



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS...

**in the time of Covid-19**

**Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Feb. 17, 2021, 42<sup>nd</sup> Covid issue**

***Next meeting, via ZOOM:  
Feb. 24, 2021***

## **BRC distributes grants To QC non-profits**

Next week’s meeting will put into sharp focus Rotary’s reason for existence – service – as we learn of BRC’s grants to deserving non-profit organizations in the community.



The BRC Charities Board – **Jeff Hassel, Ann Kappeler, Sharon Sarver, Scott Naumann** and **Carol Foster** – met for two lengthy sessions to thoroughly consider this year’s 47 grants requests – which totaled \$104,920.

As in every recent year, the BRC Board of Directors provided

\$25,000 for grants. This year, the grant money came from a combination of club fundraising and cash reserves to make this philanthropic impact. Reflecting the community’s greatest needs, this year’s grant recipients include many groups that are helping serve the needs for food and shelter during the pandemic.

***This issue:  
Feb. 17, 2021***



## **Development in the time of Covid**

Before **Mark Hunt** became Bettendorf’s community development director last May, he said he assumed he would probably retire as the finance and economic development director for Milan, Ill. Then the 1992 graduate of Pleasant Valley High School got the opportunity to return all the way home, he told us at the Feb. 17 meeting via ZOOM.

Mark tallied all of the “challenges” that befell Bettendorf since he joined the city staff – recovery from the April 2020 hail storm that damaged thousands of homes, the August Derecho windstorm that added to the damage and the February 2021 deepfreeze and snows – not to mention the Covid-19 pandemic. The Community Development Department was especially impacted by all of those events, since its duties include land-use planning, zoning, building and rental

property inspections, and building-code enforcement. Covid-19 and all of the weather events made it more difficult to gain access to homes and businesses, Mark said.

Looking ahead, he mentioned two housing trends in Bettendorf that have changed dramatically in recent years:  
→ Three new senior-living complexes – comprising 179, 164 and 120 residential units – have been added.  
→ Four townhouse and multi-family complexes have sprung up, overshadowing the amount of single-family housing developed in the same time period.

While all of these new living spaces have been developed, Mark said some sub-standard housing in the Duck Creek floodplain is being demolished and replaced by greenspace under a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. So far, 21 flood-damaged homes have come down, he said.

Bettendorf’s building codes, based on international building codes, are similar to all others in the QC, Mark said, and are reviewed at 2-3-year intervals in coordination with the other cities.

## Lunches for essentials...



The past several issues have included updates of Bettendorf Rotary’s ongoing project to thank essential workers in the city by providing lunch for school faculty and staff members. Here’s a look at the big picture of this project:

**Monica Kruse** has taken the lead in coordinating all of the thank-you lunches. “By the end of February we will have served over 570 teachers and staff in Bettendorf,” Monica said in an interview after Wednesday’s meeting. That includes all elementary schools in both public school systems plus Rivermont Collegiate and Morningstar Academy, she added.

Alternating between the two school systems, Monica said she contacts the school office to determine the date and the number of people to be served. Lunches are provided by Happy Joe’s – a variety of pizzas – and by Subway – a selection of sandwiches, chips and cookies. Monica makes certain the restaurant knows the time, date and address of the school, The restaurant coordinates any special details, such as dietary restrictions, and deliver the food to the school on the appointed day.

With elementary schools all fed by the end of February, Monica said she’ll turn her attention to the city’s high, junior high and middle schools.

## Announcements...

→ **Appreciation lunches: President Rick Bormann**

reported that the teachers and staff of Pleasant Valley’s Cody Elementary School were the latest essential workers who received a gift of lunch – on Monday, Feb. 15 – from BRC. Next on the list will be Bettendorf’s Paul Norton Elementary on Feb. 26.



**➔Return to normal meetings:**

Bettendorf Rotary meetings will return to the “new normal” on Wednesday, March 3, when members can opt to attend either in person, at Tanglewood Pavilion, or via ZOOM, Rick reported.

**➔Fundraiser:** The leadership committee for this year’s fundraising event may have been completed during the meeting, as two more members joined via text. Earlier, as Rick started making announcements, he said the planning group, which will be working with fundraising veteran **Ann Kappeler**, could use a couple more volunteers... and so they came along. Details of the event’s format and more information will be announced soon.

**BRC Happy \$\$...**



**Rick** asked members to share sources of their happiness: **John Rabine**, who heads the Bettendorf Public Library Board, said **Sue Sharp**, the current director, and a BRC member for the last eight years, is retiring effective April 1 – and a search committee is close to naming her successor...

**Decker Ploehn** added words of praise for the work Sue has done during her tenure, and added kudos to the city’s Public Works staff for clearing snow from all streets... **Harry Coin** – has begun a 2-year term as treasurer of the Scott County Republican Party.

**The meeting opened...**

**President Bick Bormann** called the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Bettendorf Rotary Club in the time of Covid-19 to order via ZOOM. He led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. **Dick Hanzelka** sang the patriotic song, “God Bless America.” Rick led the

Pledge of Allegiance and the Moment of Silence – with special mention of our troops (by **S.K. Nanda**) and remembrance of **Decker Ploehn**’s uncle, Gene Oliver, who died. There were no guests this week.

**At the end...**

... of the meeting today, **Decker Ploehn** received the “Happy to Have a Make-up” drawn from among the names of members who shared the source of their happiness in today’s ‘BRC Happy \$\$.’



To close the meeting, Rick reminded us to be proud to be Bettendorf Rotarians.

**Upcoming meetings and more...**

Meeting programs thanks to Program Chair **Scott Naumann**, 563-505-7953; [scottnaumann@msn.com](mailto:scottnaumann@msn.com):

**Feb. 24:** The BRC Charities Board has finished its annual task of winnowing through dozens of requests – and next week will present grants to deserving non-profit groups in the community.



**BRC News staff...**

**Editor, reporter, photographer:** Fred Anderson

[fred.anderson.1144@gmail.com](mailto:fred.anderson.1144@gmail.com)

**Correspondent, Website host:**

Shelly Naumann:

[bettendorfrotary@gmail.com](mailto:bettendorfrotary@gmail.com)

## For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

Website:

<http://www.bettendorffrotary.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bettendorffrotary>

To join BRC meetings, at noon every Wednesday:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85935276889?pwd=RFhGOGQ0eU5vaEFNYjB2TjR4WWtydz09>

Meeting ID: 859 3527 6889

Passcode: 069113

## For more on Rotary International:

<https://www.rotary.org/>



## Rotarians elsewhere...

### The Rotary Foundation Minute...

[Thanks to S.K. Nanda, BRC's Rotary Foundation chair]

Welcome to Week 3 of Rotary International's Month of Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution.



Past President of the Rotary Club of Everett (Wash.), Ed Petersen, along with two other members of his club traveled to the Dominican Republic with the sole intention of executing a long-planned

Global Grant. In 2015, Petersen visited the Dajabon region of the island nation and met with needy farmers who were too poor to afford a garden. Before long, plans were put in place and funds were raised toward the creation of greenhouse gardens.

The Rotary Club of Everett raised \$5,000 that was matched by Rotary District 5050 comprising the state of Washington and province of British Columbia. A \$45,000 Matching Grant from TRF put the total grant at almost \$107,000. This grant provided local Dajabon residents with 10 greenhouse gardens, each measuring 3,200 square feet.

Rotarian Petersen, who is also the strategic director of Housing Hope, was happy about the greenhouse gardens which would not only provide food for local consumption by the farmers and their families, but would constitute a reliable source of income. "Our purpose is to train the garden owners in entrepreneurship. They will learn agricultural production, accounting and sales skills to set them up for long-term success."

Petersen promised to do 60 more gardens in 2021. "When the first phase of 20 gardens is completed, we'll release the funds for 20 more... We have access to future grant opportunities in education, in health and the environment, in reforestation. We have built the foundation that opens opportunities to do more." Another member of the Everett Rotary Club, George Bowden, acknowledged the "doing good spirit" universal to all Rotarians. According to Bowden, "There is a commonality among Rotarians and Rotary Clubs worldwide... whether it's vaccinations against polio or clean water or in this case, gardens... somebody said, 'why are you doing this?'"

our response ‘because you’re our neighbors.’”

*“True peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice.”  
(Martin Luther King Jr)*

In Rotary,  
Olabisi Gwamna Ph.D,  
Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa  
Editor, Foundation Minute



**Rotary District  
6000  
governor...**

*‘The fifth test’ –  
“Is it fun?” (A  
dose of humor,  
hopefully to help  
start your Rotary  
week with a smile.  
Version 33)*

**“I never dreamed I'd go up to a bank teller with a mask on and ask for money.”**

Proud to be a Rotarian,  
Steve Dakin, District Governor 2020-21  
steve@retiredfun.net