



# The Ratchet



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Meets Monday - 6:00 P.M. - Moonlight Restaurant on Fosterburg Road

[www.altongodfreyrotary.org](http://www.altongodfreyrotary.org)

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue # 122 October 2007

## Rotary New Member Focus



Craig Schaaf

Craig and his wife Nancy (O'Neal), whom he married in July 1997, along with their three children, McKenzie, Madison and Meredith reside in Bethalto. He and his family are parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Bethalto where he serves on the school board. Craig Alan Schaaf, the only child to Kenneth Gerald Schaaf and Cynthia Ann Kanallakan, was born on August 11, 1971 in Jerseyville. He attended East Elementary Grade School, Illini Junior High School and Jersey Community High School where he graduated in 1989. He continued his education at Lewis and Clark Community College where he completed his general studies. In 1991, he graduated

from Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Des Plaines, Illinois.

After graduation, he served his apprenticeship with Gillham-Buchanan Funeral Home in Jacksonville and then with Targhetta Funeral Home in Brighton during 1992 to 1994. In August of 1994, he went to work at Elias-Smith Funeral Homes in Alton, Bethalto and Godfrey. In 1997, he became the General Manager and worked there until March 2002. In December 2002, Craig and his business partner, Tim Kallal, opened Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home in Bethalto. In December 2006, they purchased Staten-Fine Funeral Home and Burke-Fine Funeral Home in Alton. Recently in July of 2007, Craig and his business partner attained one of his most desired goals, merging with Rod Elias to co-own the Elias-Smith Funeral Homes, Crematory and Cemeteries, and are currently operating them as the Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes, Crematory and Cemeteries and Staten-Fine Funeral Home. He and his business partners also own Rose Lawn Memory Gardens Cemetery in Bethalto and Valhalla Memorial Park Cemetery in Godfrey.

Craig believes in serving the communities in business as well as in various service organizations, etc. He has served as President of the Alton-Godfrey Kiwanis as well as President of the Bethalto Kiwanis and has recently joined the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus in Bethalto where he has served as the Recorder. Craig enjoys playing golf, barbecuing with friends, playing washers, and has been a life long fan of the Dallas Cowboys and St. Louis Cardinals.

## Rotary Programs



### Nov 5 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Bonnie Hemann from Alton Memorial Hospital will help us learn about Diabetes during November, National Diabetes Month. The program will include the latest statistics on the prevalence of Diabetes in Madison County, the state and the country as well as what diabetes is and how it is treated.

### Nov 12 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for November will be honored.

### Nov 19 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Second Quarter Club Assembly for the election of new officers and board of director members for 2008-2009. Committee reports to the membership.

### Nov 26 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Chuck Norman, who will discuss the current situation with regard to the river barge industry.

## Student of the Month Essays

*In this month's issue of The Ratchet, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.*

### Setting An Example

#### *A Different Perspective*

*by Megan McCune*



I will never forget the day she was born, my dad coming out of the hospital room, teary eyed saying "it's a girl." I was beside myself in happiness. From the day my mom and dad told me there was going to be a new addition to the family, I prayed every night it would be a girl. I dreamed of my

own living baby doll, one who I could dress up, who could play Barbie with me, and who could be my guinea pig for everything cosmetic. When I finally got to experience my dream and see her on that long, cold, winter day, I was hesitant toward her. I was in awe, I held out my finger for her to grab and I remember hearing my mom say; "Now Meg, she does not know to grab your finger just yet." Since then my baby sister has not ceased to amaze us, if not by gripping my finger at twenty minutes old, then by asking a boy to dance at eleven years old. Martha is the one who I would "accidentally" wake up from her nap just to get to play with. She is the one who will always tell me what she thinks. She is the one I strive to impress, the one on whom all of my decisions are based.

The influence Martha has had on me throughout the years has made me the person I am today. Her love, that needs no words, speaks for itself in her actions towards me. At times, I catch her staring at me, in a daze almost; she may not know it but just one glance places a great deal of responsibility on me, in such a way that I know there is no room for mistakes. The one time I act out I will turn around and there I will catch those eyes again, watching my every move so intently; I am her example. My sister means everything to me and is my lifelong best friend. She is my driving force behind all my achievements, my motivation, the one who I cannot deny.

Being the oldest of my family, I am somewhat "paving the way" for Martha. Living in this uncharted territory of varsity and club sports, homecomings and proms, high school and college, I am giving Martha something back for everything her naïve heart does not realize she has pushed me to become. With these stepping stones I lay for her, she will someday come to know how much of an influence one glance from her made upon me. I feel solely responsible for her behavior and her actions. I envy her care free spirit, and just as she looks to me for guidance I, in turn, look to her as well.

I know that without my sister I would not be who I am today. She has unknowingly made me strive to be the best possible example first as a daughter, next as a sister, then a student, as well as a Christian. No other person has had more of an impact on my life than my baby sister did on that long, cold, winter day.



## The Blessings of Service

by Tyler Williams



Throughout my high school career, nothing has helped me to achieve self-betterment and self-fulfillment more successfully than the groups I am involved in and the projects that I have participated in. Among these, the most influential would have to be my church, Emmanuel Free Methodist, Student PRIDE, Student Rotary-Interact, National Honor Society, and Student Council. Another very important influence would have to be my experience at the World Affairs' Seminar in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

By participating in these activities, I have been able to develop the qualities that are necessary for becoming a future leader and a productive member of

society. These groups have provided me with opportunities to serve my peers and my community. They have given me the chance to see the benefits of community service on a first hand basis. Whether I am ringing bells for the Salvation Army, collecting toys for a holiday toy drive, or helping out in a citywide clean up, I enjoy every minute of helping wherever I can. Another benefit of participating in these organizations has been being given the opportunity to lead. By being able to lead my peers in groups like Student Council and National Honor Society, I have improved my communication skills and my efficiency as a leader. Hopefully, these skills will continue to develop so that I may guide and serve my community throughout my life. Furthermore, the World Affairs' Seminar, although it gave me leadership experience as well as knowledge, provided me insight into the lives of people around the world. It taught me the importance of having a view of the world as one community instead of separate, unrelated groups in order to benefit every member of the human race.

The final, and most important, result of these groups' influences would be the set of morals and values that they have instilled in me. I have been shown the importance of having a strong faith, being focused on others rather than on myself, and working long and hard to achieve my goal. Therefore, I owe many thanks to many teachers, mentors, and relatives for their support and education, for without it, I would not be the person I am today.

### Dec 3 St. Anthony's Health Center

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Program - Spouses Night.

### Dec 10 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for December will be honored.

### Dec 17 Rolling Hills

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Club Christmas Party. Family night. Special guest will be Santa Claus to provide a preview of his upcoming world tour.

### Dec 24 No Meeting

Christmas Eve

### Dec 31 No Meeting

New Year Eve

- Joel Copley, Bill Hoagland Program Directors



## October Minutes

The October 8, 2007 meeting of directors of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club was called to order at 5:00 p.m., by President Josh Farley. Others in attendance were, Mike Tillman, Jasper Fisher, Allen McBride, Roland Hansen, Dan Saeger, Scott Neudecker, Ron Mayhew, Rod Elias Bryan White, Tom Turpin, and the Executive Secretary Melissa Seymour.

Others in attendance were Larry Thompson and Jeannine Kelly.

On a motion by Scott Neudecker, seconded by Roland Hansen, the minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

In Club Administration, Ron Mayhew said the he would like to purchase a mic stand and a lavalier cordless mic for a cost of \$200.00. This will allow for more flexibility during presentations. On a motion by Bryan White, seconded by Tom Turpin, the board approved this purchase. There was discussion about overdue dues. It was felt that to eliminate the problem of collecting money for dues, pecans and chili that there should be two billings a year of \$145.00 to cover these costs. This would start next year. On a motion by Rod Elias, seconded by Ron Mayhew, the board approved the two billings of \$145. This will be a topic of discussion at the next Club assembly.

In Club Public Relations, there was no report.

In Service Projects, Ron Mayhew announced the Chili Chowdown will be held March 3, 2008 at the Main Street United Methodist Church. The mural project that Bob Hamilton proposed at the last Board meeting was discussed. Larry Thompson felt we should go with the project and raise the \$51,000. Rod Elias felt we should help with 10% of the cost, \$5,000. Jeannine Kelly suggested that there may be Scenic Byway money for the mural. It was approved on a motion by Rod Elias that Alton-Godfrey Rotary is behind the mural project.

Tom Turpin reported that the dictionary project was a huge success. There were 100 dictionaries left over, and they were donated to the Boys and Girls Club and Oasis.

In Membership, the board approved the memberships of Cami Giertz and Michael Salanito pending their attending two meetings. On a motion by Tom Turpin seconded by Rod Elias the resignation of Joel Copley, with regrets, was accepted. His resignation also creates an opening on the Board.

In new business, Bryan White is talking with Bob Van Hatten about continuing the steak fries through the winter. He will know more tomorrow. Tom Turpin said we could also hold a steak fry at Camp Warren Levis.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary



### September Report

Previous Balance	\$22,318.87
cleared payments	1,799.86
cleared deposits	4,101.73
Cleared Balance	24,620.74
uncleared payments	3,266.60
uncleared deposits	2,048.00
Account Balance	23,402.14
New Payments	449.67
New Deposits	744.00
Ending Balance	23,696.47

#### Club Officers 2005-2006

President.....	Josh Farley
	1211 Callahan Dr, Alton, 462-5257
Vice-President.....	Scott Neudecker
	5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
Secretary.....	Ford Phillips
	1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Treasurer.....	Roland Hansen
	820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Executive Secretary.....	Melissa Seymour
	3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

#### Board of Directors 2005-2006

Ron Mayhew-3rd yr	Ken Spells-2nd yr
Bill Moyer-3rd yr	Sam Stemm-2nd yr
Mike Osborne-3rd yr	Jasper Fischer-1st yr
Dan Saeger-3rd yr	Martha Morse-1st yr
Tom Turpin-3rd yr	Alan McBride-1st yr
Dana Eastman-2nd yr	Mike Tillman-1st yr
Rod Elias-2nd yr	Brian White-1st yr
Dick Jones-2nd yr	D. Jeannine Kelly-PP