



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | March 11, 2020 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

Today's program



Chuck Weedman's guest today is **Supt. Paul Mensching**, who will speak about the proposed school levy and bond proposals on the April 7 ballot.

Future programs

- March 18 - Sam Styron
- March 25 - John Coffey
- April 1 - Mark Wiegers
- April 8 - Keith Mills classification talk
- April 15 - Jeanette Flanner
- April 22 - Laurence Smith
- April 29 - Jimmy Gibson

Birthdays

- March 11Brittney Sexton
- March 12Kevin Shelton

Officers & Directors

- PresidentNancy Shelton
- President-electDoug Meyer
- SecretaryLori Watson
- TreasurerJessica Junge
- Sergeant-at-ArmsLynn Laffoon
- Past PresidentChris Deal
- DirectorsJimmy Gibson, Jeff Kleinsasser, Cindy Greenwell, Larry Pfautsch, Bing Schimmelpfenning
- District GovernorPaul Reinert
- Asst. District GovernorKay Caskey

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Last week's meeting

Cass County Library seeks first tax levy increase in 35 years

Larry Pfautsch's guests last week were three representatives of the Cass County Public Library, led by Dan Brown, assistant director, and accompanied by Sara Steinmetz and Karen Allen. Dan gave the program on the library's proposed 12-cent levy increase, titled Proposition L, which will be decided on April 7. If approved by county voters, the increase would be the library's first since 1985.

Dan explained that the library is currently authorized to levy 15 cents, but because of rollback required by the Hancock Amendment, the actual current levy is 13.76 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The added yearly cost for a taxpayer with a \$158,000 home (the median market value of homes in Cass County) would be \$36. Property taxes account for 93% of the library's annual budget.



Since 1985, Dan said the population of the county has doubled, and services provided have increased dramatically, especially in the areas of digital media, access to technology and the Internet, and a wealth of learning programs for both adults and children. In 2019 the library hosted 28,000 events and served 900,000 users. The library operates seven branches plus a bookmobile that serves areas without easy branch access. The vehicle, he said, is 16 years old and is being held together "with duct tape and prayers." It served 3,500 families last year.

The additional money would help the library in many ways, including better Internet access and infrastructure for the many people who depend on the library to access information, apply for jobs, file their tax returns, etc. It would also allow expansion of hours and facility improvements at some of the branches, all of which are leased.

"We improve the quality of life and support the local economy," Dan said. He acknowledged the Harrisonville Rotary Club's support for the library's annual summer reading program.

In announcements before the program:

- Guests included prospective corporate members from Hope Haven, attending their third meeting. (See story on back page.)
- John Foster won the Secret Greeter dollar coin.



Congratulation to Chloe Green, our Service Above Self Award recipient for February at Harrisonville Elementary School, presented by Kevin Shelton.

Hope Haven proposes 3 corporate members

Hope Haven of Cass County, the local women's shelter based in Harrisonville, is applying for a corporate membership composed of the following three members:

- Jenna Neumann, Executive Director
- Dessie Long, Development Director
- Sam Cardenas, Assistant Executive Director

The application will be considered by the Board of Directors at its next meeting on April 7.

Hope Haven is holding its annual **Heroes of Hope** appreciation breakfast tomorrow, March 12, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Gregory's, 401 W. Pine St., Raymore. RSVP via email to dessie.long@hopehavenofcasscounty.org.

In addition to emergency shelter for individuals, families and their pets, Hope Haven provides court advocacy, and other forms of support.

Thanks to Jessica Junge for sponsoring these new prospective members of the Rotary Club of Harrisonville.

Calendar

March 25

Stuff "backpacks" for school kids, 4:30 p.m.

March 27-28

Show Me Rotary - District 6080 PETS/SETS Conference, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City.

April 7

Monthly board meeting, 4 p.m. School Administration Building.

April 17-19

District Conference, Doubletree Conference Center, Springfield.


May 9

Empowering Women in Rotary, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jefferson City.

August 21-22

Possible dates for McKellips Rodeo at North Park.

MARCH 2020




CASS CAREER CENTER


YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE MONTH

JACOB HAWKINS

Automotive

Junior, Belton High School





Congratulations to Jacob Hawkins, who received the Youth Professional of the Month Award for March at Cass Career Center. President Nancy presented the award, which is sponsored by our club. Jacob is a junior at Belton High School and is enrolled in the center's automotive program.