



Rotary exchange

Carlos Rodriguez of the Mexico City Rotary District attended the Flora Rotary luncheon meeting last Thursday and presented the club a banner from his district. In return, the Flora club presented Rodriguez a Rotarian hat and pin. Rodriguez came to thank the Flora Rotary for contributing to the purchase of fire trucks for the Mexico City area. Accompanying him was Claude Johnson of Crawfordsville, chairman of the District 6560 Mexico Initiative. Pictured l-r are: Front row - Johnson, Bret Rinehart (Rotary president), Rodriguez, Dick N. Bishop, Carrol Stout. Back - Dale Zinn, Joretta Tinsman (Rotary guest, representing the Town of Flora), Brian Wagoner (vice president), Mike Wilcox (secretary), Michelle Cox (Sgt-at-arms), Greg Michael, Chuck Compton. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Flora Rotary supports Mexico Initiative

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Flora Rotary Club has given \$2,100 to a Rotary district project called the Mexico Initiative.

Claude Johnson of the Crawfordsville Rotary Club and chairman of the project, visited the Flora Rotary Club last Thursday. He praised the generous donation from the relatively small club.

The project provides for the purchase of old, but still good, fire trucks for Mexico, where they are badly needed.

"We have delivered nine so far, and have four more to go," Johnson said. He added that the trucks are sent with fire gear and related small equipment.

Johnson said in areas where the fire trucks have been de-

livered, they previously had to let fires go. Now fires are being fought and lives are being saved, he said.

Also attending last week's meeting was Carlos Rodriguez, a Rotarian from the Mexico City area. This sister district in Mexico also contributes to the fire truck project.

Rodriguez works with the project and other humanitarian efforts in his Rotary district.

He said his district has 98 clubs and 1,100 Rotarians. Johnson said Rotary District 6560, which includes Crawfordsville and Flora, just has 45 clubs.

Rodriguez recognized the dedication of Johnson and others, saying that it is not easy getting fire trucks to Mexico.

Rodriguez told about other Rotarian "Heart to Heart Projects." He said the projects are so named because "Mexico City is the heart of my country."

He listed such projects as river clean-up, water treatment, goal of one lap top per child for the educational system, and books for parents on "How to Protect Your Child Against Drugs."

Rodriguez is a member of Club Rotario Las Torres Satellite. He is matching grant chairman for District 4170. In his professional life, he is an accountant.

He said he has been visiting and thanking Rotary clubs that have helped with the fire truck project, and Flora Rotary was the fifth club he visited last week.

Flu season is nearly upon us

Comet staff report

Flu vaccinations for the 2008-2009 flu season are now available.

If a flu pandemic similar to the one in 1918 hit today, is it estimated about 62 million people would likely die.

The annual flu season begins in October and can continue until May. Every year, between five percent and 20 percent of

the U.S. population gets the flu. That means at least 15 million Americans (and as many as 60 million) get sick from the flu every year, with more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths annually.

October and November are the best months to get vaccinated, but the flu is still circulating in January and February, and sometimes even as late as

May. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that certain people, including very young children, the elderly and people living with illnesses that affect the immune system get vaccinated against the flu. For a complete list of those who are most at risk, visit www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm.

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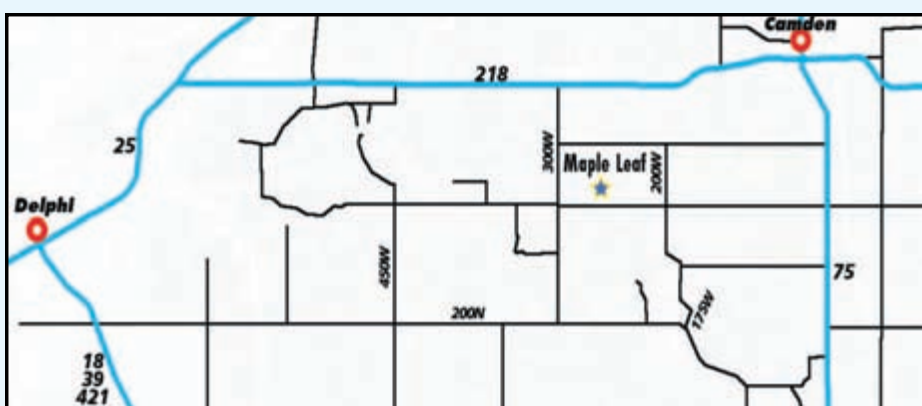
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