



# 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 # 121 September 2007

## September Students of Month

Rotary  
Programs



Helen Yanta and Carol Hamrick, seniors at Alton High School, were honored by the Alton/Godfrey Rotary Club as Students of the Month for September at Moonlight Restaurant on September 10th.

Carol Hamrick is the daughter of Stephen and Linda Hamrick of Godfrey. She is also in the top group of students in her class earning a place on the high honor roll on a regular basis and being selected to the National Honor Society.

Her main interest is in music, and she has been the drum major of the Marching 100. Her skill as a drum major has been recognized at many contests. She won a first place award in drum major competition at Eastern Illinois University and was selected as one of the top five drum majors at the Indiana State University drum major clinic.

She has been a member of Alton High's Symphonic Band, a member of the Celebrations Select Choir placing first in solo and ensemble competition. She was selected to the All State Choir and has participated in the school's annual musicals for the past three years. She is a member of the Thespians. She was also a member of the Concert tour of Europe.

When not busy with school activities, Hamrick is involved in the many activities sponsored by the Heartland Baptist Church. She plays in the church orchestra, and is an active volunteer for the vacation bible school. She is a member of the church's Youth Advisory Council and has been a team member on several mission trips.

After graduating from Alton High, Carol plans to major in Elementary Education and is considering attending SIDE, Missouri Baptist or Millikin University.

*Helen Yanta's article appears on page 2.*

### Oct 1 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Terry Sharp, who will discuss the Alton Area Landmarks Association's new driving tour of historic homes in the Alton area. He will discuss the houses that made the cut and some of the history with respect to those homes.

### Oct 8 Moonlight Restaurant

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

### Oct 15 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. Golf outing to precede. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

### Oct 22 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Dave Marlow, an Edwardsville resident who is an expert on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). He will discuss a specific event that occurred in Illinois in 2000.

## 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.*

### Turning Point

by Helen Yanta



At a young age, we have such high aspirations for our futures; however, on the other hand, the future seems so far away, and we don't think we'll ever grow up. Years ago I wished to attend Stanford University and be a veterinarian. Now that the time has arrived, my outlook has changed. As the future has neared, the stress factor has exponentially increased, causing a

reevaluation of my plans.

Stanford attracted me due to its location in such a beautiful state and its vicinity to my favorite aunt. Though not yet ten years of age, school was important to me, and I knew I had what it takes. After realizing Stanford was positioned over multiple earthquake fault lines, Duke University became my next dream. My uncle taught at the law school and my cousin graduated from there, so I thought it would be a good fit. Research revealed Duke's tendency for natural disasters was slim, making me like it even more. Furthermore, I realized I didn't have the strength to be a veterinarian and see sick and hurt animals.

As the youngest child, I've attended many events where people constantly ask about my brother's and sister's college choices. Completely fed up with hearing the same conversations repeatedly, I tuned out the whole college process. Through all the visits with them, I always felt college was so far off that I didn't need to pay any attention. Even until recently, I avoided any college discussions with my mother who has gone through the

procedure of sending two children to college. As it turns out, I don't seem to be following my family's footsteps but am following my own path. After all, I surely wouldn't want to end up at Tulane in the hurricane belt or Mizzou in tornado alley.

When trying to remember, I can't think of one instant when I realized how close it is. This turning point occurred over a long period of time, without me knowing it happened. Last year, I became good friends with a girl a year older than I am who I never dreamed would change me so much. Our families had been friends since we were tiny, but we never took the time to get to know each other well. From the start, I never imagined the impact she would have on me.

At this time in my life, I'd have to say college is the most important and life deciding issue, as well as the biggest stressor. Throughout the day, I think about it countless times. With all the stress of finishing junior year off well and getting a good start on senior year, college is the last thing I want to think about. Since teachers, parents, and nearly everyone I encounter starts every conversation with asking my ideas about college, the problem proves difficult to avoid.

While my friend took the many steps of choosing the perfect college, she kept telling me how much work it entailed and the importance of starting the process. I can't exactly explain how she influenced me. Maybe the fact that she made college seem like such a fun and great experience excited me. Possibly her guidance and one-on-one discussions made me feel like it should matter to me. Since she knew me so well, she could look through college books and tell me which she thought fit my likes and personality. Her desire to live in a new and exciting part of the country made me realize I felt that way too. I didn't want to stay near home and in order to go farther, I knew I needed to do a lot more work.

By listening to her, I realized how important my standardized test scores were. She told me stories about how her father would help her study by pushing her to isolate herself for an hour each day to prepare



for these tests. Her descriptions of study habits taught me the benefits of planning for these things. Now I knew, it was up to me to use her tips and put them to work.

During our friendship, I grew to respect and admire this girl because of her positive outlook on life and ability to be carefree but never to lose sight of her goals. She had a down to earth attitude, and I felt the things that mattered to her were really important to me as well. Her priorities seemed really on target and she never let herself get caught up in the insignificant things many high school students place so much emphasis on. While getting to know her, I found I agreed with her beliefs in so many areas and admired her. It may sound corny, but I realized I wanted to be just like her, a person people respected for reasons I wished to be respected for also. In order to do that, I needed to focus on preparing for college and thinking about my future. Rather than spending hours watching America's Next Top Model and looking at Facebook, college preparation took priority.

While she researched colleges seeking her perfect fit, she discussed differences in schools and her reasons for choosing certain ones. She explained the importance of applications, essays, and benefits of visiting schools. Listening to her opinion on schools and looking through college books with her helped me tremendously. Through doing so, she helped me make a list of my most important criteria. Over time, I found rather than looking for a college where all the building matched, I needed a college where the programs matched me.

Although to some this may not seem like such a turning point, it definitely changed my life. By observing this friend find her path, I learned so much about what will fit me best. I incorporated her ideas with my own thoughts to develop a college plan for myself. Now, it's up to me to decide what's next. Hopefully I'll end up somewhere free of natural disasters.

**Oct 29 Moonlight Restaurant**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our program will be "Black Tuesday 75 years later". This refers to the stock market crash on October 29, 1929. Our speaker will be Matt Collins, a senior research analyst with Edward Jones who will discuss current stock market conditions. He has appeared on CNBC, Bloomberg's and other programs and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal.

**Nov 5 Moonlight Restaurant**

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

**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.

- Joel Copley, Bill Hoagland -  
Program Directors

## September Minutes

The September 10, 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, Ford Phillips, Mike Osborne, Joel Copley, Mike Tillman, Jasper Fisher, Dick Jones, Martha Morse, Roland Hansen, Dana Eastman, Dan Saeger, Scott Neudecker, Sam Stemm, Bryan White, Bill Moyer, Tom Turpin, and the Executive Secretary Melissa Seymour.

Others in attendance were Robert Hamilton, District Governor Ron Riggins, Assistant District Governor, Gene Lee.

On a motion by Joel Copley, seconded by Ford Phillips the minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

In Club Administration, Dick Jones reported that there is \$15,774.11 in the Piasa Foundation. White's Greenhouse was paid \$1470.00 for the baskets at Lincoln Douglas Square. The account earned \$70.85 in interest

In Club Public Relations, Ford Phillips is working on declination letters to other organizations who are asking for donations. The Pride Chili Cookoff is being held 9/29. The Board decided there was not enough time to put everything together in order to participate.

In Service Projects, Mike Osborne stated that Marty Carrow, pecan sales chair, would like to raise the price per bag to \$8.50, a \$1.00 increase. He also recommended that everyone prepay for their pecans by November 1. On a motion by Sam Stemm, seconded by Ford Phillips it was approved to have prepay by November 1. If not paid by that date individuals will not be able to pick up pecans until they are paid for.

Bob Hamilton gave a presentation on the mural project he would like to see started in October. He is a member of an ad hoc committee along with Bill Moyer, Sharon Johnson, and Laurie Milnor (chair of the mural at the library). He has spoken with Duane Randall and Penny Schmidt about a mural on the Mississippi Landing Lofts. They were very excited about it. He has talked to the artist who did the mural at the library. Penny's father is an art teacher at Principia and he is doing a mock up for the Lofts. There is no State or Federal funding

available. The estimated cost of the project for materials is \$51,000 plus the artist fee. The board felt since this is a private building the owners should participate in the cost. Bob said the community needs to get excited about this type of project.

In Membership, the membership of Doug Pytlinski, Kenneth Spells, and Margot Huber were approved pending their attending two meetings. On a motion by Bill Moyer, seconded by Dana Eastman the resignation of Jim Kasten, with regrets, was accepted.

In old business, Josh will let Mike Drake know that there will be no fountain dedication until everything is right, landscaping and signage. Tom Turpin reported that the dictionaries will be distributed to the schools on 9/27. The cost this year is \$1,260 up \$30 from last year. Ron Mayhew said he needs 16 volunteers for the "Real Men Read" school project.

It was discussed that there is still outstanding chili money. Jasper Fisher expressed his displeasure on the collection of outstanding money for all fundraisers.

Committee chairs were asked to get their committee choices to Josh.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary



### August Report

Previous Balance	\$15,977.66
cleared payments	7,214.51
cleared deposits	13,555.72
Cleared Balance	22,318.87
uncleared payments	3,208.61
uncleared deposits	2,048.00
Account Balance	21,158.26
New Payments	750.00
New Deposits	00.00
Ending Balance	20,408.26

#### 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	Dick Jones-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
Joel Copley-2nd yr	Mike Tillman-1st yr
Dana Eastman-2nd yr	Brian White-1st yr
Rod Elias-2nd yr	D. Jeannine Kelly-PP