



The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



March 14 meeting @ Wesleyan Village

Tracy Green, Vice President, LCCC
LCCC's strategic plan and visioning sessions

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
By Kristen Jones

The annual State of the City joint luncheon, a collaboration of Elyria Rotary Club and the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, was held at Lorain County Community College. More than 30 tables were filled with Lorain County community leaders who were welcomed by Elyria Rotary **president Rob Ernst.**

Today's invocation was given by **Fred Kerestury**: "Let us be thankful for the gift of community, and for one more day to try to do the right thing. Bless the city of Elyria, this event, and this meal. Grant our elected officials the gift of wisdom, foresight, and stewardship. Absolve us of our biases, so we can authentically work together for our common future."



Photo courtesy of Lorain County Chamber of Commerce



Photo courtesy of Lorain County Chamber of Commerce

Tammy Bertrand, The Chronicle-Telegram, The Morning Journal, and the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce were on hand for photos.

Synopsis

Lorain County Chamber president Tony Gallo introduced Mayor Frank Whitfield.

The Chronicle Telegram's Kevin Martin noted that Mayor Whitfield spoke to the frustrations of dealing with the angriest and loudest voices that take away from the best interests of the city and nation. Reflecting on his three years as Mayor, Whitfield recalled the resilience the city displayed after the February 2021 fire that destroyed the former Uncle Vic's nightclub building.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Bertrand

He said he is committed to putting programs in place to help downtown owners to improve their facades, and that the city is entering a new phase of downtown and Midway Mall redevelopment.

The Mayor also pitched “Project Hawaii,” a light industrial park with Cleveland Clinic as anchor tenant; however, that will not happen at Midway Mall and partners have

shifted. The Port Authority is leading the way on the Midway Mall redevelopment project.

He noted the City’s largest cash carryover in 20 years, and that it is a unique opportunity for regrowth.

The Morning Journal's reporter Heather Chapin noted that Mayor Whitfield promoted love in his address. The Mayor said that he’s faced misinformation about the city, an angry nation, and “weirdness” around the county because of the upcoming election.

Dawn Calvert, Assistant Safety Service Director, said via a streaming interview, that one of their main focus areas is redevelopment of the Midway Mall and zoning issues.



Photo by Kevin Martin – The Chronicle Telegram

Both officials touched on the eSports Arena coming to downtown, the beginning phases of construction there, and its role in potential economic growth.

Key to the City

Mayor Whitfield presented Ridge Tool Company with the Key to the City in recognition of the company’s continued success and commitment to the area. The award was accepted by executive Kevin Rhodes, on behalf of the 100 year-old company.



Photo by Heather Chapin – The Morning Journal

Announcements for Elyria Rotary:

- Elyria Rotary Club Scholarship
Applications are Open. The Scholarship is open to graduating seniors from any of the five area high schools with which the Elyria Rotary Club has had a long-term relationship, including Elyria High School, Elyria Catholic High School, Midview High School, Open Door Christian School, and First Baptist Christian School of Elyria. Deadline is April 15. Read more at [\(Rotary Club of Elyria \(elyriarotary.org\)\)](http://Rotary Club of Elyria (elyriarotary.org))
- District 6600 Assembly training is Saturday, April 22 in Tiffin, OH for club officers, directors, and any member.
- [District 6600 Conference](#) is May 12-14 at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- Elyria Rotary Steak Fry is Friday, June 16 at The Hickories.
- MESA Bike Tour is June 25-28 beginning in Sandusky.