

Fairport  
**Rotary**



Club

Fairport Rotary's Award-Winning Newsletter

# The Liftbridge

December 15, 2025

Edition 147



## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM FAIRPORT ROTARY CLUB

As we celebrate this special time of the year, may the joy of the season fill your hearts and homes with peace, goodwill, and gratitude. We give thanks for our members, partners and community. Your dedication to *Service Above Self* makes Fairport a stronger, more caring place and our club one of District 7120's best.

Thank you for your commitment to be part of such a special club. You make a difference in so many ways. Your spirit of service, fellowship and generosity unites us all as Fairport Rotarians.

May your Christmas be filled with warmth, joy and peace, and let 2026 be a year to make us all shine brighter than ever - personally, professionally and together as Fairport Rotary Club.



# December Calendar

December 16 - Tuesday HOLIDAY PARTY 5:30, Faircraft Brauhaus

December 22 and 29 - No meetings - ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS!



TREASURER'S

## CORNER

### Rotary 50/50 Raffle

Fairport Rotary 50/50 raffle is a chance game designed to augment Club operations treasury through the sale of lottery tickets usually on a per meeting basis.

Tickets can be purchased one for \$1.00 or three for \$2.00. The objective is to have the winning ticket number in one's hand upon a drawing by a member or guest who has not purchased a ticket.

The pot is divided in half, one half going to the Club and the other half to the winner(s). The half going to the winning ticket each drawing is also divided in half. With one half of the winning ticket going to the happy ticket purchasing guest and the other half going to an accumulating "big" pot. The happy drawing winner gets a chance to draw from a deck of 54 cards for the grand prize, Queen of Spades. The entire accumulated big pot goes to that guest. The big pot has contained over \$500 on occasion.

However, two jokers are also in the deck. If either joker is drawn, the evenings winnings are surrendered back to the Club treasury and the chance to draw the Queen is revoked.



Terry





It's a pleasure to welcome new member Bradford Barry – that's BRAD BARRY – not Barry Bradford ☺. Brad was inducted on December 1 and has already been a fixture at our meetings. We know he will be an important member to our club. Welcome Brad!



GREAT NEWS – Rotary President MARYBETH CHRISTENSEN received the amazing news that she is now cancer-free! After over a year of fighting this battle, all while leading our club with great gusto, we are all so elated to hear this news. Prayers do get answered - ring that bell Marybeth!

Speaking of prayers, as many of you know, Heinrich Fischer took a fall at his home, injured his hip, and is now recovering at the Fairport Rehab & Nursing Center (formerly the Baptist Home). Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

We had plenty of elves who brought in over 50 coats for those at Evergreen East. Your kindness will keep many people warm and happy!



One elf named Tom Povlock helped place wreaths at Webster Union Cemetery on a cold, snowy Saturday to remember the fallen and honor those who served. Thank you for your Service Above Elf Tom!



LIFTBRIDGE, 12/1/2025

Bob Hartnett opened the meeting, John Hall led the pledge, and Andrea Jones offered the inspiration with an “all-sing-along” Rotary-ized version of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” Hey, a lot of us remember the days when we sang at virtually every meeting.

President Marybeth then accepted the gavel and introduced Pieter Smeenk to officiate the induction of our newest member, Brad Barry. Brad recently moved to Fairport and runs a business designed to help small businesses find success. A welcome addition to our club.

Marybeth announced that nominations are now open for club officers and directors, and these may be directed to her.

She also cited two items of interest in the November issue of the District 7120 Grapevine (<https://rotary7120.org/>). One contains information on the 2026 Rotary Friendship Exchange, which would see District members going to Scotland in May or Paris in the fall in return for hosting visiting Rotarians. The second item has details on a new member orientation session slated for January 21.

Plans are well underway for our Savor the Flavor event on March 1, 2026. Ron Roberts reminded members we are looking for new advertisers for the program, and Becky Wilson said it's not too late to begin gathering or soliciting Auction items.

Marybeth then introduced guest speaker, Ray Defendorf, a member of Corning Rotary and the driving force behind an ambitious program in Uganda that is seeking a second global grant (Soyodi Global Grant II). The first grant, a venture between the Corning club and the Soroti Central Rotary Club in Uganda, successfully trained 149 Ugandan teens and young adults this year in sewing and tailoring skills that will enable them to support their families and, in many cases, help start their own businesses.



Ray emphasized that many young Ugandans, especially young women, often drop out of school as early as the third grade. Poverty and pregnancy are often the causes. The sewing/tailoring classes offer them a “way out”...a future. In fact, all but ten of this year's 149 trainees were women selected from three villages. Global Grant II seeks to offer training for 300 more Ugandans from six other villages. Upon graduation, each student receives a sewing machine and bench to begin their work. The hope for Global Grant II is to provide 240 sewing machines. Each sewing machine costs \$180, and Ray provided pledge cards to anyone who wanted to make such a pledge – and many in our club did.

The original Global Grant included donations from Corning and other District 7120 clubs, District Designated Funds, and the Rotary World Fund or a total of some \$73,000. Individual Rotarians sponsored the purchase of 103 sewing machines, fabric, etc. The Global Grant 11 seeks to double the original grant...\$150,000.

Ray's program was well presented and very well received.

Dan Arbuckle then took down \$12 in the 50-50, and we moved on to a short session of Happy Dollars. Becky Wilson was first up to present a bell to President Marybeth who, after a year-long struggle with cancer, has been declared cancer-free! Ring that bell! Many other club members then added to the Happy Dollar coffers in honor of Marybeth. Others finding ways to contribute for various personal happy times included John and Maureen Hall, Connie Borkhuis, Nancy Ragus, George Wolf, Bob Hunt, and Vin Barone.

