



The Sunrise

Published by the Rotary Club of Naperville Sunrise

November 2024

Bruce Dixon, editor (dixon-bruce@comcast.net)

Sunrise Calendar

(Subject to change)

November

- 1: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – Bylaws presentation deadline for funding proposals (details on web site)
- 8: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – **Mike Tenuta**, Rotary Foundation update
- 12: Monthly Board meeting, 7am, Zoom
- 15 Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – **Srini** on R.I. convention / Food pantry collection at NCC 8am-10am, volunteers at pantry 10am-noon
- 16: Club social at the home of **Tom and Pati Miers**
- 22: Regular Club meeting, 7am, NCC – Row Foundation
- 29: No meeting

direct ideas for speakers
and Club projects to **Ginnie Moore**

Bill Hassett and **Jim Ensign** presented \$11,000 in Rotary Ride proceeds to three local charities: Naperville Responds for Veterans “assists Veterans and their families...by raising donations of money, building materials, and professional labor; and coordinating the process of repairing, building, and donating homes; 360 Youth Services is expanding their emergency youth shelter by adding five beds and support staff; Loaves & Fishes uses donations for their many and varied Cares programs.



From left, **Mary Boulos** asst. VP of Cares Program at Loaves & Fishes, **Bill Hassett**, **Michele Clemen** with Naperville Responds for Veterans, Event Chairman **Jim Ensign**, **Brea Hayes** director of development for 360 Youth Services, **Keith Drupek**, president Seabreeze West Remodeling, a Rotary Ride sponsor.

204 Infrastructure Upgrades

Indian Prairie School District 204 Superintendent **Adrian Talley** stopped by to flesh out the District’s bond referendum appearing on the November 5 ballot. The proposal reads: *Shall the Board of Education of Indian Prairie Community School Unit School Number 204 ...alter, repair and equip existing school buildings, including constructing security improvements, including installing secure entryways, access controls and intrusion detection, replacing roofing, mechanical, plumbing, and HVAC systems, updating classrooms, science labs and libraries/media centers, enhancing energy efficiency, and issue bonds of said School District (in the amount of \$420-million) for the purpose of paying the costs thereof.* The bond does not trigger a tax rate increase. Talley said the District is faced with numerous upgrades that have emerged simultaneously.



“(District) 204 spends less per student than other districts. The state determines what your funding can afford based on the size of your District and the funding you get from property taxes. The state says we’re 84 percent adequately funded; that means we can only afford 84 percent of what we should be able to afford (including) teachers, administrators, and other staff.” He noted that School District 203 is at 119 percent funding adequacy. “District 203 this year spent \$40 million on construction needs and they just took that money out of reserves.”

Talley added that “Illinois does not give capital money to school districts, so all the funding from taxpayers goes into our operating budget. Anything we want for capital must come from that. We should spend 8-10 million dollars a year on capital work; take that amount out of our operating budget (and) we would have to cut other things, beginning with personnel. In this case, that would eliminate about 80 positions.”

(More)



November 2024 (cont.)

No Judgement Zone



Dave Della Terza

Virtually all Naperville residents know they have an outstanding public library offering something for everyone, including books, music, movies, video and board games, research assistance, story sessions for children, and computer work stations. Public support of libraries is especially important at a time of increasing pressure to censor “politically incorrect” materials. Naperville Public Library (NPL) Executive Director **Dave Della Terza** was unequivocal when he spoke to our Club:

“Libraries take intellectual freedom very seriously...that means we want to have a varied collection and that we don’t censor things based on points of view or someone not liking something in our collection,” Della Terza said. “We have controversial, unpopular, unorthodox materials. Customers can choose not to check out titles for themselves or their children, but they can’t restrict the freedom of others...or remove things from their collections because it offends someone. That’s in the American Library Association Bill of Rights.”

The NPL has 227 staff members at three locations: 2035 South Naper Blvd.; 3015 Cedar Glade Drive (95th Street Library); 200 West Jefferson Avenue (Nichols Library).

The Sunrise Board approved a motion to use \$1,000 of our Greater Good Fund to support hurricane relief efforts sponsored by Rotary and the Greater Good Charities. Individual donations can be made through <https://www.rizoness33-34.org/disaster-relief/>.

Friendsgiving Social Signup



Chef Geoff

The dinner bell is ringing for our next Club social on November 16 at the home of **Tom and Pati Miers**. Organizer **Geoff Roehll** invites you to share your favorite recipe, be it appetizer, side dish, or dessert - or just show up to “eat, drink, and be merry.” Geoff plans to contribute his Mom’s famous cucumber dip. The menu will include beef, pork tenderloin, and ham. Proceeds will support the PolioPlus program; cash donations are welcome. “Invite a friend you think would be a great new member!” Information and signup at: <https://tinyurl.com/Sunrise-Friendsgiving>.

* * * * *



Nikhil Gupta brings good news about his nonprofit organization, Holy Mission, which has partnered with Amazon to distribute 1,200 meals to those in need. Said Nikhil, “It was heartwarming to see 80 Amazon employees volunteer their time to help

package the meals at Amazon’s Chicago office.” The meals were donated by Lazarus House and Loaves and Fishes.

(More)



November 2024 (cont.)

International Service Chairwoman, **Dawn Newman**, said **Brett Weiss** of the Weiss Family Foundation will pay half the 4-year tuition for four high school students at Cheryl’s Children’s Home in Kenya. The offer extends to assistance getting the students into college. The agreement was reviewed by Rotarian **Kevin Gensler**.

2024 First Lego League Tournament

Our Vocational and Youth Committees are collaborating to sponsor the District 203/Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) First Lego League (FLL) Tournament. The event is scheduled for November 23rd at Kennedy Junior High School. NEF Executive Director **Wendy Goettsch** says the theme of this year’s tournament is *Submerged*. “Teams will use their STEM and collaboration skills to explore life beneath the surface of the ocean. Along the way, we’ll uncover the potential in each of us to strengthen our community and innovate for a better world with healthy oceans.” The NEF supports STEM education outside the school day for over 500 students across all 14 elementary and five junior high schools through the (FLL) program. For the first time, this year’s tournament will include Junior High students. Forty-five teams will participate.



Dawn

Brett Weiss



Kevin

Serdar Erkoca was invited to speak at the Beysukent Rotary Club in Ankara, Türkiye. There, he exchanged Club banners. Serdar said the Turks “were delighted to hear about the activities of the Naperville Sunrise Rotary Club. “In addition, I told them about the Creative Thinking and Science Camp project we ran during my presidency of the Ankara Maltepe Rotary Club.” While in Ankara, Serdar visited the Chess Museum, possibly the only museum of its kind in the world.



Shelley Taylor received an invitation from the Neuqua Valley High School Interact Club to give a presentation on “how to write a grant.”



A set at the Chess Museum in Ankara.

(End)