



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

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**Avon Rotary Club meets  
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**

### Board of Directors

Tom Vonglis, President  
Steve Csapo, President Elect  
Mike Ford, Senior Director  
Karen Vanderbilt, Director  
Bruce Amey, Member at Large  
Julie Carney, Past President  
Laurie Vonglis, Secretary  
Katie DeGraff, Treasurer

## President's Message



Well as I sit here writing my last newsletter article as president of the club, I can't begin to let you know how much I have enjoyed this year. We have done so many amazing things as a club to help our community and beyond. We were able to bring in new members who have become extremely engaged and the club is very strong.

To highlight this past month, I wanted to thank Greg Antkowiak for all his hard work and dedication to the Special Olympics day here in Avon. Once again Avon Rotary was well represented with our volunteers who helped make the day a success. We enjoyed a wonderful day of golf followed by fellowship and program at Caledonia Country Club. Many thanks to the Caledonia Rotary Club for a great job with the Quad City event. Our Foundation drive which gave us a chance to honor Mark and Margo (M&M) was a huge success and allows us to give more to the Foundation to help with so many vital projects around the world. On top of that, in three years we will see a portion of our giving come back to us in the form of district simplified grants. This allows us to do creative, innovative community projects like the one we completed in May. The garden project is something that will be a wonderful asset to the school children for years to come as

they learn about growing food items and delivering to the backpack program to help those in need. I am so grateful for all the help with this project. I'll especially call out Bruce Amey for his work on the grant and all the paperwork involved. Also, to my brother Peter for his dedication to this project and all the time and effort he put into it. We had a great team of Rotarians and others who helped on this project, and I could not be more proud of how things turned out.

Finally I wanted to say thank you to our Board of Directors and especially Laurie for all the great things we were able to accomplish this year. Avon Rotary is in great hands as we move forward to our next Rotary Year. I look forward to our changeover dinner where I'll continue with the accolades.

Thank you all once again.  
Yours In Rotary Service,  
Tom Vonglis, President 2021-2022



**Rotary**



**JUNE IS  
FELLOWSHIP MONTH**

"A FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS YOUR PAST, BELIEVES IN YOUR FUTURE,  
AND ACCEPTS YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE."  
- ANON





## Club Schedule

Tues. June 7	Off site meeting at Route & Roost 5:30
Tues. June 14	Regular Club Meeting 6:30, Program: Youth Exchange
Tues. June 14	Corn Festival Meeting 7:30
Mon. June 20	Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 @ Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. June 21	Special Club Meeting 6:30 Program: Garden Project & In-Meeting Service Project
<b>Tues. June 28</b>	<b>Avon Rotary Change of Officers Dinner 5:00 @ Avon Inn</b>
Thurs. June 30	District Changeover Dinner 6:00 @ King's Catering & Party House, Canandaigua

"A true hero isn't  
measured by the size  
of strength, but by the  
strength of his heart."

*-Morpheus, Disney*



## June Celebrations

### Birthday

- ⇒ Bruce Amey
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Dave Henehan
- ⇒ Dom Lalisce
- ⇒ Dave LeFeber
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Bob Hayes
- ⇒ Nick & Jaime Lovullo
- ⇒ Janis McMIndes
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis 2004
- ⇒ Steve Csapo 2010
- ⇒ Doug Hayes 2012
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella 2012
- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco 2014
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel 2014

## Rambling On Rotary—June



By: Bruce Amey

The May issue of the Rotary magazine had a feature story subtitled “How melodies can be medicine for memory loss.”

This story hit home to me on two accounts. I don’t think it is a secret to any club member of my love for music. I love to sing; I love to play around on my guitar.

I worked my way through college as a disc jockey. When growing up, Ben and Madison used to hate it when I would play the oldies station in the car and continually ask them who the artist was for the song playing. They were particularly peeved when I would ask “Guess who the group is?” and after several minutes of guessing, I would tell them the group was the Guess Who. After awhile they used to answer the Beatles or the Beach Boys and that was likely true about 50% of the time. For me, music stirs memories of times past.

Clearly the second part of the article really hit home for me today. As many of you are aware, Diane has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and her memory continues to decline with new occasions occurring every day. I think of fellow Rotarians Cathy Jo Murphy and Greg De-ragon and the road they traveled through the disease with their spouses Mike and Chris. Unfortunately, memory decline is a common fact of life, but dementia and Alzheimer’s accelerate the loss. Diane and I met doing community musical theater: “Guys and Dolls”, “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Godspell”, to name a few. We used to sing duets in church and at weddings. Unfortunately, she doesn’t remember many of those songs. But when I play my guitar and sing (at the other end of the house) she usually will smile and often hum along. Music tends to stimulate some memories and seems to make her happy.

When I was a High School Principal, I had to regularly fight to add or preserve arts programs in my school, especially during difficult budget years. I had been a math teacher but, in my experience, the arts completed the education for all children. In my case, it’s music; if you want to win at Pictionary, you don’t want me on your team because I can’t draw my way out of a paper bag. Do you remember the music from your youth? Do you remember the song of your first dance with a significant other? As stated in the article, “The soundtracks of our lives resonate even more deeply because of the feelings that attach to certain music.” So often the messages of the music are recycled years later. I think of “The Eve of Destruction” by Barry McGuire or Bob Dylan’s “The Times They are A-Changin’”, among oth-

ers. The songs are still as relevant today as they were in the 60s.

At our meetings, many don’t sing aloud because they don’t feel they sing well. Cass Eliot, of the Mamas and Papas, had a recording “Make Your Own Kind Of Music”. The lyrics are: “Nobody can tell ya there’s only one song worth singing. They may try and sell ya ‘cause it hangs them up to see someone like you. But you gotta make your own kind of music, sing your own special song, make your own kind of music even if nobody else sings along.” It matters not how well any of us sings as long as we make our own music.

You are probably wondering what does this have to do with Rotary? For me, as Rotarians, we are making music every day in the ways in which we serve others. When I see the smiles on the faces of the children served by a new school in Nicaragua that our club has helped to build, that is music for me. When I know the lives that will be extended by DG Janet’s Stove Project to which we have contributed, that makes me smile with the music I can hear them singing while they prepare meals over those stoves. When our club does an in-meeting service project creating a Party in a Bag for the Avon Food pantry, I can hear a family singing Happy Birthday for a family member in our community. Music creates memories for me. And our service for others brings music to my ears.

I am hopeful every day that music can help stimulate Diane’s memory to better times. If she doesn’t remember what day it is or what her address is, that’s okay. But my hope is the music will help her recall fond memories of her past with our kids growing up and will put a smile on her face. When we sing the R-O-T-A-R-Y song at our meetings, I hope for you that it stirs memories of past members singing along. Can you hear Mark singing “He profits most who serves the best” or “Where each one strives his best to give”? I pray that Rotary and our Rotary club may be music to stimulate memories and service in your lives. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.





## May Highlights

### Special Olympics

**May 7:** Avon Rotary had a great day serving Special Olympics athletes at Avon Elementary School. It has been a few years since we were able to do so but this service is what Rotary means. Many thanks to Greg Antkowiak for his leadership and congratulations to all participants.

*Submitted by: Bruce Amey via social media*



**Special Olympics**

### Letchworth State Park

**May 10:** Avon Rotary was joined by Conrad Baker from Letchworth State Park. Conrad is an outdoor educator with a background in social media and journalism. When hired in February of 2020, he never anticipated how his new job and old would collide. Conrad's "Nature Detective" Facebook video series kept people in touch with the park through Covid closures. And now with the park open, he explained how Letchworth has become a hub for local tourism, outdoor adventure, and a catalyst for people to explore many of the natural gems throughout the Genesee Valley. Check out Letchworth's Facebook page to see Conrad's "Nature Detective" videos and how to book your own Letchworth outdoor adventure.

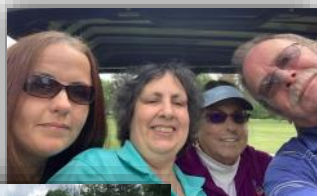
*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



### Quad Cities

**May 23:** Well that was fun! Avon sported 7 teams of golfers and 37 dinner guests at the Caledonia Country Club. It was a beautiful day and by the sounds of it, everyone had a good time. At the end of the day, we enjoyed the typical fellowship and club updates from the 4 participating clubs. We also learned more about the Genesee Country Museum as they provided the program. Congratulations to the Tetamore team as they crushed the competition! LAV

#1



## Avon Elementary School Garden Project

### Instructional Garden Installed by Avon Rotarians at the Elementary School.

Excited Avon Elementary School students were thrilled to take a stroll behind their school, to get a glimpse of the new instructional garden, which was recently installed there. All of the students will use this outdoor learning space as part of their educational experience, during their time there in Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) through Fourth Grade. The garden came to fruition through the hard work and perseverance of numerous Avon Rotarians, most notably Rotary President, Tom Vonglis, who led the charge with the planning, preparation, and construction. The garden will be used for innovative learning purposes, as well as for students to sample and enjoy the tasty food that it will produce. Well over thirty volunteers came out on a Saturday in mid-May to clear the area, construct the planting beds, and put up the fencing. In addition to Rotarians, school staff, students, Board of Education members, and the Superintendent of Schools joined in the effort. Peter Vonglis, owner of Vonglis Enterprises, volunteered his time and heavy equipment, which made the most difficult tasks with construction, quite a bit easier for the volunteers. His son Colin also assisted throughout the day. The school is also partnering with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop its use with students, and the school's STEAM Team will be developing curriculum this summer as



well. To kick-start the garden for this growing season, the entire student body was asked what they would like to see planted in the garden. They went to the polls last week to vote for the best candidates, their top choices, to fill the vacant seats. The winners were announced at a schoolwide assembly at the end of the week, which was met with enthusiastic cheers as each choice was revealed. The successful plants included strawberries, watermelon, carrots, cucumber, potatoes, peas, cherry tomatoes, and corn. The school Principal, stumped for corn, "because you can't go to school in Avon, and have a garden without corn growing in it." Especially if it's a garden paid for and built by Avon Rotarians!

Submitted by: Rob Lupisella



# Avon Elementary School Garden Project

## 2021-2022 District Simplified Grant Project

**Saturday, May 14:** This was an incredible day of service from Avon Rotarians, 2 Interact Club members, our outgoing foreign exchange student, workers from Vonglis Enterprises, LLC, and an ACS staff member. All these volunteers came together to construct twelve raised garden beds at Avon Elementary school. These gardens will provide students of all ages an opportunity to learn how to grow, harvest, and prepare a variety of fruits and vegetables. In addition, students will learn composting and nutritional skills. The food grown will also be used as part of the school district's backpack program to provide healthy foods for kids that may be facing food insecurity at home. Thank you to everyone that turned out for this project that will benefit our community for many years...you truly exemplify our motto: "Service Above Self." *Mike Ford via social media*

Thank you! I was proud to be a part of the work. It is an excellent project that will help the school and the community. A big thanks to the workers, but also the organizers. The planning and prep were incredible. Thanks to Peter as well for donating his time and talents. *Ryan Pacatte, ACS Superintendent*

I wanted to thank all the Avon Rotarians and friends for their hard work with our Service Project today. The Garden Bed's will continue to give the children of Avon Central a learning experience for a long time. I'm so proud of our club and all the effort put into this project. A special thank you to Vonglis Enterprise, LLC, Peter Vonglis and Colin Vonglis for all your hard work and dedication to this project. We could not have done it without you. Avon Rotary Rocks! *Tom Vonglis via social media*

What a fantastic group effort and accomplishment! Couldn't have done it without Tom Vonglis's leadership or the team of Peter Vonglis & Colin Vonglis of Vonglis Enterprises, LLC. Avon Rotary Rocks! *Laurie Vonglis via social media*

I was honored to be part of a group of hard working Avon Rotary members who built this garden from scratch for the Avon Elementary students to enjoy and learn how things grow. I couldn't keep up with the other hard workers but I tried to help as I could. Another service project to be proud of. *Marcea Tetamore via social media*



## Garden Project continued

**MANY THANKS to the 36 volunteers who helped with this project!**

Tom Vonglis  
Laurie Vonglis  
TJ Vonglis  
Reed Vonglis  
Archer Vonglis  
Bill Wall  
Dan Oswald  
Marcea Tetamore  
Kelly Cole  
Jesse Cole

Peter Vonglis, Vonglis Enterprises  
Rob Lupisella  
Jake Ayers  
Heather Ayers  
Nick LoVullo  
Jaime LoVullo  
Bruce Amey  
Greg Antkowiak  
Bob House

Caroline Lupisella  
Kirk Vanderbilt  
Karen Vanderbilt  
Maggie Vanderbilt  
Rodney George  
Steve Csapo  
Mike Giso  
Ernie Wiard

Colin Vonglis  
Joe Yantachka  
Jeff Herberger  
Ryan Pacatte  
Katie DeGraff  
Ed Kime  
Jacob Davis  
Jojo VanRhy  
Mike Garrett



## Bravesman 2.0

**May 21:** Avon Interact Club organized a new fundraiser in a rather short amount of time to raise funds for Journeys of Solutions, a non-profit that provides scholarships to girls in Africa to help them attend school. The event raised \$810 due to the efforts of Josephine V and Syndney M, president and vice president of Interact, under the guidance of Interact Counselor, Karen Vanderbilt. Congratulations to all the participants and winner, junior Gretta P who came away with the Bravesman 2.0 title. Many thanks to the 5 judges: 3 school staff members, Superintendent, Ryan Pacatte and President, Tom Vonglis. It was a very entertaining evening. LAV





## Paul Harris Fellow Presentations

**On May 10:** Foundation Chairman, Kirk Vanderbilt presented Paul Harris Fellow pins to Laurie Vonglis +5, Josh Tonra +1 & Janis McMIndes +5 for their continued support of the Rotary Foundation.

Sincere thanks for their generous contributions!



**On May 17:** On behalf of Barbara Herman, Kirk presented a Paul Harris Fellow to Barb's son Mark. Kirk explained, "Private Rotarians often designate a Paul Harris Fellow as a tribute to a person who is special to them personally, and whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives of The

Rotary Foundation. It is because of gifts like the one made in Mark's honor that The Rotary Foundation is able to carry out its mission of "doing good in the world". Each of us has personal and private goals and often, meeting them is truly a personal and private accomplishment." Congratulations to Mark.



**May 23:** At long last, snow bird Jim Ryan returned home and joined in on the fun at the Quad Cities. Much to his surprise, he was presented with his Paul Harris Fellow +1 pin. It's good to have him back! Thank you for your continued generosity Jim.

*By donating to The Rotary Foundation*

*it is able to carry out its mission of "doing good in the world". LAV*



### 2022 Wild Polio Case Counts as of May 31, 2022

<u>Country</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Malawi	0	0	1	Feb 2022
Afghanistan	56	4	1	Jan 2022
Pakistan	84	1	3	May 2022
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	



For more information go to: <https://polioeradication.org/>



## M & M Foundation Drive



**On May 31:** As we ended the very busy month of May, we held a special Foundation drive in memory of Mark Evans & Margo Harper. Under the leadership of Bruce Amey & Katie DeGraff, club members gave generously to the Foundation to honor our lost but not forgotten members. As a simple remembrance, tables were strewn with M & M's and Klondike bars were enjoyed for dessert. A total of \$2050 was raised for the Foundation annual fund.

Many thanks to our members for their continued support and generosity for the Rotary Foundation's annual fund. LAV



Livingston County Walls Mural Festival  
July 9—July 23, 2022

LivCo Walls will bring nine international artists together to paint large-scale murals in each of the nine villages of Livingston County. Enjoy the unveiling of the murals over three weekends of festivals featuring art activities, food, live music and much more!

### Avon Mural Dedication Ceremony

**Saturday, July 9 5:00-6:00 pm**

79 Genesee St.

Watch for details of a full list of events for the day including Bob's Brothers Band in the evening.

Many thanks to Maureen Wheeler & Kelley Tonra for bringing this information to our Rotary Club



# Mark Evans

1952-2021



**June 3  
2022**  
*A day of  
remembrance*

Join us for one or more events.

RSVP for lunch only:

<http://evite.me/mfSxQ25PAh>

## First

**Internment  
Forest Lawn  
12:00pm\***

1990 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14208

\*11:45am Delaware/Delavan gate

•Procession and Saint Joseph's  
bell carillon

•Reverend Joel Terragnoli

[Forest-lawn.com](http://Forest-lawn.com)

## Second

**Lunch  
The Family Tree  
1:30pm**

Greek Restaurant  
4346 Bailey Ave  
Amherst, NY 14226  
716-838-2233

RSVP

<http://evite.me/mfSxQ25PAh>

## Third

**Tour  
Buffalo  
Presidential  
Center  
3:30pm**

Buffalo & Erie County  
Public Library - Second Floor  
1 Lafayette Square  
Buffalo, NY 14203

[www.Buffalopresidentialcenter.org](http://www.Buffalopresidentialcenter.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

**Tuesday, June 28**

**Avon Rotary Change of Officers**

Details & Sign Up coming soon

## Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club  
Sunshine Liaison Agent

**Barbara Herman** 226-6735



## Avon Food Pantry

**Pantry critical needs in June are:**

Instant Coffee      Pancake Mix

Dish Washing Detergent

Flour    Cooking Oil    Syrup

Collection is the 3rd Tuesday each month.  
Place in bin at our meeting. For questions  
contact Cat Jenson or David Kilgore.

