

Leading & Influencing in the Community



MAPLE GROVE LIONS PRESIDENT

Jim Miller

Jim Miller's two-year term with the Maple Grove Lions began on July 1. Lions is the largest service organization in the world. The Maple Grove chapter works locally, donating time and money to make the community a better place to live and work.

"I'm blessed to be able to witness and participate in the generous giving of time, talent, and treasure," Miller said. His primary duties as President include organizing and overseeing the group's meetings as well as coordinating fundraising and community giving endeavors.

And being a member has its rewards. "By far the most rewarding thing is associating with such a great group of selfless people," Miller added. "The Lions' motto is 'We Serve,' and our 70 members embrace this concept heart and soul."

Like so many others, the Lions were dealt a major setback in 2020, as all fundraising activities were canceled.

"Our Half-Marathon in May; the Corn Feed in July; our newest and most exciting event, Concert in the Park; and our Craft Fair were all victims of social restrictions," Miller stated. COVID regulations also limited the Lions' charitable gambling operations through pull tabs sold at local establishments.

Miller feels lucky that his American Family Insurance agency has continued to operate in the virtual world. "Our business was built with an in-person approach, but we're slowly adapting to the new way of doing business," he said.

In his spare time, Miller and his wife Shelley enjoy traveling. "We both love it in the mountains and spend as much time as we can hiking, biking, skiing, or doing anything outdoors."

Learn more about the Maple Grove Lions at maplegrovelions.org.

MAPLE GROVE ROTARY PRESIDENT

Raj Khankari

In July 2020, Raj Khankari began his term as President of the Rotary Club of Maple Grove. The organization extends "Service Above Self" and rallies business and professional leaders to support local and global humanitarian efforts. Every president is nominated by Club members and serves for one year, Khankari said.

Khankari was born and raised in India. He has lived in the U.S. for 34 years, with 25 of those as a resident of Maple Grove. He holds a PhD and an MBA from the University of Minnesota, as well as three additional degrees and 17 patents to his name.

As Rotary President, Khankari leads the group's weekly meetings and sees that the club continues to work toward reaching its goals. "Rotary provides a wonderful platform to help many people around the world," he said. "The desire to help others is a strong bond that holds us Rotarians together."

Khankari also said Rotary is a great place for networking and making friends, though the past few months' meetings have been different.

"We cannot meet in person, and all of us miss the fellowship, but we find a way to meet virtually and figure out ways to work on critical projects," he said. "Many of the world's

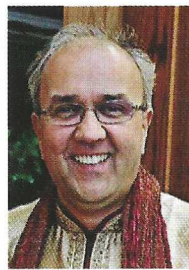
problems haven't stopped because of COVID."

Over the past four months, the Rotary Club of Maple Grove has been working with the Indian Association of Minnesota. "We delivered more than 100,000 PPEs to about 250 healthcare facilities across the state," Khankari said.

And that's not all. "We are also working on projects to help children in homeless shelters in Latvia and to provide water to the isolated communities in India," he added. The Club hosts impressive and influential speakers each week, and Khankari encourages Maple Grove residents to attend the group's weekly Zoom meetings every Tuesday.

Outside of Rotary, Khankari said he enjoys reading, listening to music, and watching TV. He also spends time talking to his children, his family in India, and his friends via Zoom. Khankari currently is Vice President of his Homeowners Association and last year he retired as CEO of a pharmaceutical company.

Find out more about the Rotary Club of Maple Grove at portal.clubrunner.ca/2186.



FASHION EXPERT

Amy Seeman

As Fashion Expert Amy Seeman puts it, she has always had an eye for pulling together looks, "especially when it comes to print mixing." And when Seeman went looking for a creative outlet, she started a blog.

"My original intent was to share the trials and tribulations of parenting with witty undertones in my storytelling," she explained. But after receiving requests from friends and co-workers to sprinkle in an element of fashion, she answered that call – and took things one resourceful step further.

"I made a conscious decision to use my platform to educate women on how to create multiple looks using pieces they already own," she said. "One opportunity led to another, and I landed myself a regular spot on *Twin Cities Live* as a Resident Fashion Expert."

And from there, Seeman left her corporate position to pursue her passion of becoming a Fashion Stylist, which she didn't even know that was a thing until well into her 20s.