



# Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

July 25, 2022

Editarian: Judy Moore

**Today's** meeting was called to order by President Kristen Chesak at 12:15 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Kristen, and she followed with the invocation.

**Arts News:** Art News was presented by Alisa Carrel. Visit [Kalamazooarts.org](http://Kalamazooarts.org) for details.

**Guests** were introduced by their Rotary hosts: Anne Witherspoon presented her husband, Steve Savage, on the occasion of their 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Amy Remmert introduced former Rotarian, Tom Stobie.

**Announcements:** Kristin reminded that lunches should be ordered online by Friday noon; Charitable contributions are due; \$20 budget balancing contributions can be made online.

Amy Remmert announced that Raffle Tickets this year will be virtual, but still \$25 each. She reminded us that there are several prizes, and that some of the dollars come back to the club for our projects.

Program chairman, Joe Licavoli, announced that the committee would meet directly following the meeting, and that lists of upcoming programs were left on the tables. There are openings so if you have suggestions for programs let him know.

**Happy Bucks:** Anne, for her anniversary; Don Flesche for a lost/then found wedding ring; Bill Rose for Rotary's contribution to the successful recently opened Nature Playscape in downtown; Dan Hartlieb for a lost/found napkin ring?? Steve Kreider for a recently married son whose wife brings 6 children—more grandchildren! Jeff Murphy for his brother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; Kristen for Keith Mumma's photos; and Mushtaq Luqmani for being back in Kalamazoo & Rotary.

**The Program:** Rotarian Bob Miller introduced the program. Colleen Scarff is the Associate Vice President of Business at WMU. Her topic was an update on the Business Research & Technology Park 1 as well as information on BTR Park North or #2. The first, 265 acres, was started in 2000 and is nearly fully developed. There are 38 businesses located there and 1400 jobs were created. Most of them partner with the College of Engineering, also located in the park, and with 2500 students enrolled. The park provides \$10 million per year in tax revenue to the City.

BTR North (across from Asylum Lake on Drake Rd.) is 55 acres, and the university has no presence there. They have partnered with Oshtemo Township to develop this site. Ascension Borgess has already built a cancer center there, and Bronson will have a research facility. There is also another business in the process of developing and one more site left. There is also one site left in the original park. Obviously the BTR Parks have definitely benefited the university and the community.