



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

"Celebrate Rotary"

Fairburyrotary.com

2003 - 2004 Officers

President John Strong
 Pres. Elect Mike Petersen
 Vice President
 Sec/Treas Leroy McPherson
 Editor Leroy McPherson



DATE/TIME/PLACE: November 2, 2004 - 12:00 Noon at McDonalds

ATTENDANCE: 28 plus Dave Johansen, Mark Harris & Norm Rittenhouse

LOTTO: Dave Roberts and Si Moser

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Jim Roberts

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

- 11/09 Jim Paternoster
- 11/16 Gary Huston
- 11/23 Dr. Heather Herr
- 11/30 Open
- 12/07 Christmas Party

Membership:

John presented Dr. Herr with her membership packet, pins, etc.



Christmas Party

December 7th
 6:30 p.m.
 Mark your calendar!

The Christmas Parade is Dec. 4
 We will be a sponsor!

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Nov 6 Fundraiser at Dave's
 10:00 - 2:00

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

Student: Leigh Sullan **Parents:** Brian & Marti Sullan

Leigh Sullan excels at anything she puts her mind to. From French class to the many English classes she has signed up for, Leigh puts 110% of her creative effort and enthusiasm into her work. Her writing is well developed, mature and oozes originality. I firmly believe that Leigh will achieve her dream of becoming a published author. Leadership, enthusiasm, creativity, respect, and an extremely warm personality all qualify Leigh Sullan for this distinguished honor.

BITS & PIECES

Vision is the capacity to believe in what my heart sees, what others can't see. Vision is seeing positive possibilities where others see only negative probabilities.

Carl Hammerschlag, Psychiatrist and motivational speaker



The Walton Centre

Dave Johansen, Mark Harris, Norm Rittenhouse

Norm went through a little history of Fairbury's movie and how it helped get our furniture store. Five months ago Huber's posted their going out of business signs. Norm thought "Darn - this is not good". The community was in need of a community center. They looked at the hospital but it wouldn't work. Then Norm came up with the idea of the Walton building and presented it to the city. He had talked to Dave to get a feel on the market. Lexington was booked solid for 1 year in advance. They felt this would be a social focal point for the city. The city thought it would be a good idea but had no funds or grants. They suggested private investors. A group of 8 got together (now 7) and made it happen. July 15 they purchased the building. Originally it was built in 1868. It burned and Walton's rebuilt, then it burned again. This time they rebuilt it to last with 21' thick walls and one of the first fully sprinkled buildings in Livingston Co. They tested the sprinkler system 1 day before opening by accident. They started upstairs first - ripped out all the old carpet and found a now beautiful hard wood floor. In this time, the Pontiac American Legion Billet closed forcing 3 brides to look for a new facility. They came and requested 9/11/04 to get it ready. They got a lot of help but the night before they had a bucket of staining rags catch on fire. Norm called Mark Steffen about the smoke and he sent 1 case of remover and a man to help all day. Wednesday, the smoke was gone and Thursday they had a party. They sent out 1000

surveys and got back an astounding 380. They have revamped downstairs and hope to open tomorrow (Wednesday). Dave is the President. They have put up 450' of walls, 3,500' of trim, 20 doors, 17 windows, 60 lights, 1400' floor, 9,000' of sanding and 28 days, 2 1/2 tons of saw dust on the floor. The upstairs seats 450 people. They have had 4 functions - 2 weddings, the Bluestem seminar and a benefit of 800 people. They had set up for 300 but had to add up to 370 and had a bake sale, auction, bar, DJ & dance area and still had room. They have 7200 sq. ft. for receptions and plan on adding partitions so they can break it down into smaller groups. They will supply power point, screens, P.A. and computers for this facility. The kitchen may be done by March. Downstairs they have 3 stores plus Ruby Mae's. They will have a store for women, junior clothing and one selling cookwear, etc. There will be a full service banquet area with tuxedo rental, etc. They are going to be the complete wedding store. They have hired an events coordinator. Mark was a Master Sgt. with the State Police supervising network and wireless manager. In Sept. the Governor offered early out retirement and he took it. He is an investor in charge of technology. They formed a team and everyone worked together. Norm believed in the opportunity. He owes a lot to his Dad. Learn to accept a challenge. It's like the little train "I think I can". You can make up your mind to make it happen. "Walton's was very successful, but they also had 100 years to get it right!"



AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:45 a.m..	Wednesday	The Country Kettle
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tuesday	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wednesday	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wednesday	Bone Student Center
Piper City	6:15 p.m.	Monday	Azz Izz Tavern