

Greensburg Fire Chief Updates Rotarians on



On Monday, Greensburg Fire Chief Nathan Stoermer spoke to Greensburg Rotarians about the status of the Greensburg Fire Department (GFD), including effects of the recent pandemic, and some future plans to improve service to the city and Washington Township.

Stoermer began by pointing out that October is Fire Prevention Month. Normally the GFD would send firefighters to local schools to speak with children about fire safety. However, with some COVID restrictions still in place, it was decided that, for this year, they would have schools distribute gift bags with helmets, pencils, and information for students and their families. They also conducted fire truck parades at each school.

Regarding vaccination status of firefighters, Stoermer does not foresee the GFD mandating the vaccine or tracking status - opting, instead, to ask personnel to "become educated and make your own choices." GFD is leveraging screening, mask policies, and air purification systems. The greater concern, regarding COVID, is for members of the general public whom GFD has been called to help. With GFD now increasingly helping local Emergency Medical Services with their calls - accounting for ~62% of calls this year, firefighters are seeing people in high states of morbidity because, during the pandemic, they have put off seeking treatment for ailments that were indicative of more serious problems.

GFD currently has 30 employees, with seven at the main station and two at the auxiliary station at all times. They are currently in the hiring process to replace a retiring firefighter, and have trimmed 23 applications down to 5 eligible candidates. Stoermer said that the number of applicants, while still good, is dwindling because of competition from the private sector and other, larger departments; the availability of good-paying, work-from-home jobs; and a society that seems less likely to produce the "service before self" type people needed for the job. The last time GFD sought to fill a position, there were over 50 applicants. Still, Stoermer said that current GFD personnel, while "tired" were very dedicated. He pointed out that recent physical fitness tests of GFD personnel produced results that showed improved fitness and lab scores for health indicators such as blood sugar levels and cholesterol.

Stoermer said that facilities and equipment are matters of concern. A recent, independent Fire Station Feasibility study showed that GFD was outgrowing its 1970s main station designed to house four people. Now, with 7 to 8 people and an increased amount of equipment of larger size, as well as concerns about the ability to optimize for a force of mixed-gender firefighters, it was time to start looking at updating or replacing the current station. GFD is also operating some outdated equipment, with its Aerial Apparatus, a larger truck with an extending ladder or platform, now at 30 years old (5 years over the usual replacement age). Fortunately, by selling its current truck and dipping into available funds, GFD will be able to purchase a new vehicle with a longer ladder, able to reach safely up to six stories.

Stoermer remains optimistic that Greensburg and Washington Township have a dedicated force of firefighters ready to meet community needs, and a plan to maintain and support that force into the future.

Serving to Change Lives: Rotarians Help Out at Local Meals on Wheels Fundraiser

In keeping with the 2021-22 Rotary International theme "Serve to Change Lives," several members of the Greensburg Rotary Club #3437 in District #6580, made time to help assist Greensburg Meals on Wheels with its fundraiser, "Happy Hour on Wheels." The local Rotarians helped pack and prepare "Happy Hour on Wheels" bags for delivery. Assisting in the project were Rotarians Gracie Maxwell, Bill Robbins, Alex Sefton, Nathan Vandrey, Tami Wenning, and Greensburg Rotary Club President Jenni Hanna.



International Polio Day at the Branch: Rotarians, Mayor Step Up to Spread the Word

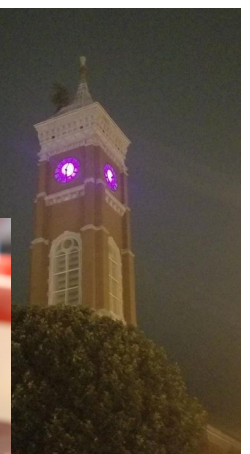


On Thursday, 21 October, Greensburg Rotary Club members descended on the Branch with a mission: to spread the word about World Polio Day (Oct 24) and to give away purple-themed coffees representing the color of ink used to mark the finger of vaccine recipients worldwide.

Eight Rotarians working in shifts provided numerous coffee shop patrons with the word that Polio is close to eradication and Rotary is leading the charge.

They also gave away between 20 and 30 free coffees to grateful customers.

As an added highlight to the event, Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh officially proclaimed 24 October 2021 as World Polio Day in Greensburg, and the Decatur County Commission lit the county courthouse clock in purple on 24 October.



ROTARY CALENDAR

Upcoming Programs:

Nov 01 - Membership Drive @ Tree City Brewery, 5:30-7:30p (No Noon Meeting)

Nov 08 - Abby Clark, Indiana Attorney General's Office

Other Important Dates:

Dec 10 - Rotary Christmas Party, Hampton Inn (Details TBD)

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

Greensburg Rotary Members Welcome Gracie Maxwell as Club's Newest Rotarian



Gracie Maxwell, a Program Intern at the Decatur County Community Foundation, became Greensburg Rotary Club's newest member at Monday's meeting. Maxwell is a Greensburg native, having graduated Greensburg High School in 2018. She is currently a senior at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus where she is seeking a degree in Marketing and Finance.

Maxwell was welcomed by Club President Jenni Hanna and the rest of the members, and was sponsored by Alex Sefton.

Rotarian Morgan Adam Earns Paul Harris +1

Greensburg Rotarian Morgan Adam, a local financial adviser with Edward Jones, received her Paul Harris +1 Award on Monday.

The Paul Harris Fellow acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Rotary established the recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.



Jackson Nursery Completes Landscaping Project at Rotary-Funded Greensburg Community Event Sign



Greensburg Rotary Poinsettia Sales Begin - Five-Hundred Plant Sales Goal!

Greensburg Rotarian Diane Hart-Dawson, Director of the Decatur County YMCA, announced the beginning of Greensburg Rotary Club's annual Poinsettia Sales Fundraiser. This year's goal is to sell at least 500 Poinsettias, with each member selling at least 10.

An electronic version of the sales form will be sent to all club members via email and will be available on the club website. Forms and checks (made payable to Greensburg Rotary Club) are due by 22 November, and pick-up/delivery days will be 3 to 4 December at the Decatur County YMCA.



Greensburg Rotary Online Benefit Auction Returns; Donations Sought

Greensburg Rotary Club will, once again, be holding its annual Christmas Auction as an on-line event. While auction organizer Steve Freeman says details are still TBD, members can solicit or purchase items to donate. All items should be delivered to the Decatur County Community Foundation (101 E. Main St, Suite 1, Greensburg). Auction items will be presented live online, followed by a one-week bid period.

Proceeds from the Christmas Auction are used to fund Rotary efforts in the local community.

GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

I just want to take a second to thank each and every one of you for what you do for this club. From my vantage point I have a deeper appreciation of how much our members do to help out—often without even being asked. From handling club finances and club administration duties, to room set up, to arranging programs, to producing our newsletter, to planning awesome club events and publicizing them... YOU ALL make it happen.

Thank you all so much for what you do. Your efforts have certainly made this role easier than I imagined. Speaking of the presidency, we are still in need of a President-Elect Nominee. This is the person who will step into the presidency in 2023-24. If you haven't yet served the club in this capacity, I encourage you to consider. With our seasoned group of volunteers, you'll have more support than you'd ever imagine. If you're interested, just let me or Alex know. We'd be happy to talk with you or answer any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you at Tree City Brew Co. on Monday night.

Serving to Change Lives, Jenni

• **Membership Drive @ Tree City Brewery (01 Nov, 5:30-7:30p) — No Noon Meeting**

• **Poinsettia Sales (Now through 22 Nov), pick-up/delivery 3 - 4 Dec**

• **Rotary Christmas Party (Dec 10) @ Hampton Inn, Greensburg - More details to come**