

Rotary O-Pinion

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Meeting each Monday 12:00 p.m. – Owatonna Country Club

Four-Way Test 1) Is it the truth? 2) Is it fair to all concerned?

3) Will it build good will and better friendships? 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

OFFICERS

BRAD MEIER: President

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF OWATONNA IS THE GO TO AND BELONG TO CLUB FOR CONNECTING PROFESSIONALS, EMBODYING SERVICE AND UPLIFTING YOUTH.

PROGRAMS

August 31: Business: speaker: Morgan Bashiel, Stormwater Specialist, City of Owatonna

Sept. 7: No meeting...Labor Day

Sept. 14: ROTARY LIFT PROGRAM Bernis Cunningham

Sept. 21 : Off Site: Gandy Co.

Sept. 28: Meet the Candidates School Board...Lunch at 11:30

Oct. 5: Meet the candidates" City at Large & Ward 3...Lunch at 11:30

Oct. 12: Meet the Candidates: City Ward 1 and Ward 5...Lunch at 11:30

Oct. 19: Meet the Candidates: State Rep. and State Senate...Lunch at 11:30

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, September 21, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: An off-site visit to the Gandy Co. (815 Rice Lake St, Owatonna, MN 55060)

BIRTHDAYS: NONE

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Reese Mukenov, Sawyer Born, Owen Kaytor and Maebelle Smith

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT: Federica from Italy

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS:

*The Silent Auction Basket Committee needs your help! Your own complete basket or any items related to kids, kitchens and holidays, gift cards, cash are all welcome. Leave in the basket at the Greeters table or give to any of the committee members.

*From RI President Yinka: "Why does the 2030 membership of 1.25 million ROTARIANS matter enough to me that I keep returning to it? Because behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life could be changed by this organization, just as mine and yours have been changed by it. ROTARY has given me friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose I did not know I was searching for, and something that, in time, came to feel like an extension of my family. I suspect many of you understand this in your own lives, in your own way."

AROUND TOWN (IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

*Paid on-call Resident Firefighter Noah Tesch has been named 2026 Firefighter of the Year. He was selected on nominations received from fire department staff. A banquet will be held honoring Noah at the Owatonna Eagles Club on October 8. Community members are invited. Tickets are \$25.00 and available in advance at Kottke Jewelers, or the Owatonna fire station.

* A new proposed site for the Owatonna Police Station has been designated by city staff. The proposed site is the vacant lot on North Street east of Cashwise Foods. The site is the former Cemstone. The new recommended site rose to the top of staff's recommendation because it is also city owned and keeps the project centralized. On Nov 3, Owatonna residents will vote on whether to authorize up to \$65 million in bonds for new police and fire facilities. The location for a new fire department remains at the site of the present law enforcement center.

*ROTARY members are creating community-driven, sustainable projects to improve access to quality education around the world. From foundational literacy and numeracy classes to technology programs and continuing education for teachers, your gift to the ROTARY FOUNDATION'S annual fund supports these projects to inspire learning of all ages. Give today: rotary.org/donate or give to ROTARIAN John Connor.

*So Anyway: I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the I-phone because the resident tech expert is asleep...he's 5 and it's past his bedtime.