



# Flint Rotary World

Charter No. 220 – Rotary Club of Flint, Michigan – Organized April 7, 1916

Rotary theme for 2020-2021 “Rotary Opens Opportunities”

Holger Knaack from the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg–Mölln, Germany, Rotary International President  
David Elliott from the London, Ontario Rotary Club, Ontario, Governor, District 6330

**Program: Amy Vining – The American Red Cross**  
**Meet us on Zoom – the link is in the President’s weekly email.**

## Speaker Round-Up:

The Hon. Duncan Beagle, Chief Judge Circuit Court, and Barbara Menear - Circuit Court Administrator, spoke to us about the difficulties associated with COVID-19 and shutting down of Courthouses.

Menear discussed why the Courts cannot just close and discussed the importance of its responsibility to the public to continue operating.

For example, with Criminal Cases there are issues with judicial guidelines to resolve the cases from 1 year from the date the case is filed. Only two criminal jury trials have been held since March of 2020, with appropriate restrictions before further restrictive shut-downs were imposed.

Today, 567 people are in the County jail and 49 people are in the bullpen, with an additional 201 people on tether. The total jail capacity is 580. The issue of overcrowding is a possibility in the future and has been an issue in the past.

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The Court is attempting to resolve as many cases as possible without trials, without the possibility of trial during the pandemic.

Communication was difficult as it was problematic to set up Zoom conferences for the inmates and in-person meetings at jail.

An order signed by Judge Beagle reinstated criminal jury trials effective June 8 is awaiting approval of the State. Juries will be selected on June 8 at the Harris Auditorium and the Circuit Court will return to trials (three trials simultaneously is possible).

Normally there are 30-40 criminal jury trials per year. Due to the system coming to a halt, the negotiated pleas are becoming more difficult. A major question is “How are you going to get jurors?” Typically yield is 70% of called jurors show up. Those with apprehension of serving in-person are requesting the right to reschedule. The two trials that were held were very comfortable and safety protocols were kept, and

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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2020-2021

- President – Ray Gist
- President-Elect – Kyle McCree
- Vice President – Elizabeth Jordan
- Vice President – Ann Marie Van Duyne
- Director – Patrick Naswell
- Director – Ellen Brothers
- Director – Mia McNeil
- Director – Joe Martin
- Director - Christina Church
- Past President – George Ananich
- Club Administrator – Amy van der Putte
- Treasurer – Stu Kelly

## MEET YOU ON ZOOM!

While we are dealing with the Corona Virus, the Rotary Club of Flint will continue meeting via Zoom. There is another meeting scheduled for this Friday, June 4, 2021.



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non-Jury trials have been held in-person with masks.

According to Menear, Civil Cases with money damages in excess of \$25K. Discussed the process of case evaluation as a pre-cursor to a trial. Over 400 cases have been scheduled for case evaluation.

## More Speaker Round Up – May 14 Meeting

Joe Serra, Chairman of Serra Automotive, spoke to us May 14 about the auto sales business. Serra has 51 dealerships in seven states. His operating mantra is “BePrepared, Plan on Hard Work, and Learn From Failures.”

Serra Chevrolet was acquired by his father, Al Serra, in 1973 in downtown Grand Blanc. Joe joined his Dad in 1983. Eight years ago, the next generation has joined the firm. Matt Serra, who is the current Executive Manager of the Serra Dealership in Grand Blanc, assures the continuity of this independently family-owned automotive corporation.

Joe is especially pleased to have his brother, Terry Serra, involved in the new Serra Corporate Headquarters in Fenton, Michigan.

Statistically, Serra Automotive operates in seven states with 2300 dedicated employees. Sales in 2020 were \$ 2.2 Billion consisting of sales of 64,000 automotive units.

Sales were dramatically impacted in March, April, and May of 2020 due to Covid `19. However, after those initial three months, sales slowly improved.

As you look at the automotive industry, approximately \$110,000,000 in sales were lost by the dealers in 2020. Today’s current problem is the lack of new car inventory. The lack of semi-conductor chips is preventing the automotive manufacturers of providing the necessary inventory.

Serra Automotive is not comfortable with its current less than 30 -day inventory, preferring instead to have a 90-day inventory.

Lack of new unit sales leads to less trade-ins which are currently selling at a 20% premium. There is pent-up demand but it will be sometime before the automotive manufacturers can satisfy that demand. Therefore, new unit pricing has increased by approximately 24%. A function of Supply vs Demand which will eventually smooth out.

Joe is a huge fan of Electric Vehicles. He realizes that there are challenges to be addressed:

- Public perception.
- Pricing must be brought down.
- The Charging Infrastructure must be significantly increased. Universal Charging will happen by utilizing charging adapters.
- Government must continue to promote.

Autonomous Vehicles will be a reality but not in Joe’s lifetime. Most likely, large semi-trucks running on inter-states highways will be the first to achieve that Autonomy.

Joe was asked about his new Ford dealership in Detroit. The fact is that the vehicle market is dominated by Ford in the Detroit area. He said 10% of all Fords sold are in the Detroit marketplace. The Ford F-150 Truck represents the best-selling truck in America for the last 8 years.

It’s a PEOPLE Business and Serra Automotive Employees are dedicated to meeting all of its customers’ needs.

Joe said Matt Serra is doing a great job of leading the Grand Blanc store by focusing on its employees and customers. Besides, he added, “Matt is better looking than I am on TV.”

# Health & Welfare

Robert Sibilsky mentioned that Reverend Jim Kennedy was recovering successfully in a nursing facility and was scheduled to be going home soon.

George Wilson recently had back surgery at Henry Ford Hospital. He is at home and working on getting healthy.

Howard Shand was talked with several weeks ago and said he was doing well.



Mike Chaffee gave us an update on the Crim Festival of Races. The live race will be held on August 28, 2021 and there will be the usual sponsorship for the Rotary mile. The first 20 Flint Rotarians, get a hat, and breakfast in Mike's yard the day of the event for all Rotarians. Our bulletins will include further information. Breakfast starts at 6am.

## Coming Up –

- 06/11/21: Brandon Morgan, Development Director, The Crim
- 06/18/21: TBA
- 06/25/21: Sheryl Fiegel
- 07/02/21: NO Noon Meeting - Independence Day Holiday - Join us for a Happy Hour!
- 07/09/21: Flint Rotary President, Kyle McCree - An Update from the President
- 07/16/21: Todd Slisher, Executive Director of Sloan Museum - An Update on Sloan Museum Development

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 (ending the COVID19 era)

## Where to make up: AFTER COVID QUARANTINE

### Monday

Saginaw Valley NOON  
*Horizons Conference Center*  
 Grand Blanc (1st & 3rd Monday) NOON  
*Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill*

### Tuesday

Clio 7:30 AM  
*Roger's Lodge*  
 Durand 11:30 AM  
*Durand Union Station*  
 Fenton 7:15 AM  
*Spring Meadows Country Club*  
 Genesee Valley (Flint) 12:15 PM  
*Redwood Lodge, Hill Rd.*  
 Lapeer 12:10 PM  
*Lapeer County Center Building*

### Wednesday

Greater Flint Sunrise 7:00 AM  
*Foodbank of Eastern Michigan*  
 Owosso 12:15 PM  
*Owosso Memorial Hosp. Annex*  
 Saginaw NOON  
*Saginaw Club*

### Thursday

Davisburg (1st & 3rd Thursday) 7:00 AM  
*4H Fair Grounds Community Room*  
 Burton 12:15 PM  
*IMA Brookwood Golf Club*  
 Corunna NOON  
*Corunna Community Center*  
 Flushing 7:00 AM  
*Sorrento's Restaurant*  
 Frankenmuth 12:10 PM  
*Zehnder's Restaurant*



## The Rotary Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"