

OPENING

Time: 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Steve Brownell

GUESTS

Molly MacKethan, guest of Phil MacKethan

VISITING ROTARIANS

None.

BIRTHDAYS

None.

ANNIVERSARIES

None.

ROVING REPORTER

Mark Weber

-- Diane and Ron Strickler are heading abroad on a "Portrait of Arabia" tour, where they will be visiting Iman, the UAE, and Qatar.

-- Tom and Kim Youngblood recently travelled to Seattle to visit their daughter, Sarah.

-- Celebrating his Scottish roots, Dave Colton gave a toast to Robert Burns on his birthday (the Scottish St. Patrick's Day).

SUNSHINE NEWS

Jackie Dale

-- Florence Seltzer's vision is improving but she still has a ways to go.

-- Gary Niehaus is in the early stages of recovering from his back surgery.

Please keep both in your thoughts.

OIL CAN

-- Postponed.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- The "Feed the homeless dinner" at GP Methodist on Moross takes place this Saturday, 1/28.

Volunteers should arrive at 4:30pm.

-- The Michigan Humane Society Telethon in Bingham Farms is from 1:00pm – 4:00pm on Feb 9. Any questions, please contact Bob Lucas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- Per Richard Yeager-Stiver, GP Congregational Church will be hosting a theatre dinner on 2/10 and 2/11. Tickets are \$32 and can be purchased for the 2/10 show at www.gpccong.org.

-- Bob Lucas announced that the Higbie Maxon Agney Lecture Series with architect Leonard Willeke has been postponed to 2/15 at the Ewald Library.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Susan Wenzlick, Senior Brownfield Consultant at Fishbeck, Thompson, Car & Huber, Inc.

After three decades with the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (now EGLE), Ms. Wenzlick joined Fishbeck, an engineering, environmental sciences, architecture, and construction management consulting firm based in Grand Rapids.

A short video was shown, highlighting the Detroit Riverwalk and how partnerships between the city, businesses, non-profits, and the State helped eliminate blight and environmental contamination, making the area as great as it is now. Collaboration and funding

from all of these sources brought the dilapidated property back to life.

Most of the properties that become blighted and/or require environmental clean-up are mom & pop businesses (gas stations, cleaners) where the owners cannot afford to maintain or clean up the property. For unpaid back taxes, they revert back to the government who then attempt to sell at auction.

For properties not sold at auction, land banks were created to become the owners. Each county in the State has a land bank as well as the City of Detroit. They operate to sell the land, and also work with the State's Brownfield Authority which provides grants and low-interest loans to communities to facilitate the redevelopment of contaminated properties. The Authority also provides tax increment financing to businesses to incentivize the cleaning and demolishing of properties where the businesses will benefit through lower taxes when redeveloped.

FLOWER RAFFLE

Virtual meeting so no raffle.

CALENDAR

Feb 01: Julia Given & Lulu Nester – Freedom House Detroit

Feb 08: David Eardley – New Member Vocational Talk