



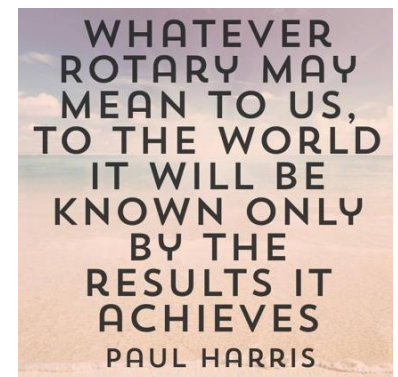
THE DAYBREAKER

January 9th, 2025



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Today we had 18 in person attendees and 12 ZOOM attendees.



GUESTS: None

VISITING ROTARIANS: None

INVOCATION: David Teter

Service Opportunity: PHF Matching Program

The Board voted to extend the Matching Program for Paul Harris Fellow points until January 31st of 2025. With this program an anonymous donor will match your contribution to The Rotary Foundation of up to \$500. You can contact Steve Wagner to see where your contributions stand at this point and donate to "The Rotary Foundation". You can send your checks to Steve @ 3714 Litchfield Place, West Lafayette 47906.

Program: Jeff Need - West Lafayette Fire Chief

Jeff was our speaker today and related that his formative years were on a farm in Clinton County where his family farmed their acreage, and he attributed a number of his values of kindness, fairness and the ability to work with others to that heritage.



He gave a history of the West Lafayette Fire Department, noting that it was begun in 1894 as a volunteer fire group, partially because the bridges across the Wabash were not strong enough to support even the horse drawn fire equipment of that time. At the turn of the century, they were encouraged to become more organized, partly by the growing Purdue University, but also because of the problems arising from bringing natural

gas into the community. In 1917 they transitioned from horses to fire trucks and also constructed their first fire station, which still stands today.

They now have 3 fire stations and 54 fire fighters with 16 on each of 3 shifts. There are also 6 administrative positions including 2 full-time inspectors, one who is tasked with new construction and one with existing structures and now 2 very valuable chaplains/counselors, who have been a great benefit to the force. Their inspection duties are critical to fire prevention, with each commercial structure being inspected annually and the Greek houses on campus twice a year. The inspections of new construction help to assure that safe standards are met to prevent fires in the future.

The Department provides Fire, Rescue and EMS services, with over 3,000 calls annually, 2/3 of which are medical calls. In addition, they provide CPR classes, have child car seat technicians and are active in many community events, attempting to bring their fire prevention message to the population and form a close bond with the children of the community. He described a "usual" day for the fire fighters, which goes from 7 AM – 7 AM. They will arrive often before their shift starts and begin by checking their equipment, then having breakfast together to discuss their day. During the day they often do training, station cleaning or other duties. They will then have supper together and wait for the night. They work 3 shifts every 9 days.

Jeff discussed the challenges he sees in the future:

1. The growth of the community in general.
2. High rise building – below 7 stories the techniques are similar, but above that level fires cannot be fought outside the building but must be fought from within. These tall building thus require that the fire fighters master new techniques and even the pumps need to be different.
3. Staffing – the community simply cannot afford to have enough people on duty to answer any possible call, giving an example that the national standards are to have 43 fire fighters to fight a high-rise fire. Thus, coordination with other departments is key and he is fortunate to have good relations with the Purdue Fire Department (which actually is only mandated to answer calls in University

owned structures) as well as the Lafayette Fire Department and surrounding departments.

4. Equipment – the Department has to have equipment, such as the higher capacity pumps to deal with all situations. They also need to keep their equipment up to date. This applies to fire trucks which may cost \$2.4M and have a 4-year lead time, but also stations, which now need to be large enough to house the equipment.
5. Training – the Department has to spend much time and money on this, even when they cannot have their own facilities. He noted that they will train several times a year on the Lafayette Fire Tower.
6. Underground parking – as the community builds up the parking areas are often below grade, causing more challenges. This is particularly true with electric vehicles, which add a new dimension. He explained that the Department works vigorously with the building planners to make charging stations at the outside of these garages, so vehicles that may catch fire while charging can be extracted before causing structural issues.

Several questions came up regarding electric vehicles and he discussed the different tools needed to fight these fires, including a device to tell the charging port that the car is charging and should not move and huge blankets to drape over burning electric fires.

He concluded by inviting us to their Annual Citizen Fire Academy held each May where citizens can shadow firefighters on their day.

Thought of the Week: The best view comes after the hardest climb. ~
adillaresh.com

Trivia Question for the week: What classic Looney Tunes character suffers from rhotacism?

The answer to last week's trivia question: Can You Really Get Your

Tongue Stuck to a Metal Pole?

Do not lick any cold metal objects, no matter who triple dog dares you.

It's a scene that will play on [countless televisions](#) this holiday season. Nine-year-olds Ralphie, Schwartz, and Flick are gathered outside school on a



cold winter day. Flick cries out, “Are you kidding? Stick my tongue to that stupid pole? That’s dumb!” Schwartz responds, “That’s ‘cause you know it’ll stick!” Eventually, Schwartz wields the triple dog

dare. Flick has no choice but to press his tongue to the metal pole. It sticks, and he can’t pull himself away. The police and fire department are called in to save the poor boy’s tongue.

But is this classic scene from 1983’s *A Christmas Story* just a fictionalized way for Hollywood to prove a point about the power of playground peer pressure? As [many](#) kids have [learned](#) over the years, you actually [can](#) get your tongue stuck to a cold metal object.

When two objects touch—like a tongue and a metal pole—they [work toward](#) “thermal equilibrium,” or being the same temperature. To get there, heat must be transferred from object to object. Metal can conduct heat very quickly. When a warm tongue hits cold metal, the metal immediately starts taking heat from the appendage. The saliva from the tongue will freeze, and very quickly, leaving that tongue—and the person it belongs to—essentially glued to the metal pole.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

January 16th – Casey Davenport - Lafayette Jefferson High School Assistant Principal - Fundraiser to support their special needs students.

January 23rd – Wes Tillett – LUM

January 30th – Ryan O’Gara – Area Planning Commission

February 6th – Luisa White – Legal Aid

February 27th – Purdue Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Awards

