

Decatur Rotary Club #180 - [www.decaturrotary.org](http://www.decaturrotary.org)

## President's Ponderances

Decatur can be proud of its recent accomplishments, and Rotary can be proud that Rotarians were involved in many of those community successes. That is what makes the spirit of Rotary—community service and putting that service before your self.

Using the example of the Farm Progress Show announcement, 4 of the 7 speakers at the ceremony were members of Rotary 180. At least 30 of the 150+ in the audience were members of Rotary 180. And numerous community supporters who have contributed either financial or in-kind services are members of Rotary 180.

As that multi-year and multi-million dollar project moves forward there will be many opportunities for Rotarians to be involved, both in business enterprises and in community service.

And speaking of that please join me in supporting the epitome of service, Rev.

Dr. Miley Palmer, as our nominee for District Governor. Miley has been an assistant District Governor and it is time that he move into the rotation to be one of the 539 District Governors of Rotary International. Our club, our community, and Rotary could not be better served.

Our club's Penny Fund during the month of October will be going southeast to the Rotary Club in Pelican Bay, near Naples Florida. Tom Brinkoetter, once a member there, has helped us connect with one of the Florida communities devastated by two of the hurricanes. The Pelican Bay club will be matching our Penny Fund donation and ensuring the proceeds are used appropriately. Thanks to Tom for his initiative, and thanks to the spirit of Rotary for community service.

Stu Ellis

## Gov. Edgar's Speech

On September 13th, former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar spoke to a full house of Rotarians and guests about the private side of life in the Governor's Mansion.

He and his wife, Brenda, awoke after their first night in the house and were amazed that they were really living in such a beautiful home.

Although Governor Edgar had been a member of the Illinois House of Representatives and Secretary of State, he and his wife still thought of themselves as two small town kids from downstate Illinois. Governor Edgar related that at first many in the Chicago crowd were skeptical of his abilities for that very reason. His accomplishments speak for themselves. When he

took office the state was 1 billion dollars in debt, but when he left office, the state had a 1.5 billion-dollar surplus. On a local level, the governor was responsible for bringing Illinois license plate production to Macon Resources.

The stress of the position and the constant scrutiny took its toll on his health. Often times, Edgar said the press focused more on his heart problems than it did on his policies. He recalled one humorous encounter in a Steak and Shake when he ordered a cheeseburger and was admonished by another customer for eating something that wasn't on his diet.

When the media did criticize his policies, his mother took exception. His wife worried that she would say or do something that would reflect negatively on her husband. His two children were teenagers while he was in Governor's (Cont on Pg. 2)



## Gov. Edgar's Speech Cont.

Mansion, and they and their friends quickly learned that they had to be on their best behavior at all times. His daughter turned 16, and totaled the car a week later. His wife was mortified when she was stopped and ticketed for driving on an expired license tag sticker.

Perks of the Governor's position included a driver with door-to-door service, great seats to the Chicago Bulls' games and meetings with the President and leaders from around the world.

Many have urged Edgar to run for the U.S. Senate, and although he is flattered, he is not interested in returning to public life. He has not been idle since leaving the governorship. When he first returned to private life, he was a resident fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is

currently a Distinguished Fellow at the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs and is frequently a guest lecturer at other colleges and universities throughout the state. When asked about his students, he responded that he is impressed with their interest in current affairs and feels that we have a bright future with today's young people as our future leaders. In April, Governor Rod Blagovich named Edgar president of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Foundation Board.

Although Governor Edgar is no longer in the spotlight, he remains active and influential in Illinois and is glad to have his personal life back again.

## Teacher of the Month



For those unable to attend the September 13th meeting you missed a very gracious acceptance speech by our September Teacher of the Month, Jo Bauer, Pershing School Nurse. Jo started her career at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Iowa prior to meeting and marrying her husband Al. Shortly after a job transfer to Decatur, Jo became a full time instructor and has worked in the health education field for the Decatur Public School District for the last 27 years. Congratulations to another outstanding teacher, Jo Bauer.

## New Member



It's always a pleasure to introduce new Rotary members and those interested in becoming a member. This month our club had the pleasure of welcoming Lora Dills Director of Sales & Production for Macon Resources. Although Lora and her husband Ken make their home in Decatur, Lora is originally from Oklahoma. She has a degree in Special Education and taught in Public Schools after returning from Germany, where she briefly lived and worked in a Gourmet Restaurant. Lora feels that her current position with Macon Resources is her "true-calling" though, and is excited to be a part of Rotary.

## Scholar Athlete's

Each month, September through May, Illinois Power, the Decatur Athletic Council and your Rotary Club jointly sponsor the Scholar/Athlete award. Each month two exceptional athletes who are also high scholastic achievers are chosen from one of the three Decatur high schools. Each recipient is awarded a monetary donation from Illinois Power, and a commemorative plaque. At our September 20th luncheon, two more outstanding high school students were honored for their achievements both in the classroom and on the playing field. From St. Teresa High School, seniors Tara Maguire and Alex Coffman received our Scholar/Athlete Awards.

Tara is ranked number four of 68 in her high school, with a remarkable 4.35 out of 4.0 grade point average. She's President of the National Honor Society for St. Teresa, a member of the Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra and Decatur Memorial Hospital Student Volunteer to name a few.

Tara's list of sports accomplishments include the 2004 Decatur Champion in both the Women's Adult and Junior

Tennis Tournaments, Wicklon Regatta Bicycle Racing Champion 1995-1998, and the Bronze, Silver & Gold Medallist in Badminton WCSC Tourmanment 1996-2000.



Her coach said that "Tara is an outstanding athlete both on and off the field. She is a great leader on the team and an inspiration to the other players." She is considering a future in physical therapy/sports medicine.

Alex also excels in the classroom with a 3.84 out of a 4.0 grade point average and is ranked number 19 of 68. He is in the National Honor Society and has been High Honor Roll all four years of High School.

Alex has been active in both Football and Basketball all four years, was Varsity Football captain for the 2004 season and JV Basketball captain in 2003-04. He would like to play football in college, possibly at IL Wesleyan.

## Terrorism - How safe are we?

Everyone has heard about the coming terrorist attack on U.S. soil sometime before the National Election in early November. Some people believe it is a political ploy to influence the election, others think it will happen but consider only the larger cities and eastern coast as targets. Yet others believe the U.S. should be negotiating the terrorists, pulling out of the Middle East and taking a lower profile to protect the nation.

Chief Mark Barthelmy of the Decatur Police Department spoke to Noon Rotary Club on Monday, September 27, 2004 about these very topics. The chiefs

message was clear: An attack is coming, make no mistake about it. The only hope we have of intercepting the perpetrators or delaying the catastrophe is with help from an alert and observant public.

The chief spoke of the terrorist attack in Madrid, Spain in March of this year. Al-Qaeda set of 10 bombs within minutes of each other at various locations on Spains railways, killing 200 persons and permanently (Cont on Pg. 4)



## Save The Date

### October 4, 2004

Kathleen Taylor is the Executive director of the Good Samaritan Inn Program. She will share the story of the good works that Good Samaritan does in our community.

### October 11 2004

Richland Community College has many programs that serve our community. Today, Steve Caldwell from the Center for Business Training and Education will fill us in on new programs that his group is offering.

### October 18 2004

Millikin University President Doug Zemke will join us and provide an update on the latest new from Millikin.

### October 25, 2004

We've been hearing much lately about the status of nutrition in America. A representative from the University of Illinois Extension Office will talk with us about recent national trends in nutrition.

## Terrorism - How safe are we? Cont.

disabling another 1,500. It was just before Spains national election. The aftermath of the blasts resulted in the ruling President and his party being defeated in the election, Spains withdrawal of all of their troops from the Middle East, and serious disruption to the national economy and railway transportation. The chief indicated al-Qaeda is famous for making dry runs or test trials in developing their attack strategies. In this case, it is believed the bombings in Madrid may very well have been dry runs for the United States for our coming election. Moreover, a citizen passing on the street an hour before the bombings saw the hooded terrorists packing their satchels in a van and believed they were getting ready to commit a robbery. He chose not to get involved, so he did not report his observations until after the attack. Officials in the U.S. are concerned that this same thing could happen here unless the public is alert and not inhibited from making such a report.

Although subject to an oath of confidentiality due to national security matters, the chief was able to pass on suspicions of how the coming attack might be delivered. It is believed semi-tractors hauling either trailers or tankers holding hazardous materials and charged with

explosives will be driven into targets. The chief passed out information that citizens should be on the look out for and report to our local police that might help thwart such an attack.

The chief explained the mind-set of the terrorists and why we cannot just expect them to go away or leave us alone. Although it is hard for us to comprehend, it is a way of life for those dedicated to the radical, fundamentalist members of the Islamic faith. Our way of life in the United States has been permanently changed and the chief does not see that there will ever be a time when we, as a nation, can let our guard down or relax in the threat of global terrorism.