

Bloomington Rotary Club

Roundabout – August 29, 2023



Shonda Stanton to share IU Softball success story

Join us in the Frangipani Room or on Zoom (<http://bit.ly/btownrotaryzoom>) on September 5, when our speaker will be IU Softball Coach Shonda Stanton.

Since taking over as IU head coach in 2017, Shonda has compiled a 170-117 record.

In 2023, the Hoosiers finished 44-18, breaking a program record for most consecutive games won (23) and finishing second in the regular season Big Ten standings before reaching the Big Ten Tournament Final.

The Hoosiers earned a 2023 NCAA Tournament bid as the No. 2 seed in the Knoxville Regional. They beat No. 3 seed Louisville twice before falling to No. 1 seed Tennessee in the Regional Final.

The team earned numerous honors. The coaching staff was named the ATEC/NFCA Midwest Region Staff of the Year. Six IU players earned All-Big Ten honors, and three were named three NFCA All-Americans.

This week's news

Sign up today for Sept. 9 District Training Assembly

Join Southern Indiana Rotarians for the District Training Assembly at Ivy Tech Bloomington on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City of Bloomington Social Worker Melissa Stone will talk about mental health, Rotary International President Gordon McNally's primary focus for 2023-24.

Your \$15 registration includes a box lunch and admission to one of the five breakout sessions: disaster response, Foundation, membership (attraction, engagement, and retention), public image, and youth exchange.

To register, click on the personalized link that you received in an email from registrar Bettye Dunham. Or call or email her at **(502) 609-1923**, bdunham@rauchinc.org.

Volunteer for Lake Monroe Days

Sign up today for Sept. 14-19 Lake Monroe Days, our club's district-grant-funded community service project in conjunction with Friends of Lake Monroe.

Volunteer opportunities include teaming up with other volunteers to clean up the shoreline, serve as a youth education volunteer, staff registration or information tables, and enjoy a pontoon boat tour.

To sign-up, go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944ACAB2DA3FFCF8-lake#/> Questions? Contact Co-Chairs **Geoff McKim** (geoff.mckim@gmail.com) or **Michelle Cohen** (director@lakemonroewaterfund.org).

Order your Rotary Toast tickets asap!

If you want to join us at Ivy Tech's Shreve Hall for the Friday, Nov. 3 Rotary Toast, order your tickets today at rotarytoast.com. We're looking at a complete sellout!

We're honoring retired Juvenile Court Judge Stephen Galvin for his service above self.

Half of the proceeds will benefit Judge Galvin's chosen charity, Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), which recruits, trains, and supervises advocates who represent neglected and abused children in the courtroom.

The other half will benefit local charitable causes championed by the three clubs.

August 29 Celebration of Service: Ron Walker, CFC Properties



Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/0bb4uiPDCzw>

CFC Properties is helping Cook employees achieve the American dream of home ownership.

“There’s a shortage of single-family housing here and everywhere,” President Ron Walker told Rotarians. “There aren’t enough homes that people can afford to buy.”

Walker and his team have stepped up to help by building affordable homes. Why would Cook take on this project?

“We have resources and a lot of experience in real estate,” said Ron, whose organization has specialized in historically and architecturally significant structures like Fountain Square in downtown Bloomington, the West Baden Springs Hotel, and the French Lick Resort.

“If the community starts to decline, it hurts us and our ability to operate,” Ron explained. “Our employees, governments, and communities can use a little help. We want stability. We want to be a preferred employer.”

After staging a successful homebuilding project in the French Lick/West Baden community, where the company has 1,000 employees, CFC Properties bought a 62-acre tract of land near Spencer in Owen County. It is building 99 homes in an area known as “Texas Pike Place.”

The first 14 homes – all with three bedrooms and two baths – sold at prices ranging from \$188,500 to \$212,000. Twelve of the 14 homes sold to Cook employees. The homes are already appraising at more than the purchase price, Ron said.

Now CFC Properties is launching the second phase: 27 homes, including some with four bedrooms.

Ron praised the community, including the town of Spencer, the county (Owen), and the Chamber of Commerce, for their partnership and support. Still, the project has experienced significant challenges. As interest rates rise from 3.5% to 7%, employees' monthly mortgage payments increase by \$200-300 per month. The newly built homes also incurred significant storm damage, requiring the replacement of every roof.

Ron credited Steve Ferguson, chairman of the board of the Cook Group (and 2018 Bloomington Rotary Toast co-honoree, along with his wife, Connie), for "hatching" the idea for the project.

Cook's innovative idea has generated significant media coverage, including NPR, Indiana Public Media, *Wall Street Journal*, and FT1 (French Television Network).

Ron was introduced by **Jim Shea**.

Celebration of Service

Marilyn Wood greeted members and guests. President **Ron Barnes** welcomed us with his quote for the day: "It's only after you've stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform." — Roy T. Bennett



In his reflection, **Jim Harvey**, who started elementary school in 1947, remembered classmates struck by polio, including one who lived in an iron lung – a device the size of a water heater. Following the development of the polio vaccine by medical researcher Jonas Salk, Jim lined up at his school to get a sugar cube with the vaccine.

In 1985 Rotary launched its Polio Plus initiative, tackling the dreaded disease in countries throughout the world with mass vaccination of children. Today, thanks to Rotary's efforts, Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries where polio is endemic.

"We must finish the job," Jim said. "I never want to see those days again when children are crippled with polio."

Steve Ingle introduced guests in the room:

- Victor Akangbe, guest of **Patrick Smith**
- Maria Walker, wife of presenter Ron Walker, guest of **Sally Gaskill**, and
- Evan Nix, guest of Traci **Jovanovic**

Online, **Kyla Cox Deckard** introduced John Whikehart, guest of **Judy Schroeder**.



Joy Harter introduced **Ethan Fragoso**, president of the Rotaract of Indiana University.

Birthdays this week:

- **Dhakil Abdullah**, Aug 28
- **Kevin Hopper-Knutstrom**, Aug 28
- **Winston Shindell**, Aug. 29
- **Mike Hoff**, Aug 30
- **Shelli Yoder**, Aug 30

Member anniversaries:

- **Leslie Green** 22 years
- **Emily Hannon** 1 year
- **Charlie Osborne** 31 years

Ron thanked those who helped with the meeting, including **Traci Jovanovic**, camera/mic operator, and **Tylar Martin-Nichols**, Zoom and audio producer.

Roundabout reporter: **Jim Bright**

Photographer: **Alain Barker**