of the Year



The Rotary Club of Greensburg #3437 in District #6580 proudly named Betsy Litmer of North Decatur High School as its Decatur County Educator of the Year.

Greensburg Rotarians and guests gathered at the Hampton Inn on 3 August to announce and celebrate Litmer, a Social Studies educator and Ball State graduate. The announcement was punctuated by a number of glowing and poignant testimonies obtained and shared by event organizer Donju Taylor.

For her part, Litmer thanked school administrators, and fellow teachers for their past and on-going support. She also went on to thank "every student I've taught and every colleague, because they have given me lessons on my journey in this profession."

### Greensburg Rotary Welcomes Newest Rotarian

Rob DeHoff of Jackson County Bank became Greensburg Rotary Club's newest member at Monday's meeting. Sponsored by Douglass Orr, DeHoff has been a member of the Greensburg mortgage and banking community for over 15 years.



### GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Thanks in advance to all who can help with the Fall Festival Service Project on Friday at 7:15 am. Thanks also in advance to Past President Tami Wenning who will be running the next meeting in my absence.

Fellow Rotarian Douglas Orr shared a Rotary-inspired picture from a recent trip to Atlantic City. I think this opens a great opportunity for a club challenge. If you're visiting a town with a unique Rotary project/plaque/sign, get your picture with it. We'll vote on the most unique location or project at the end of the Rotary year and offer a prize to the winner.

Serving to Change Lives, Jenni

### Club Leadership Announces \$500 Matching Fund to Provide Shelter Box to Haiti

Club president, Jenni Hanna, announced that the board had decided to authorize a \$500 matching donation to purchase a Shelter Box to provide housing and essentials to Haitians affected by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the island on August 14 of this year.

Greensburg Rotary will match up to \$500 in private donations from club members.

Please contact Linda Simmons to arrange to make your donation!

### ROTARY CALENDAR

#### Upcoming Programs:

**September 13** – Brendan Bridges - Inclusion Park

**September 20** — Art Turner - Member Vocational Exchange

**September 27** — 5th Monday (No Noon Meeting)

**October 04** — Rex McKinney- Hospital Update

#### Other Important Dates:

**September 17** – Service Day: Tree City Fall Festival Set Up -7:00a, Decatur Co. Courthouse

**October 21**—World Polio Day Event @ The Branch

#### OFFICERS 2021-2022

Jenni Hanna	President
Tami Wenning	Past President
Alex Sefton	President-Elect
Lora Williams	Secretary
Linda Simmons	Treasurer
Jeff Emsweller	Public Relations
Alex Sefton	Vocational Service
Daryl Tressler	Sergeant-At-Arms
Sally Koors	Club / Youth Service
Donju Taylor	Vocational Service
Nathan Vandrey	Bulletin Editor
Jerry Fox	Int'l Service
Kelby Owens	Membership Director
Larry Moore	Rotary Foundation Chair
Mandy Lohrum	Asst District Governor

