

# The Rotary Gale

Report of the Galesburg Rotary Club meeting of July 22, 2010

## TODAY'S LEADERS

Greeter:	Lance Aten
Cashier:	Tom Brown Sue Dutell
Pianist:	Joan Wenstrom
Invocation:	Mike Clark
Song Leader:	Rick Brown
Introductions:	Dave McDonald
Presiding:	Linus Vander Wyst

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

- July 29 Mike Davison will present a program about Oak Run.
- August 5 Chuck Farrar will explain the new club database and how it will benefit the club.
- **September 16 Golf outing with Sunrise**

## VISITORS AND GUESTS

- Barry Swanson introduced Kelly Kane.
- Gary Francois visited from Sunrise.



Mike Godsil represented the club for the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow award in memory of Christopher Alan Farrar, son of Chuck and Lee Farrar, who died suddenly on June 18, 2010. “Although he was not a Rotarian, Christopher lived a life that embodied the Rotary motto, ‘*Service Above Self.*’”

The tragedy of his death will benefit as many as fifty people, as Christopher signed his driver’s license expressing his wishes to become an organ donor.

A memorial fund will be established in Christopher’s memory to construct a rain garden at Rotary Park that will feature a water play area for children.

## HAPPY BUCK ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Carl Strauch: 1. spent a week on a mission trip and sightseeing in New Orleans; 2. their son got a job as assistant athletic director of communications at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ.
- Nina Morlang: 1. will celebrate her 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary tomorrow; 2. attended the Central States Youth Exchange conference in Grand Rapids, MI, and she reported that it was a fantastic experience.
- Chuck Farrar expressed gratitude for the support from their many friends.
- Steve Hawkinson is grateful for his daughter’s safe return from 8 weeks in China with the Campus Crusade for Christ.
- Harold Watters spent a buck to announce that their 35-year-old son (with 2 children) finally graduated from college.
- Derek Antoine played a little golf this week and fired a round under 100.
- George Inness says not to worry about the farmers—they’re going to have a whale of a good corn crop this year.
- Doug Gibb is celebrating 21 years of marriage today. He threw in another buck as an expression of gratitude for Dane Bragg’s work in Galesburg.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

City Manager Dane Bragg gave the club his state-of-the-city analysis prior to departing to assume the job as city manager at Buffalo Grove, IL.

The city has a balanced budget that was accomplished through some careful cutting during the past 18 months. They have not had any layoffs, but they have been able to cut from 248 employees to 237 through attrition. The framework is in place for the 2011 budget with the assumption that there will be less revenue. The only good news in that area is that sales tax receipts are up 3½%, outpacing Peoria and the Quad Cities. However, income tax receipts are down sharply, and the state is very slow in making payments. The city built a financial cushion prior to the recession and that has helped Galesburg weather the financial crisis. Galesburg entered the recession earlier than most of the country. Fortunately, we had less of a decline in property values, and it looks like our recovery may lead the national trend. We're still losing bread-and-butter jobs in manufacturing, but prospects look bright for more jobs in health care and education.

Galesburg is slated for some infrastructure improvements. Work on the three railroad under/overpasses will begin next spring. The three will be staged so that we close only one of the intersections at a time. The bad news is that we will have at least one major street in the downtown area closed for the next five years.

Bragg thinks that Galesburg is in a positive position for strong economic recovery. He feels that the Intellihot deal will be good for the city, and there will be more good news in the future. We need to focus on the quality of life that we offer.



Harold Watters bought flags representing the home countries of some of the RYE students that we have hosted. Harold is usually present to hang them before the meetings and to remove them at the end of the meeting.

## Share Rotary with a friend

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