

Roundabout: October 18, 2022



Erin Houchin, 9th District Republican Congressional Candidate

Join us in the **Georgian Room** – or on Zoom – on Oct. 25 when our keynoter will be 9th District Republican Congressional Candidate **Erin Houchin**.

Erin has represented the 47th District in the Indiana State Senate since 2014, which included all of Crawford, Orange, Harrison, Perry, and Washington counties and the eastern half of Dubois County.

She served as a member of the Senate Committees on Commerce & Technology, Elections, Family & Children Services, Homeland Security & Transportation, Utilities, and Veterans Affairs & the Military. She has a proven record of passing legislation to protect the unborn, defend Second Amendment rights, and support law enforcement. She has supported “honestly balanced budgets,” aggressively fought tax increases, and expanded broadband access in rural areas.

Erin received her bachelor’s degree from IU and holds a master’s degree in political management from George Washington University.

Prior to serving in the State Senate, Erin served as Southeast Indiana Regional Director for U.S. Senator Dan Coats and was a Governor’s appointee to the Indiana Commission for Women.

She has held leadership positions in the Republican Party, including vice chair of the Washington County Republican Party, 9th District chair for the Indiana Republican Party, and 9th District chair of the Indiana Federation of Republican Women.

Erin, a small-business owner, is founder and president of Contend Communications, and lives in Salem with her husband, Dustin, and their three children.

This week's news

RYLA – After a two-year break caused by COVID, RYLA returns to Bradford Woods Oct. 21-23, says District Chair Loren Snyder. The program is designed to build leadership and teamwork in participating southern Indiana high school students. Our club is sponsoring five of the 50 students this year.

Palo Alto Sibling City Update – Nov. 11-12 – President Alain Barker and Past President Sally Gaskill will travel to Palo Alto, Calif., for a Nov. 11-12 Sibling Cities program. Fifteen City of Bloomington and Chamber of Commerce leaders also will make the trip.

Activities include a tour of Palo Alto and Stanford (including the renowned School of Design Thinking), meetings with California Rotarians, a Civil Discourse Roundtable discussion, a Climate Action summit, IU alumni reception, a Jacobs School of Music Quartet concert, and more.

To learn more or to sign up for the trip, contact Alain at abarker@indiana.edu. Deadline to commit: Friday, Oct. 21. Travel days: Nov. 10 (Thursday) and Nov. 13 (Sunday).

Friends of the Rotary Foundation, Columbus, Nov. 18 – All Rotarians are invited to attend the annual Friends of the Rotary Foundation event Friday, Nov. 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Columbus, at the Helen Haddad Hall, home of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, 315 Franklin Street. Join us for a night of fellowship and learn more about the Foundation. Appetizers and cash bar. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians from around the District.

Register here by Friday, Nov. 9: <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77628581>

Rotary Book Club – The next meeting will take place **Wednesday, Jan.18, 2023 at 7 p.m.** at (tentatively) Judy Schroeder's home (again!).

Members will read *Zorrie* by Laird Hunt, a novel set in small-town Indiana. Published last year, it was a finalist for the National Book Award.

Special thanks to Judy Schroeder for hosting our group last week for a conversation about Gladys DeVane's compelling book. It was a joy to discover so much about the life and impact of our Rotary Toast recipient through her poetry and plays.

For more info on the Rotary Book Club, contact Sally Gaskill at gaskill@indiana.edu.

Second Quarter Weekly Meeting Volunteers -- Sign up to share a reflection, to greet members and guests at the door, or to introduce guests to those in attendance. [Here's the link >](#)

Pete Ellis Drive Cleanup -- Team up with your fellow Rotarians to clean up Pete Ellis Drive Saturday, Oct. 22. Gather in the Jiffy Treat parking lot at 10 a.m. For more info, contact Dave Meyer at dwmeyerva@gmail.com.

Exodus Refugee Immigration Open House Oct. 22 -- Exodus is holding an **Open House** at its new Bloomington location, 1401 S. Walnut St., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22. Bloomington Rotary Club is hosting a couple and their two children (in their 20s) through Exodus.

Business Outlook Panel & Lunch – Join Bloomington Rotary, the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, and IU Kelley School of Business faculty and experts for the 2023 economic outlook forecast at Ivy Tech’s Shreve Hall – or virtually on Zoom -- **Thursday, Nov. 10**, at 11:45 a.m. Doors open at 11:15. *No meeting Tuesday, Nov. 8.*

Panelists will discuss how the changing economic environment will affect business and public policy decisions globally, in the Hoosier state, and in Bloomington.

To make a reservation, reply to this email survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSGBK3P>. Tickets for Rotarians and Rotary guests are \$27. This year’s event is sponsored by Baird-The Matthews Snyder Group. Thank you, Loren Snyder!

Vote for the Rotaract Club at IU – John Miller, president of Rotaract, writes: Rotaract at IU recently joined the Dillon Apartments photo contest on Instagram. If our photo gets the most likes, we win \$1,000, which we will use to help fund our annual service project. Please encourage Rotarians to like and share it! Here’s the link:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj0szE3JdNM/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>



Welcome, Vivien Bridges and Grier Carson!

We inducted two new members: **Vivien Bridges** and **Grier Carson**.

Vivien Bridges was born in England during WWII. Her father was an Army/Air Corps navigator and her mother was the granddaughter of Cardiff Castle's head gardener.

Her family lived in many locations, and she completed her elementary education in England. The family later settled in Illinois, and Vivien attended the University of Illinois before marrying and, later, settling in Bloomington with her family. She resided in Monroe County for over 50 years.

Vivien spent 25 years in local government, starting in the Auditor's Office. She worked in the financial office specializing in payroll, ledger and distribution of property excise and county income taxes. She was a member of the Monroe County History Board, volunteered in thrift shops, hosted exchange students, and worked at Teachers Warehouse.

She was married to **Judge Douglas "Randy" Bridges** for 37 years, and they made Rotary a priority. Vivien and Randy loved to travel the world and work with Rotarians from all continents. They were particularly interested in combating human trafficking. Randy spent a wonderful year as District Governor. Vivien is excited to join Rotary and continue his work. Vivien has two children, four stepchildren, 16 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Grier Carson was named director of the Monroe County Public Library (MCPL) in May, succeeding fellow Rotarian **Marilyn Wood** upon her retirement.

As an undergraduate at IU, Grier studied English literature and art history and received his Master of Library Science degree in 2006.

His career led him to Lake Forest Academy, a boarding school in Illinois, where he worked his way from librarian to director of libraries and academic technology.

Grier moved back to Bloomington in 2013 when he became director of Putnam County Public Library, overseeing important renovations and expansions and increasing outreach efforts. In 2018, seeking work closer to home, he became access and content manager at MCPL, and in 2020, associate director, working alongside Marilyn to navigate the library through the pandemic and plan for the future.

Grier and his family have a small home library with around 3,000 books.

Grier will continue with the planning and construction of the forthcoming Southwest Branch Library, scheduled to open in early 2023.



Today's speaker: Matt Fyfe

Matt Fyfe, a lifelong Hoosier who grew up in a small farming community, is running for as the Democratic candidate for Indiana's 9th Congressional District with three perspectives:

- As a teacher at a public high school, he sees federal and state policies that hurt students.
- As a father of three children – ages 8, 5 and 2 – he wants to do everything that he can to assure a bright future for them and their generation so that they can grow up in the southern Indiana that he loves.
- As leader of a teachers union, he bases his values on his father's 47-year career as a union-represented employee of the railroad.

"People in Washington are out of touch with people in the heartland: teachers, doctors/nurses, social workers, and others," says Fyfe, who was introduced by Lynn Schwartzberg.

Too many Congressmen are beholden to lobbyists, corporations, and donors, he adds.

School choice – also known as the privatization movement – is great for private schools, Fyfe says, but it hurts public schools by siphoning off funds.

After earning a bachelor's degree in education from Goshen College and teaching a wide range of students, Matt became aware of how state and federal policies influence the equity and success of individual student experiences. He then earned an education policy degree from Vanderbilt's top-ranked Peabody College to better position himself to bring policymakers, parents, educators, and the broader community together to ensure optimal outcomes for students and for society.

In honor of Matt's presentation, we will make a small contribution this quarter to Stages Bloomington.

“Currently, our election system is under attack,” Judy said, “and civic-minded community leaders must rise to the challenge.”

Judy encourages Rotarians and others to sign up to become poll workers for the Nov. 8 election. Because of the Thursday, Nov. 10, Business Outlook panel, there’ll be no Rotary meeting on Election Day.

To become a poll worker, contact a recruiter:

Democratic recruiter: Orion Saft (812) 320-0389 or mcdempollrecruiter@gmail.com.

Republic recruiter: Pam Samples (812) 322-9114 or pamsamples@gmail.com

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