



# The Paddlewheel

## Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 101—Number 33

February 16, 2021

### Moorhead Rotary Club 970 District 5580

President Jerry Roger  
President-Elect Gina Monson  
President Nominee David Sederquist  
Treasurer Emily Gess  
Secretary Teresa Joppa  
Past President Steve Schaefer

Directors (2022) Chris Andreasen  
& Steve Schaefer  
Directors (2023) Tammy Finney  
and Steve Astrup  
Directors (2024) Tracey Moorhead,  
Ernie Simmons & Megan Wiesneski  
RYLA Coordinator Randy Farwell  
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte  
Sergeant at Arms Team  
Dave Sederquist, Eric Johnson  
& Jean Hannig

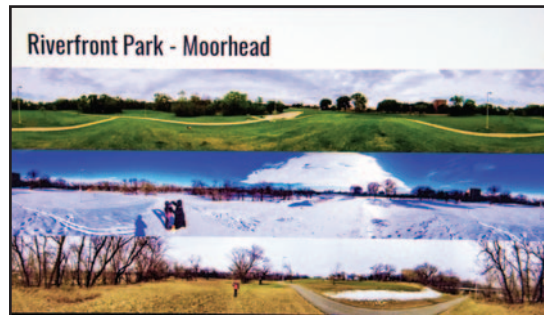
Program Chair Jean Hannig  
Pianist Sharon Fangsrud  
Song Leader Bob Hanna  
Trivia Master Brent Brandt  
Photographer Russ Hanson  
Paddlewheel Editor

### February Birthdays

Elmer, Corey Feb 23  
Sederquist, David Feb 23

### Rotary Anniversaries

Cater, Alma 34 years  
Feb 02 1988  
Elmer, Corey 18 years  
Feb 11 2003



### Coming Up Tuesday via Zoom

Rotarian Steve Astrup presents our program this week on Hospice of the Red River Valley. Brent Brandt is sergeant at arms, and Teresa Joppa is Rotarian of the

### Heather Ranck & David Dietz unveil plans for FM Rotary Foundation's Natural Playground

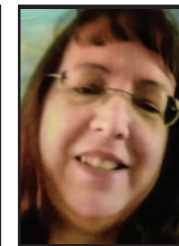
Fargo Rotarians Heather Ranck and David Dietz joined the Moorhead club for its regular Zoom meeting Feb. 9, unveiling plans for the FM Rotary Foundation's next exciting project — a natural playground being designed for a riverside site in Moorhead's Riverfront Park (north of downtown on First Avenue North).

President Jerry Rogers welcomed 19 Moorhead Rotarians. Travel Raffle committee chair Violet Deilke opened the gathering with a report on February's winners: Adam Nordin snagged the month's top prize, a trip to Universal Studios. Randy Farwell sold the second-place ticket for \$200 cash to Pat O'Connell. Gina Monson's customer Sylvia Kloster won the remaining prize, a \$100 dining certificate for Rustica.

President elect Gina Monson reported that the club's Feb. 2 Drive-By Food Drive netted \$450 in cash donations and 900 pounds of donated food, all earmarked for Churches United for the Homeless. The event in the Center Mall parking ramp drew the attention of a news crew from



(Left) Heather Ranck and David Dietz unveiled plans for the Natural Playground, the next project of the F-M Rotary Foundation. It will be located in Memorial Park in Moorhead.



KVRR TV — who have also covered our previous drives — with reporter George Gonzalez interviewing President Jerry.

### Sarge Dave levies fines, collects happy \$\$

After a heated round of trivia about romantic movies — led by trivia master Brent Brandt — Sergeant at Arms Dave Sederquist filled members in on the new organization called Rotex. It includes alumni of the Rotary Youth Exchange program, who serve as mentors and promoters of the international program.

After fining the lucky members whose automatic garage doors work in subzero weather, he called for happy dollars. Dale Hetland bravely donated in honor of what he called "the worst romantic movie ever," "The Princess Bride." Gina's dollar honored

Learn More About  
the Natural Play Area .....

**Video** (4 minutes) about Natural Playground -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WkCqAi9kEI&feature=youtu.be>

**FM Rotary Foundation Website** about Natural Play Area -  
<https://www.fmrotaryfoundation.org/page/natural-playground>

**Natural Playground Facebook page** - <https://www.facebook.com/FmNaturalPlayground>

our past exchange students like Frida, with whom she took the Polar Plunge last year in Detroit Lakes. Bob Hanna expressed gratitude that he has a garage, and Sue Koesterman shared the pleasure of ordering her garden seeds this month. Violet celebrated the week’s biggest occasion, Giving Hearts Day on Thursday, and Jerry applauded all who stood up to a frigid wind to help with last week’s food drive.

**Rotary Natural Playground to bring fun, fresh air and exercise to area’s children**

Rotarian of the Day John Andreasen introduced two Fargo Rotarians, Heather Ranck — a member of Fargo Rotary for 12 years and FM AM for six — and David Dietz, who has been with the community Rotary Foundation for three. Heather is an international trade specialist with the US Department of Commerce; David is CEO of Preference Employment.

David began with an overview of the good work done in past years by the foundation, which includes the five local Rotary clubs. “Together we have done so much that we couldn’t do alone,” he said. Among the cooperative projects are the accessible playground at Lindenwood Park; the Miracle Field in Southwest Regional Park of Moorhead; support of Gigi’s Playhouse and TNT Fitness Playground; Project English to help New Americans master the language; and purchase of a van for Charism.

The Riverfront Park Natural Play Area, to be established in cooperation with Moorhead Parks and Recreation, is the foundation’s newest undertaking. Its aim is to provide fresh air, exercise and fun to today’s children, who spend 50% less time in unstructured outdoor play than their counterparts of the 1970s. Statistics suggest the

average child is currently spending six hours a day with a digital screen, a huge increase in recent months due to COVID-19 restrictions and virtual classes. Studies suggest the average youngsters gets only four to seven minutes of outdoor activities per day; on the other hand, the CDC recommends at least 60 minutes.

The natural play area will be built of logs, rocks, sand, plants, water and other all-natural elements, rather than steel and plastic, like typical playgrounds of the 2020s. The plan also includes a bike skills park where young riders can master their two-wheelers and develop their skills. Discussions also include a frozen path for winter activities. All will be handicapped-accessible.

Heather and David reported that \$64,000 has already been raised, with \$15,000 coming from the five clubs and \$13,095 in matching funds from District 5580. The goal for the projects is \$700,000.

“We want 100% Rotarian participation,” Heather said. Pledges, she said, have been the secret of success for past projects. “We need to promise to keep donating annually to achieve our goal,” she emphasized. An online donation form is available at [https://www.sagepayments.net/efcart/forms/donate.asp?M\\_id=884729214319](https://www.sagepayments.net/efcart/forms/donate.asp?M_id=884729214319). Printed forms will also be distributed soon.

The playground planning committee, which includes Moorhead’s Ernie Simmons, has developed a list of 200 businesses that will be solicited for donations. “We may need help with that,” she noted. Club members, too, will all be solicited.

Plans now call for construction in the summer or fall of 2022.

**Looking Ahead**

**February 16 — via Zoom**

Sergeant at Arms .....Brent Brandt  
Rotarian of the Day .....Teresa Joppa  
Program.....Steve Astrup, Hospice of the Red River Valley

**February 23 — via Zoom**

Sergeant at Arms.....Greg Johnson  
Rotarian of the Day .....  
Program .....Jon Riewer, Eventide

**March 2 — via Zoom**

Sergeant at Arms.....Dave Sederquist  
Rotarian of the Day.....Dave Tranby  
Program.....Anne Hoefgen, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota, Access Kiosks

**March 9— via Zoom**

Sergeant at Arms.....Bill Craft  
Rotarian of the Day .....Rob Remark  
Program .....