

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 34-03

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



JULY 15, 2026

Thank you . . .

Les Gelband for presenting today's inspiration, leading members in the Pledge of Allegiance, and providing a fundraising opportunity.

Les has been a member of Metro since June 1998. He stated he enjoys the service projects of Rotary and the weekly programs which are always informative. Les has been a devoted reader in our Partner in Education relationship since it began in 2003. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, playing poker, fishing, and traveling.



ANNOUNCEMENTS (WHAT'S HAPPENING)

Metro's Board of Directors will meet **today** at 1:00 p.m.

Members will meet **July 16** at 5:30 pm in the MBS parking lot to pick up trash along our Adopt-a-Spot streets.

The 16th Annual Float Trip is planned for the weekend of **July 25** near Steelville. The date is rapidly approaching, so please contact **Casey Buckman** ASAP if you would like to be a part of this amazing experience.

MENARDS®

*Congratulations to **Jim Cherrington** who won a \$45 gift certificate to Menard's donated by **Les Gelband**. We raised \$80 for Metro charities.*

Happy Hat



Sergeant-at-Arms **Casey Buckman** invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's contributors were **Josh Rickard, Michael Kramer, Adam Blumhagen, Victoria Brees, Shelley Sigholtz, Cathy Scroggs, Sandra Logan, Jaime Freidrichs, and Valorie Livingston.**

Members were reminded that the 13th flight test of SpaceX's Starship is planned to be launched tomorrow at 5:45 p.m. The test flight will last just over 65 minutes, and it will follow the same mission profile as the last test, Flight 12, in May.

www.columbiametrorotary.org

Have you invited your friend to join Rotary?



Do you know someone who would make a great Rotarian? If so, the process to nominate him/her is simple. An application form is available on the Metro website at <https://tinyurl.com/23v53s44>.

Once you have the information completed, please forward to **Victoria Brees** at maybrees@hotmail.com.

Members with Guests

Member	Guest
Warren Prost.....	Betsy Peters
Warren Prost.....	Brian Schaeffer
Warren Prost.....	Mark Fitzgerald

Visiting Rotarians

Member	Guest
Petra DeWitt.....	Rolla
Barbara Buffaloe	Downtown



Please remit your payment for 2026-2027 membership dues timely to Metro Treasurer **Bette Wordelman** online or to P.O. Box 109, Columbia, MO 65205.

COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

NEXT WEEK



**District 6080 Governor
Brad Martens**

CHARTERED JUNE 10, 1993

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Proposition One will be on the August 4 Ballot

On **August 4**, Columbia residents will have an opportunity to vote on Proposition 1, a proposal for an additional 1% citywide sales tax. If passed, the measure is expected to annually generate \$38 million exclusively for the Columbia Police Department and the Columbia Fire Department.

During today's meeting, Columbia Mayor Barbara Buffaloe, Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer, and Assistant Chief of Police Mike Fitzgerald spoke about the proposed tax, which has been dubbed "One for Safety."



Per Mayor Buffaloe, the proposed tax will be spent only on operations and capital improvements of the fire department and police department, respectively. Chief Schaeffer stated the tax could help provide 42 new firefighters, 2 new fire stations, and the renovation of 3 fire stations. Assistant Chief Fitzgerald informed members that the proposed tax could provide his department 50 additional officers, a new headquarters building, and modernization of public safety tools.

The official ballot language will read: "Shall the municipality of Columbia, Missouri impose an additional citywide sales tax at a rate of one percent, solely for the purpose of providing revenues to improve public safety for the city, which shall be limited to expenditures on equipment, salaries and benefits, and facilities for police and fire departments?"

Members are encouraged to educate themselves further about this issue and vote on **August 4**. Two more informational meetings about this proposed tax are planned. The first is **July 16** from 6-7 p.m. at the Columbia/Boone County Public Health Department (1005 West Worley Street), and the second is scheduled for **July 17** from 10-11 a.m. at Daniel Boone Regional Library (100 West Broadway). You can also find more information online at <https://www.como.gov/prop-1-general-sales-use-tax/>.

District 6080 Assembly of Clubs



Rotary
District 6080

ASSEMBLY OF CLUBS

JULY 18TH | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us for an engaging morning of updates, insights, and tools to help your club thrive in the year ahead.





BRIAN HALL
Year Ahead in Rotary



JENNIFER OWENS-BUIE
Growing Membership



PATRICK LONGANO
DacDB/IGNITE in Your Clubs



JOHN GERM
Polio Update

REGISTER TODAY!



Scan the QR code to register.

TOGETHER, WE LEAD. TOGETHER, WE GROW.

As we begin a new Rotary year centered around **Create Lasting Impact**, District 6080 Governor Brad Martens is inviting everyone to participate in the District 6080 Assembly of Clubs this coming Saturday, **July 18**.

This interactive session will provide valuable information, practical tools, and inspiration to help your club succeed during the year ahead. Whether you are a club officer, committee chair, new member, or long-time Rotarian, there will be something for everyone.

Why Attend?

- Learn about District 6080 goals and priorities
- Discover membership growth strategies that work
- Improve your club's use of DACdb and IGNITE
- Connect with Rotarians from across the district
- Gain ideas and resources to help your club create lasting impact

All club officers, directors, committee chairs, and interested members are encouraged to attend.

Register today using the QR code posted above or by going online to: <https://shorturl.at/r3c74>

District 6080
Rotary



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JULY 8, 2026

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Metro's Community Service Committee would like to assist local organizations whose missions align with Rotary's to help youth, education, and the environment. If you know of an organization/group/project that could benefit from additional funding, please complete the form below.



Columbia Metro
Rotary Club

Community Service Committee: Community Support Proposal Form

Please complete the information below and return to Lisa Royse at roysel@health.missouri.edu.

Date: _____

Columbia Metro Rotary Member Name: _____

Community Organization Name: _____

Contact Person and Information at Organization: _____

Requested funding amount (maximum \$100): _____

Deadline for funds: _____

How does this organization contribute to our community and align with our club's mission to be a transformative influence in our community and in the world through our work with youth, education, and the environment? (2-3 sentences)

How will the organization use the funds if awarded? (2-3 sentences)
