

Upcoming Programs

J. D. Chaney - Chief Gov Affairs
Officer, KY League of Cities

July 24

Dan Kemp - Mayor of Hopkinsville, KY

July 31

Club Leaders

Chris McNeill

President

Jamie Futrell

President-Elect, Vice President

Phyllis B. Russell

Secretary

John A Williams Jr.

Vice President

Thomas Scott Taylor

Treasurer

Missy R Eckenberg

iPast President

Michael A. Muscarella

Membership Chair, Past President

Debbie DeWeese

Club Executive Secretary

Birthdays

Julie Hart

July 19

Gloria Meriwether

July 19

William Robert Johnston

July 20

Jeff Pederson

July 21

Melanie W. McNeill

July 23

Brandon Barnhill

July 24

Dan Key

July 25

Erik Wolfe

July 27

Don Barger

July 29

Scott Powell

July 30

Victor Sredl

July 31



GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

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Support Your Mayor

July 17th, 2013



"Support your mayor!" sums up the comments made by **Gale Cherry**, mayor of Princeton, Ky., to the Paducah Rotary Club on Wednesday, July 17. She described the typical day in a mayor's office as chaotic and stressful. "Everything is immediate and a crisis."

Princeton is by far the largest city in the five area counties of Crittenden, Lyon, Livingston, Trigg and Caldwell. Even with that, they have lost 200 people in the last ten years. "Princeton is following the path of most small cities; they are beginning to disappear." Mayor Cherry has had the arduous task trying to turn that trend around for Princeton.

Serving as mayor of the fourth class city of Princeton, Mayor Cherry struggles with the same things that most small cities in the U.S. are dealing

with today. Federal funding has all but dried up, and the infrastructure of small, rural cities is crumbling. Princeton is a city of 6,300 people with few major employers. The schools and hospital are the largest employers in Caldwell County, with Bremer being the largest manufacturer. They produce cookies and crackers for store brands, so they have been successful through the recession as store brands have increased in popularity. Princeton is also the home of the University of Kentucky Agricultural Research and Education Center, which also employs numerous professionals.

Mayor Cherry used the firehouse and police stations as examples of the infrastructure dilemmas that mayors are facing today. Princeton has a top notch fire department with great trucks and tankers, but they desperately need a new firehouse with a price tag of \$2 million. The police station is in a similar plight. A restaurant tax is needed to help alleviate many of the financial woes of the city, but convincing the citizens of the community of that is difficult at best.

One initiative of which Mayor Cherry is very proud is the "Let's Paint the Town!" program Princeton promoted in 2006 while she served as mayor. The city raised over \$64,000 private donations and had over 2,000 volunteer hours to clean up the city. More than 34 buildings were cleaned, painted, received new windows, or other renovations. The program received national attention and numerous cities across Kentucky and the US adopted similar programs.

Mayors in this state are all dedicated civil servants. "When you add up their hours for their part-time positions, they make around \$1.50 per hour." They spend countless hours dealing with people who want or need things from the city, people dealing with housing grants, mental illness issues within the community, and others believing that everything should be weighed against their personal needs and finances.

Mayor Cherry was raised in Princeton, graduated with a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, earned a master's degree from the University of Louisville, and worked in the mental health field for many years. She is on the executive board of the Kentucky League of Cities and serves with the Caldwell County Historical Society. Her husband, Mike Cherry, just retired from the Kentucky General Assembly, and they have one son.

Announcements

July 17th, 2013

Blood Drive - Rotarians are urged to mark August 15th as the day to give blood during the annual competition with the Lions Club to benefit the American Red Cross. You may reserve a time to donate by contacting the Red Cross or the Rotary Office.

St. Jude Dream Home - Rotarians are also asked to volunteer for the St. Jude Dream Home Giveaway between July 19th and August 17th. Volunteers are needed to help with tours of the home and answering phones.

Committee Sign Up - President Chris needs all Rotarians to sign up for at least one Rotary Committee for the current year. Sign up sheets are available at the weekly meetings or contact Debbie at the Rotary Office.



New Paul Harris Fellow - Basil Drossos presented a Paul Harris Fellow award to Duncan Pitchford. Congratulations, Duncan!

Rotary Board Meeting - The next board meeting will be held at 5:15pm on July 24th at Whaler's Catch.

Rotary Foundation Status:

Every Rotarian Every Year		98%
Paul Harris Fellows	73	41%
Paul Harris Society	31	17%

Guests

July 17th, 2013

Rachel Flaherty, Clay Owens, Hannah Elpers, Lori Harris – guests of Mike Muscarella
Paul Kociarz – guest of Basil Drossos
Eric Chumbler – guest of Jamie Futrell
Patrick Mobley – guest of Richard Grana