



PAWS-N-CLAWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Lion Alison Claerhout

January

MAYOR HIEFTJE'S MESSAGE

The Ann Arbor (Host) Lions and the Western Ann Arbor Kiwanis Clubs gathered for a combined meeting on December 2 to hear a state of the city address from Mayor Hieftje. Some highlights from his speech follow:

- About 75% or 10 million dollars of the city's budget is spent on personnel. The city has become very efficient in doing more work with less people. Through attrition and retirements rather than layoffs, the current number of staff is 798, down from 1005 a few years ago.
- The city is in good financial condition, although the budget picture is tight for the coming year as state funding has been dramatically cut. This means that the city has to spend more of its local budget on services that used to be fully subsidized by the state - like snow plowing.
- The city has above average capitol funds with one of the best bond rates in the state. Our reserved funds equal \$15 million, which is up from \$6 million three years ago.
- Property tax revenues will be down so the city council will have some tough decisions to make this year.
- Ann Arbor has received national acclaim for innovations such as; our new "smart" water meter system and our light emitting diode technology, which has reduced the cost of city street lighting by 50%. This new system has some special features like the ability of a streetlight to flash near a distressed pedestrian or the home of anyone calling 911 for help. The flashing street light will help emergency personnel find the home or individual faster.
- Ann Arbor was one of 25 cities nationwide to receive a Solar City USA Award as we create the most solar panels in the state of MI.
- Plans are under way for more public art to be on display.
- Ann Arbor's park system consists of 164 city parks covering 2,200 acres of land.
- Families of the 21st century will want to settle in Ann Arbor, as we are known for our art, technological innovations, and environmental consciousness. Currently, Ann Arbor ranks first in the state for attracting and retaining young people. Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids were the only two cities in MI to grow in population during the 1990's.

Finally, the ultimate goal of the city is to experience a moderate sustainable growth.



Mayor Hieftje

"Everyone can be great because everyone can serve" ~MLK

HELPING MARJORIE

Meeting Marjorie and working through the paperwork to help her obtain a much needed hearing aid was a very rewarding experience.

In mid-December, our club was approached by Carlton Stanley, District 11-B1's Hearing and Speech Chair to help Marjorie, a resident of Ypsilanti who has been deaf since childhood. Carlton needed a club in the area to do the "legwork" that was required to apply for a Lions of Michigan Foundation grant to help Marjorie.



Marjorie

Lisa worked with Miracle Ear of Ann Arbor to get a statement verifying that Marjorie is profoundly deaf. Next, she made a visit to Marjorie's home to obtain all the necessary financial information needed to complete the application.

Now 80 years young, Marjorie is so pleased to learn that there truly are organization's like the Lions willing to help people in need. She has been praying for assistance and patiently waiting to see if anyone could help her - and we did!!!

WINTER CAMP FOR THE BLIND

Come and join us February 13-15 as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Winter Camp for the Blind! This is our largest **district project** and it is held at the Outdoor Education Center, in Dowling, MI (see directions at www.cerealcitylionsclub.org). Over 80 blind campers will be housed, fed and entertained for this three day event. Campers arrive from all areas between Niles and Detroit, and Port Huron to Muskegon. Because of the dedication of the Lions, blind campers have an annual opportunity to participate in trail walks, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horse-drawn hay rides, and to reunite with old friends. Safety, and the coordination of events, is the biggest concern, and a large volunteer group is vital. Please find the time to visit and participate in this great event.

Volunteers may sign up for a multitude of tasks, however, if you can only dedicate an hour or two of your time, it will be greatly appreciated. For sign-up information, contact Lion Lisa at 734-780-2135 or Lion Alison at 734-780-2146.

WEAR YOUR PRIDE!!

To spread the word about the good work we do as Lions, the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club has designed a T-Shirt to show people how we serve our local and global community.

The Royal Purple 100% pre-shrunk cotton T-Shirt displays the Lion's Logo in goldenrod on the front. The back of the shirt reads as follows:

This T-Shirt...

restored sight to a blind person
built a home for a family
recycled eye glasses for the needy
combated preventable blindness worldwide
sent a youth on a foreign exchange
provided a guide dog for a blind person
helped create a poster for peace
made the planet a little greener
sent a blind child to summer camp
provided supplies for natural disaster victims
taught kids what it means to be responsible citizens

Lions of Michigan...We Serve

(BACK)

T-Shirts range in sizes Youth Large through 3XL and can be purchased from Lion Alison in mid January for \$16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 22: Zone Meeting

January 29: Project Kidsight at Community Daycare in Ann Arbor.

February 13, 14 & 15: Winter Camp for the Blind at the Outdoor Education Center in Dowling, MI.

April 17 & 18: 11B-1 District Convention

April 6: Buddy Day

April 24-May 2: White Cane Week

2ND PLACE FINISH!

Forsythe Middle School 8th Grader, Diana Chen, created a beautiful work of art demonstrating diverse nations uniting to create world peace. The poster was submitted to the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest through the Host Club and received 2nd place in the district.

Check Out Our Updated Website

Lion Alison is busy updating our club's website. Take a look at every week and watch it grow with new information: www.annarborlions.org.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy Birthday to our January babies: Suzanne Ross & Collin Ross.

We will celebrate birthdays this month during our January 6 meeting with a special treat.



PROJECT KIDSIGHT

Project Kidsight is back in business and we are ready to roll with our first vision screening on January 29 at Community Day Care in Ann Arbor.

PROJECT KIDCARE - WINTER EDITION

Project KidCare Winter Assembly took place on December 2, along with the Manchester Lions. Twenty-five packs were assembled for local foster care children and contained such items as hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, flashlights, stuffed animals, lip balm and other hygiene care items.

FRAN'S FAREWELL

Our longtime fellow Lion, Francelia Wonders moved to Arizona in December. She's been a member of the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club since 1993 and was currently serving on the Board of Directors. We'll miss you Fran!



SAVE THE DATE FOR BUDDY DAY!

Please join us **Monday, April 6**, as Michigan Eye-Bank, Gift of Life, and Lion and Lioness volunteers join Secretary of State branch managers at local branch offices for four hours to promote donation and encourage Secretary of State customers to sign up on the Donor Registry. Volunteer "buddies" will staff a table providing information to customers on how to ask the clerk to sign them up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and receive a red heart sticker for their driver's license or state ID card.

In its twelfth successful year, *Buddy Day* is a wonderful opportunity to educate Michigan residents about the importance of joining the Michigan Organ Donor Registry to help save and enhance lives. Last year, 400 buddies helped to sign up 2,820 people on the Donor Registry during *Buddy Day*, and many newspapers, TV stations and radio stations carried stories about the event.

To sign up for Buddy Day, contact Lion Lisa at 734-780-2135.