



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 103—Number 28

January 10, 2023

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

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

Directors (2023) Chris Andreasen, Greg Johnson & Steve Schaefer
Directors (2024) Tracey Moorhead, Ernie Simmons & Megan Wiesneski
Director (2025) Tammy Finney
RYLA Coordinator Randy Farwell
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Paddlewheel Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

Committees

January Birthdays

Dovre, Paul Jan 07
Astrup, Steve Jan 10
Riewer, Jon Jan 14
Finney, Tammy Jan 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Johnson, Gregory and Kelley
11 years Jan 05 2012

Rotary Anniversary

Farwell, Randy 22 years
Jan 23 2001

Meetings

Tuesdays — noon
Moorhead Schools Operations
Center, 1401 30th Ave. S.



Coming Up Tuesday, January 10

Moorhead Rotary is back from our holiday break! Join us Tuesday to hear Paula Senn talk about Soul Solutions Recovery, offering services to help men and women get sober and stay sober. Violet Deilke is Rotarian of the day.

Rotary Play Hill Is a Go in 2023!

The FM Rotary Foundation and the City of Moorhead announced on January 4 that construction will commence on the 1.26-acre Rotary Natural Play Hill at Riverfront Park in the summer of 2023. The project, in planning since 2018, will provide the community an inspiring hilltop play area overlooking the Red River, with opportunities for unstructured play, interactive learning and year-round outdoor physical activity. The play elements include a 26-foot high Tree House with a rope bridge to another tower, a zip line, log and boulder areas, tunnels, play mounds, balance beams, nets and climbing areas. The playground's location was strategically selected for its proximity to downtown Moorhead, downtown Fargo, the Midtown Moorhead Bike Trail, a sledding/viewing hill, and the community's only lit cross country ski trail.

The project, led by the five Fargo-Moorhead Rotary Clubs, has raised nearly \$1 million with the generous support of nearly 200 donors, including major donors the John Ballantyne Fund, the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, Scheels Foundation, Sanford Health Foundation, KLJ Engineering and Essentia Health Foundation.

A Note from the Play Hill Committee

The FM Rotary Foundation has recently signed the contract with Gast Construction for the construction of the Rotary Natural Play Hill in the summer of 2023. We have raised 85% of the funds needed for the Play Hill, and 75% of funds needed to build the Play Hill AND the Bike Park! But we still have a funding gap of \$174,357 to build the Play Hill, and \$315,957 to do both the Play Hill and the Bike Park.

In recent meetings, Rotarians from the five F-M clubs signed up to reach out to 49 different companies to help us close this funding gap. We need your help to get the ask out into the community and bring this project home, so that we can build the project to its full specification. Any additional donor referrals or follow-up on the business or donor outreach can be communicated to Heather Ranck at haranck@yahoo.com.

Over 100 Rotary members have contributed to the project. To complete the project in its entirety, additional funds are needed, so fundraising is ongoing and 5-year pledges are available.

The playground will be free and open to the public and upon completion, the playground will be donated to Moorhead Parks, who will provide regular maintenance and upkeep. "This project will be an incredible addition to Riverfront Park, and the City of Moorhead is grateful to the FM Rotary Foundation and all five local Rotary clubs for the vision, planning and fundraising it took to make this a reality," said Holly Heitkamp, Moorhead Parks and Recreation Department Director. Landscape Architecture services have been provided by Confluence (Fargo office), and Construction Management services have been led by Gast Construction.

There will be a public groundbreaking ceremony in the spring of 2023 at the playground site at Riverfront Park to celebrate the construction kickoff. Children and supporters will be able to place written wishes for future generations in a time capsule that will be buried at the site.

Looking Ahead

January 10

Sergeant at Arms
Rotarian of the Day Violet Deilke
Program.....Paula Senn,
Soul Solutions Recovery

January 17

Sergeant at Arms
Rotarian of the Day Jon Benson
ProgramMarty Douglas,
Service Dogs for America