

## Around the District



The **Rotary Club of Shepherd** just completed two service projects. One was a new venture for the club and the other was an annual event.

For the first time, the Rotary club partnered with two other area churches to assist in the Isabella County Rotating Shelter, a relatively new program in our county. There were various ways in which our members participated: some provided meals, or served dinner and interacted with the guests, a couple of our members even stayed overnight (ALL NIGHT) to supervise, and some helped with clean up in the morning. It was a great experience, and we're looking forward to taking part in the program again in March!

On Saturday, December 6, the club held its 9<sup>th</sup> annual food drive. All the donated food items were given to the Shepherd St. Vincent's Food Pantry to be used by needy families during the holiday season. Another great experience for us, and of course, we had a good time working because we knew we were "doing good in the world"!



The **Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club** celebrated their 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday at their December 2, 2014 regular meeting. Guests of honor included District Governor Dee Brock, past Rotarians Dick Remsberg and Zip Meyer. The Club still has and utilizes the brass bell given to them by the St. Johns Rotary Club on December 3, 1930.

A special birthday cake was enjoyed by all, as members reminisced about past Rotary memories and experiences.



President Ben Reyhl of the **Central Michigan University Rotaract Club** inducts three new members into the club during the Ugly Sweater Extravaganza and Christmas party at the home of District 6310 Youth Chair Kathy Beebe.

To support the **Owosso Rotary Club** stewardship of Harmon Patridge Park, a new District 5310 Grant will help the club partner with the Friends of the Shiawassee River and extend its service to the community. The showpiece of the grant will be a Stream Team demonstration day this spring at the park, which will involve the public in planting trees, learning about the environmental health of the River, and dedicating a sign recognizing the work of the club in caring for the Shiawassee River.

Since 1996, the Owosso Rotary Club has participated in an annual River Clean-Up by removing trash from over a mile of the river, including the area bordered by Harmon Patridge Park. Another major initiative of the Friends of the Shiawassee has been their Stream Teams, a volunteer water quality sampling program.

The District Grant will help purchase equipment to establish a new Stream Team for Rotary Club members and other community volunteers. At the Demonstration Day, attendees will see how a Stream Team collects valuable information on water quality and river health. Participants will have the opportunity to wade in the river, sample and identify the insect larvae and other macroinvertebrae in the river, and learn how to conduct a safe and effective assessment of river health.

As part of the event, which will be promoted to the community, four new mature trees will be planted along the river bank, furthering the Club's 100th anniversary service project and further improving Harmon Patridge Park. In recognition of the Club's past, and continuing, volunteer efforts, the Club will become part of the Friends new Adopt-a-River campaign and a sign will be installed to publicize the Club's efforts.

In total, the District Grant will provide the funds necessary to expand and recognize the Club's service to the community



Club members join with community residents to help clean-up the Shiawassee River at Harmon Patridge Park. Participants include (L-R) Anna Owens, Paul Cook, Mitch Speers, Jeff Deason, and Ken Henry.

The **Northern Bay & Arenac County Rotary Club** has decided to pursue a Bandshell Landscaping Project in the City of Pinconning. The club has already provided the first \$2,000 to begin the project. Six large trees were planted in November. Additional plantings are planned in spring 2015. Member participation would include site preparation, planting, watering, fertilizing, etc. Rotary recognition will be built into the plan. The Pinconning Arts Council will be contacted to start the discussion on how to proceed in the spring.

The **Midland Rotary Club** recently entertained Youth Exchange Students in the Midland area.

Ana from Brazil announced that she is officially a senior. She is on the Powder Puff team, made it to varsity cheer, and is earning all As and Bs at Midland High.

Caroline from France made the basketball team at Midland High.

Tig from Thailand went to Northwood for a Rotary program.

Claudia reported on her home and family from Australia as she nears the completion of her stay here. She told the club that Australia is composed of six states and 12 territories. Her hometown is Dubbo, New South Wales. Their population stands at about 44,000 and although that is comparable to Midland, she described her hometown as much more rural than Midland.

Claudia has had an opportunity to visit many places since coming to Midland, including Canada, New York, Chicago, Mackinac Island, Cincinnati, and Detroit. She is with her third family now, and they have had the opportunity to visit Ludington and Ann Arbor.

The **Durand Rotary Club** recently participated in "Santa at the Depot" that included turning the lights on in the Sandula Clock Tower, light parade, and then an evening of cookies, cocoa, caroling, and craft projects at Durand Union Station. Of course, no evening would be complete without a visit with Santa Claus! And as you may have read earlier, even District Governor Dee got to sit on his lap!

An opportunity to visit with Santa was also offered by the **Birch Run Rotary Club** at the Rotary Gazebo. Over 300 children enjoyed the day — some waiting in line as long as 1-1/2 hours! Extra candy was purchased during the event to make sure that each child received candy — even if they decided not to sit on Santa's lap.



The Schaeffer family

The **Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club's** Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award was presented to Bonnie Schaeffer, who has a very impressive resume of achievements and community service credits. Bonnie is the mother of two, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of four. She is retired from the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools where she served as an Assistant Business Manager.

Bonnie is a Paul Harris Fellow, Level 2, and volunteers at the Beef Dinner and Auction for the Club each year. In addition, she and PDG Ken have hosted the Rotary Steak Fry at their home for the last 37 years and have hosted 14 international youth exchange students!



To raise awareness and critically-needed funds to fight the crippling disease polio, the **Frankenmuth Rotary Club** recently donated \$15,000 as part of its special 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project.

The donation, given in recognition of World Polio Day on October 24, 2014, is received by Rotary International, the volunteer fundraising arm of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative—a public-private partnership that also includes the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This donation was tripled thanks to a 2:1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, given through a current fundraising partnership with Rotary.

In a press release, local Rotarians encouraged the public to also make donations to this important humanitarian effort. An account has been established under the Frankenmuth Community Foundation for individuals to contribute to the Rotary Humanitarian Fund to help the fight against polio. Checks can be made out to the Frankenmuth Community Foundation, with “Rotary Humanitarian Fund-Polio Plus” in the memo line and sent to PO Box 386, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

At the **Rotary Club of Pigeon** recent holiday celebration, a rousing rendition (with new words) to the 12 Days of Christmas was captured on video. Instead of reading, you may wish to sing the final stanza :-}

On the last day of Christmas, my E-Club gave to me:

12 Bankers Banking

11 Healthcare Workers

10 Chicken Dinners

9 Highway Pick ups

8 Rotary Minutes

7 Songs of Singing

6 Pastors Preaching

5 *Leipprandts*

4 Ways of Testing

3 Pasta Salads

2 Sergeants, and

1 Dollar to Rotary

