



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Shane Pullman</i>	4/30
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At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Fred Heismeyer

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Anne Schneider

Special Guests:

Ben Jacobson
Nolan Roth
Teresa Veazey

Rotary Anniversaries:

Jim Boone—39 years
Jaden Randle—24 years
Jessica Dunbar—3 years
Darin Kater—2 years
Matt Leavitt—2 years

Quote of the Week:

If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.

— Wayne Dyer

HOW WICHITA IS INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH CHILD CARE

Becky Tuttle (L) is serving her second term on Wichita’s City Council, representing District 2. She and Tanya Bulluck, the Executive Director of Child Start, led a presentation on child care in Wichita; specifically, by assisting providers and helping to increase their supply.



Finding safe, reliable, affordable child care in Wichita is a real challenge for parents today, Councilwoman Becky Tuttle told us. The statistics are daunting: existing child care availability in Sedgwick County is meeting only 41% of the potential demand.

This need has implications for workforce development as well as our community’s well-being. Early in her involvement, said Tuttle, she learned that city child care ordinances regarding the number of children a provider could care for were more stringent than Kansas regulations. Tuttle worked with other city leaders to change the ordinance last year. The result is that zoning regulations now allow home child care operators to care for 12 children, up from 10 previously.

In addition to city leaders, state legislators became more

involved in the issue, with Tuttle noting that almost every business is affected by the need for quality child care. “If you have employees, you have child care issues,” she said.

As the Executive Director of Child Start, Tanya Bulluck leads an organization that was established in 1958 as the Wichita Child Day Care Association. Now Child Start reaches 582 Head Start children ages birth to 5 and their families with comprehensive full-day, full-year services. The organization also trains and mentors childcare providers so that high quality care is available locally.

Bulluck said that Wichita was recently chosen to be the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the National League of Cities to host a summit for licensed child care providers. The summit

will include an attorney with expertise in tax credit benefits for providers. Desired outcomes include enhanced collaboration between business leaders and child care providers; expanded networking opportunities; and heightened awareness of child care needs.

Helping people who provide child care in their homes see themselves as a business will be an important focus of the summit. “We want to create resources showcasing Wichita as a family-friendly city that strongly backs small business owners and the child care workforce,” Tuttle said.

To anyone who wonders why quality child care is so important for our community’s well-being, Bulluck stated that child care providers are not just babysitters; they are in the ‘brain building business.’ It’s a big reason to support the smallest members of our community.

Club Announcements:

A new community volunteer opportunity! Help clean up the Arkansas River on **Saturday, April 27!** All the details, including a link to sign up, are in Kim's pre-meeting email.

Mix it up with Rotary friends and make new ones as we gather on **Wednesday, May 1** at the Social Tap Drinkery, 21st and Greenwich. The fun begins at 5 pm!

Our club would love to sponsor a camper or two at RYLA Camp, **May 28—31** at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS. It's a great leadership opportunity for high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. See Kim if you know of an interested applicant.

Let Rotary take YOU out to the ballgame! Join your fellow Rotarians for Rotary Night on **May 9** at



Riverfront Stadium to watch the Wichita Wind Surge take on the Arkansas Travelers. The cost per ticket is only \$10. Payments of cash, checks, or Venmo to **Jessica Dunbar** are being accepted NOW!

The Downtown Rotary Club is hosting a classic car rally on **Thursday, May 16 from 5—8 pm**. See Kim's pre-meeting email for all the details.

Next Week:

NO MEETING on Wednesday, May 1. We'll see you back at the Wichita Country Club on **Wednesday, May 8.**

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Stuart Palmer (L) puts a Paul Harris + 4 pin on **Dr. John Schlicher** at our meeting. John has been a member of EWR since January 1, 1985. John has continued to be part of EWR since his retirement and urged us all to stick with the club after retirement. "It's just as relevant and worth EVERYTHING!" he emphasized. Wise words from a wise man! Thank you, John!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL TRANSFORMS SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA



Above: The kitchen at Mary Waters High School before (L) and after (R) the renovation.

A couple of years ago, Stuart Palmer, who by then was a frequent visitor to East Wichita Rotary, brought our attention to a project taking place nearly 10,000 miles away in Grahamstown, South Africa. Several schools were in desperate need of improved water access and sanitation systems. Without them, children had to stay home from school. Previous fundraising efforts connecting the Jackson Hole, Wyoming Rotary club, where Stuart was a member, with Grahamstown, South Africa had launched the project. But the need for clean water and sewage systems was so great, the dreamers among them decided to apply for a Rotary global grant to renovate the kitchens, bathrooms, water, and sewage systems at seven local schools.

The application was successful, resulting in the largest Rotary global grant ever awarded to a club or district in South Africa. Our own club contributed \$1,500 toward the effort. The Grahamstown club began the work in July 2022 and planned to finish in March of this year. Renovations include new plumbing, new toilets, new tile and mirrors, refurbished kitchens, and security gates at each of the seven schools. Palmer was quoted as saying, "Seeing the incredible change—you not only have water, but you're getting a facelift on all these schools. It's huge." An estimated 50,000 students in the next 10 years will use these facilities. Congratulations to all who worked for the success of this project. *Story and photos taken from Rotary.org "An audacious request transforms South African schools."*