



# THE GREEN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA — Club 3238

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309-676-5432



CHARTERED 1913  
CLUB NO.

CLUB PRESIDENT  
Brad Stegall



VIRTUAL MEETING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020 @ 12:00 P.M.

**HOLIDAY PROGRAM ~ WEAR YOUR UGLY SWEATERS!**

**JULIE ELIATHAMBY, PEORIA GROWN**  
**“ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, HEALTHY FOOD” (ROTARY GRANT RECIPIENT)**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ZOOM MEETING](#)

Meeting ID: 897 6608 1791

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

## Steve Zika, COO of Natural Fiber Welding

### Transforming the Way Companies Approach Fabric and Sourcing

What do the Ralph Lauren fashion line, Porsche Automobiles and a yet-to-be-named footwear company have in common? The answer is Natural Fiber Welding Inc., a company based in Peoria, IL. Steve Zika, the COO of NFW™, told Peoria Rotarians about the journey his company is on.



NFW™ is providing the process to convert plant fibers into a leather-like material. That process, called “Mirum”, has been used by Porsche for a car interior. But, because the final product is made from plant rather than animal materials, it is recyclable. Steve Zika calls it a part of a “Circular Economy” in that his products can be recycled into new products or allowed to biodegrade.

Another product from NFW™ is “Clarus”, which is a process for creating a yarn. Again, it comes from natural fibers and has proven superior to polyesters. NFW™ has been adding staff on a regular basis, and Steve Zika says to be on the lookout for a major announcement in the future about the company’s moving to a new facility locally.

To learn more, please click here:



Look at how much fun we had at last week’s virtual meeting



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

DECEMBER 25th & JANUARY 1st - NO MEETINGS

**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
and Happy New Year!

reminder



## DECEMBER PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS



Week	Location	Speaker	Greeter	Door Prize	Invocation
12/25		NO MEETING			
01/01		NO MEETING			



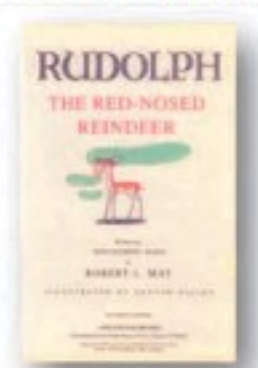
## So You Thought You Knew Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer! (In 200 Words or Less!)

By Edie Barnard

The Rudolph saga began thanks to Chicago-based retailer, Montgomery Ward. Wards had been buying and giving away coloring books for Christmas every year. It was decided that creating their own book would save money. Robert L. May, the store's ad copywriter, created Rudolph in 1939. In its first year of publication, the store distributed 2.4 million copies of Rudolph's story.

May's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, adapted the story of Rudolph into a song. The song was suggested as a "B" side for a record for the cowboy crooner Gene Autry. Autry rejected the song. His wife convinced him to use it. Autry's recording of the song hit No. 1 on the Billboard pop singles chart the week of Christmas 1949. Autry's recording sold 2.5 million copies the first year, eventually selling a total of 25 million, and it remained the second best-selling record of all time until the 1980s.

The song was also performed on the December 6, 1949, Peoria's own Fibber McGee and Molly radio broadcast. Others who have recorded it are Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Alvin and the Chipmunks, Ella Fitzgerald, The Supremes, The Temptations, The Jackson 5, John Denver, Dolly Parton, Mann-Heim Steamroller, Randy Travis, Tony Bennett and many more!







## Peoria Grown - Christmas Box Prep and Delivery

Christmas Box Project



This Friday's speaker and recent Hunger Grant recipient, Peoria Grown needs our help. They need 5 - 6 volunteers to help put together and distribute Christmas Boxes on December 19th and 20th at [Logan Recreation Center](#). You can find more specific details for each day and register to volunteer by clicking here.

If you sign up to help, please let Melissa know by sending an email to [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) - Volunteer activities count towards Make-ups and Go Givers.



## Volunteers Christmas Day Meal Prep and Delivery

### Wednesday, 12/23 - (12) Volunteer Slots Total

- 9:00am - 11:00am, (6) Slots - Meal Plating  
Assembly line set up. Filling to-go containers for Christmas meal delivery. (Ham, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans)
- 9:00am - 11:00am, (6) Slots - Meal Packet Assembly  
Creating meal packets for Christmas delivery. (Packets contain Packaged Meal, Roll, Cranberries, Slice of Pumpkin Pie, Utensils)



### Friday 12/25 - (10) Volunteer Slots Total

Contact Free Drive Thru Meal Delivery Pickup - one signup equals one delivery route of (4 or 5) stops per route. Will take approximately 30 minutes. Routes may not be selected this year to alleviate traffic congestion.

- 8:30am, (5) Delivery Drivers - One signup equals (4 or 5) stops per route.
- 9:00am, (5) Delivery Drivers - One signup equals (4 or 5) stops per route.

If you would like to sign up, please send an email to [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) with the date / time you want to volunteer and Melissa will add you to the list.



## Central Illinois Agency on Aging - New Year's Day Meal Delivery



They are desperately needing volunteers to help deliver these meals on New Year's Day. They have more folks than ever needing meals and due to the pandemic, there are many elderly folks from the various churches that prepare the meals that are very hesitant to deliver during the pandemic. They are working with each location to determine how to make the meal pick up as safe as can be.



**Friday, 01/01/2021 - Usual start time is around 9:30 am** and the meals are generally ready about 10:00 am to pick up. Once they get the volunteers names and contact information, they will be assigned a church location for picking up the meals. When you have delivered the meals on the list that will be given to you that morning, you are free to enjoy the rest of your holiday.

Please consider giving a few hours of your time to make a homebound senior's New Year begin with a smile and a meal.

**We hope many Rotarians can volunteer to make this first day of 2021 a little more special.**

If you would like to sign up, please send an email to [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) or call (309) 676-5432 and Melissa will add you to the volunteer list.



**Donations Needed for Trewyn Pantry** – We are collecting food items such as: Peanut or almond butter, dried goods such as Oatmeal, Cereal, Rice, Pasta, Ramen Noodles, Granola Bars and Hormel Completes. Melissa can come and pick up items from you, please call **676-5432** or email to arrange a time ([infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org))

**If you would like to donate money, we will buy non-perishables on your behalf!**

### Club Officers

President—Brad Stegall  
President-Elect—Janet Bantz Glavin  
Secretary—Jamie Harwood  
Treasurer—Lisa Mullins  
Immediate Past President—Maggie Freidag

### Board Members

William Albers  
Blake Barnard  
Kelly Donnelly  
Steve Driscoll  
Scott McCord  
Randy Neff

### Contact Us

Melissa Brewer,  
Executive Secretary  
CELL: 309-635-7377  
OFFICE: 309-676-5432

**Office Hours: By Appointment**

**Email us:** [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)

**Website:** [www.peoriarotary.org](http://www.peoriarotary.org)

## Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Rotary



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star