

# Midland Rotary News



## President's Message

Greetings, Rotarians!

May is here, and with it comes the arrival of spring flowers (including Midland Blooms!), graduations, and the end of the school year. As summer arrives, get out and enjoy all that our beloved Midland has to offer. And while it's a few months off, it's never too early to get River Days on the calendar! For the Rotary calendar, May is Youth Service Month.

This is a time to celebrate the incredible potential and impact of our young leaders. We were fortunate to have a visit from the Morning Club's RYE student, Fran, who gave us an update on her RYE experience so far. This gets us excited for the return this coming school year of our own Youth Exchange program after a 3-year hiatus. We as Rotarians express our sincere gratitude to all who devote their time and passion to our youth service initiatives. Your time and support allow us to affect positive change in the lives of our youth. Together, we are building a strong foundation for their future success and leadership. Since we're getting this newsletter out late in the month, we're looking back on some great programs. Missie Freier and Blaine Anderson gave a very informative presentation on data security and financial services fraud, Stacey Gannon gave her Classification Talk, and Wendell Peterson from XALT Energy brought us up to date on a Midland company that's doing great things in its industry. This coming Thursday, we'll learn more about how the cities of Midland and Saginaw provide their citizens with the best water in Michigan.

As always, thank you for all you do to make our Club and our community great. See you soon!

Jon Lauderbach

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## PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

- Jim Bakeman
- Jeff DeHaven
- John Zimmerman (+1)
- Michael Goad
- Lee Smith (+4)
- Kristin Stehouwer (+9)



IMAGINE  
ROTARY |

## ROTARY CLUB OF MIDLAND LINKS

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/  
MidlandNoonRotaryClub/](http://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/)

**Twitter** <https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary>

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/  
midlandminoonrotary/](http://www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/)

**Official logos/Rotary Global Rewards:**  
<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

# May Birthdays



## Midland Noon Rotary Club Birthdays

**Chris Velasquez (5/11)**

**Amy Jaster (5/11)**

**Lee Smith (5/12)**

**Terri Johnson (5/15)**

**John Van Dalen (5/24)**

**Shelly Bartosek (5/25)**

**Dave Marsh (5/27/)**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### May 25

Saginaw-  
Midland  
Municipal  
Water Corp.

### June 1

Dr. Reva  
Curry, Rotary  
Scholarships

### June 8

Classification

### June 15

Business Speaker

### June 22

Business Speaker

### June 29

Surprise (Hint:  
rhymes with toast)



# Adopt-A-Park: Rotarians conduct May 6 Grove Park cleanup



Midland Parks and Recreation gave Midland Noon Rotary Club a huge shoutout on social media for transforming Grove Park! "We're absolutely thrilled to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rotary for their incredible effort in cleaning up our beloved park," states the post, which includes the accompanying photos. "The transformation is nothing short of amazing, and we can't express how much this means to the entire community! It takes a village to move a soccer goal."



THE ROTARY CLUBS OF MIDLAND PRESENT:  
**COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS EVENT**



**PLEASE JOIN US!**  
**JUNE 8, 2023**  
**3:00-6:30PM**  
**GROVE PARK**



# ROTARY: COMMUNITY & CONNECTIONS EVENT

Come meet your neighbors and join us for a community conversation to further build an inclusive community where everyone belongs and thrives. The conversation will be facilitated by the Cultural Awareness Coalition and Youth Inclusivity Committee. Kids are welcome and encouraged to attend.

This event is open to all ages, offering two sessions (of the same content) with activities tailored to 5 and above. Hot dogs and water will be served and a food truck will be available!

**Thursday, June 8 | Grove Park in Midland**

**First Session: 3:00pm - 4:30pm** *(Welcome tent opens at 2:45pm)*

**Second Session: 5:00pm - 6:30pm**



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

25TH ANNUAL

MIDLAND

Rotary



# ROTARY GOLF CUP

## JUNE 28, 2023



**\$100 PER/\$400 TEAM**

**SANDY RIDGE GOLF COURSE  
2750 LAURIA RD. MIDLAND**

**TEE SPONSORSHIP-\$120**

**NAME ON SIGN\_\_\_\_\_**

**OUTING INFORMATION**

Registration: 8:00AM

Shotgun Start: 9:00AM

Dinner/Awards: Immediately following

**PLAYER 1:\_\_\_\_\_PLAYER 3:\_\_\_\_\_**

**PLAYER 2:\_\_\_\_\_PLAYER 4:\_\_\_\_\_**

**TEAM REP CONTACT INFO:\_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:\_\_\_\_\_**

**PRIZES FOR LONGEST DRIVE MEN/WOMEN AS WELL AS CLOSEST TO THE PIN. THERE WILL ALSO BE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR SOME GREAT PRIZES.**

All questions can be directed to  
Stephanie at 989-225-4674 or  
sdavis@gmcaml.org

Please make checks to "Midland  
Rotary Foundation" and send to:  
Stephanie Davis  
7280 Zachary Dr.  
Bay City, Mi 48706

# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

## Avoiding DEI Backlash

By Sharon Mortensen



Recently I heard the founder of a nonprofit speak at a community collaborative meeting. She was invited to provide a diversity, equity and inclusion learning moment for the group. She started by asking the group to put the term DEI aside; she was here to share her experiences as a Black woman in our community. She explained that the term DEI will often alienate half of the room and cause the other half to engage. Her comment reflected the backlash that is taking place around diversity, equity and inclusion. While she went on to talk about the importance of being welcoming, listening to one another's stories, and getting to know one another, her comment about the term "DEI" alienating people caused me to pause.

A quick Internet search will reveal numerous articles on DEI backlash. One may ask, why this pushback? After all, we are working to include all voices and ensure that nothing, be it income level, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or other factors, hinders the full participation of each individual.

A Harvard Business Review article by Lily Zheng entitled "To Avoid DEI Backlash, Focus on Changing Systems – Not People" speaks to this topic. While the article focused on the workplace, the principles remain the same when we are talking about Rotary. The article discussed the importance of framing work around diversity, equity and inclusion as changing the way our systems work rather than changing individuals. It stressed the importance of collecting data to understand where inequities exist, communicating this in a way that looks at the changes to be made in policies or procedures, appealing to fairness, setting expectations for change along with the needed resources to support that change, and then celebrating wins to keep the momentum going.

Rotary International convened a DEI Task Force to work on systems within Rotary to make sure that there is a greater focus on celebrating every individual's contributions, advancing equity, and creating a more welcoming and inclusive culture. Rotary International President, Jennifer Jones, outlined steps for Rotary clubs to take. These are:

1. Learning more about DEI in Rotary, including understanding definitions and how to celebrate and respect our differences.
2. Determining why DEI matters to our club and community and how using DEI principles can help our club grow and become stronger.

## Rotarians participate in Adopt-A-Street

Led by Samantha McKenzie, Rotarians and friends conducted a cleanup on April 29 at Elisenal Drive, which is between Joe Mann Boulevard and Commerce Drive.



## DEI, continued...

3. Raising awareness of DEI, including creating a DEI committee in your club that reflects the demographics of your community.
4. Taking action on DEI in our club and community for instance educating yourself about underrepresented groups in your community in order to become a more knowledgeable and effective advocate for DEI.

These steps help to ensure that all Rotarians can experience a greater sense of belonging. In addition, these steps will prevent a backlash against the focus on DEI in Rotary. Another article on the topic of why diversity, equity and inclusion efforts fail, pointed out the importance of engaging all stakeholders in diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. And this article mentioned the importance of sustaining the work over time. Change generally happens slowly and building and implementing new systems will require concerted effort.

Oprah Winfrey said, "No matter who we are or what we look like or what we may believe, it is both possible and, more importantly, it becomes powerful to come together in common purpose and common effort." That quotation truly mirrors the Rotary International website which declares we are people of action. Our global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, and leaders volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs.

# Rotarians host annual pancake supper





# PANCAKE, continued...



MAY DESIGNATION IS



# YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

*"If you really want to change the world you have to inspire young people. That's how you change the world."*

Joe Rogan



TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives