



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | February 11, 2026 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

Today's program



Nancy Shelton's speaker today is **Laura Frees** with the Harrisonville Public School Foundation.

Future programs

- February 18 - TBD
- February 25 - Sam Styron
- March 4 - Gabe Sweitzer
- March 11 - Jayden Love's guest will be Supt. Josh Chastain
- March 18 - Nichole Tews
- March 25 - Lori Watson
- April 1 - Chuck Weedman

Birthdays

- February 11Gabe Sweitzer
- February 19.....Jason Zaroor

Officers & Directors

- President.....Grant Purkey
- President-Elect.....Erik Winkler
- President-NomineeAnnie Knox
- SecretaryDawson Dickey
- Treasurer.....Jessica Junge
- Sergeant-at-ArmsJudy Franklin
- Past President.....Jon Taber
- DirectorsJenna Giess, Larry Pfautsch, Cassie Wieberg, Jayden Love, Vanessa Hargrave
- District GovernorAndrea Brady
- Asst. Gov.Bing Schimmelpfenning

Contact info.

Rotary Club of Harrisonville #2368
 P.O. Box 496, Harrisonville, MO 64701
 Newsletter contact: Larry Pfautsch
 Website: harrisonvillerotary.com
 Facebook: @harrisonvillerotary



Good Dads program gains traction locally in helping at-risk fathers

An organization founded in Springfield to help incarcerated and at-risk dads become better fathers is gaining traction in Cass County, thanks to the efforts of our two speakers last week — Toni Wiseman and Bing Schimmelpfenning. The group's motto is "Helping kids and communities one dad at a time."



Bing introduced the program by calling attention to the fact that many programs exist for women and children but very few for husbands and fathers. "It's a missing piece of the puzzle," Bing said.

A 16-week program called New Pathways is a key part of New Dads services. Completion entitles the participant to a certificate that can be used by courts to grant better child visitation rights, for example. The program also helps participants deal with child support issues and generally underscore the importance of re-establishing relationships with their children.

Thanks in part to a five-year federal grant, New Dads is now expanding its reach to states outside of Missouri. Volunteers who help lead the program locally must complete a training course. "I wish we had had this program when I was a corrections officer," Toni said, referring to her years with the Missouri Department of Corrections, where some referred to her as "Sarge."

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1,2,3,4 WE DECLARE A COIN WAR

HOW IT WORKS

THERE WILL BE CONTAINERS FOR EACH CLASSROOM. THE GOAL IS TO COLLECT THE MOST MONEY. THE CLASSROOMS WITH THE MOST MONEY RAISED WILL EARN PRIZES.

GIVE ONLINE

AND DESIGNATE TO A CLASSROOM



ALL FUNDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE CHILD LIFE PROGRAM AT CHILDREN'S MERCY IN MEMORY OF CADE FILER.

**FEBRUARY 10-13
AT MCEOWEN ELEMENTARY**

Club Calendar

Wednesday, February 11

50th Anniversary Committee Meeting - 1-2 p.m., following our lunch meeting.

Wednesday, February 18

Miracle League conference call - 1 - 2 p.m., Community Center immediately after our club meeting.

Friday, February 20

Classroom Partner Visit - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., McEowen Elementary School.

Monday, March 2

Monthly Board Meeting - 12 noon, Family Center Farm & Home

Saturday, May 2

Rotary Community Garage Sale - Community Center

Good Dads making a difference

(Continued from front page)

The local program has had full support from the Harrisonville School District and the Cass County Sheriff's Department. Bing said it has made a huge difference in the atmosphere at the Cass County Jail. "It has completely flipped the script in the jail," he said. "Now the deputies look at inmates as "other dads," not so much as just inmates.

In handouts at the meeting, Toni called attention to a copy of a letter from a child named Matthew thanking Good Dads for helping restore his relationship with his father.

Another handout was a news clipping of a Good Dads graduation ceremony for three jail inmates. Sheriff's Capt. Ben Barbarick was quoted in the article saying, "The majority of our inmate population will be returning to our community from the jail setting at some point. We want to provide those men with tools, mentors and resources to help them be better parents once they are released."

Another benefit of the program is its impact on local schools. According to a handout, "Fathers and father figures are the critical ingredient for better grades, attendance and behavior."

For more information, check out their website at www.gooddads.com.

Last week's announcements

- The Secret Greeter dollar coin went to an entire table of Rotarians, but no word on if or how they split the buck.
- Thomas Ballard, a prospective Rotarian, was a guest of Larry Pfautsch. He introduced himself to the club and spoke about his background as an attorney and a lieutenant in the JAG corps in the Arkansas Army National Guard.
- John Foster announced the flag shed has been relocated to the USDA building grounds at 1000 W. Wall St. He also mentioned that the 2026 Chamber annual meeting is the organization's 60th. He recalled the first one, held at the Methodist Church, and shared a story about Harlan Davis and H.R. Pearson.
- President Grant called attention to the February board minutes in the newsletter and announced that the club has officially joined the Miracle League, the umbrella organization for communities sponsoring Miracle Field facilities like the one we plan to fund as our 50th anniversary project.