



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | March 25, 2026 | Service above self. One profits most who serves best.

Today's program



Abby Lowrimore's guest today is **Gabi Marlow**, a Pleasant Hill FFA student and one of 30 Missouri sophomores chosen by the Missouri Department of Agriculture to

participate in the 2026 Missouri Agribusiness Academy in June.

Future programs

April 1 - Lori Watson's speaker will be her husband **Jason Watson** on AI trends

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 Wittly

Birthdays

April 3.....Jon Kling

April 6.....Anne Hickman

April 13.....R.J. Knox

April 15.....Judy Franklin

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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Ratliff reports on state of the city, citing affordability statistics

Rotarian and City Administrator Brad Ratliff reviewed a wide range of statistics at last week's meeting to provide a snapshot of the city's operations and finances. A central theme of the presentation was Harrisonville's relative affordability when compared to dozens of other cities in the area.

One graph, for example, focused on property taxes. Harrisonville's 61-cent general fund tax levy costs a typical homeowner \$410 a year — 9th lowest in the area and well below the average of \$783. In a total city budget of \$45 million, only \$1.2 million comes from property taxes.. The bulk of city revenue derives from sales



taxes, and much of that comes from non-residents shopping in our community. He noted that 84,000 people a month on average shop go to Walmart. But the city's sale tax rate is "right at average" for all the communities in our area.

The cost of living in Harrisonville for a single family is also quite affordable, he said, ranking 6th lowest in the area.

But general fund revenue doesn't even cover the cost of running the police department or the fire department. He said 60% of the general fund is employee salaries, and 154% of that goes to the police department.

At some point, he said, the city may have to look at other means of paying for fire and ambulance protection. If the city were to become part of a fire protection district, which happened a few years in Pleasant Hill, that would be very costly for residents, adding a dollar or more to their property tax levy.

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State of the City

(Continued from front page)

Brad also reviewed each major city department as well as the many capital improvement project under way in the city. Of the \$37.9 million in capital projects under way, only 10.5% is "city money." The rest is from federal and state grants.

These projects include the Royal Street Extension and North Park redevelopment, which is totally funded by the extra penny sales tax in the Highway 291 Transportation Development District.

The city is also raising Ash Street at the City Park, completing a variety of flood mitigation and water and sewer improvements, and preparing to replace the 50-year-old, 7-mile raw water line from Lake Harrisonville.

Commercial and residential development have been lower in recent years but are slated to pick up this year with such projects as the Jack Stack processing facility at the old Bizarre Bazaar and the development of new residential lots at Burris Ridge, Cedar Crossing, and other areas.

The city has made substantial progress in recent years at removing vacant and blighted buildings. The vacant Hardee's building may soon be demolished to make way for a new retail business.

Announcements from last week's meeting

- There was no Secret Greeter last week.
- Glenn Aversman contributed to the PolioPlus bank with news that his grandson had been cast for a commercial on sports medicine in Columbia.
- John Foster shared his thoughts on the club's 49th anniversary. He showed a brochure from the club's charter ceremony on July 16, 1976. John was the first person to sign up for the Harrisonville club when it was seeking the required 20 members to form a club.
- President Grant announced that the club will be cooking hot dogs for

Senior Day of Service on March 28. Look for a Sign Up Genius invitation.

- Grant also called attention to an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. on March 28, co-sponsored by Reed Automotive and Parks & Rec.
- Erik Winkler reported that the initial email solicitation to flag program subscribers had brought in \$1,500 thus far. He has a list of some 50 non-subscribing businesses we want to contact. We are planning a flag kickoff photo at the flag shed on April 15 at noon, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

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



Show Me Rotary

Three Rotary districts, including our own District 6080, combined for the annual Show Me Rotary assembly last weekend in Springfield. The event brings together presidents-elect and other Rotary officials for training, information and motivation as they prepare to begin their terms of office in July. Attending from the Harrisonville club were President-Elect Erik Winkler and Assistant District Governor Bing Schimmelpfenning. In the top photo, they are shown with District 6080's Governor for 2026-27 Brad Martens of the Columbia South club. In the middle photo, Bria Hall, Rotary International Director from 2024-26 speaks to the assembly. In the bottom photo, Erik visits with Kansas City-Plaza Rotarian Larry Lunsford, who will be Rotary International President in 2027-28.