

Rotary Club of Blacksburg

The Bulletin

This Week's Program:

Montgomery County Public Schools Update

Rotary 

District 7570

Club 5753

Mar 25, 2021 | Water and Sanitation Month

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. – Rotary Mission Statement



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Rotary Club of Blacksburg

(Club 5753)

Join us for Lunch!

Meets every Thursday at Noon

Blacksburg Country Club

www.rotary.org | www.rotary7570.org



Join This Week's Meeting on Thursday at Noon!

We hope that you will be able to join us (in person or on ZOOM) for this week's meeting. Our speaker this week will be fellow Rotarian and Superintendent of MCPS, Mark Mear., who will provide an update to the club on local schools and how they have been coping with Covid. MCPS was recently recognized nationally in the Wall Street Journal for their efforts towards safely reopening classrooms. See Page 2 for a small excerpt from the article.

If attending via ZOOM;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83636390488?pwd=UG9VR2krZzhlbHhhOVZTWm1IMTIWUT09>

Look out for the email with a link to the Zoom session!

Meeting ID: 836 3639 0488 Passcode: 793741

You can also join by phone: (646) 558-8656 using the meeting ID and passcode above.

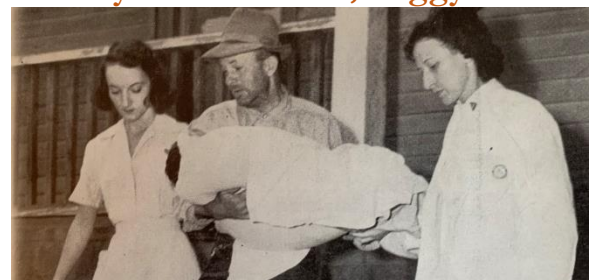
Today's Program: Montgomery County Public Schools

Mark Mear, Ed.D., began his tenure as the superintendent in MCPS on January 4, 2016. Dr. Mear previously served as the assistant superintendent for Winchester Public Schools in Winchester, Virginia. He has also served as director of secondary education, a high school principal, a high school associate principal, an assistant director of personnel and a history teacher. Dr. Mear also served in the United States Marine Corps.

Dr. Mear earned a bachelor's degree in economics. He also earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Lynchburg College and a doctor of education in educational leadership from the University of Virginia.

Dr. Mear is happily married to his wife, Meredith, and together they have five children - Reed, Sammi, Paige, Scarlett and Camille.

This bulletin is sponsored by Jim McAlister, in memory of his mother, Peggy McAlister



Peggy McAlister (pictured left), was a public health nurse serving Wythe County for 30 years, including during the 1950 Polio epidemic. Thanks to Rotary International, we have essentially eradicated this disease, but must stay vigilant.



Handling Covid in MCPS

The Montgomery County Public Schools district in Virginia, which returned to full in-person schooling earlier this month, has poured more than \$750,000 into cleaning the air in its schools, said



Tommy Kranz, assistant superintendent of operations and finance. Along with opening windows and doors whenever possible, the school district has installed 1,500 portable air cleaners in classrooms and offices and upgraded many of its HVAC systems with high-grade filters that can trap virus-containing aerosols.

The district also obtained carbon-dioxide monitors to gauge how well-ventilated a given room is, something aerosol scientists have recommended schools do if possible. People exhale carbon dioxide when they breathe, and if a room isn't well ventilated, it will build up in the air, a signal that the space may require more ventilation. School employees go to classrooms every month to sample the carbon-dioxide levels to make sure they aren't above 700 parts per million. If they are, the school might consider opening more windows in the classroom or upgrading the HVAC system.

Excerpt from WSJ Article:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/some-schools-have-been-open-for-months-heres-what-they-learned-11616345560>

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www.blacksburgrotary.org

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say, or do...

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to all concerned?

Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?

Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



Club Leadership

President: Arthur Shaheen
President-Elect: T.J. Anthony
President-Nominee: Ken D'Amato
Secretary: Leslie Jester
Treasurer: Philip Walker



Club Directors

Club: T.J. Anthony
Vocational: Chadd Yeatts
Community: Susan Erickson
International: Peter Weimerskirch
Youth: Karen Stemen



District and Global

RI President: Holger Knaack
District Governor: Nancy Whitlock
Area 9 Governor: Cora Gnegy
District Secretary: Ron Napier
District Treasurer: Jacob Higginbotham



Rotary District Awards

At the virtual District Conference on Saturday, March 20, the Rotary Club of Blacksburg, walked away with six awards. We took first place for club Website and International Service and placed second in Club Service, Club Bulletin, Vocational Service and Youth Activities. There are eleven district award categories, plus the Governor's 110%.

First place for International Service: Hope to Walk - Our club continued its work on the \$50,000 Global Grant for the Hope Center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Youth Exchange Student - Our club completed our hosting of Rocio Fernández, from Chile, in July 2020. She attended Blacksburg High School. Group Study Exchange - A GSE team from Turkey spent a day in Blacksburg and was given a tour of Virginia Tech. PolioPlus – Our annual drive netted \$2,410 for our contribution. NewGen Peacebuilders Peace Education Program – two members contributed to a global grant for the NewGen Peacebuilders.

First place for Website: We realize that websites are still important and a way for the community to connect with us and learn about Rotary and our Club. We looked at many club websites and realized that so many in our district and beyond, used the website function offered through DACdb. They are nice and preloaded with all the Rotary stuff, but there was not much to distinguish them from one another, and it was clear that many clubs do not keep their websites up to date. We opted to hire a graphics person who also works for one of our members to design a functional and easy-to-maintain website.

Second place for Club Service: Great meetings, sponsored a Satellite Club, library books for speakers, an attractive, informative bulletin emailed on Wednesday evening, fundraising during this year by using part of our dues to fund our projects, two district grants for two different Rotary years, 5th Thursday socials, donations to area non-profits and scholarships for high schoolers, and an active membership committee.

Second place for Club Bulletin: We recently revamped our bulletin, moving to an all-electronic version so we were not limited by the number of pages, but we try to keep it to no more than 8 pages for those members not inclined to read a long document.

Second place for Youth Service: We sponsor the Interact Club at Blacksburg High School, we award 9-12 scholarships of \$1,000 each to high school seniors, we hosted an exchange student, and we sponsor elementary gardens when not suffering through a pandemic.

Second place for Vocational: We sponsor two community awards: First Responder of the Year and Citizen of the Year; we highlight our members by having them speak to the club about their profession or occupation; we highlight members in the bulletin; we have a print member director.

Governors 110% was awarded to Reed Kennedy of the Rotary Club of Montgomery County for what he has contributed to his club over his 30 years of Rotary service. The 110% award is nominated by the Area Governor and there is one selected for each of the 15 areas in the district.



Calendar

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Satellite Club	3	4 Susan Erickson	5	6
7 Philip Walker	8	9	10	11 	12	13 Mike Burnop
14	15	16 Satellite Club Jamie Dunn Brian Mack	17	18 	19	20 VIRTUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE Christine Smith
21	22 Al Bowman	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29 Alec Siegel	30	31			

Upcoming Programs and Events

Apr 1 – Virtual Tour of Smithfield Plantation

Apr 22 – Local Foundation

Apr 29 – 5th Thursday Social

Save the Date!

June 14 - Annual Rotary Golf Tournament

Need a Make-Up?

Montgomery County

Inn at Virginia Tech – Wednesday, 7:15 AM

Christiansburg-Blacksburg

Blacksburg Country Club, Monday 5:30 PM

Floyd

Floyd Country Store, Wednesday Noon

Radford

Best Western Radford Inn, Wednesday Noon
Kuhn Barnett School Building, Tuesday 5:30 PM

Salem

Salem Civic Center, Thursday Noon

Pulaski

Pulaski CC of Thornsprings, Monday 12:15 PM

Giles

Giles Community Hospital, Thursday Noon