



The Sunrise

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Sunrise Calendar

Subject to change

All March meetings at Naperville Country Club (NCC)

March

- 6: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – Community Service Grants; Naperville Art League
- 10: Virtual Board meeting, 7am,
- 13: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – **Kimberly Coyne**, Know Your Rotarian
St. Paddy's Day 5K packet pickup
- 14: St. Paddy's Day 5K run & walk
- 20: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – **Jim Godo**, North Central College update
- 27: No Club meeting

*direct ideas for speakers
and Club projects to **Nick Niemi***

Woo Hoo! Attention Volunteers!



Lynne Nolan

Our annual St. Patrick's Day 5K is fast approaching, and **Lynne Nolan** still has a few volunteer slots to fill. Openings are available for packet pickup (March 12 and 13) and at the main event on the 14th. If you haven't already signed up or been contacted, see Lynne and she'll assign you to where you're needed most.

Separate sign-up links for packet pickup and race day are at <https://www.napervillesunrise.com/events/5k>.

Raising Agriculture Awareness



“The state of Illinois is losing ground in agriculture education to other states that are perceived as having more to offer prospective ag students and future farmers.” That assessment comes from **Rena Tamayo-Calabrese**, president of Naper Settlement, who added that 60% of ag jobs are going unfilled in Illinois. To reverse this trend, the Settlement has begun a program to stimulate curiosity among the 34,000 students that pass through the Settlement annually.

Students at Naperville North High School are leading the charge by educating themselves about agriculture and the various real-world disciplines it encompasses, such as economics and internet technology. On May 16, the NNHS students will spend a day at the Settlement passing along what they have learned.

Rena was at our February breakfast to receive a Sunrise Rotary grant that will be invested in this student initiative.

Cathy Morley and **Shelley Taylor** were astonished when they showed up for our February 13 breakfast in identical color schemes, right down to the white shoe bottoms.



(More)



March 2026 (cont.)

Aiming High



Shelley Taylor presents a Rotary check to **Navya Shaw**.

Inspired by an idea from her mom, then-17-year-old **Navya Shah** launched a nonprofit organization focused on addressing food insecurity and attendant education inequality. Navya, a senior at Neuqua Valley High School, calls her nonprofit Empower Future Wave Foundation (EFWF).

Her goal is to “create a future where every individual, regardless of economic background, has access to basic education and can support their needs.” She added that literacy creates opportunity, equality, and hope. “To that end, a youth-led volunteer team provides weekly literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) classes for underprivileged children across eight countries.



“But the key to making this work is the availability of proper nutrition,” Navya told our February 13 breakfast. She attacked that issue by creating Empower Eat, whereby volunteers “systematically rescue” surplus meals from restaurants and deliver them to shelters (*Tribune photo, left*).

Those receiving food are offered English classes.

I Build Houses



Rotarian **Paul De Kruiff** will build on any development. “I’m the guy that takes the farm field behind your house that the broker told you was an (undevelopable) wetland and I go about it because maybe the broker lied to you.”

Paul, who legend says was born in a blizzard, is the 8th of 9 children. The legend may be appropriate because the year was 1968 and civil unrest was rampant

He attended the Eisenhower School, St. Andrews the Apostle Parochial in Calumet City, and the University of Illinois. He met future wife **Laurie** in 6th grade. They dated in high school and got married while he was attending University. Subsequent residences were in Plainfield and South Holland. The pair eventually moved to Naperville and adopted a dog, **Penelope**.

Last year, Paul was awarded the United States Junior Chamber International (JCI) Senator designation in recognition of his achievements within the Jaycees. Sunrise Rotarian **Kevin Gensler**, also a JCI senator, spoke at the award ceremony. There are about 8,000 JCI Senators throughout the United States.

In addition to Laurie and daughters **Veronica**, **Gabby**, and **Willow**, Paul enjoys music, hockey, travel, the **Cubs**, motorcycles, and **Big Foot**, explaining, “I think Big Foot is real.”



(End)