

The Orange Peel

2026-2027 | President Steve Blair | Rotary Creates a Lasting Impact!

Next Meeting Friday, Aug 28, 2026

Speaker - Lisa Montes -
Orangevale Times
Greeters - Mairy Droese
Invocation - Audrey Smith-
Wiberg
Vocation - Mike McKibbin
Raffle tickets - Dennis
Sarkisian

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

**Is it FAIR to All
Concerned?**

**Will it build GOOD
WILL and BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Will it be BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?**

OVFO Arts - Orangevale & Fair Oaks Community Art Initiative



Speaker-chair Licia Green introduced **Michael Cole**, the president of **OVFO Arts**. Michael is a multidisciplinary artist, a local resident, and the founder of Orangevale Fair Oaks Arts (OVFO Arts). He works to strengthen

community connection and civic pride across Orangevale and Fair Oaks through public art installations, artist advocacy, and collaborative community events.

Michael said that his goal at OVFO Arts is to support local artists and get are out into the public. OVFO Arts is six months old and is a 5013c non-profit organization.

Michael said that OVFO Arts is already active in the community. He helped organize volunteers to paint the high school bleachers during the last Big Day of Service. At the recent chili cook-off competition, he arranged to have two artists paint pictures while the visitors to watched. And he was able to pay the artists for their time. In June, he organized the OVFO Art free range art



Recap of the Meeting Aug 14, 2026

Guests

Michael Cole - OVFO Arts

**Jessica Greenfield - Miller's
Ace Hardware**

**Visiting Rotarians
None**

**District 5180 Governor
Dave Veden
2026-2027**

**Rotary International
President 2025-2026
Olayinka Hakeem Babalola**

**The 2025-2026 Rotary
International presidential
theme is "Create Lasting
Impact"**

exchange.

Currently the headquarters is located in the same building as the Ladybird Tree House, 10120 Fair Oaks Blue, Fair Oaks. OVFO Arts occupies a 600 square foot space which is open to the public on Fridays from 9am to 1pm for community members to pick up free art supplies. The supplies are donated and they are new or gently used.

OVFO Arts is a proud partner of the Oliver Tree Foundation and its mission. Dr Oliver Tree's foundation grants to artists working in music, film, installation, and performance art. Palmer Real Estate is also a partner as is Weekender Magazine, Citrus Heights Arts, True Blue Auto Care, and Ladybird Tea House.

The old fire station on Main Street in Orangevale is up for sale and Michael envisions this location as the perfect permanent home for OVFO Arts. The owners are willing to work with him but there are a lot of zoning issues with the county. It covers 3.5 acres and is a starting point for the hiking trails to the river. Michael would like to use the space for multi-use classrooms, a sculpture garden, art exhibit space, etc.

Michael ended his talk by inviting everyone to stop by the headquarters on a Friday. For more information about public art in Orangevale and Fair Oaks visit the OVFO Arts website at <https://www.ovfoarts.com/>. President Steve thanked Michael for his talk and presented him with a handcrafted pen made by member Bob Kurtz.



A Special Visit by Jessica Greenfield

We had a special visitor - **Jessica Greenfield** of Miller's ACE Hardware in Fair Oaks. She wanted to let the members know about a special voucher program put on by the county of Sacramento to replace old residential gasoline-powered lawn and yard equipment with battery powered equipment. She handed out flyers with the information. You pay 15% of the cost of the replacement equipment and you get a voucher for the rest of the cost. Jessica has helped 15 customers so far.



The county put aside \$500,000 for this residential program with the goal of recycling old gas powered equipment. By offering an incentive, the county hopes people will switch to battery-powered equipment. You have to be a Sacramento County resident. Jessica's ACE Hardware is the only ACE Hardware store partnering with the county.

Brad Squires used the program to get a new ride-on mower.

This program also applies to non-profits like the Food Bank. You can either take your old equipment to one of two approved recyclers or ACE can come to your house and pick up the equipment. Brand named equipment manufactures include Craftsman, Dewalt, Milwaukee, Ego, etc.

Email Jessica at store@millersACEisthePlace.com so she can send you the link to the program and she will walk you through the process. Please share the flyer with your friends. There is also a program for commercial landscapers that will start in October so share this flyer with your landscaper.

INTERESTED IN NEW BATTERY POWERED LAWN EQUIPMENT?

The Charlene McGhee Memorial Lawn and Garden Program is now open for all Sacramento County Residents

Trade in your old gas equipment and receive:

CHAINSAWS/ TRIMMERS/EDGERS/ BRUSH CUTTERS \$300 Voucher*	WALK BEHIND MOWERS \$330 Voucher* RIDE-ON OR STAND/SIT MOWERS \$2000 Voucher*	LEAF BLOWERS/ VACUUMS \$200 Voucher*
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* TO BE USED TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF NEW BATTERY POWERED LAWN EQUIPMENT *

Miller's Ace Hardware is a Participating Merchant and can walk you through the process.

Our knowledgeable staff will help you pick out the best equipment for your specific needs.

Not in our neighborhood? We deliver!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL: store@millersaceistheplace.com or call 916-760-8110 TO SPEAK TO A DEDICATED SPECIALIST

Announcements and Committee Reports

President Steve Blair told the club that the Rotary District is combining the annual District Conference with the Rotary Foundation Dinner this year. The event will be Friday, October 30 through Sunday, November 1, 2026. The conference will be held at Margaritaville Resort at Lake Tahoe. To view the agenda and register, visit <https://www.rotary5180.org/page/rotary-district-5180-fall-conference-2026>

Bill Wagner is starting up the annual **Joe Surra Football Pool**. He passed around a clipboard. Sign up with your team's name, either they will win or lose and the amount per win or lose. It is not required to participate but it is highly encouraged!

Dennis Sarkisian reminded everyone that the next Food Bank work party will be Friday, September 4. We will be dark because of the long weekend but the Food Bank will be open and is counting on the Rotarians to work that day. Look for an invitation in your email to sign up to work.

David Shepard, Club Treasurer, sent everyone an invoice for club dues (\$187). Some members still owe money. Please pay by Zelle, credit card, or check.

Licia Green said the dreaded words... “Its Crab Feed Time!” (Have seven months passed already since our last crab feed?!) Its getting time to start planning for our annual Crab Feed on 30-January-2027. There will be a quick meeting in September and tickets will come soon after that.

Don Russell, Club chair, said that today is “National Poets Day”. Don asked “How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together. ” and “How does a Poet say hello? By saying - Hey, haven’t we metaphor?” Don gave **Joni Cyr** a thank you card for hosting the backyard party. Don is looking for ideas for the September Dine Around. Did you know that there is Vitalant next to Miller’s ACE Hardware in Fair Oaks. That’s where Don gives a pint of blood every eight weeks.

Vocational Talk

Mairy Droese and her husband **Dick** have been out traveling in their RV this summer. They traveled over 8,000 miles through 27 states in nine weeks, from California to Maine. The scariest day of their six years of owning the RV happened on this trip. But first, they had to take care of a bucket list item.

Driving from California, they arrived in southern Delaware to visit friends and the friends asked if Mairy and Dick had any special places they wanted to visit while in the area. Yes, they said, we want to visit Ocean City, Maryland, which surprised their hosts. What they wanted to see was the end (or beginning) of Highway 50. If you’ve ever driven by the milage sign in West Sacramento at the start (or end) of highway 50, you will see the milage sign with the distance to Ocean City, Maryland listed as 3,073 miles. Their hosts drove them to the Highway 50 sign and sure enough, it said “Sacramento, California 3,073 miles! Pictures were taken and Dick and Mairy were happy! Another item off the bucket list - seeing the beginning and end of Highway 50.



Later in the trip, Mairy and Dick left southern New Jersey with plans to drive to Connecticut. Dick like to use Apple Maps or Google Maps for navigation. Btw, their vehicle dimensions are 11 feet hight, eight feet wide and 26 feet long and that doesn’t include the jeep they are towing.

Mairy and Dick have had discussions at various times in their journeys - Is the RV considered a truck or a passenger vehicle? Sometimes it isn’t clear which lanes they should drive in or where they should park in rest areas when the only choice is Car or Truck. The term “truck” is used a lot but very rarely do they see a sign that says “Truck/RV”.

Ok, back to the story. They head north on the New Jersey turnpike and there are signs for trucks but they stay in the car lanes and they felt Ok with that decision when they see other RVs, some in the Truck lanes and some in the Car lanes. As they cross the George Washington bridge in New York, they see an exit sign for trucks but they ignore it. Bad idea.

The lanes started disappearing as the highway heads north to the Bronx. They saw warnings signs about low clearances so they abandoned the roadway and tried to look for a surface street that paralleled the Henry Hudson Parkway. Soon they were in a residential area with winding roads and hills.

Following the GPS directions, they attempted to take the next onramp. Just as they enter the very short curved onramp they see the warning sign - Low clearance ahead - 9 feet, 8 inches!!!! They immediately pull the RV to the side, the rear dual tires jumping a curb. Coming to a stop, they are panicked and their hearts are racing!!! They know they have to back up but because they are pulling their jeep they need to disconnect before backing up.

Dick jumps into action, turning on the hazard lights. They quickly disconnect the jeep and Dick backs the jeep up to a safe spot. Handing Mairy a walkie-talkie, Dick jumps into the RV as she starts directing traffic around the RV. New York drivers are piling up behind the RV and they don't look happy. As Mairy directs the traffic around the RV, she is also looking over her shoulder for a break in traffic. Seeing one, she yells into the walkie-talkie to Dick who is in the RV ready to back up. The RV dualies jump over the curb and onto the roadbed as Dick guns it! Backing up far enough, he pulls forward and down the road to a safe spot. Mairy runs to the jeep and follows him.

Sitting on the side of a residential street, they reconnect the Jeep. They are safe for the mean time but struggling with how to get out of the neighborhood safely. Dick now realizes that using the GPS on his iPhone does not account for the size of the RV. It probably thinks they are driving a car. He starts downloading RV and/or trucking GPS apps. Mairy turns to Google AI on her iPhone for help. She has never used it before but gives it a try. "Give me driving instructions to Connecticut for an RV of this height, width and length". Google AI thinks for a few seconds and then lists step-by-step instructions for her. Mairy shows the inquiry results to Dick and they decide to use the instructions having no other good results from Dick's work.

While Mairy read the AI instructions, Dick carefully drove down one-way alleys and through construction and surface street traffic but low and behold, they got on a highway and drove safely to Connecticut, their RV fully intact! Now they are the proud owners of a RV Garmin which knows the dimensions of their RV and safely guides them away from low clearances!!

Happy Fines

Bill Wagner is a financial planner and he is happy to be helping a client sell a \$10 million asset.

Mary Shear is happy to celebrating her first year as a Rotarian.

Horacio Oropeza is happy that the children are back in school.

Patty Wolff is happy be here.

Bryan Daniel is happy because he got to watch his granddaughter play girls flag football.

Licia Green is happy that she got to talk about her work with Cchat to the El Dorado Hills Rotary Club.

Jim Buntin was happy to play with the ARC jazz band.

The Orange Ball Raffle

The week before last, Bill Wagner pulled the orange golf ball out of the basket so this week we are starting over with ten balls and \$39. **Dennis Sarkisian** had the winning ticket and he pulled the white golf ball out of the basket! Too bad, so sad. That means that Dennis will be selling raffle tickets next week.

Thought for the day

“Where the spirit does not work with the hand, there is no art - Leonardo da Vinci.”

