

# Good times, united vision shared at Rotary picnic

By Tristan McGough  
Special to The Reporter

The Edgerton Rotary Club held its annual picnic on Tuesday, Aug. 17, with perfect summer weather under pleasant skies framing the rising, late afternoon moon.

Even the heat, humidity and insects absented the early evening as members and guests began to assemble around 5:30 p.m. for the social hour, listening to long-standing Rotarian and one-man band, Norm Fjellstad, singing and playing familiar classic rock songs in his inimitable style.

Ray and Tashia Oswald served as gracious hosts to the group of several dozen who had come for the conviviality, food and remarks from two district governors. There was also a special feature highlighting the continuing work Joanne (Joey) Marshall, wife of Past District Governor Tom Marshall, is doing for the Kenya, Africa, Water Cistern Project.

The outdoor rec room was only one of the many renovations undertaken by former owners, Gordy and Nancy Hart, owners of Viking Cue (hence the billiard table). Before that, it was a working farm owned by the Stolen family.

“We’ve been here about four years,” Ray said. “Gordy loved rocks, as you can see from the stone fences and the many rock features all around. They also graded and landscaped the grounds.”

With remarks soon beginning, members and guests were invited to help themselves to more choices at the tables than one could possibly handle. Savoring the day-shine and fine food, diners were left to finish their bountiful picnicking as District Governor Bill (William) Beckley, located in Beloit and covering an area that includes Edgerton, addressed everyone.

“Rotary has the structure, it has the infrastructure, the connections, the activities, the organization to carry on projects of every kind to help better peoples’ lives. Each chapter has an action plan, a plan that is meant to help people.

“We don’t look at their politics. We don’t look at the color of their skin or any other thing, other than their need, and what we can do to help. For example, one of our projects is drilling wells in Haiti and to provide clean water. One of our teachers is there, right now, on the ground.”

Beckley gave the bleak background to Haiti’s last ten years, which has seen two major earthquakes, including the recent one, landslides, epidemics, governmental corruption, and international apathy, not to mention COVID. He then recounted how a five-foot high, shy teacher from Beloit wanted to help by promoting a simple idea: to provide clean water to Haitians.

“She took that idea to the Beloit Rotary Club and they sponsored it. Then other Rotary Clubs did, too, and \$25,000 grew to \$150,000, and then Rotary International matched that. In three years, the project was done. Out of an idea from a Beloit kindergarten teacher came a sustainable water source for people who hadn’t any before.”

This was an example of Rotary’s powerful network Beckley enjoined members to avail themselves to when planning, promoting or participating in a

community project, which always has as its goal the direct benefiting of people.

Karen Hebert, the District Governor from Chippewa Falls, was the next speaker, and she highlighted the Mission, Vision and Values of the Rotary Club. Then she presented her “Three Asks.”

“I ask you to be empowered, be collaborative and be innovative.”

Her message appealed to members and their community involvement, emphasizing that one’s ability to contribute is first based on a feeling that one can help to make a positive difference, however small it may be. This empowers one to grow bit by bit as one directly helps others a little at a time.

“Be collaborative with your members and district leaders; build relationships. And remember: though we sponsor projects across the globe, we always have local partners, people who take personal responsibility for making sure projects are maintained in their own backyard. This is the best way to ensure sustainability.

“Rotary International has one billion dollars in assets globally. The number is on the rise. We have a lot of resources that can be used to innovate solutions to local problems, whether in Haiti, as Bill has shown, or in Africa, as Joey will show us.”



Karen Hebert, District Governor of the Chippewa Falls Rotary Club, was a featured speaker.

Photo by Tristan McGough



Tashia and Ray Oswald were the gracious hosts of this year’s Rotary Picnic on Aug 17 at their Hillside Road estate.

Photo by Tristan McGough

Overseeing a picnic table overflowing with brightly colored, handmade African baskets, Joanne Marshall offered a first-person account of using empowerment, collaboration and innovation in benefiting people in their local community (see story on page 2 of the Aug. 25 Edgerton Reporter).

Marshall’s project demonstrated that from each walk of life, Rotarians share a common vision, touched on earlier that evening by Hebert and a theme of the picnic: “Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”



## A visit with David North

Former Edgerton resident Tom Dickinson (who now lives in Arlington, Va.) sent this photo to share his meeting with Sterling North's son, David North. He said they met through a mutual friend. This is what Tom had to say: "We spent a fun couple of hours talking about Edgerton, tobacco, 409 W. Rollin, the Everson family and our favorite newspaper...shown here. By the way, David is 92, and is still working full time. He asked if the sign his Dad painted 'Down with the Kaiser' is still visible on the barn behind 409 west Rollin." *Editor's note: 409 W. Rollin is the Sterling North Home in Edgerton. We asked a member of our Reporter team to go to the barn when the Sterling North Museum was open on Sunday. Volunteer Adam Gould pointed out that, yes, the message is carved into the siding, and even though the barn has been painted, you can still see the words: "Damn Kaiser Bill." Thank you, Tom, for sending this to the paper. – Diane*

Photo submitted by Tom Dickinson

Hope you enjoy the  
31st Annual Edgerton  
Chilimania Celebration!

Thanks to all prior and current  
volunteers who help make  
this festival a success.

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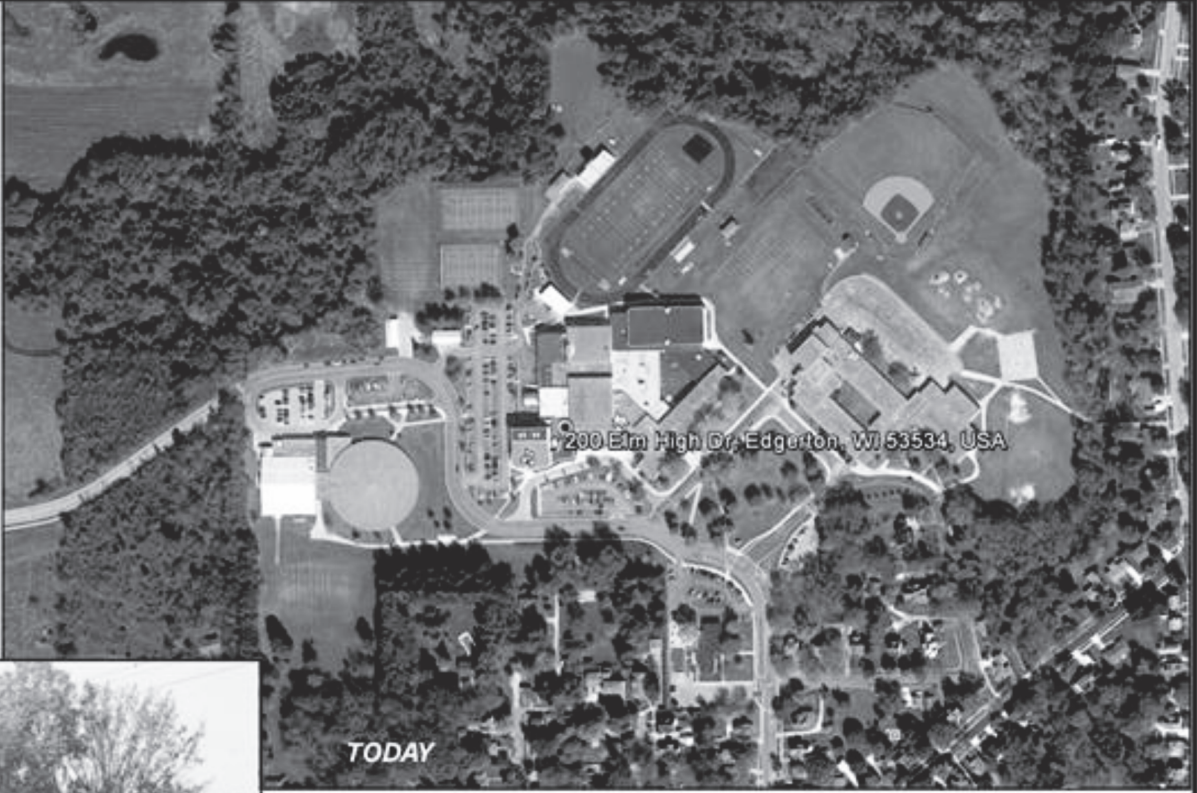
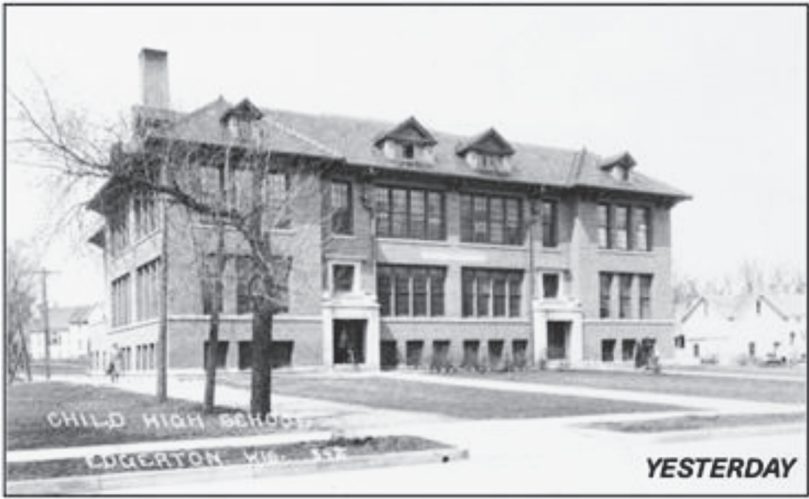
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On behalf of the Edgerton School Board and the entire Edgerton School District, I am proud to congratulate the hard-working volunteers and Chilimania organizers on their 31st anniversary. I look forward to seeing you this weekend.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Pauli  
Edgerton School District  
Superintendent

## STRICKER

Continued from page 1

as one of its sports ambassadors, highlighting the American Family Insurance Golf tournament at University Ridge Golf Course since 2013.

Stricker recently was recognized in a city proclamation for his stature as a championship professional golfer with 12 PGA tour event wins and 7 PGA Tour Championship wins, his most recent victory at the Senior Players Championship in Akron, Ohio June 27.

The proclamation hailed Stricker as a “role model, both on and off the golf course, to many Edgerton citizens.”