



# ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | September 2, 2020 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

## Today's program



Today's program is by **John Foster**, who will tell us about the Courtyard of Honor on the grounds of the Cass County Courthouse.

## Future programs

- September 9** - Brent Probasco classification/education talk
- September 16** - Mark Wiegers
- September 23** - Glenn Aversman
- September 30** - Fifth Wednesday, TBD
- October 7** - Sam Cardenas classification/education talk
- October 14** - TBD (speaker needed)
- October 21** - Jill Filer

## Birthdays

**September 12** .....Lynn Laffoon

## Officers & Directors

- President**.....Doug Meyer
- Secretary**.....Lori Watson
- Treasurer**.....Jessica Junge
- Sergeant-at-Arms**.....Carol Looney
- Past President**.....Nancy Shelton
- Directors**.....Judy Franklin, Cindy Greenwell, Gabe Sweitzer, Jeff Kleinsasser, Larry Pfautsch
- Dist. Gov.**.....Jacqueline Howard
- Asst. Dist. Gov.**...Bing Schimmelpfenning

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## Restoration House provides home for victims of human trafficking

**R**otarians got a mini-education in human sex trafficking last week as guest speaker Dr. Rodney Hammer first explained the vast scope of the problem and then focused on efforts by his organization to combat it and provide services to the victims in our area. Dr. Hammer heads Restoration House KC, which is now headquartered in Cass County at The Farm in a donated property that formerly was the First Baptist Church of East Lynne.

He was introduced by Laurence Smith, who thanked Jessica Junge for helping arrange the program. Dr. Hammer was accompanied by Mary Bolling, business development manager. They shared handouts, including FAQs and donation forms. The website for more information is [restorationhousekc.org](http://restorationhousekc.org).



An estimated 40 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking, Dr. Hammer said, and yes, it even happens in Cass County. Almost all victims are female, and up to 50% are under 18. Contrary to conventional wisdom, 9 of 10 victims are Americans, and the average age upon entry is just 12 to 14 years old. Typically, the victims are lured online and become exploited for their psychological or physical vulnerabilities. Perpetrators go to social media profiles and look for vulnerable kids, he said.

Restoration House, in addition to the adult facility in Cass County, also operates a facility for underage children and a coffee house in Greenwood that provides some revenue for operations. The group has a Baptist affiliation and annually holds a gala fundraiser in Kansas City. The organization resulted from a gap analysis that showed a huge need for a residential facility. Residents can spend 1-3 years in recovery and redirection of their lives. The new facility called The Farm provides a wide range of resources for these residents, including a garden, gym, educational facilities and even pet goats. "It's a peaceful, safe and calming place," Dr. Hammer said.

### In business before the program:

- Larry Pfautsch won the Secret Greeter dollar coin.
- Leon Daggett, who is currently doing consulting work for the city of Harrisonville, was a visiting Rotarian from Kansas City, Kan.
- Mark Wiegers reported "an awesome first few days" for the opening of local schools. He also reported on a new system for obtaining tickets for fall sports.
- Flag volunteers are still needed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.

## Jill Filer honored for service to Missouri Public School PR Association

The Missouri School Public Relations Association has named Jill Filer, Director of Communications & Community Relations for the Harrisonville School District and a member of the Rotary Club of Harrisonville, the 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient. The award was presented at the Harrisonville Board of Education meeting. The Distinguished Service Award goes to a MOSPRA member who has provided outstanding



leadership and service to the association over the course of his or her career.

MOSPRA President, Kelly Wachel, commented, "Jill has truly done it all for MOSPRA. She has served on the

board as a regional director, treasurer, president and past president, and she has chaired countless committees, but most importantly, she is a trusted advisor to any member who may be facing a challenge."

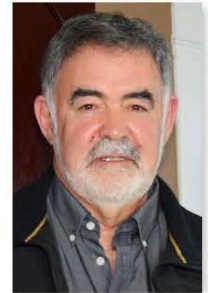
In his letter of nomination, MOSPRA Past-President, Paul Tandy wrote, "Jill identified a need for MOSPRA to reach out to superintendents and school PR professionals who had difficulty traveling to the regional meetings for professional development. Through Jill's leadership and entrepreneurial spirit, the MOSPRA 'Rogue Groups' were formed. Today, these Rogue Groups continue to flourish and their success resulted in the MOSPRA chapter receiving a national Mark of Distinction Award from the NSPRA in 2019."

MOSPRA Executive Director, David Luther, said, "When the Distinguished Service Award was created in 2019, it was to honor those professionals who continually share their time and talents with the association. MOSPRA is a vital and vibrant group in large part because of Jill Filer."

## Leaving A Legacy grants allow HHS grads to 'pay it forward'

Harrisonville High School graduates had the opportunity to "pay it forward" through a new program created by the Harrisonville Public School Foundation.

The Bill Mills Leaving A Legacy Grant is an addition to the Foundation's Excellence in Academics program which honors students who complete the year in the top 15% of their class. Seniors who earn Excellence in Academics recognition all four years receive a \$500 scholarship from the Foundation. Beginning this year, each four-year Excellence in Academics recipient also had the opportunity to choose a school-sponsored program, department or extracurricular activity to receive a \$250 mini grant from the Foundation



The mini-grants were presented to district teachers during back-to-school activities. The programs receiving a grant and the graduate selecting the program are as follows: Wrestling, Austen Cesonis; Music Makers, Mackina Chamberlain; Girls' Tennis, Caitlyn Costner; Football, Carson Crowley; Jazz Band, Michael Dahn; DECA, Ethan Danner; Student Council, Kathrine Dooley; Boys' Soccer, Evan Filer; FFA, Emma Fischer; Boys' Basketball, Landon George; Track and Field, Kaylee Harp; Engineering program, Aliyah Hasam; Key Club, Madison Hoffman; Engineering, Ethan Inman; Royal Regiment, Tatum Kelley; Girls' Soccer, Maria Messer; Key Club, Jayden Osborn; Science department, Karley Reynolds; National Honor Society, Presley Reynolds; FFA, Keigan Rowe; Vocal Music department, Michael Schuhler; Project Lead the Way, Seth Steinbrook; Engineering program, Maria Styron; and National Honor Society, Amy Tracy.

Leaving a Legacy aligns with the Foundation's goal to enhance, supplement, support and expand student- and school-based learning activities and initiatives. The Foundation created this initiative in honor of Bill because of his desire to invest in Harrisonville Schools programs and activities that benefit students throughout the district and to provide a small thank you for all he's given to the Foundation over the years.

A longtime Rotarian, Bill served on the Foundation board for more than 25 years and retired from the board last June. He is a past president and a Founding Donor at the Platinum Level. He is a 1972 graduate of Harrisonville High School and a 2014 inductee into the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame.



The seven-acre site of Restoration House - The Farm is the former First Baptist Church of East Lynne, just north of Highway 2. In addition to providing services for adult victims of human trafficking, it serves as the headquarters for Restoration House KC.