

# Rotary Club of Portage Bulletin

## Porta-Rota-Call

**Ring Bell at 12pm**

**Four Way Test: Led by President**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President**

**Finance at the Door: NA**

**Invocation: Jeannine Willacker**

**Bulletin: Bob Borsos**

**Program:** Live from Romence Gardens with Dick Hewitt. Bob Romence and his son Jeff hosted our program in their greenhouse. The family farm was originally at the corner of Romence and South Westnedge. After the celery demand dropped, the family developed the gardening business. In 1989 they purchased 10.5 acres of property on Shaver road and moved the operations from Westnedge ave. The business is comprised of 80,000 sq. feet of greenhouses heated with solar power, retail space and outdoor plantings. The Garden Center offers fertilizers formulated for the Michigan climate and soil. Jeff does landscape design and they have a host of qualified employees that can help us with our gardens and questions.

Bob and Jeff offered advice on how to protect plants from freezing. The plants should be covered with fabric, clay pots and even cardboard, but not plastic. Another method is spraying the plants with water after a frost and before the sun shines on them. Don't plant until Mother's day. Frost is a real problem. Fertilizing this time of year is fine, but don't put crabgrass control until mid- May as it will not be effective until the plants start growing. Timming trees should wait until weather is warmer and the sap isn't flowing. Transplanting plants is best in cool wet weather. Keep soil on the roots. Questions are welcomed and they will provide expertise to help you with your gardening needs.

### **Announcements**

- Several Rotarians planning lunch after this meeting at the Pizza Yen if you are hungry.

- Amazon Smile Link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3353675> - use this link to add Amazon as your chosen non-profit
- **You can now include the PayPal fee in your PayPal transaction** - Payments are accepted through PayPal for Rotary items, you can find a PayPal quick link at <http://www.portagerotary.org/>, or use your PayPal app using [Rotaryclubofportage@gmail.com](mailto:Rotaryclubofportage@gmail.com)
- We will decline this year's Kalamazoo Toy Show fundraising effort due to lack of volunteers – thank you to Dick Hewitt and the Rotarians who have already volunteered (Bonnie Granado, Emily Turner, Tom Welsh, Mary Lou Wright, Jeannine Willacker)
- Daisy Dollars still available from AJ. Please contact him this week for your purchase. Many Rotarians all chimed in to buy Daisy Dollars at the meeting.
- Jeannine obtained sufficient volunteers to set up and tear down the blood drive next week.

**Birthdays, Anniversaries & Latecomer Fines: Led by President:** Shirley Johnson has a birthday on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bob and Betsy McGraw celebrate their Wedding anniversary on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Jim and Vicki Martin on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Happy Bucks-** Art, Jeanine, Mary Hall, and Dick Hewitt all gave Happy Bucks for their memories and experiences of Romance Gardens. Bob McGraw gave happy dollars for the U of M women's gymnastic team being crowned as the national champions.

**Fines (Sgt at Arms):** Karen Foster: Trivia questions raised many dollars.

**Thank visiting Rotarians and Guests**

**Next Program:** To be determined

**Ring Bell – meeting adjourned by 1pm**

**Review recorded Zoom meeting –**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ivyU7YJ55Bwpmf0DOKVLiAegAj5Hpcj8ZubfJLbc0Td3qQAKXWx55-ajzyeWwxlw.G\\_y\\_RN4\\_FaAMuu6s](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ivyU7YJ55Bwpmf0DOKVLiAegAj5Hpcj8ZubfJLbc0Td3qQAKXWx55-ajzyeWwxlw.G_y_RN4_FaAMuu6s) Passcode: 6S#iw7%=



[Facebook link](#)

The Portage Rotary Club provides financial support for youth education, families in need and other local charitable causes. We are part of Rotary International. A service organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian services and help build goodwill and peace in the world