

April 15, 2025, ROUNDAABOUT



Next week's program will be April 22, in the **Waldron Arts Center**, 122 S. Walnut St., and on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>). Our speaker will be Community Engagement Coordinator **Sarah Owen** of the **Exodus** refugee program in Bloomington.

You'll enjoy lunch in the Waldron's art gallery before moving downstairs to the Rose Firebay Theater for our official meeting. Arrive early.

Parking is in the Fourth Street Garage across from the Waldron, and the parking costs just 50 cents an hour.

This week's program



Zoom link [here](#).

Michael Shermis introduced our speaker, Bloomington Animal Care and Control Director Virgil Sauder.

Virgil, who has worked in animal welfare for the last 23 years, started as Shelter Manager for the City of Bloomington in 2005 and became Director in 2015.

Over the years, Virgil has worked with staff and volunteers to move the agency to align with best practices in the field, dramatically decreasing euthanasia rates and moving the Animal Shelter to a successful adoption agency.

Animal Care and Control addresses and responds to animal needs through education, enforcement and support and strives to build a community where animals are valued and treated with kindness and respect.

In addition to making animals available for adoption, the shelter also provides post-adoptive support.

“Shelter volunteers and foster families are the backbone of our organization,” Virgil says.

To help the organization accomplish its mission, Virgil asks citizens to spread the message of the importance of spaying and neutering animals, especially dogs, cats and rabbits; microchip their pets for easy identification; and consider adopting an animal.

Located at 3410 S. Walnut St., the Shelter houses an average of 3,400 animals per year, mostly dogs and cats, with from 180 to 350 at any given time. It’s also taken in snakes, rats and birds. Most unusual “guest”? A caiman (an alligator relative).

In spite of its efforts to save animals, the Animal Care and Control Center must still euthanize a small number, about 7 percent. “Some animals are injured so badly that they can’t be rehabilitated,” Virgil says.

For answers to animal-related questions or concerns, visit the website at [Animal Care & Control | City of Bloomington, Indiana](#) or contact Virgil at sauder@bloomington.in.gov or at (812) 349-3492.

April 15 Celebration of Service

President **Traci Jovanovic** said the recent canceling of student visas, with some people being forced to return immediately to their overseas homes, is chilling.

“One of the cornerstones of a strong education is working with and learning from people of other cultures,” Traci said. “It pushes students to be better and think more broadly. At the risk of sounding melodramatic, this is a travesty.”



Welcome, Maisie Cochran! Traci welcomed fellow Rotarian **Sara Cochran** and her daughter, Maisie Louise. Maisie, born Feb. 1, was making her first Rotary visit.

Marilyn Wood introduced our guests: **Dwight Thompson**, Brown County Rotary Club, Co-Chair, All-Indiana Rotary Global Scholarship Committee; **Sarah Greenwell**, 2025-26 All-Indiana Rotary Global Scholar nominee (a 2023 graduate of IU in neuroscience. Sarah will seek a master's degree in neuroscience from the University of Tübingen), guest of **Jim Bright**; Bob Bernacki, guest of **Tim Jessen**; Laura Stachowski, guest of **Katie Cierniak**; **Yehya Kader**, **Waasif Ali**, and **Jun Wan**, from Rotaract.

Earon Davis reflected on the incredible experience of serving as Bloomington Rotary Club president. For a complete transcript of Earon's reflection, email him at earondavis1@gmail.com. Earon said a presidency is often driven by the times,

not just the person. Each president builds on the continued contributions of previous ones. He talked about the development of organizational memberships, the club's becoming more open to change, and the re-invigoration of Rotaract. After using it as a way to cope with Covid, the club ultimately embraced Zoom as an opportunity to broaden our outreach. "We may not be able to solve all the world's problems, but we sure will do our best, and we will have fun doing it, regardless of the challenges that our times throw at us," he said.

Birthdays: Sara Cochran 4/14, Whitney Cordoba 4/19, Kay Leach 4/15, Meagan Niese 4/13 and Mark Peterson 4/17.

Anniversaries: Marilyn Wood, 10 years.

Acknowledgements

- Executive Asst: **Natalie Blais**
- Greeter **Carol-Anne Hossler**
- Introductions **Marilyn Wood**
- Zoom Host **Leslie Kutsenkow**
- Reflection **Earon Davis**
- Reporter **Jim Bright**
- Camera/Mic Operator **Sam Ujdak**
- Zoom and Audio Producer **Isaac Smith**