

Fairport Rotary's Award-Winning Newsletter

Fairport
Rotary
Club



THE LIFTBRIDGE

April 30, 2026

Edition 156



President's Message April 27, 2026

Every new member changes us a little bit. That person brings us a new perspective, new experiences.

We need to embrace the constant renewal. We will grow stronger as we learn from new members.

We share a vision of a better future.

To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves.

We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact.

Friends we make along the way, is the impact.

Sincerely, Marybeth

Rotary  The Rotarian
District 1700 Minute

100 Rotarian
Quotes
#59



"Rotary means
fellowship, and
fellowship means
friendship, and
friendship means
growth and progress."

PaulHARRIS
Founder of Rotary

May Birthdays

Tom Weldgen - 3rd
Mark DeBacco - 19th
Bob Cantwell - 20th
Ciaran Hanna - 25th

Rotary Anniversaries

Jon Morse - One Year
Jessica Ferrindino - One Year
Chuck Steinman - One Year
Mark DeBacco - 10 years
Cindy Hunt - 27 years



Wedding Anniversaries

15th - Bob & Patrice Cantwell

May Calendar

- 4th - LUNCHEON MEETING @ EAGLEVALE - 12:00 NOON - Nate Romagnol, Friends of Perinton Parks & Rec
- 11th - Dinner Meeting @ EagleVale - Alzheimer's Association
- 18th - Dinner Meeting @ EagleVale - Alyssa Rodriguez, "Davids Refuge"
- 25th - No Meeting but plan to help out at the Memorial Day Parade - Ron Roberts will have a sign-up sheet at our next meetings.
(See menu and invocation assignments next page.)

June Dates to Save Now

- 7th - TriClub Meeting - Picnic in the Park catered by Spinelli's - exciting info forthcoming
- 29th - Changeover Dinner
- 30th - Red Wings Baseball Game - Compliments Challenger Baseball

May 2026
Rotary Menu

May 4th Luncheon Buffet ~

Potato Salad, Chicken or Tuna Salad Sandwiches
with Side of Chips

Invocation – Bill Stevens

May 11th Dinner ~

Garden Salad with Balsamic Dressing
Tortellini with Marinara Sauce & Garlic Bread

Invocation – Brad Stewart

May 18th Dinner ~

Baked Ham with Scallop Potatoes & Vegetables
Assorted Cookies

Invocation – Tom Weldgen

*Should you prefer only a **Garden or Chicken Caesar Salad.***
Please contact us 3 days prior at:
Receptionist@Eaglevale.com
(585 377-5200, Ext. 221

Menu subject to change, but with advance notice



Rotary

MAY IS
YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

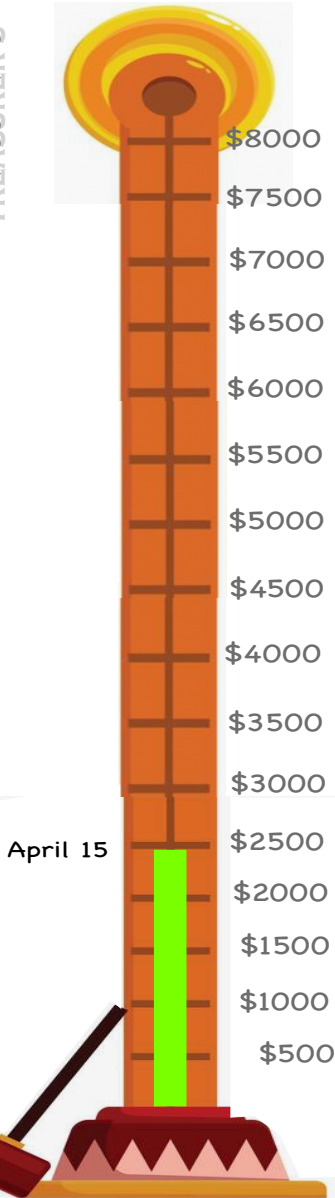
"THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW."
- NELSON MANDELLA



CORNER

APPEAL

TREASURER'S



Fellowship Budget

Fellowship is an **operations** line item. All **operations** are funded by membership principally through annual Club member dues as no fundraising income can be used under risk of loss of IRS tax exemption status.

Fellowship is used to contribute some limited income to Fairport Rotary social events such as the annual summer picnic, the golf outing (greens fees are 100% paid by the golfers), the Christmas party, the Valentine's Day party and the Changeover Dinner.

The budget amount to fund Fellowship is determined to be the remainder of total operations income minus total operations expenses.

Total income is the sum of annual dues, 91%, the 50/50 lottery, 6%. and Happy Dollars, 4%. There is no other component of operations.

Total operations expenses include mandated items such as tax submittal, R I and District dues, PETS training. unfunded meals the Rotary leadership institute and web site Elected expenses include Dist Conference, meal subsidy and program speaker expense.

The Fellowship annual budget is around \$800.



Some say housework never killed anyone ... but why take a chance ?

Terry

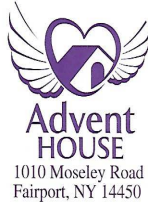
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

TIME – it's the one thing we all have but can never seem to find. From cleaning up Ayrault Road, to greeting our veterans returning from Honor Flight, to reading to our future leaders, some Fairport Rotarians found **time** to put Service Above Self. A little bit of **time** is so rewarding and has a lasting impact. We are a very vibrant and exciting club – all because of your commitment to volunteer your precious **time**. Well done Fairport Rotarians, well done!



April 16, 2026

Fairport Rotary
c/o Mr. Terry O'Neill
19 Valewood Run
Penfield, NY 14526-2803



Dear Fairport Rotary Members,

We at The Advent House wish to thank you for approving and dedicating a grant of \$1,300.00 to our home. With your generous giving, we can ensure that every resident who comes through our door is provided with quality end-of-life care, completely free of charge.

At The Advent House, our mission is to establish a ministry where persons nearing the end of their life can die with dignity and in comfort. Here, they and their loved ones can be together in a holistic, supportive environment that extends into the bereavement process.

We are truly appreciative of your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Sincerely,

Thank you so much for this generous gift ~ it will go a long way towards helping with this mission!

With gratitude,

Molly & Brenda ♡

Molly Shanto RN and Brenda Ferraro RN
Co-Directors

P.S: You will not receive any goods or services in exchange for this donation. Please consult with your tax professional to determine the tax-deductible value of your contribution. Advent House is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit.

Fairport Rotary Club was a Platinum Sponsor for The Advent House Gala on April 18. Below is our ad that ran in their program. Thank you to our Rotarians who so gracefully and gratefully spent their evening to support such a great cause.



Proud Platinum Sponsor of The Advent House Gala

Fairport Rotary Club is a diverse group of dedicated individuals working together to make a meaningful impact in our community and around the world.

Guided by our motto "Service Above Self," we are committed to helping others and putting our neighbors first.

Supporting organizations like **The Advent House** – who provides compassionate care for those facing terminal illness - reflects the heart of what we do.

We are proud to support **The Advent House** today and always.

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary





August 26, 2025

Fairport Rotary
19 Valewood Run
Fairport, NY 14450

Dear Fairport Rotary Members,

On behalf of the Fairport Foundation, I want to express our sincere gratitude to you for your donation. We acknowledge receipt of your donation in the amount of \$1000.

Learning Links is appreciative of your donation. The funds will be utilized to assist with the Back to School Backpack project and to support the Annual Field Trip.

Thank you so much for helping to improve the quality of life in the Fairport-Perinton Community!

Sincerely,

Frank Stein, Treasurer
Fairport Foundation, Inc.

Cc: Learning Links

Fairport Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, Federal Tax ID No. 45-4351012. As such, donations made to us are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this receipt for your tax records. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution unless specifically noted.

6 N Main Street, Suite 105 – Fairport, NY 14450
Website: Fairportfoundation.org
Email: info@fairportfoundation.org

Liftbridge – Apr. 20, 2026

Sergeant at Arms representative Ken Buckle opened the meeting, Dan Arbuckle led the pledge, and President-elect Dr. Mike offered some words of inspiration before chairing tonight's meeting.

Guests included Dr. Mike's wife, Joan, and Bob Cantwell's neighbor, Bill Engelhardt, who came to check out our club.

Pieter Smeenk led the induction of new member Nick Serraino, who was referred to us by the Rochester Rotary Club. An eager volunteer, Nick is also a member of the Lyons Club and Kiwanis, and even before induction has joined two of our committees. He and his wife, Kathy, moved to this area from Syracuse and were determined to live in Fairport. They have three children and three dogs, and we're glad to welcome Nick to Fairport Rotary.

As Nick joins the club, we soon will bid adieu to Connie Borkhuis, who is moving to Delaware. Connie has served our club with distinction for a dozen years.

Andrew Spreter reminded members we have one vacancy on our Board of Directors. The New Generations slot is open, and volunteers/nominations are welcomed.

Ron Roberts said the club again this year will assist the VFW in the Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Our role is to help the veterans who ride in convertibles in the parade in getting from the parking spot on Potter Place back to Potter Park for the ceremonies. We need help from 9:30 am to at least noon that day. Ron will have a sign-up sheet two more weeks, but you can also email him to volunteer.

Ron also passed around a sign-up sheet for free tickets to the June 30 Red Wings game vs. Lehigh Valley, courtesy of our Fairport Challenger Baseball friends. Again, sign up, or email Ron to request tickets. Deadline for requests is May 27.

Cindy Hunt then introduced tonight's guest speaker, Mark Wyse, an Ontario-Walworth Rotarian, past President, and past District Governor, and now Treasurer of the Build-a-Chair-Foundation, founded in 2020, and the topic of his talk.



Mark said the Build-a-Chair initiative's goal is to build custom-designed wheelchairs for women and children in the area of Moshi, Tanzania, a town with rugged terrain at the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. In Tanzania, the initiative is under the direct supervision of local Rotarian and physiotherapist Shedrack Domingo, and is now under an e-club called Rotary Club of International Service Impacting Women and Children (<https://www.rotaryimpactingwomenandchildren.org/page/build-a-chair>).

Mark explained, for example, that if a child in the area could not get themselves to school on their own, they could not attend. Given the terrain, those in wheelchairs because of MS or CP

or other disabilities simply cannot make an often 5-10-mile trip to school in the standard type of wheelchair we have in the States. Custom designing to fit the size and special need of each recipient, however, allows that person to attend school or go to work or whatever is desired. The chairs have features such as heavy-duty tires, trays for students to place their books, etc., and each one is unique, fit to the individual.



The goal in the first year (2020), Mark said, was to build 25 wheelchairs. They now have built 246, and there is a waiting list of 30.

Cost per wheelchair in 2020 was \$260. Today, it is still \$260 thanks to a much more efficient workshop that saves on labor costs. Materials for the chairs are purchased in Africa to avoid tariffs and to avoid problems attendant to shipping items into Africa. For further information, Mark may be reached at the Ontario Walworth Club, or check with Cindy.

After Tom Weldgen won \$14 in the 50-50, he promptly drew a Joker and returned the money to the pot, which already sat at \$384.

President-elect Dr. Mike then spent a few minutes collecting Happy Dollars, including from Bob Hunt (Cindy honored for her great volunteer work), Pat George (Sabres in playoffs), Pieter Smeenk (bought Connie's condo), Bob Ruhland (going on vacation with his Dad), John Hall (won the Brick Award for finishing last in Ron's March Madness pool), and Dr. Mike (in honor of Joan's presence).



Ron C. Roberts

