



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**April 23, 2009
Vol. 42 No. 37**

While many parents are unaware, their infants may have detectable, treatable eye problems that a simple, free visit to an optometrist can correct.

At the April 16 Rotary Club meeting, Dr. David May of May Vision Center in Waunakee discussed the InfantSEE program, an effort on the part of optometrists to encourage infant eye and vision assessments.

David said InfantSEE was initiated about three to four years ago, after President Jimmy Carter attended an American Optometric Association meeting and challenged its members to put together a program that provided no cost, infant eye assessments. Two of the Carters' grandchildren have lazy eye, or amblyopia, which can result in vision problems if not detected early.

Participating optometrists formed InfantSEE and now conduct free vision assessments. David said pediatricians test infants' hearing and immunize them. But rarely do they test their vision. David has a 6-year-old, and never has his child's doctor asked about having his child's eyes tested, he said.

Eighty percent of what children learn is taken in visually, David said. Failure to detect vision problems early on can result in difficulty learning. David said he has seen children's academic performance improve by two to three grade levels when vision problems have been corrected.

One in 10 children are at risk from undiagnosed vision problems, and amblyopia, or lazy eye, a leading cause of vision loss, affects 1 in 30 children. In some cases, an eye

assessment can even reveal cancer, David said.

"Often, problems can be treated better by early diagnosis or intervention," David said.

David usually recommends that parents have their infants' eyes assessed at about the age of 9 months. Parents can find the nearest InfantSEE participating optometrist by visiting the Web site, www.infantsee.org.

"It's a great program," David said. "It's meant to get children on the right path to development."

Other items:

- Leonard Allen reminded the club that Garage Sale days are coming up May 8-9. Leonard thanked businesses who took out advertisements in the Assembly of God maps for the sales, noting that their sponsorship will benefit the church's youth program. Anyone looking to advertise in the map can talk to Leonard.

- Bill Erickson said one family is needed to host an exchange visitor from Sweden for four nights.

- President Dan Statz is still looking for a Service Club Olympics representative. That representative will attend one meeting a month in Madison with the other clubs' representatives and circulate a sign-up sheet for the event.

- Phil Willems said as Rotarians begin gardening, he would welcome any splits from flower beds. They can be planted around the Rotary Walk.

Guests: None

Visiting Rotarians: Dennis Miller, Eagle River.

OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • BILL ERICKSON

Calendar of Events:

- April 26, Community Awards Banquet, Rex's Innkeeper, cocktails, 5:30 p.m, dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- May 1-3, District Conference in Wis. Rapids
- May 12, Safety Seat Check

Birthdays: April 24, Leonard Allen

Anniversaries: April 28, Scott and Melanie Cochems

Prayers: April 23, Pat Durden; April 30, Susan Vergeront; May 7, Leonard Allen.

Programs: April 23, T. Wall, Highlands of Bishops Bay; April 30, Marie Zorn, exchange student; May 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: April 23, Pat Durden and Fritz Durst; April 30, Rex Endres and Gary Epping; May 7, William Erickson and Betsy Flanagan.

On the lighter side...

Billy's father picked him up from school to take him to a dental appointment. Knowing the acting roles for the school play were being posted that day, he asked Billy if he got a part.

Billy enthusiastically announced that he'd gotten a part. "I play a man who's been married for 20 years."

"That's great, son. Keep up the good work, and before you know it, they'll be giving you a speaking part."