

Rotary



The Rotary Club of Michigan City

Chartered 1916

Meeting Information



Salvation Army
1201 Franklin Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
Thursday 11:45am

[Click here to meet online](#)
if you cannot attend the
meeting in person.

[Map it.](#)

Mail:
Rotary Club of Michigan City
P. O. Box 9372
Michigan City, IN 46361-9372

More Links

[World Polio Day Video](#)
[Picture Gallery](#)

Duty Roster

March 20, 2025

Greeter
Mike Kilbourne
Moment of Inspiration
Liliana Franco
Meeting Coordinator
Dr. Bruce Smith
Classification Talk
Christine Scheider
Guest/Student Host
Larryn Piotrowski
Registration Desk
Jim Scott

March 27, 2025

Greeter

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Apple Dumpling Time



It's that time of the year when we go to the 3rd grade classes in the schools located in Michigan City to support literacy. In the process, we also show the students the Four-Way Test and the values of Rotary.

This is a great way to interact with the students and show the community why Rotary is important.

Our club has been doing this project since 2008 and have educated all 3rd graders about the Four Way Test.

We cannot do this without your help. Please click [here](#) and reserve a spot or 2 to read to the 3rd graders.

President's Message

By Matthew Kubik



Fellow Rotarians,

[Jenilee Haynes-Peterson](#) will be our speaker this Thursday. Join us for lunch to hear about the upcoming season of events at Friendship Botanic Gardens before they officially open for 2025!

The Rotary Club of Michigan City has a long history of interaction and support of International Friendship Gardens. For many years we have maintained a small but prominent garden there. Past President Terry Voltz worked on the Rotary Garden last season. At the meeting we can make plans for 2025.

The International Friendship Gardens originated as an exhibition of international flora and global friendship for the 1933–1934 Century of Progress Exhibition. Due to the vision and persistence of Clarence Stauffer and his brother, the gardens were transferred to Michigan City as an enduring statement of international peace and cooperation. Famously, the Queen of the Netherlands donated 1000's of tulip bulbs. The local deer were delighted. The 107-acre gardens and wooded duneland became a popular tourist attraction into the 1980's. Thanks to the extensive efforts of businessman John Leinweber the rejuvenated gardens are now attracting up to 70,000 visitors each year.

My childhood in Pottawattomie Park was spent roaming the area's woods and trails. The Gardens were a forbidden lush green paradise that we kids could see from the neighborhood streets above. When there were classical music events, the sound could be heard in our backyards. My gaggle of rowdy playmates were frequently chased out of the

Kevin McGuire
Moment of Inspiration
Danny Hogan
Meeting Coordinator
Teresa Bischoff
Classification Talk
Denise Shipp-Glenn
Guest/Student Host
Dana Purcell
Registration Desk
Mike Kilbourne

Speakers

March 20, 2025

[Jenliee Haynes-Peterson](#)
Join us for lunch to hear about the upcoming season at Friendship Botanic Gardens before they officially open for 2025!

April 03, 2025

[Civil Air Patrol](#)

April 10, 2025

[Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award presentation!](#)
ALINSKY AWARD PRESENTATION - Join members of Rotary for our annual award presented to an individual who exhibits creativity, innovation, and service.

April 17, 2025

[Sheriff Ron Heeg](#)
Join us for an update from Sheriff Ron Heeg of the La Porte County Sheriff's Office.

Club Leaders

[Matthew Kubik](#)

President

[Jessica A O'Brien](#)

President-Elect

[Rebecca S Simmons](#)

Secretary

[Kevin McGuire](#)

President-Nominee
Treasurer

[Kathleen Dolio-Thorson](#)

Club Director

[Liliana E Franco](#)

Club Director

[Matthew Vernon Howell](#)

Club Director

[Larry Piotrowski](#)

Club Director

[Bruce Eric Smith DDS](#)

Club Director

[James T Welborne](#)

Club Director
Club Executive Secretary

[Terry A Voltz](#)

Gardens when curiosity and the need for mischief overcame us.

When I was 12, I took over the Chicago Tribune paper route which included daily delivery to the surviving World's Fair Alaskan Cabin. The one-lane bumpy dirt road was the service entry to the Gardens that descended from the ridge above. I would lean my bike against the scrubby slope to dutifully take the paper to the door. Since this was the maintenance area, there were stored artifacts and decorative elements that had not been used in the creation of the various displays. One morning I realized my bike was leaning against a large half-buried bell. Brushing away the dirt and debris revealed that it was the old Elston School Bell. It seemed a shame that an historic object like that was abandoned. Why weren't they using it?

Twenty years passed and, as a young architect, I initiated and chaired the celebration of Michigan City's 150th birthday in 1983. The strategy was that during the year local organizations would each plan an event or contribution. From my youthful struggles to deliver the impossibly heavy Chicago newspaper, I remembered that abandoned bell embedded in the hillside. By this time, garden founder Clarence Stauffer was in his 90's and notoriously crotchety and cantankerous. However, he was still keeping the Gardens open. With the help of several local leaders, including Rotarian Dr. Richard Houck and his wife Jeannie, old Clarence was convinced that the hanging of the bell would be the Gardens' way of honoring the City's birthday.

When you visit the Botanic Gardens, perhaps to work on our Rotary Garden, you can ring the Elston Bell. It is located near the children's play area. Next to it is the small monument honoring the Garden's founder, Clarence Stauffer. It is a testimony to vision, tenacity and a life lived in the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self while promoting international peace and cooperation.

A poem about the Four Way Test

By Scott Parker Howat

Being enthusiastic, positive and passionate
is so right for me
these are the main principles I live by
which help set me free

They've grown from fine roots
from God up above
everyday we are blessed
in each way we give and receive all our love

It must be the TRUTH
I can't tell a lie
FAIR to all concerned
I will not deny

GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS
that I do employ
so it's BENEFICIAL for all
so we all can enjoy

WIMS monthly radio show

The Rotary Club of Michigan City's show will be the first Wednesday of every month from 8:45am to 9am, plus it will be live on Facebook. Matt Kubik and Bryant Dabney were on this month's show.

[Click here to view a copy of the show.](#)

So tune in if you can. You can listen on AM 1420, 95.1FM, 106.7FMValparaiso and via stream around the world at wimsradio.com. #wims



Rotary International Presidential message



Stephanie A. Urchick
President 2024-25

March 2025

March is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on *The Magic of Rotary* and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic firsthand in the Dominican Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, “Show me the magic again.”

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — alongside local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realized that what seemed like a small act could change residents’ lives. That is *The Magic of Rotary*.

This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary’s work with USAID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines, and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary’s impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we’re advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This program equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.

As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more people in need.

Whether it’s joining forces with local organizations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilizing your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

The Magic of Rotary shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it’s from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let’s harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.

