

## Mayor Marsh Gives State of the City Address at Rotary Mtg

(By Tom Snape, [103.9 WRBI and WRBIRadio.com](#) - Reprinted with Permission)  
Greensburg Mayor Joshua Marsh outlined successes and ongoing initiatives during his fifth State of the City address on 05 February 2024 during the Greensburg Rotary Club's weekly meeting at The Branch Coffee House. He began his remarks by saying the city's finances are in excellent shape, and that the state of the city is strong. "Clerk-Treasurer Amy Borns, the City Council, the Board of Works, our administration, and all of our team members have all worked together, allowing me to proudly



and confidently state that the financial position and the state of our city is strong," Marsh said. "We are ready to go for 2024 and beyond!"

Among the accomplishments, Marsh cited the work of the utility staff, the police and fire departments, the street department, building and planning, and the city engineer's office. He says a significant accomplishment was the completion of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). "A UDO brings all the existing development, planning, and zoning ordinances into one updated, detailed ordinance. The UDO makes it easier for developers and builders to do business in Greensburg and helps us expand our housing and business markets," he said. "This completes a four-year, three-phase approach to overhaul our comprehensive plan, development ordinances, and design standards."

Marsh also highlighted building relationships with Japan and Indonesia to help local and international manufacturing and agriculture, respectively, and touted completion of the Building Bridges Inclusion Park, which is a playscape for people of all ages and abilities.

With an eye toward the future, Mayor Marsh noted construction of the new Street Department headquarters and Fire Station One along North Broadway near the Bypass is nearing completion. "The construction of a new building ensures the health and safety of our staff, keeps expensive equipment and materials covered during the rain and snow, and allows for space for staff to work inside. For the first time, we are giving our teammates a place with appropriate restrooms, lunch facilities, and space to thrive as a team," Marsh said about the new Street Department building.

"Greensburg's new Fire Station One and headquarters have the safety features, space, training room, and more for a growing fire department," he said. "It has a separate living space from the apparatus bay to help prevent toxins from spreading to the living areas, space for men and women firefighters, a dedicated physical fitness area, and space for department training. Both buildings will improve the quality of work life and will be part of our recruitment and retention strategy. The City Council, Board of Works, and our teams have been unanimously supportive of this growth. I am excited to see this project come to life and see the teams move in, and I hope you will join us for the open houses this year," Marsh said.

The mayor concluded by saying much has been accomplished, but there's much more work ahead.

"We need to usher in changes to access housing, childcare, opportunities for education, and economic advancement while maintaining Greensburg's charm. We can. I am committed to working every day towards that goal," Marsh said. "Please join me, embrace it, and welcome those you meet on the street."

The address was delivered at the Branch Coffeehouse and Gathering Place on the courthouse square downtown.

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### ROTARY CALENDAR

**Mar 04** - Rex McKinney - Decatur Co. Memorial Hospital

**Mar 11** - Service Project - Easter Eggs for New Directions

**Mar 18** - Art Turner

**Mar 25** - Networking

**Mar 28** - Board Meeting

### OFFICERS 2023-2024

**Robert DeHoff** President

**Alex Sefton** Past President

**Lora Williams** Secretary

**Linda Simmons** Treasurer

**Jeff Emsweller** Public Relations

**Tami Wenning** Vocational Service

**Daryl Tressler** Sergeant-At-Arms

**Emily Steele** Club / Youth Service

**Jerry Fox** Int'l Service

**Kelby Owens** Membership Director

**Larry Moore** Rotary Foundation Chair

**Nathan Vandrey** Disaster Response Chair

**Mandy Lohrum** Asst District Governor



### Upcoming Events & Service-Above-Self Opportunities:

- **Archery Tournament fundraiser** at Decatur North High School April 5 (Set up) and April 6 (Event and Teardown); The sign-up schedule is available [HERE](#).
- **District Conference** in Evansville, IN on 20 April, with a "family friendly event/get together" planned for April 19; You can register for the conference by clicking [HERE](#).
- **Rotary International Convention** in Singapore on 25-29 May. Registration and information [HERE](#).

## New Greensburg Rotarian, Jaime Rivera, Speaks to Rotarians on His Migration to US



At their 19 February meeting, Greensburg Rotarians were treated to one of their newest members, Jamie Rivera, detailing his youth in Guatemala, the challenges that drove his family from that country in the early 1980s, and the opportunities his family found in the United States, specifically Indiana, that kept them here.

Jamie was the oldest of his parent's five children. He told Rotarians that, despite living in a dirt-floor home with no electricity or running water, his parents, who were natural entrepreneurs, established multiple successful businesses and created a home where education and faith were a central part of life. "Even though we were very low-class," said Rivera, "(my parents) were always helping someone else - that was a beautiful influence in our lives."

Despite the business successes and income opportunities the Rivera family found in their home country, the social and political situation in the 1970/80s was deteriorating rapidly. A civil war, fomented by a poor populace, an unstable government, and guerilla groups influenced by Cuban nationals, meant that Jamie was often coerced into leaving school to participate in protests against the government, and his family, with their successful businesses, were regularly threatened with kidnapping and ransoms.

In 1982, when Jamie was 18 years old, his father leveraged business and social contacts in Indiana and Illinois to arrange to move his family from Guatemala to Seymour, Indiana. At the time, Jamie's parents believed that this would be a short-term move - only lasting until civil unrest in their home country settled down. In fact, his father decided to keep his five businesses open, in the care of Jamie's uncle, because he expected to be able to return to them before long and they provided jobs for indigenous people who were treated as second-class citizens. When the civil war ended up going on far longer than anticipated, the Rivera's chose to make America their permanent home.

A hard worker at heart, just like his parents, Jamie found a job at Rose Acres Farm and, at 20 years old, became the youngest production manager in the history of the company. Jamie commented that his team consisted of people from Guatemala, India, and Mexico, and that they somehow made a great team despite a limit ability to communicate verbally. Jamie eventually left Rose Acres Farm and took a waiter position at Henry's Restaurant in Columbus, Indiana; a position that offered better pay and working conditions. While working at Henry's Jamie met his future bride, Beverly a farmgirl from Decatur County working as a greeter at the restaurant.

From Henry's, Jamie moved on to a machine line position with STI in Greensburg. The new position came with better pay, training, and educational opportunities, as well as opportunity for advancement for which Jamie's hard-working nature was well-suited. Indeed, Jamie would spend the rest of his professional life at STI in the positions of quality assurance engineer, HR manager, and, eventually, program manager, a position that allowed him to travel the world as a company representative while earning enough to support his wife and children.

Just like his parents had done, Rivera made education and faith a core part of his home. Indeed, he was eventually convinced by one of his friends to join in on a missionary trip to Guatemala. This first trip back to the nation of his birth led to many more trips, each focused on bringing aid and opportunities to the people most in need. Jamie would often be accompanied by family on these trips, making sure his children took part to ensure they learned to both appreciate the bounty they had in the United States and recognized the opportunities they had to help those less fortunate.

After retiring from his career at STI in 2023, Jamie not only found more time to devote to his faith and missionary opportunities. Inspired by his oldest daughter Jessica, who has Down's Syndrome, Jamie began planning a school and support center in his birth town to help provide care, training, and income for people there with disabilities. He shared, with great excitement, that he recently was able to convince the government there to donate land for the facilities, and he hopes to have the first phase, including classrooms, a cafeteria, and a courtyard area, up and running within a year.

After a chance meeting and discussion with Greensburg Rotarian Steve Freeman, and always looking to grow and support his community, Jamie joined the Greensburg Rotary club this month.



### GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Dear Greensburg Rotarians,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing commitment to volunteerism and being a positive mentors in our community. Your efforts are making a lasting impact on the club, and inspiring others to help in our efforts. Our recent growth reflects that. I am excited to be part of this outstanding group of Rotarians .

Thank you for embodying the spirit of "Service Before Self"!

God bless you all,

Rob



## Rotarian Tami Wenning Discusses DCCF and Potential Within Coming Eli Lilly Grants



During the 26 February Rotary meeting, Greensburg Rotarian Tami Wenning of the [Decatur County Community Foundation \(DCCF\)](#) spoke about the upcoming Lilly Endowment Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow (GIFT) opportunity. This is the eighth GIFT opportunity presented by the Lilly Endowment, and each has a different focus and process seeking different results. Indeed, in 1992 the DCCF, as well as the other 93 community foundation across Indiana, owe their fiscal creation to a Lilly Endowment effort!

For this current one, DCCF has the opportunity to earn ~\$150k in matching money from the endowment. Tami said the Lilly endowment seeks to “grow the unrestricted gift-giving abilities that community foundations have.” To that end, this year’s efforts will allow DCCF to give out two dollars to unrestricted funds for every one dollar donated to DCCF. For DCCF, their “unrestricted fund” is the community fund. This fund includes not only the foundation’s central fund, but associated “commemorative funds” that represent donations made to the foundation to memorialize a person or organization. Tami gave the example of Letts United Methodist Church which, when its members decided to close the congregation, donated their remaining funds to DCCF to create unrestricted fund in that church’s name, memorializing the church. The money they donated was matched by Lilly Endowment’s sixth GIFT opportunity, and earnings generated from the funds go into DCCF’s annual grant-making fund. “When you give a gift to the community foundation, continued Tami, “we never spend your gift - we invest it.”

Tami pointed out that anyone could create one of these named funds with the foundation, leveraging Lilly Endowment’s GIFT opportunity to double the fund’s amount and create a lasting, fiscal contribution to the community. And the earnings on the multitude of funds managed by DCCF add up to a significant boon for Decatur county, with DCCF giving out over \$3.6M in grants over the past ten years just from the community fund. These grants support local organizations and people including teachers and volunteer fire departments.

DCCF also managed Donor Advised Funds for local organizations such as the YMCA and United Way. This service acts like a savings account for those organizations, with DCCF managing their funds and ensuring returns benefit the community. Tami gave the example of the YMCA which can leverage its fund to help cover the cost of the new roof for their main facility.

Tami also pointed out that there are opportunities to start scholarship funds with the foundation. These can be specific to a college, career field, or other factor, and used to both support local students and memorialize a love one.

“There are a variety of reasons and a variety of ways...to give back to the community,” said Tami, “You can continue giving year after year, long after you’re gone.” She went on to say that it’s likely there’s no one in Decatur County who has not been impacted in some positive way by the funds managed by DCCF.

Regarding the Lilly Endowment, Tami said Decatur county had received a \$50k planning grant from them to support an active and on-going effort to compile existing community plans from across the county, identify the “highest needs” are, and then apply by end of April for up to \$5M in grant money from Lilly Endowment as well as applying for a regional initiative. This regional effort has seen Decatur county team up with Shelby county to focus on needs in the area of early learning and childcare.

For more information: 812-662-6364, email [info@dccfound.org](mailto:info@dccfound.org), or visit [dccfound.org](http://dccfound.org).

## New Members, Paul Harris Fellowship Awards Highlight Greensburg Rotary’s Feb 24



Morgan Denham is presented with her 7th Paul Harris Foundation Recognition



Jaime Rivera and Mark Adam become members of the Greensburg Rotary Club at the 12 February meeting



**Sign-ups continue for the Archery Tournament on April 5-6. As a reminder, this is currently our biggest annual fundraiser, so we need as many Rotarians as possible to step up and help out. Currently there is a significant need for people to help out with concessions and admission on 6 April from 5pm until tournament end, and for clean up from 5:45p and completion that day. Please signup by clicking [HERE](#)**



## Greensburg Rotarians Assist the Community with Two Service Projects in February

On 04 February, Greensburg Rotarians Rob DeHoff, Roger DuMond, Jenni Hanna, Jamie Rivera, Daryl Tressler, Nathan Vandrey, Tami Wenning, and Bailey Yeager, and took advantage of a sunny but windy Sunday afternoon to collect two pickup truck loads of wreaths from veterans graves as the [Wreaths Across America](#) program wrapped up for the season.



At their 12 February meeting, Greensburg Rotarians assisted [Project Linus](#) by making handmade blankets for the organization. Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. Through member efforts, 20 blankets were assembled and provided to the Decatur County chapter or the Linus Project.

## ROTARY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES!!

### District 6580 Annual Conference, 20 April 24 in Evansville, Indiana

The Annual District 6580 Conference is scheduled for 20 April 24 in Evansville, Indiana. Registration is \$139 through 20 March and \$150 after that. You can register online at: <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77667018&NoCaptcha>

This year's Keynote Speaker is Floyd Lancia, a past Rotary International Director who spearheaded Rotary Foundation grant projects that provided free eye surgeries in Nicaragua and clean water for communities in Mexico, in addition to other humanitarian projects in Brazil, India and Africa. Floyd is a member of the Fort Wayne Rotary Club.

There will also be a House of Friendship silent auction, with each club in the district submitting a basket for the event and all proceeds going toward the Paul Harris Foundation!

District has reserved 42 rooms at Doubletree Hilton for \$139/night for Friday and Saturday: 4/19-4/20. If you would like to reserve one of these rooms, they are available (until fully booked) until 22 Mar 24 by calling (812)423-5002 or using the following link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/rotary-district6580-conference/> Note: The block of rooms is under 'Rotary District 6580.'

If you have questions about registration or about hotel reservations, please contact Mike Crumbo at 317-777-1710 or at [mike.crumbo@gmail.com](mailto:mike.crumbo@gmail.com).



**DG-Elect Mandy Lohrum holds a sample silent auction basket**

### Rotary International Convention, 25-29 May 24 in Singapore

This year's Rotary International Convention is scheduled for 25-29 May 2024 in Singapore at the [Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre](#). There is a discount for early registration, and the Rotary International Convention website includes information about registration, accommodations and transportation, interpreters (as needed), and event schedules.

You can access the Rotary International Convention information and registration [HERE](#).

REGISTRATION CATEGORY	16 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024	1 APRIL 2024 TO 29 MAY 2024
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$595	\$695
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$100

Interested in knowing more about what's going on throughout Rotary District 6580? Check out the monthly District Newsletter in your email or under the "District" tab in DACbd!