



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | March 18, 2026 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

Today's program



Jayden Love's guest today is Supt. **Josh Chastain** speaking about the school district's April 7 ballot proposal, Proposition 1.

Future programs

- March 18** - City Administrator and fellow Rotarian **Brad Ratliff** will speak on the "State of the City."
- March 25** - Lori Watson
- April 1** - Chuck Weedman
- April 8** - Anne Hickman
- April 15** - Flag Program Kickoff - group photo at flag shed, then lunch at restaurant to be determined
- April 22** - Jason Winter
- April 29** - Tina Witty

Birthdays

- March 23**Vanessa Hargrave
- April 3**.....Jon Kling
- April 6**.....Anne Hickman

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

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April bond issue would fund building improvements, new multi-use building

It's been six years since Harrisonville School District voters approved the last bond issue for school improvements. That \$22.7 million bond issue did not raise local property taxes. The same will be true this year if voters approve a \$38 million bond issue for facility improvements and maintenance needs in what Supt. Josh Chastain called a continuation of the earlier projects. "We did as much as we could" with previous bonds, he said. "We need to continue the work started with the successful passage of Proposition N in 2020."

As Jayden Love's guest last week, Supt. Chastain explain those needs fall into three

priority areas: safety and security, student opportunities, and infrastructure. The bond issue would not change the district's current tax levy of \$5.4772 per \$100 of assessed valuation. It requires a 4/7 majority to pass—roughly 57.1%.



Supt. Chastain addressed one of the recurring questions about bond issues — why failure of the bonds would not necessarily result in a

lower tax levy. School districts cannot just save up money for capital projects. They can only be done by incurring debt, which is retired over time through the "debt service" portion of the overall tax levy.

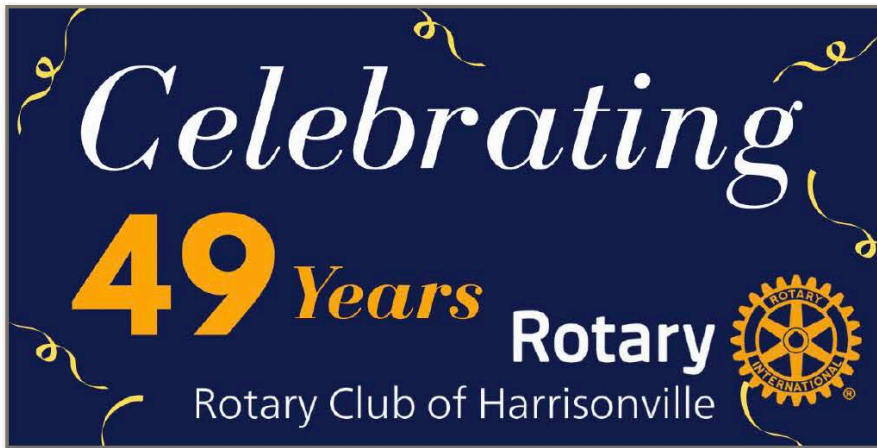
The April 7 bond issue would impact all school buildings in one way or another.

Under the safety & security priority, it would pay for re-keying all buildings, replacing internal doors, improve fire systems, provide a new drop-off/pick-up area at HES, and security fencing.

Under infrastructure, it would continue the replacement of roofs and HVAC equipment, improve flooring and parking lots, and add 4 classrooms at McEowen Elementary.

Under student opportunities, the bond issue would fund needed upgrades to the HHS Performing Arts Center, six tennis courts, a renovated softball/basement field, expansion of the press box and a large multi-use facility to accommodate a wide variety of student and community activities.

Chastain said the district has been able to increase its bonding capacity through strong financial management, including a savings of \$2.7 million by refinancing existing bonds. Public school districts in Missouri are prevented from incurring too much debt because state law limits bonded indebtedness to 15% of the district's assessed valuation.



The Rotary Club of Harrisonville was chartered on March 17, 1977. We're one year away from celebrating our 50th anniversary.

Club Calendar

Thursday, March 26

Monthly Social Hour - 4-5 p.m., El Puerto Mexican Restaurant

Thursday, April 2

Classroom Partner Visit - 2:35 p.m., at the Rock Ford School Living History Classroom at McEowen Elementary School

Monday, April 6

Monthly Board Meeting - 12 noon, Family Center

Wednesday, April 15

Flag Program Kickoff - Group photo at flag shed at noon, then lunch at a nearby restaurant

Thursday, April 30

Monthly Social Hour - 4-5 p.m., El Puerto Mexican Restaurant

Saturday, May 2

Rotary Community Garage Sale - Community Center

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

Senior Day of Service - Rotary serves lunch to HHS seniors at United Methodist Church

Announcements from last week's meeting

- There was no Secret Greeter last week
- Vanessa Hargrave contributed to the PolioPlus bank, encouraging Rotarians to support the 9th annual Harrisonville Just4Me Adult Prom Fundraiser on March 28 at the Davis Event Center. All ticket sales and funds raised go directly to the summer food program that feeds over 200 in-need young people in our community. This year's goal is \$30,000. Tickets are available through Facebook or the online payment app Zeffy.



Congratulations to Ryder Breit, our Rotary Service Above Self Award recipient for March at Harrisonville Elementary School.

Guests of Mark Rorvig at last week's meeting were the March HHS Students of the Month, Tucker Snook and Shelbie Anderson. Shelbie is the daughter of John and Dawn Anderson. She plans to attend College of the Ozarks for an undecided major. Tucker is the son of April Snook. After high school, he plans to attend Columbia College Chicago to earn a bachelor's degree in acting for stage and screen, a bachelor's degree in jazz, and a minor in voice acting.