



# ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | January 22, 2020 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

## Today's program

Jill Filer's guests today are administrators from each school in the Cass R-IX district who will provide updates on programs in their respective buildings.

## Future programs

- January 29** - Larry Pfautsch's guest will be **Matthew Killion**, area engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation.
- February 5** - Susan Lockard classification talk
- February 12** - Jason Winter
- February 19** - Gabe Sweitzer
- February 26** - Lori Watson

## Birthdays

- January 24** .....John Coffey
- February 3** .....Chris Deal
- February 11** .....Gabe Sweitzer

## Officers & Directors

- President** .....Nancy Shelton
- President-elect** .....Doug Meyer
- Secretary** .....Lori Watson
- Treasurer** .....Jesica Junge
- Sergeant-at-Arms** .....Lynn Laffoon
- Past President** .....Chris Deal
- Directors** .....Jimmy Gibson, Jeff Kleinsasser, Cindy Greenwell, Larry Pfautsch, Bing Schimmelpfenning
- District Governor** .....Paul Reinert
- Asst. District Governor** .....Kay Caskey

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## Last week's meeting

# Pastor Noble gives update on Ministerial Alliance Thrift Shop

David Noble, guest of Kevin Shelton, shared two stories last week that illustrate the kinds of assistance provided to area residents by the Harrisonville Thrift Shop. The store is operated by the Harrisonville Ministerial Alliance and proceeds from sales of



donated items in turn support the nearby Shepherd's Staff Food Pantry and the ongoing work of providing assistance to needy families.

The first story centered on a mother whose partner was in jail and whose younger brother had recently committed suicide. The Ministerial Alliance provided help with her utilities and rent.

The second story involved a truck driver who went into a coma after an accident, and woke up to find that all of his belongings had been stolen. On top of that, he was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. He received help with food and finding an apartment that was much cheaper than the motel where was living.

"Sometimes we pray with them, and we help as we can according to our guidelines," David said.

The Ministerial Alliance receives financial support from a variety of sources, including local churches and businesses and the United Way,

which has designated the local operation an emergency assistance center.

Last year, the Ministerial Alliance helped about 300 families. The Thrift Shop had about 1,000 people a month come into the store last year, and sold 180,000 items. The Food Pantry serves about 800 families a month. It receives a good deal of its food from Harvesters.

The staff at the Thrift Store numbers 55, which includes 20 paid positions and 34 volunteers. David is the only full-time paid employee. He noted that the recent increase in Missouri's minimum wage put more pressure on its financial situation. He expressed gratitude for a recently added building. "It is a big improvement," David said. "We are in the process of removing a wall to enlarge the sales area.

In responses to questions, David talked about the local homeless population. "It's a growing need," he said. "I know some of them by name. We have emergency food boxes for them and provide them with some clothing." He said the clientele mix includes a good percentage from outlying communities. Garden City, Pleasant Hill and Butler have similar programs to provide assistance to needy families.

Finally, David talked about the preferred procedure for donating items to the Thrift Shop and its relationship with the Casco Area Workshop and Disabled American Veterans. The workshop, for example, bales excess clothing and sends it to third world countries.

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Members of the Harrisonville Public School Foundation Board of Trustees surprised Bill Mills at last week's meeting to announce the new Bill Mills Leaving a Legacy Grant program. Pictured from left: Daryl Bohannon, trustee; Blake Mills; Dr. Shera Sims, trustee; Keith Mills; Bill Mills; Susan Holden, trustee and vice president of the board; Susan Lockard, trustee and board treasurer; Virginia Atkinson, trustee; and Bing Schimmelpfenning, school board representative to the foundation. Rotarian Laurence Smith is the current foundation board president.

## Announcements from last week's meeting

(Continued from front page)

In announcements before the program:

- Jessica Junge won the Secret Greeter dollar coin.
- Blake Mills was a visiting Rotarian from the Paola club.
- Susan Lockard announced an open house at Cass Career Center on Tuesday evening, Jan. 21.
- Cindy Greenwell reported on progress of the nominating committee and announced that Doug Meyer had tentatively agreed to serve as president-elect for the current year and advance to president in July.
- Bill Mills thanked Jim and Carol Looney for staffing the Rotary Train at Christmas on the Square (and other events), and Carol returned the thanks to Bill for providing the engine and storing the train.

The Rodeo Committee headed by Aaron Rains met after lunch to discuss plans for the 2020 event. Stay tuned for additional information.



HHS Students of the Month for January were guests of the club at last week's meeting. **Karley Reynolds** is the daughter of Jeremiah and Kelly Reynolds. After graduation, she will go to Fort Leonard Wood to finish job training for the Army Reserves, then attend the University of Kansas to major in biology and eventually medical school to be an obstetrician-gynecologist. **Austen Cesonis** is the son of Bruno and Jerian Cesonis. He plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to major in marine biology and work on the coast or in a zoo.

## Harrisonville school foundation creates the Bill Mills Leaving a Legacy grant program

In honor of Rotarian Bills Mills, a longtime supporter of the Harrisonville Public School Foundation, trustees surprised him last week by announcing the creation of the Bill Mills Leaving a Legacy grant program.

Board vice president Susan Holden explained that the new grant program will be an addition to the Excellence in Academics program, which honors students who complete the year in the top 15% of their class. Seniors who earn this honor for four years already receive a \$500 scholarship from the foundation. The first presentations will be May 7.

With the new Leaving a Legacy initiative, each four-year Excellence in Academics recipient will also now have the opportunity to choose a school-sponsored program, department or extracurricular activity to receive a \$250 mini grant from the foundation. The program creates an opportunity for four-year Excellence in Academics recipients to pay it forward within the school district.

Leaving a Legacy aligns with the foundation goal to enhance, supplement, support and expand student- and school-based learning activities and initiatives. Susan said the foundation created this initiative in honor of Mr. Mills because of his desire to invest in Harrisonville school programs and activities that benefit students throughout the district. "We also wanted to provide a small thank you for all he's given to our organization over the years."

Bill served on the foundation board for more than 25 years and retired from the board last June. He is the past president and a founding donor at the platinum level. Bill is a 1972 graduate of Harrisonville High School and a 2014 inductee into the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame. He is a former Rotary Club president and former mayor of Harrisonville.

Bill and his family own and operate Family Center Farm & Home stores in Harrisonville, Butler, Paola, Rolla, St. Joseph and Ozark.