



# The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

*Fairburyrotary.com*



2008 - 2009 Officers

President . . . . . Josh Clemons  
 Pres. Elect . . . . . Charlie McDonald  
 Vice President . . . . .  
 Sec/Treas/Editor . . . . . Leroy McPherson

**DATE/TIME/ PLACE:** April 14, 2009, 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

**ATTENDANCE:** 25 + Phil Troehler, Jeff Ehrmantraut, Sarah Bellot, Michael Palen

**LOTTO:** Sarah Bellot & Tracy Taylor

## ACTION ON THE AVENUES

### CLUB SERVICE

**Programs:**

- 4/21 - Katrin Sanders & Deb Moran - Platelets
- 4/28 - Technology H.S.
- 5/05 - Craig Sutter - Russia
- 5/12 - H.S. FCCLA
- 5/19 - H.S. Student-Of-The-Month
- 5/26 - Ralph Converse, V.P./Gen. Mgr. Peoria Chiefs

### Quips & Quotes

A friend at one's back is a safe bridge.

### 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



Jeff Ehrmantraut & Sarah Bellot



Project OZ has been around for the past 37 years. They are a staff of individuals with a variety of educational and working backgrounds who care enough about disadvantaged kids to do something about it. They reunite families, help kids stay in school, teach young people useful skills, and teach kids how to keep their lives drug free. They are youth

workers, counselors and experienced educators. They deal with runaways, families and parents and have parent classes and counseling. Current law requires you to take a divorce class to deal with families with children and divorce. A lot of these kids have one foot in jail and are struggling. Sarah began with OZ in August and deals with Livingston Co. She deals with schools, locked out kids, and parents who kicked out their kids. One year ago is when Livingston County joined Project OZ. McLean, DeWitt and Livingston County all deal with runaways 24 hours, 7 days/week. They hope to change a life. They have 4 host homes in Bloomington and 1 in Downs. To be a foster home you have to be licensed by the state. Usually

the stay is for 1 or 2 days with the top being 21. Presently, they are looking for homes in Fairbury so the children can still remain in school and with their friends. They need someone to take them in for 1 to 2 nights to help them get through their problem. Host Homes keep runaway and homeless youth safe and off the streets overnight, and provide time and space for family members to "cool off." This respite from the conflict enables family members to come back together and resolve many of their problems. A Host Home requires 40 hours of training in one year plus a background check and then getting a license. The Host Home can have other children but the child must have their own room. They screen them before they place them. The kids can not be violent to be placed. If you become a Host Home you are paid \$300 per month if you get a placement or not. Your license is good for 4 years. Every 6 months they check out your home. Since July 1 of last year they have had 20 runaways in Livingston County. The majority are white girls. Project OZ handles kids between 10 and 17 years old. Anyone under 10 is handled through DCFS. Anyone over 17 is considered an adult. They operate through grant funding and charities. The Host Homes are funded with grants, matching funds and the United Way.

