



ngo: Barry Wright

Prayer/Pledge: Jennifer Purdee

Health & Happiness: Kelly Morris

Sgt.-at-Arms: Monte Monteleone

## Welcome to our December 18 meeting

### We are glad you are here!



## Christmas Event

### December Birthdays

Phillip Coyle – 15  
David Deas – 8  
Mark Epstein – 9  
Chris McCallister – 3  
Jason Ramey – 12  
Terri Sanford – 9  
Michael Scott – 18  
Earl Tindol – 20



### December Club Anniversaries (Years)

Daniel Boyd	22
Don Buckner	19
Steve Campbell	30
Ralph Dickson	5
Jay Falls	13
Walter Gray	32
Wil Neumann	3
Royce Robinson	39
John Sam	27
Jennie Stultz	27
Mike Stanforth	21
Wes Styers	19



## Gastonia East Board Members

Morgan Rhoney, President	Jennifer Purdee, Sargent-at-Arms	Lindsay Nelson, Membership
Page Morgan, President elect	Julia Allen, Service Chair	Barry Wright & Mike Stanforth, Rotary Foundatio
Jason Ramey, Secretary	Chris McCallister, Interact Chair	Kelly Morris, International Service
Steve D'Avria, Treasurer	John Pea, Club Programs Chair	Kent Huggins, Exec. Secretary
Sonya McGraw, Immediate Past President		

The individuals listed below are responsible for Rotary Meeting service on the assigned dates. **If you cannot attend on the date requested, please delegate your responsibility to another club member.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prayer/Pledge</u>	<u>Bingo</u>	<u>Sgt.at Arms</u>	<u>Health &amp; Happiness</u>
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### Upcoming Events

#### **Rotary members in Harvard, Illinois, USA, have teamed up with community groups to help alleviate hunger and bring the community together.**

On a sunny morning in July, two dozen preschool children from Brown Bear Daycare inspect a bed of milkweed plants for monarch butterfly eggs, holding magnifying glasses to the underside of leaves in search of the tiny, off-white objects.

Preschool children from Brown Bear Daycare plant a young tomato plant. The class visits the garden every Monday morning spring to fall.

Curiosity stoked, the five-year-olds and their teachers move to the shade of a large tree to listen to a master gardener explain the role these butterflies play in gardens. The preschool class visits the community garden in Harvard, Illinois, USA, every Monday from spring to fall to learn about garden-related topics and even help out.

“They get to taste the vegetables, some that they have never even seen. They get to experience what it is like to plant a garden from the planting to the picking to the eating,” says Sheila Henson, executive director of the day care center and a member of the Rotary Club of Harvard. “At the end of the summer, we have a parent night where the parents come and get to see the different things their children have been involved with.”

With the goals of alleviating hunger and educating the community, master gardeners from University of Illinois Extension planted the garden in 2001 on a half-acre parcel donated by the city and adjacent to the public library.

Over the years, the master gardeners have enlisted the support of many businesses, organizations, and clubs, including the Rotary Club of Harvard, making the project a community-wide effort.

As many as 250 needy families benefit from the 10,000 pounds of vegetables that are grown and donated every year to the local food pantry. The fresh produce serves as a safety net for many families.

Roughly a quarter of the community’s 9,200 residents live below the federal poverty line, a result of the limited employment opportunities in small farm towns across Illinois. The already fragile economy was further affected by the closing of a Motorola plant here in 2003 after only seven years of operation.

“In this community, the only way we can get by is by helping each other,” says Dave Decker, site director for the [Harvard Community Food Pantry](#). “Everybody needs a little help now and then.”

The Rotary Club of Harvard took on the project seven years ago, looking for a way to address hunger and help the community. With only seven members, the club has had an impact far beyond its size, amplifying its efforts by working with the master gardeners and other groups.

“Harvard is definitely a better place because of the members of this club, and that is what keeps us going,” says Mike Morris, the club’s president. “It’s the expertise of the master gardeners, individuals in the community, farmers who help, and the education provided through the day care that makes this an amazing team effort.”

The Rotary club has provided \$400 to buy seeds and starter plants from a local nursery every year since 2011. It also purchased plastic drip irrigation tubing and fertilizer valves after a drought threatened the garden in 2012. This year, it provided a letter of support needed by the master gardeners to secure a \$5,000 grant from the [McHenry County Community Foundation](#) for an organic compost mix that will add nutrients back to the soil and help keep weeds at bay.

For more, visit [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org).



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