

September 13, 2016

Mayor John Dickert
Racine Common Council
Racine City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI



Mayor Dickert and Members of the Common Council,

For more than 100 years, the Rotary Clubs of Racine and our members have made significant contributions to the City of Racine. We are reaching out to you with an opportunity to further this commitment and bring tremendous benefit to the people of our community.

On behalf of our Rotary Clubs, we would like to offer the City of Racine a contribution of \$100,000 to support the construction of a permanent performance structure at Festival Park. Today, nonprofit and community organizations must spend thousands of dollars to construct temporary performance stages for their events on the Festival Park site. This cost makes it impossible for some local groups to hold their events here. We believe a permanent performance structure will benefit these organizations and make it possible for more people to enjoy this phenomenal venue. The actual construction and all future management, maintenance and improvements would be the responsibility of the City of Racine.

In exchange for this generous contribution, our request is that this new structure be developed in recognition of the founder of Rotary International, Paul P. Harris, who was born in Racine and that the name of the park be officially and permanently changed to "Paul P. Harris Rotary Park". In addition, Racine Rotary requests the opportunity to develop and install at our expense, outdoor signage, sculpture and indoor interpretive exhibits that share the history of Rotary in Racine. This is a very exciting time in the history of Rotary. In April 2017, our club will celebrate the achievements of Rotary in Racine over the past century, including our most visible and longest running project, Post Prom. Rotary International, which has more than 1.2 million members, is currently creating a national "Paul P. Harris" trail, which they will promote as a significant tourist attraction to their membership. Our Racine Rotary Park could be promoted as part of this trail.

Rotarians across the globe contribute thoughtfully and energetically to the well-being of our communities. We are proud of the efforts Racine Rotary Clubs (past and present) have undertaken to make our City a better place. We hope that through this collaboration we can create Racine's first Rotary Park at the Festival Park site as a lasting recognition of our commitment to this great City and a timeless benefit to the people of our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Staeck".

Ashley Staeck
President
Racine Founders Rotary Club

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Lang".

Ian Lang
President
Racine Rotary Foundation

Select History of Rotary and Rotary-Sponsored Projects in Racine

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| 1868 | Rotary International founder, Paul P. Harris, born in Racine on April 19, 1868 in a household between College Ave. and Wisconsin Ave. on Fifth Street |
| 1917 | First Rotary club in Racine chartered on June 17, 1917 |
| 1932 | Racine Rotary Club members raised the money necessary to purchase the land for Camp Anokijig, a camp providing experiences for Racine youth for decades |
| 1939 | Racine Rotary Club contributed \$5,000 to the Boy Scout Camp at Powers Lake for a campsite, Rotary Ridge |
| 1952 | Racine Rotary Post-Prom created to provide such an outstanding program following the high school proms that the participating seniors would spend the greater part of prom night having fun in town rather than driving through the countryside. This annual event is still organized by Rotarians and has been deemed the "World's Best Prom" |
| 1957 | Racine Boys Chorus organized. Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated as the official representative of the State of Wisconsin to the Seattle World's Fair by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson • Appearances on the Roy Rogers Television Show and the New York World's Fair |
| 1971 | Spring Frolic created and run until 1989 to provide a senior prom for Racine senior citizens |
| 1986 | Paul Harris Plaza (Clocktower Plaza) dedicated and financed by Downtown Rotary Club. The Clock was surrounded by bricks with the names of the 160 countries involved in Rotary International |
| 1989 | Rotary Club of Racine sponsor and coordinate Racine-On-The-Lake Air Show every year through 1992, promoting tourism and bringing approximately 500,000 people to Racine lake front each year |
| 1992 | The MLK Jr. Plaza was erected in the State Street corridor to commemorate Rotary's 75 th anniversary in Racine and recognize the City of Racine for its efforts to restore State Street |
| 2003 | Racine Founders Rotary Club sponsors the Giant Sunken Ship at the Kids Cove playground at North Beach with a financial donation and hands-on construction support |

**Select History of Rotary and Rotary-Sponsored Projects in Racine
(continued)**

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| 2004 | Racine Rotary Clubs start, sponsor and operate the Great Midwest Dragon Boat Festival until 2010, raising \$100,000 for charitable causes in the Racine community |
| 2008 | Racine Rotary Clubs create the Career Discovery Solutions Program in partnership with Racine Unified School District and local businesses, working in five middle schools and the YMCA, involving thousands of students over the last eight years to provide career exploration and opportunities for real-world business problem solving. This program is still operated by the Racine Founder's Rotary Club |
| 2012 | Rotarians donated time and financial assistance to renovate the Women's Resource Center Kitchen |
| Ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International service projects • Holiday Food Basket Donation and Delivery in partnership with the Racine County Food Bank • Racine County Postal Food Sort • Racine Rotary Post-Prom • Career Discovery Solutions Program • Donations to local and international youth-serving organizations through the Foundations of the local Rotary Club • Rotary Exchange Program for international and Racine students • Vegas Night • Dennis Barry Strive Scholarship Program |