



# ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | October 15, 2025 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

## Today's program



Annie Knox's guest today is **Aron Wilborn** with Sunshine Valley Garden in Archie, speaking about her flower bulb business.

## Future programs

October 22 - R. J. Knox

October 29 - District Gov. **Andrea Brady**'s official club visit

November 5 - Jill Filer

November 12 - Abigail Lowrimore

November 19 - Doug Meyer

## Birthdays

October 16 ..... Chuck Weedman

October 29 ..... Avelicia Rosales

November 18 ..... John Foster

November 25 ..... No meeting

December 3 ..... Bill Mills

December 10 ..... Christmas Party

December 17 ..... Keith Mills

## 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 Schimmelpfennig

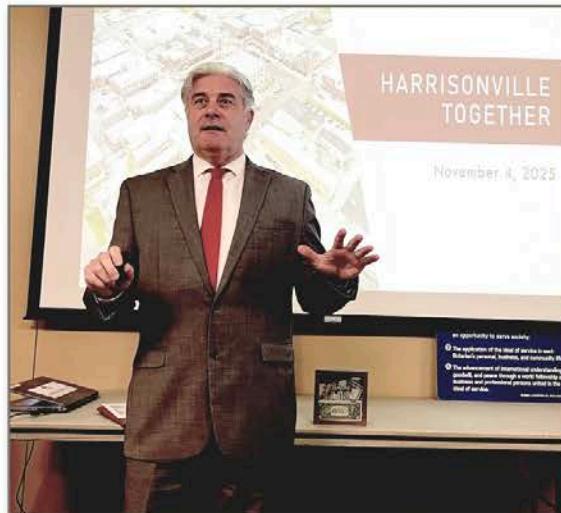
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## Ballot issues would improve streets, sustain emergency services, reduce cost of water line replacement

The city of Harrisonville is asking voters to approve three ballot measures on Nov. 4 that address several critical needs. One of the main selling points is that non-residents will pay most of the cost. That was City Administrator Brad Ratliff's message to Rotarians last week as he explained each proposal and provided background on the rationale for bringing the measures to voters.

While the city has been very aggressive on seeking grants and leveraging existing resources, there comes a time, he said, when you have to face the fact that some services can no longer be sustained with existing resources as costs rise and grant opportunities diminish.



The first proposal would raise the city sales tax from 0.25% to 1.25%. "We are lower than everyone else," Brad said. Approval would help sustain critical fire and ambulance services, which now have to be subsidized by the general fund. One option is to get rid of these services and fold the city into a fire protection district, but that option would result in residents paying much higher property taxes. That's because the

fire districts levy their own property tax, typically over a dollar, whereas Harrisonville's total general fund property tax rate is 61 cents. City statistics on local retail sales, Brad said over 90% of sales in Harrisonville actually come from non-residents. This means that outsiders will be paying most of the freight. A simple majority vote is required for passage.

The second proposal would create a one-penny fuel fee on gasoline sold in Harrisonville. All of the revenue must be used for city streets and roads. A lot of gas is sold in Harrisonville but all the tax revenue does not go to the city. Instead, it goes to Jefferson City where it is then distributed based on a city's population. As a result the city doesn't realize the benefit of having multiple truck stops and typically lower fuel prices.

**(Continued on back page)**

## Three ballot measures face voters on Nov. 4

### (Continued from front page)

Again, outsiders would be paying most of the additional penny fuel fee. "This is a real opportunity for us to capture revenue that we're missing out on," Brad said. A two-thirds majority vote is required for passage.

The third proposal addresses the long-delayed need to replace the main water line from Lake Harrisonville to the city's water treatment plant. The city intends to issue \$89 million in revenue bonds to finance the new water line and other water needs, such as a second water tower. Passage of this proposal would allow the city to qualify for interest savings estimated at \$7 million. Without approval that additional interest expense would have to be folded into utility rates, raising water rates for residents. A four-sevenths majority is required for passage.

## Club Calendar

**Saturday, October 18**  
**District Conference** - Springfield.

**Monday, October 20**  
**Teacher Lunch** - Rotary and Kiwanis serve hamburger lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Pavilion at Cass Career Center.

**Thursday, October 23**  
**Monthly Social Hour** - 4-5 p.m., El Puerto Restaurant.

**Sunday, October 26**  
**Trunk or Treat** - 3-5 p.m.  
Harrisonville Square.

**Monday, November 3**  
**Monthly Board Meeting** - 12 noon,  
Family Center Farm & Home.

**Friday, November 21**  
**Rotary helps at Food Pantry** - Two shifts: 9 a.m. - Noon and 1-5:30 p.m.



### *Sensory boxes for preschool kids*

We had a great afternoon with our 4th grade classroom partner students making sensory boxes for the preschoolers at Harrisonville Early Childhood Center. These boxes will be a great calming activity while also helping the kids develop fine motor skills.



## Announcements from last week's meeting

- Cindy Greenwell contributed to the PolioPlus bank in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, noting that several Rotarians have been affected.
- Glenn Aversman contributed to the bank, noting his 11th year of helping his brother harvest corn and "I didn't hit anyone with the combine."
- Jill Filer reviewed plan for the Oct. 10 Classroom Partner activity and the Oct. 26 Trunk or Treat event cosponsored by Rotary and Parks & Rec. She said 14 trunks had registered thus far. A crowd of 1,500 kids is anticipated. In the event of rain, the event will be moved to the Community Center. A Sign Up Genius invitation has been sent for volunteers to help direct traffic.
- President Grant noted that President-Elect Erik Winkler is planning to attend the District Conference Oct. 18 in Springfield. He also wished happy 46th birthday to Keith Mills.