



Charlotte Rotary Club Leaders:

President: Mandy Stewart
President-Elect: John Dykstra III
Treasurer: Len Kilgore
Assistant Treasurer: Tim Jewell
President-Nominee: Keisha Howe
Secretary: Ed Foster
Assistant Secretary: Eric Crandall
Rotary Foundation Chair: Doug Buck
Membership Chair: Don Sovey
Public Image Chair: Keisha Howe
Club Service Chair: Cary Ritter
Past President: Tyler Pray
Directors: Mari Calton, Jim Cicorelli, Mike Crowner, and Joel Fox



➔ **Join us for our meeting at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center on April 24th**

Greeter: Harper Wildern greeted members and guests with his great big smile!

Call to Order: President-Elect John Dykstra III led us in the pledge and *My Country 'Tis of Thee*.

Invocation: Kathie Cook led us as we recited the Four Way Test before blessing our gathering with her invocation.

Guests: There were no visiting Rotarians. Ed Foster introduced his guest, our Interim City Manager Doug Terry. Don Sovey introduced Wendy Copenhaver-Skidmore, Manager of our local ServePro business.

Jr. Rotarians: Amy Gilson introduced Molly Grant. Molly is the daughter of Josh and Liz Grant. She has received an Academic award and All Academic Awards (in '21 and '22), as well as receiving Teacher awards in 2022 and 2023. Molly participates in Sideline Cheer, Competitive dance, Student Council, Relay for Life and National Honor Society. Her volunteer activities include selling tickets and working at the concession stand for flag football & youth basketball. She also assists the head football coach with jerseys and other supplies.

Tyler Pray introduced Braden Clarke. Braden is the son of Brad and Tiffany Clarke. He has received underclassman awards. Braden participates in Band, Jazz Band, and Bible Study. He volunteers his time with Nashville Baptist Church. Braden's career goal is Music Ministry and he plans to attend college at The Crown College in Powell, TN.



Announcements:

Cooper Frost invited Rotarians to help the Rotaract Club with the highway cleanup this Sunday. The Rotaract Club is also helping out at the Eaton County Expo Food competition this weekend as well.....busy busy.

Doug Buck reminded us that we are still in need of host families for one or two of the five exchange students coming to our District this year.

Arts & Culture-

Don Sovey introduced Charlotte's Interim City Manager **Doug Terry** who introduced himself and gave a quick update on the vision for the City of Charlotte. He added with a plea for good citizens to become involved in the city's future growth.

Don finished with the Birthday Song for **Tyler Pray, Doug Buck, and Lance Roe**

50/50- Tyler Pray sold the tickets today, for a total of \$44. The lucky winner of \$22 was **Courtney Mead!**



Sgt-At-Arms -

Joe E Pray was on double duty with the Mirror and the barrel. He took in birthday dollars from **Tyler Pray, Doug Buck** and **Lance Roe**. Then, he collected funds from **Jake Campbell, Don Sovey** and **Ed Foster** for close-but-not-quite answers on a pop quiz. Happy Dollars were collected from **Kathie Cook** for her announcement that the Charlotte Community Jazz Band will be performing this Saturday in Hastings; and **Courtney Mead** for her son's 2nd place finish in the Eaton RESA Skills Test.

Program: Courtney Mead introduced **Lindsay Potter**, owner of a very successful downtown business.

Lindsay began by sharing a brief history of the wonderful main street business known as The Yarn Garden, referring to herself as "The Head Gardener." She began 17 years ago when she took over the store on West Lawrence and in 2017 opened at her current location on South Cochran. In 2019, she was able to purchase the building. In 2022, after her husband joined the company, Lindsay started on renovations which include a much improved rear entrance complete with a stairway and second floor deck, and then a second floor event space accommodating up to 40 people and a second floor office.

Recently, Lindsay started making her own line of yarn!

She remarked how business has changed from the era of the cash register to online!



- Today she has the ability to print out patterns for customers as they are purchased, rather than having to stock hundreds of patterns in inventory.
- She attends and hosts many meetings and gatherings online.
- She has an online catalog.
- And Lindsay hosts many sales events online.

Lindsay shared how she has developed numerous "communities" within her customer base.

- Her in-person customer base reaches far beyond our local area, especially throughout the state of Michigan and several surrounding states.
- She has developed Maker Communities based upon fiber interests of knitting, yarn and quilting. These include her Monday evening "Fiber Circle" held at the Charlotte Library, and the "Shop Hop" where customers are encouraged to visit the many other yarn and quilting shops in the area to share ideas and learn new skills.

- Lindsay created the Spring Makers Fest where 40+ vendors gather to host customers from the surrounding states in Charlotte at the Fair Grounds in May.
- Local mini groups that hang out at the shop to knit and crochet.
- And her virtual community through Facebook and social media. This venue features project posts on Monday and Friday; Live Video on Feature Friday where she covers numerous topics related to knitting, how to care for knitted products, and sales events ; and her knitters group where they get together online for “knit alongs.”

Lindsay said her success has come from “Loving her committees,” and has adopted the mindset that she has “partners rather than competitors.” She hopes to spread that mindset among other businesses so they can work together to cross-promote between other businesses, treating each other as community assets. *Thank you Lindsay, for an inspiring and informative program!*

If you missed the meeting, you can watch it at this *Zoom link*:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Vva4OETGLUnmv108iq7pgoElx7gaLBS1IgcQv2ub0pB7UGmxYU69ghLz32fj6X5R.u3ZjBPBV9dOFx8Yn>

APRIL DUTIES

ATTENDANCE	Gregg Guetschow
GREETER	Harper Wildern
INVOCATION	Kathie Cook
MIRROR	Joe Pray
ARTS & CULTURE	Eric Crandall
SGT-AT-ARMS	Jennifer Sparks (Barrel)
	Joel Fox (50/50)
	John Newland (S & T)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- April 24 - Jazz band – OFF SITE at the performing arts center**
- May 1 - Doug Lloyd, Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney (back at The Center)**
- May 8 - CHS Choir Cabaret Performance**



Interim City Manager Doug Terry speaks to Rotarians at the last meeting

FAMILY, FUN & THE FARMING COMMUNITY

THE CHARLOTTE ROTARY CLUB PRESENTS **A BLOCK PARTY**
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME AND CELEBRATE OUR RURAL COMMUNITY!

SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH
2PM-6PM
@ THE BEACH MARKET
120 W. LOVETT ST

GAMES, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC & LOCAL VENDORS

SPONSORED BY
EYE CARE ASSOCIATES, EATON RESA,
CHARLOTTE ANODIZING,
BACKING THE BLUE MICHIGAN,
WILLIAMS FARM MACHINERY, DIAMOND WATER SOLUTIONS

Double your fun in Rotary...



Rotary 4-Way Test

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Until next time...

The "Old" Car Guy

