



# ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | January 28, 2026 | Service above self. One profits most who serves best.

## Today's program



**Bing Schimmelpfenning** will tell us about the Good Dads program, which works with at-risk and incarcerated fathers.

## Future programs

- February 11 - Nancy Shelton
- February 18 - TBD
- February 25 - Sam Styron
- March 4 - Gabe Sweitzer
- March 11 - Jayden Love's guest will be Supt. Josh Chastain
- March 18 - Nichole Tews

## Birthdays

- February 11 .....Gabe Sweitzer
- February 19 .....Jason Zaroor

## Officers & Directors

- President .....Grant Purkey
- President-Elect .....Erik Winkler
- President-Nominee .....Annie Knox
- Secretary .....Dawson Dickey
- Treasurer .....Jessica Junge
- Sergeant-at-Arms .....Judy Franklin
- Past President .....Jon Taber
- Directors .....Jenna Giess, Larry Pfautsch, Cassie Wieberg, Jayden Love, Vanessa Hargrave
- District Governor .....Andrea Brady
- Asst. Gov. ....Bing Schimmelpfenning

## Contact info.

Rotary Club of Harrisonville #2368  
 P.O. Box 496, Harrisonville, MO 64701  
 Newsletter contact: Larry Pfautsch  
 Website: [harrisonvillerotary.com](http://harrisonvillerotary.com)  
 Facebook: @harrisonvillerotary

## New Hope Haven director brings broad experience to position

Three staff members from Hope Haven of Cass County spoke to the club last week about the domestic violence shelter's extensive services, its 30-year history, in the community, and the addition of Stacy Christie as executive director. Joining Christie were Ave Rosales, program manager, and Renee Harris, case manager. They took turns explaining the mission, history and services the shelter provides.

Christie started her new job on Jan. 12. She is a University of Iowa grad and competitive swimmer. She most recently managed four swim facilities for Johnson



County Parks & Rec. Earlier, she was a recruiter for Korn-Ferry and after college worked in public accounting. She and her husband lived in Houston and Atlanta for 20 years. In Atlanta, she said she became very involved in community organizations and wanted to get back to the nonprofit world.

Ave, who began working at Hope Haven in 2018, traced the shelter's history back to its beginnings in 1991 and its official opening in 1995. Renee, onboard since 2024, explained her role, which includes client advocacy, case management and connecting clients to resources such as housing, job opportunities and legal assistance.

Hope Haven currently operates from two buildings. The residential area has 25 beds in seven years, plus a shared living and kitchen area. The facility is one of the few in this area that accept pets, which she said is very important to clients in deciding whether to seek shelter.

## Announcements from last week's meeting

- Abby Lowrimore won the Secret Greeter dollar coin.
- Vanessa Hargrave reported on the signups for Rotary T-shirts. Members get one free shirt and can register their size using [this link](#). The deadline is Feb. 28.
- Annie Knox reported on High 5 Friday and encouraged more Rotarians to participate the next time.

## Minutes from Feb. 2 board meeting

The board held its monthly meeting at noon Monday, Feb. 2, at Family Center Farm & Home. Attendees: Jon Taber, Vanessa Hargrave, Larry Pfautsch, Grant Purkey, Jessica Junge, Jayden Love, Dawson Dickey, Erik Winkler, Annie Knox, Cassie Wieberg and Tina Witty

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by President Grant Purkey. November minutes were reviewed and Annie Knox motioned to approve, Jayden Love seconded. Board approved.

Jessica Junge presented the Treasurer's report. As of Jan. 31, the checking account balance stands at \$3,497.54. Fundraising increased, primarily due to \$460 collected at the Christmas party and an \$800 contribution from the Harrisonville Booster Club for working the football game in October. The total program income was \$5,420, which came from billed meals, membership dues, and sustaining member fees.

### Old Business

**2025-2026 Club Goals:** The club met its goals, with higher membership in January and more service projects, including Classroom Partner, High Five Friday, and a new membership sponsor.

**50th Anniversary Project:** Grant informed the board that the club is now a member of Miracle League. We have received an information binder on setting goals, and membership allows participation in seminars on March 2-3 and April 13-14 in Georgia.

Grant will schedule a video conference with Stephanie, the Miracle League representative, and the club will link the Miracle League website to our club website.

Grant and Vanessa established the Harrisonville Rotary Miracle Field Fund with Truman Heartland Foundation.

Jayden is preparing a promotional booklet and obtaining print quotes, while Cassie is developing a sponsorship packet to present to the board.

There are no updates on North Park ballfield improvement project as yet, but more information is expected soon.

The next 50th anniversary committee meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Feb. 11 after normal club meeting.

**Online Auction Fundraiser:** The online auction fundraiser has been

cancelled because all the work involved and other options for raising funds.

**Rotary T-Shirts:** Club members need to provide their sizes so Vanessa can place the order. She has shared a sign-up sheet for members to record their sizes.

**Polio Bingo:** After discussing possible timing, the board decided to hold this fundraiser in September or October since October is World Polio Month. Tiny Witty has offered to spearhead this event.

### New Business

**Commerce Bank signature:** Jill Filer will be reinstated to the Commerce account for club purchases. Vanessa moved to approve; Cassie seconded. Board approved. Erik will add Jill back.

**Senior Day of Service:** The Senior Day of Service is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5. Rotary will provide hotdogs for lunch at the Methodist Church in Harrisonville. Rotarians are requested to assist with food preparation and service. Further information regarding volunteer sign-ups will be distributed soon.

**Wrestling concession stand:** Rotary will operate the concession stand during the Harrisonville Wrestling competition on Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the High School. Rotarians are requested to volunteer; those able to assist should contact Annie Knox.

**Community Garage Sale:** Rotary is organizing this year's fundraising Garage Sale at the Community Center, scheduled for Saturday, May 2. More details will be shared soon.

**Flag Program:** Erik has told the board that Tina Witty will be apprenticing with Judy Franklin to learn the details of the flag program. He also mentioned he will send a mass email to participants regarding payment for 2026, and for those who don't respond, he will visit their businesses to collect. Additionally, he needs 150 program flyers printed. Jayden will provide a price quote.

**Sign-up Genius:** Jayden Love suggested to the board that using a Sign-Up Genius for each event would make it easier to track attendance and volunteer hours. The board liked this idea and will start implementing it.

Motion to adjourn was made by Annie Knox at 12:47 p.m. Vanessa seconded the motion. Motion passed. The next board meeting will be held at noon Monday, March 2, at the Family Center Farm & Home conference room.

## Club selects RYLA participant for 2026

The Youth Services Committee headed by Jill Filer has reviewed what may be a record 10 applications for this summer's Rotary Youth

Leadership

Academy (RYLA).

They have selected **Taylor**

**Hollingsworth** to

attend the four-day

academy, which

brings together

high school

sophomores and

juniors who exhibit

a desire for community service.

Taylor is involved in DECA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and First Priority.

She plays basketball and soccer and helps manage the boys soccer team.

In her application, Taylor said, "I volunteer in the summer for youth soccer camps and youth basketball camps. I also volunteer in much church's nursery once a month. My main community service hours come from my involvement in DECA." She has also volunteered at Harvesters and donated clothing for needy families.

"People often underestimate the time it takes to make something a success, and being involved and being around so many other people who work tirelessly to make our community, schools and town the best it can possibly be has been very impactful. My love for community services has grown into something I am very passionate about."

## Club Calendar

Wednesday, February 11

**50th Anniversary Committee**

**Meeting** - 1-2 p.m., following our lunch meeting.

Friday, February 20

**Classroom Partner Visit** - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., McEowen Elementary School.

Monday, March 2

**Monthly Board Meeting** - 12 noon, Family Center Farm & Home.

