

Midland Rotary News



Dear fellow Rotarians,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to the upcoming month.

As we continue to prioritize connection and relationships, I am thrilled to share some details about our upcoming Rotary Pancake Supper, which has become a beloved community event in Midland.

The Rotary Pancake Supper has a rich history in our town, dating back to 1972 when Rotarian Karl Yack suggested replacing our annual Easter lily sale fundraiser with a pancake and sausage fundraiser. Since then, the event has grown in popularity and has become a symbol of Rotary's commitment to serving the community.

This year, the committee is again working diligently to plan the Pancake Supper, and it is scheduled for Feb. 29. The event is not only a chance for us to come together for a delicious meal with our community, but it is also an opportunity to raise funds for community youth programs.

Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to Rotary and our club.

Yours in Rotary,

Angela Cole
2023-2024 President



Making an impact

Local high schoolers embraced a chance to work with the United Way of Midland County to help residents of local senior citizen facilities on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Midland Noon Rotary Community Needs Committee recently approved a grant to help that collaboration, which truly embodied the spirit of community service. More information about Community Needs Committee grants is on Page 7 in this month's Rotary Club of Midland Newsletter.

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IMPORTANT ROTARY/LINKS

Facebook facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/

X twitter.com/MidNoonRotary

Instagram: instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/

Logos/Rotary Global Rewards:

<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

ClubRunner Login:

<https://admin.clubrunner.ca/5732/User/Login>

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

JENNIFER WEST +1	TAWNY NELB +3
LARRY WASHINGTON +1	CHRISTIAN VELASQUEZ +2
REVA CURRY +3	JENEE VELASQUEZ +3
MATT LAMING	CHUCK SHERWIN +3
BILL HARGREAVES +8	AMY JASTER
DUSTIN SMITH	ABBY SCHERZER
MELINA BUCCI +1	TOM MCARDLE
ROBBIE WACLAWSKI+1	STEVE WILDES +9
JON LYNCH *1	

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 2024

Feb. 8

Paul White — Answer Discovery

Feb. 15

Midland County Clerk Ann Manary and Early Voting

Feb. 22

Youth Peacebuilding in South Sudan

Feb. 29

Pancake Supper/No Lunch Meeting

March 2024

March 7

Holy Cross - Carly Lillard

March 14

Wellbeing Committee

March 21

Toni & Trish House

March 28

Salvation Army

April 2024

April 4

Midland Public Schools

April 11

Dustin Smith — Classification

April 18

Midland Noon Rotary Club birthday celebration

April 25

Jordan Dice (Owner of Midland Mall and St Laurent Brothers)



Midland Noon Rotary Club

February Birthdays

Bart Thompson 2/3

J.Deed Brooks 2/5

Jon Lauderbach 2/20

David Bradley 2/20

Jennifer Grace 2/23

Dick Dolinski 2/25

Samantha McKenzie 2/26

Kim Bennett 2/26





Pictured left: Mike Hayes, Matt Smith and Sharon Mortensen at last year's Rotary Pancake Supper. This year's event is set to take place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at Dow High School.

Pass the syrup: Pancake Supper is Feb. 29!

The 49th annual Rotary Pancake Supper is scheduled to take place Feb. 29 at Dow High School.

"We are excited to host the community for this annual event that has such a rich history in Midland," stated Midland Noon Rotary President Angela Cole.

The Pancake Supper's history dates to 1972, when the first Pancake Supper was held in September at the United Methodist Church, according to information compiled by Club historian Tawny Ryan Nelb. Then it switched to Central Intermediate School before shifting to Dow High School in 1977.

As the event grew, Rotary hosted over 2,000 people every year for the all-you-can-eat pancake event with what is believed to be an all-time high of 2,594 attendees in 1992. In addition to helping run the event, Rotarians are required to purchase \$130 worth of tickets and then either re-sell them or give them away.

"We mostly give our tickets away to family, friends, colleagues, churches, food pantries and local social service groups," stated Event Co-Chair Mark C. Bone in 2023. "So you'll see people from all walks of life and socioeconomic levels sit down together for a meal at the Pancake Supper."

In addition to sharing a meal with the community, the Pancake Supper raises money for community youth programs.

The ticket sales add significantly to the more than \$30,000 raised for grants to non-profits for youth projects. And in the past 10 years, local businesses have sponsored dinner placemats, table tents, and display boards, raising an additional \$50,000 for these grants.

SUPPER | From Page 4

This year's event will take place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at the H.H. Dow High School Cafeteria. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, applesauce, butter and syrup, milk and coffee. Tickets are \$5 per adult, and \$3 for children 12 or under. They can be obtained through Midland Noon Rotary members or purchased at the door.

In the event of inclement weather, and the Feb. 29 dinner has to be cancelled, the dinner will be held March 7.

Follow Midland Noon Rotary Club on Facebook and Instagram, or visit the event webpage, which can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/47URbqQ>.

Midland Noon Rotary thanks our valued sponsors for the 2024 Rotary Pancake Supper. All proceeds from these sponsorships go directly toward meeting various needs of our Midland Community, so we very much appreciate their generous support!

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MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DINNER GUESTS AND SPONSORS

Community Needs Committee continues legacy of giving back to Midland County

Supporting families in need during the holidays; youth sports; and empowering individuals with disabilities are just the latest ways the Midland Noon Rotary Club's Community Needs Committee is giving back to the local area.

"The primary objective of the Community Needs Committee is to assist financially with youth-orientated projects that might otherwise go unfunded," stated Midland Noon Rotary Club President Angela Cole. "Since its inception, the committee, thanks to the generosity of our Rotary members, has contributed thousands of dollars to support numerous projects benefiting youth of all ages in our community."

The Community Needs Committee partnered with Family and Children's Services to assist 12 families in need, ensuring they could enjoy a traditional holiday Christmas. The funds provided holiday meals and Christmas gifts for children who might have otherwise gone without.

Additionally, grants were extended to Sanford Youth Sports, an organization serving youth in Sanford, Coleman, and Bullock Creek areas of Midland County. This support enables youth participation in various organized sports, including baseball, softball, volleyball, and competitive cheer. The organization is committed to ensuring that no child misses an opportunity to participate.

The Community Needs Committee also contributed to "A Night to Shine," a global event initiated by the Tim Tebow Foundation and locally supported by the 2|42 Church. This event provides a magical evening prom for young people and individuals of all ages with disabilities, offering dinner, transportation, dancing, activities, and countless smiles. This year's event is scheduled to take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Freeland Sports Zone.

Also, the Community Needs Committee recently approved a grant in partnership with the United Way of Midland County. This collaboration involved local high school students working with residents of local senior citizen facilities on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, embodying the spirit of community service.

"The Community Needs Committee is proud to uphold the visionary legacy of Major Warren Yoder, who established the committee in 1988," stated Committee Chair Stacey Gannon. "As the director of the Salvation Army of Midland, Major Yoder identified unmet community needs for groups of children in Midland County, laying the foundation for the committee's mission."

Grants are available for up to \$5,000. Interested parties can apply online here: <https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org/community-service>.

Funding for committee grants is derived from the proceeds of the annual Pancake Supper, a beloved community event scheduled this year for Feb. 29 at Dow High School.

Following another year of giving, Midland Rotary Foundation looks to 2024

Following a generous year of giving in 2023, Midland Rotarians are looking forward to another year of positive action within the local community.

“We are proud to continue this strong tradition of giving back to our community through the Midland Rotary Foundation,” stated Midland Noon Rotary Club President Angela Cole. “Established in 1977, the Midland Rotary Foundation primarily funds projects that will benefit disadvantaged youth in Midland County.”

In 2023, the Midland Rotary Foundation awarded grants for several projects, including \$5,000 for the Bridge Food Center expansion.

The Bridge is a volunteer-run grocery store serving families that make less than \$72,000 annually.

“The Bridge Food Center Expansion Project will open for business at the new location (1826 S. Saginaw Road) on Tuesday, Jan. 30,” stated Bridge Food Center Director Marsha Stamas. “Contributions, both financial and volunteer hours, have come from a variety of sources. The Midland Rotary Foundation's generosity is helping the Bridge Food Center reach even more households in this community, and we are so thankful.”

Additional Midland Rotary Foundation gifts in 2023 included \$5,000 to the Midland County Foster Closet for birthday kits and to Midland's Open Door for the new Women and Children's Shelter bicycle shelter; and \$2,000 was granted to the Self Love Beauty organization for 2024 Affirmation Day toolkits.

The West Midland Family Center received \$5,000 to build a Bullock Creek Elementary preschool playground.

“Midland Rotary Foundation was once again the first to contribute to our playground build project at Bullock Creek Elementary School, setting the stage for other organizations to follow in collaboration for supporting the early growth and development of children preschool and kindergarten age,” commented Greg Dorrien, executive director of West Midland Family Center. “What a magnificent community we all get to share.”

In addition, \$10,800 was awarded in scholarship funding that was distributed to area youth by the Midland Noon Rotary Club Scholarship Committee chaired by Reva Curry.

The biggest ongoing project for the Midland Rotary Foundation is the continuing work to upgrade the facilities at Grove Park.

[See FOUNDATION | Page 9](#)



Left photo: The Midland Rotary Foundation awarded a \$5,000 for the Bridge Food Center expansion project. Pictured right: The West Midland Family Center received \$5,000 to build a Bullock Creek Elementary preschool playground.

FOUNDATION | From Page 8

This year, the City of Midland broke ground on restrooms for the park, including a Changing Places restroom for those with severe disabilities. Under the leadership of outgoing president Tim Dyste, the Midland Rotary Foundation led the effort to raise funds from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation (lead funder), the Midland Area Community Foundation, the Dow Company Foundation, the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, the Infuse Great Lakes Bay Foundation, the Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, and generous members of the community. The Rotary Foundation donated \$32,000 toward the building.

New Midland Rotary Foundation President Tawny Ryan Nelb urges local non-profit organizations to submit requests for new projects by filling out the application available at <https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org/grants-awards>.

Grant deadlines are April 1 and Oct. 1, and applications require a review by a Rotary sponsor.

Feb. 15 meeting to feature Midland County clerk

Ann Manary, Midland County clerk and clerk of the circuit, will be featured at the Feb. 15 Midland Noon Rotary meeting at the Midland Country Club.

The presentation will be centered around changes to the election process due to Proposal 22-2. Manary plans to discuss early voting; absentee voting; tracking your absentee ballot; election audits; and election drop boxes.

If Rotarians would like to contact Manary, email amanary@co.midland.mi.us or call 989-853-6657.

Focus on Mental Health and Inclusion



Sharon Mortensen

Building Relationships

Relationships are the building block of connection and inclusion. At its core, effective diversity, equity and inclusion revolves around the skill of building and nurturing relationships. Not only does building relationships help with inclusion, but it also helps with wellbeing. This month, let's explore how we can build meaningful relationships with a variety of individuals, including those different from us.

First, let us look at some of the science behind this.

We are social creatures and relationships are a critical component of experiencing wellbeing. Healthy relationships are also a vital component of overall health. More than 50 studies show that social support (i.e., positive relationships) lowers blood pressure and stress hormones.

A Harvard study on adult development indicates "Close relationships, more than money or fame, are what keep people happy throughout their lives . . . [Close relationships] protect people from life's discontents, help to delay mental and physical decline, and are better predictors of long and happy lives than social class, IQ, or even genes."

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, "Our relationships are a source of healing and well-being hiding in plain sight — one that can help us live healthier, more fulfilled, and more productive lives. Murthy stated further, "Given the significant health consequences of loneliness and isolation, we must prioritize building social connection..."

Authentic social connection is what allows individuals to experience inclusion. Bottom line, building relationships allows us to establish a welcoming environment where all feel included and promotes greater health and wellbeing.

So, what does it take to build meaningful relationships? Here are a few tips to help:

- Show empathy.
- Be curious.
- Accept and celebrate differences.
- Communicate authentically and honestly with others.
- Listen effectively.
- Give people your time and focus.
- Accept feedback and, when asked, provide feedback.

For people to fully share their opinions, thoughts, and ideas, they need to trust those around them. Once trust is established, we will see more robust sharing. That kind of open sharing reflects the inclusive environment we want to build in our clubs.

Rotary statement on the conflict in Israel and Gaza

Recognizing there has been protracted suffering in the long history of conflict between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza, Rotary International urges all parties to seek avenues to peace.

At the same time, we unequivocally condemn the horrific attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians and are appalled at the number of people who have been injured, killed, and kidnapped.

As the war between Israel and Hamas intensifies, we remain deeply concerned about the potential for further escalation as well as the loss of life and the humanitarian crisis that is occurring in Gaza. We denounce the violence against innocent civilians and support upholding international humanitarian law.

Peacebuilding is both a cornerstone of Rotary's mission and one of our areas of focus. At our core, Rotary is a common ground for people to come together — across nationalities and religions, cultures and histories — and connect around their shared belief in a better tomorrow. That connection is what humanizes us in times of conflict and builds a foundation for lasting peace.

Rotary remains committed to working with our members, partners, and communities to find long-term, sustainable solutions that support peace and development in the region and elsewhere.



GET TO KNOW THIS

ROTARIAN

RANDALL SANBORN



ORIGINALLY FROM: Waterford, MI

SPONSOR: Amy Jaster

OCCUPATION: IT Director at MyMichigan Health

CURRENTLY READING: Fun: *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*, by Charles Yu; Professional: *How Big Things Get Done*, by Bent Flyvbjerg and Dan Gardner; Family: *The Attention Economy*, by Thomas Davenport

FUN FACT: My wife and I are both fourth generation Michiganders from central and northern Michigan (Flushing, Sault Ste. Marie, Ionia) and love the mitten state.

WHY I JOINED ROTARY: We think one of the keys to flourishing is active participation in, investment in, and ownership of community.

WHAT I'M MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN ROTARY: Meaningful connections and opportunities to participate in and contribute to our slice of Michigan.



Is one of our members ill or had a death in the family?

If you know someone that is in need of a card due to an illness or a death in the family, please reach out to Missie Freier at missief@1ststate.bank or (989) 878-3445. If you would like to become a member of the Stewards of Rotary, please contact Missie to be added to the group. Thanks to all who have helped send cards to lift up our fellow Rotarians!



The Four-Way Test

of the things we think, say or do.

- 1 Is it the truth?
- 2 Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4 Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Sign up for Invocations

Thank you to those of you who have signed up. The committee is still looking for a few volunteers to sign up to do the invocation. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Teresa George at (989) 615-3198 or

teresageorge2015@gmail.com. Or you can sign up at the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4caaaa29a6fa7-rotary#/>



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Meeting Announcements

If you have an announcement for a club meeting, email President Angela Cole to be added to the agenda. In order to keep our meetings on time and give speakers as much time as possible, announcements should be limited to Rotary-related events or Rotary service projects, and be no more than 30 seconds. If your non-profit wishes to advertise information or events, please feel free to place flyers on the tables.

FEBRUARY IS

**PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION/RESOLUTION
MONTH**

"Imagine all the people living life in peace..."

John Lennon

Rotary



www.rotary.org